

Linking knowledge and action for climate-ready fisheries:

Emerging best practices across the United States

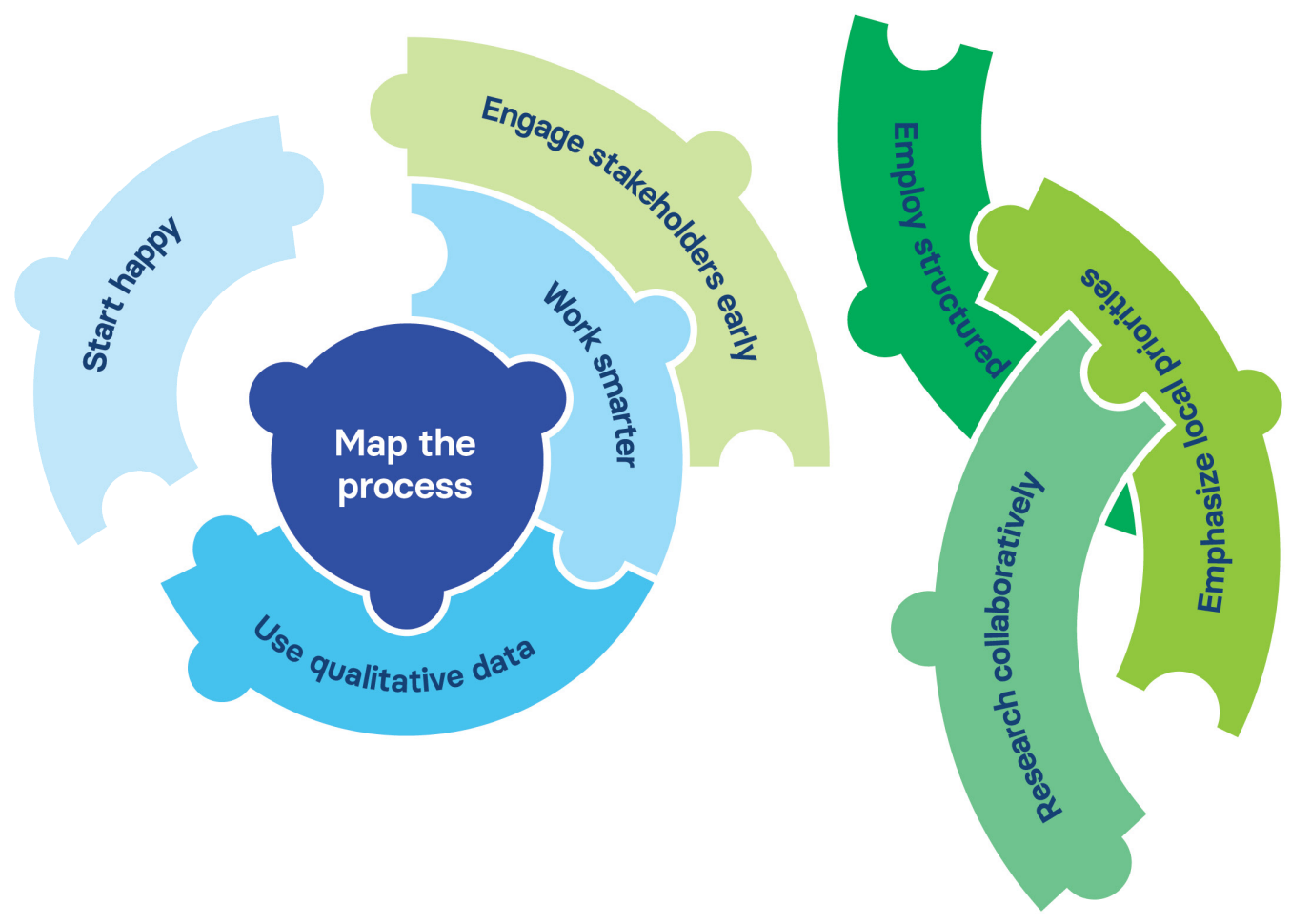
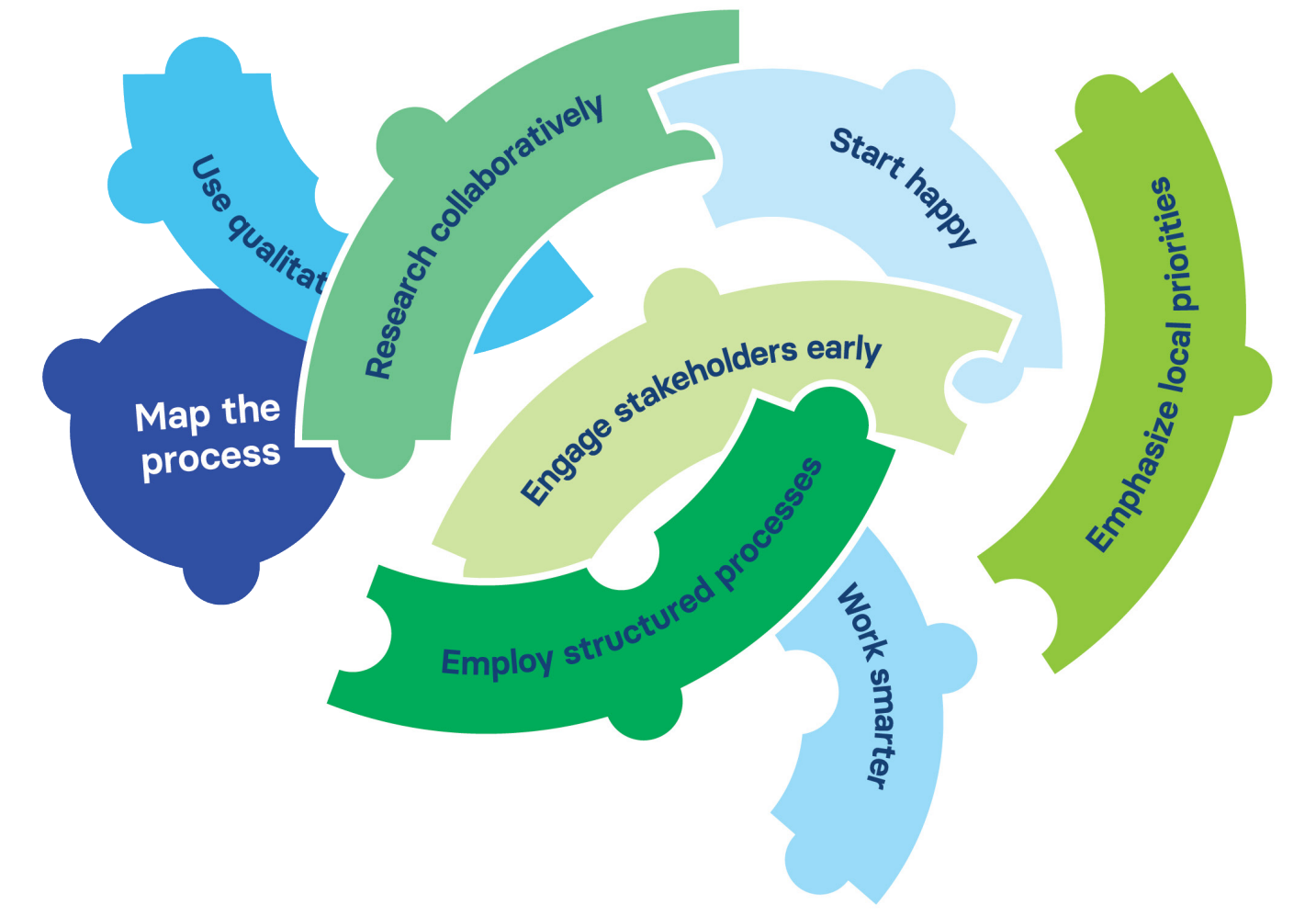
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THE CHALLENGE

Despite progress in understanding and predicting climate change impacts and possible responses for US marine fisheries, use of climate-related information in federal fishery management decisions remains limited. While some management bodies have begun to incorporate climate-related information into decision-making, these tend to be isolated initiatives with few opportunities or incentives to coordinate across regions. This hinders broader progress toward climate-ready fisheries.



PROMOTING CROSS-REGIONAL LEARNING

We brought together fisheries scientists and decisionmakers from every US management region in a virtual collaborative workshop. Participants presented emerging regional approaches for linking climate knowledge and management action, discussed enabling factors for success, and diagnosed unresolved challenges. We distill **eight best practices** from this workshop, broader literature, and co-authors' experiences.

These practices may be thought of as interlocking pieces of a knowledge-to-action "puzzle." Different regions might prioritize pieces depending on their context and capacities. The puzzle is also incomplete—even with ideal use of these best practices, there are many additional key pieces needed for effective climate-ready fisheries management

LEARNING

Climate-ready fisheries: best practices for linking knowledge and action

Putting the puzzle together

The "centerpiece"

- ▶ **Map out management processes** and structure to identify "on-ramps" for climate information

Practices applicable to internal processes within regions

- ▶ **Work smarter**, not harder: align climate initiatives with existing management mandates and processes
- ▶ **Incorporate qualitative data** strategically to deal with uncertainty and stochasticity
- ▶ **Start happy**
Pilot initiatives in low- controversy, low-risk settings



Practices applicable to initiatives with broader stakeholders

- ▶ **Engage stakeholders early and often**
- ▶ **Emphasize local priorities** and stakeholders' lived experiences when communicating climate considerations to increase buy-in
- ▶ **Employ structured processes** to keep initiatives on track
- ▶ **Research collaboratively** with fisherman to overcome resource constraints

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Map out management processes as a first enabling step
- Pair participatory approaches with on-ramps to management action
- Maintain investment in timely and actionable climate knowledge
- Support regional experimentation with national-level guidance and investment
- More opportunities for cross-regional coordination and learning are needed

REMAINING CHALLENGES

- Limited resources, capacity, and staff
- Aligning science and management timescales
- Cross-jurisdictional management
- Integrating social science

MORE:

- 🌐 fisherysolutionscenter.edf.org
- 📄 Mason & Weisberg et al., in review
- ✉ jmason@edf.org

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