

Annotated Agenda
MAFAC Meeting, Silver Spring, Maryland
October 13-15, 2015

NOAA Fisheries National Climate Science Strategy and Its Implementation

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Objective/Purpose (Update & Action)

Provide an update on the release of the NOAA Fisheries National Climate Science Strategy (Strategy) and development of Regional Action Plans to implement the Strategy over the next five years. This is opportunity for input on how best to engage partners and stakeholders in the development of the Regional Action Plans. Input will be shared with the Regional Plan coordinators.

Background/Synopsis

The Strategy responds to high and growing demand for information and tools to reduce impacts and increase resilience of marine resources and resource-dependent communities in a changing climate. The purpose of the Strategy is to increase the production, delivery, and use of climate-related information in fulfilling NOAA Fisheries mission.

We appreciate the engagement of MAFAC and its Climate and Marine Resources Task Force in development of the Strategy – their review and input on the draft strategy was very useful. The final strategy was released in late August. The full Strategy and Highlights document are posted online here: <http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/ecosystems/climate/>

The Strategy is part of a proactive approach to collect and provide information to resource managers and affected sectors/communities to help them better prepare for and respond to changing climate and ocean conditions. Implementation of the Strategy will help reduce impacts to and increase resilience of marine resources and the many people, businesses and communities that depend on them.

The Strategy is focused on strengthening the NOAA Fisheries and partner science enterprise needed to prepare for and respond to a changing climate. NOAA Fisheries depends on many science partners inside and outside of NOAA to meet these needs. Input, engagement, and support for the Strategy from science and non-science sectors are critical to its success.

In 2015-16, NOAA Fisheries Science Centers and Regional Offices will lead development of Regional Action Plans to customize and implement the Strategy at the regional level over the next five years. We are committed to working with science and management partners in development of these Regional Action Plans.

Action to be taken by MAFAC

Input on best venues or communication tools to use to encourage stakeholder and partner engagement in the development of Regional Actions Plans is welcome from MAFAC members at the meeting and afterward.

To share ideas or learn more about the Strategy and development of Regional Action Plans, contact Roger Griffis, Climate Change Coordinator, at [301-427-8134](tel:301-427-8134) or roger.griffis@noaa.gov.