

Annotated Agenda
MAFAC Meeting – Silver Spring, MD
November 1-3, 2016

1. Title of Discussion: Climate and the Value of Vulnerability Assessments

2. Presenters: Jon Hare, Ph.D., Northeast Fisheries Science Center
Elliott Hazen, Ph.D., Southwest Fisheries Science Center
Michelle McClure, Ph.D., Northwest Fisheries Science Center
Paul Spencer, Ph.D., Alaska Fisheries Science Center

3. Objective/Purpose (Informational)

Provide update on NOAA Fisheries efforts to assess the vulnerability of fish stocks to changing climate and ocean conditions in each region. The assessments are designed to identify which species may be most vulnerable to climate-related changes and why they are vulnerable to help inform science and management actions. The presentation will describe the NMFS methodology for assessing fish stock climate vulnerability and results of vulnerability assessments in the Northeast, West Coast and Bering Sea ecosystems.

4. Background/Synopsis

Understanding the vulnerability of fish stocks to changing climate and ocean conditions can help identify where additional science and management actions may be most needed to reduce impacts and increase resilience over time. In 2015, NOAA Fisheries developed a methodology for assessing the vulnerability of fish and invertebrate species in a changing climate (for more info see <http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/ecosystems/climate/tools/assessing-vulnerability-of-fish-stocks>). Assessing the climate vulnerability of fish stocks and other marine resources is a priority action in the 2015 [***NOAA Fisheries Climate Science Strategy \(Strategy\)***](#).

In 2016, NOAA Fisheries used the methodology to assess the climate vulnerability of 82 species of fish and invertebrate species in the Northeast marine ecosystem (for more info, see <http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/ecosystems/climate/northeast-fish-and-shellfish-climate-vulnerability/index>). In 2016, NOAA Fisheries also launched assessments of climate vulnerability of fish stocks in the West Coast and Bering Sea ecosystems. These regional fish stock climate vulnerability assessments are conducted by Fishery Science Center-led teams. Additional assessments have recently been launched for fish stocks in the Pacific Islands and Gulf of Mexico regions.

5. Action to be taken by MAFAC members

Opportunity to get information and ask questions on these important efforts.