

MAFAC Climate and Ecosystems Subcommittee 11/14/23

Recommendations for a Climate-Ready Fisheries Policy

Subcommittee Priorities

1. Need to address the issue of “what” climate-ready fisheries management is:

- How is it different? What do we value? What guides our decisions?
- Subcommittee ID’d lack of definitions of key concepts and lack of a guiding policy as barriers to adapting fisheries

We are
here

2. Need to address the issue of “how” climate-ready fisheries management works:

- There’s a “science-to-management gap” that needs to be addressed to accelerate adaptation

Why a climate-ready fishery policy?

- There isn't one!
- Policies are meant to be:
 - “...statements of and instructions for implementing important, high-level internal direction and positions that guide organization decisions and actions. Establishing written policy directives promotes accountability and consistency in management and science practices, informs constituents of agency positions, and demonstrates NOAA Fisheries' commitment to implementing identified priorities.”
- They often contain: definitions, frameworks, principles, description of legal authorities, etc.

What the Subcommittee Recommends

- NMFS should develop a climate-ready fisheries policy
- While doing so, they should consider our discussion of three key concepts. We offer principles for consideration on these concepts:
 - Climate-ready fisheries
 - Climate-ready fisheries management
 - Climate-ready fishing-dependent communities
- We did not try to write a complete policy for NMFS

Basic distinctions between the concepts

- Climate-ready fisheries:
 - The broadest concept
 - Our recommendations describe the values and benefits of fisheries that are climate-ready
- Climate-ready fisheries management
 - Our recommendations focus largely on the process, procedures, and considerations of management
- Climate-ready fishing-dependent communities
 - Our recommendations highlight the complex challenges facing communities and the need to do more to understand and address them