

D1 Climate Planning Discussion Introduction

Katie Latanich, December 2024



D1 Climate Planning Discussion: Action memo

3 presentations

- D1a) Receive update on Inflation Reduction Act funding and Programmatic Evaluation
 - Katie Latanich, Council staff
- D1c): Receive NMFS AFSC climate science and CEFI update (note change in order from eAgenda)
 - Dr. Kirstin Holsman, NMFS AFSC
- D1b): Review final Climate Change Task Force report and recommendations
 - Dr. Diana Stram, CCTF Co-chair



D1 Climate Planning Discussion: Action memo

Council guidance on two issues will allow staff to continue making progress toward climate adaptation priorities and IRA funding deliverables:

1. Council feedback on staff ideas for materials to support discussion of Programmatic Evaluation alternatives (April 2025)
2. Whether and how the Council wishes staff to proceed with developing a climate work plan, as recommended by the CCTF



D1 Climate Planning Discussion: Action memo

2-part approach to today's D1 discussion

Part 1

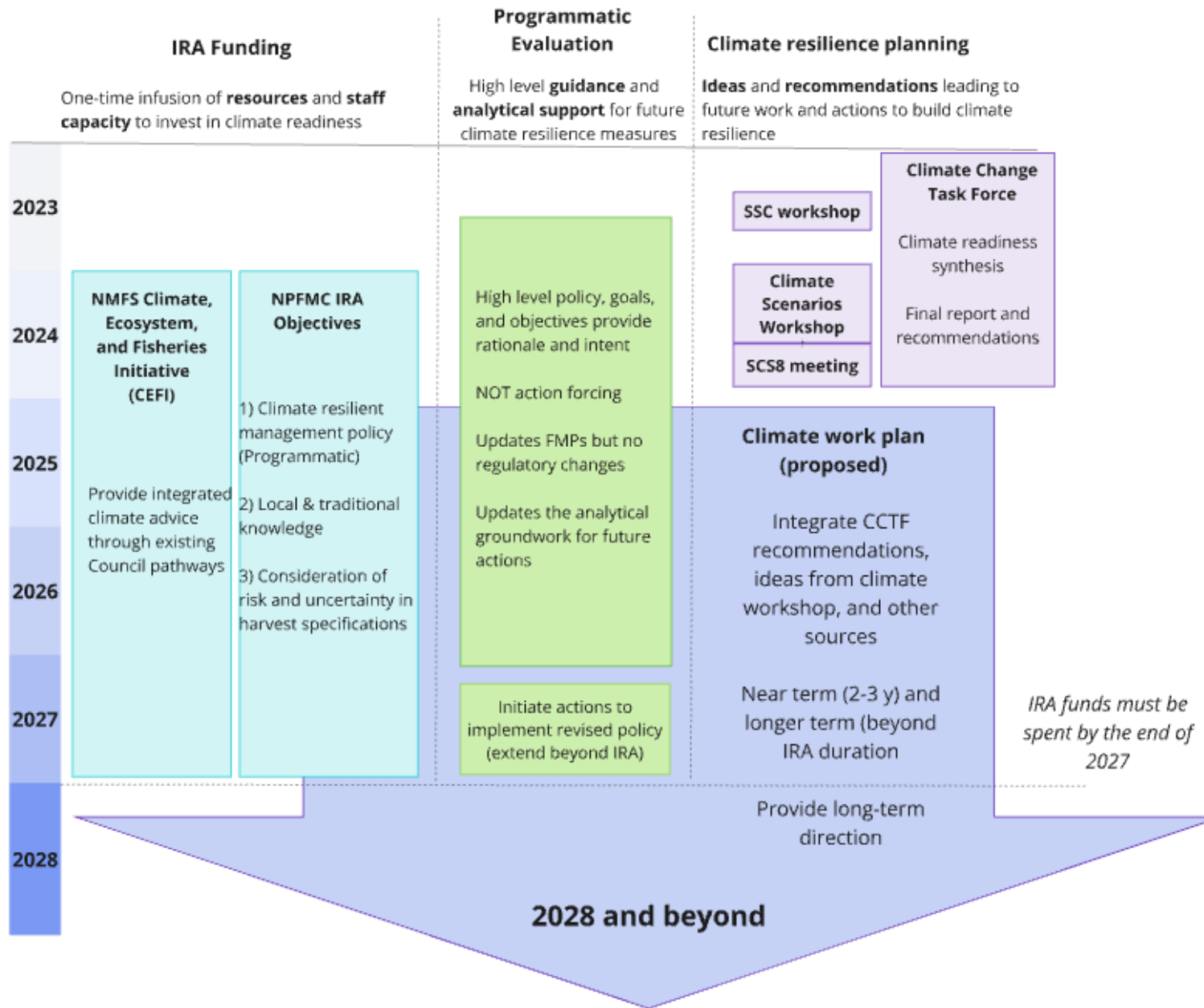
- D1a) Update on IRA funding
- Questions on materials to support April 2025 discussion of Programmatic Evaluation alternatives

Part 2

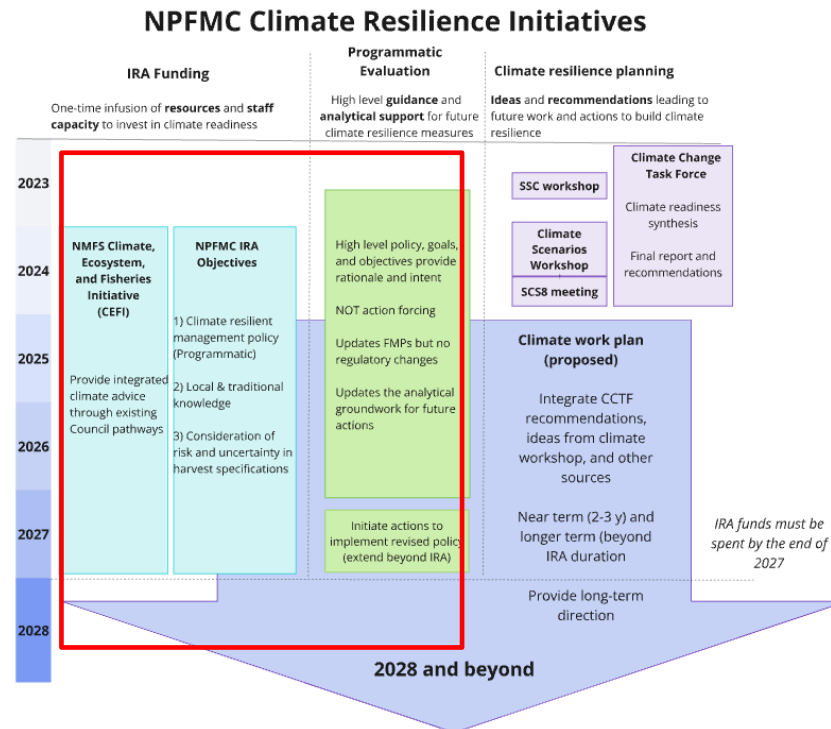
- D2c) NMFS AFSC climate science and CEFI update
- D1b) CCTF final report and recommendations
- Questions on presentations
- Public testimony
- Discussion on 1) Programmatic materials and 2) work plan development



NPFMC Climate Resilience Initiatives



D1 Climate Planning Discussion: Action memo

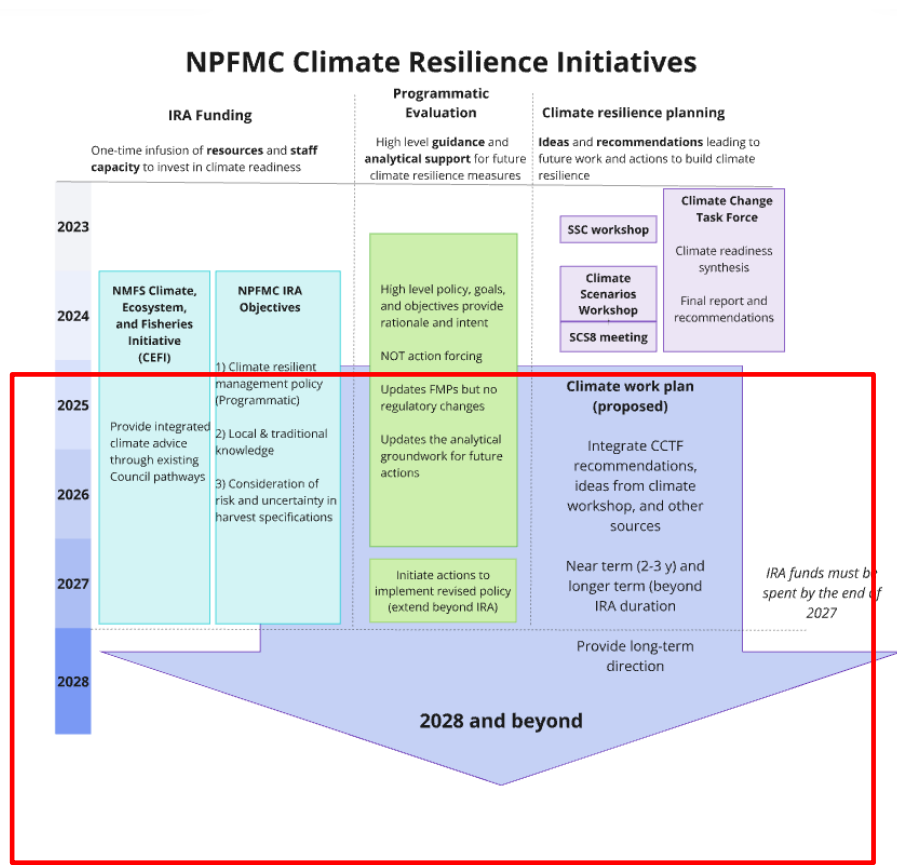


IRA funding key points

- IRA funding is time-bound. Funds must be fully spent by the end of 2027 and will help provide the foundation for future climate readiness work
- Includes
 - Climate, Ecosystem, and Fisheries Initiative (CEFI)
 - NPFMC IRA work focuses on 3 objectives.
- **This work is in progress**



D1 Climate Planning Discussion: Action memo



Climate work plan key points

- CCTF final report recommends developing and implementing a climate work plan
- This could include CCTF recommendations and link all of the Council's climate related work, both near term and beyond the duration of IRA funding
- October 2024 motion: *The Council looks forward to the Climate Change Task Force final report in December 2024, which, with the Climate Scenarios Workshop report, will allow the Council to further plan and communicate climate resiliency efforts in a comprehensive manner through a tracking tool and/or workplan.*



D1a: IRA funding planning update and Programmatic Evaluation next steps

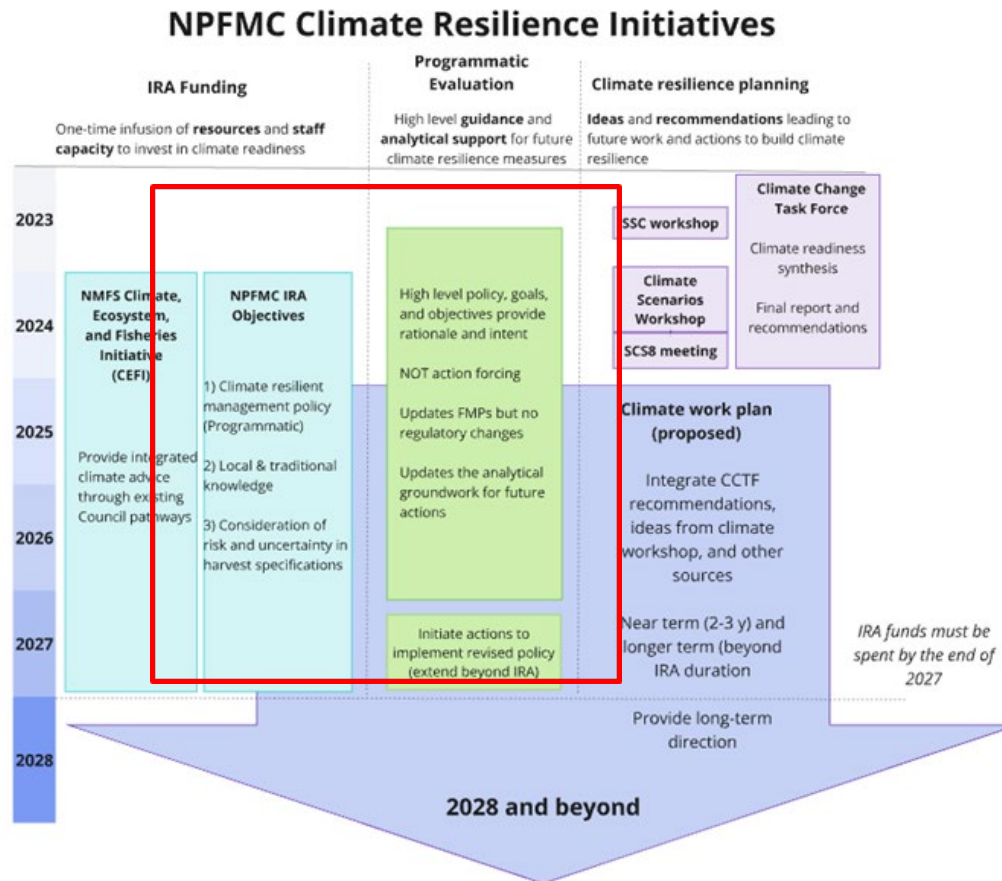
Katie Latanich, December 2024



IRA Funding Update



IRA funding update



3 objectives

1. Develop a climate resilient management policy
2. Continue work to incorporate local and traditional knowledge
3. Strengthen the consideration of uncertainty and risk in harvest specifications

Objectives reflect Council intent for IRA proposal to accelerate or expand upon existing Council initiatives



IRA funding update

Table 1: Status update of current IRA funding accomplishments and upcoming milestones

Date Status	Milestone	Related to objective?	Progress achieved
June 2024 <i>Completed</i>	Climate Scenarios Workshop	1, 2, 3	The workshop and report will help support development of the Programmatic Evaluation by providing a forum to identify broad concerns and themes of discussion that can inform the Council's consideration of Programmatic alternatives.
Oct 2024 <i>Completed</i>	Climate Scenarios Workshop report, SCS8 discussion paper	1, 2, 3	The Council received the Climate Scenarios Workshop report workshop and a discussion paper on climate science and ideas from the 8th national meeting of the Scientific Coordination Subcommittee (SCS8), held in August 2024. The Council passed a motion supporting two objectives identified by the SSC for maintaining momentum toward achieving Objective 3.
Dec 2024 <i>Scheduled</i>	D1 Climate planning discussion	1, 2, 3	The Council will receive the final report of the Climate Change Task Force. Staff will provide ideas for supporting the Council's April discussion of Programmatic alternatives and are requesting Council feedback on whether and how to proceed with developing discussion materials.
Apr 2025 <i>Scheduled</i>	Programmatic Evaluation	1, 2	The Council may revise the Programmatic alternatives, enabling staff to proceed with analysis.
Apr 2025 <i>Tentative</i>	SSC Workshop	3	The SSC is tentatively scheduled to hold a workshop to provide guidance on approaches for considering potential adjustments to groundfish and crab harvest control rules to be more climate resilient.
2025 <i>Tentative</i>	Sablefish economic research to inform harvest specifications	3	Using IRA funds, the Council is seeking a researcher/ analyst to develop an economically sophisticated management strategy evaluation for sablefish in Alaska, allowing the Council to explore harvest specifications adjustments in the face of future environmental and market variability under climate change. The position would follow a scope of work initially developed by the SSC at the April 2024 meeting. Work would begin in 2025.

Updated IRA [funding timeline](#) under D1 includes Table 1 which shows completed, scheduled, and anticipated milestones focusing on the **near term (1 year)**

Staff will continue updating this table to provide progress updates for future climate-related Council meeting discussions and action items.



IRA funding update

Table 2: Anticipated timeline and milestones for overall NPFMC IRA climate work, updated December 2024.

Council meetings	Management policy amendments through Programmatic Evaluation	Assessment and climate science amendments
2024	Feb	SSC identifies case studies for SCS8
	Apr	SSC scopes contract work needed for sablefish MSE
	Jun	Climate Scenarios Workshop (CSW)
	Oct	SSC national workshop (Aug) CSW Discussion paper
	Dec	CSW report Discuss climate work planning Final CCTF report, Council direction on a climate workplan and Programmatic Evaluation discussion
2025	Feb	SSC short workshop on HCRs (proposed)
	Apr	Provide guidance on an approach (e.g., a technical workgroup) to considering potential adjustments to groundfish and crab harvest control rules to be more climate resilient. Postdoctoral position begins (anticipated)
	Jun	Check in /status update
	Oct	Update from technical staff workgroup, followed by analytical work to evaluate potential changes; subsequent report back to Council (anticipated fall 2025/winter 2026)
	Dec	Preliminary update on Programmatic Evaluation (Oct or Dec): NEPA scoping report, discuss whether changes or clarifications to alternatives or analysis are needed
2026	(Feb)	SSC and Council implement initial non-FMP amendment changes to BSAI crab harvest specifications process
	Apr	Non-FMP changes
	Jun	Draft Programmatic Evaluation (Anticipated Apr or June)
	Oct	Non-FMP changes
	Dec	SSC and Council implement initial non-FMP amendment changes to groundfish harvest specifications process Final Programmatic Evaluation Council adopts revised management policy and objectives (earliest feasible)
2027	(Feb)	FMP amendment adjustments (timing TBD) Initial/Final review of FMP analyses for harvest specification adjustments
	Apr	Council workshop (timing TBD) Develop future actions to further implement revised policy and objectives
	Jun	Actions to implement revised policy (timing TBD) Develop work plan for next steps; initiate action either through workshops or Council actions
	Oct	
	Dec	

Table 2 shows completed, scheduled, and anticipated milestones focusing on the **full IRA timeline, 2024-2027**

Staff will continue updating this table to provide progress updates for future climate-related Council meeting discussions and action items.



IRA funding update – Objective 3 work in progress

Objective 3: Strengthen the consideration of uncertainty and risk in harvest specifications

From October 2024 D2 [motion](#): The Council also supports the two priorities identified by the SSC...both of which support and maintain momentum toward achieving objective of the Council's proposal for use of Inflation Reduction Act Funding for Climate Resiliency Planning.

Consider to what extent, and whether, to revise groundfish and crab harvest control rules (HCRs) to be more climate-resilient

- Schedule a Feb or April 2025 SSC workshop as a starting point to frame how to approach and prioritize HCR adjustment opportunities
- The Council supports the formation of a technical SSC-Plan Team-agency subgroup to develop the ideas from the SSC workshop”



Programmatic Evaluation



IRA funding update – Objective 1/Programmatic Evaluation

Today's Programmatic Evaluation discussion

- Recap of past steps
- Looking ahead to April 2025 discussion
- Staff ideas and request for direction on materials



IRA funding update – Objective 1/Programmatic Evaluation

Why a revised management policy?

- Communicate high level guidance and intent, as with existing FMP goals and objectives and other Council policies
- Not action forcing, but would drive operational changes (analytical and decision tools, management measures, Council process changes) as needed to bring the management framework in line with this policy
- Analytical basis for future Council actions
- For more background on programmatic EISs and the 2004 PSEIS: [Roadmap](#) for Reevaluating the Programmatic Groundfish Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (D2 February 2023)



IRA funding update – Objective 1/Programmatic Evaluation

June 2023 [Purpose and Need](#)

The Council initiates the development of a Programmatic EIS for all Council-managed fisheries and recommends NMFS initiate NEPA scoping and solicit public input on the following purpose and need and alternatives.

Alternative 1: Maintain current ecosystem-based management policy and objectives for Council managed fisheries (status quo)

Alternative 2: Adopt a more adaptive ecosystem-based management policy and objectives for Council managed fisheries which would enable the Council to develop and implement climate-resiliency tools; new pathways to incorporate indigenous, local, and traditional knowledge; and new tools to assess and adapt to risk in the face of additional uncertainty in stock status and distribution due to climate driven marine ecosystem changes.



IRA funding update – Objective 1/Programmatic Evaluation

Process reminders

- The current FMP goals, objectives, and policies were drafted at different points in the Council’s history; they are structured differently and reflect different points in the evolution of the MSA and NS guidelines
- A revised policy would apply to “...all federal fisheries managed under the Magnuson-Stevens Act and the Halibut Act under the jurisdiction of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) in the Gulf of Alaska, the Bering Sea, and Aleutian Islands.” (June 2023 [motion](#))
 - Transition from FMP-specific management approaches to high-level guidance spanning multiple FMPs



IRA funding update – Objective 1/Programmatic Evaluation

Process reminders

- “Adoption of a final alternative would include **updating the Council’s current suite of 45 management policy objectives.**” (February 2023 [motion](#))
 - Intent to base on and model after the current Groundfish Policy (2004)
 - Includes a management policy statement, 9 goal statements, and 45 objectives



Goal	Management Objective	Council actions	
		June 2024	October 2024
1. Prevent Overfishing <i>Maintain Sustainable Harvest</i>	1. Adopt conservative harvest levels for multi-species and single species fisheries and specify optimum yield.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Scenarios Workshop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate workshop report • Climate science/SCS8 paper • Groundfish harvest proposed specifications • GOA rockfish spatial mgmt
	2. Continue to use the optimum yield caps for the BSAI and GOA groundfish fisheries.		
	3. Provide for adaptive management by continuing to specify optimum yield as a range.		
	4. Provide for periodic reviews of the adequacy of F40 and adopt improvements, as appropriate.		
	5. Continue to improve the management of species through species categories.		
2. Promote Sustainable Fisheries and Communities	6. Promote conservation while providing for optimum yield in terms of the greatest overall benefit to the nation with particular reference to food production, and sustainable opportunities for recreational, subsistence, and commercial fishing participants and fishing communities.	These considerations are applied in all Council management recommendations. See specific actions also under Goals 1,7 and 8. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USCG Reports 	
	7. Promote management measures that, while meeting conservation objectives, are also designed to avoid significant disruption of existing social and economic structures		
	8. Promote fair and equitable allocation of identified available resources in a manner such that no particular sector, group or entity acquires an excessive share of the privileges.		
	9. Promote increased safety at sea.		

Example of Groundfish Programmatic Workplan [update](#), October 2024



IRA funding update – Objective 1/Programmatic Evaluation

Process reminders

- “The process should include opportunity for meaningful engagement of Alaska Native Tribes and stakeholders, through informal scoping, formal scoping as part of the NEPA process, and Tribal consultations conducted by NMFS.” (February 2023 [motion](#))



IRA funding update – Objective 1/Programmatic Evaluation

Where we are now

- Council adopted purpose and need statement and draft alternatives (June 2023)
- Staff requested feedback on draft management policies, goals, and objectives (February 2024)
- Staff sought more direction on how to structure the programmatic evaluation to best meet the Council's intent (also February 2024)
- Decision to postpone NEPA scoping until initial review of chum salmon bycatch action in early 2025 (Apr 2024)



IRA funding update – Objective 1/Programmatic Evaluation

Potential outcomes of April 2025 discussion:

- Revise Programmatic alternatives
 - Important: the Council can still revise these alternatives in response to public input and scoping
- Enable NMFS to proceed with NEPA scoping
- Enable staff to begin analysis
- Remain on track with IRA timeline



OPPORTUNITY TO:

Cleanup

- Revisit/refresh goals and objectives to ensure they reflect current conditions, Council policies, etc.

Increase consistency

- Achieve & communicate high level guidance in a more consistent and comprehensive way, across fisheries/FMPs.

Look ahead

- Address the purpose & need focus on “meet[ing] current and forthcoming challenges in the federal fisheries
- Implement framework in a comprehensive manner to improve the Council’s ecosystem-based management approach
- Reference/incorporate IRA funded work on climate readiness.



IRA funding update – Objective 1/Programmatic Evaluation

Suggested components for April 2025 **materials** and **discussion**

(building on February 2024 D3 [discussion paper](#) and presentation)

1. Walkthrough of existing FMP goals and objectives, with a focus on the existing Groundfish policy, goals (9), and objectives (45), and areas to consider opportunities for cleanup, revising/refreshing, updating, and providing consistent guidance across FMPs
2. Provide example (“strawman”) language based on #1, also drawing from past Council discussions, the Climate Scenarios Workshop, and other input to date
3. Discussion of analytical approach, needs & support
4. Rationale and information to support NEPA scoping



IRA funding update – Objective 1/Programmatic Evaluation

Public engagement to date

- June 2024 Climate Scenarios Workshop will help inform Programmatic materials
- NMFS Tribal engagement sessions held April 17 and May 6, 2024

Looking ahead

- Early release of materials (target first week of March)
- Proposed staff webinar to provide an orientation to materials
- Timing concerns from previous meetings – are there additional engagement activities the Council wants to do pre/post April?



IRA funding update – Objective 1/Programmatic Evaluation

Potential timeline (contingent on moving forward in April)

- April 2025: Revise alternatives
- Oct or Dec 2025: Preliminary update, scoping report
- Apr or June 2026: Draft Programmatic evaluation
- Dec 2026: Final Programmatic Evaluation and adoption of new policy



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	Oct	CSW report	
Dec	Discuss climate work planning Final CCF report, Council direction on a climate workplan and Programmatic Evaluation discussion	SCS8 national workshop (Aug) SCS8 Discussion paper	
2025	Feb	Council discussion and revision of Programmatic Evaluation alternatives	
	Apr	NEPA scoping, staff begin analysis	
	Jun		
	Oct	Preliminary update on Programmatic Evaluation (Oct or Dec: NEPA scoping report, discuss whether changes or clarifications to alternatives or analysis are needed)	SSC short workshop on HCRs (proposed) Provide guidance on an approach (e.g., a technical workgroup) to considering potential adjustments to groundfish and crab harvest control rules to be more climate resilient. Postdoctoral position begins (anticipated) Check in /status update Update from technical staff workgroup, followed by analytical work to evaluate potential changes; subsequent report back to Council (anticipated fall 2025/winter 2026)
Dec			
2026	(Feb)	Council workshop (timing TBD) Consider LTK onramp opportunities to inform Programmatic Evaluation	
	Apr	Draft Programmatic Evaluation (Anticipated Apr or June)	Non-FMP changes SSC and Council implement initial non-FMP amendment changes to BSAI crab harvest specifications process
	Jun		
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IRA funding update – Objective 1/Programmatic Evaluation

Questions on this approach?

(D1 will continue with CEFI update and CCTF report, followed by public testimony and discussion)

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2. Provide example (“strawman”) language based on #1, also drawing from past Council discussions, the Climate Scenarios Workshop, and other input to date
3. Discussion of analytical approach, needs & support
4. Rationale and information to support NEPA scoping

+ Early release of materials (target March 2025) and informational webinar



D1 Climate Planning Discussion: Action memo

2-part approach to today's D1 discussion

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Part 2

- D2c) NMFS AFSC climate science and CEFI update
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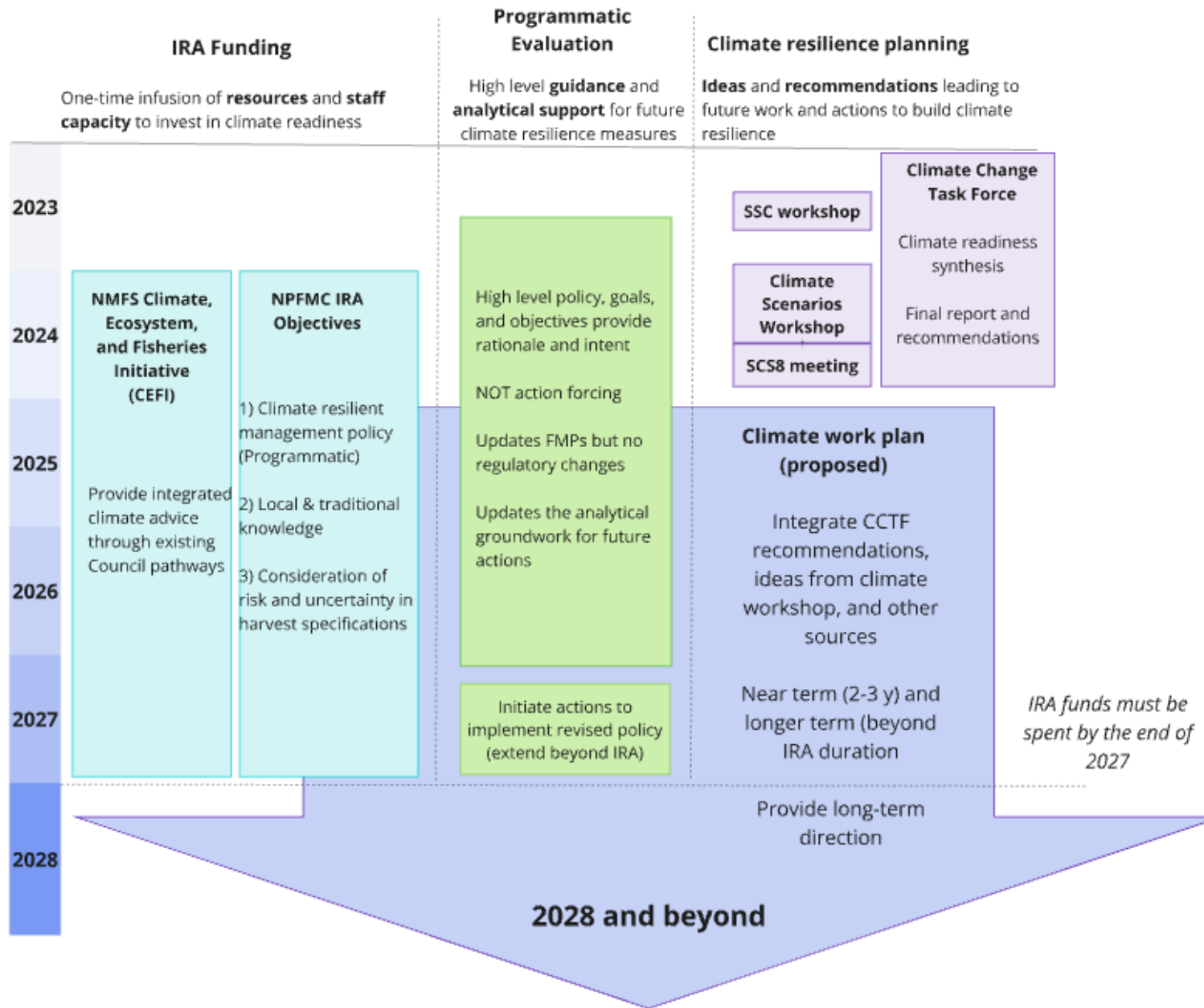
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NPFMC Climate Resilience Initiatives



April 2025 Programmatic Evaluation discussion materials

Extra Slides



Primer: 2004 PSEIS Structure & Alternatives (p.3)

The PSEIS evaluated 4 policy-level alternatives, ranging from a more aggressive harvest management policy to highly precautionary.

The alternatives were:

1. Continue under the current risk averse management policy;
 2. Adopt a more aggressive harvest management policy;
 3. Adopt a more precautionary management policy;
 4. Adopt a highly precautionary management policy;
- PA. Adopt a conservative, precautionary approach to ecosystem-based fisheries management (*the preferred alternative*).

Source: D2 [Presentation](#), February 2023



Information to be included in NOI

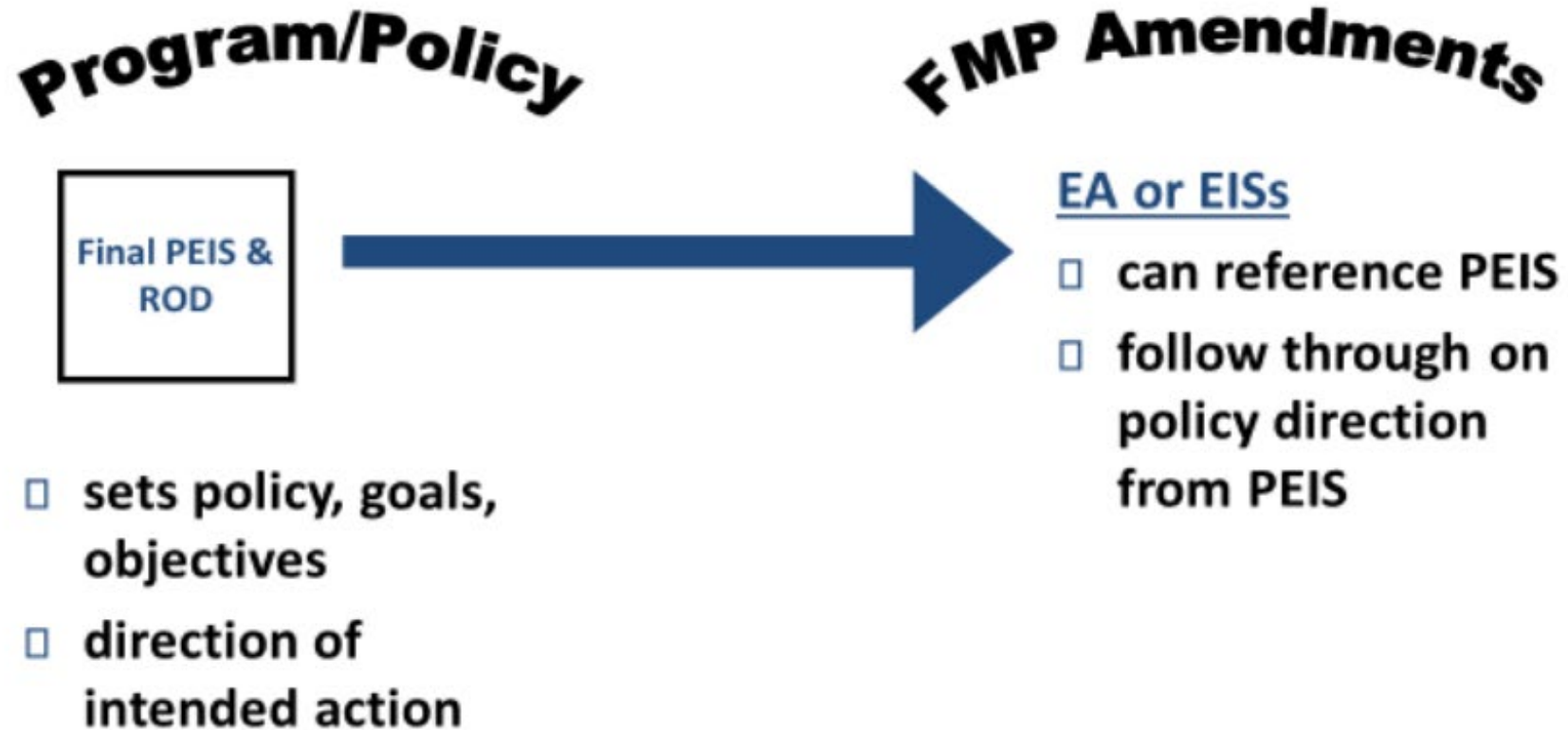
The Council could weigh in on the following information that must be included in a Notice of Intent to initiate NEPA scoping:

- The purpose and need for the proposed action
- A preliminary description of the proposed action and alternatives the environmental impact statement will consider
- A brief summary of expected impacts
- A description of the public scoping process, including any scoping meeting(s)
- A request for identification of potential alternatives, information, and analyses relevant to the proposed action



Programmatic Evaluation

Two-step process



Source: D3 [Presentation](#), February 2023

