

East Coast Climate Scenario Planning

Initial Potential Action Menu 2023

SAFMC Highlights – September 2023

SUGGESTED STANDING WORKING GROUPS

Group	Level	Members	Meetings	Charge
East Coast Climate Coordination Group	Leadership	1 ea: MAFMC, NEFMC, SAFMC, ASMFC, NOAA-GARFO, NOAA NEFSC, NOAA SEFSC, NOAA SERO	1x per year in person, with NRCC	Oversee and Coordinate Implementation
Climate Innovation Group	Staff	TBD; will likely rely on the Core Team	TBD; likely webinar and occasional in-person	Monitor progress and actions for each organization; support the Coordination Group.

HIGH PRIORITY POTENTIAL ACTIONS

- Only includes High Priority Actions identified by the NRCC review
- Listed by Theme
- Those involving SAFMC are highlighted

SAFMC Considerations:

Does the Council support staff and advisors (APs, SSCs) devoting time and effort to the highlighted actions?

Are there any actions that the Council considers high priority?

Are there any actions that the Council opposes pursuing as a high priority (if so, could recommend moving to the medium priority or the “parking lot”)

Are there medium priority or parking lot topics that the Council would like staff to consider pursuing?

Theme 1: Cross Jurisdictional Governance

Potential Action	Tasks	Lead
Reevaluate Council committee structure, use, and decision making	Conduct a leadership planning exercise to further explore options for committee-based decision-making, committee structure, and committee use, building on ideas discussed at the Summit	Coordination Group
Re-evaluate and potentially revise Advisory Panel representation	Evaluate AP representation and appointment process, recruitment and selection, consider underrepresented and underserved groups	Each management body
Develop joint management agreements with aim of clarifying roles and increasing efficiency	Review joint FMPs and agreements between the MAFMC and Commission (summer flounder/scup/black sea bass/bluefish) to identify areas for improved efficacy and efficiency	Commission and MAFMC staff
Improve coordination across NOAA offices and regions	GARFO and SERO review respective management action procedures and processing to highlight opportunities each employs which may benefit or expedite implementation of actions approved by the Councils.	GARFO, SERO

Theme 2: Managing Under Increased Uncertainty

Potential Action	Tasks	Lead
Identify ecosystem-level contextual information that can be considered within the management process to help incorporate climate information into decisions	NMFS offers to present findings of newly released Tech Memo looking at example ecosystem risk assessments to Councils and Commission	NMFS staff coordinating with Councils/Commission
	Consider adding major state-only-managed fisheries to these ecosystem risk assessments for a more complete perspective	NMFS
	Identify opportunities to use specific types of quantitative and qualitative ecosystem information to identify and avoid risks	Climate Innovations Group, individual Councils and Commission
	Share lessons learned	NRCC or other
Streamline FMP documentation and rulemaking	Review the use of programmatic Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) for Council actions and encourage their use where appropriate	MAFMC; considering this near-term
	Identify areas where NEPA documents can be streamlined, including when incorporation by reference to recent related documents would be appropriate	GARFO, SERO, NMFS HQ, Councils
	Develop more clear and consistent guidelines for use of Categorical Exclusions (CEs) under NEPA, including MSA document templates; identifying NMFS vs. Council responsibilities	GARFO, SERO, NMFS HQ, Councils
	Work with NOAA General Counsel (GC) to establish consistent GC guidance with regards to the use of CEs and Supplemental Information Reports (SIRs), rulemaking, public comment etc.	GARFO, SERO, NMFS HQ, Councils
	Identify process steps Council and NFMS staff can take to use MSA documents to satisfy NEPA requirements	GARFO, SERO, NMFS HQ
	Consider alternative rulemaking approaches or action development approaches	GARFO, SERO, NMFS HQ, Councils

Theme 3: Data Sources and Partnerships

Potential Action	Tasks	Lead
Expand study fleet, include recreational fisheries, and ensure data are used	Identify places where study fleet and associated projects' data can be used; address data access; ID incentives; include environmental data	Councils, Commission, and Centers
	Include Recreational Study Fleet Pilots in GARFO's Recreational Saltwater Fishing draft policy implementation plan	GARFO, NEFSC
Use survey mitigation around offshore wind to transition to industry-based surveys or other survey platforms	Implement the NOAA Fisheries and BOEM Federal Survey Mitigation Implementation Strategy - Northeast U.S. Region	NEFSC,
	Explore opportunities to utilize smaller platforms such as commercial vessels for conducting surveys	NEFSC, SEFSC
	Develop plan for integrating multiple survey data streams into the assessment process	NEFSC, SEFSC
Improve the use of existing data	Hold meetings to discuss what existing data streams and historical datasets could be better utilized to inform decision making, assessments, and monitoring. Do this across regions and management bodies.	Councils, Commission, Regional Offices, and Centers
	Have similar meetings at the PDT/FMAT (<i>IPT for SAFMC</i>) level for more immediate FMP needs.	Councils and Commission