

ECOSYSTEM WORKGROUP REPORT ON
CLIMATE AND COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE UPDATE

The Ecosystem Workgroup (EWG) submitted an [advance briefing book](#) report with its thoughts on the Climate and Communities Initiative and held further discussions on this issue at our September 6-7, 2018 meeting. We submitted our advance report well before the September meeting to solicit thoughtful consideration and comments from the Council family in time for our discussions at this meeting. In addition, the EWG discussions have had the benefit of considering the information provided from The Nature Conservancy Workshop report. The EWG continues to support our recommendations on this agenda item from our advance briefing book report.

After hearing feedback and having more discussion, our leading ideas for Council action on this agenda item are to: support scenario planning, diagnose fishery management plan (FMP) readiness for management measures that aid adaptation to a changing climate, and identify decision processes and associated analyses where climate information should be incorporated into fisheries management. To this end, the EWG suggests the Council consider:

- If the Council recommends proceeding with scenario planning, we would appreciate Council guidance on whether scenarios should focus on a fishery-specific case study, or an FMP-specific case study, or should scenarios more broadly consider all fisheries within some geographic region or port complex? Council guidance on a particular driver of change would also be helpful. For example, should draft scenarios focus on temperature change, pH change, sea level rise, etc.?
- In our advance briefing book report for this action, we suggested that the Council “Direct its management teams to work with the EWG to review and update an inventory of existing FMP measures that could be used to build resilience into fish stocks and create flexibility for fisheries.” We continue to support FMP-specific reviews for existing management measures that support fisheries management adaptation to a changing climate. The Nature Conservancy Workshop Report at Agenda Item G.3. Attachment 1 includes examples and ideas for potentially useful management measures ripe for review, such as: assessing permitting processes for their flexibility for moving between fisheries without losing the conservation benefits of those permit programs; looking for opportunities to ensure that new generations of fishing businesses have access to harvest; encourage fuel efficiency in fishing operations; and exploring community quotas. These and other ideas would be best initially evaluated through cooperative work between the EWG and the FMP-specific management teams.
- The Council may also want to assign the EWG and other Council advisory bodies to assess the Council’s analysis-framing documents, such as Council Operating Procedures or FMPs, for whether they support including climate information into the analyses that support Council decision-making.