

Communities 101

TNC Climate and Communities Initiative Workshop
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Outline

- I. How has 'community' been interpreted in U.S. Fisheries Management?
- II. What is a fishing community?
- III. Implications of climate change for how we think about communities

Takeaway points

- Fishing communities are fluid and heterogeneous
- Fishing is important to communities for many different reasons
- Communities will be unevenly impacted by climate change
- Communities' abilities to adapt to climate impacts are influenced by factors at multiple scales

**How has 'community' been interpreted
in U.S. fisheries management?**

A brief history of ‘community’ in fisheries management

- “Community” in English language since the 14th century, connotations of familiarity, place, and connection (Williams 1976)
- Misunderstandings emerged from poorly understood concepts of community
- “Community” became part of federal management with NS8 in the 1990s
- Community interpreted as tied to a terrestrial location (“place-based”)
- Research efforts: Fishing Community Profiles; Impact Assessments; Community Social Vulnerability Indicators (CSVI)

Magnuson-Stevens Act, NS8 (“Communities Standard”)

The term “fishing community” means a community that is ***substantially dependent on or substantially engaged in the harvest or processing of fishery resources to meet social and economic needs***, and includes fishing vessel owners, operators, and crew, and fish processors that are based in such communities. A fishing community is a social or economic group ***whose members reside in a specific location and share a common dependency on commercial, recreational, or subsistence fishing*** or on directly related fisheries-dependent services and industries (for example, boatyards, ice suppliers, tackle shops).”
(50 C.F.R. § 600.345(3))

What is a fishing community?
Considering other definitions

Other definitions of fishing community

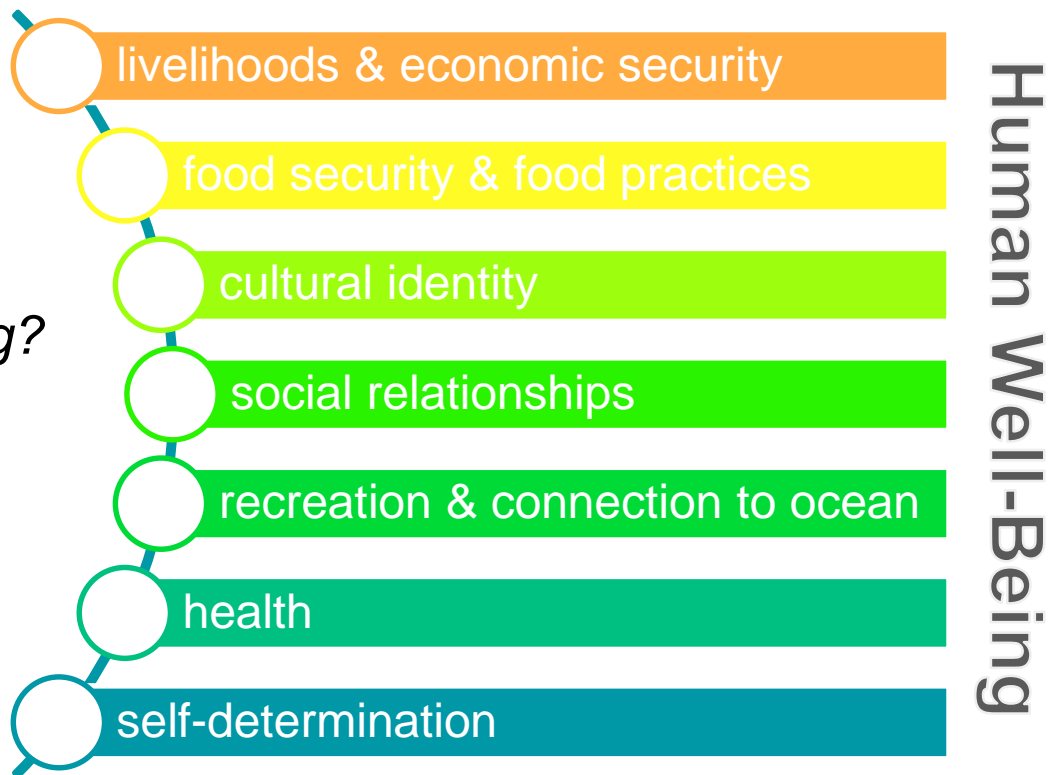
- *Place*
 - *Practice*
 - *Cultural identity*
 - *Tribes*
-
- *Members of fishing communities are also part of other non-fishing communities*

Fishing communities are fluid and heterogeneous

- Vary widely across communities (species portfolios, infrastructure, population/composition, histories, capital, political influence)
- Diverse socio-demographic factors within communities: economic class, race, citizenship, gender, among other characteristics
- Nested within other larger, complex social, political and economic relationships
- Communities are not all on the same playing field

Fishing is important to communities for many reasons

How are these values considered in decision-making?



Climate Change and Communities

EBFM allows for broad thinking about communities

Modern Management

- Single-species
- Marine systems sources of economic production (MSY)
- Fishing as impact on natural system
- Fishing communities impacted by management
- Top-down management

Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management

- Multi-species, Habitats, Interactions
- Social-ecological systems
- Fishing as both impact and practice - feedbacks
- Well-being, more than profits
- Fishing not just stressors or impacted but active learners/ responders
- Multi-Level Governance

Climate change is just one of many different changes that communities face

- Cumulative/multiple environmental changes (e.g., habitat loss, HABs, OA, sea level rise, range shifts, endangered species)
- Demographic changes (e.g, gentrification)
- Regulatory changes (e.g., more and complex)
- Economic changes (e.g., increased costs and reduced profits)
- There may be new beneficial opportunities (e.g., emerging fisheries)

Communities are unevenly impacted by climate change

- Intersection between climate-driven species vulnerability with socioeconomic vulnerability
- Social indicators can help identify “climate equity hotspots” (communities most at risk)
- Hotspots direct attention, assistance and relief accordingly

Adaptation to climate impacts is influenced by factors at multiple scales

Diversification

Substitution

Intensification

Pluralism

Migration

Exit

No change

Adaptation is shaped and constrained by regulatory, economic, social, and ecological factors (e.g., nature of fishing operation; regulations; market forces; experience, knowledge, and skills; availability and flexibility of seafood buyers)

Diversification has historically been a key adaptation strategy *targeting a larger or broader mix of species*

- How might management make it more feasible to access multiple permits to enable diversification across sectors and jurisdictions?
- Does climate variability/species distribution shift fishing communities away from “place-based” circumstances, towards more mobile and distant fleets?
- If mobility and diversification are the primary avenues to adapt, who’s fishing livelihood wins out?
- And what does this mean for the tribal communities whose fishing space is fixed by treaties?

Thank you!

Discussion questions:

- How can information about communities support managers, scientists and communities in preparing for and adapting to climate change?
- What is within the council's purview with respect to communities under the MSA?