

# EAST COAST CLIMATE CHANGE SCENARIO PLANNING INITIATIVE

Update  
April 2021



# OVERVIEW

*UPDATE ONLY – NO ACTION NEEDED TODAY*

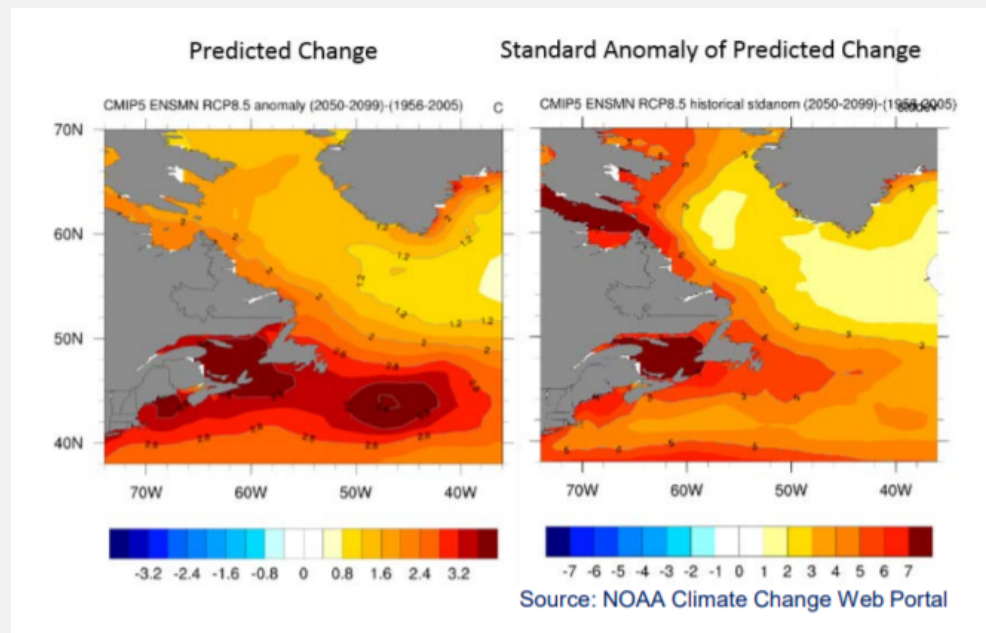
1. Recap of Northeast Region Coordinating Council (NRCC) initiation.
2. Brief review of what scenario planning means.
3. Overview of **DRAFT** proposed process (pending further approval from NRCC and discussion with facilitator).
  - Core team & facilitation
  - Benefits & expected outcomes
  - Structure & participation
  - Proposed process
4. Next steps

# I. NRCC DISCUSSION RECAP

- **November 2019:** NRCC agreed to explore scenario planning (SP) initiative to address governance issues related to shifting stocks.
- **Early 2020:** Formed working group (WG) to explore & plan, with reps from MAFMC, NEFMC, ASMFC, GARFO, NEFSC, SAFMC.
- **July and November 2020:** Discussed WG recommendations and agreed to move forward with East Coast initiative.
- NRCC + South Atlantic rep. will serve as primary decision-making body.

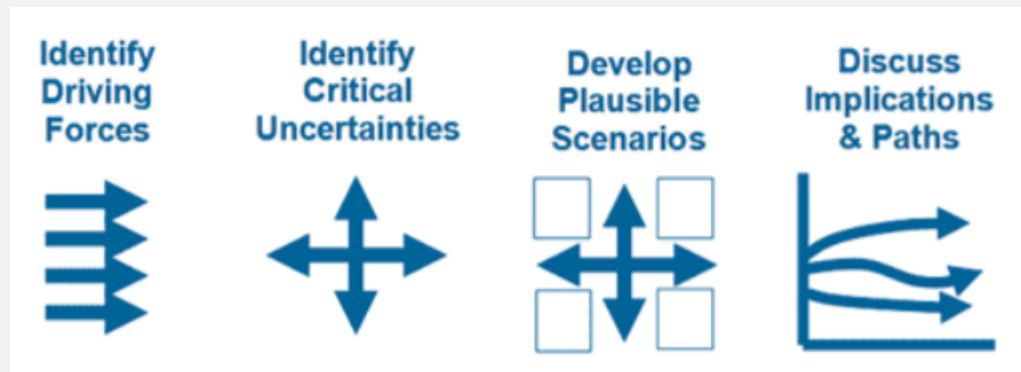
## 2. WHAT IS SCENARIO PLANNING?

- “A tool that managers can use to test decisions or develop strategy in a context of uncontrollable and uncertain environmental, social, political, economic, or technical factors.”
- NPS 2013: “Using Scenarios to Explore Climate Change: A Handbook for Practitioners”



## 2. WHAT IS SCENARIO PLANNING?

- Explores plausible alternative scenarios under different assumptions of future conditions.
- Allows for explicit consideration of uncertainty in future conditions.
- Not a prediction or forecast.
- Does not have to be data intensive.



## HOW IS SCENARIO PLANNING USED?

- Use resulting scenarios to strategize and prioritize for future.
- Helps managers identify actions to take or avoid now to prepare for and adapt to different possible future conditions.
  - Which actions are likely to be beneficial under a range of future conditions?
  - Which actions should be avoided due to reduced flexibility or increased difficulty of adapting to future conditions?

## A FEW BENEFITS

- Helps explore underlying assumptions and perceptions about future conditions.
- Avoids overconfidence about future conditions or focus on a narrow view of future.
- Stimulates creative and innovative thinking about how to prepare for change.

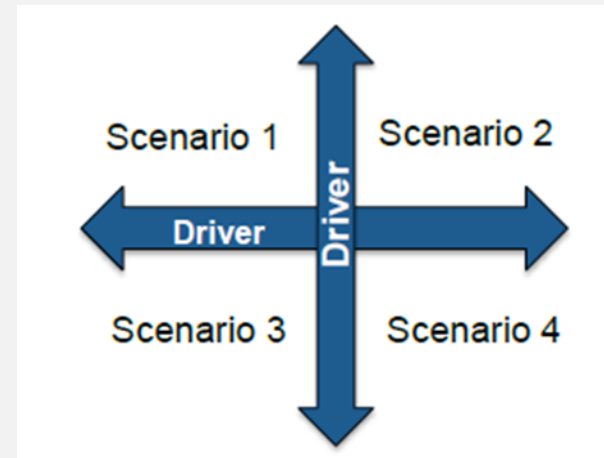


*Photo credit: Borggaard,  
Dick et al, 2019*

# SCENARIO DEVELOPMENT

- Typically involves one or more workshops with managers & stakeholders.
- Identify most critical/uncertain drivers.
- Develop scenarios based on these drivers that are plausible, relevant, challenging, divergent.

***Common scenario building format:***





# SCENARIO PLANNING OVERVIEW MATERIALS

- More thorough introduction for managers & stakeholders planned for initial scoping phase (format TBD – webinar, video, etc.)
- Resources available at new website for this initiative:  
<https://www.mafmc.org/actions/climate-change-scenario-planning>
- Pacific Council SP initiative underway:  
<https://www.pcouncil.org/actions/climate-and-communities-initiative/>

# EAST COAST SP CORE TEAM

- Primary technical group, working with contracted facilitator to conduct research, planning, coordination, producing materials.
- Analogous to FMAT or PDT
- Initial meeting March 11, 2021
- NRCC may add more members

| Organization | Representative |
|--------------|----------------|
| MAFMC        | Kiley Dancy    |
| ASMFC        | Toni Kerns     |
| NMFS GARFO   | Moira Kelly    |
| NEFMC        | Deirdre Boelke |
| NMFS NEFSC   | Sean Lucey     |
| SAFMC        | Roger Pugliese |

## FACILITATION

- NRCC + core team supports hiring experienced facilitator (currently in progress).
- Core team noted that further planning, development of objectives, etc. should be informed by discussions with facilitator.

## OBJECTIVES AND FOCAL QUESTION

- **General topic:** management & governance issues related to climate-driven changes in the fisheries, particularly changing stock distribution.
- Specific objectives and questions to be developed/refined by core team, facilitator, and NRCC.
- Core team will develop strawman for NRCC consideration.
  - Recommend leaving as draft through public scoping process.

## EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Core team, facilitator, and NRCC will further clarify expected outcomes.
- Likely possibilities:
  - Near-term and long-term broad management priorities that are robust to future conditions; avoid actions that reduce flexibility to adapt.
  - Understand limitations of current systems for responding to change.
  - Policy recommendations for governance improvements.
  - Data gaps, research needs, monitoring needs.

# STRUCTURE & PARTICIPATION

- NRCC + South Atlantic as decision making body.
- Input from Councils & Commission
  - Possible involvement of advisory bodies (e.g., SSCs, APs) especially during scoping, but need to balance with large scale & complexity.
- Stakeholder input and involvement
  - Variable throughout process: broader at outset, likely needs to be limited for workshops given scale of initiative.

## PROPOSED PROCESS – NOT YET APPROVED BY NRCC

- Based on NRCC working group recommendations; following NPS handbook.
- Start with public “scoping” process, followed by two workshop model:
  - Scenario building workshop
  - Implications/applications workshop

# PROPOSED PROCESS – NOT YET APPROVED BY NRCC

| Phase                | Summary  | Approximate time frame      |
|----------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| Phase 1: Orientation | Establish objectives, process, structure. Form core team; secure facilitator.  | Late 2020-Early Summer 2021 |
| Phase 2: Scoping     | Structured outreach process for stakeholder perspectives on uncertainties in east coast fisheries & project objectives | Summer 2021                 |
| Phase 3: Exploration | Identify and analyze key uncertainties driving change in east coast fisheries; prep for first workshop                 | Fall 2021                   |
| Phase 4: Synthesis   | Workshop to develop scenarios  | Late 2021                   |
| Phase 5: Application | Evaluate implications and management responses; develop recommendations  | Spring 2022                 |
| Phase 6: Monitoring  | Identify key indicators to monitor change  | Summer 2022                 |



## 4. NEXT STEPS

- Similar updates planned for NEFMC (April), ASMFC (May), and SAFMC (June).
- Finalize contract with facilitator; involve in further developing plan with core team.
- Core team meeting prior to NRCC meeting.
- May NRCC: review/approve draft plan and timeline; draft objectives.
- Develop plan for scoping.