

Mapping Climate and Ecosystem On-Ramps; Other Updates

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CLIMATE AND ECOSYSTEM STEERING COMMITTEE

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**New England Fishery
Management Council**

JULY 2026 MOM6 FORECAST

Experimental Regional Ocean Forecasts – Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory

“The experimental seasonal outlook for the Northwest Atlantic Ocean continues to predict widespread warm surface conditions this summer and fall, with even stronger warming in winter and spring in the tropical North Atlantic and Gulf of St. Lawrence driven by the Pacific El Niño. Along the Northeast U.S. continental shelf, cooler than normal bottom temperatures will continue to persist in the deep Western Gulf of Maine.”

Questions?

- Dr. Andrew Ross, NOAA Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory
- Dr. Vince Saba, NOAA Northeast Fisheries Science Center



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WE HAVE USED CLIMATE AND ECOSYSTEM INFORMATION IN NEW ENGLAND FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

- CESC recommended developing **case studies** to illustrate the on-ramps concept
- Process Mapping Subcommittee members suggest highlighting two examples:
 - Ecosystem information in yellowtail flounder stock assessments
 - Incorporating climate vulnerability as a factor in the Council's updated Risk Policy
- Is there value in documenting these examples to illustrate how they work?
- What elements are important to convey?
 - Improved management? Challenges? Lessons learned? Future work?
- What is the best format?
 - Short narrative document? Infographic? Presentation?



DOCUMENTING THE VALUE OF THE SOE REPORT

- Not a specific case study – but could be useful to consider and document how the State of the Ecosystem Report has provided context for the Council's decision making
 - Report is in its 10th year and has evolved to respond to Council / SSC recommendations
 - What elements resonate most with the Council?
 - How has this report influence Council choices or priorities setting?
 - How does NEFSC use this report internally?
 - How would NEFSC like the Council to use the report?



SUGGESTED FOCUS AREAS FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

1. Incorporating updated estimates of species climate vulnerability as a factor in the Council's Risk Policy, as informed by the forthcoming CVA 2.0
 - How are the updated results different, and what opportunities do they present? How can we make the best use of spatially-explicit outputs?
2. Including climate variables in additional stock assessments, informed by Ecosystem and Socioeconomic Profiles and aligned with dynamic ref. points work
 - Where are the best opportunities? How can the Council contribute?
3. Working across FMPs to standardize and unify reports of fishery performance, and integrating these products into decision making processes
 - Combine annual monitoring information and risk policy factor assessments



FOCAL ON-RAMPS

- Does the CESC agree these are useful on-ramps to focus on?
- If yes, what are the important considerations for each of these topics as we continue our work on each?
- If no, are there other issues / opportunities we might choose to focus on instead?

