



Bering Sea FEP Climate Change Taskforce

REPORT

December 14 & 16, 2020

The Climate Change Task Force met to finalize a draft work plan for Council review.

Taskforce members in attendance:

Lauren Divine (Aleut Community of Saint Paul Island), Scott Goodman (Natural Resources Consultants/Bering Sea Fisheries Research Foundation), Kirstin Holsman co-Chair (AFSC-Seattle), Steve Martell (SeaState), Joe Krieger (NMFS-Regional Office), Brenden Raymond-Yakoubian (Sandhill.Culture.Craft), Mike LeVine (Ocean Conservancy), Jeremy Sterling (AFSC Marine Mammal Lab), Diana Stram co-Chair (NPFMC)

Members of the public and other state and agency staff:

Diana Evans (NPFMC), Sarah Wise (AFSC-Seattle), Kate Haapala (NPFMC), Steve Marx, Melissa Parks, Megan Williams, Mateo Paz Soldan, Erin Shaw, Steve MacLean (NPFMC), Teresa Peterson

Meeting summary:

Goals and Objectives of CCTF3

The primary goal of this meeting was to review progress to date from the last CCTF meeting in February 2020 and to finalize the draft work plan for review in January/February 2021 by the Council and its advisory bodies (Ecosystem Committee, SSC and AP). Due to Covid-19, this and any currently foreseeable future meetings are being held virtually through the Council's Adobeconnect platform.

Brief summary of CCTF2

In February 2020, a spin up meeting was held with two meeting locations connected through Webex video conferencing (ANC and SEA). This meeting focused on development of materials that will be used in the annual work plan cycle (e.g., forms for contributors, draft conceptual models, and an outline of the proposed deliverables from the work plan. We had proposed a joint meeting in coordination with ESR authors, FEP Team leads, and LK/TK/Subsistence Taskforce members for some time in 2020. However, in light of the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent health considerations and travel restrictions, these meetings did not occur.

Task force Progress & Milestones to-date

To-date, the CCTF has performed the following toward completion of its deliverables:

- Held three Task Force meetings (to, e.g., establish the work plan for the Taskforce; begin developing draft documents; discuss issues related to LK, TK, and Subsistence; and explore climate-related conceptual modeling).
- Finalized a draft CCTF work plan for review by the Ecosystem Committee and Council.
- Drafted a Climate Briefings Form for use in Adaptation and Climate Testimonial workshops.

- Developed draft discussion documents on Adaptation and Resilience as a base to be further developed iteratively and collaboratively with stakeholders.

Specific CCTF milestones are as described below:

May 2019	FEP Plan Team meets to discuss draft Action Module work plan
June 2019	Council approves draft CCTF work plan
June-August 2019	Formation of Climate Change Action Module Taskforce (CCTF)
January 2020	CCTF initial Webex meeting; draft work plan revisions; report of progress to Ecosystem Committee/SSC/Council
Feb 26-28, 2020	~3-day CCTF meeting (ANC/SEA dual locations/web coordinated): Task force meets to develop framework, begin to draft list of short-, medium-, and long-term recommendations and scenarios to explore; draft table of climate-management risks and adaptations by species or focal components; develop one-page template and tasking for climate knowledge briefing reports; develop agenda for proposed Climate Knowledge Briefings; draft ecosystem climate conceptual model; draft ecological and socioeconomic indicators of climate change; review and revise deliverables and progress tracking mechanisms; revise work plan based on January 2020 Council comments
March 2020	Report progress to FEP Plan Team (met March 3-5, 2020)
March/April 2020	Report progress to Ecosystem Committee/SSC/Council
December 2020	CCTF meeting 3

Draft Work Plan

At the December 2020 meeting, the CCTF continued work on the draft work plan which was submitted to the Council's eAgenda for review in 2021. This was done iteratively over 3 days (2 days with 2 hour public meeting sessions with assigned work to proceed in-between meeting days. Final revisions to the draft work plan were made by the co-Chairs with concurrence from the Taskforce members.

Climate Briefing Form:

The CCTF discussed the draft Climate Briefing form (Appendix 3 of the Work Plan available online at [Climate Briefing](#)). The CCTF notes that this form, and the plans for how it will be circulated, are still under development. It may best be available as a word document to be filled out by the knowledge holder and sent via email for some participants, as well as available as currently constructed in a Google form. Currently the CCTF is focused on revising the content of the form but will also continue to consider options for its delivery to a range of stakeholders.

Case Studies:

The CCTF discussed the concept of incorporating one or more case studies into the work plan. The CCTF began drafting both criteria and examples but elected to add these to the Table 1 of drivers, impacts, potential responses, resiliency targets, gaps/needs and case studies, feeling this was better suited to case study consideration. The CCTF notes that the development of these examples and their utility moving forward will be addressed in revisions to this table and associated Taskforce deliverables moving forward.

Some draft considerations on criteria for case studies and examples are shown below with some of the examples included in Table 1 of the CCTF Work Plan.

Criteria:

- Something near-term and tangible but also don't avoid complex ones
- Can be tested with the process in next 1-3 years
- High priority/meaningful pressing fishery management issue for the Council
- Tangible examples that demonstrate how our process promotes resilience and adaptation
- Can be historical, hypothetical or emergent
- Could be scenario planning oriented around contrasting projections

Some examples:

- Norton Sound red king crab
- Pacific cod/NBS
- Dynamic management / now casts to reduce bycatch risk using temp & cooperative data collection
- Incidental catch and bycatch issues: Sablefish, herring, squid
- Pandemic impacts as a case study for climate change

Feedback requests from Ecosystem Committee/SSC/AP/Council/FEP Team

The CCTF requests feedback from the Council and its pertinent bodies on the work plan as currently developed, specifically the proposed scope of work, objectives, activities, and deliverables to meet the Council's intent for the Climate Change Module. The CCTF also requests feedback on the proposed lifespan of the CCTF; it has planned for 5 years, thus extending to 2025, which the Taskforce believes to be consistent with the objectives set by the Council.

Next meeting:

The CCTF intends to hold another virtual meeting in late February to discuss reviews of the work plan by Council bodies, and to make revisions as needed to address these reviews and recommendations. Public comment was received to request that the CCTF also review the original FEP goals and objectives to best align those plans with Taskforce activities (including development of the above-noted Table). The CCTF will work on this task, as well as continued review and development of discussion about indicators (from the February 2020 meeting) for the next Task Force meeting. The CCTF also discussed the Council's proposed Ecosystem Workshop, and looks forward to the opportunity to participate in that workshop and perhaps to also capitalize on the ability to dovetail that activity with the Task Force's draft Climate Briefings work, and provide for additional public input on Taskforce activities moving forward.