



# East Coast Climate Change and Fisheries Governance Workshop

March 19 – 21, 2014

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**The Westin Washington, D.C. City Center**  
1400 M St NW  
Washington, DC 20005

## **Workshop objectives**

The purpose of this workshop is to convene managers and staff of the New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC), Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC), South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC), Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), and NOAA Fisheries (NMFS) to discuss the potential governance challenges arising from the impacts of climate change on East Coast marine fisheries. Specifically, workshop participants will work collaboratively to:

- Explore the existing and potential impacts of climate change on the management and governance of East Coast marine fisheries, with an emphasis on the policy implications of shifting fishery distributions and changing productivity;
- Evaluate processes for documenting and acknowledging climate-related changes and initiating a management response;
- Identify key management questions, concerns and information needs to guide future research and coordination between management bodies;
- Examine the flexibility of the existing management framework to accommodate climate-related governance challenges; and
- Discuss potential solutions and next steps for adapting and responding to climate change, and identify opportunities to maintain a dialogue between East Coast fishery management partners.

# Agenda

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**Wednesday, March 19th**

*Meeting room: Monticello Ballroom*

- 1:00 – 1:45 pm**      **Welcome remarks and workshop context**
- Rick Robins, *MAFMC Chairman*
  - John Henderschedt and Katie Latanich, *Fisheries Forum*
  - Leadership perspectives
- 1:45 – 3:00 pm**      **Impacts of climate change on marine fisheries**  
Dr. Jon Hare, *Narragansett Laboratory Director, Northeast Fisheries Science Center, NOAA Fisheries*
- 3:00 – 3:15 pm**      **BREAK**
- 3:15 – 4:30 pm**      **Economic and sociocultural dimensions of climate change**
- Dr. Doug Lipton, *Senior Scientist for Economics, NOAA Fisheries*
  - Dr. Patricia Clay, *Anthropologist, Northeast Fisheries Science Center, NOAA Fisheries*
- 4:30 – 5:00 pm**      **Adapting to environmental change: Newfoundland's experience**
- Michael Alexander, *Regional Director General, Newfoundland & Labrador Region, Fisheries and Oceans Canada*
  - Kevin Anderson, *Regional Director, Fisheries Management, Newfoundland & Labrador Region, Fisheries and Oceans Canada*
- 5:00 – 5:30 pm**      **The Mid-Atlantic Council's Climate Science Workshop<sup>1</sup>: Overview and themes of discussion**  
*Rich Seagraves, Senior Scientist, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council*
- 5:30 – 7:30 pm**      **Reception**

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<sup>1</sup> Held in conjunction with the Mid-Atlantic Council's February 2014 meeting in New Bern, NC. Workshop materials are available on the Council's website.

**Thursday, March 20th**

**8:30 – 10:30 am**

**Governance and policy foundations**

- Dr. Mike Orbach, *Professor of Marine Affairs and Policy, Duke University*
- Eric Schwaab, *Chief Conservation Officer, National Aquarium; Former Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA Fisheries*

**Facilitated discussion**

*Objective: Identify the key governance and management challenges and opportunities associated with managing East Coast marine fisheries in a changing environment.*

**Discussion questions:**

- What is the difference between governance and management? Why is this distinction important?
- What are the attributes of a fisheries management framework that make it more or less equipped to respond to the challenges of a changing environment?
- What are the roles of each fishery management partner (councils, Commission, states, and NOAA Fisheries, and others) in responding to these challenges?)

**10:30 - 10:45 am**

**BREAK**

**10:45 – 12:15 pm**

**Small group discussions: Regional and fishery-specific perspectives**

*Objective: Share regional and fishery-specific examples of identifying and acknowledging climate change concerns, and explore the attributes of fisheries and fishery management plans that may influence adaptation and response.*

**Discussion questions:**

- For the fisheries you are most familiar with: What, if any, climate change concerns have been identified? By whom? At what point in the management process?
- What management responses have been considered or discussed?
- How might you determine if a response is needed?
- What are some of the features of fisheries and fishery management plans that might facilitate, constrain, or otherwise impact our ability to respond and adapt to a changing environment?

**12:15 – 1:30 pm**

**LUNCH (on your own)**

1:30 – 3:00 pm

**Facilitated discussion: Mechanisms for coordinating and sharing management responsibilities**

*Objective: Identify the range of mechanisms used to coordinate, communicate, and share information and management responsibilities between management partners, and consider how these mechanisms can support a response to climate change.*

**Discussion questions:**

- What are the mechanisms that you personally use to communicate, coordinate or share responsibilities with management partners (councils, Commission, NOAA Fisheries, or others)?
- What are the attributes of these different mechanisms? (E.g. formal or informal, permanent or need based, institutionalized or ad hoc, etc.)
- What is their purpose? (E.g., communicating, providing/receiving input, representing interests, etc.)
- How could these mechanisms be involved in documenting, acknowledging, and/or responding to climate change impacts?

3:00 – 3:15 pm

**BREAK**

3:15 – 5:00 pm

**Breakout Session I: Cross-cutting issues**

**Objective:** Explore the range of challenges associated with **1) changing fishery productivity** and **2) shifting fishery distributions**, and consider the different pathways for adaptation and response.

*Participants will rotate through two breakout sessions, one on changing productivity and one on shifting distributions. Further instructions will be provided at the workshop.*

**Discussion questions for Breakouts 1 and 2:**

- Drawing on personal experiences and examples from previous discussions, what are some of the challenges that could be associated with changing fishery productivity or shifting fishery distributions?
- What objectives (e.g. biological, ecological, social, economic) are at stake? What are the risks of not responding?
- Do these challenges necessitate a management response? Governance adaptation? Neither? Both?

**Definitions:**

- Management response is the process of responding to specific issues, problems and challenges as they arise.
- Governance adaptation is the process of changing governance structure and principles in response to new challenges.

*Friday, March 21st*

**8:30 – 10:15 am      Breakout Session II**

**10:15 – 10:30 am      BREAK**

**10:30 – 12:00 pm      Managing climate-ready fisheries: Where might we go from here?**

**Discussion questions:**

- What are the roles of each fishery management partner (councils, Commission, states, NOAA Fisheries) and others (e.g, Congress) in responding and adapting to a changing environment?
  - In the short term?
  - Over the longer term?
- Which climate change concerns could be addressed through a management response? Which, if any, may require governance adaptation?
- What challenges and opportunities might be addressed proactively? Reactively?
- What are the goals, values, and mandates that are involved and responding and adapting to environmental change?
- Do we have the flexibility and the tools we need?