

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON SPECIAL PROJECT 2:
SOCIOECONOMIC FRAMEWORK

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) reviewed the draft Community Resilience Decision Tool Methodology ([D3 Attachment 1](#), [D3 Attachment 2](#)) and the report from an online review of the Decision Tool by the Scientific and Statistical Committee Economics Subcommittee ([SSC-ES Report](#)).

The Decision Tool Methodology is being developed to evaluate the resilience of West Coast fishing communities as part of a Community Resilience Decision Support Framework under Council Special Project 2 ([D3 Situation Summary](#)). It is based on the premise that fishing communities with lower vulnerability are more likely to be resilient, and seeks to provide a practical, flexible, and evolving framework for evaluating resilience across West Coast fishing communities. Although the tool could be applied to a range of stressors (e.g., climate change and market disruptions), the SSC-ES focused on its use for evaluating the community impacts of fishery regulatory changes. The decision tool's development was informed by a synthesis of literature, stakeholder interviews, advisory team input, and a review of Council processes, which found that existing metrics and indicators (e.g., available in the California Current Ecosystem Status Reports) provide a foundation for resilience assessments. The SSC-ES's review also identified key needs, including greater emphasis on forward-looking, *ex-ante* analyses, improved understanding of adaptive capacity, and better information on infrastructure and social capital. The framework defines vulnerability as a function of exposure to stressors, sensitivity arising from fishery dependence and social vulnerability, and adaptive capacity. Adaptive capacity (the ability to respond to change) is recognized as a critical and forward-looking dimension encompassing factors such as flexibility, assets, organization, learning, and agency, but it remains the least developed component in terms of available indicators.

The SSC endorses the findings and recommendations in the SSC-ES report and identifies the following additional considerations:

1. On "Methodology Applicability", the SSC noted the challenge of choosing a single spatial scale for analyses. For example, reporting indicators at a scale of Census Place (currently used for community social vulnerability indices) would create data confidentiality concerns. On the other hand, coarser scales, such as IOPAC port groups, may not capture variation across communities within a port group. Clarification from the Council on how it anticipates using the decision tool will help identify the appropriate scale for future analyses.

2. On “Case Studies”, the SSC suggested consideration of the effects of the marine heat wave of 2014-2015 (warm blob) on coho returns with respect to fishery decisions. This would offer a different driver (environmental shock) and fishery management plan from the two potential case studies suggested by the SSC-ES (both groundfish). The SSC recommends that no more than two case studies be used to validate the tool, given the time available for the project.
3. The SSC recommends an additional check-in with the SSC-ES after baseline indicator data are assembled or when the initial case studies are underway. This will allow the SSC-ES to provide feedback on the tool before it is finalized. The date was left to be determined in discussion with the Northern Economics, Inc. team and the SSC-ES, ranging from late winter 2026 to spring 2027.

PFMC
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