



May 10, 2024

Dear Workshop Participants,

The Council is excited to welcome you to the upcoming Climate Scenarios Workshop. This workshop is a unique opportunity to convene the entire Council community, including the Council, Scientific and Statistical Committee, Advisory Panel, Federal, Tribal and State agency partners, and members of the public, for two days of discussion. We appreciate the scientists, industry, Tribal, and community members who are taking time to be part of this discussion, including those joining us in person in Kodiak and those participating remotely.

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. The need for climate readiness planning is urgent. We are already confronting the impacts of climate change to Alaska's marine ecosystems and fisheries, and the people, communities, and businesses they support. Through workshop discussions we'll identify specific, actionable steps for building climate readiness, as well as questions and information needs that can help inform scientific work to provide fishery managers with operational climate advice.

At the workshop, we will use climate scenario planning to explore the management tools and information needed to support climate readiness under a range of possible climate futures. Through breakout discussions, we'll explore four hypothetical scenarios that illustrate very different but plausible future conditions under varying degrees of warming. These discussions will enable us to think about the climate readiness needs facing individual fisheries and regions, as well as take a more holistic view of climate readiness across all of the federally managed fisheries under the Council's jurisdiction. Our discussions will also help examine why, and how, continuing to advance ecosystem-based management approaches can help us bolster climate readiness.

The Climate Scenarios Workshop is an early milestone in a multi-year process of coordinated climate readiness planning that will include the Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands, and Gulf of Alaska. The Council already has a strong foundation to build on, including the work of the Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan's Climate Change Task Force (CCTF) and the Local Knowledge, Traditional Knowledge, and Subsistence (LKTKS) Taskforce. The Council also recognizes ongoing needs, including expanding the Council's climate readiness planning to consider the needs of Gulf of Alaska fisheries and communities. With support provided under the Inflation Reduction Act, the Council will continue to build on current work and pursue the opportunities we identify for building climate readiness. These will include developing a climate-resilient management policy through the Programmatic Evaluation process, continuing work to bring local and traditional knowledge and subsistence considerations into Council processes, and

strengthening the consideration of uncertainty and risk in harvest specifications and other aspects of Council management.

The Climate Scenarios Workshop will generate ideas that the Council could choose to explore in the future. However, no Council decisions about next steps will be made during the workshop. During the workshop discussions we will identify climate readiness needs, challenges, and potential solutions; and following the meeting staff will work to summarize and synthesize all of the conversations and ideas from in-person and virtual breakout groups. The workshop report will be available in September, and the Council will discuss outcomes and potential next steps at the October Council meeting.

While the workshop in June will focus on scenario planning, the most important ingredient in our discussions will be your participation. We need your experience with the impacts of climate change, your thoughts about how it is changing the ecosystems we live and work in, and your ideas for continuing to sustainably harvest fish in the federal waters of the Gulf, Aleutians and Bering Sea. The workshop is an inclusive place to welcome all ideas, experiences, and perspectives. We encourage all participants to read the workshop materials in advance, think about the scenarios and discussion questions, and above all come prepared to listen and learn, as well as to share.

We look forward to a productive workshop, and welcoming you to participate with us in Kodiak in June, whether it be online or in person.

Sincerely,



Angel Drobnica, Chair
North Pacific Fishery
Management Council



Dr. Sherri Dressel,
Co-Chair
Scientific and Statistical
Committee



Brian Ritchie, Chair
Advisory Panel



Bill Tweit, Vice Chair
North Pacific Fishery
Management Council



Dr. Franz Mueter, Co-Chair
Scientific and Statistical
Committee