

**2025 Council Member Ongoing Development (CMOD)
Understanding Climate Related Vulnerabilities, Risks and Uncertainties
April 30 – May 1, 2025 | Vancouver, Washington**

CMOD Program Information

The CMOD program is funded through support from the Regional Fishery Management Councils in partnership with NOAA Fisheries.

The second Council Member Ongoing Development (CMOD) workshop will be held April 30 – May 1, 2025 in Vancouver, Washington. Additional information about the 2025 CMOD workshop and materials from the previous CMOD workshop in 2022 are available at <https://www.fisherycouncils.org/cmод>.

About the CMOD program

The CMOD program is an initiative developed by the Council Coordination Committee (CCC) as a professional development opportunity for Regional Fishery Management Council members and staff, with the purpose of fostering cross-regional exchange and building participants' topical expertise and procedural skills. The CMOD workshops are policy neutral and will not result in policy decisions or recommendations. Participants will include Council members and staff from all eight Councils, NMFS staff, and invited speakers. The CMOD program is funded through support by the Regional Fishery Management Councils in partnership with NOAA Fisheries, with oversight by the CCC through a CMOD Steering Committee. Topics are identified by the CCC.

The 2025 CMOD workshop will focus on **understanding climate-related vulnerabilities, risks, and uncertainties**,¹ and will incorporate topics and discussion themes from the recent Scientific Coordination Subcommittee workshop (SCS8), *Applying Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) Control Rules in a Changing Environment*.² The workshop will include a skills session focused on **communicating complex fishery management topics**.

Regional participation

CMOD is designed to provide opportunities to share experiences and discuss shared challenges and questions in an informal setting. Participants will be asked to actively engage in workshop discussions and be prepared to share relevant examples and anecdotes from their Councils' experience.

Based on previous CCC guidance, participation will be limited to approximately 50 people including 4 participants from each of the eight Councils (e.g., 3 Council members and 1 Council staff), 10 NMFS personnel from the regions and headquarters, and additional invited speakers. The CMOD Steering Committee recommends that each Council send participants who have at least one year of Council

¹ While the 2025 CMOD workshop is intended to focus on challenges and opportunities related to climate-driven changes, discussions will be inclusive of Councils experiencing ecosystem change and variability that are not specifically linked to climate drivers.

² [SCS8 agenda and materials](#)

experience or a strong understanding of the Council process. Councils are also encouraged to send a Council and/or staff member who has been closely engaged with the Council's work related to the CMOD topic. **Councils are requested to identify their 4 participants by Friday, November 1.**

Depending on the number of invited speakers, there may be a limited number of seats available to accommodate additional Council participants, to be distributed among interested Councils. If space is available, this additional call for participants would occur in late winter/early spring 2025.

Topic agenda and workshop development process

The enclosed topic agenda reflects initial scoping conducted by workshop facilitators to identify the key topics and discussions of interest across management regions. Facilitators will conduct additional scoping to inform the development of a formal agenda, including identifying specific presentations and regional examples and refining the focus of each discussion.

The CMOD Steering Committee provided workshop organizers with the following guidance, which is reflected in the topic agenda and will guide future iterations of the agenda.

- The CMOD workshop should aim to **increase participants' confidence and abilities** to initiate and participate in discussions on topics of climate-related vulnerabilities, risks, and uncertainties.
- The CMOD agenda should continue to **build on outcomes of SCS8**, including the publication of the workshop summary and conversations between Councils' and their respective SSCs regarding SCS8 topics. While CMOD will explore case studies and discussion themes from SCS8 it is not intended to advance the technical considerations involved in incorporating climate-related risks into ABC control rules and risk policies. Rather, CMOD will focus on the **policy considerations and choices** underlying risk tolerance, help distinguish between policy and science considerations and share how Councils are navigating these discussions constructively with their SSCs.
- In addition to climate-informed risk policies and ABC control rules, the agenda should explore other procedural tools and management measures Councils could use to incorporate information about climate-related vulnerabilities, risks, and uncertainties.

Registration, travel and logistics

The 2025 CMOD workshop will take place April 30 – May 1, 2025 at the Hilton Vancouver Washington. The workshop will also include two social events: a welcome reception the evening of Tuesday, April 29th, and a group dinner on Wednesday, April 30th. A workshop registration form as well as information on travel will be provided to participants in early spring 2025. A block of rooms at the hotel has been reserved for the group at the prevailing federal rate.

For additional information, please contact (Diana Evans, NPFMC Deputy Director (diana.evans@noaa.gov)). Future updates on the CMOD workshop will be shared with Council executive directors by email.

CMOD Steering Committee

Bill Tweit, NPFMC Vice Chair
Diana Evans, NPFMC Deputy Director
Kitty Simonds, WPFMC Executive Director
Amy Vandehey, WPFMC Staff
Merrick Burden, PFMC Executive Director
Kelly Ames, PFMC Deputy Director
Emily Muehlstein, GMFMC Council staff
Miguel Rolón, CFMC Executive Director
John Carmichael, SAFMC Executive Director
Mary Clark Sabo, MAFMC Council staff
Cate O’Keefe, NEFMC Executive Director
Stephanie Hunt, NMFS Office of Sustainable Fisheries

Workshop facilitators

Katie Latanich, NPFMC Staff (katie.latanich@noaa.gov)
Kim Gordon, Resource Logic Consulting (kim@resourcelogicconsulting.com)

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Topic Agenda for CCC Discussion

The following topic agenda includes topics of discussion identified and discussed by the CMOD Steering Committee. Focused learning objectives, discussion questions, and the timing and sequence of discussions will be refined through further scoping.

Workshop objectives

The second CMOD workshop will focus on understanding climate related vulnerabilities, risks and uncertainties within the fisheries management process, with a skills focus on effectively communicating complex fishery management topics. Through interactive presentations and discussions, workshop participants will:

- Explore strategies for articulating and integrating climate driven risk and uncertainty into Council risk policies and harvest control rules (e.g., acceptable biological catch (ABC) control rules, annual catch limit (ACL) frameworks);
- Consider the range of information inputs that can be used to understand climate vulnerabilities and risks, and integrate climate and ecosystem information into the Council process;
- Examine the different ways that climate change might disrupt existing management frameworks (e.g., allocation, access, seasons, closed areas) and explore potential management responses;

- Explore the information and approaches managers could use to better understand and account for social and economic vulnerabilities and risks related to climate change;
- Discuss opportunities for building long-term capacity within the Council process to navigate and adapt to changing climate conditions; and
- Gain experience engaging in conversations around climate, risk and uncertainty, and develop new skills to effectively communicate about complex fishery management topics with stakeholders

The CMOD workshop will include presentations, full group discussions, breakout groups and tabletop discussions on the following topics.

Setting the context: Climate change projections and information inputs

Some Council regions have already experienced acute climate change impacts, and all regions are building their understanding of how climate change may impact marine ecosystems and federally managed fish stocks. This discussion will provide a shared frame of reference for a) the wide range of ecosystem changes that are prompting Councils to plan for climate change, and b) the climate and ecosystem science initiatives and information products (e.g. CEFI, ESRs, ESPs, IEAs, CVAs, SAFE reports) that can help inform the Council process.

Responding to climate-driven changes in productivity

Councils and their SSCs are considering how to account for climate-driven changes in stock productivity when setting catch levels. This session will explore topics discussed at the recent SCS8 workshop in August 2024, focusing on the pathways and considerations involved in accounting for climate-related risks and uncertainties in Council risk policies and harvest decisions.

Introduction to ABC control rules and risk policies

This discussion will provide a shared frame of reference for all CMOD participants by reviewing the role of ABC control rules, and the risk policies and other approaches used by Councils to communicate their tolerance for the risk of overfishing. Participants will explore regional approaches, similarities and differences; and discuss how climate change considerations could be incorporated into control rules and risk policies.

Identifying and responding to changes in productivity

Participants will discuss regional examples of climate-driven changes in stock productivity, and the challenges to identifying and attributing change (e.g., interpreting early warnings and assessing “what happened”). This session will also explore the questions Councils and SSCs are grappling with (e.g., determining when it’s appropriate to change reference points and implications for management, responding to increasing stock productivity).

Developing climate informed risk policies and harvest control rules

Participants will explore case studies of how Councils and their SSCs are incorporating climate and ecosystem information and risks into harvest decisions. Examples could explore Councils’ use of risk tables, approaches for revising risk policies and harvest control rules, exploring the robustness of different harvest strategies, and revising reference points. This discussion will also

explore how Councils and their SSCs clarify and share responsibilities for accounting for climate-related risk and uncertainty.

Adapting Council management programs to changing conditions

While setting catch levels is a key function of the Council process, management frameworks are also designed to achieve a range of social, economic and ecosystem objectives. This session will explore how changing conditions might challenge established management programs, and the ways that management strategies might be adapted to support climate readiness, respond to climate change impacts, and enable fisheries and communities to adapt to change. This discussion will build on the ideas Councils have already identified through climate scenario planning and IRA funding proposals and consider the opportunities and challenges of translating these ideas into action. Through further scoping the facilitators will narrow the focus of this session and identify **specific examples and/or case studies** that are relevant across Council regions; for example, adapting management to changes in stock distribution and productivity.

Understanding and considering social and economic dimensions of risk

Climate change—as well as the measures managers could take to prepare for, mitigate, and respond to change—will impact people and communities. This session will explore the information and approaches managers could use to better understand social and economic vulnerabilities and risks, and the opportunities and challenges of more fully integrating these considerations into decision making. Based on further scoping this session will focus on **specific examples** that are relevant across Council regions. Examples could include pathways for incorporating local, traditional and subsistence knowledge, industry observations, conceptual modeling, indicators, and other approaches for understanding community vulnerabilities and linkages.

Skills training: Communicating complex fishery management topics

This year's CMOD skills training will focus on clearly and effectively communicating complex topics, including with constituents and around the Council table. The skills training will be linked with the topics of climate change, risk, and uncertainty and will include:

- Simplifying complex terms and concepts into clear, relatable language,
- Adapting messages and communication strategies for different audiences, and
- Building trust through communication, including experiences and lessons learned.

Synthesis: Navigating change within the Council process

The workshop will conclude with an opportunity for participants to reflect on their takeaways from the workshop and explore the structural and operational aspects of navigating change within the Council process. Topics may include maintaining momentum on long-term initiatives, defining roles and responsibilities across the science – policy interface, engaging advisory bodies and the public, and adapting communications strategies to meet the demands of climate change.