

D-1 Climate Change Task Force Report  
Council Motion  
December 8, 2024

The Council acknowledges the final recommendations of the Climate Change Task Force (CCTF) that was established by the Bering Sea FEP and appreciates the extensive contributions of the Task Force members. The Council establishes a climate resilience workplan as recommended by the CCTF, with efforts guided by the principles outlined in the CCTF Key Element 1 (to expand existing inclusive processes, collaborations, and partnerships that facilitate inclusion of multiple knowledge systems in climate planning), and Key Element 2 (to consider management tools and options focused on the inclusion of existing and emergent climate information). The Council requests staff format the workplan, including timeframes, with the intent that it guides near-term actions for enhanced climate resilient management in the GOA and the BSAI. As an initial step, the work plan contains the following items as recommended by the CCTF; additional longer-term items and priority actions may be considered in the future. The Council anticipates that output from the NOAA Climate, Ecosystems and Fisheries Initiative (CEFI) will provide invaluable contributions to these work plan items.

- **Incorporate climate forecast linked management advice (2.1).** Use climate and ecosystem forecasts to improve management advice through assessments and supportive documents:
  - a. Incorporate forecasts of climate and ecosystem conditions (+1-2 yrs) in the harvest projections and specifications processes, including through the assessment of maximum allowable catch, ABC and overfishing limit, OFL; as well as climate, ecosystem, and socioeconomic sections of Ecosystem Status Reports (ESRs), and Ecosystem and Socio-economic Profiles (ESPs) that are used in the Risk Tables (i.e., for ABC) and in the context of informing the TAC-setting process.
  - b. Include climate forecast information and vulnerability assessments in management advice to inform Risk Tables and discussions around ABC or TAC. Climate information on risk could be communicated via updates and expanded climate risk sections of the Annual Community Engagement and Participation Overviews (ACEPOs), through an appendix to ESRs, or as a standalone report or assessment.
  - c. Consider climate-forecast linked spatial management measures (e.g., via climate specific species distribution models) to inform apportionments.
- **Incorporate climate-driven interactions and cascading impacts through use of ecosystem indicators and models (2.2).** Develop and use ecological indicators and multi-species, multi-fleet, or ecosystem models that quantify uncertainty, interactions, and risk across multiple fisheries or species. As part of this effort risk table discussions can be aligned around climate buffers/risks.
- **Consider and incorporate dynamic management tools to increase in-season adaptation capacity (2.4).** Examples of these kinds of tools include:
  - a. Using nowcasts (daily; weekly) and forecasts (<2 years) to inform spatial in-season and annual management actions
  - b. Increase in-season flexibility and responsiveness in harvest measures through incorporation of real-time observations from a broader suite of observations and information
- **Review tier systems, consider climate-informed biomass targets and limits and climate-robust or forecast-informed harvest control rules (2.5)**