



New England
Fishery Management
Council



NOAA
FISHERIES



East Coast Climate Core Team: Role and Operations May 2024

Climate Core Team Mission and Tasks

The role of the Climate Core Team is to track important ecosystem and fishery changes, identify potential associated management and governance challenges, and identify possible actions for consideration by the [East Coast Climate Coordination Group](#). Specifically, the Core Team will:

1. **Regularly review changes to the factors shaping East Coast fishery management, particularly those related to climate change.** Using the scenarios as a framework, the Core Team will assess whether conditions are changing in important ways, and highlight shifts that might push towards a different scenario. This includes monitoring ecological, oceanographic, and socioeconomic indicators, and also tracking various initiatives and tools that could be useful to apply when addressing the various action items. More specific indicators may be developed as this process evolves, but would broadly include monitoring for changes in ocean conditions, new evidence of climate impacts, developments in technology, changing influence of new ocean users, changes in distribution of managed species and their habitat, changes in concerns or behavior of fishery participants and stakeholders, shifting policy environments, and more. Relevant evidence may be gathered from a variety of sources, including existing reports (e.g., State of the Ecosystem/Ecosystem Status Reports, Advisory Panel Fishery Performance Reports, academic literature, science center or SSC materials, etc.). Information should also be gathered via conversations and collaboration with stakeholders and existing groups, including fishing industry and community partners, management bodies and their committees/advisory bodies, NGOs, academic institutions, etc.
2. **Highlight potential actions that appear ready for near-term consideration.** These may be actions that were previously considered at the Scenario Planning Summit meeting and/or identified as lower priority in the Potential Action Menu, or they may be new ideas. Over time, some ideas may resurface as more important/more supported than they were previously and/or the feasibility of implementing them may change. The group will also brainstorm and begin to scope out details of potential new actions that seem appropriate given the changing conditions.
3. **Present an update of changes and recommendations for actions to the Climate Coordination Group,** who will decide if any additional actions should be prioritized, resourced and executed. For some actions, the Core Team can develop a more detailed

implementation plan, if requested, following initial vetting by the Climate Coordination Group. For other actions where the Core Team does not have the appropriate expertise or capacity, the Core Team may help the Coordination Group identify the appropriate group or process to develop a plan of action. A standard template could be created to propose a plan for a particular action including why it should be undertaken, who should be involved, and an estimate of time and resources needed.

4. **Annually or by request update the Potential Action Menu** and status tracking document(s) based on ideas and priorities agreed to by the Climate Coordination Group. The chair of the Core Team will solicit status tracking updates from points of contact for ongoing actions. Core Team members are responsible for ensuring that updates are done from POCs in their organization. At a minimum this will be done for the Spring E3CG meeting.
5. **Participate on, or coordinate with, the teams implementing these actions where possible.** Staff supporting each action will vary and actions could include participation beyond the Climate Core Team. If an action is largely being developed by a group other than the Core Team, one or more Core Team members could join meetings of the action team, or use other means to stay up to date on progress. These members can share information with the full Core Team and Coordination Group.

Climate Core Team Membership

The East Coast Climate Core Team consists of approximately 10 members of appointed staff from each of the three East Coast Councils, the Commission, the Greater Atlantic and Southeast Regional Fisheries Offices, the Northeast and Southeast Fisheries Science Centers, and NMFS Headquarters. Each organization should contribute one member. The current list of Core Team members can be found at the bottom of this page: <https://www.mafmc.org/e3cg>.

Members should have expertise in fisheries management, climate science, ecosystem science, economics, social science, or other needed expertise as identified by the Climate Coordination Group. In addition to standing members, the Core Team could engage a broad range of colleagues and stakeholders for specific discussions as needed.

Climate Core Team Operations

- **Meeting frequency:** The East Coast Climate Core Team should meet at least quarterly and more frequently as needed to complete routine tasks, including preparation for twice annual E3CG meetings. Most meetings will occur virtually. Smaller working groups could meet more frequently to develop specific projects or ideas. These working groups can include non-members if needed.
- **Chairing:** The schedule for chairing the group should rotate, on an annual basis, consistent with the rotating chairing schedule for the Climate Coordination Group.

Engagement with Management Bodies

Given that the Climate Coordination Group includes leadership from each participating organization, the Coordination Group has ultimate responsibility for determining how to best engage with the East Coast Councils and the Commission. The Core Team will make recommendations to the Climate Coordination Group on when and how to seek input from and collaborate with the Councils/ASMFC and their advisory bodies. Members of the Core Team will also share regular progress reports with management bodies as needed based on direction from the Coordination Group and Council/Commission leadership.