

Annotated Agenda
MAFAC Meeting, San Diego, CA
April 28-30, 2015

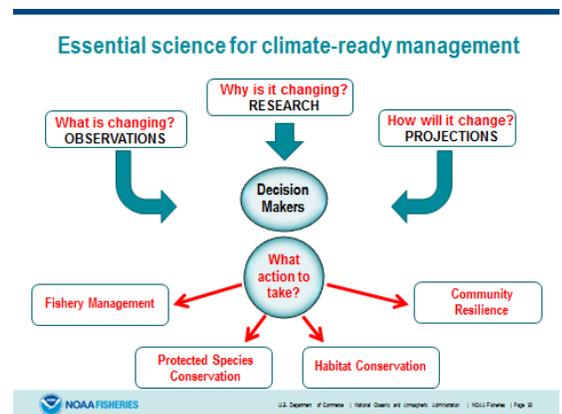
- 1. Title of Discussion:** Climate Change – Changing ocean conditions and its impacts on the West Coast and Pacific region.
- 2. Presenters:** Cisco Werner, Director
Southwest Fisheries Science Center
- 3. Objective/Purpose:** **Information & Decisional**

The goal is to illustrate some of the science and management challenges NOAA Fisheries faces in fulfilling its fisheries and protected resources missions in a changing climate, using examples from the West Coast marine/coastal ecosystems. The presentation will also identify some key science needs and link them to priorities identified in the NOAA Fisheries Draft Climate Science Strategy. This will provide some context for MAFAC’s consideration of the comments and recommendations on the Strategy proposed by MAFAC’s Climate & Marine Resources Task Force.

4. Background/Synopsis:

In September, MAFAC heard about climate variability and change that can have significant impacts on marine and coastal resources and the people, businesses, and communities that depend on them (presentation from Roger Griffis, NOAA Fisheries Climate Change Coordinator). One of the major challenges facing marine resource managers is the understanding, planning for, and responding to climate-related impacts on marine ecosystems to meet management goals.

To help address these challenges, MAFAC was also informed that NOAA Fisheries was developing a [Draft Climate Science Strategy](#) to increase the production, delivery and use of climate-related information to fulfill mission activities, and that it would be released for public review. To help the Committee engage more on climate issues, MAFAC decided to create a Climate and Marine Resources Task Force, and its first charge was to review and comment on the Draft Climate Science Strategy. The Ecosystems Approach Subcommittee will be reviewing the Task Force’s comments and present its findings to MAFAC on the last day of this meeting.



Meeting in San Diego provided the ideal opportunity to meet and hear from Dr. Cisco Werner, the Director of the Southwest Fisheries Science Center, about the regions, and the science and management challenges presented by the Pacific Ocean’s unique climate-related conditions. The West Coast has variable climatic conditions (El Niño/La Niña, upwelling, Pacific decadal shifts). However, indicators (i.e., oceanic temperature, zooplankton populations, snowpack at elevation) that have been used to help with predictions are now at unprecedented levels. The challenge is to be able to better predict and manage changes under these major environmental changes.

5. Options listed from 1 to n: N/A

6. Preferred Recommendation: N/A

Record of Decision:

Decision, Next Step(s) and/or Action:

Assigned to:

Due Date: