



About the Climate Scenarios Workshop

What is the purpose of the workshop?

The purpose of the Climate Scenarios Workshop is to generate ideas for short- and long-term management approaches and tools to improve climate resiliency of federally-managed fisheries in the North Pacific. Over the next several years (2024-2027), the Council will undertake a focused effort to build [climate readiness](#) and resilience with support provided under the [Inflation Reduction Act](#). The workshop is an important milestone for the Council and public to think about the direction and next steps for moving this work forward.

What are the potential outcomes and outputs?

Outputs from workshop discussions may include ideas for climate readiness objectives, needs, challenges, and potential solutions that the Council could choose to explore through future management actions. Another important outcome that will result directly from the workshop is developing a shared vocabulary and understanding of challenges and solutions for building climate readiness. However, no Council *decisions* about next steps will be made during the workshop. The workshop report will be available in September, and the Council will discuss potential next steps at the October Council meeting. At that point, the Council will consider how ideas from the workshop may fit into new or existing Council initiatives, and consider how and when to take further action.

What is climate scenario planning?

The Council's Climate Scenarios Workshop will use climate scenario planning to explore ideas for building climate resilience and readiness in an uncertain and unpredictable future. Scenario planning involves developing multiple plausible scenarios or storylines about the future, and taking a structured, participatory approach to consider the implications. At the meeting participants will discuss hypothetical scenarios, consider the implications for managers, scientists, fisheries, and communities; and identify steps the Council could take to build resilience and meet management objectives across a range of possible futures.

- More information: [Introduction to Climate Scenario Planning](#)

How does the Climate Scenarios Workshop relate to the Programmatic Evaluation?

The Programmatic Evaluation initiated by the Council in June 2023 will revisit the management policies, goals, and objectives for all of the Council's federally managed fisheries in the Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands, and Gulf of Alaska. Through this process, the Council will consider whether its management approach should be updated and

revised in consideration of current environmental variability and the ability of the management framework to respond to change.

The workshop will help support development of the Programmatic Evaluation by providing a forum to help identify broad concerns and themes of discussion that can inform the Council's consideration of programmatic alternatives. Ideas generated at the workshop will be captured in the workshop report, and will be available along with other scoping inputs for the Council to use when the Council next schedules the Programmatic on its agenda. Additionally, the workshop may also identify specific ideas for climate readiness that could be further explored through subsequent management actions to implement a revised programmatic management policy, or through other onramps.

Opportunities for Participation

What are the opportunities for participation and comment during the workshop?

The main opportunity for participation in the workshop is through small group breakout sessions. There will be a total of four breakout sessions over the two days of the workshop. Virtual attendees will be able to join separate Zoom breakout groups that will offer the same opportunity for discussion as the in-person breakouts. There will also be some opportunity for questions and comments during the full group discussion and wrap-up sessions.

All are welcome to provide written comments before the meeting through the Climate Scenarios Workshop [eAgenda](#). During the workshop, there will **not** be a formal signup for public testimony or a scheduled public comment session, since the workshop is participatory and discussion-based.

The Council has also scheduled a preliminary opportunity to reflect on the workshop at the end of the June Council meeting during staff tasking (Item E) on the Council meeting [eAgenda](#). The public can sign up to provide public testimony during this agenda item at the Council meeting. The full workshop report is scheduled for Council review in October 2024.

How can participants prepare for the workshop?

The Climate Scenarios Workshop [eAgenda](#) contains the final workshop materials, including the detailed agenda, scenarios, and discussion questions. Participants can prepare by reviewing the scenarios and considering the discussion questions before the meeting.

The Council also held three virtual discussions leading up to the workshop, to begin exploring the ideas and concepts that will be discussed in June. More information, materials, and links to recordings are available on the [eAgenda](#) for these sessions, as well as through the Climate Scenarios Workshop [website](#).

How will breakout sessions be structured?

Each small group breakout session will focus on a different future climate scenario. The size of breakout groups will depend on the final number of workshop attendees. Participants will be assigned to breakouts, which will include a mix of roles and regional perspectives. Participants will also be free to join a different breakout group if they prefer.

How will breakout sessions be facilitated?

Each breakout session will include a facilitator paired with a notetaker. These roles will be filled primarily by SSC members, NMFS, and Council staff. Facilitators will help their group work through the tasks for each discussion, and work with the session notetaker to identify the top few themes or takeaways from their group's discussion. The notetaker will also take written notes to support the written workshop summary. Breakout discussions will not be recorded.

How will virtual attendees be able to participate?

Virtual attendees are welcome to attend all or parts of the workshop. While we do encourage you to join for breakout sessions if you'd like to continue the conversation, you are also welcome to only follow the plenary sessions.

Virtual attendees will use separate meeting links to join the main meeting (all full group sessions) and small group breakout sessions. This information is clearly marked in the workshop agenda as well as available in the Climate Scenarios Workshop [eAgenda](#). Virtual attendees will also receive an email prior to the workshop with detailed instructions for joining.

For the main meeting sessions, virtual attendees will join using this Zoom link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86040665896>, password NPFMC. You will be able to raise your hand and request to be unmuted to ask a question or comment during discussions, similar to the process for providing testimony at a Council meeting,

For the four breakout sessions, virtual attendees will join using a separate breakout room link that will be available on the Climate Scenarios Workshop [eAgenda](#) and provided to you by email ahead of time as well as at the workshop. These breakout sessions will allow for more informal discussion. You will be able to unmute yourself and use the chat function.

What are the next steps following the workshop? Will there be additional opportunities for input?

The workshop report will be available in September, and the Council will discuss outcomes and potential next steps at the October Council meeting. The public will be able to submit written comments on this agenda item and sign up to provide testimony at the meeting.

Additional Background

What is the Council already doing on climate readiness?

The Council has been working on the topics of climate change and variability for several years. This work includes the development of the Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) and two modules to implement the goals and objectives of the FEP: the Climate Action Module and the Local Knowledge, Traditional Knowledge, and Subsistence Action Module.

The goal of the Climate Action Module is to facilitate the Council's work toward climate-ready fisheries management that helps ensure both short-term and long-term resilience for the interconnected ecological and human communities of the Bering Sea. The Council convened the Climate Change Task Force (CCTF) to carry out the work of this module. The CCTF produced the 2022 [Climate Readiness Synthesis](#) and helped plan the Climate Scenarios Workshop. More information on Council efforts to build climate readiness and integrate climate-related information is described in the document “Themes and Ideas for Climate Readiness Planning¹,” which is available through the Climate Scenarios Workshop [eAgenda](#).

The Council and SSC are also engaging in ongoing work and discussions to incorporate climate information and considerations into stock assessments and harvest specifications. NMFS Alaska Fisheries Science Center scientists are developing Ecosystem and Socioeconomic Profiles (ESPs) as a pathway to help integrate ecosystem and socioeconomic information into the stock assessment process. AFSC scientists also developed a risk table approach to document concerns, including climate and ecosystem-related, that are not explicitly accounted for in stock assessment models and which may inform the SSC’s consideration of whether to recommend a reduction from the maximum Acceptable Biological Catch.²

In February 2023, the SSC held a workshop focused on “Rapid change in the northern Bering Sea and southern Chukchi Seas - Identifying ecosystem responses and effects on the management of Federal fisheries.” The goal of the workshop was to identify the science and monitoring requirements for supporting future Council decision-making under increased uncertainty, including exploration of proactive approaches for achieving management goals in a changing environment, and an assessment of how existing frameworks may or may not be able to address ecosystem variability.³

¹ This document is excerpted from the October 2023 [Staff Discussion Paper](#): Inflation Reduction Act Funding for Climate Readiness Planning, provided under B1 of the October 2023 Council meeting [eAgenda](#)

² For more information see Dorn, Martin & Zador, Stephani. (2020). A risk table to address concerns external to stock assessments when developing fisheries harvest recommendations. Ecosystem Health and Sustainability. 6. 1813634. <https://spj.science.org/doi/10.1080/20964129.2020.1813634> .

³ Final SSC February 2023 Workshop [Report](#), B13, April 2023