

New Topic
Coastal Resilience

Fall Meeting - October 13-15, 2015

Background: Climate preparedness and resilience is a key priority of the Obama Administration that is echoed in both the Department of Commerce and NOAA strategic priorities. At the NOAA level, building the nation's resilience to changing climate and other stressors is a major priority which looks at the threats to coastal ecosystems and communities under the banner of "Coastal Resilience."

NOAA Fisheries science and management efforts have significant roles in advancing these resilience themes. We contribute to climate preparedness and resilience through our science, monitoring, and modeling capabilities and management programs (fisheries, protected resources, and habitat conservation). However, NOAA Fisheries would like to look at how we can better connect our resource management and habitat conservation programs to support the social and economic resilience needs of our fishing communities.

DRAFT Charge to MAFAC: NOAA Fisheries would benefit from a more thorough assessment of key needs, challenges, and opportunities across our offices and programs to advance and articulate work in support of NOAA's resilience goals. Specifically, NOAA Fisheries would like MAFAC's advice on how we can best meet fishing community needs with respect to resources, habitat, and socio-economic resiliency. This assessment would be valuable in addressing the following questions:

1. What are the characteristics of resilient fishing communities? Do we know?
2. What are fishing communities' needs with respect to resiliency (both ecosystem and economic)?
3. How is Fisheries supporting NOAA priorities for resilience including ecosystems, economies, and communities through our various programs (research, assessment, response, conservation, management, etc.)?
4. How well are these efforts coordinated with related programs in NOAA (NOS Roadmap, Climate Program Office, Sea Grant, NWS Hydrologic Predictions, etc.) or external federal/state partnerships (Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, National Fish Habitat Partnership, Resilient Lands and Waters, etc.)? Where are opportunities for increased coordination and collaboration?
5. What gaps need to be filled in NOAA Fisheries to help meet our mandates and stakeholders/customer's needs?
6. What are the next steps (management and budget priorities)?
7. How best can we communicate the contributions that NOAA Fisheries is making to the agency resilience priorities both internally and externally?

Background materials:

- Climate Action Plan & Executive Order #13653 (Preparedness) – Section 3 Managing Lands and Waters for Climate Preparedness and Resilience
- Priority Agenda for Enhancing the Climate Resilience of America's Natural Resources Implementation
- NOAA Priority - Providing Information and Services to Make Communities More Resilient and NOAA Resilience Framework (including resilience definitions)
- NOAA Fisheries – FY16 Priorities and Regional Strategic Plans (community resiliency)
- NOAA Fisheries Climate Science Strategy and Regional Action Plan

- National Habitat Strategy
- NOAA Habitat Blueprint
- Working Waterfronts
- S-K Grants “Community Bridge”
- NOAA Fisheries and NOS Resiliency Grants

ACTION for MAFAC to Take at the October 2015 Meeting-- DRAFT:

MAFAC will determine its approval of this new work and develop a strategy for implementation. Since this crosses the focus/interest of the Standing Subcommittees, if approved, it may benefit from the establishment of an Ad Hoc Working Group under the Strategic Planning Committee to accomplish the task (not an external new Task Force). The work could engage the existing two Task Forces, in particular, the Climate & Marine Resources Task Force.