

# Developing a workplan for the FEP Climate Change Module

Kirstin Holsman

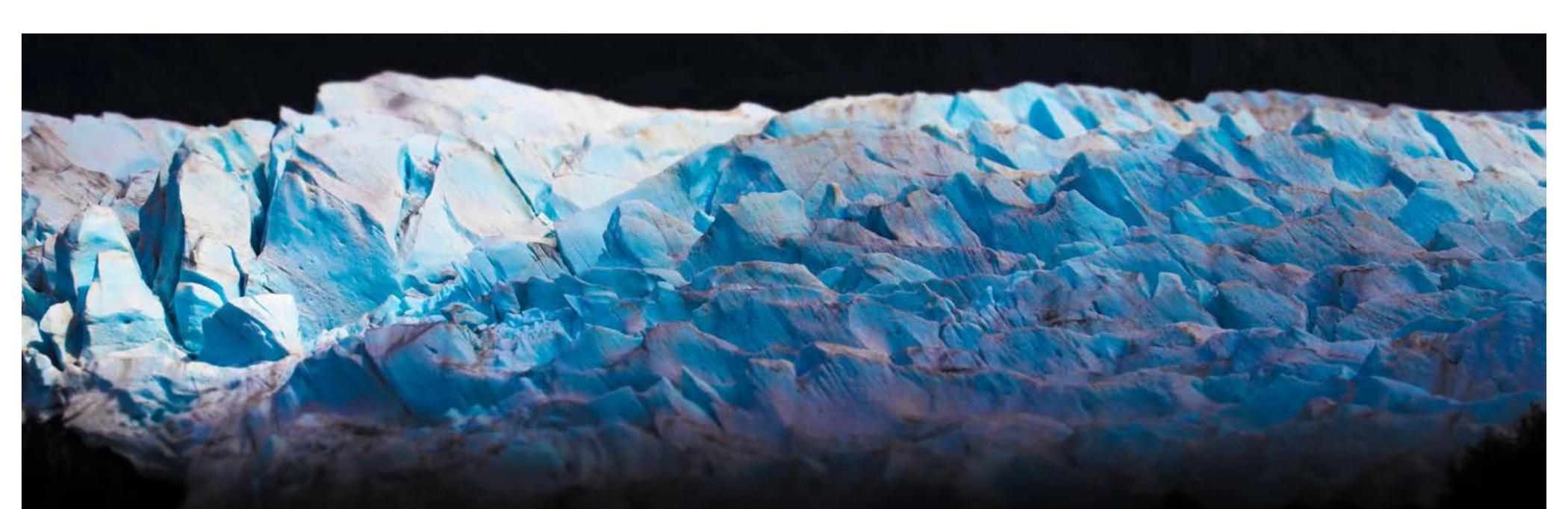
kirstin.holsman@noaa.gov

Alaska Fisheries Science Center

Climate Task Force Meeting 1

Jan, 2020



- 
- Intro to Task Force
  - Brief background
  - Module objective & goals
  - Module outcomes & products
  - CCTF planning & logistics

Today: Agenda

# TODAY'S GOALS:

1. Finalize a draft workplan to send to the Council next week
2. Derive a list of issues / questions we'd like feedback on specifically
3. Clarify our goals, process, and logistics



# Google docs

The screenshot shows the Google Drive interface. At the top left is the Drive logo. A search bar contains 'Search Drive'. On the right, there are icons for help, settings, and a grid of apps, along with a NOAA logo and a user profile icon 'K'. The breadcrumb path is 'My Drive > 00\_A\_FEP\_ClimateModule > CCTF Shared Folder'. Below the path are icons for link, share, trash, and a menu. A table lists files with columns for Name, Owner, Last modified, and File size. The 'CCTF Meetings' file is highlighted. On the left sidebar, there are options for 'New', 'Priority', 'My Drive', 'Shared drives', 'Shared with me', 'Recent', 'Starred', 'Trash', and 'Storage' (103.9 GB used). On the right sidebar, there are icons for calendar, a lightbulb, and a checkmark.

Name ↑	Owner	Last modified	File size
01 CCTF Supporting Docs	me	Dec 20, 2019 me	—
CCTF Meetings	me	Dec 17, 2019 me	—
01 CCTF Timeline and Important d...	me	Dec 20, 2019 me	—
02 Helpful Links	me	Dec 20, 2019 me	—
03 Contact info for CCTF members	me	Dec 20, 2019 me	—
04 Glossary of Terms	me	Jan 8, 2020 Jamal Moss - NOAA   —	—

# Google docs



Search Drive



New

Priority

My Drive

Shared drives

Shared with me

Recent

Starred

Trash

Storage

103.9 GB used

My Drive > ... > CCTF Meetings > 2020\_01\_21\_CCTF\_Meeting1

Name ↑	Owner	Last modified	File size
Meeting materials	me	Dec 17, 2019 me	—
Meeting Notes	me	1:29 PM me	—
NEW Agenda (Jan 21 : webex)	me	1:26 PM me	—
Pre-meeting Homework	me	Jan 13, 2020 me	—
Working_Draft_Climate change Ac...	me	Jan 17, 2020 Diana Stram - NOAA	—

31



# Survey results



# Connection to the Bering Sea:

17 years with NPFMC, have coordinated plan teams for BSAI groundfish, BSAI crab, worked on BSAI halibut and salmon bycatch issues and management amendments

21 years of marine mammal research in Alaska

extensive work with communities and other partners on fisheries management, climate change, marine mammals, marine debris, governance, and other issues in the Bering Sea

Fisheries Management Specialist with the Alaska Regional Office.

I work as a social scientist with Bering Sea Tribes, Tribal organizations, and communities. I also used to live in Nome.

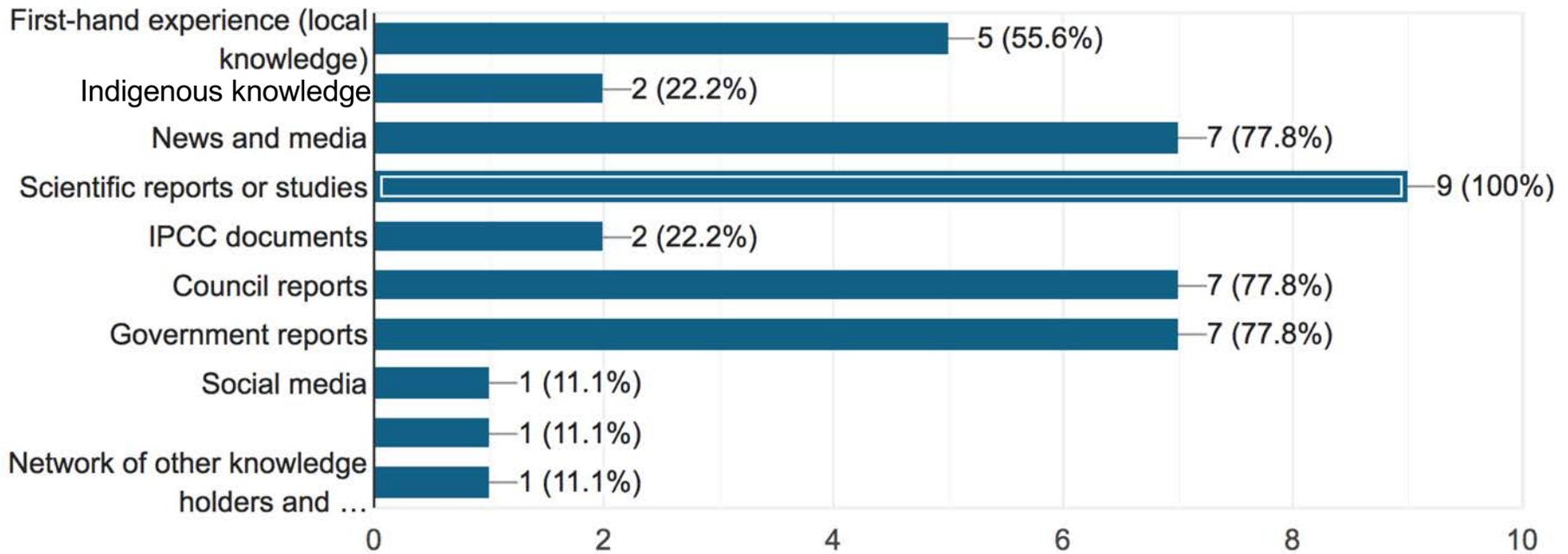
Run a natural resources department for a tribal government

Work with the Fishing Industry and Council on Data & Policy issues



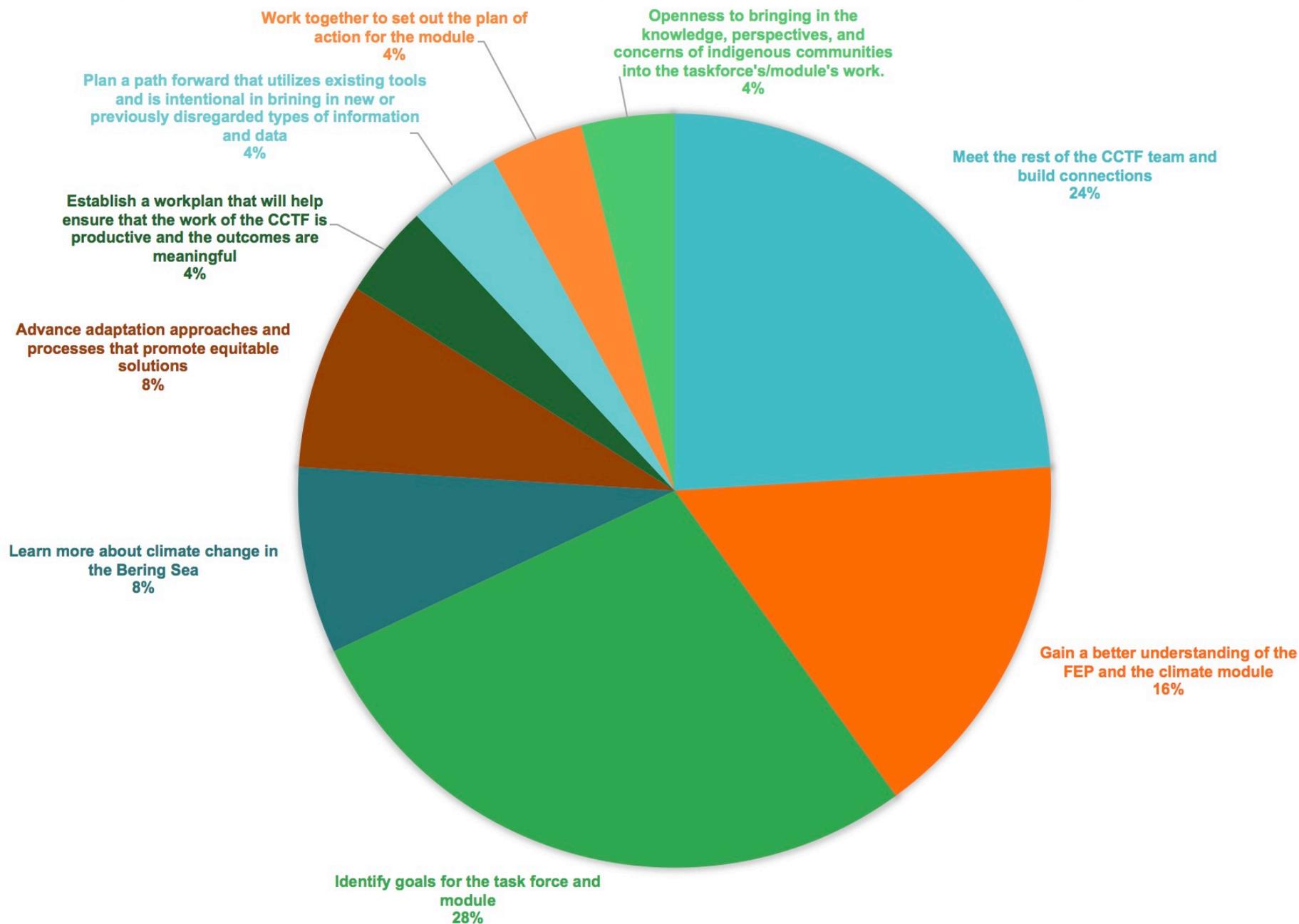
# What are some of your primary sources of information on current climate impacts on the Bering Sea?

9 responses





# What are your TOP 3 goals for this first CCTF meeting?



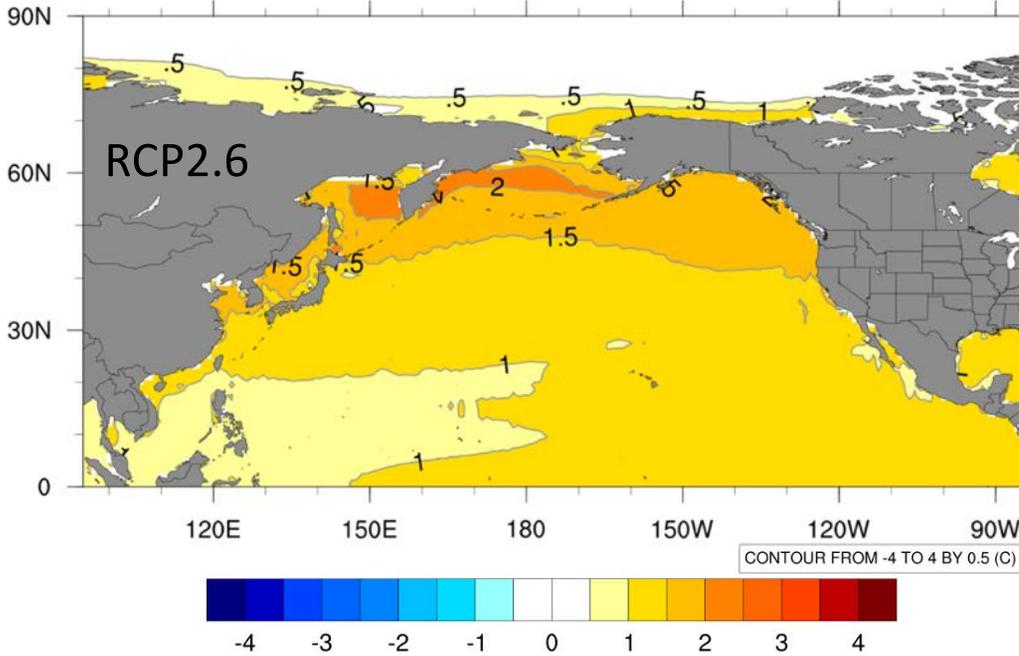
# Background



# CMIP5 ENSMN Annual SST anomaly (°C) (2050 to 2099) - (1956 to 2005)

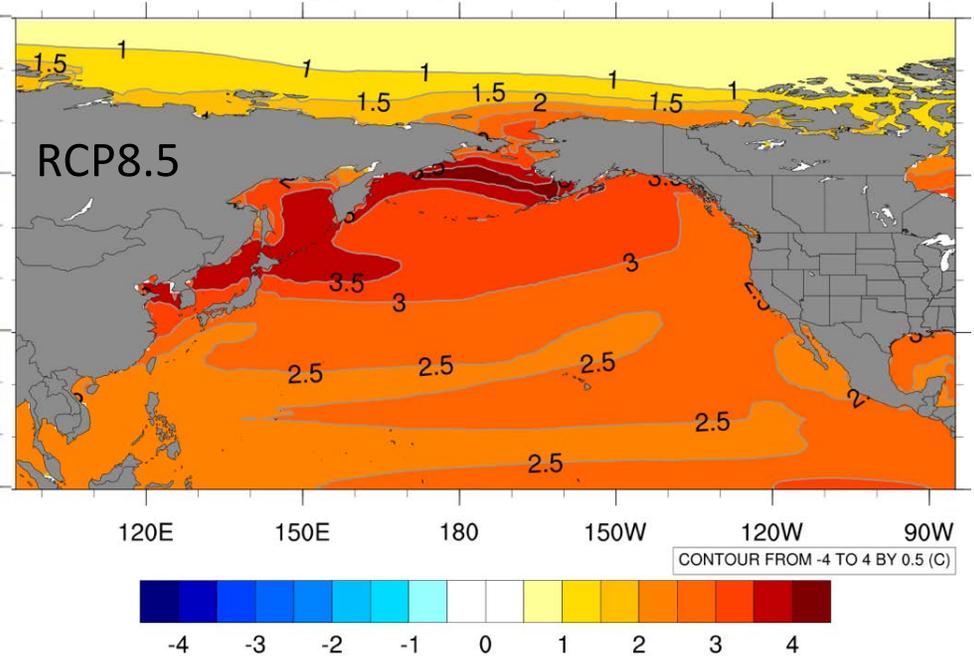
## CO2 mitigation scenario

CMIP5 ENSMN RCP2.6 anomaly (2050-2099)-(1956-2005)



## High baseline scenario ("Business as usual")

CMIP5 ENSMN RCP8.5 anomaly (2050-2099)-(1956-2005)



Projection data from CMIP5 (Taylor et al., 2012) avail. at: [www.esrl.noaa.gov/psd/ipcc/ocn](http://www.esrl.noaa.gov/psd/ipcc/ocn)

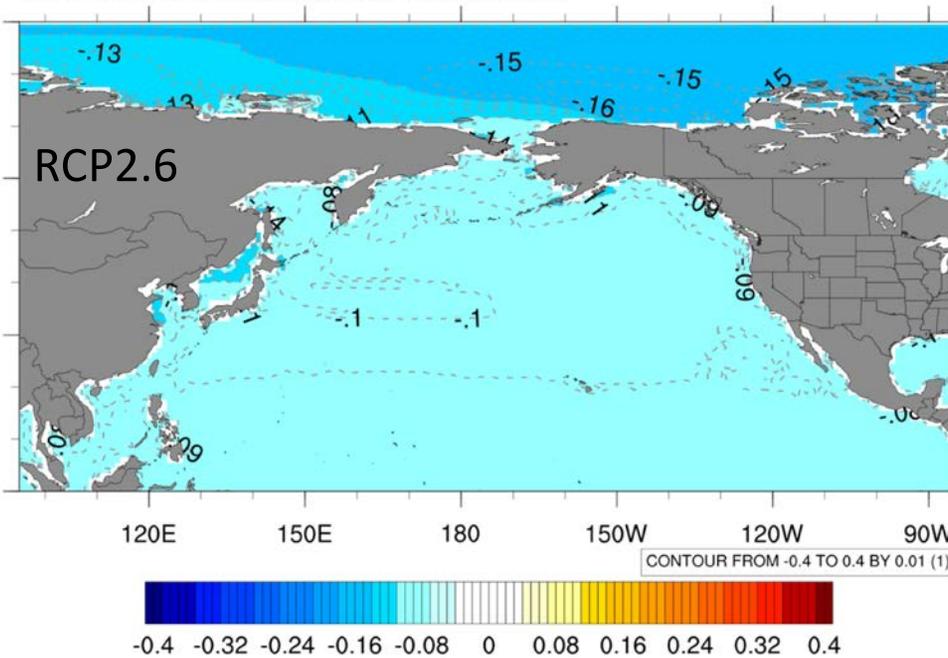
Modified from Fig. 6.2 Holsman et al. 2018 [in ] Barange et al. (Eds.) 2018. Impacts of climate change on fisheries and aquaculture. TP 627.



# CMIP5 ENSMN Annual Ocean pH anomaly (2050 to 2099) - (1956 to 2005)

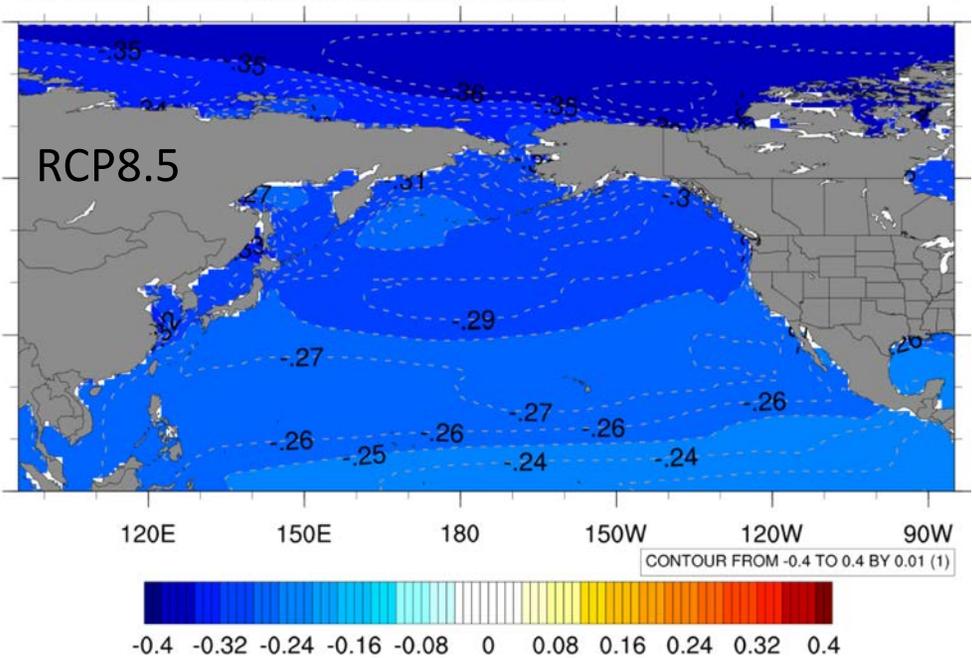
## CO2 mitigation scenario

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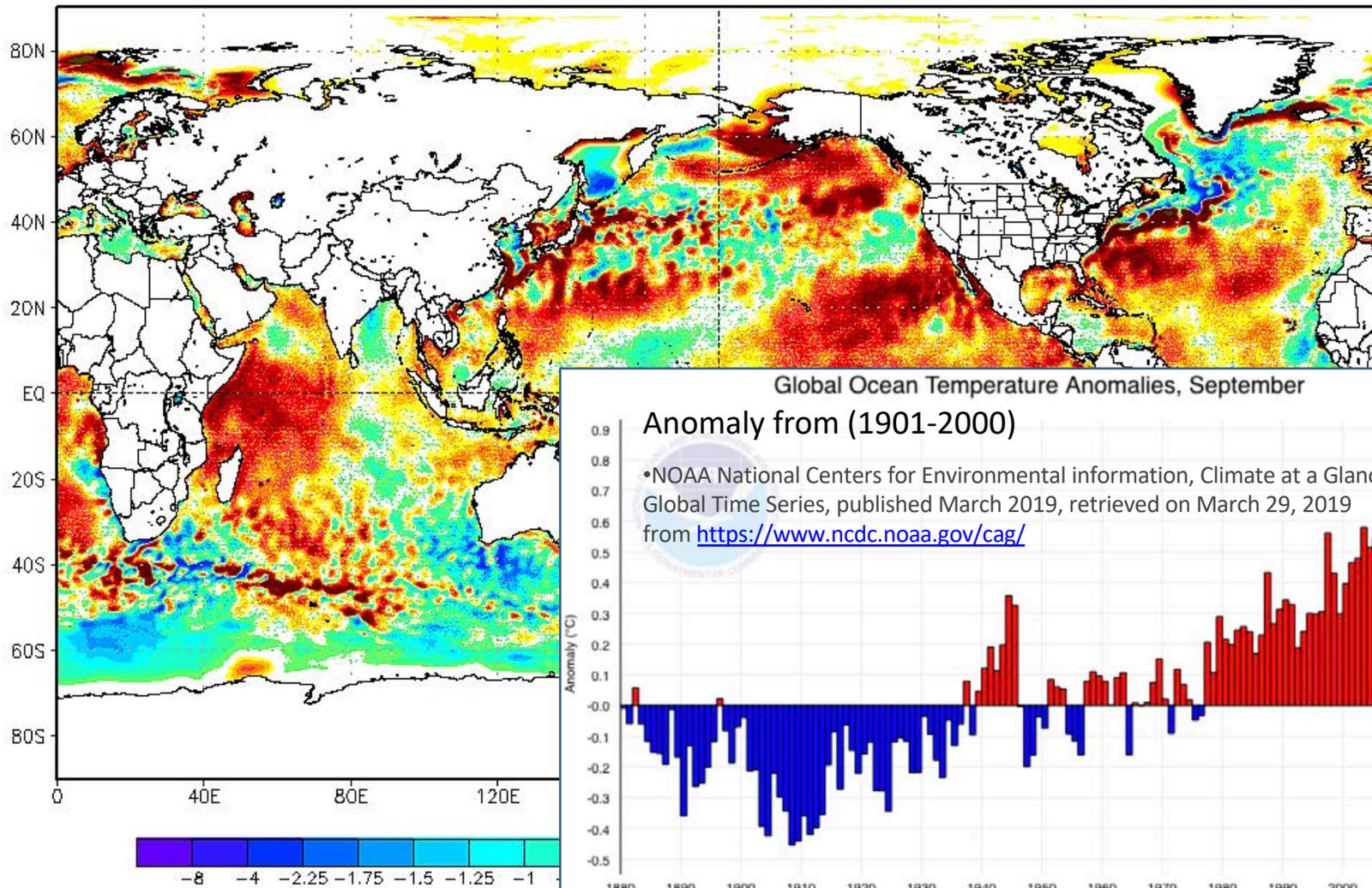
Modified from Holsman et al. 2018 [in ] Barange et al. (Eds.) 2018.  
Impacts of climate change on fisheries and aquaculture. TP 627.



# Anomaly from 1961-1990 climatology, 1 degree, weekly resolution

NOAA/NWS/NCEP/EMC Marine Modeling and Analysis Branch Oper H.R.

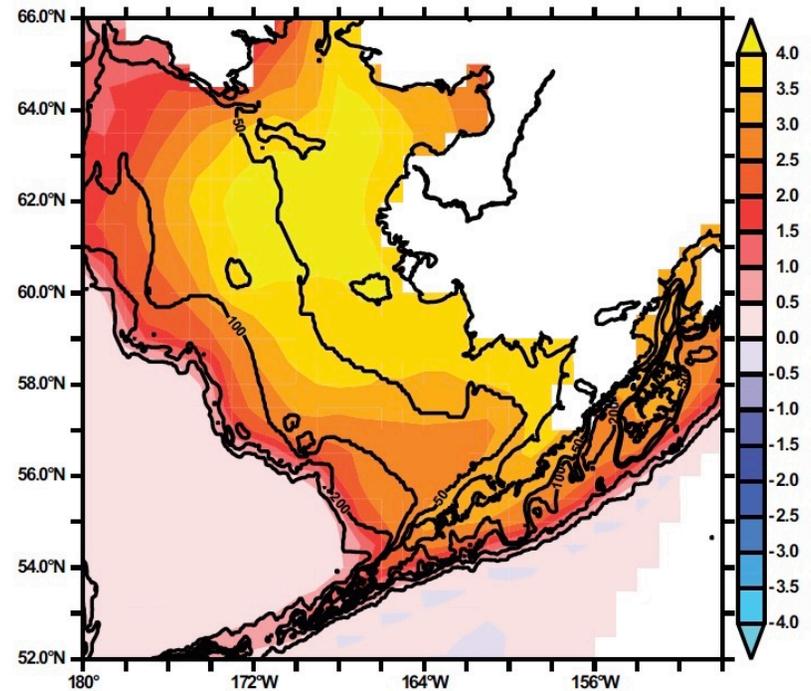
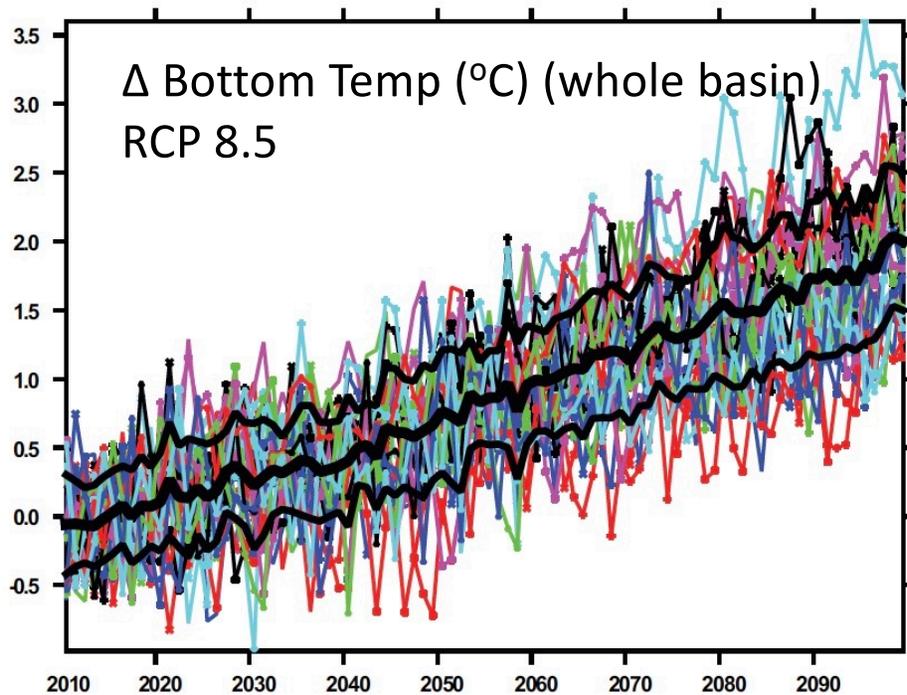
RTG\_SST\_HR Anomaly (0.083 deg X 0.083 deg) for 06 May 2019



22:40:45 MON MAY 6 2019

[http://polar.ncep.noaa.gov/sst/rtg\\_high\\_res](http://polar.ncep.noaa.gov/sst/rtg_high_res)

# Increased warming (2090-2099)-(2010-2019)



(2019) Hermann, A. J., G.A. Gibson, W. Cheng, I. Ortiz1, K. Aydin, M. Wang, A. B. Hollowed, and K. K. Holsman. Projected biophysical conditions of the Bering Sea to 2100 under multiple emission scenarios. ICES. doi: 10.1093/ices/fsz043

ARTICLE

DOI: 10.1038/s41467-018-03732-9

OPEN

# Longer and more frequent marine heatwaves over the past century

Eric C.J. Oliver<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Markus G. Donat<sup>4,5</sup>, Michael T. Burrows<sup>6</sup>, Pippa J. Moore<sup>7</sup>, Dan A. Smale<sup>8,9</sup>, Lisa V. Alexander<sup>4,5</sup>, Jessica A. Benthuyzen<sup>10</sup>, Ming Feng<sup>11</sup>, Alex Sen Gupta<sup>4,5</sup>, Alistair J. Hobday<sup>12</sup>, Neil J. Holbrook<sup>2,13</sup>, Sarah E. Perkins-Kirkpatrick<sup>4,5</sup>, Hillary A. Scannell<sup>14,15</sup>, Sandra C. Straub<sup>9</sup> & Thomas Wernberg<sup>9</sup>

Progress in Oceanography 141 (2016) 227–238

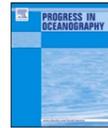
Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Progress in Oceanography

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/pocean](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/pocean)



ELSEVIER



## A hierarchical approach to defining marine heatwaves



Alistair J. Hobday<sup>a,\*</sup>, Lisa V. Alexander<sup>b,c</sup>, Sarah E. Perkins<sup>b,c</sup>, Dan A. Smale<sup>d,e</sup>, Sandra C. Straub<sup>e</sup>, Eric C.J. Oliver<sup>b,f</sup>, Jessica A. Benthuyzen<sup>g</sup>, Michael T. Burrows<sup>h</sup>, Markus G. Donat<sup>b,c</sup>, Ming Feng<sup>i</sup>, Neil J. Holbrook<sup>b,f</sup>, Pippa J. Moore<sup>j</sup>, Hillary A. Scannell<sup>k,l</sup>, Alex Sen Gupta<sup>b,c</sup>, Thomas Wernberg<sup>e</sup>

<sup>a</sup> CSIRO Oceans and Atmosphere, Hobart, Tasmania 7000, Australia

<sup>b</sup> ARC Centre of Excellence for Climate System Science, The University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia

<sup>c</sup> Climate Change Research Centre, The University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia

<sup>d</sup> Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom, The Laboratory, Citadel Hill, Plymouth PL1 2PB, UK

Climate Dynamics

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00382-019-04707-2>



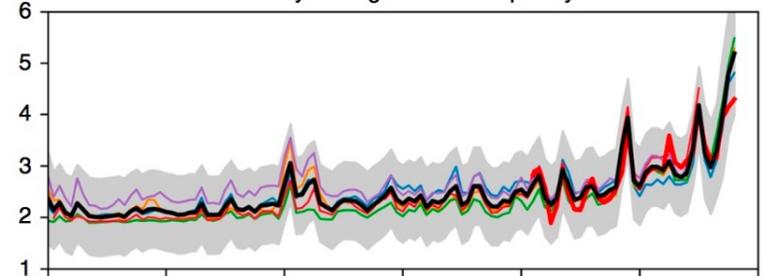
## Mean warming not variability drives marine heatwave trends

Eric C. J. Oliver<sup>1</sup>

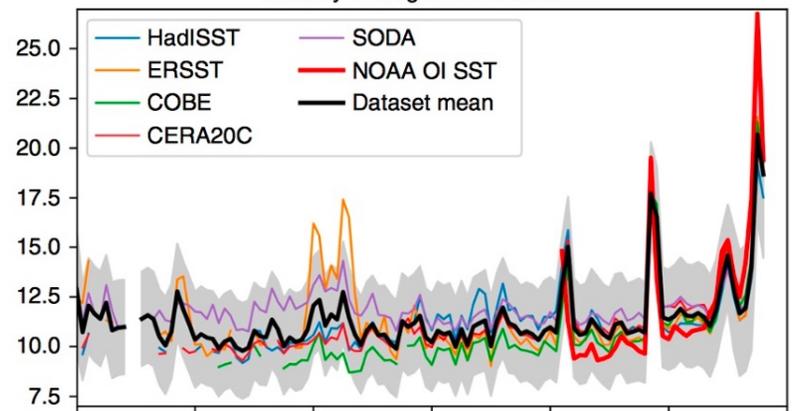
Received: 1 May 2018 / Accepted: 1 March 2019

© Springer-Verlag GmbH Germany, part of Springer Nature 2019

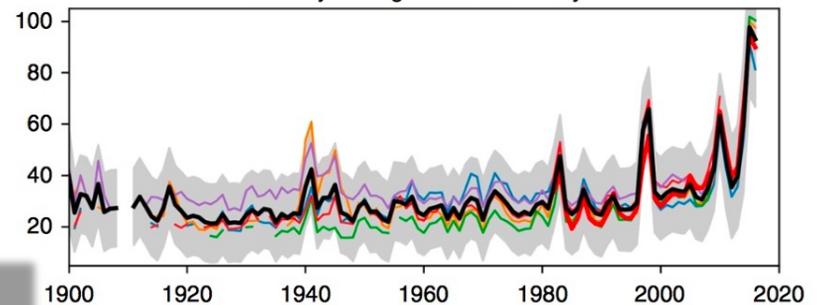
**b** Globally averaged MHW frequency



**d** Globally averaged MHW duration



**f** Globally averaged total MHW days



*“We find that **mean SST change** was the dominant driver of **increasing MHW** exposure over nearly two thirds of the ocean, and of changes in MHW intensity over approximately one third of the ocean. “*

# COMMENT

**POLICY** Rubric for prioritizing action on the Sustainability Development Goals [p.320](#)

**PHYSICS** A fond history of the Cavendish, a lab with few rivals [p.323](#)

**FILM** Biomechanics adviser to *Finding Dory* in conversation [p.325](#)

**REPRODUCIBILITY** A call to shun predatory journals [p.326](#)



Women from a traditional sea-harvesting community fishing in Mozambique.

## Fall in fish catch threatens human health

Christopher Golden and colleagues calculate that declining numbers of marine fish will spell more malnutrition in many developing nations.

How will the 10 billion people expected to be living on Earth by 2050 obtain sufficient and nutritious food? This is one of the greatest challenges humanity faces. Global food systems must supply enough calories and protein for a growing human population and pro-

under five is attributable to undernutrition; nutritional deficiencies are responsible for 50% of years lived with disability in children aged four and under<sup>1</sup>. Fish are crucial sources of micronutrients, often in highly bioavailable forms. And fish populations are declining. Most

Waters<sup>2</sup>. This new view underlines the need for nutrition-sensitive fisheries policies.

**NUTRITIONAL RISK** Presently, 17% of the global population is zinc deficient, with some subpopulations being particularly at risk<sup>3</sup>. Nearly one-fifth of preg-

RESEARCH ARTICLE

## Potential impacts of climate-related decline of seafood harvest on nutritional status of coastal First Nations in British Columbia, Canada

Lesya Marushka<sup>1</sup>, Tiff-Annie Kenny<sup>1</sup>, Malek Batal<sup>2</sup>, William W. L. Cheung<sup>3,4</sup>, Karen Fediuk<sup>5</sup>, Christopher D. Golden<sup>6,7</sup>, Anne K. Salomon<sup>8</sup>, Tonio Sadik<sup>9</sup>, Lauren V. Weatherdon<sup>10</sup>, Hing Man Chan<sup>1\*</sup>

**1** Biology Department, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, **2** Nutrition Department, Faculty of Medicine, Université de Montréal, Pavillon Liliane de Stewart, Montreal, Québec, Canada, **3** Changing Ocean Research Unit, Institute for the Oceans and Fisheries, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, **4** Nippon Foundation-UBC Nereus Program, Institute for the Oceans and Fisheries, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, **5** Dietitian and Nutrition Researcher, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, **6** Department of Environmental Health, Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health, Boston, Massachusetts, United States of America, **7** Harvard University Center for the Environment, Cambridge, Massachusetts, United States of America, **8** School of Resource & Environmental Management, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada, **9** Assembly of First Nations, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, **10** UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre, Cambridge, United Kingdom

\* laurie.chan@uottawa.ca



OPEN ACCESS

Citation: Marushka L, Kenny T-A, Batal M, Cheung WWL, Fediuk K, Golden CD, et al. (2019) Potential

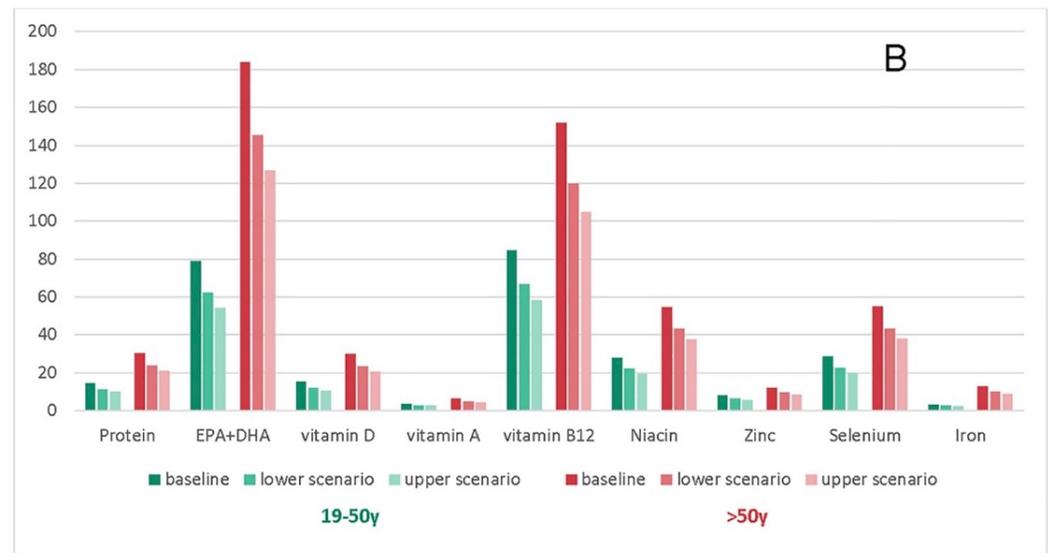
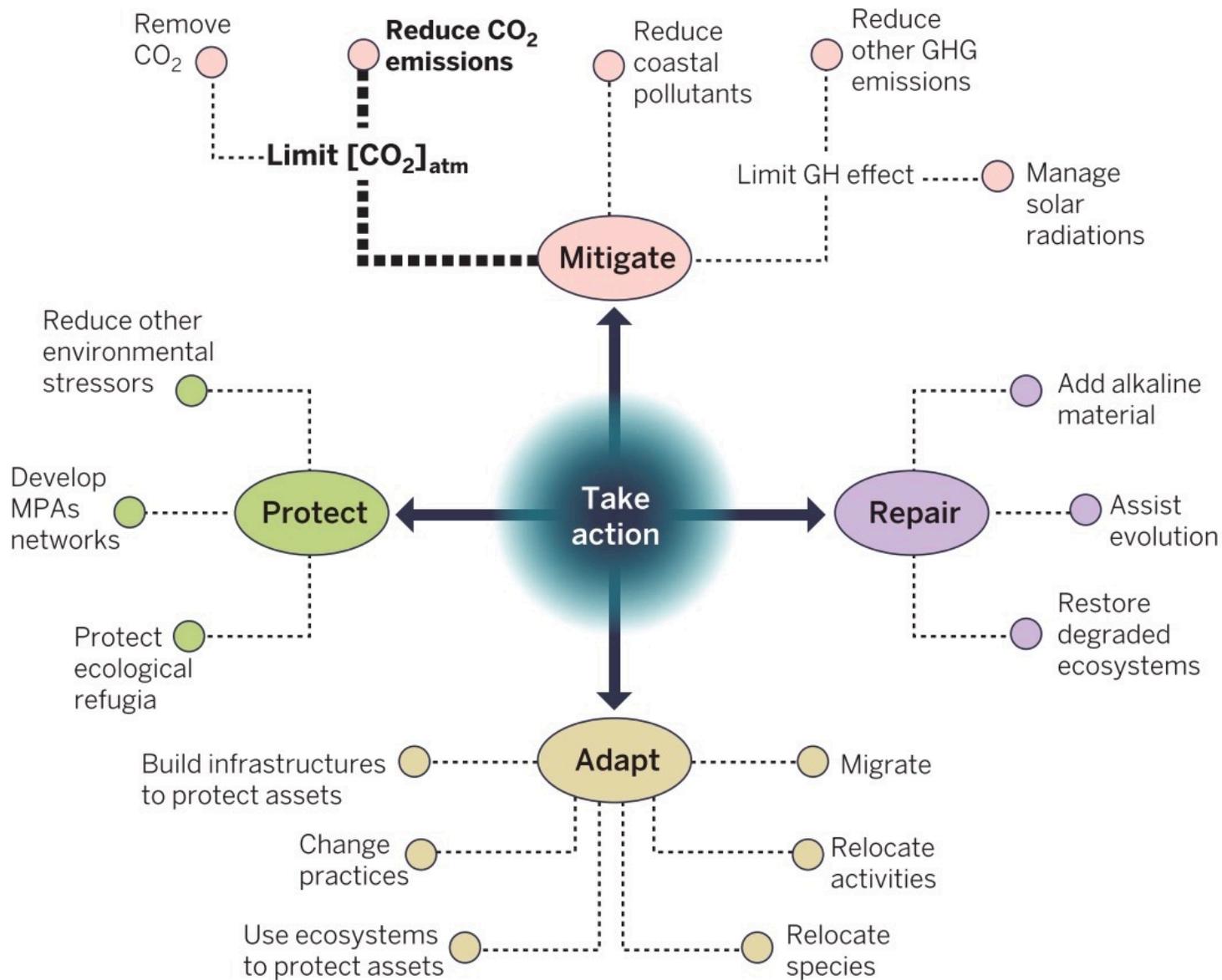
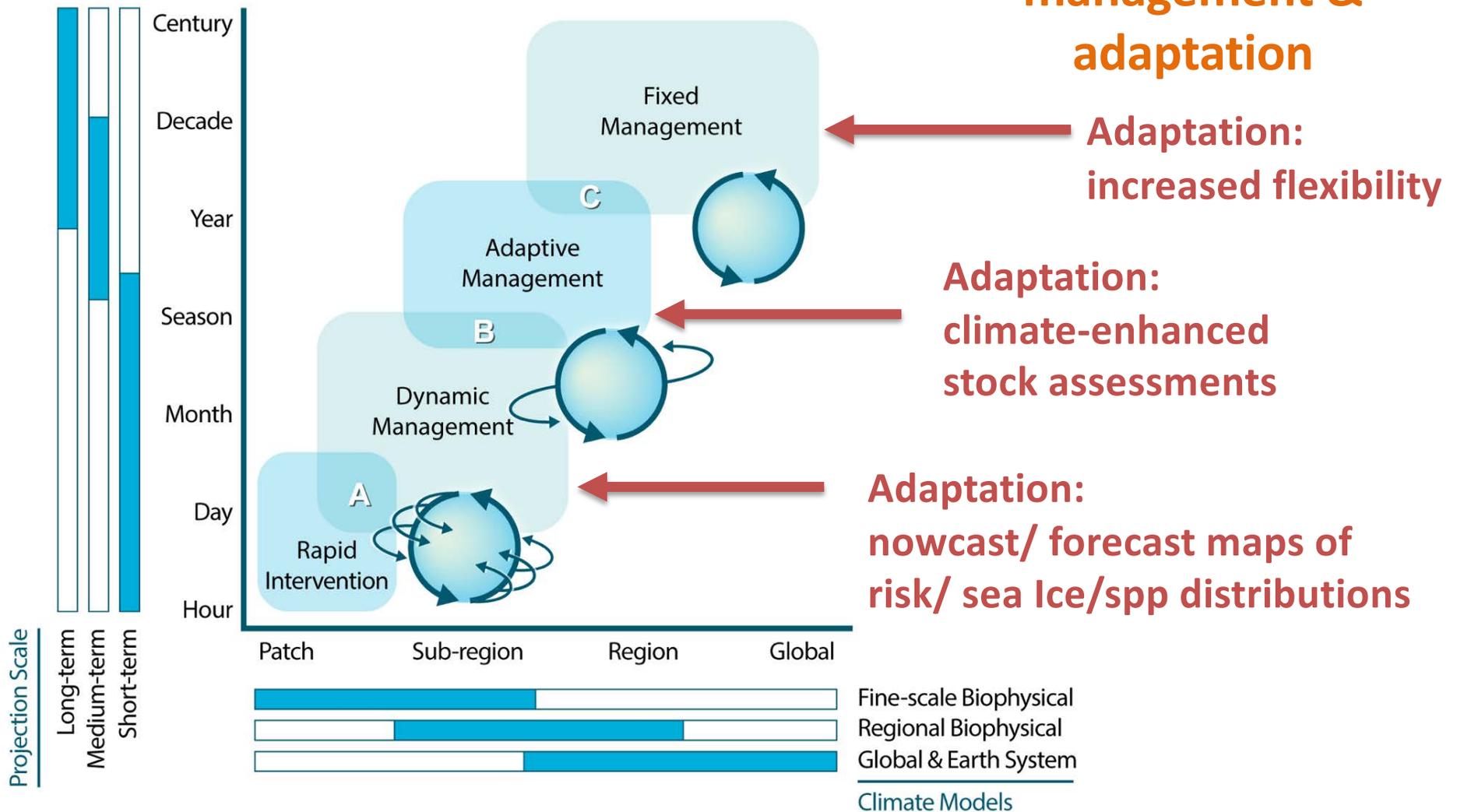


Fig 4. Baseline and projected percentage contributions to the DRI from total seafood in First Nations by (A) gender and (B) by age groups, under 'strong mitigation' (RCP 2.6) and 'business-as-usual' (RCP 8.5) climate change scenarios. DRI—dietary reference intakes using recommended dietary allowance (RDA) and recommended intake (RI) for EPA+DHA.



Gattuso et al. (2015). *Contrasting futures for ocean and society from different anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> emissions scenarios*. *Science*, 349(6243), aac4722. <https://doi.org/10.1126/science.aac4722>

# Consider nested scales of management & adaptation



Holsman, K. K., Hazen, E. L., Haynie, A., Gourguet, S., Hollowed, A., Bograd, S. J., ... Aydin, K. (2019). Towards climate resiliency in fisheries management. *ICES Journal of Marine Science*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/icesjms/fsz031>



## Test new & existing tools

Adaptation

*incremental (normative) adaptation to preserve current livelihoods, health, and well being and meet future demands*

*transformational adaptation, especially to address/prevent continued marginalization and promote diverse well being, values, and views*

**Build capacity to reevaluate & enable transformative actions**

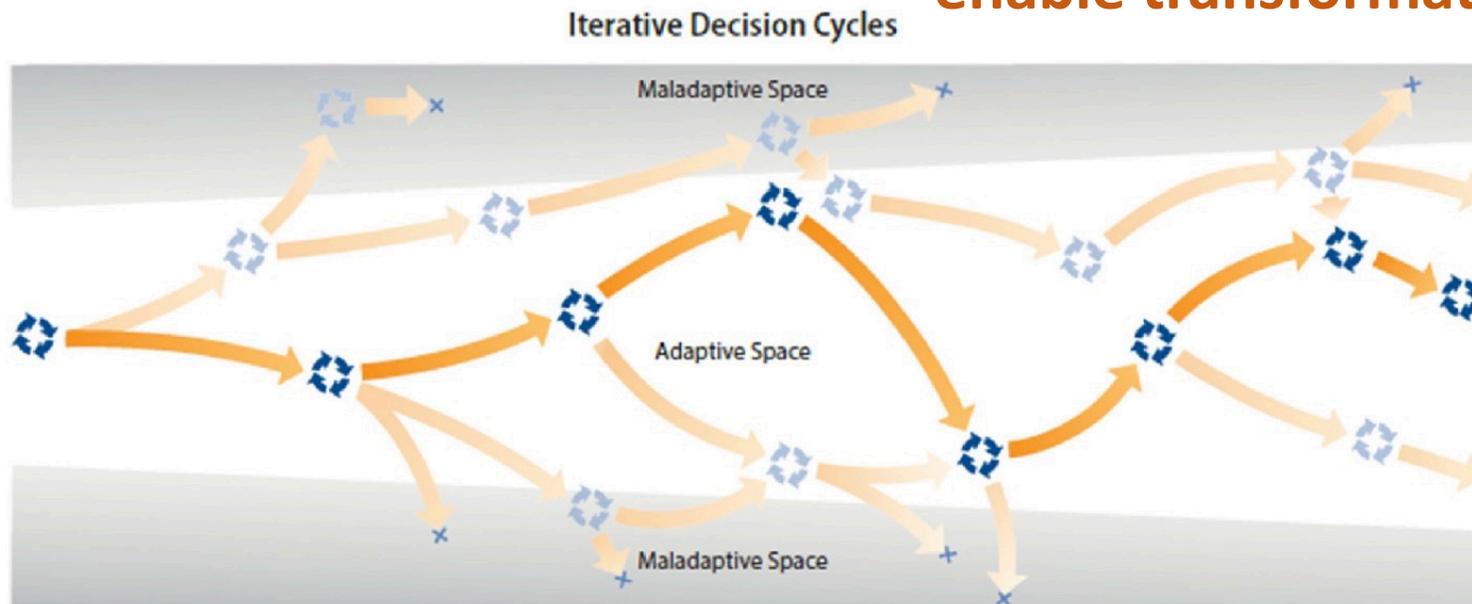


Fig. 1 from Wise et al. 2014. Reconceptualising adaptation to climate change as part of pathways of change and response. *Global Environmental Change* 28: 325–336

# HOW?

## FEP Climate Change Module



# Module goal:

**“facilitate and support equitable climate change adaptation pathways and long-term resilience for the coupled social-ecological system of the Eastern Bering Sea”**

*i) evaluate management tools to develop incremental (normative) adaptation measures to preserve livelihoods, health and wellbeing across fisheries and dependent coastal communities*

*ii) enable transformative adaptation needed to ensure the productivity and sustainability of the coupled social-ecological Bering Sea system*



*“knowledge and culture construct societal limits to adaptation, but these limits are mutable”*  
*- Adger et al. (2009).*



- ✓ Risk inherently depends on values
- ✓ Include a “plurality of perspectives” \*
- ✓ Consider interacting (non-linear) pressures

*\*Allison & Bassett. 2015. Climate change in the oceans: Human impacts and responses. Science 350 (6262), 778-782. [doi: 10.1126/science.aac8721]*



- ✓ Risk inherently depends on values
- ✓ Include a “plurality of perspectives” \*
- ✓ Consider interacting (non-linear) pressures

“Interconnections among risks can span sectors and regions with multiple climatic and non-climatic influences, including societal responses to climate change and other issues (Helbing 2013; Moser and Hart 2015; Oppenheimer 2013).”

- Mach et al. 2016



“One ongoing challenge is developing and addressing research questions from a Traditional Knowledge lens rather than solely from a western researcher's perspective.”

Raymond-Yakoubian, J., & Daniel, R. (2018). *Marine Policy*, 97:101–108.

*How best to coordinate with TK / LK module?*



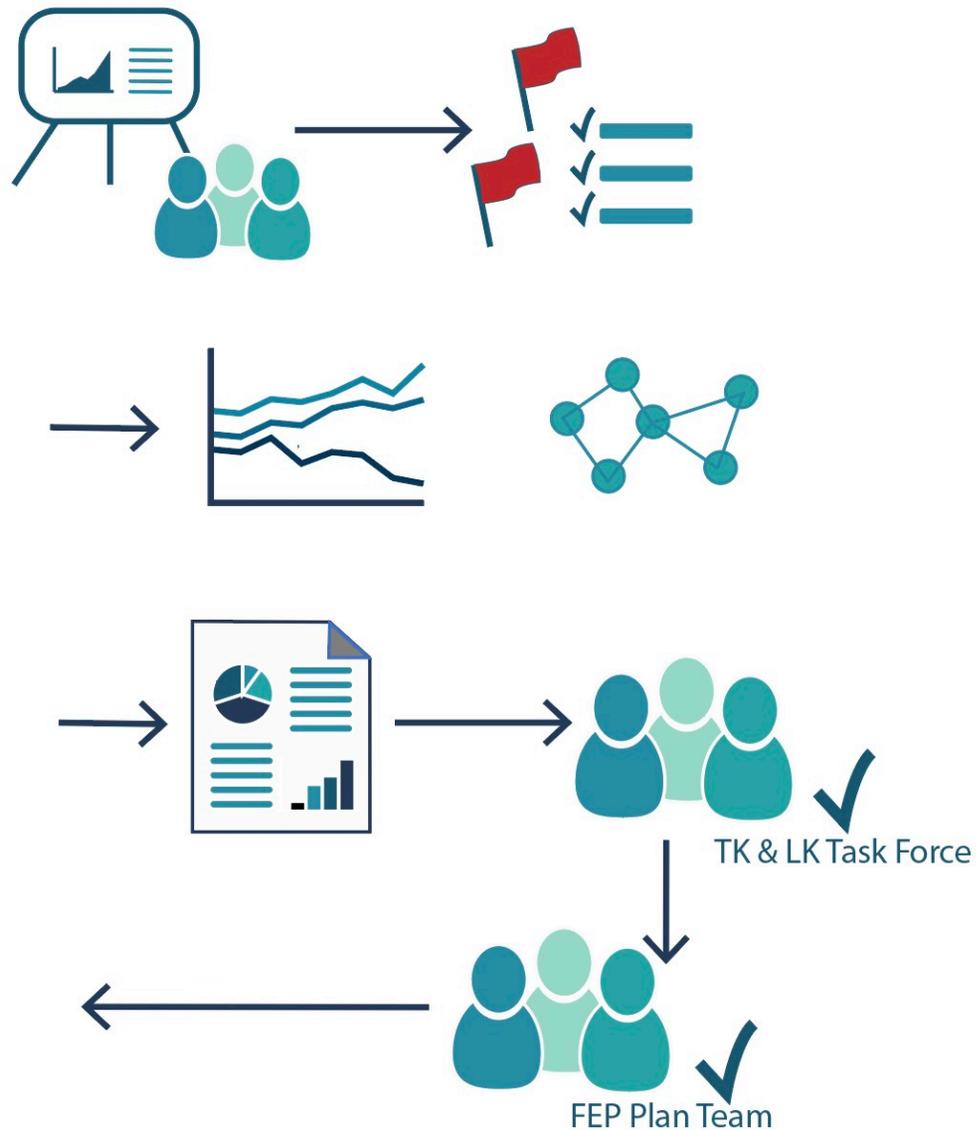
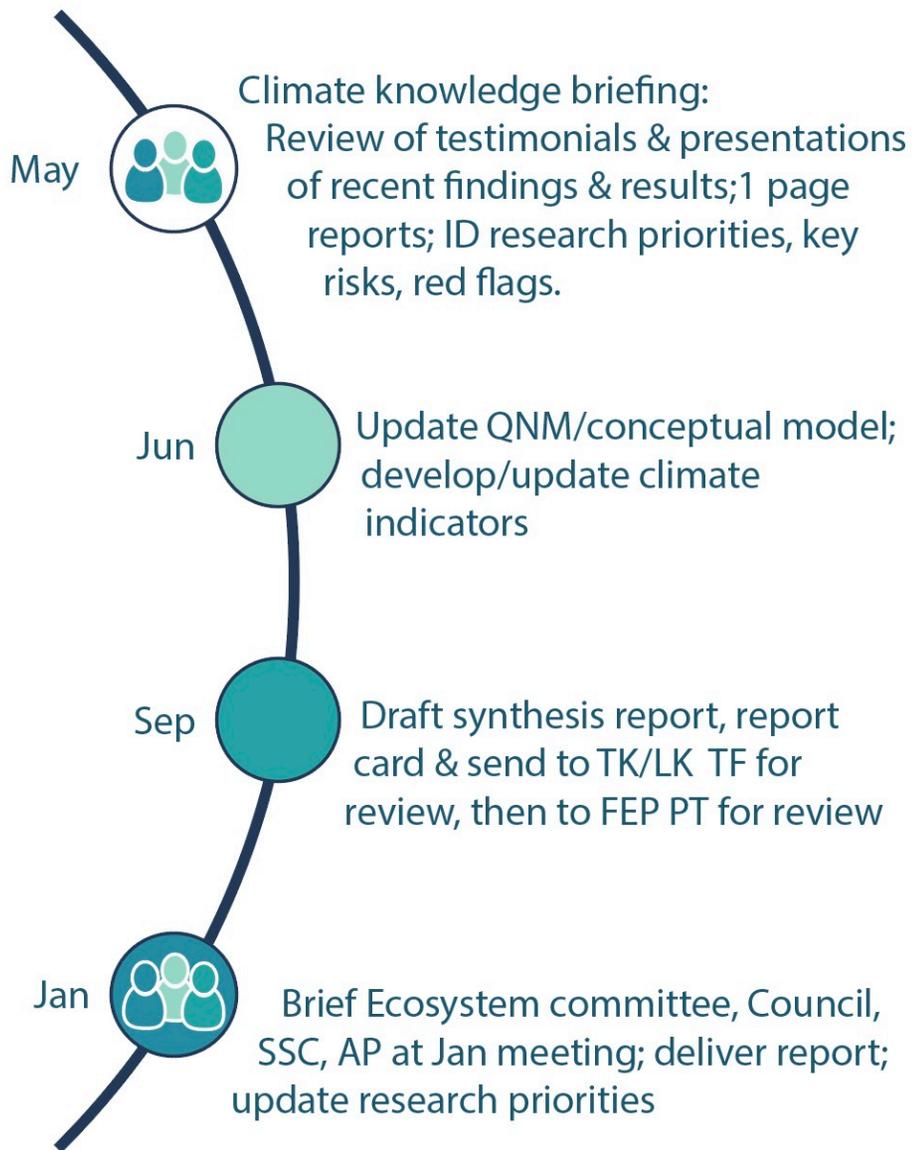
# Objectives / tasks:

- ” To achieve this, the climate change module will be used to...”
- ✓ **synthesize current knowledge** regarding climate change effects on the EBS system,
  - ✓ **identify potential climate-resilient management measures** that can improve adaptive capacity and avoid maladaptation
  - ✓ **evaluate the risk, timescale, and probability of success of various climate-resilient management policies** under future scenarios of change
  - ✓ *provide prioritized recommendations for ~~actions~~ research and MSEs that could be taken to advance the goals and minimize the risks identified.*

**Policy relevant not policy prescriptive**

*(climate-resilient management would go through the existing Council process)*





**PAUSE**

# ***Workplan: Goals & objectives***



# GOAL:

**“facilitate and support equitable climate change adaptation pathways and long-term resilience for the coupled social-ecological system of the Eastern Bering Sea”**

*i) evaluate management tools to develop incremental (normative) adaptation measures to preserve livelihoods, health and wellbeing across fisheries and dependent coastal communities*

*ii) enable transformative adaptation needed to ensure the productivity and sustainability of the coupled social-ecological Bering Sea system*



“The primary goal [objective?] of this climate module is to provide information, pathways, and tools that can be used to ensure climate resilience in the region’s fishery management. Specifically, the module will leverage ongoing, proposed, and completed projects at AFSC and [ADD other institutions] to address the following objectives:”

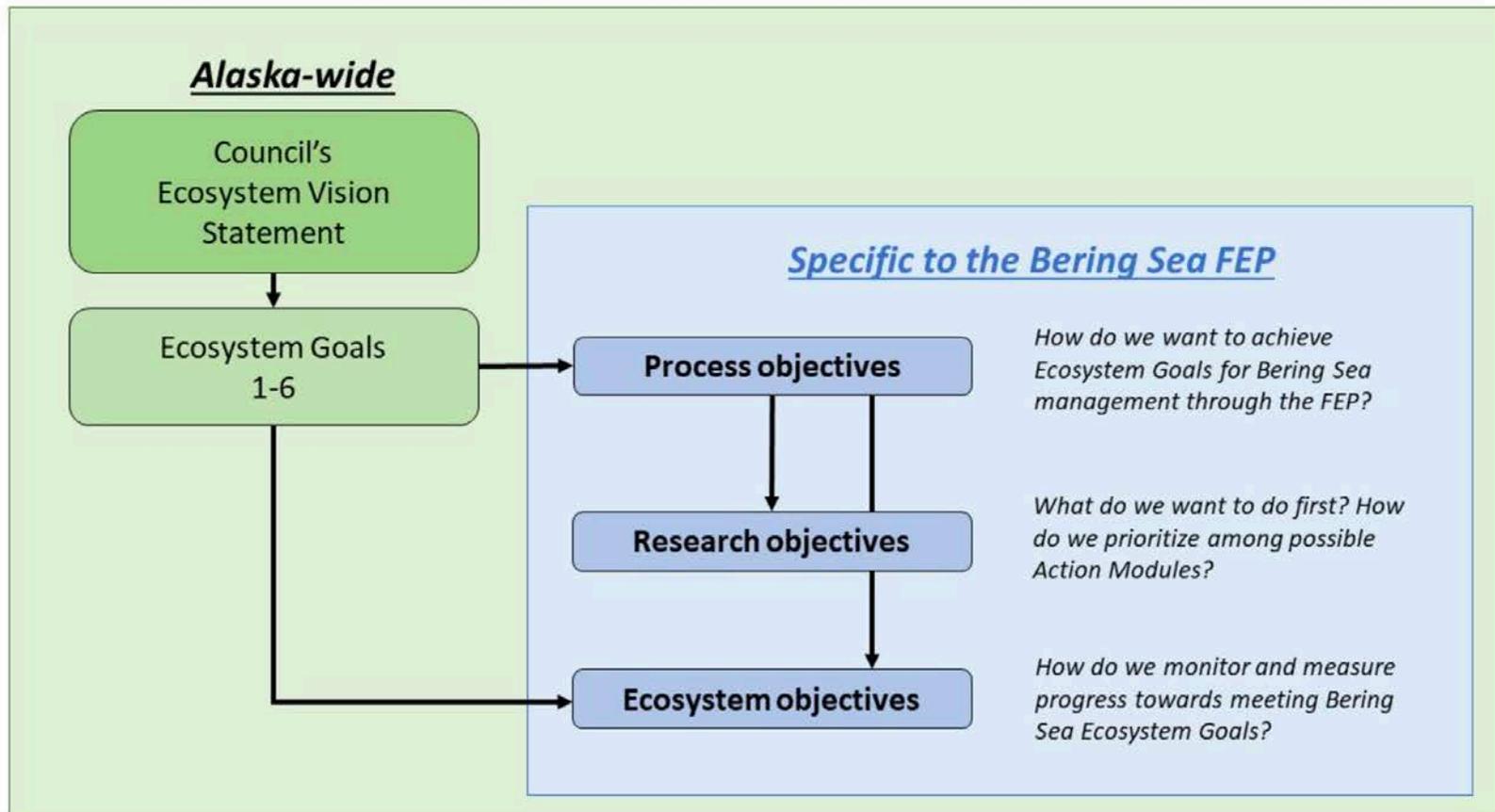


# Discussion: Outcome & goals

- How best to monitor and measure success towards CC Module goals?
- Should the BSFEP Team monitor? Or should the CCTF monitor?
- Can we develop metrics and outreach to evaluate goals and outcomes?
  - “e.g. asking key stakeholder groups who are engaged at the Council (e.g. 'Do you feel management measures are sufficiently adaptive in addressing climate effects on fisheries?')”
  - doing keyword analysis of Council meetings
  - Working with some of the Council bodies - e.g. Ecosystem Committee and CEC
- Can we try to link to the ecosystem goals of the council?



# Objectives



Ecosystem Goal	Ecosystem Objectives	Module evaluations	Metrics & indicators
<b>Ecosystem Goal 1: Maintain, rebuild, and restore fish stocks at levels sufficient to protect, maintain, and restore food web structure and function</b>	<i>1. Maintain target biomass levels for target species, consistent with optimum yield, using available tools.</i>	MSE: test climate informed biological reference points; test spatial and temporal regulations to address shifting distributions	long-term B/B <sub>0</sub> ; total yield; volatility in B or C; access to subsistence resources; catch-->wellbeing analyses
	<i>2. Maintain healthy populations and function of non-target and forage species.</i>	Identify species at Risk/exposure to Climate change for non-target species (maybe based around long-term projections, scenarios, and recent extreme events)	Rapid vulnerability and Risk synthesis (IK/TK based and expert opinion); LK observations of change; long-term shifts in monitoring timeseries; ID uncertainty/gaps
	<i>3. Adjust fishing-related mortality from the system to be commensurate with total productivity and continue to limit optimum yield to 2 million metric tons for the BSAI groundfish fisheries.</i>	MSE: test climate informed multispecies reference points; test spatial and temporal regulations to address shifting distributions	Aggregate yield; long-term B/B <sub>0</sub> ; total yield; volatility in B or C; access to subsistence resources; catch-->wellbeing analyses
<b>Ecosystem Goal 2: Protect, restore, and maintain the ecological processes, trophic levels, diversity, and overall productive capacity of the system</b>	<i>4. Maintain key predator/prey relationships.</i>	MSE & spatial analyses: evaluate changes to species overlap; project food-webs	Risk of collapse; changes in overlap; changes in diet & food web interactions
	<i>5. Conserve structure and function of ecosystem components.</i>	MSE and spatial analyses: project scenario changes in Fishing X Climate change scenarios through coupled social-ecological system	Benthic/pelagic productivity ratios; length of food-chain; access to key subsistence resources; economic and social indicators

[LINK TO EXCEL SPREADSHEET](#)



# Discussion: Adaptation

- What do we mean by adaptation/maladaptation ?
- What helps EBS communities and commercial fisheries adapt?
  - New fisheries and FMPs for novel species in the EBS?
  - Flexibility and diversity in subsistence and target fisheries?
  - There was a suggestion to cut “and , develop or expand fisheries for species anticipated to be favored under climate change” , thoughts?
- **Perhaps we need to be specific with regards the potential risks** and outline the ideal process for evaluating risks and tradeoffs?
- The challenge that remains is to
  - **identify management measures** that provide scope for fisheries adaptation to future climate conditions and
  - **to establish a process** that ensures that diverse perspectives are considered when assessing risks, impacts and tradeoffs.



# Discussion: Other topics

- Geographic boundaries for CC module (FEP boundaries) – add a map?
- Rather than winners and losers, frame in terms of maladaptive risk? [BRY, JS, LD]
- Climate resilient tools: maybe make “living” as a web based spreadsheet and or table in our report to the council?



**PAUSE**

# ***Workplan: Deliverables***



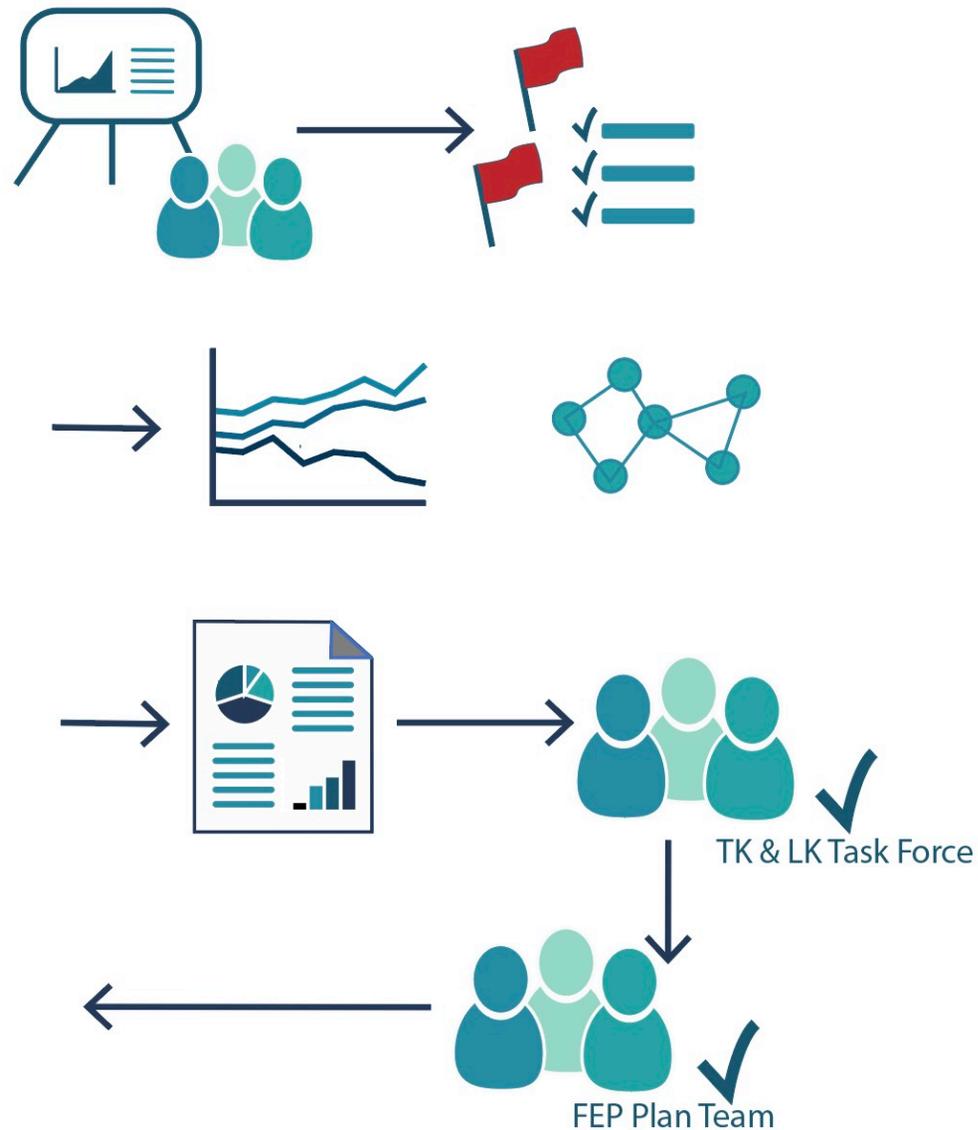
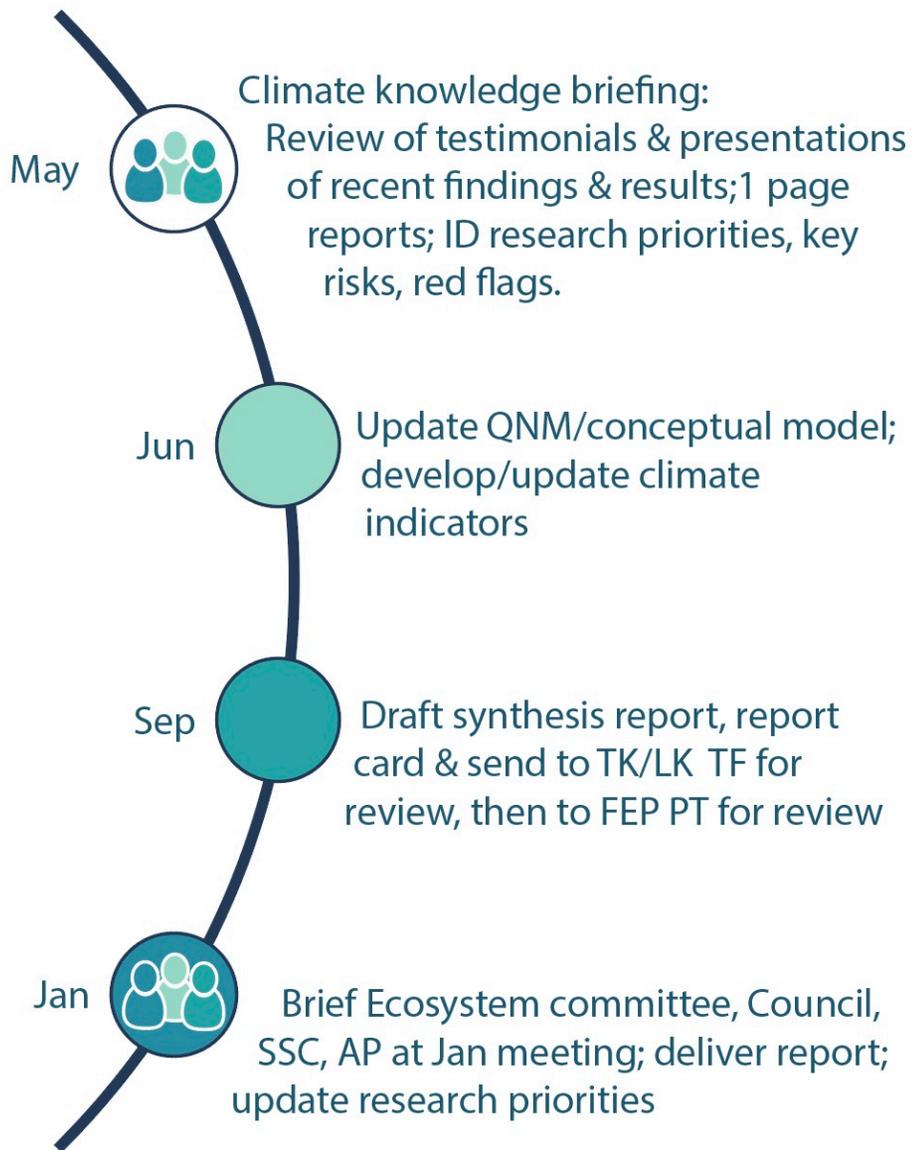
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- ✓ *provide prioritized recommendations for actions [research? MSEs?] that could be taken to advance the goals and minimize the risks identified.*

## **Policy relevant not policy prescriptive**

*(climate-resilient management would go through the existing Council process)*

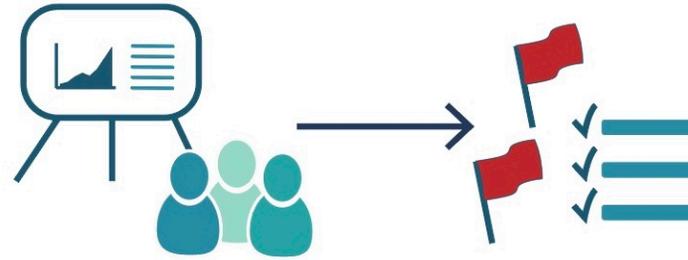




May



Climate knowledge briefing:  
Review of testimonials & presentations  
of recent findings & results; 1 page  
reports; ID research priorities, key  
risks, red flags.



## 1 Page reports from each contributor

- Characterize contribution (testimonial, research, observation)
- ID management connection/relevance
- Define scope in time and species:
  - CORE spp and BROAD (non-focal spp)
  - Short, medium, long term

## ID red flags and emergent issues:

- Flag these for the report next step

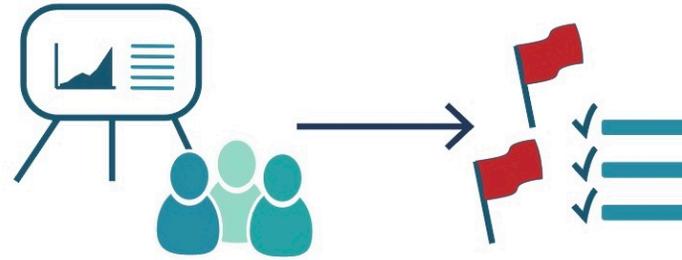
## ID Research needs and priorities

- Identify indirect impacts of climate driven changes

May



Climate knowledge briefing:  
Review of testimonials & presentations  
of recent findings & results; 1 page  
reports; ID research priorities, key  
risks, red flags.



## 1 Page reports from each contributor

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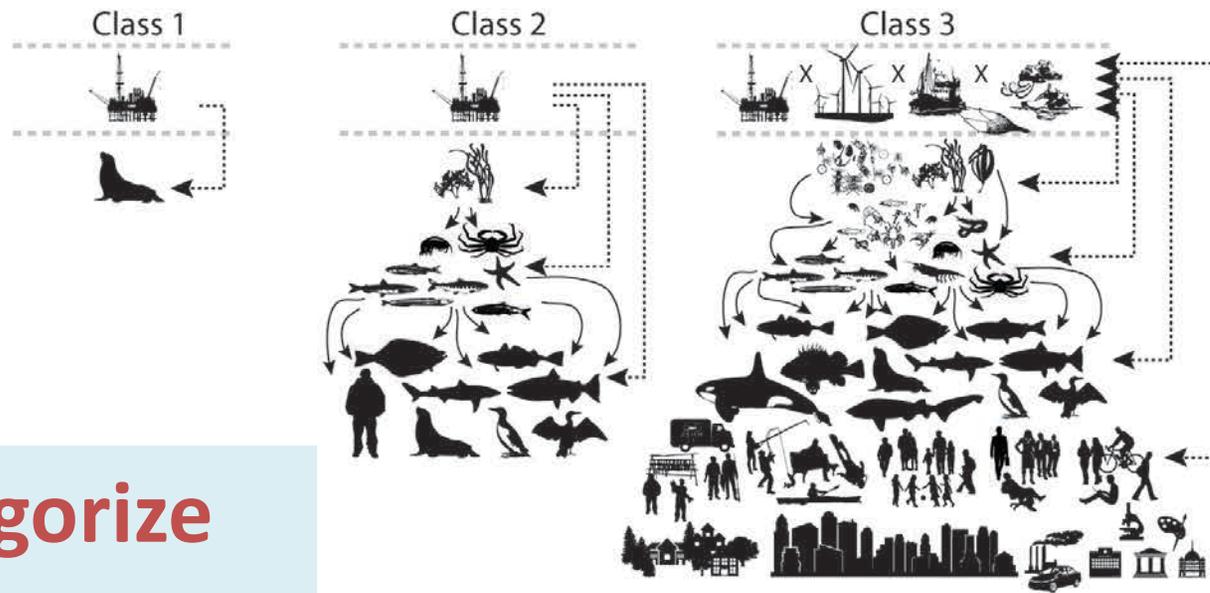
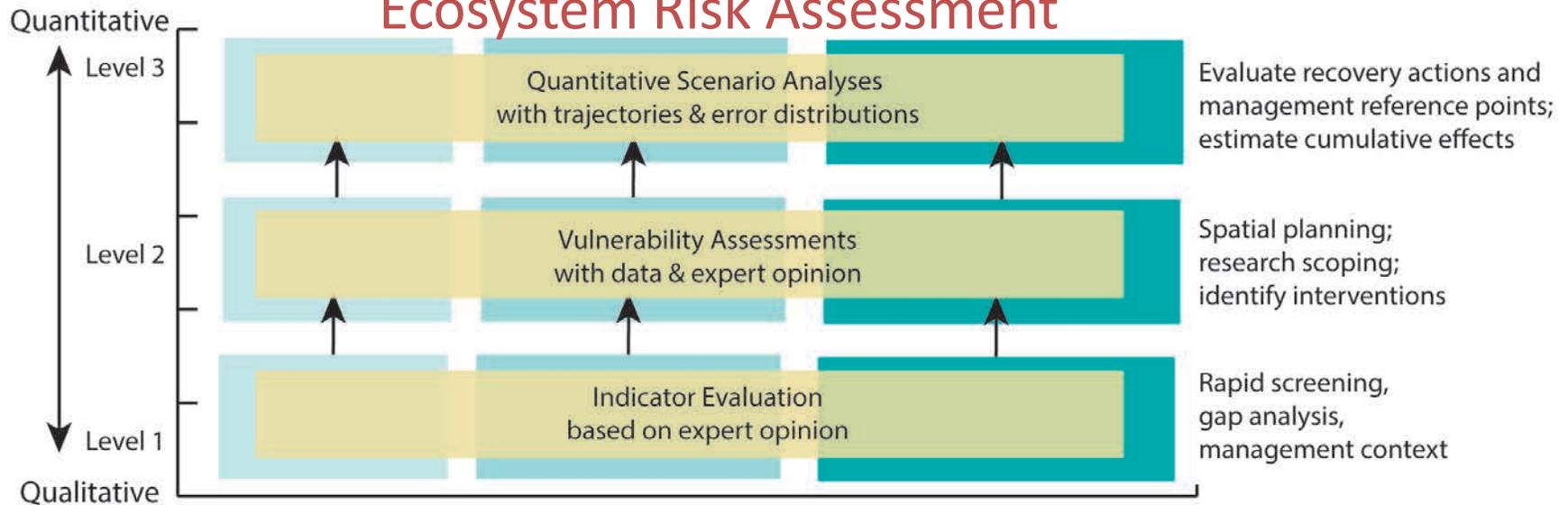
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## ID Research needs and priorities

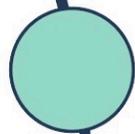
- Identify indirect impacts of climate driven changes

# Ecosystem Risk Assessment



**Categorize types of information**

Jun



Update QNM/conceptual model;  
develop/update climate  
indicators



## Indicators (aim for ~10)

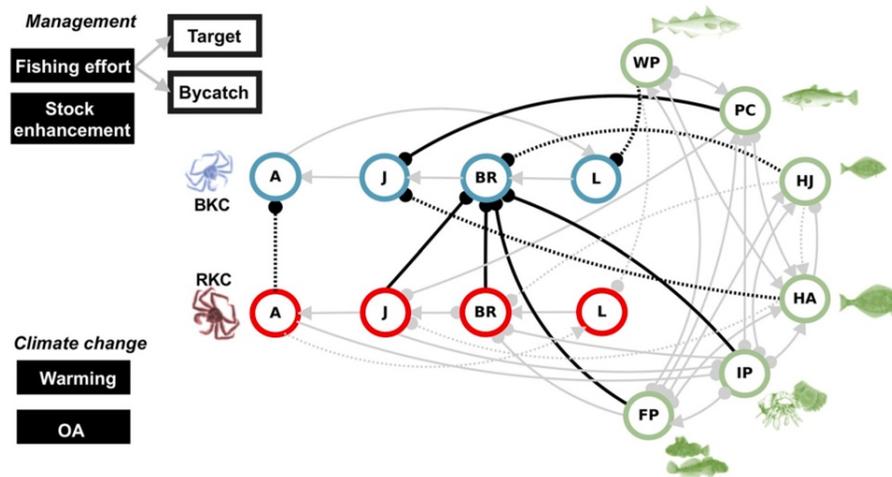
- Climate trends
- Productivity trends
- Upper trophic trends
- Human dimension trends

## Conceptual model/ QNM:

- Identify direct known and potential connections
- Identify indirect impacts of climate driven changes
- Identify indirect impacts of management actions

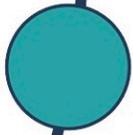
## Research needs and priorities

- Use model to identify needs



Reum et al. 2019

Sep



Draft synthesis report, report card & send to TK/LK TF for review, then to FEP PT for review



TK & LK Task Force

## Report card

- Summary of climate related trends/ indicators

## Synthesis

- Emergent issues
- Future risks
- Novel/emerging tools

## Contributions (based on form)

- **See example**

## Table of Example Management/adaptation actions:

- short, medium, long term
- Tactical vs strategic
- ID who should be included in risk assessment process
- Rapid response vs incremental adjustment

## Research needs and priorities



# SEARCH : STUDY OF ENVIRONMENTAL ARCTIC CHANGE

ABOUT GET INVOLVED ARCTIC FUTURES 2050 ARCTIC ANSWERS SCIENCE TOPICS EVENTS PRODUCTS

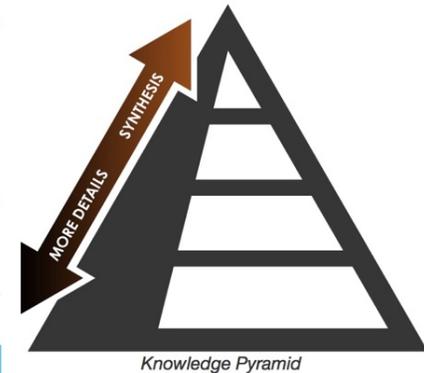
## Arctic Answers

Policy-relevant questions are answered in 1-2 page briefs written by experts and posted in *Arctic Answers*. Each brief is the top of a "knowledge pyramid" supported by scientific literature organized in underlying tiers of increasing detail.

To read a brief or see the supporting literature, click on the question. PDF's are available by clicking on "Download Brief."

For further information on a topic or to suggest edits or updates, contact the experts listed for each question.

To suggest additional questions to be addressed on *Arctic Answers* or to volunteer to author a brief, contact Brendan Kelly ([bpkelly@alaska.edu](mailto:bpkelly@alaska.edu)). When a proposed question is accepted for inclusion as an *Arctic Answer*, the author will receive a manuscript number and further instructions. Each brief will be reviewed for scientific accuracy and accessibility to readers with broad backgrounds.



Sea Ice Questions	Expert Contacts	Science Brief
What do we know about the future of Arctic sea-ice loss?	Marika Holland & Walt Meier	<a href="#">Download Brief (PDF - 750 KB)</a>
How is diminishing Arctic sea ice influencing lower latitude weather patterns?	Jennifer Francis & Stephen Vavrus	<a href="#">Download Brief (PDF - 393 KB)</a>
Arctic Meltdown and Unruly Tropical Storms: Are They Connected?	Jennifer Francis	<a href="#">Download Brief (PDF - 218 KB)</a>
How is diminishing Arctic sea ice influencing coastal communities?	Henry Huntington & Matthew Druckenmiller	<a href="#">Download Brief (PDF - 2.9 MB)</a>
How is diminishing sea ice influencing marine ecosystems?	Brendan Kelly	<a href="#">Download Brief (PDF - 1.9 MB)</a>
How will the diminishing sea ice affect commercial fishing in	George Hunt, Lisa Eisner, Neysa	<a href="#">Download Brief</a>





## Arctic Answers

Science briefs from the Study of Environmental Arctic Change  
<https://www.searcharcticsscience.org/arctic-answers>

### How is diminishing Arctic sea ice influencing coastal communities?

**THE ISSUE.** Loss of sea ice, thawing permafrost, reduced snow cover, and rising sea level are reducing hunting and fishing opportunities and degrading infrastructure for rural Arctic communities. Most Alaska Native communities are affected by erosion and flooding, with 31 communities imminently threatened and 12 planning to relocate. Local responses to these stresses are hampered by the nation's highest prices for food and fuel and widespread poverty across rural Alaska.

**WHY IT MATTERS.** Climate change amplifies challenges confronting Arctic communities, where 60-80% of households depend on wild game and fish for food, harvesting several hundred pounds per person annually. Already faced with economic, social, and cultural changes, traditional ways of life in rural Alaska are further threatened by climate change impacts on diminishing food security, deteriorating water and sewage systems, increasing risk of accidents, and greater expenditures to construct and maintain infrastructure. Government agencies and other institutions need to promote policies that reduce stresses on Arctic communities and foster responses consistent with local economies and cultures.

**STATE OF KNOWLEDGE.** Arctic communities and scientists have worked together to document local observations of climate change; the associated impacts on hunting, fishing, safety, and food security; and the potential impacts of projected changes into the future. More recently, researchers have been assessing the efficacy of local responses. For example, subsistence whalers on St. Lawrence Island in the Bering Sea have initiated a fall harvest to help make up for spring whaling seasons made shorter by changing ice conditions. At Kivalina—a village that is also facing relocation due to erosion—changing spring ice conditions have prevented the harvest of bowhead whales for over 20 years. In other cases, changes can amplify one another. Limited time off from jobs means that whalers from Nuiqsut now have much shorter time available for whaling in fall. In Alaska's Arctic region, 78% of Native Iñupiat households combine jobs and subsistence to meet their economic, cultural, and nutritional needs. The benefits of employment are lessened, however, by the reduction in time devoted to harvesting wild foods. Less time to hunt means less chance to wait out fall storms or to adapt to other changes in weather or animal migration patterns. Those migration patterns may be further altered as diminishing sea ice opens opportunities for industrial activities (for example, shipping and offshore petroleum development). The cumulative effects of stresses and changes are broadly recognized but difficult to measure.



Map of the 11 Alaska traditional whaling communities, with the 2015 and 1981-2010 median September ice extents shown.

June 2017

### WHERE THE SCIENCE IS HEADED.

More work is needed to understand how local responses can be effective (such as the St. Lawrence Island fall whaling season) as well as how they fall short of what is needed (such as Kivalina's inability to hunt in spring). In addition, future research must address ways that policies exacerbate or mitigate such impacts, for example by imposing additional constraints on what communities can do, or by supporting flexibility and local initiative to solve problems. Actions made without adequate knowledge of local conditions, no matter how well intentioned, may undermine local well-being by promoting ineffective responses or fostering dependence on outside intervention rather than on local talent, capacity, and creativity. Ultimately, communities need support to identify local solutions.



Iñupiat hunters establish a whaling camp on coastal sea ice near Utqiagvik (formerly Barrow), Alaska, where thinning ice and warming temperatures in Spring are reducing hunting opportunities and increasing risks to personal safety. (Courtesy: M. Druckenmiller)

### FURTHER READING

Chapin, F.S., III, S.F. Trainor, P. Cochran, H. Huntington, C. Markon, M. McCammon, A.D. McGuire, and M. Serreze, 2014. Ch. 22: Alaska. *Climate Change Impacts in the United States: The Third National Climate Assessment*, J. M. Melillo, Terese (T.C.) Richmond, and G. W. Yohe, Eds., U.S. Global Change Research Program, 514-536. doi:10.7930/J00Z7150. [Available online at: <http://nca2014.globalchange.gov/report/regions/alaska>]

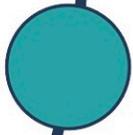
Goldsmith, S., 2008. *Understanding Alaska's Remote Rural Economy*, UA Research Summary No. 10, Institute of Social and Economic Research, University of Alaska Anchorage. [Available online at: [http://www.iser.uaa.alaska.edu/Publications/researchsumm/UA\\_RS10.pdf](http://www.iser.uaa.alaska.edu/Publications/researchsumm/UA_RS10.pdf)]

**SEARCH:** *Advancing knowledge for action in a rapidly changing Arctic*  
<https://www.searcharcticsscience.org/arctic-answers>

### Contact for further information:

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[druckenmiller@nsidc.org](mailto:druckenmiller@nsidc.org)

Sep



Draft synthesis report, report card & send to TK/LK TF for review, then to FEP PT for review



TK & LK Task Force

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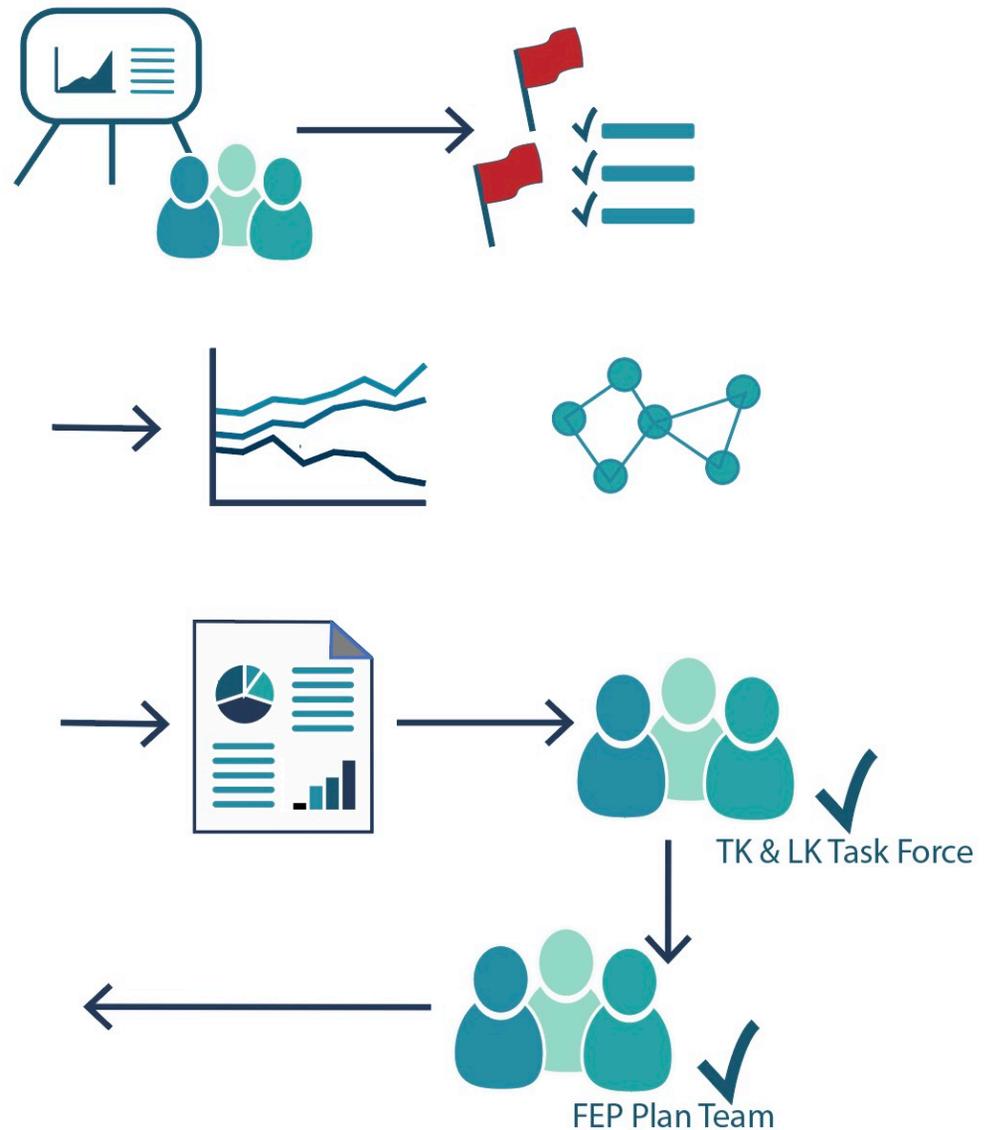
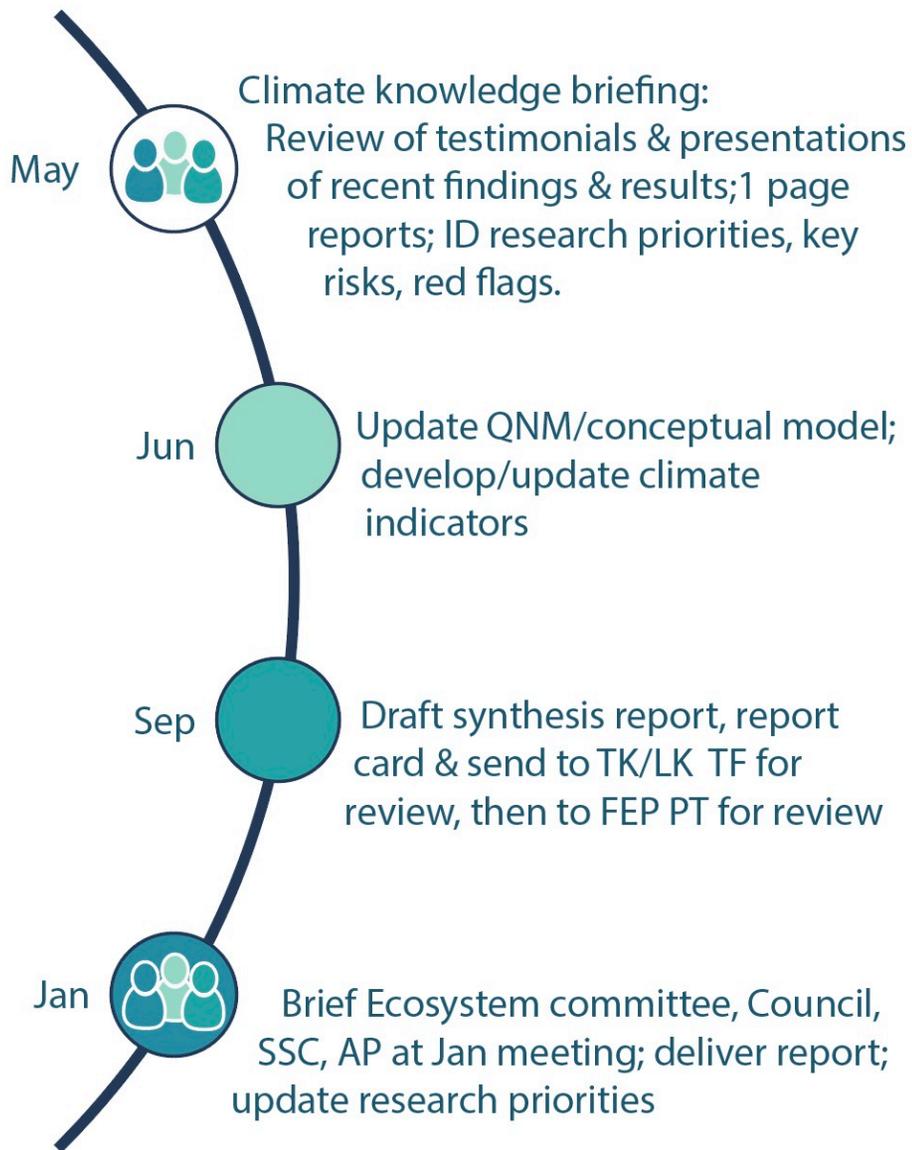
## Contributions (based on form)

- **See example**

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- short, medium, long term
- Tactical vs strategic
- ID who should be included in risk assessment process
- Rapid response vs incremental adjustment

## Research needs and priorities



# Discussion: Products & deliverables

- Proposed products and tasks:
  - Is there anything missing here?
  - How do we promote co-production of knowledge through this process?
  - Will it be responsive enough for unexpected change?
  - Will it be useful for addressing long-term gradual change?
- How prescriptive should we be? Should we aim for “Policy relevant”?
  - “**specifying**” [ reviewing? Suggesting? Highlighting?] short-, medium-, and long-term management actions to build climate resilience in regional fisheries and fishing communities
- Short, med, long-term examples?
  - add to and edit this and can we make this living as part of the report?
- Facilitate information to council and ppt:
  - [BRY]“While not holistic analyses or TK documentation sessions, these vignettes, testimonials, and summaries by, for example, TK experts (representing communities, orgs, co-management bodies, etc.) could be very useful supplementary material that accompanies the on-ramped climate change data into the Council process as well as ongoing evaluations of management strategies.”

**PAUSE**

# ***Workplan: Logistics***



# Discussion: Planning & logistics

- TORs for our group
- Coordination with LK/TK module
  - Meetings/ joint meetings?
- Coordination with other efforts
  - [BRY] integration with some other as-of-yet not finalized efforts which will have long-term Council impacts
  - LK/TK/Subsistence AM TF, the CEC, and the ongoing work of the Ecosystem Committee and the SSPT.
  - ESR/ESP or stand alone report?
- TF communication – Slack? Google drive, email? Website?



# EXTRA SLIDES







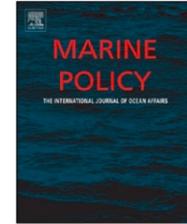




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## Marine Policy

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/marpol](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/marpol)



# An Indigenous approach to ocean planning and policy in the Bering Strait region of Alaska



Julie Raymond-Yakoubian<sup>a,\*</sup>, Raychelle Daniel<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Kawerak Incorporated, PO Box 948 Nome, AK 99762, United States

<sup>b</sup> The Pew Charitable Trusts, 901 E Street NW, Washington DC 20004, United States

*J. Raymond-Yakoubian, R. Daniel*

*Marine Policy 97 (2018) 101–108*

**Table 1**

Ocean values from the Bering Strait region and example applications to the governance and decision-making component of ocean planning.

Ocean Values	Example	Application to ocean planning
<i>Ecosystem</i>	Knowledge of food web connections	Along with science, provides the knowledge base to better understand impacts
<i>Health and well-being</i>	Time on the water observing and hunting marine mammals	Informing vessel traffic routing measures
<i>Economic</i>	Walrus ivory carving	Provides means and ability to actively participate in walrus management
<i>Cultural</i>	Knowledge of ocean currents	Ability to effectively plan for and respond to maritime disasters

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**PMEL**  
Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory

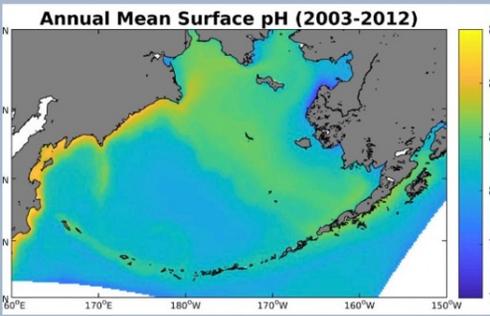
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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## Modeled effect of coastal biogeochemical processes, climate variability, and ocean acidification on aragonite saturation state in the Bering Sea

March 06, 2019



Pilcher, D.J., D.M. Naiman, J.N. Cross, A.J. Hermann, S.A. Siedlecki, G.A. Gibson, and J.T. Mathis (2019): Modeled effect of coastal biogeochemical processes, climate variability, and ocean acidification on aragonite saturation state in the Bering Sea. *Front. Mar. Sci.*, 5, 508, doi: 10.3389/fmars.2018.00508.

Due to naturally cold, low carbonate concentration waters, the Bering Sea is highly vulnerable to ocean acidification (OA), the process in which the absorption of human-released carbon dioxide by the oceans leads to a decrease in ocean water pH and carbonate ion concentration. Emerging evidence suggests that a number of important species in the Bering Sea (such as red king crab and Pacific cod) are vulnerable to OA due to direct (e.g., reduced growth and survival rates) and indirect (e.g., reduced food sources) effects. However, the harsh winter conditions, prevalence of sea ice, and large size of

Modeled annual mean surface pH over the 2003-12 timeframe. Cooler colors indicate corrosive, low pH water while warmer colors indicate relatively buffered, high pH water

In this paper, the authors developed a computational m

# ICES Journal of Marine Science



ICES Journal of Marine Science (2019), doi:10.1093/icesjms/fsz043

**Contribution to the Symposium: 'The effects of climate change on the world's oceans'**  
**Projected biophysical conditions of the Bering Sea to 2100 under multiple emission scenarios**

Albert J. Hermann<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Georgina A. Gibson<sup>3</sup>, Wei Cheng<sup>1,2</sup>, Ivonne Ortiz<sup>1,4</sup>, Kerim Aydin<sup>4</sup>, Muyin Wang<sup>1,2</sup>, Anne B. Hollowed<sup>4</sup>, and Kirstin K. Holsman<sup>4</sup>

# OBSERVATIONS

# ROMSNPZ (downscaled)

# GLOBAL MODEL

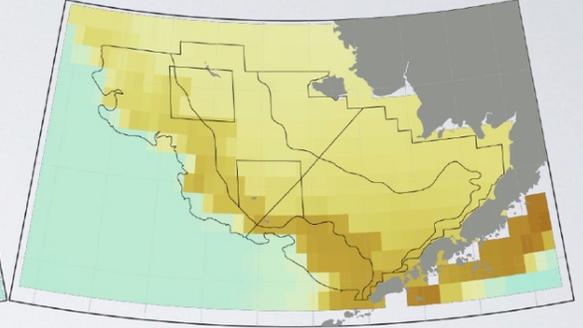
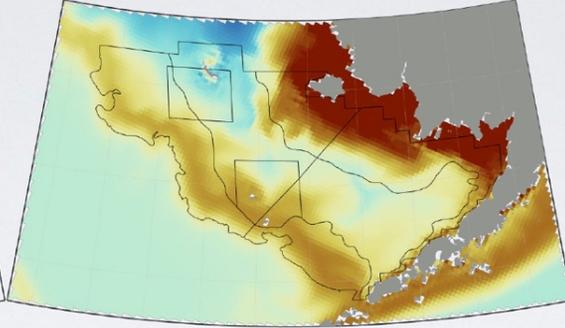
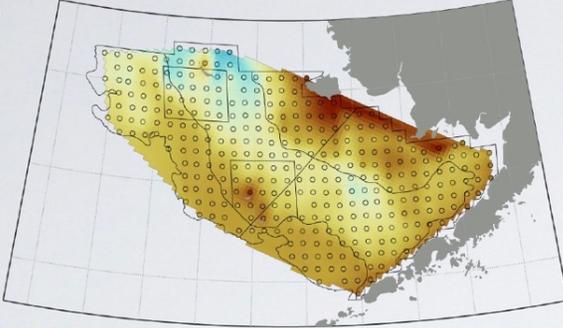
2003

Annual Groundfish Survey

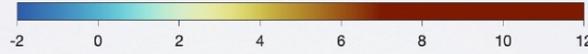
Bering10K (July 1)

CFSR/CFSv2-Op.Anal. (July 1)

2003



Bottom temperature (°C)



2009

2009

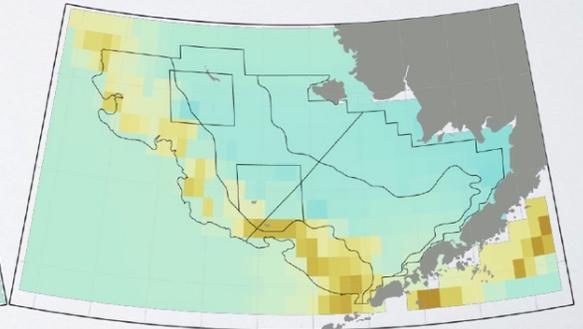
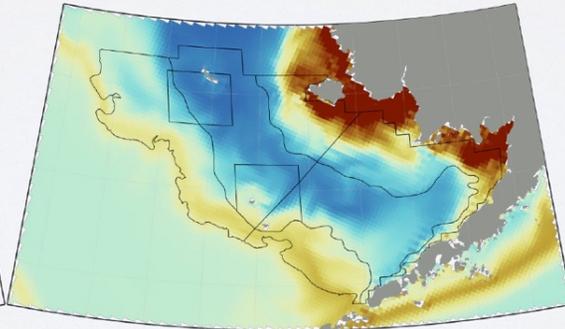
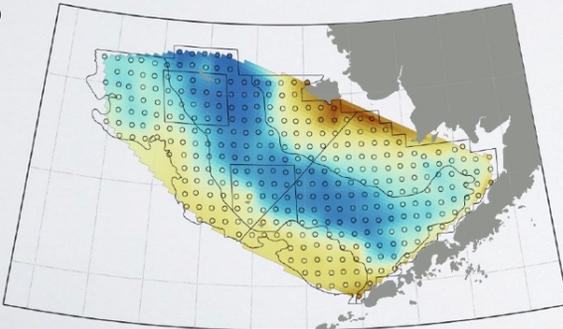


Image: Kelly Kearney



# Declines in large zooplankton (2090-2099)-(2010-2019)

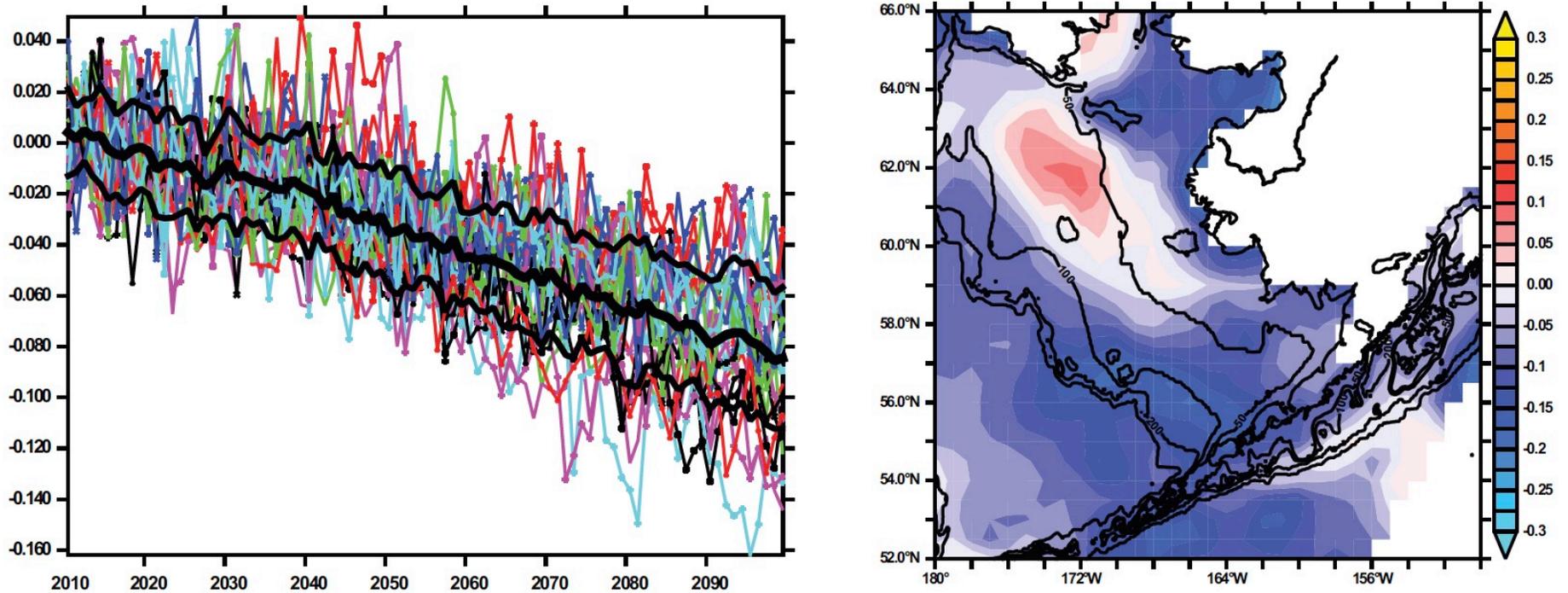


Figure 13. Ensemble results as in Figure 12, for  $\log_{10}$  (large crustacean zooplankton).

(in press) Hermann, A. J., G.A. Gibson, W. Cheng, I. Ortiz1, K. Aydin, M. Wang, A. B. Hollowed, and K. K. Holsman. Projected biophysical conditions of the Bering Sea to 2100 under multiple emission scenarios. ICES. doi: 10.1093/ices/fsz043

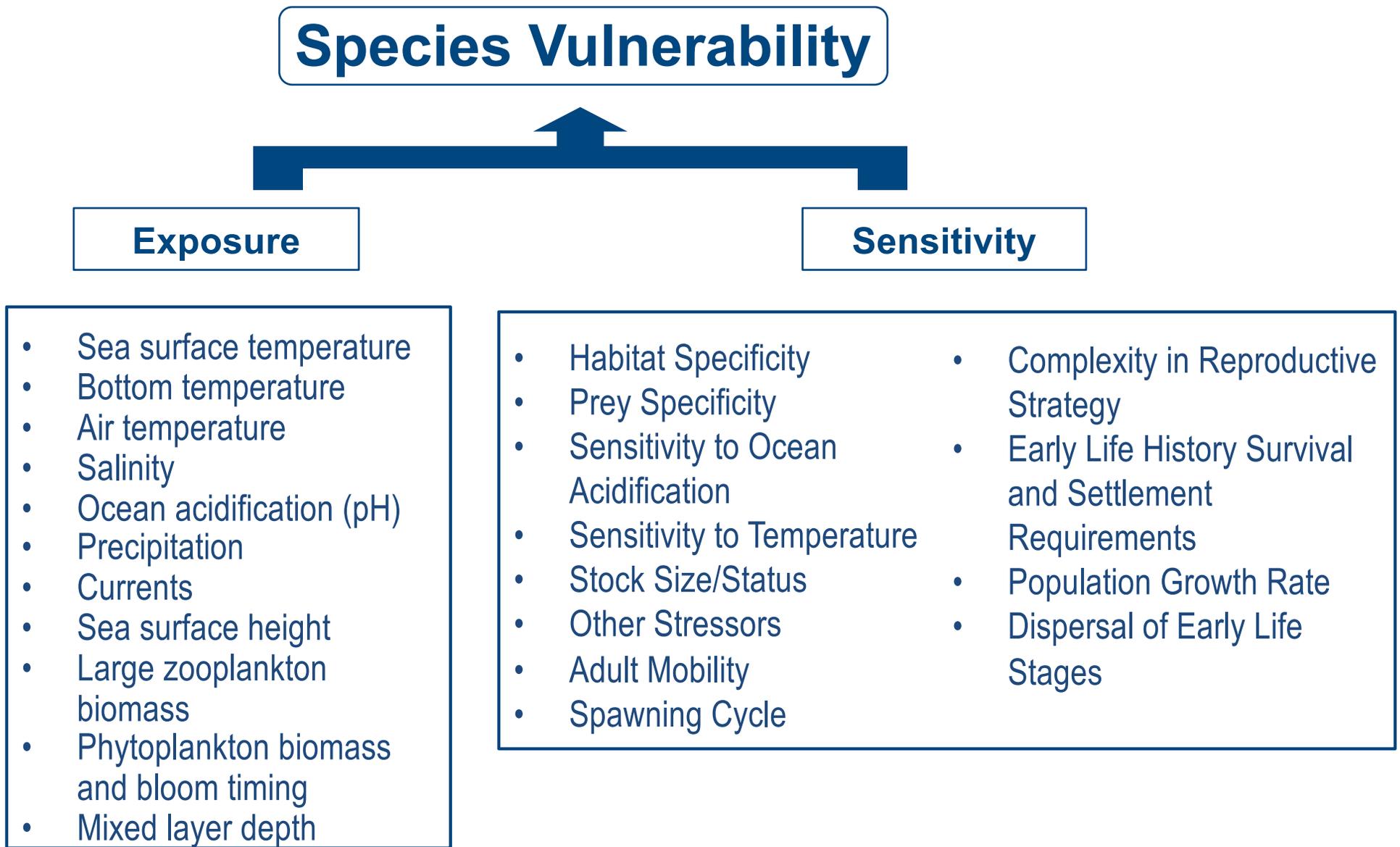
# HOW?

*b) Climate Vulnerability Assessments*



# Methodology – Framework

## Species Vulnerability



### Exposure

- Sea surface temperature
- Bottom temperature
- Air temperature
- Salinity
- Ocean acidification (pH)
- Precipitation
- Currents
- Sea surface height
- Large zooplankton biomass
- Phytoplankton biomass and bloom timing
- Mixed layer depth

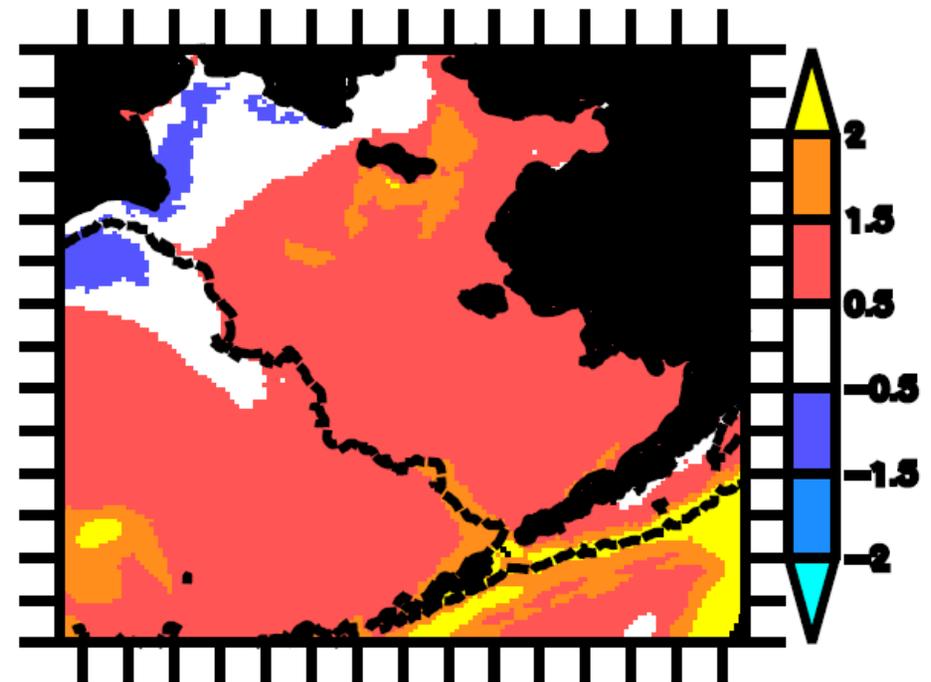
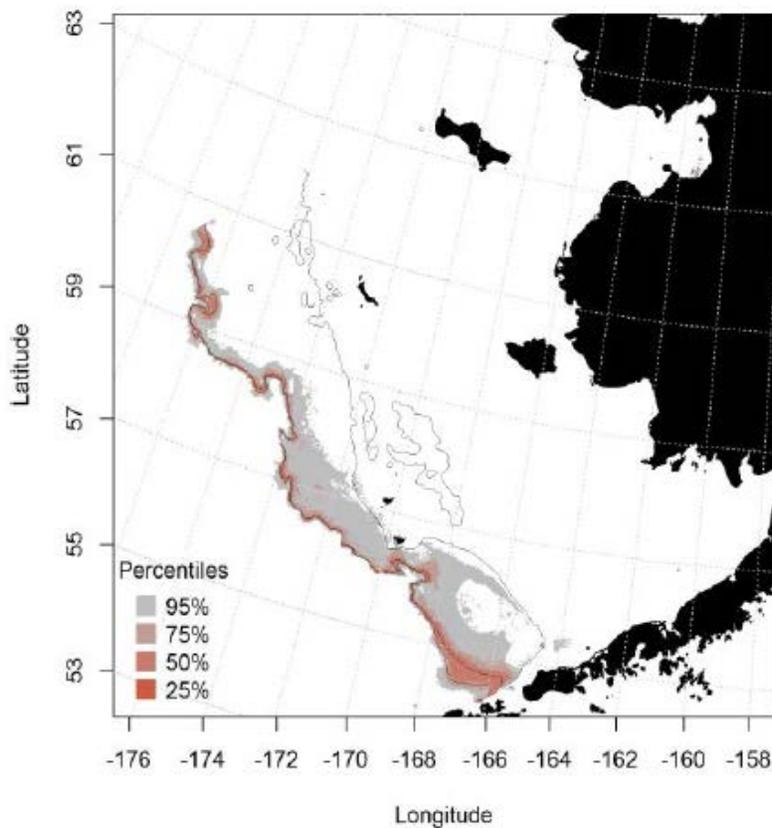
### Sensitivity

- Habitat Specificity
- Prey Specificity
- Sensitivity to Ocean Acidification
- Sensitivity to Temperature
- Stock Size/Status
- Other Stressors
- Adult Mobility
- Spawning Cycle
- Complexity in Reproductive Strategy
- Early Life History Survival and Settlement Requirements
- Population Growth Rate
- Dispersal of Early Life Stages

# Exposure scoring, general methodology

Compare maps of exposure factors to maps of stock distributions and qualitatively estimate their overlap. Example for Pacific ocean perch shown below

Z-score for annual bottom temperature



# Example of Species Specific Results (from EBS)

## Pacific ocean perch



Bootstrap outcomes:

- <1 Very High
- 10 High
- 89 Moderate
- <1 Low

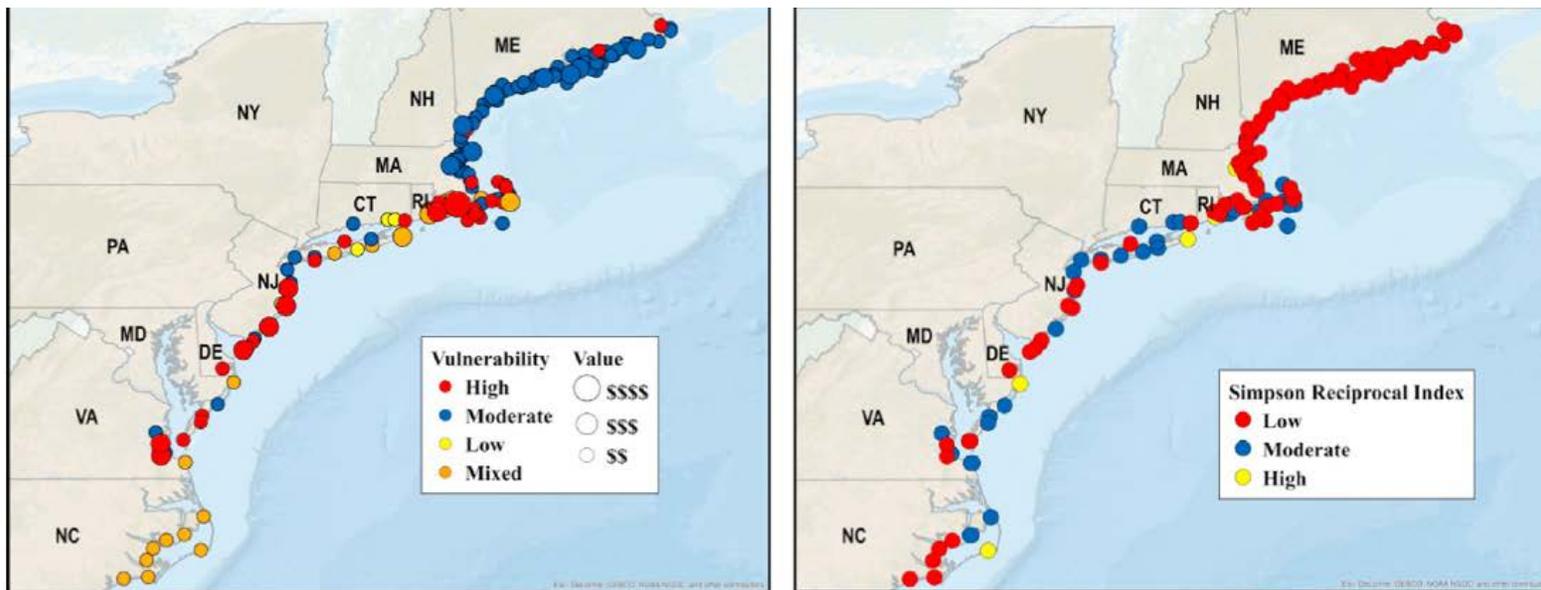
Pacific ocean perch – *Sebastes alutus*  
 Overall Vulnerability Rank = Moderate  
 Biological Sensitivity = High  
 Climate Exposure = Moderate  
 Sensitivity Data Quality = 75% of scores  $\geq 2$   
 Exposure Data Quality = 56% of scores  $\geq 2$

<i>Sebastes alutus</i>		Expert Scores	Data Quality	Expert Scores Plots (Portion by Category)
Sensitivity attributes	Habitat Specificity	1.9	2.5	
	Prey Specificity	1.9	2.2	
	Adult Mobility	2.4	2.1	
	Dispersal of Early Life Stages	1.6	1.8	
	Early Life History Survival and Settlement Requirements	2.6	1.5	
	Complexity In Reproductive Strategy	2.3	1.8	
	Spawning Cycle	3.8	2.2	
	Sensitivity to Temperature	3.2	2.5	
	Sensitivity to Ocean Acidification	2.1	2.4	
	Population Growth Rate	3.6	2.9	
	Stock Size/Status	1.1	3.0	
	Other Stressors	1.1	2.8	
	Sensitivity Score		High	
Exposure factors	Sea Surface Temperature	2.0	2.0	
	Sea Surface Temperature (variance)	1.9	2.0	
	Bottom Temperature	2.2	2.0	
	Bottom Temperature (variance)	2.8	2.0	
	Salinity	1.3	2.0	
	Salinity (variance)	2.6	2.0	
	Ocean Acidification	4.0	2.0	
	Ocean Acidification (variance)	1.4	2.0	
	Phytoplankton Biomass	1.1	1.2	
	Phytoplankton Biomass (variance)	1.2	1.2	
	Plankton Bloom Timing	1.7	1.0	
	Plankton Bloom Timing (variance)	2.3	1.0	
	Large Zooplankton Biomass	1.1	1.0	
	Large Zooplankton Biomass (variance)	1.5	1.0	
	Mixed Layer Depth	1.9	1.0	
	Mixed Layer Depth (variance)	2.4	1.0	
	Currents	1.4	2.0	
	Currents (variance)	1.7	2.0	
	Air Temperature	NA	NA	
	Air Temperature (variance)	NA	NA	
	Precipitation	NA	NA	
	Precipitation (variance)	NA	NA	
	Sea Surface Height	NA	NA	
Sea Surface Height (variance)	NA	NA		
Exposure Score		Moderate		
Overall Vulnerability Rank		Moderate		

Slide credit: P. Spencer

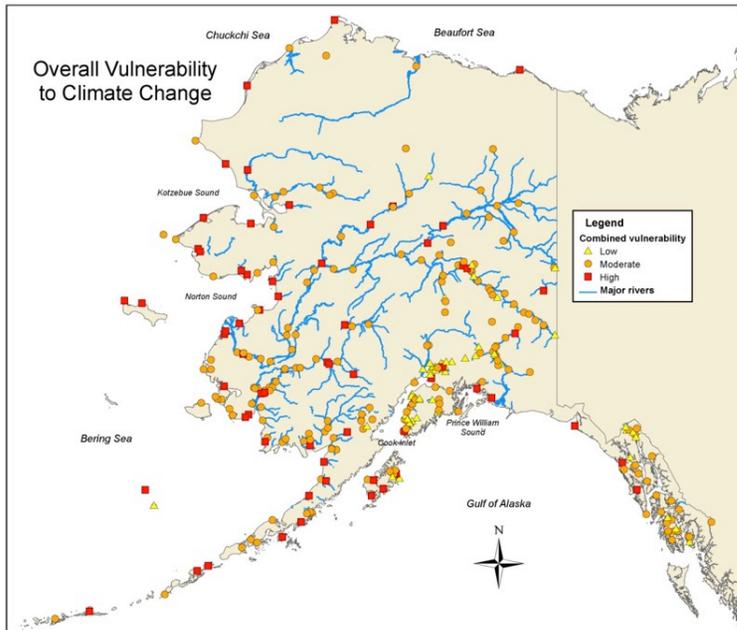
# Potential next step – linking to social-economic variables

For northeast US study, information on the species composition of different fishing ports was combined with species vulnerability to estimate vulnerability of fishing communities (Colburn et al 2016)



5. New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishing communities' climate vulnerability classification based on categories of dependence on vulnerable species (left), and catch diversity scores (Simpson's Reciprocal Index (right)). Only communities with total landings value of 100 thousand dollars or more were mapped.

# OA Risk Assessment



Himes-Cornell and Kaspersky 2014

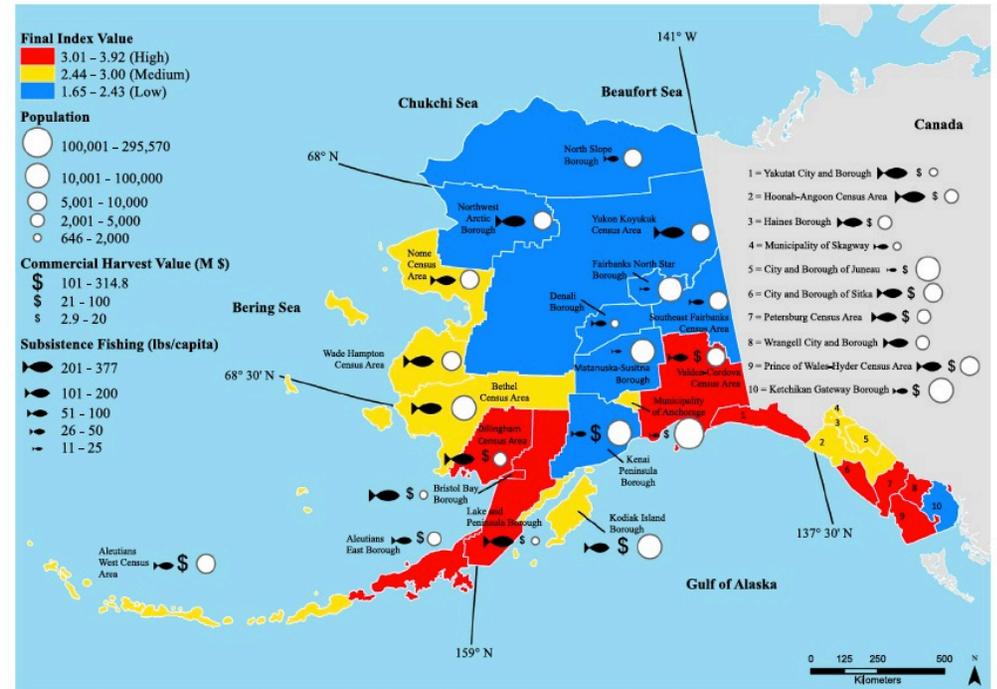


Fig. 11. Individual components of the final ocean acidification risk index for each census area.

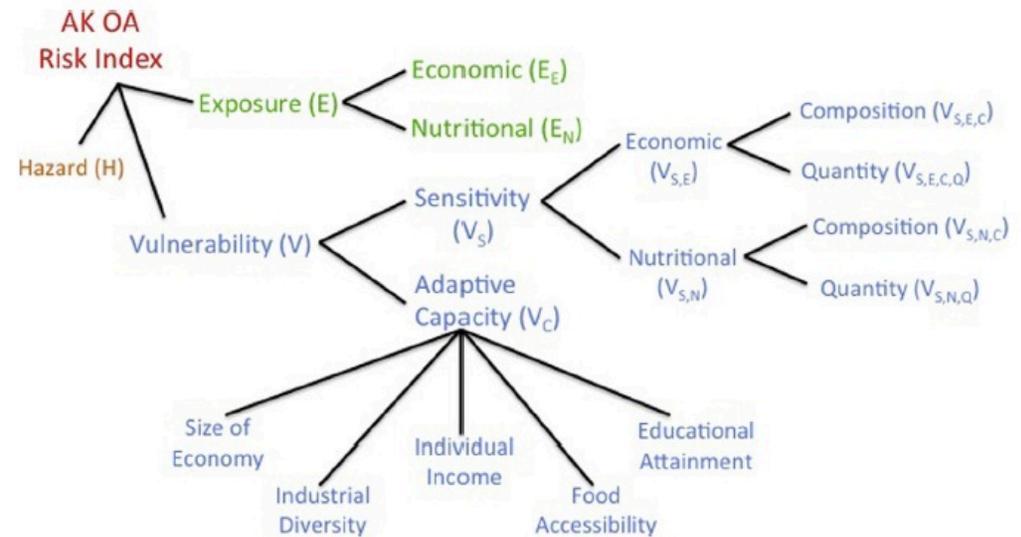


Fig. 3. Components of the risk index. Each branch is evenly weighted relative to others at the same level.

# Vulnerability of Arctic marine mammals to vessel traffic in the increasingly ice-free Northwest Passage and Northern Sea Route

Donna D. W. Hauser<sup>a,1,2</sup>, Kristin L. Laidre<sup>a</sup>, and Harry L. Stern<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Polar Science Center, Applied Physics Laboratory, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98105

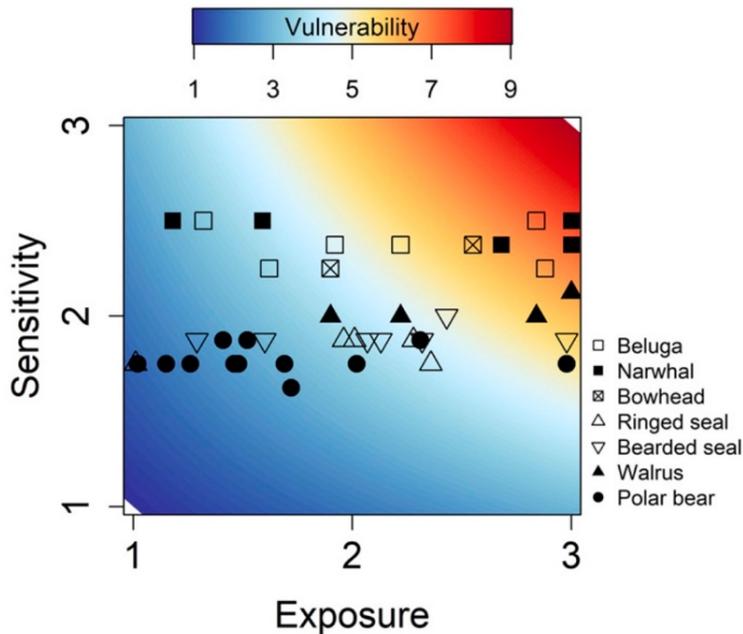


Fig. 2. Vulnerability plot expressing sensitivity and exposure scores across Arctic marine mammal subpopulations exposed to the Northwest Passage or Northern Sea Route. Vulnerability is the product of exposure and sensitivity.

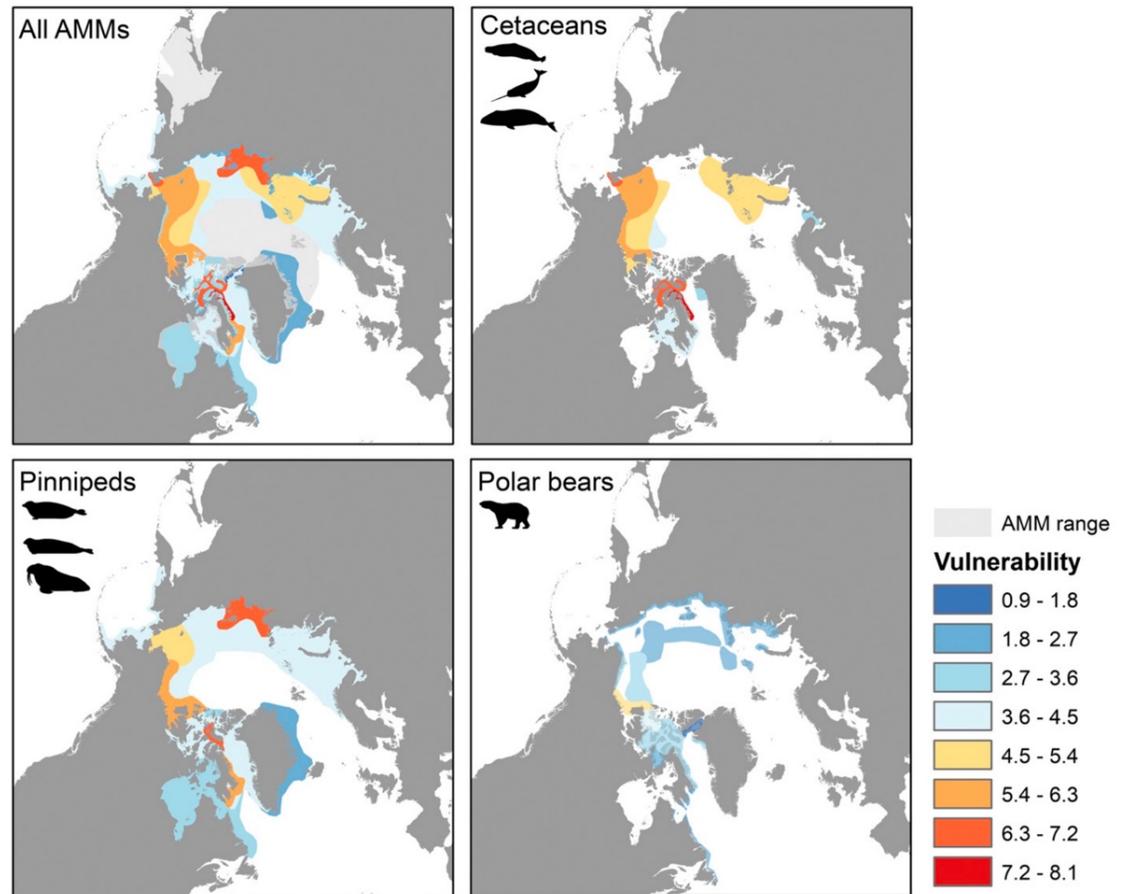
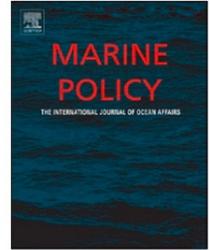


Fig. 4. Maximum vulnerability scores for all AMM species (Top Left) and taxonomic groups exposed to the Arctic sea routes. Vulnerability color shading corresponds to the vulnerability plot in Fig. 2. The combined ranges of all other AMM subpopulations that did not overlap the Arctic sea routes are shown in gray in the Top Left, including portions of polar bear subpopulations that range onto land during the open-water period.

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# Marine Policy

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/marpol](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/marpol)

## Vessels, risks, and rules: Planning for safe shipping in Bering Strait



Henry P. Huntington <sup>a,\*</sup>, Raychelle Daniel <sup>b</sup>, Andrew Hartsig <sup>c</sup>, Kevin Harun <sup>d</sup>,  
Marilyn Heiman <sup>b</sup>, Rosa Meehan <sup>e</sup>, George Noongwook <sup>f</sup>, Leslie Pearson <sup>g</sup>,  
Melissa Prior-Parks <sup>b</sup>, Martin Robards <sup>h</sup>, George Stetson <sup>i</sup>

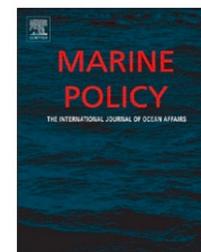
**Table 1**

Comparison of environmental and cultural risks (columns) and regulatory measures (rows). The first four risks are environmental ones and also cultural risks for those who depend on the environment for food and well-being. Note that most or all regulatory measures can be implemented by voluntary, domestic, or international action. Which vessels would be covered by each type of action, and how much of the risk would be reduced, depends on the details of the shipping activities in question.

<i>Risk/Regulatory measure</i>	Ship strikes	Noise	Discharges and contamination	Accidental oil spills	Vessel collisions	Disturbance to hunting	Damage to cultural heritage
<i>Shipping lanes</i>	X	X		X	X	X	
<i>Areas-to-be-avoided</i>	X	X		X	X	X	X
<i>Speed limits</i>	X			X	X	X	
<i>Communications</i>	X				X	X	X
<i>Reporting systems</i>					X	X	
<i>Emission controls</i>		X	X			X	
<i>Salvage and oil spill prevention and preparedness</i>			X	X			
<i>Rescue tug capability</i>			X	X			
<i>Voyage and contingency planning</i>	X			X	X	X	X
<i>Charting</i>				X			X

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 Melissa Prior-Parks <sup>b</sup>, Martin Robards <sup>h</sup>, George Stetson <sup>i</sup>

**Table 2**

Categories of regulatory implementation. Although mandatory measures are not necessarily dependent on having voluntary measures in place (and domestic measures are not required prior to international measures), in practice the development of regulations typically starts with voluntary and domestic measures and moves on from there.

<i>Category of implementation</i>	<i>To whom the measures apply</i>	<i>Effectiveness at reducing risk</i>
Voluntary	All vessels, but with no enforcement power	Depends on compliance, but there is likely to be pressure to comply Can be enhanced if insurers and others regard such measures as appropriate standards of care Can be enhanced by monitoring and communication
Mandatory (domestic)	Vessels addressed by the regulations that are either (a) registered in the country issuing the regulations, or (b) traveling to or from a port in that country	Depends on the proportion of vessels in the area that are subject to the regulations Other vessels may comply voluntarily or be required to do so by insurers Can be enhanced by monitoring and enforcement
Mandatory (international)	All vessels addressed by the regulations	Compliance can be enhanced by monitoring and enforcement

# HOW?

*c) Operationalized climate change management strategy evaluations (MSEs)*



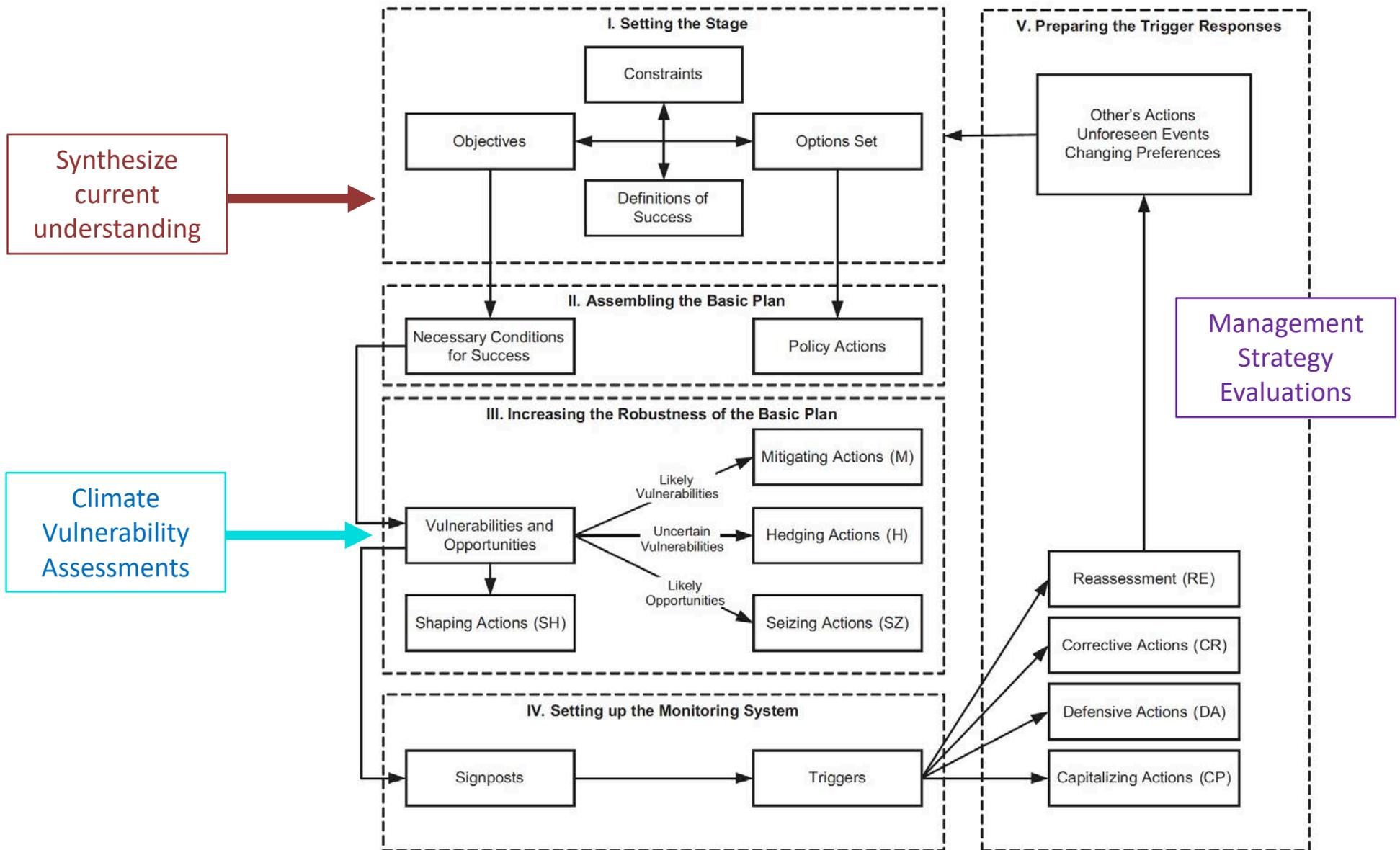
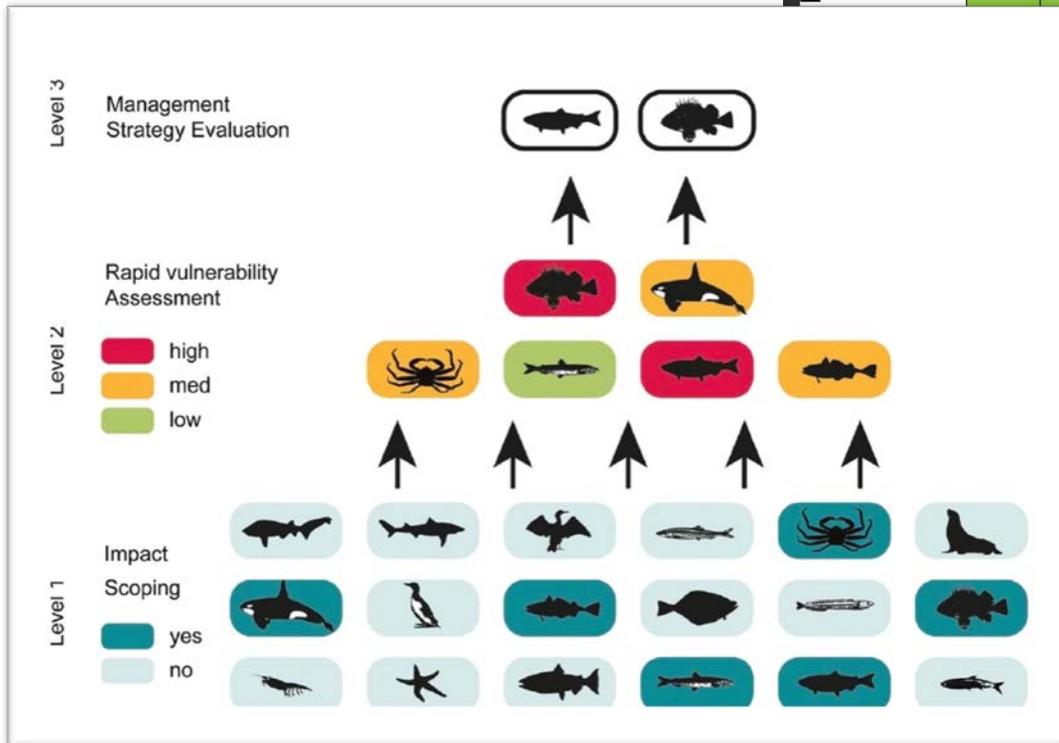


Fig. 3. The Adaptive Policymaking approach to designing a dynamic adaptive plan (Kwakkel et al., 2010a).

# Examples:

Biological Sensitivity	Very High		Ocean Quahog Northern Quahog	Atlantic Salmon Bay Scallop
	High		Atlantic Halibut Atlantic Sea Scallop Dusky Shark Porbeagle Thorny Skate Tilefish Atlantic Surfclam	Ocean Pout Atlantic Wolffish Witch Flounder Northern Shrimp Green Sea Urchin Sand Tiger Cusk
	Moderate		Sand Lances Barndoor Skate Acadian Redfish Smooth Skate American Lobster Atlantic Hagfish	Atlantic Cod White Hake Atlantic Mackerel Rosette Skate Cancer Crabs Pollock
			Butterfish Longfin Inshore Squid Silver Hake Atlantic Saury Spiny Dogfish Winter Skate Northern Shortfin Squid Bluefish Deep-sea Red Crab Red Hake Offshore Hake	Little Skate Clearnose Skate Smooth Dogfish Anchovies Monkfish Haddock Atlantic Herring Windowpane Yellowtail Flounder American Plaice
				Red Drum American Eel Conger Eel Black Sea Bass Spotted Seatrout
				Summer Flounder Spanish Mackerel Atlantic Croaker Spot Northern Kingfish Atlantic Menhaden Weakfish Scup
			erate	High
				Very High
			Climate Exposure	



Hare et al. (2016) A Vulnerability Assessment of Fish and Invertebrates to Climate Change on the Northeast U.S. Continental Shelf. PLOS ONE 11(2): e0146756. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0146756>

Holsman et al. 2017



ACLIM

Alaska Climate Integrated Modeling Project

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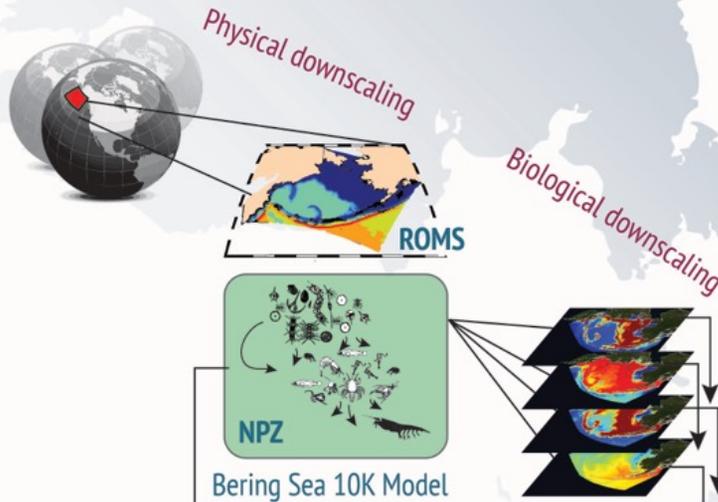
FATE: Fisheries & the Environment  
SAAM: Stock Assessment Analytical Methods  
S&T: Climate Regimes & Ecosystem Productivity

Global Climate Models (x 7)

- ECHO-G
- MIROC3.2 med res.
- CGCM3-t47
- CCSM4-NCAR- PO
- MIROCESM-C- PO
- GFDL-ESM2M\* PO
- GFDL-ESM2M\* PON

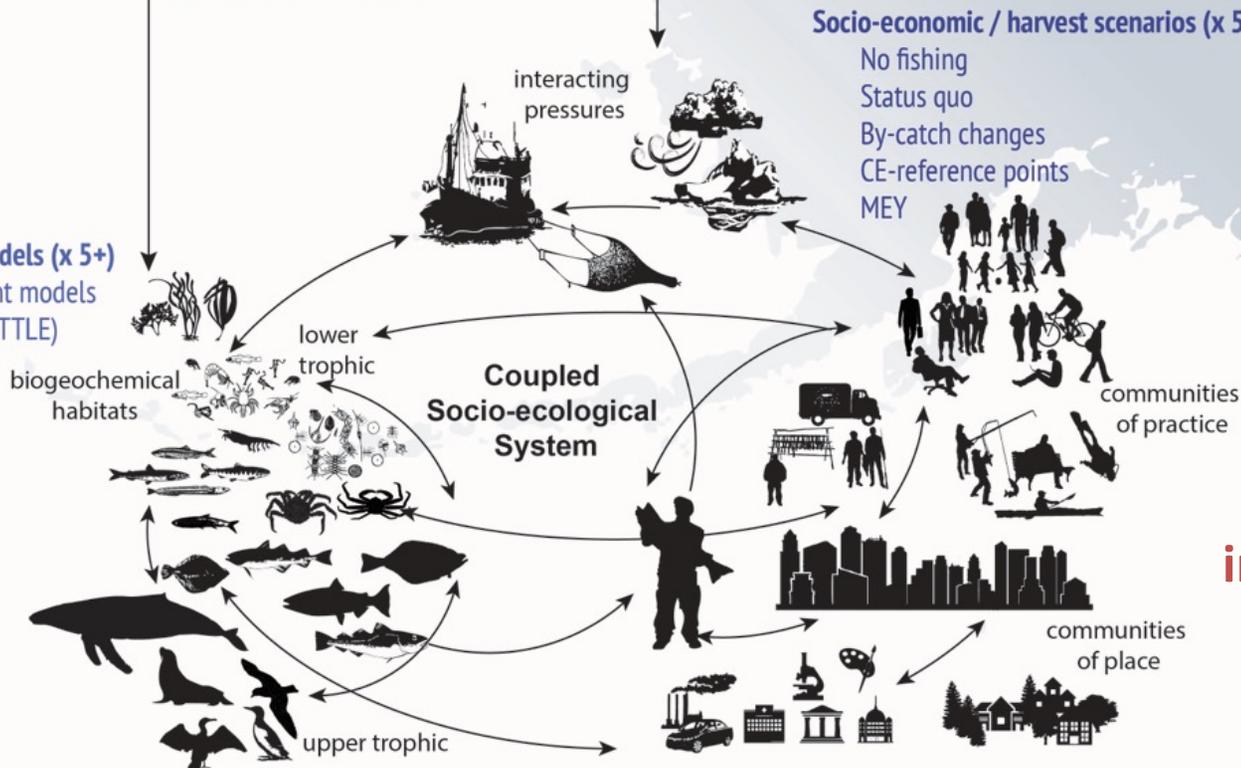
Projection Scenarios (x3)

- AR4 A1B
- AR5 RCP 4.5
- AR5 RCP 8.5



Climate Enhanced Biological models (x 5+)

- CE- single species assessment models
- CE- multispecies model (CEATTLE)
- CE - Size spectrum model
- CE- Ecosim with Ecosim
- End-to-End model (FEAST)
- IBM-crab
- MICE-in space



Consider evolving interactions and pathways of adaptation

# The ACLIM team



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Kirstin Holsman



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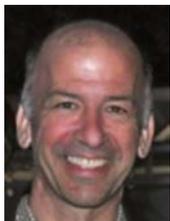
Albert Hermann



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Amanda Faig



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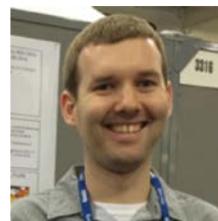
Buck Stockhausen



Paul Spencer



Michael Dalton



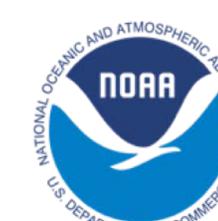
Darren Pilcher



Tom Wilderbuer



Cody Szuwalski



Jim Thorson



Ingrid Spies

[www.fisheries.noaa.gov/alaska/ecosystems/alaska-climate-integrated-modeling-project](http://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/alaska/ecosystems/alaska-climate-integrated-modeling-project)

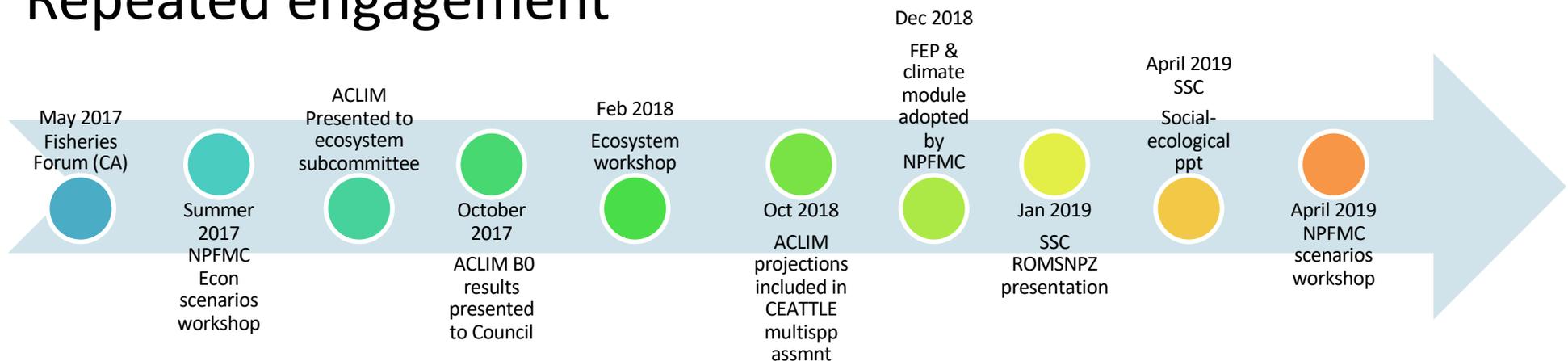


# Challenges to evaluating adaptation options:

- long time horizons of adaptation outcomes;
- the shifting baseline and uncertainty around climate hazards;
- assessing attribution of any results;
- addressing the additional climate risk and counterfactual scenarios

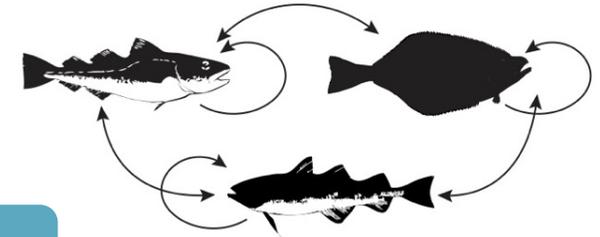
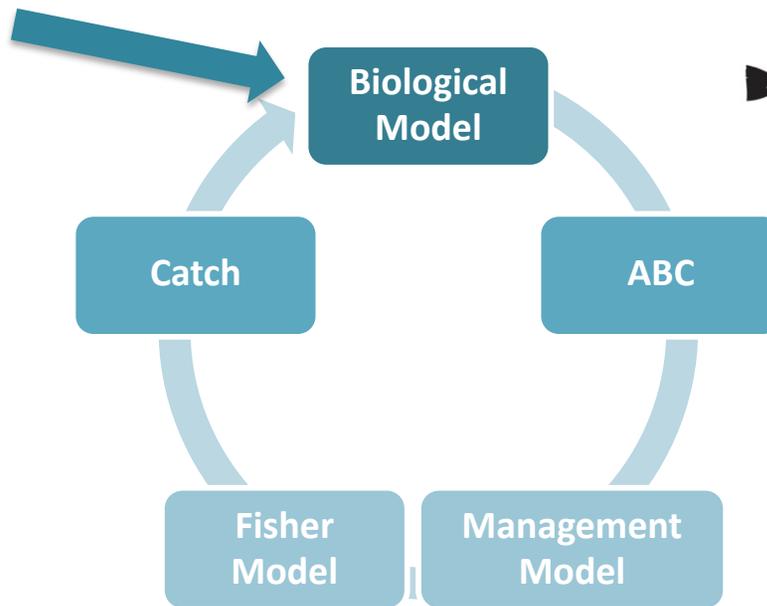
“an approach built on mixed methods, participation and learning helps alleviate some of the uncertainties around interpreting results on adaptation.” Craft & Fisher 2018, Fisher 2015

## Repeated engagement



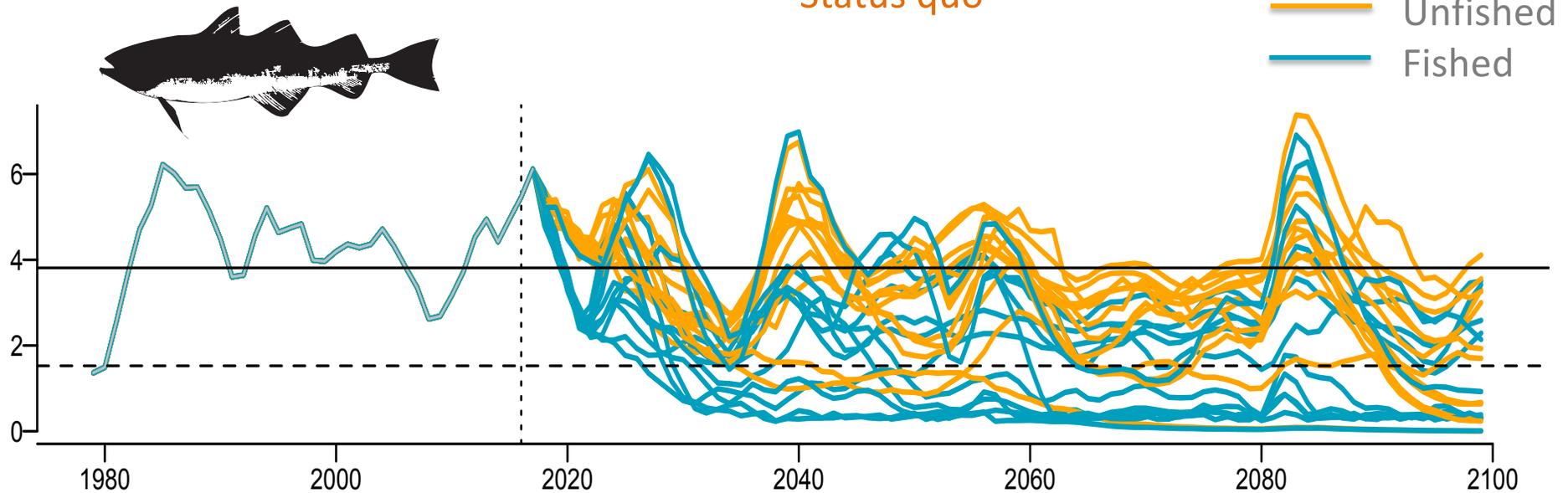
# Climate X management dynamic interaction

Climate

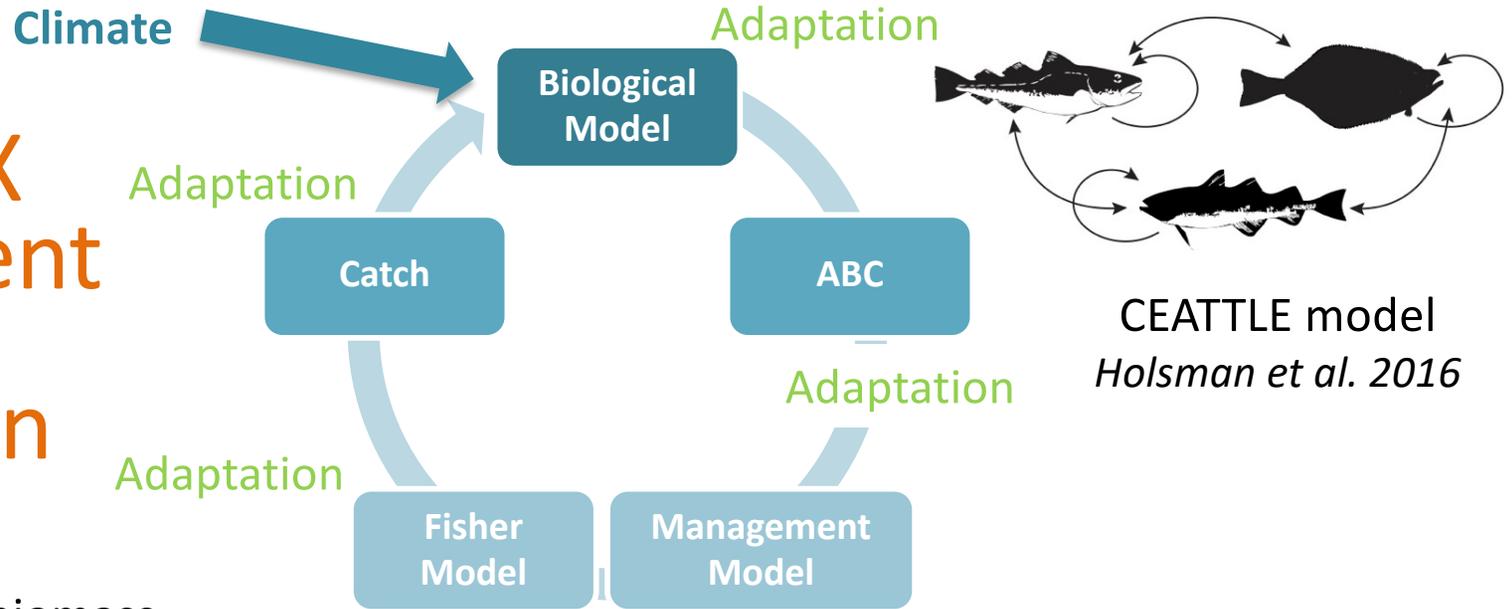


CEATTLE model  
*Holsman et al. 2016*

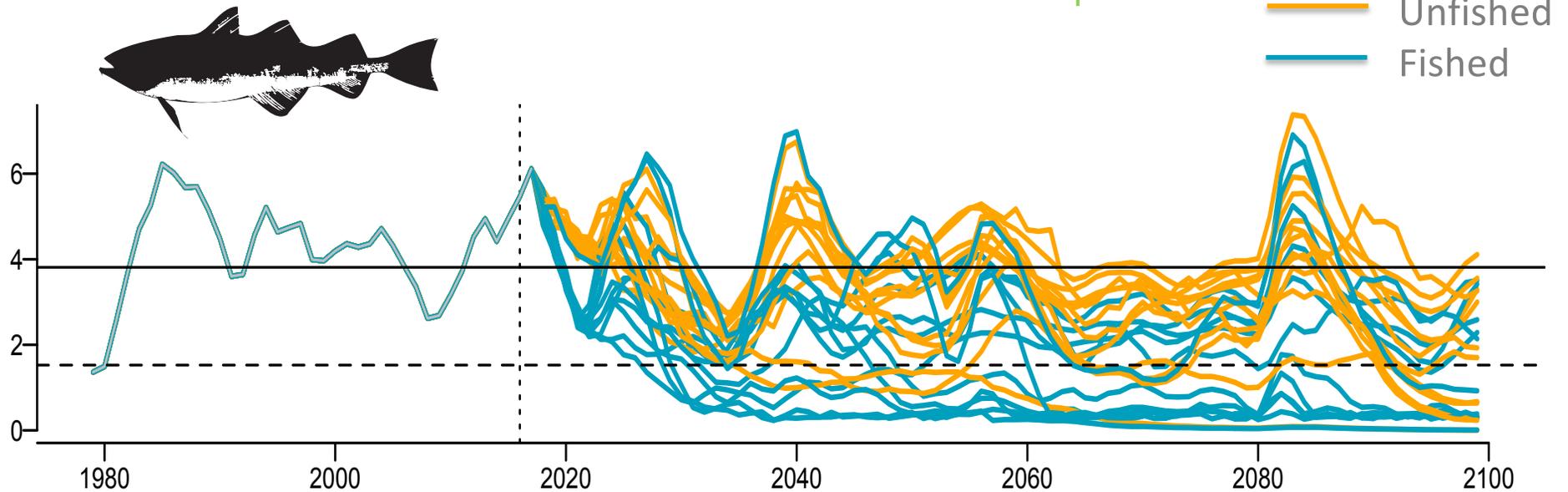
Pollock Spawning biomass

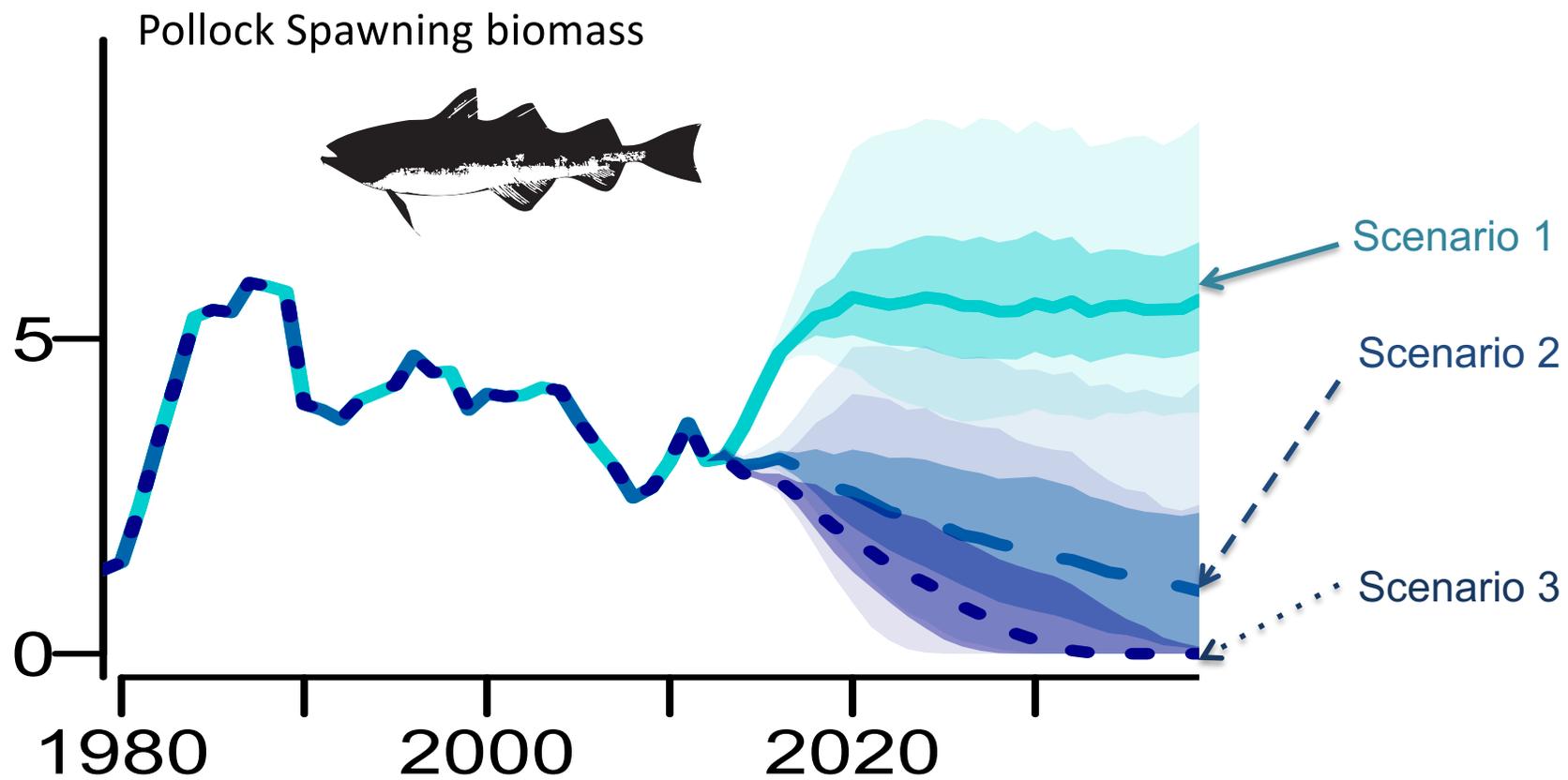


# Climate X management dynamic interaction



Pollock Spawning biomass





Ianelli, J KK Holsman, AE Punt, K Aydin (2016). Multi-model inference for incorporating trophic and climate uncertainty into stock assessment estimates of fishery biological reference points. *Deep Sea Res II*. 134: 379-389 DOI: 10.1016/j.dsr2.2015.04.002

# HOW?

*d) Project changes in species distributions and phenology*



# Future Essential Fish Habitat

(Chris Rooper, Ivonne Ortiz, Ned Laman, Al Hermann, *in prep*)

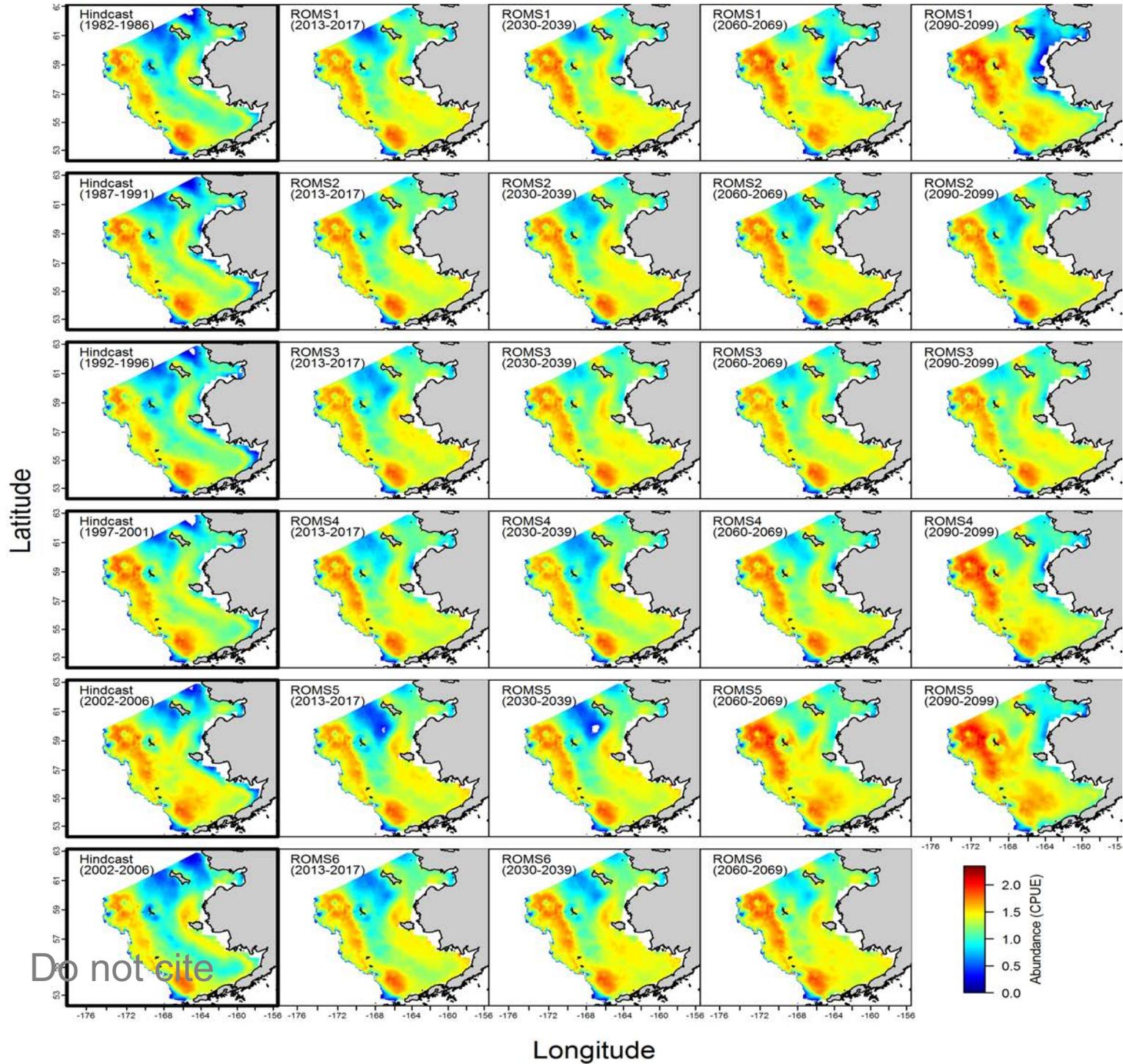
Used Slope, SE Bering Sea shelf and Northern Bering Sea data to build EFH models 1982-2017 except when noted

- |                                 |                           |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1) AK plaice                    | 6) Walleye pollock        |
| 2) Arrowtooth flounder (1993- ) | 7) Red king crab (1996- ) |
| 3) flathead sole                | 8) Snow crab              |
| 4) Northern rock sole (2001- )  | 9) Tanner crab            |
| 5) Pacific cod                  | 10) Yellowfin sole        |

Variables used: depth, slope, maximum tidal current, sediment grain size, mean bottom ocean current, bottom temperature

# P.Cod

(Chris Rooper, Ivonne Ortiz, Ned Laman, Al Hermann, *in prep*)



Slide credit: I. Ortiz



# SEARCH : STUDY OF ENVIRONMENTAL ARCTIC CHANGE

ABOUT GET INVOLVED ARCTIC FUTURES 2050 ARCTIC ANSWERS SCIENCE TOPICS EVENTS PRODUCTS

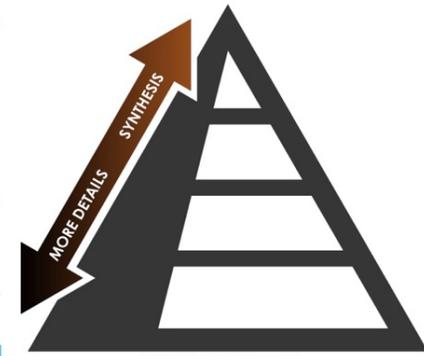
## Arctic Answers

Policy-relevant questions are answered in 1-2 page briefs written by experts and posted in *Arctic Answers*. Each brief is the top of a "knowledge pyramid" supported by scientific literature organized in underlying tiers of increasing detail.

To read a brief or see the supporting literature, click on the question. PDF's are available by clicking on "Download Brief."

For further information on a topic or to suggest edits or updates, contact the experts listed for each question.

To suggest additional questions to be addressed on *Arctic Answers* or to volunteer to author a brief, contact Brendan Kelly ([bpkelly@alaska.edu](mailto:bpkelly@alaska.edu)). When a proposed question is accepted for inclusion as an *Arctic Answer*, the author will receive a manuscript number and further instructions. Each brief will be reviewed for scientific accuracy and accessibility to readers with broad backgrounds.



Knowledge Pyramid

Sea Ice Questions	Expert Contacts	Science Brief
What do we know about the future of Arctic sea-ice loss?	Marika Holland & Walt Meier	<a href="#">Download Brief (PDF - 750 KB)</a>
How is diminishing Arctic sea ice influencing lower latitude weather patterns?	Jennifer Francis & Stephen Vavrus	<a href="#">Download Brief (PDF - 393 KB)</a>
Arctic Meltdown and Unruly Tropical Storms: Are They Connected?	Jennifer Francis	<a href="#">Download Brief (PDF - 218 KB)</a>
How is diminishing Arctic sea ice influencing coastal communities?	Henry Huntington & Matthew Druckenmiller	<a href="#">Download Brief (PDF - 2.9 MB)</a>
How is diminishing sea ice influencing marine ecosystems?	Brendan Kelly	<a href="#">Download Brief (PDF - 1.9 MB)</a>
How will the diminishing sea ice affect commercial fishing in	George Hunt, Lisa Eisner, Neysa	<a href="#">Download Brief</a>





## Arctic Answers

Science briefs from the Study of Environmental Arctic Change  
<https://www.searcharcticsscience.org/arctic-answers>

### How is diminishing Arctic sea ice influencing coastal communities?

**THE ISSUE.** Loss of sea ice, thawing permafrost, reduced snow cover, and rising sea level are reducing hunting and fishing opportunities and degrading infrastructure for rural Arctic communities. Most Alaska Native communities are affected by erosion and flooding, with 31 communities imminently threatened and 12 planning to relocate. Local responses to these stresses are hampered by the nation's highest prices for food and fuel and widespread poverty across rural Alaska.

**WHY IT MATTERS.** Climate change amplifies challenges confronting Arctic communities, where 60-80% of households depend on wild game and fish for food, harvesting several hundred pounds per person annually. Already faced with economic, social, and cultural changes, traditional ways of life in rural Alaska are further threatened by climate change impacts on diminishing food security, deteriorating water and sewage systems, increasing risk of accidents, and greater expenditures to construct and maintain infrastructure. Government agencies and other institutions need to promote policies that reduce stresses on Arctic communities and foster responses consistent with local economies and cultures.

**STATE OF KNOWLEDGE.** Arctic communities and scientists have worked together to document local observations of climate change; the associated impacts on hunting, fishing, safety, and food security; and the potential impacts of projected changes into the future. More recently, researchers have been assessing the efficacy of local responses. For example, subsistence whalers on St. Lawrence Island in the Bering Sea have initiated a fall harvest to help make up for spring whaling seasons made shorter by changing ice conditions. At Kivalina—a village that is also facing relocation due to erosion—changing spring ice conditions have prevented the harvest of bowhead whales for over 20 years. In other cases, changes can amplify one another. Limited time off from jobs means that whalers from Nuiqsut now have much shorter time available for whaling in fall. In Alaska's Arctic region, 78% of Native Iñupiat households combine jobs and subsistence to meet their economic, cultural, and nutritional needs. The benefits of employment are lessened, however, by the reduction in time devoted to harvesting wild foods. Less time to hunt means less chance to wait out fall storms or to adapt to other changes in weather or animal migration patterns. Those migration patterns may be further altered as diminishing sea ice opens opportunities for industrial activities (for example, shipping and offshore petroleum development). The cumulative effects of stresses and changes are broadly recognized but difficult to measure.



Map of the 11 Alaska traditional whaling communities, with the 2015 and 1981-2010 median September ice extents shown.

June 2017

### WHERE THE SCIENCE IS HEADED.

More work is needed to understand how local responses can be effective (such as the St. Lawrence Island fall whaling season) as well as how they fall short of what is needed (such as Kivalina's inability to hunt in spring). In addition, future research must address ways that policies exacerbate or mitigate such impacts, for example by imposing additional constraints on what communities can do, or by supporting flexibility and local initiative to solve problems. Actions made without adequate knowledge of local conditions, no matter how well intentioned, may undermine local well-being by promoting ineffective responses or fostering dependence on outside intervention rather than on local talent, capacity, and creativity. Ultimately, communities need support to identify local solutions.



Iñupiat hunters establish a whaling camp on coastal sea ice near Utqiagvik (formerly Barrow), Alaska, where thinning ice and warming temperatures in Spring are reducing hunting opportunities and increasing risks to personal safety. (Courtesy: M. Druckenmiller)

### FURTHER READING

Chapin, F.S., III, S.F. Trainor, P. Cochran, H. Huntington, C. Markon, M. McCammon, A.D. McGuire, and M. Serreze, 2014. Ch. 22: Alaska. *Climate Change Impacts in the United States: The Third National Climate Assessment*, J. M. Melillo, Terese (T.C.) Richmond, and G. W. Yohe, Eds., U.S. Global Change Research Program, 514-536. doi:10.7930/J00Z7150. [Available online at: <http://nca2014.globalchange.gov/report/regions/alaska>]

Goldsmith, S., 2008. *Understanding Alaska's Remote Rural Economy*, UA Research Summary No. 10, Institute of Social and Economic Research, University of Alaska Anchorage. [Available online at: [http://www.iser.uaa.alaska.edu/Publications/researchsumm/UA\\_RS10.pdf](http://www.iser.uaa.alaska.edu/Publications/researchsumm/UA_RS10.pdf)]

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# ARCTIC FUTURES 2050

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## Arctic Futures 2050 Conference

4-6 September 2019

Washington, D.C.

*A novel conference of Arctic scientists, Indigenous Peoples, and policy makers jointly exploring the knowledge needed to inform decisions concerning the Arctic in coming decades.*

[Conference Menu](#) [About](#) [Registration](#) [Program](#) [Travel Awards](#) [Posters](#) [Logistics](#) [Background](#)

## Announcements



**General Travel Award Announced** – The conference Organizing Committee announces a travel award program for potential attendees regardless of background, nationality, or career stage. Applications are due 20 May 2019. For more information, go [here](#).

**Travel Awards Announced** – Early-Career & Indigenous Knowledge Holder Travel Awards - We are pleased to

announce travel award opportunities for early-career researchers and Indigenous knowledge holders! Applications are due 20 May 2019. More information is available through the “Travel Awards” link above or go [here](#).

## Important Dates

15 March: Call for Poster Abstracts  
1 April: Registration Opens  
1 April: Travel Award Program Announced  
20 May: Poster Abstracts Due  
20 May: Travel Award Applications Due  
17 June: Poster Decisions and Travel Award Winners Announced  
10 July: Early-bird Registration Rates End

- The Conference Organizing committee has extended the original May 1st deadline for Poster abstracts and Travel Award applications.

**What do you hope the Climate Change Task Force / Climate Change Module can accomplish in the next 3-5 years of the Task Force timeframe? (2020-2025)**

Synthesize observations, identify information gaps, and **improve our predictive capabilities** to better inform climate related management measures/decisions

Finalize a working Action Module which **brings together western science, IK and TK, and LK** - and related concerns, perspectives, information, and values - in a way which provides **valuable guidance and tools for the Council** to best take into account climate change in Alaska federal fishery management.

Identifying and **framing issues and concerns which pose immediate and long term threats** to fisheries and ecosystem in the Bering Sea.

Ideally **make some forward looking management recommendations** for addressing climate change impacts on fisheries management

**Inform the Council on elements required** to make informed policy decisions when considering climate change impacts.

**Identify tools and pathways** for the Council and NMFS to account for and **integrate climate change modeling and information (western science and indigenous and local knowledge)** into fishery management decisions in a holistic, meaningful, and inclusive way.

Bringing together **already developed tools and models with LTK** and increased involvement and participation/ contributions of indigenous stakeholders to inform policy in innovative ways

**What do you hope the Climate Change Task Force / Climate Change Module can accomplish in the next 10-20 years?**

Implementation of a **climate-resilient management** measure(s).

Building on what I noted above, I would hope it could have provided useful information, activities, and tools for **ensuring sustainability in the face of climate change** for fisheries, habitats, and communities which are involved in and impacted by fisheries activities.

Develop **adaptive management measures to help predict impacts of global climate** change to the Bering Sea.

Predict how **climate change and management choices interact** and respond

Guide policy.

Broadly, the hope is that we continue to **advance ecosystem-based fisheries management in such a way that it becomes increasingly resilient** and adaptive to changing conditions. The Module and Task Force can be important, ongoing vehicles to help advance that goal and to ensure that the Council has the information and tools to make the best possible decisions.

Shifted paradigm of how **different types of information and data are viewed by science and managers, more inclusive and open partnerships** with more folks on the ground, strengthened partnerships with agency and communities