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THE SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Climate Projects Update

March 2025

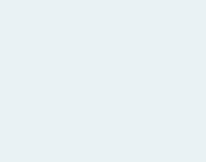




Presentation Outline

- Resilient Fisheries Initiatives Overview
- SAFMC Climate Projects
- Timelines and Next Steps

Resilient Fisheries Initiatives



Resilient Fisheries Initiatives

East Coast Climate
Change Scenario
Planning

Identified potential governance
and management actions via a
multi-year collaborative coast-
wide effort.

East Coast Climate
Coordination Group
(E3CG)



Resilient Fisheries Initiatives

East Coast Climate Change Scenario Planning

Identified potential governance and management actions via a multi-year collaborative coast-wide effort.

Climate, Ecosystem, Fisheries Initiative (CEFI)

Leveraging advanced ocean models to develop regionally specific decision support system.

East Coast Climate Coordination Group (E3CG)

CEFI Decision Support Teams (DST)



Resilient Fisheries Initiatives

East Coast Climate Change Scenario Planning

Identified potential governance and management actions via a multi-year collaborative coast-wide effort.

Climate, Ecosystem, Fisheries Initiative (CEFI)

Leveraging advanced ocean models to develop regionally specific decision support system.

SAFMC Climate Projects

Support Council efforts to implement more resilient fisheries management.

East Coast Climate Coordination Group (E3CG)

CEFI Decision Support Teams (DST)

Project Oversight Teams (POT)



Resilient Fisheries Initiatives

East Coast -Wide
Scenario Planning

Climate, Ecosystem,
Fisheries Initiative
(CEFI)

SAFMC Climate
Projects

East Coast Climate
Coordination Group
(E3CG)

CEFI Decision
Support Teams
(DST)

Project Oversight
Teams
(POT)



Resilient Fisheries Initiatives

East Coast Climate
Change Scenario
Planning

Climate, Ecosystem,
Fisheries Initiative
(CEFI)

SAFMC Climate
Projects

Identified and Prioritized
Needed Actions

East Coast Climate
Coordination Group
(E3CG)

CEFI Decision
Support Teams
(DST)

Project Oversight
Teams
(POT)



Resilient Fisheries Initiatives

East Coast Climate
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Climate, Ecosystem,
Fisheries Initiative
(CEFI)

SAFMC Climate
Projects

Identified and Prioritized
Needed Actions

Pathways for SAFMC
to Implement Actions

East Coast Climate
Coordination Group
(E3CG)

CEFI Decision
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(DST)

Project Oversight
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Resilient Fisheries Initiatives

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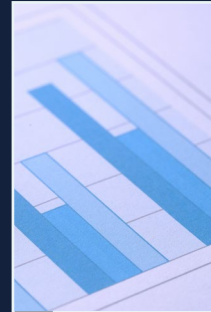
Project Oversight
Teams
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SAFMC Climate Projects



1. Climate Response Readiness Review



2. Management Strategies for Data-Limited Fisheries



3. Spatial Distributions and Essential Fish Habitat



4. Communicating Climate impacts with Fishing Communities



Project 1: Climate Response Readiness Review

In Development

Goal:

Identify ways SAFMC can be more responsive to environmental drivers of risk and challenges and make progress implementing scenario planning priority action items.

Objectives:

1. Evaluate data use and availability
2. Review NEPA tools used by other regions and Councils
3. Identify opportunities for cooperative, constituent-engaged data collection and research
4. Evaluate committee structure and use and compare to other management agencies
5. Evaluate opportunities to consider climate through SAFMC risk policies

Project 2: Management Strategies for Data-Limited Fisheries



Contracting Underway

Goal:

Use management decision tools or frameworks to develop management advice for data-limited and vulnerable species.

Objectives:

1. Complete a data-limited stock assessment
2. Develop stakeholder-driven management decision
3. Recommend catch-level management strategies



Rock Shrimp



Wreckfish

Project 3: Updating Spatial Distribution and Essential Fish Habitat

Contracting Underway

Goal:

Explore indicators of climate-driven changes in spatial distribution and habitat associations for the fish and fisheries managed by SAFMC.

Objectives:

1. Updated information on species and fishery spatial distributions
2. Comparisons between existing EFH designations to updated species distributions
3. Recommendations for potential future EFH change
4. Improved display of EFH information on the Council website



Project 4: Communicating Climate Impacts with Fishing Communities

In Development

Goal:

Identify and develop communications with fishing communities, including those newly interacting with Council-managed species in the South Atlantic region.

Objectives:

1. Identify fishing communities and collect their preferences for council engagement
2. Identify challenges in these communities
3. Evaluate role of Council in mitigating these challenges

Timelines and Next Steps

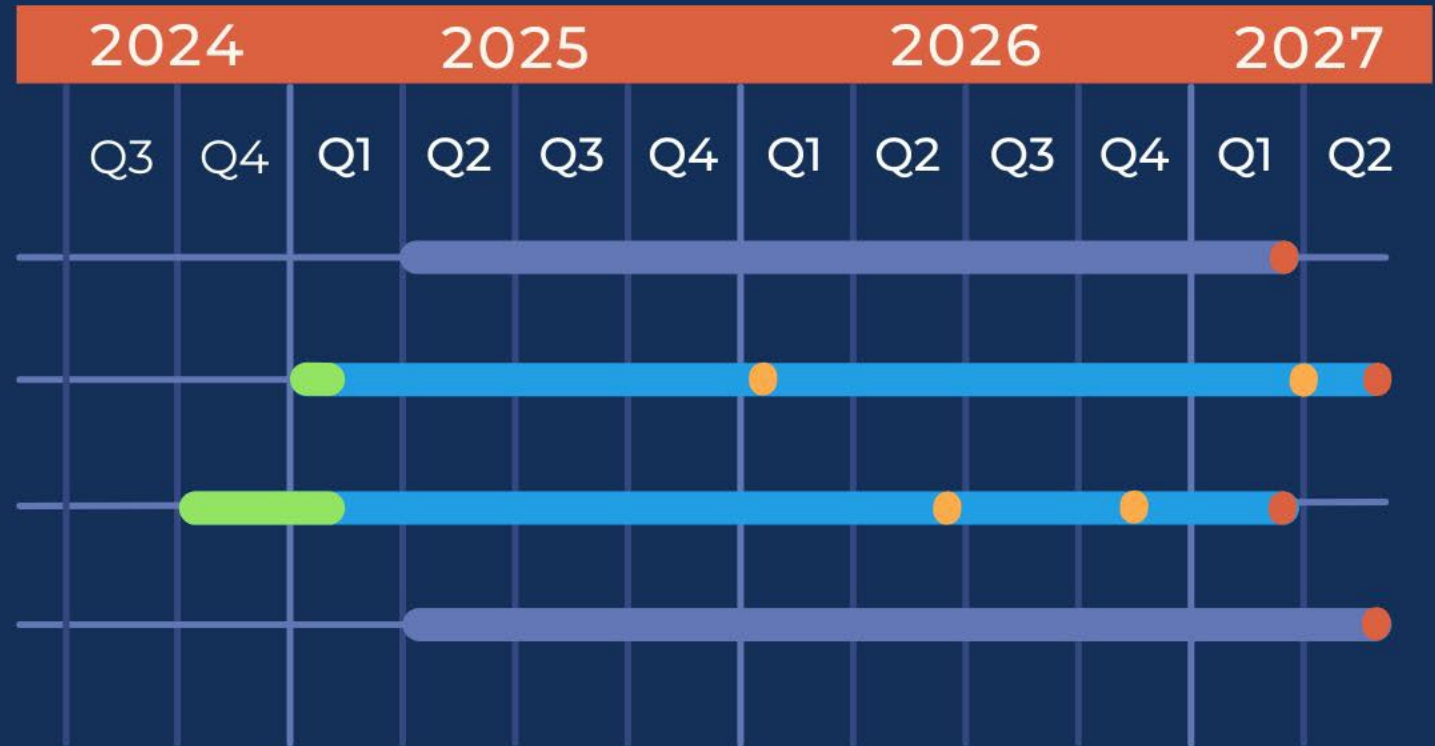
PROJECT

1: Readiness Review

2: Data-Limited Fishery

3: Distribution and EFH

4: Fishing Communities



● SSC or AP Input

● Presentation to SAFMC

Questions?

