

## CLIMATE AND COMMUNITIES CORE TEAM REPORT ON FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA AND WORKLOAD PLANNING

The Climate and Communities Core Team (CCCT) last reported progress on the climate change scenario planning process being conducted as part of the Council's Fishery Ecosystem Plan Climate and Communities Initiative update in April ([Agenda Item I.4.a, Supplemental CCCT Report 1](#), April 2020). In that report the CCCT outlined steps it would take to enhance the clarity of descriptions for each of the four scenarios (also referred to as “deepening” the scenarios) of plausible future conditions, which were drafted during the Developing Future Scenarios for Climate Change in the California Current Ecosystem Workshop in January 2020. The CCCT committed to clarify and describe the underlying conditions of each of the four scenarios, engage with the Council's advisory bodies to add details to these scenarios, including the development of examples for key species within and across the Council's four fishery management plans, and report progress on this work at the June Council meeting.

The CCCT met by webinar on March 20 to discuss the plan of work. A subgroup of Core Team members, scenario planning consultant Jonathan Star, and Council staff Kit Dahl drafted more detailed scenario descriptions, which were then reviewed by the full Core Team. These descriptions include discussions of selected species from each fishery management plan (FMP), organized into FMP-specific versions of the document. These documents were disseminated to the advisory bodies for each of the Council's four FMPs plus the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and Habitat Committee (HC). (The versions for the SSC and HC include species descriptions from all four FMPs.)

Six webinars were held between May 20 and June 5, to discuss the scenario narratives with aforementioned advisory bodies. The discussions focused on reviewing the scenarios for plausibility and coherence, eliciting comments on effects of scenario conditions on Council managed species and starting to identify the particular challenges and actions that Council could face in the years ahead. Participants offered valuable technical corrections along with suggestions on the narrative structure and emphasis. The discussion also previewed what we might expect to learn in the next phase of the project. Participants noted that fisheries management will face daunting, more complicated challenges in future. Faced with unpredictable change, it will be essential to make decisions in a more agile and flexible manner. There will be a need for enhanced modeling and data collection at a time when resources are likely to be stretched. Shifts in stocks and new ocean uses will lead to the potential for more conflict, and a greater need for collaboration across jurisdictions, Council FMPs, and interest groups.

The CCCT has scheduled a webinar on July 1, 2020, to discuss finalizing the scenario descriptions. The final versions could be presented to the Council for review when the Climate and Communities Initiative is next scheduled for discussion.

In its April report, the CCCT also indicated it would develop recommendations for the second phase of the scenario planning project, which would involve “implications discussions” with stakeholders based on the finalized scenarios. Current limitations on travel and in-person meetings due to COVID-19 have made it difficult to plan the format of this second phase. Nonetheless, at its July 1, 2020, webinar the CCCT intends to review the draft scenarios, and discuss the logistics

of this second scenario planning phase, including desired participation and meeting format (size and location, virtual versus in-person). Options that could be considered include:

- Hold in-person meetings in the second half of 2020 with necessary social distancing measures (e.g., limit participation, short travel distances).
- Hold workshops as online meetings/webinars designed to facilitate active participation.
- Delay these workshops until such time as in-person meetings may be held without extensive social distancing measures.

While in-person workshops would be most effective, delaying the workshops indefinitely might weaken the project's momentum. The CCCT will discuss the feasibility and logistics of holding virtual meetings, in case holding in-person meetings is not feasible or safe within the time allotted for the Initiative by Council.

Reviewing the Preliminary Year-at-a-Glance Summary ([Agenda Item C.5, Attachment 1](#), June 2020), the CCCT notes that no Council input on the scenario planning process is scheduled before a final report would be submitted in March 2021. The CCCT would appreciate guidance from the Council as to whether it is comfortable having the process run without their further input before the final report is submitted. The Council may wish to review the finalized scenario descriptions before moving to the next phase and provide advice on participation and format of the implications workshops. The CCCT will provide them prior to the September meeting for Council review. Scheduling a formal checkpoint at the September Council meeting could make it difficult to set up the implications workshops and complete a final report before March 2021, if planning did not begin until after the September meeting. For that reason, the CCCT will begin planning the workshops before then and report progress in September.

PFMC  
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