



THE SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Lara Klibansky LaraJKlibansky@gmail.com

Climate Projects Update March 2025

Presentation Outline

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





East Coast Climate Change Scenario Planning Identified potential governance and management actions via a multi-year collaborative coastwide effort.

East Coast Climate Coordination Group (E3CG)









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CEFI Decision Support Teams (DST)









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CEFI Decision Support Teams (DST)





Support Council efforts to implement more resilient fisheries management. Project Oversight Teams (POT)





East Coast -Wide Scenario Planning

Climate, Ecosystem, Fisheries Initiative (CEFI)

SAFMC Climate Projects



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)









SAFMC Climate Projects

(CEFI)

Planning



East Coast Climate Change Scenario Planning

Climate, Ecosystem, **Fisheries Initiative** (CEFI)

SAFMC Climate Projects



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.

- 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.

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





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.

- 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.

- 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



- Project Progress
 - SSC or AP Input
- Presentation to SAFMC
- Anticipated Timeline
- Established Timeline



Questions?

