

# Accounting for shifting distributions and changing productivity in U.S. marine fisheries management: challenges and recommendations

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\*ECS Tech LLC, *in support of*, NOAA Fisheries Office of Science & Technology

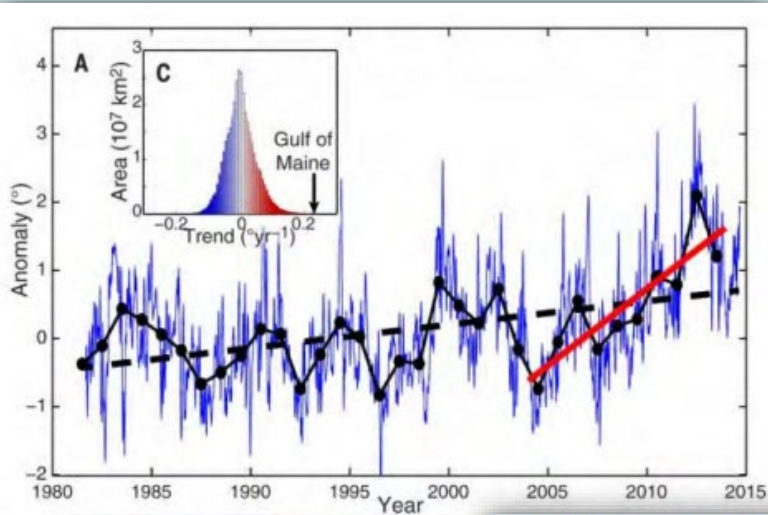
Silver Spring, Maryland

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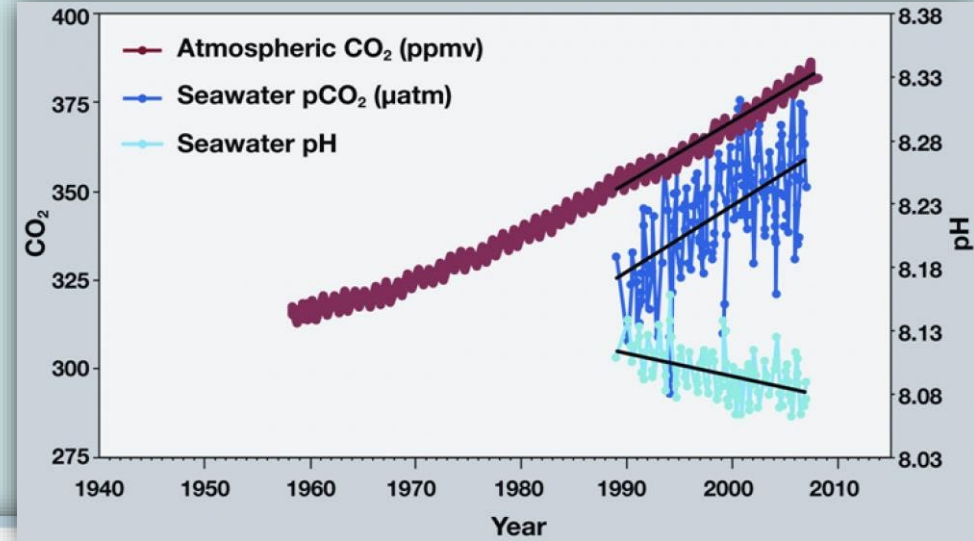
**NOAA**  
**FISHERIES**

# Oceans are Changing



*Temperatures projected to increase by 2-4°C by end of century*

(IPCC, 2014; Pershing et al. 2015, Science)



## Marine Heatwaves occur everywhere in the ocean

**2003: Mediterranean Sea**  
4°C warmer than average for 30 days  
*Largest event on record*  
Mass mortality of marine life in rocky reefs

Warm air ("normal heatwaves") can drive marine heatwaves by warming the ocean surface

Ocean currents can drive marine heatwaves by moving around warm water

Climate modes, like El Niño, can cause marine heatwave events to occur

**2011: Western Australia**  
Over 3°C warmer than average for 60 days  
*Largest event on record*  
Seaweeds, fish and sharks moved south

**2013-2015: "The Blob"**  
2½°C warmer than average for 226 days  
*Longest event on record*  
Caused unseasonably warm weather in Pacific Northwest of USA and Canada

**2012: Northwest Atlantic**  
2½°C warmer than average for 56 days  
*Largest event on record*  
Lobster fishery peaked early and led to Canada-USA economic tensions

*"Marine heatwaves have become longer and more frequent around the world"*

- Eric Oliver, The Conversation

*Average surface ocean pH has decreased 0.1 units below pre-industrial average and is projected to further decrease by 0.13 to 0.42 units by 2100*  
(IPCC, 2014; Pershing et al. 2015, Science)

# Impacts on Fish and Fisheries

- Species are shifting and their productivity is changing in response
- Potential to significantly impact management
  - Allocation issues
  - Spatial & temporal management
  - Estimates of spawning biomass, MSY, and biological reference points

## Projecting shifts in thermal habitat for 686 species on the North American continental shelf

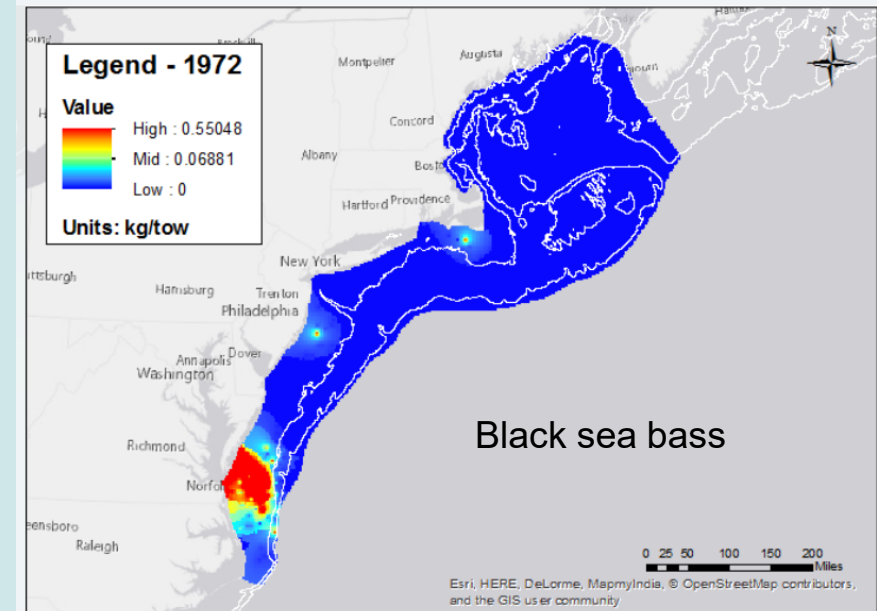
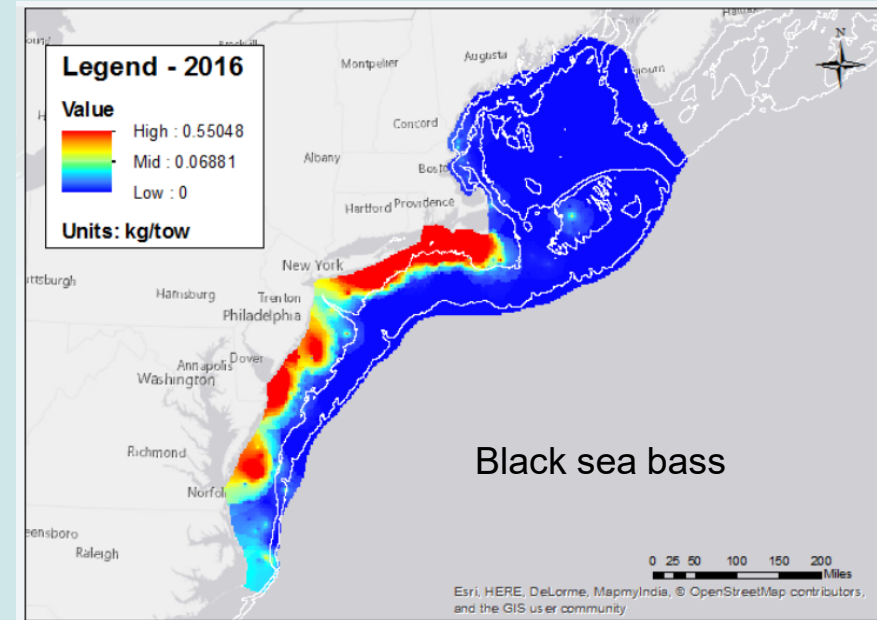
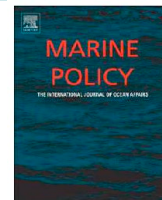
James W. Morley , Rebecca L. Selden, Robert J. Latour, Thomas L. Frölicher, Richard J. Seagraves, Malin L. Pinsky

Published: May 16, 2018 • <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0196127>



## Governing fisheries in the face of change: Social responses to long-term geographic shifts in a U.S. fishery

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Source: OceanAdapt

<https://oceanadapt.rutgers.edu/>

# Incorporating Climate and Environmental Information in Fisheries Management Workgroup



Note: not all participants are in photo

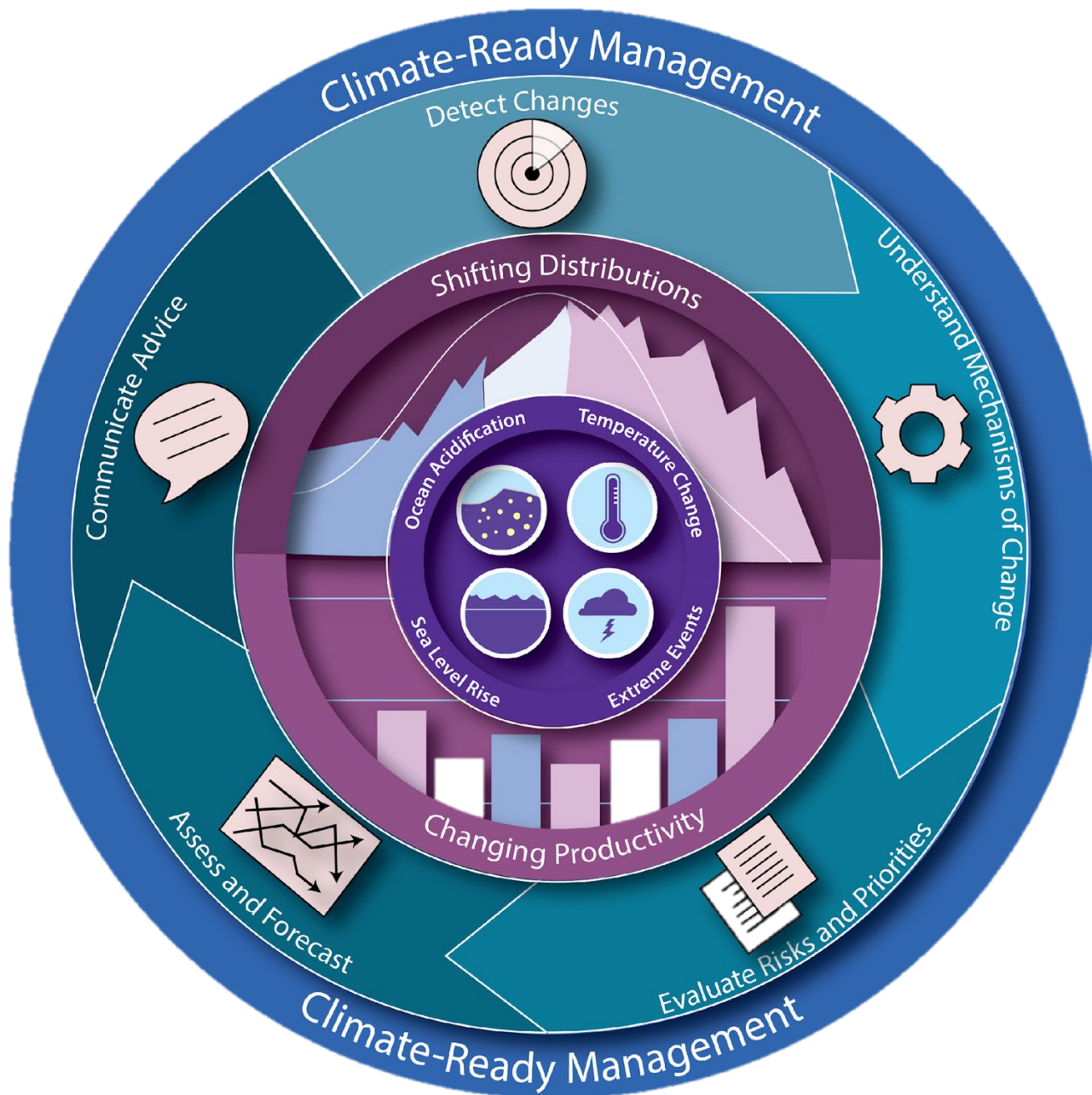
## Charge:

- ***Develop specific, actionable recommendations*** to better incorporate environmental and climate information into the fisheries management process.
- ***Focus on Responding to Two Issues:***
  - Shifting species distributions
  - Changing stock and system productivity

## Participants:

- Representatives from each Science Center and Regional Office, S&T, and SF

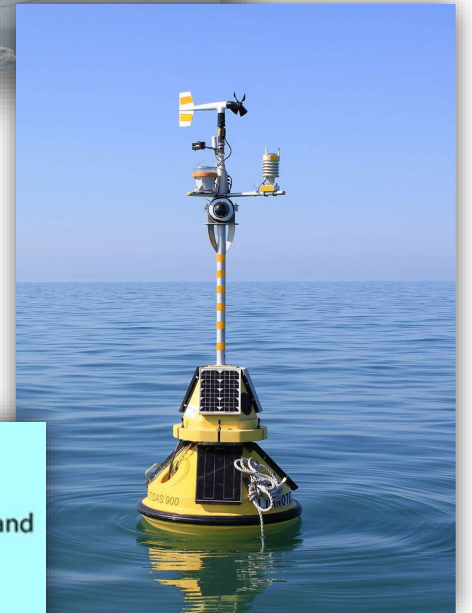
# Components of Climate-Ready Fisheries Management



- What is changing?
- Why is it changing?
- What is vulnerable to change?
- How will it change?
- How to deliver and use key information/advice?
- How to prepare and respond to changes?

# 1. Detect Changes

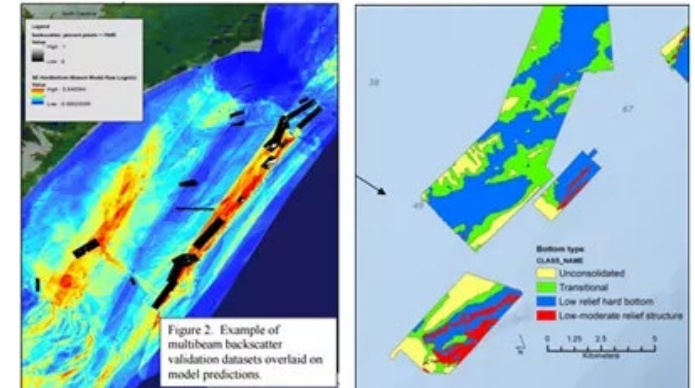
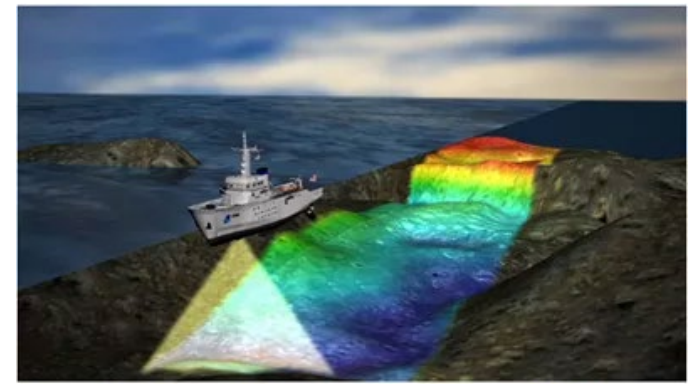
- Expand the spatial and temporal coverage of surveys
  - Facilitate survey flexibility to track changes in species distributions
    - e.g., Pacific Sardine surveys
  - Engage and leverage capacity of fishermen and other stakeholders
- Use Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) and other advanced sampling technologies
- Coordinate research and survey efforts across adjacent jurisdictions
- Track and monitor indicators that can serve as early warnings of change



<http://www.fisherycouncils.org/>

## 2. Understand Mechanisms of Changes

- Collect oceanographic, habitat, and multispecies information on all standard surveys
- Evaluate stock availability to survey and fishing gear (catchability)
- Conduct process oriented research that can improve modeling and assessments (e.g., temp and OA effects on mortality, growth, etc.)



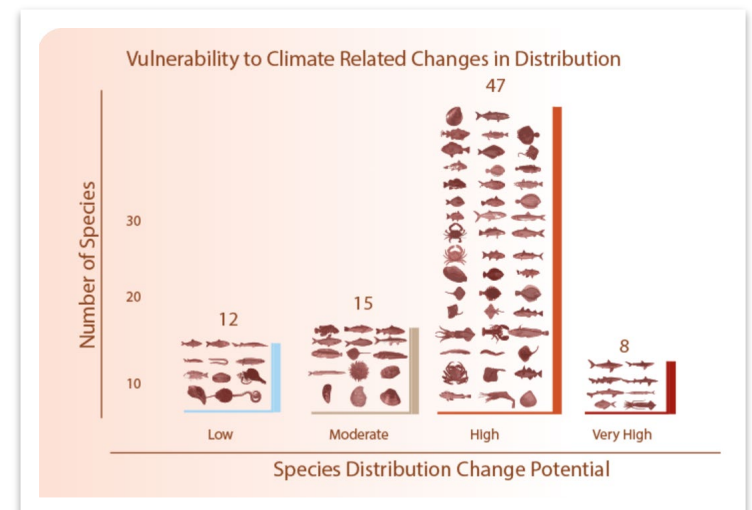
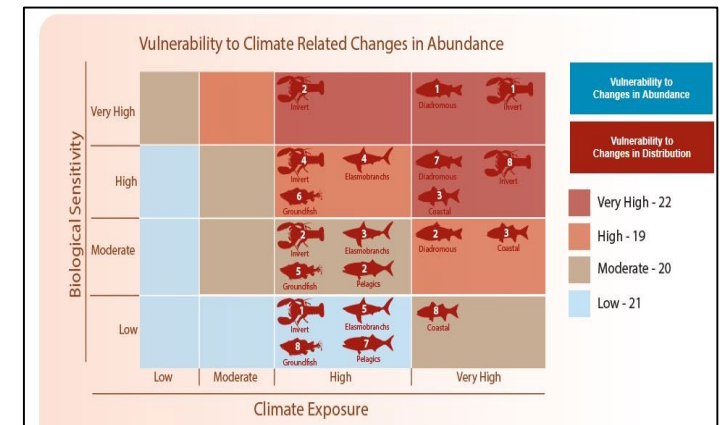
# 3. Evaluate Risks and Priorities

- Evaluate the magnitude and relative importance of distribution shifts and changes in productivity
  - Spatial analysis techniques
  - Sensitivity analysis
- Vulnerability assessments, tiered risk assessments
- Prioritize species at risk

RESEARCH ARTICLE

## A Vulnerability Assessment of Fish and Invertebrates to Climate Change on the Northeast U.S. Continental Shelf

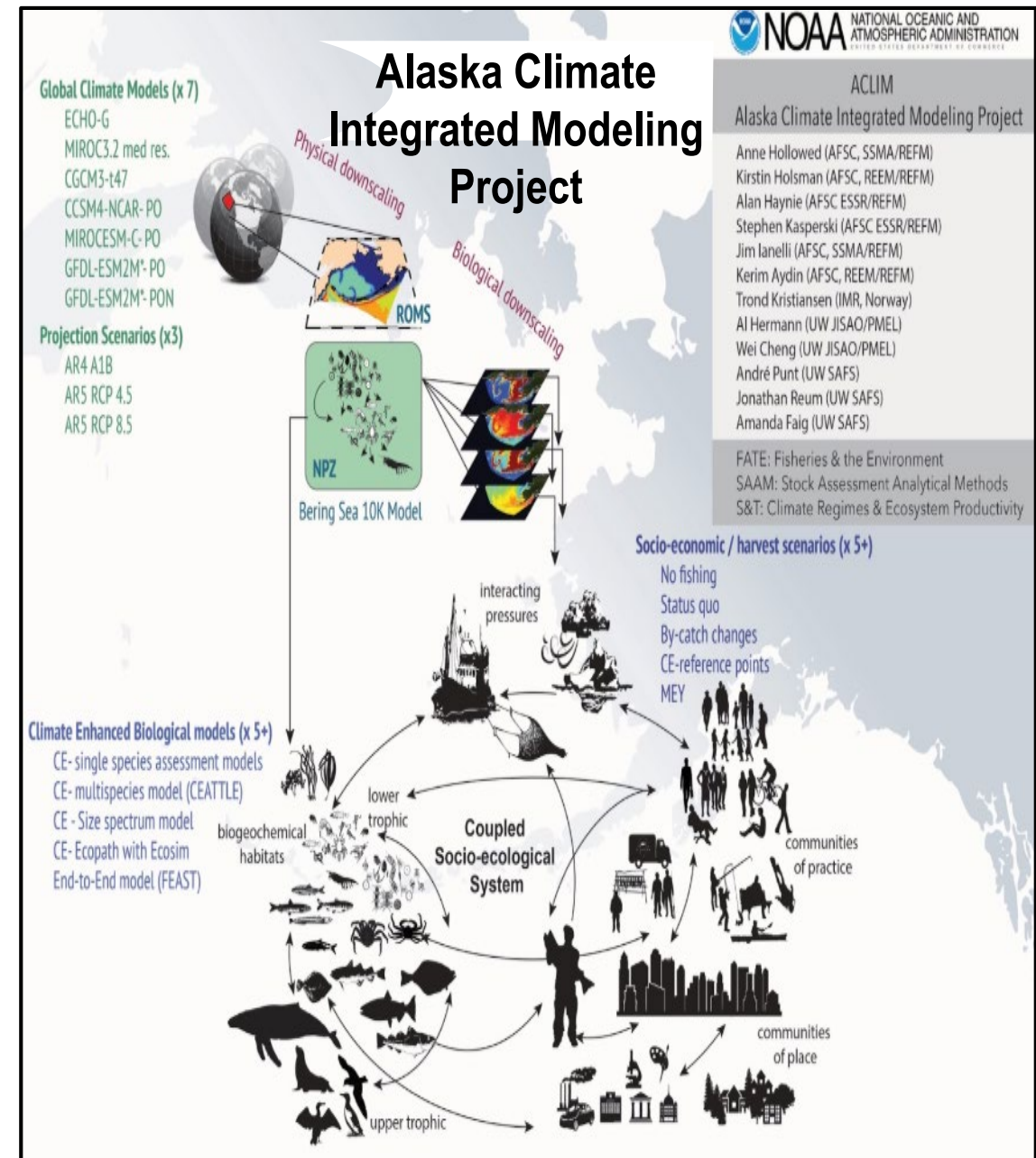
Jonathan A. Hare<sup>1\*</sup>, Wendy E. Morrison<sup>2</sup>, Mark W. Nelson<sup>2</sup>, Megan M. Stachura<sup>3<sup>aa</sup></sup>, Eric J. Teeters<sup>2</sup>, Roger B. Griffis<sup>4</sup>, Michael A. Alexander<sup>5</sup>, James D. Scott<sup>5</sup>, Larry Alade<sup>6</sup>, Richard J. Bell<sup>1<sup>ab</sup></sup>, Antonie S. Chute<sup>6</sup>, Kiersten L. Curti<sup>6</sup>, Tobey H. Curtis<sup>7</sup>, Daniel Kircheis<sup>8</sup>, John F. Kocik<sup>8</sup>, Sean M. Lucey<sup>6</sup>, Camilla T. McCandless<sup>1</sup>, Lisa M. Milke<sup>9</sup>, David E. Richardson<sup>1</sup>, Eric Robillard<sup>6</sup>, Harvey J. Walsh<sup>1</sup>, M. Conor McManus<sup>10<sup>ac</sup></sup>, Katrin E. Marancik<sup>10</sup>, Carolyn A. Griswold<sup>1</sup>





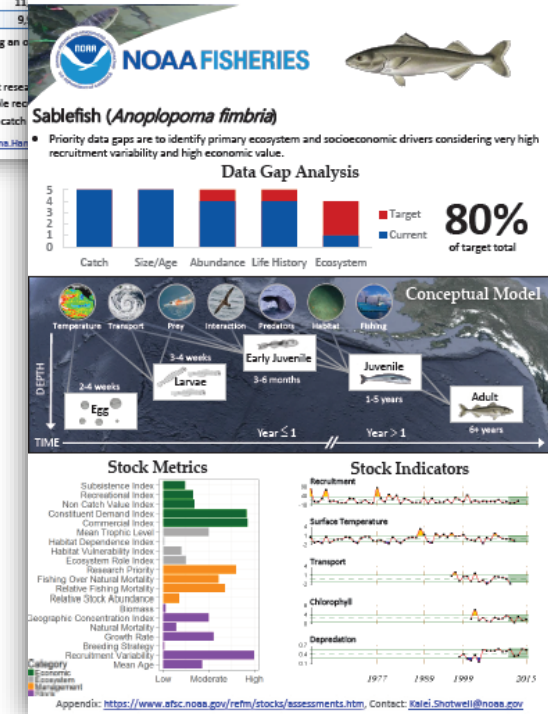
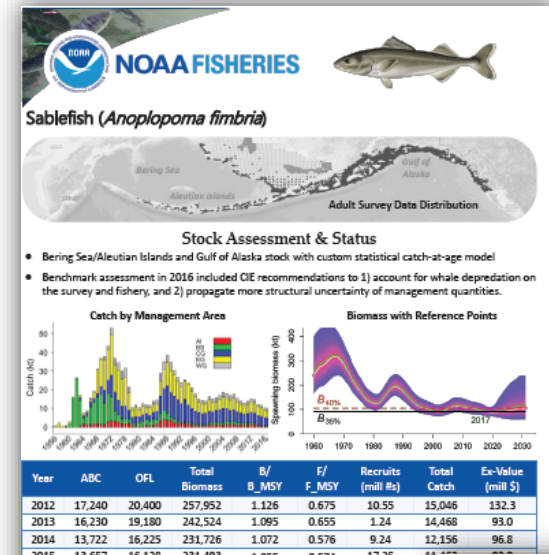
# 4. Assess and Forecast

- Include ecosystem considerations in Terms of Reference in each regional stock assessment process
- Capitalize on advancement in spatial-temporal and physical-ecosystem-economic models
- Explore the use of ensemble modeling and multi-mode inferences
- Evaluate model diagnostics and the predictive skill of forecasts



# 5. Communicating Advice

- Establish routine reporting and standardized templates to report information on ecosystem dynamics, species distributions, and productivity
  - e.g., Ecosystem-Socioeconomic Profiles and APECS (Shotwell, pers. communication)
- Utilize and include decision support tools in stock assessment reports
  - e.g., decision tables and decision trees to communicate risk and tradeoffs
- Facilitate regular engagement between scientists and managers through regular and open dialogue at workshops and debriefs



# 6. Climate-Ready Management Actions

- Plan for future scenarios
- Structured scenario planning and Management Strategy Evaluations (MSE)

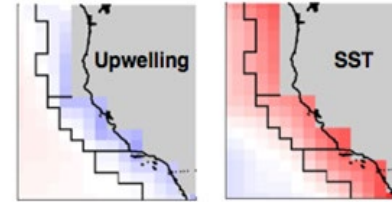


# 6. Climate-Ready Management Actions

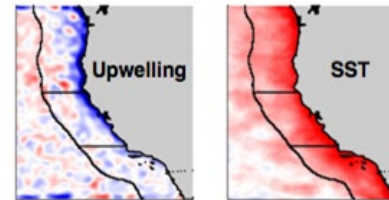
- Plan for future scenarios
- Re-evaluate spatial management approaches
- Use more 'responsive ocean management' to evaluate and adjust spatial/temporal management approaches using near real-time biological, social, economic, ecological data



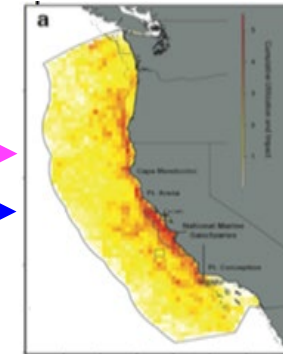
Global Climate Forecast



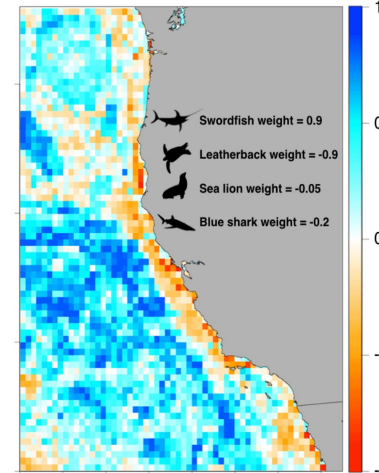
Regional Ocean Model



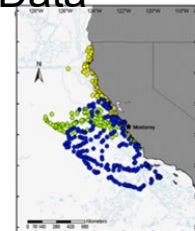
Species Distribution Models



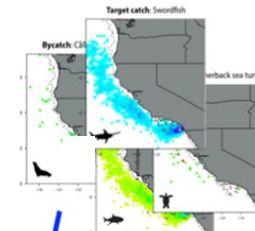
EcoCast Product



Tracking Data

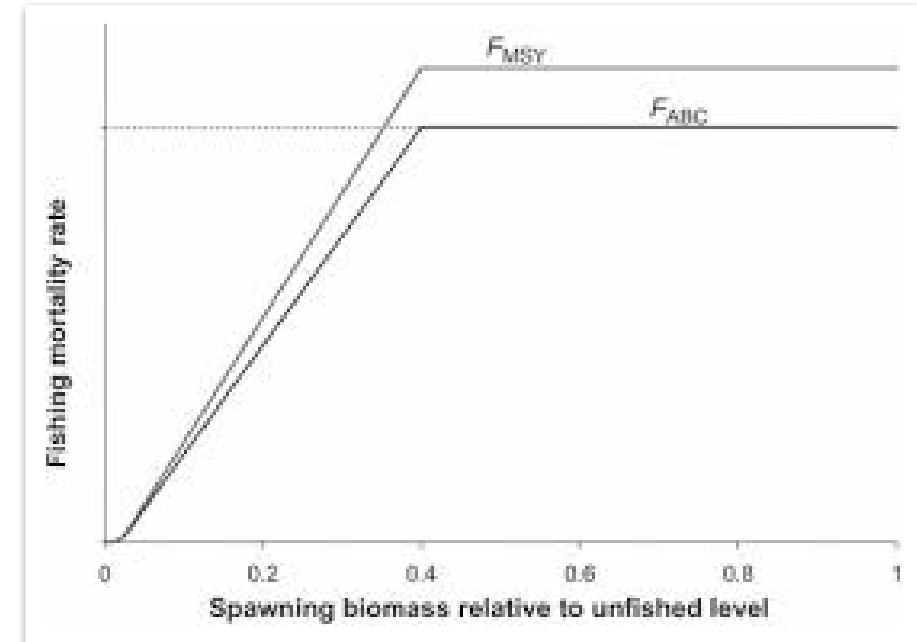


Fishery Observer



# 6. Climate-Ready Management Actions

- Plan for future scenarios
- Re-evaluate spatial management approaches
- Develop responsive harvest strategies and control rules
  - Adjust risk policy
  - Empirical management procedures to adjust HCR
  - Explicitly incorporate environmental information into the HCR



# Conclusions

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- ***Traditional methods and assumptions may need to change*** to account for changing species distribution and productivity.
- ***Additional focused efforts are needed*** to reduce risks.
  - **Explore future scenarios**, re-evaluate spatial and temporal management procedures, and develop responsive HCR.
  - **Improve collaboration and communication** between scientists and managers to increase flow and use of information.
  - **Improve capabilities** to detect changes, understand mechanisms, forecast future changes, evaluate best management strategies and respond to change.

# Collaborators

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## NMFS, Office of Science & Technology

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# QUESTIONS?

