

Climate and Communities Core Team (CCCT)

Final Report
Agenda Item H2.
September 2021
PFMC

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The goal of a cross-FMP Climate and Communities Initiative is to consider, develop, and implement strategies for improving the flexibility and responsiveness of our management actions to near-term climate shift and long-term climate change, and strategies for increasing the resiliency of our managed stocks and fisheries to those changes. This approach should better support West Coast fishing communities that depend on marine fishery resources.”

Accomplishments

Scenario Planning Exercise

- Raised awareness of possible climate impacts
- Start of a conversation and actions that need to follow
 - Many more ideas will emerge
- Final Report outlines recommended actions Council could consider

Climate and Communities Initiative

- Has CCI and role of CCCT concluded?
 - If not, what new focus areas should be identified?
- CCCT recommends it be disbanded
 - Originally established to guide scenario planning process
 - May not be the appropriate venue to “develop and implement...strategies”
 - Direct next steps to the EWG and EAS

Report Background

Key Areas for Future Effort

- Increasing fisheries management flexibility and responsiveness
- Council process efficiency
 - data collection, analysis, communication and use
- Council policies that support community resilience and collaboration across geographies and interest groups

Recommendations

1. Science-Focused Activities

- a. Task EWG and EAS to work with NOAA Fisheries
 - i. Report specifying processes to address:
 - Incorporating climate information into stock assessments
 - Recommendations to address movement of stocks across jurisdictional boundaries (in conjunction with MTs and ASs)
 - Identify needs to address potential Scenario outcomes

1. Science-Focused Activities

- a. Task EWG and EAS to work with NOAA Fisheries
 - ii. Prioritize stocks for climate management strategy evaluations to develop climate-ready harvest control rules and other management measures
 - iii. FMP-specific ecosystem reporting when needed and useful
 - iv. Include appendix in annual State of the CCE report specific to climate change, scenarios and early warning indicators

1. Science-Focused Activities

- b. Task advisory bodies to explore use of “civic science” that could be used to track climate change
 - Consider data collected by fishing vessels

2. Ongoing Management Processes

- a. Task advisory bodies to explore activities to increase flexibility, responsiveness, and adaptability:
 - i. Define flexibility and develop priorities for addressing climate impacts
 - ii. FMP-specific AS's and MT's could report on:
 - 1. Administrative, process, and scientific barriers
 - 2. Priorities & processes for review of EFPs
 - 3. Opportunities and challenges to embedding climate variability in assessments, decision tables, and scientific advice

2. Ongoing Management Processes

- b. Hold workshop on recommendations addressing fishery climate impacts at the international level
- c. Direct EWG to include statement in Council's Guidance Document on Offshore Non-Fishing Activities on role of greenhouse gas emissions
- d. Ask staff for annual updates on actions from other Councils

2. Ongoing Management Processes

- e. Create a Council Climate work webpage
- f. Ask EWG to reference final scenario planning report in FEP as example of potential climate impacts

3. Collaboration

- a. Ask NMFS to report on disaster determinations in response to climate variability or change since 2010
- b. Ask NMFS to report on hatchery, habitat, and hydropower policies to buffer salmon stocks against climate change
- c. Ask NMFS to evaluate the Council's scenario planning process and outcomes

Considerations

Discussion Questions

1. Should the CCI be continued?
 - a. If so, what specific focus areas should be addressed?
 - b. If so, should the CCCT continue in its role?
2. Should specific FEP Initiatives be added to the FEP appendix?
 - a. Potential Initiatives to add to list of candidate Initiatives in the FEP appendix?
3. Are there specific tasks or guidance that the Council wants to provide to the various advisory bodies and teams at this time?