



Advancing the National Fish, Wildlife, and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy into a New Decade

The 2012 National Fish, Wildlife, and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy was designed to “inspire and enable natural resource managers, legislators, and other decision makers to take effective steps towards climate change adaptation over the next five to ten years.” Nearly a decade later, the Strategy remains foundational in how managers address climate change impacts and safeguard the valuable natural resources we depend upon. However, a review and update are necessary for the Strategy to keep pace with our understanding of the science and practice of adaptation. The report takes a high-level review of what has changed, how the Strategy has or has not been implemented, and provides recommendations for the future.



RECOMMENDATIONS

Thirteen management recommendations were made, reflecting how natural resource managers should be adapting our current understanding of the science and practice of adaptation to fish and wildlife management for the future.

- **Invest time and resources for education and training** opportunities related to climate adaptation for staff at all levels to encourage understanding, appreciation, and integration.
- **Review conservation goals and objectives** for managed ecosystems, in relation to projections for those systems under a changing climate, on a continual basis.
- **Employ adaptive management** as a key tool in addressing climate change impacts, both direct and indirect, to fish, wildlife, plants, and ecosystems.
- **Conserve and manage habitat at multiple scales**, including large scales previously only considered for long-distance migrations.
- **Identify, protect, and manage refugia** to protect biodiversity and ecosystem services in a changing climate.
- **Integrate landscape efforts** to protect terrestrial climate resilience with watershed protections of resilient aquatic ecosystems.
- **Embrace prospective management** practices for ecosystem transformations where agency authorities, mandates, and regulations are viewed through the lens of future conditions rather than historical baselines.
- **Manage invasive species** (both nonnative and native) by considering not only current deleterious impacts on ecosystems, but also for future impacts as climate change allows them to invade new areas.
- **Direct resources towards research and management of fish, wildlife, and plant disease outbreaks.**
- **Consider the implications of shifting land use**, driven by societal change, as well as climate change, in management decisions.
- **Recognize that Indigenous knowledges (IKs) are valid and valuable** systems of knowledge, equal in value to Western science and crucial for addressing climate change impacts in an inclusive way.
- Ensure management interventions and allocation of resources for climate adaptation **assess and include the needs of marginalized communities**, through equitable and meaningful consultation and engagement.
- **Address climate adaptation planning through cross-sector and cross-jurisdictional coordination**, utilizing a full suite of expertise.

