



THE SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

East Coast Climate Scenario Planning Initiative Update

September 2024



Background

- Scenario Planning is a tool to help organizations plan for uncertain futures
- Implementation was a known challenge
- East Coast Climate Change Scenario Planning Initiative applied the tool to East Coast Fisheries
- Structured process conducted during 2021-2023
 - stakeholder workshops gathered input
 - staff developed a framework of 4 possible fishery futures in 2041
 - managers summit workshop
- Information hosted on MAFMC website



Summit Workshop

- Culminating event in February 2023
- 3 East Coast Councils, ASMFC, NOAA Fisheries
- Developed governance, management and monitoring recommendations to respond to possible futures
- Developed priorities and next step action items
- Summit Report documents the process and recommendations



Post Summit Actions

Facing the challenge of moving from plans to actions

- Core Team – staff who organized the process – met during 2023 to develop an action plan to implement summit recommendations
- Regional Leadership met during 2023 to oversee and coordinate the action plan
- Created two standing groups



East Coast Climate Coordination Group – EC3G

- Leadership level (EDs, RAs, SRDs)
- Oversees Implementation
 - Coordinating & Prioritizing Actions
 - Identifying Resources & Needs
 - Ensuring collaboration and coordination amongst partners
- Developed a charter and organizational structure (A7c)
- Meet twice annually; once in-person
- Chair and support host rotation

SAFMC Representation: John Carmichael



East Coast Climate Core Team

- Staff level of partner organizations
- Supports implementation
 - Track fishery & ecosystem changes
 - Identify management and governance challenges
 - Identify potential action items
 - Conduct and support activities to address action items
- Guided by an Operations document (A7d)
- Meet quarterly
- Chair rotation matches EC3G

SAFMC Representation: Lara Klibansky (IRA funded)
(Previously Kathleen Howington)



Action Priorities & Opportunities

Priority Planning

- Potential Action Menu (A7b)
- Annual Action Items (A7e)

Role of Inflation Reduction Action (IRA)

- IRA provides \$20m to the 8 Councils for climate response actions
- Opportunity to “kick start” implementation



Potential Action Menu

- Outcome of Summit - June 2023 (A7e)
- 3 Themes
 - Cross Jurisdictional Governance
 - Managing Under Increased Uncertainty
 - Data Sources and Partnerships
- High, medium and low priorities
- Evolving guidance



Annual Action Items

- Specific, achievable items for a given year
 - Selected by EC3G
 - Partners encouraged to pursue, contribute
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- 2024 Topics (A7b)
 - Complete Charter & Core team guidance
 - Update Action Menu
 - Develop a status tracking tool



Annual Action Items – 2025 (A7b)

- Connect IRA projects and Action Item progress
- SAFMC evaluate recreational fleet diversity trends
- Identify social vulnerability indicators & key questions
- Centers develop Interim Survey Coordination Plan
- CEFI information, coordination and Atlantic management integration workshop (August 2024)



SAFMC IRA Activities & ECCSP

Approved IRA Projects

- Review AP representation (G2)
- Review permit systems (M5)
- Climate and Ecosystem Data Workshop (D3)



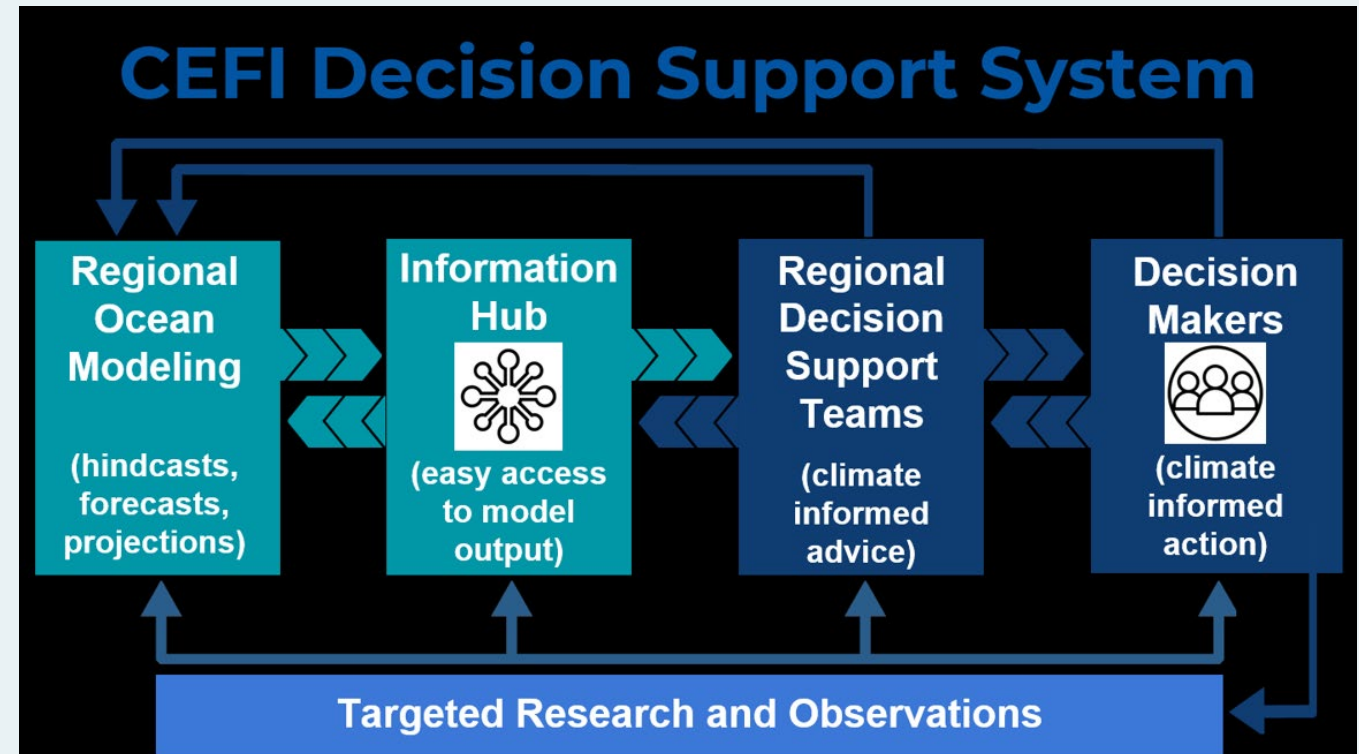
SAFMC IRA Activities & ECCSP

Pending IRA Projects

- Evaluate climate information availability and usage (M1)
- Review NEPA products (CE, Programmatic EIS) (M2&4)
- Evaluate further opportunities for constituent involvement in data collection (D1)
- Evaluate Committee structure and use (G1)
- Evaluate risk polices (M3)

CEFI - Climate, Ecosystems, and Fisheries Initiative

- Address NOAA's requirement for climate informed management
- Oceanwide modeling and decision support system





Core Requirements for Climate Ready Decision Making

1. Robust **forecasts and projections** of ocean and Great Lakes conditions for use in developing climate-informed advice
2. Operational capability to **assess risks, evaluate options, and provide robust advice** on adapting to changing conditions
3. Decision-maker capability to **use climate-informed advice** to reduce risks and increase the resilience of resources and the people that depend on them
4. Continuous **validation and innovation** through observations and research



Atlantic CEFI Management Integration Workshop

August 15 - 16

- E3CG recommended a workshop to improve communication about climate-related projects (ie IRA and CEFI) between Science center personnel and Council staff
- Engaged council representatives and CEFI staff coastwide
- Identified climate-related project overlap for the Atlantic Coast
- Established communication pathways for ECCSP and Atlantic climate-related priorities to CEFI decision support teams
- Began conversation about how CEFI products could be integrated into the management process