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EDF toolkit designed to help fisheries build climate change resilience

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By Responsible Seafood Advocate

Innovative tools and learning resources offer 'bridge to cutting edge research and approaches'

On September 6, 2022, the Environmental Defense Fund's Fishery Solutions Center released its new **Climate-Resilient Fisheries Toolkit** (<https://fisherysolutionscenter.edf.org/>) – a comprehensive set of resources that provides fishing communities and partners with tools and information to help fishing communities and partners build climate change resilience. The Toolkit is designed to help fisheries and fishing communities understand the challenges, opportunities, drivers and dynamics in the fishery system and develop solutions based on best practices from fisheries around the world.

"This Toolkit guides frontline stakeholders and communities who are currently grappling with climate change," said Eduardo "Lalo" Boné, senior manager of EDF's Cuba Oceans Program. "The tools are designed to be utilized in a participatory manner, bringing people together to work collaboratively, share knowledge and identify actions that can be taken now to meet their needs."

Climate change and overfishing are increasingly straining fisheries and the marine ecosystems that support them, putting marine biodiversity, the nutrition of people in coastal communities and the global food supply at greater risk. To help address these critical issues, EDF's multidisciplinary team worked closely with hundreds of stakeholders and practitioners from fishing communities worldwide to



The Toolkit is designed to help fisheries and fishing communities understand the challenges, opportunities, drivers and dynamics in the fishery system and develop solutions based on best practices from fisheries around the world. Photo by of Ellie Burgin.

synthesize their knowledge into easy-to-use tools that collectively represent the most comprehensive set of resources to solve key challenges.

The learnings and processes developed from these experiences can be found in the Toolkit, which features over 30 tools and resources organized into six themes: governance and policy, climate adaptive management, ocean technology solutions, secure fishing rights, science and data and livelihoods and well-being.



(<http://penverproducts.com>).

“Whether you are a fisher, a fishery researcher, manager, NGO representative, community member, academic or local official – the Toolkit features tools and resources that support you in building climate-resilient fisheries and communities,” said Jeff Young, senior manager of Global Capacity Development. “Even if you have limited fishery data, the tools and frameworks can help you use the best available information, including local and traditional knowledge, to make informed management decisions.”

As fishery managers and communities around the world seek to understand and address the impacts of climate change, EDF says that the Toolkit serves as “a bridge to cutting edge research and approaches to support on-the-ground action.” For example, the Climate Vulnerability Assessment tool, building from methodologies developed by NOAA, enables users in data- and capacity-limited contexts to examine how climate impacts will affect different species in local waters, allowing communities to prioritize species for stronger monitoring or management.

Likewise, “NutriCast” – a web-based tool developed by the University of California Santa Barbara’s emLab, EDF and Harvard’s Chan School of Public Health – allows decision makers to explore predicted nutritional gains from marine fisheries and mariculture reforms under climate change, which can inform policies, interventions, or initiatives to bolster food and nutrition security.

EDF’s new guidance document, *Technologies for Climate-Resilient Fisheries*, illustrates how new and emerging technologies can help address key fishery management challenges resulting from climate change, providing a practical overview of opportunities for technology-supported management. EDF will continue to add new tools and resources as they become available.

“Our hope is that the Climate-Resilient Fisheries Toolkit inspires people around the world by sharing success stories and the ‘how-to’ guidance to take action,” said Sarah Poon, associate vice president for the Fishery Solutions Center. “We look forward to continuing to work with partners around the world to develop and apply the tools and solutions needed to support ocean health and community well-being.”

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Author



RESPONSIBLE SEAFOOD ADVOCATE

editor@globalseafood.org (<mailto:editor@globalseafood.org>).

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