

## CCC Habitat Working Group October 2023 Update Report

### In-person workshop logistics

- January 17-18<sup>th</sup>, 2024 in La Jolla, CA
- Meeting space secured at the Scripps Seaside Forum, Edward W. “Ted” Scripps II Room
  - This room has audiovisual equipment and resources to allow for any possible remote presentations from those off-site and the ability for interested parties to listen remotely
- Hotels: Hotel La Jolla Curio and La Jolla Shores have government rate (\$194/night) available and a room block as been made for the meeting at La Jolla Shores

### **In-person work shop meeting agenda outline and session highlights**

#### Workshop sessions Day 1

##### *Meeting topic 1: Habitat Science Discussion*

- Topic leaders: Jodie Pirtle, Eric Chavez, Graciela Garcia-Moliner, Peg Brady
- Session objectives: To discuss new and innovative climate/habitat science that can potentially be applied to EFH designations and consultations. To share ideas on addressing data needs and gaps to climate/habitat science.
- Selected session highlights: Results from a collaborative effort by the Southwest Fisheries Science Center and the Pacific Fishery Management Council to support reviews of coastal pelagic and highly migratory species EFH designations will be presented. An overview of [EXPRESS](#) campaign that may support EFH & HAPC designations will be provided. Information exploring potential techniques to assess habitat vulnerability to inform HAPCs designations in the northeast will be discussed.

##### *Meeting topic 2: Climate Challenges in EFH Designations*

- Topic leaders: Michelle Bachman, Jessica Coakley, Karen Greene, Jodie Pirtle
- Session objectives: To discuss and develop practical ways to incorporate climate considerations into EFH designations. To learn what various regions are currently doing and consider whether these approaches can be adapted to other locations. To understand what data or tools would be needed to make these adjustments, recognizing that different types of data and tools are available in different regions. Discuss pathways for interagency communication for the EFH designation process in light of climate issues. To consider how EFH designation work might inform science priorities, habitat restoration decisions, and other conversations.
- Selected session highlights: Discussion of challenges involving rapid climate-induced changes (i.e. species distribution) in the conventional 5-year EFH designation process. The

group will receive short presentations from the North Pacific and Northeast regions to illustrate these challenges. The group will have discussions on what happens when EFH is no longer EFH, either due to habitat decline or total loss. Regional groups will have an opportunity to share examples within their region and field questions from other workshop members.

## Workshop session Day 2

### *Meeting topic 3: Climate Challenges in EFH Consultations*

- Topic leaders: Ian Lundgren, Heather Coleman, Jenny Couture, Sarah Rheinsmith
- Session objectives: To discuss potential improvements in climate-related information to support EFH consultations. Specifically, to investigate what would partners at NOAA Fisheries find useful from the Councils on climate-related issues beyond better EFH designations? What risk assessment, vulnerability assessments, or other tools would be informative for fisheries managers?
- Selected session highlights: A review of the EFH consultation process and examples of how climate change affect marine projects including: offshore wind development, offshore/inshore aquaculture, port development/coastal dredging projects, and Alaska's Nuyakuk Hydropower Project. Provide an overview and summary of some of the resources available to improve climate related information such as: NMFS's [Procedure for Addressing Climate Change in NMFS Essential Fish Habitat Consultations](#), GARFO's [Guidance for Integrating Climate Change Information in Greater Atlantic Region Habitat Conservation Division Consultation Processes](#) and Climate Vulnerability Assessment report titled "[An assessment of marine, estuarine, and riverine habitat vulnerability to climate change in the Northeast U.S.](#)"

### *Meeting topic 4: Habitat and Climate Scenario Planning*

- Topic leaders: Michelle Bachman, Sarah Rheinsmith, David Delaney, Tauna Rankin
- Session objectives: To provide the group a summary of past and ongoing planning initiatives, including whether and how habitat issues were incorporated into the EFH process or reflected in actions identified by the planning process. To also highlight past or ongoing habitat-related climate adaptation work at the Council's outside of the EFH and HAPC designation updates. Discuss options for better integrating habitat considerations into climate initiatives, with emphasis on those approaches that would work across Council regions.
- Selected session highlights: Presentations on ongoing regionally-focused climate scenario planning with highlights from work in the Pacific and Atlantic regions. Example presentations on climate work outside of the EFH process from the North Pacific on the Alaska Climate Integrated Modeling Project and the Gulf of Mexico's webtool on [predicted modeling of coral distributions](#).