

## SPECIAL PROJECT 2: SOCIOECONOMIC FRAMEWORK

Special Project 2, Decision Making for Stronger Fishing Communities, is one of three special projects for which the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) has received dedicated funding. The project's objective is to improve the Council's ability to measure and understand the impact of its decisions on West Coast fishing communities, especially in the face of changing environmental conditions and the variability of Council-managed resources. To meet this objective, the Council has contracted with Northern Economics, Inc. (NEI) to develop a decision support framework that will assist the Council in evaluating how its management actions and recommendations affect the resilience of fishing-dependent and fishing-engaged communities. When built out, the framework will inform Council decision-making by supporting impact analyses and expanding the Council's ability to meet the objectives of National Standard 8 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, which requires that the Council's management actions account for the importance of fishery resources to fishing communities by utilizing economic and social data based on the best scientific information available.

The NEI project team is currently implementing a multi-phased approach to developing the decision support framework. Under this agenda item, the Council will receive an update on the initial phases of the NEI project team's work: a synthesis report and gap analysis (focusing on a summary of available research on fishing community resilience, vulnerability, and adaptive capacity, as well as identification of available indicators and tools), and a draft methodology for evaluating community resilience that will in turn inform the development of the decision support framework in the coming months. The Council is also scheduled to consider the selection of a case study or example action to help assess how the framework would function in practice. The Council last discussed Special Project 2 at its April 2025 meeting.

Along with Special Project 1 (Adaptive Management and Flexibility), Special Project 2 follows up on the Council's Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) [Climate and Communities Initiative](#) (CCI) by addressing part of that initiative's goal to "develop strategies for increasing the resiliency of our managed stocks and fisheries" in the face of both near-term shifts and long-term environmental changes. This CCI goal is further reflected in Potential Future FEP Initiative 2.6 (Supporting Fishery and Fishing Community Resilience Initiative), which the Council added to its FEP [Ecosystem Initiatives Appendix](#) in September 2022 and which serves as the foundation for Special Project 2.

### **Council Tasks:**

- 1. Consider synthesis report and gap analysis and draft methodology.**
- 2. Consider selection of a type or category of example action to which the methodology and framework may be applied.**
- 3. Select an example action and provide guidance on next steps.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item D.3, Attachment 1: Community Resilience Decision Tool: Synthesis of Information and Gap Analysis (*Electronic Only*).
2. Agenda Item D.3, Attachment 2: Community Resilience Decision Tool: Draft Methodology.
3. If received, Public Comments are electronic only (see [e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- D.3 Special Project 2: Socioeconomic Framework Gilly Lyons
- a. Community Resilience Decision Tool – Summary of Progress and Draft Methodology Melissa Errend, Karma Norman
  - b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
  - c. Public Comment
  - d. **Council Action:** Select an Example Action, Provide Guidance on Next Steps

PFMC  
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