

Council Motion

E1 Climate Initiatives: Regional Action Plans and Climate and Fisheries Initiative October 15, 2021

- The Council recommends that the AFSC, in finalizing these three Regional Action Plans and in progress with developing the CFI, that the output of these various research efforts be linked to the Council process and management actions. This would encompass both the Council's initiatives through the Fishery Ecosystem Plan and its Climate change and LKTKS Taskforces, as well as information that will inform the Council's consideration of harvest specifications for the groundfish, crab, and scallop fisheries.
- The Council encourages the agency to work closely with other agency partners, in particular USFWS. The FWS manages conservation of key ecosystem species, such as seabirds and some marine mammals, and it is important to integrate their work; their Landscape Conservation Cooperatives is one area to consider strengthened partnerships, as their initiative incorporates community participation and grassroots engagement.
- The Council should send a letter to the Secretary of Commerce describing our support for these Regional Action Plans and the CFI, and underscoring the importance of providing funding for these initiatives without reducing funding for existing programs.
- The Council supports the SSC comments, and requests the plans be revised to respond to their input. The Council emphasize that the RAPs should link proposed projects and research to management application in the Council or other processes, and should highlight and follow through on coordination with all partners moving forward.