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2024 AFSC Seminar Series

Matthew Lettrich, NMFS Office of Science & Technology Protected Species Science Program; ECS Federal

Tuesday, April 16th @ 10 am Pacific

Marine Mammal Climate Vulnerability Assessment: A Focus on the U.S. West Coast and Alaska



Vulnerability assessments provide a framework for evaluating climate impacts over a broad range of species using currently available information. We conducted a trait-based climate vulnerability assessment using expert elicitation for 128 marine mammal stocks and stock groups in U.S. waters of the Pacific and Arctic Oceans. Our approach combined the exposure (projected change in environmental conditions) and sensitivity (ability to tolerate and adapt to changing conditions) of marine mammal stocks to estimate vulnerability to climate change, and categorize stocks with a vulnerability index. This presentation will provide a description of the vulnerability assessment process, an overview of regional

results, and engage with the audience on possible next steps for the assessment, all with a focus on the U.S. West Coast and Alaska.

For more
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