

# East Coast Climate Change Scenario Planning

Update for Council Coordination Committee

October 2022



## Introduction

The East Coast Climate Change Scenario Planning initiative is being conducted by East Coast fishery management organizations to explore governance and management issues related to climate change and fishery stock distributions. Scenario planning is a tool that managers can use to test decisions or develop strategy in a context of uncertain environmental, social, political, economic, or technical factors. It is a structured process for managers to explore and describe multiple plausible futures, termed “scenarios,” and consider how to best adapt and respond to them.

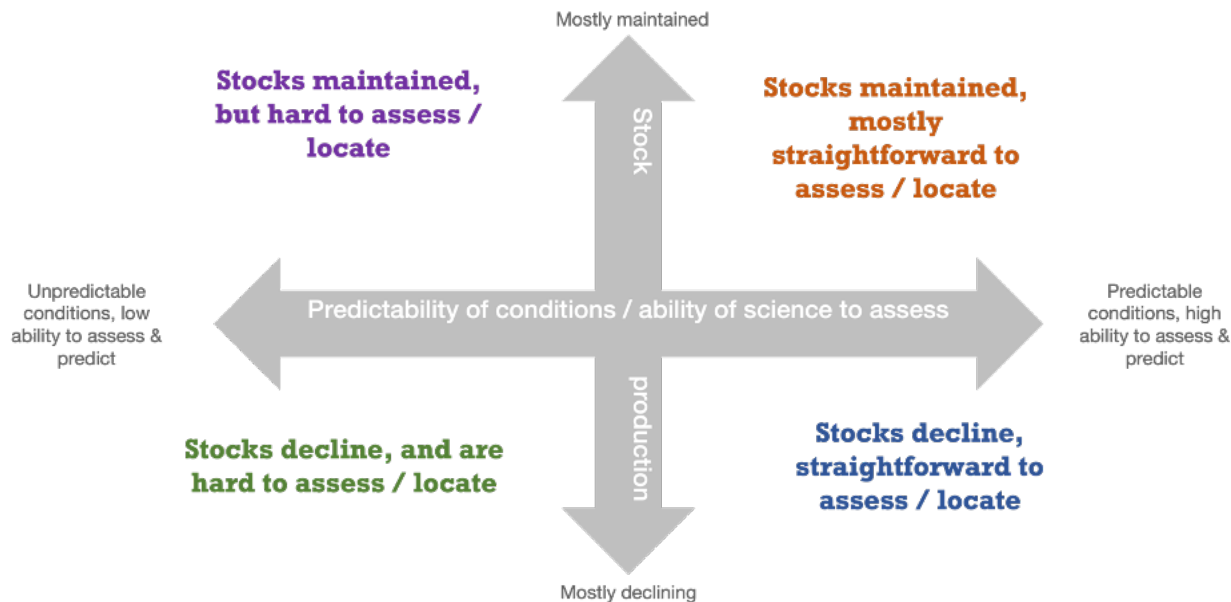
The CCC received an overview of this project at their May 2022 meeting. This document provides an update on recent and upcoming activities for the initiative. Additional information is available at: <https://www.mafmc.org/climate-change-scenario-planning>.

## Recent Activities

### *Scenario Creation: June - August 2022*

A [Scenario Creation Workshop](#) was held on June 21-23, 2022, in Arlington, VA, bringing together approximately 65 stakeholders from various disciplines to explore the possibilities of what climate change might mean for the future of fisheries. Participants developed and refined a set of draft scenarios that describe different possible futures for East Coast fisheries in an era of climate change. A summary of the workshop is available here: [Scenario Creation Workshop Summary](#).

Following the workshop, the project core team refined the original eight draft scenarios created by workshop participants, condensing them into four scenarios (see figure on the next page). The core team then held two “scenario deepening” webinars on August 17 and 23, 2022. These webinars offered all interested stakeholders an opportunity to review, validate, and add details to the draft scenarios. Participants had the opportunity to add comments and suggestions to make the scenarios more plausible, challenging, relevant, memorable, and divergent. These meetings were attended by approximately 150 unique participants. In response to feedback received during these meetings, the core team further revised the draft scenarios to inform the manager webinars described below. The draft scenario narratives as of September 2022 can be found here: [Draft Scenario Narratives](#).



*Simple view of the four scenarios resulting from the Scenario Creation Phase of this initiative. Additional details can be found in the Draft Scenario Narratives Document linked above.*

### *Manager Brainstorming Sessions: September/October 2022*

The current phase of the initiative is the Applications Phase, where participating organizations will apply the scenarios to help generate ideas and offer solutions to the challenges highlighted in the initiative. This will include exploring what the different scenarios mean for future fishery management and governance and reaching conclusions about any recommendations for changes.

Three fishery manager brainstorming working sessions were conducted between September 19 and October 3, 2022, bringing together a cross-section of representatives from participating management organizations. The purpose of these webinar sessions was for these small groups to identify the issues, ideas, and options that should be discussed at later scenario planning conversations at Council & Commission meetings during Fall 2022, and subsequently at a Summit Meeting in early 2023. A summary of ideas heard during the September/October meetings will be generated prior to the November and December Council and Commission meetings.

## Next Steps

### *Council and Commission Meetings: November/December 2022*

At their respective November and December meetings, the ASMFC, MAFMC, SAMFC, and NEFMC will set time aside on their agenda for more in-depth discussions of the scenarios, and to develop ideas and recommendations from each management body to support the summit. The scenarios will be used as a platform for these discussions, in which the management bodies will consider questions such as:

- Under each scenario, what are the challenges and opportunities that fisheries governance and management would face?
- How well would our current fishery governance and management arrangements cope if these new scenario conditions were to occur?
- What needs to change in fisheries governance and management to prepare for these scenario possibilities?
- What are the tools and processes that need to be advanced now in order to ensure that fisheries are governed and managed effectively in an era of climate change?

### *Applications Summit Meeting: February 2023*

An in-person summit meeting is planned for February 2023, targeting approximately 50 participants from the participating management organizations. The summit meeting will serve as a venue to discuss the input from manager sub-group and individual management body sessions, with the goal of developing a set of governance, management, and monitoring recommendations from the scenario planning process. Recommendations generated at the summit will be refined into a final report following the meeting. These recommendations may include both near-term and long-term priorities. Some may be actions that could be undertaken by individual management bodies while others may be recommendations for policy changes that would require interjurisdictional coordination and/or legislative changes.