Fish Stock Climate Vulnerability Assessment

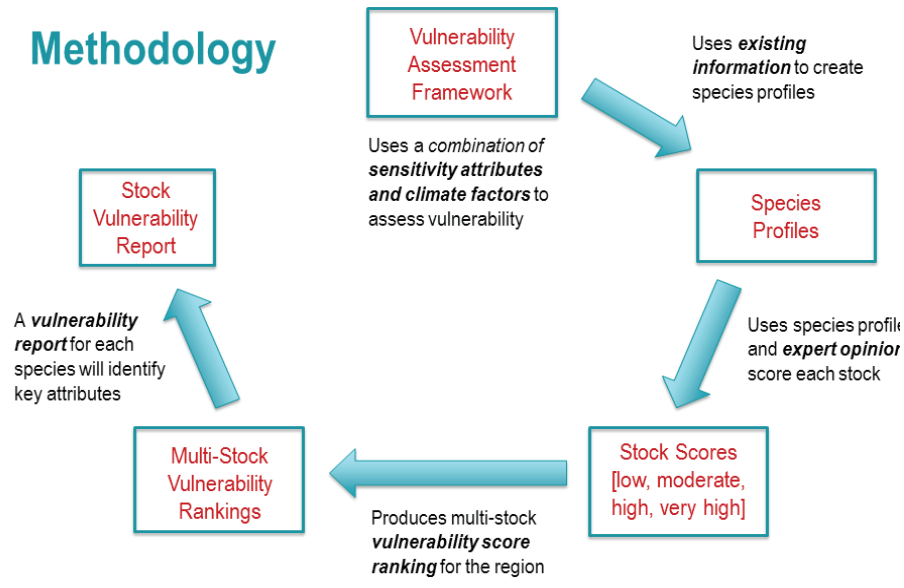
Climate change is already affecting fishery resources and the communities that depend on them, and these impacts are expected to increase in the future. For example, scientists are linking changes in ocean temperatures to shifting fish stock distributions and abundances in many marine ecosystems.

To help fishery managers and scientists identify ways to reduce these risks and impacts, NOAA Fisheries is collaborating with NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research - Earth System Laboratory to finalize a methodology to rapidly assess the vulnerability of U.S. marine stocks to climate change. The methodology uses existing information on climate and ocean conditions, species distributions, and species life history characteristics to estimate the relative vulnerability of fish stocks to potential changes in climate. NOAA Fisheries plans to run the first application of the assessment methodology in the Northeast in March 2014.

The Fish Stock Climate Vulnerability Assessment is designed to help:

- Identify which stocks may be most vulnerable to changing climate and ocean conditions.
- Identify what additional information is needed to understand and address these risks.
- Provide a basis for considering what actions might be taken to reduce fish stock vulnerability.
- Identify where more information is needed to understand, track, and respond to fish stock vulnerability.

The chart below describes the process for developing a fish stock climate vulnerability assessment.



Contact

For more information on NOAA Fisheries efforts related to the assessment methodology please contact:

- Roger.B.Griffis@noaa.gov
- Wendy.Morrison@noaa.gov
- Mark.Nelson@noaa.gov

More Information

www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/ecosystems/climate

Note

NOAA Fisheries will soon provide further background information on the assessment data requirements and implementation details. This methodology is only relevant for fish and invertebrate stocks.