

ADVISORY PANEL

Motions and Rationale

October 1-3, 2024 - Anchorage, AK

D2 Climate Reports

The AP recommends the Council direct staff through the IRA work plan to incorporate the following information and SSC recommendations to create an inclusive, action-oriented framework for climate-resilient fishery management. This should leverage ongoing work, support habitat conservation, expand precautionary measures, engage stakeholders equitably, and establish a clear path for implementation. Staff should take meaningful outreach and engagement to inform the programmatic evaluation process and incorporate LKTKS protocols and onramps.

This should begin with a clear definition of what climate resilient fisheries management means. The following context papers should be drafted with clear definitions and barriers of how to work towards creating climate resilient fisheries and fishing communities and what changes can or cannot occur within the Council process.

Context Papers topics should include:

- What we can and cannot do with IRA funding to help guide the public;
- How to collect and utilize fishery data outside of surveys through fishermen and fishing communities on the frontlines of climate change;
- Benchmarking what the NPFMC is doing in comparison to other regions

Motion passed unanimously: 20/0

Rationale in Favor of Motion:

- *By leveraging existing work it will build on established goals, objectives, and frameworks to maximize effectiveness and avoid duplication. For example: Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP), groundfish management objectives, the Local Knowledge, Traditional Knowledge, and Subsistence Protocol, and the SSC's climate scenario recommendations.*
- *Expanding the Council's precautionary management strategy to account for the cumulative and unpredictable impacts of climate change on marine ecosystems could include stricter measures for bycatch reduction, habitat protection, and adaptive responses to climate shocks, drawing on the SSC's recommendations for flexibility and stock resilience.*
- *Prioritizing protection of benthic habitats through time/area closures and uncertainty buffers can be accomplished by developing strategies that reduce ocean stress, support vulnerable species, and promote ecosystem resilience, aligning with the SSC's emphasis on adapting management practices in response to climate variability.*
- *By initiating the PEIS the outcomes from the Climate Scenarios Workshop and the SCS8 discussion can be incorporated. This PEIS will provide a comprehensive evaluation of the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of federal fisheries in a changing climate. It will include meaningful engagement with Tribes and Tribal organizations, integrating Traditional Knowledge into the analysis.*

- *The Council could develop a policy grounded in Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management (EBFM) with specific goals and objectives for climate resilience across all federal fisheries in the North Pacific. The policy will include clear management actions, a detailed implementation plan, milestones, targets, and metrics to assess progress, transforming the policy into a core component of the Council's regulatory framework.*
- *Engagement and equity can be improved to enhance public engagement to ensure diverse representation, with a focus on Indigenous and subsistence perspectives. Create pathways for underrepresented voices, including Tribes and coastal communities, to actively participate in discussions on fishery management and climate resilience, ensuring alignment with SSC recommendations to include local knowledge and socioeconomic data.*
- *The AP encourages Council staff to engage with the Alaska Fishery Science Center (AFSC) to incorporate climate synthesis information into agenda items, ensuring scientific insights are effectively integrated into decision-making processes.*