

EAST COAST CLIMATE CHANGE SCENARIO PLANNING

Update to MAFMC
August 10, 2022



New England
Fishery Management Council

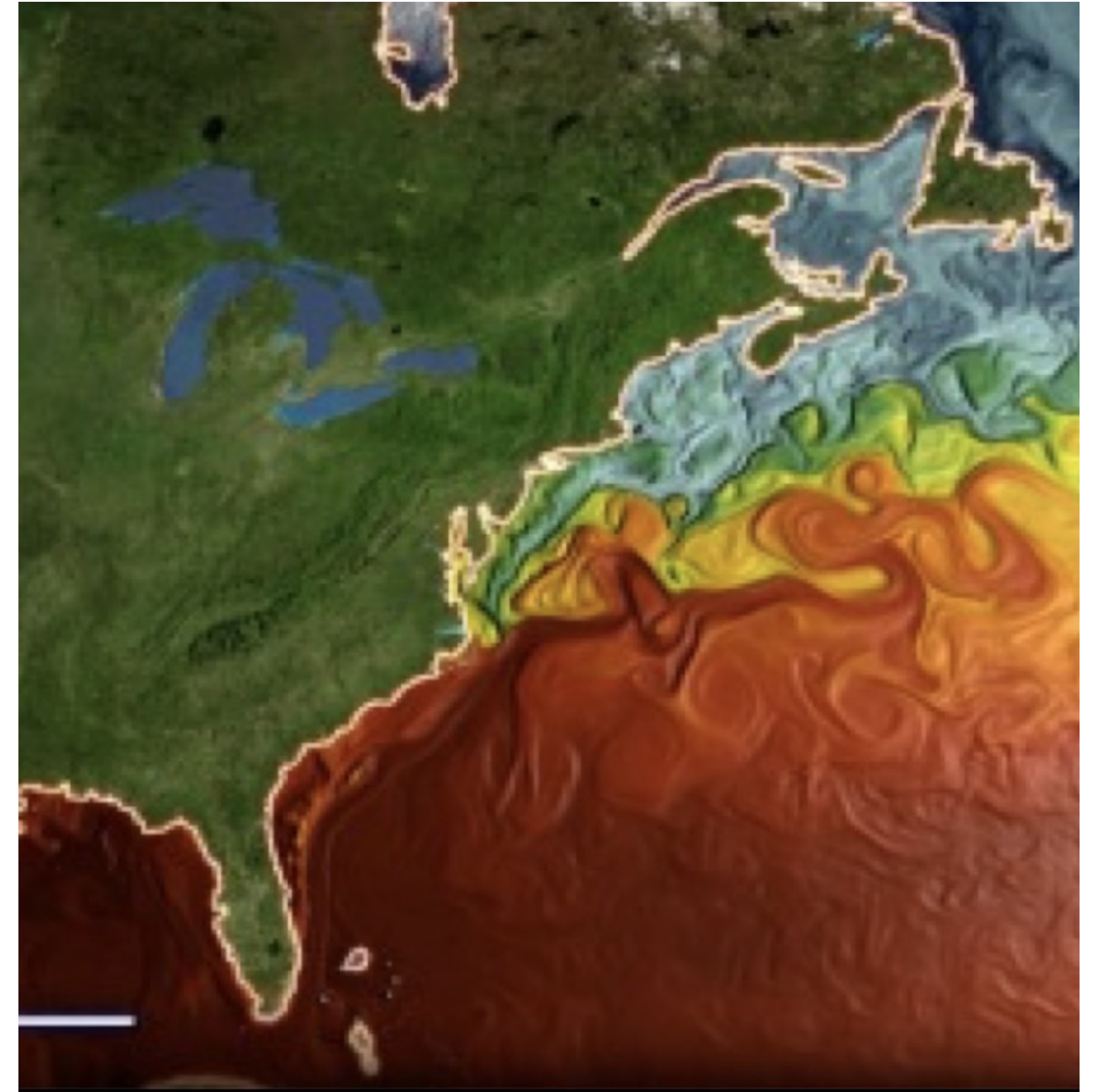


MID-ATLANTIC FISHERY
MANAGEMENT
COUNCIL



Initiative Objectives

1. Explore how East Coast fishery governance and management issues will be affected by climate driven change in fisheries, particularly changing stock availability and distributions.
2. Advance a set of tools and processes that provide flexible and robust fishery management strategies, which continue to promote fishery conservation and resilient fishing communities, and address uncertainty in an era of climate change.



East Coast Scenario Planning Initiative Timeline

Steps in this Multi-Year Initiative



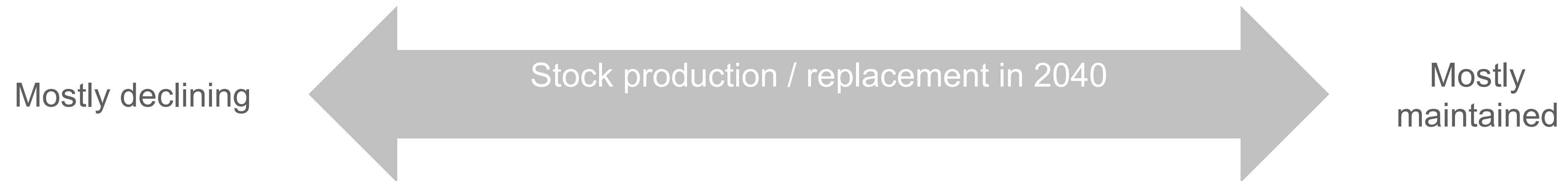
Scenario Creation Workshop

- June 21-23 in Arlington VA
- Attended by approximately 75 stakeholders & staff
- Productive 2.5-day workshop with highly engaged participants



Scenario Framework Construction

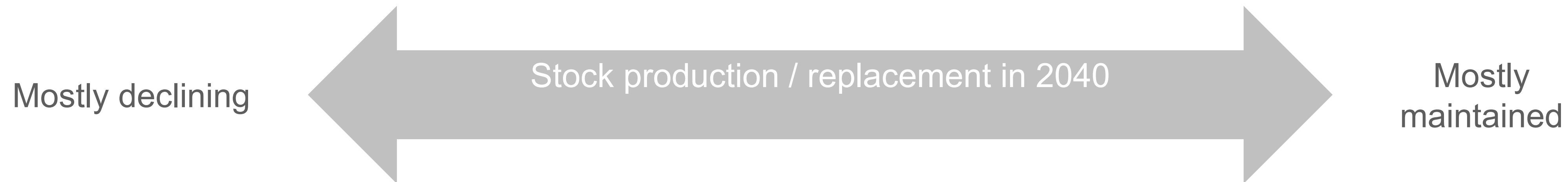
- At workshop, combined 3 different critical uncertainties,



Scenario Framework Construction

The scenario framework is constructed by combining two “critical uncertainties” – important factors that are likely to shape the future but could develop in unpredictable ways.

1. What happens to stock production / species productivity as climate change continues out to 2040? Does it result in declining productivity (alongside worsening habitat, and low rates of species replacement), or is productivity mostly maintained (with adequate habitat and sufficient levels of species replacement)?



Scenario Framework Construction

The scenario framework is constructed by combining two “critical uncertainties” – important factors that are likely to shape the future but could develop in unpredictable ways.

2. How unpredictable are ocean conditions, and how well is science able to assess and predict stock levels and locations by 2040? Do conditions become far more unpredictable, where existing science is clearly unable to provide much useful information, or are conditions sufficiently predictable to allow science to provide mostly accurate information about stocks and location?

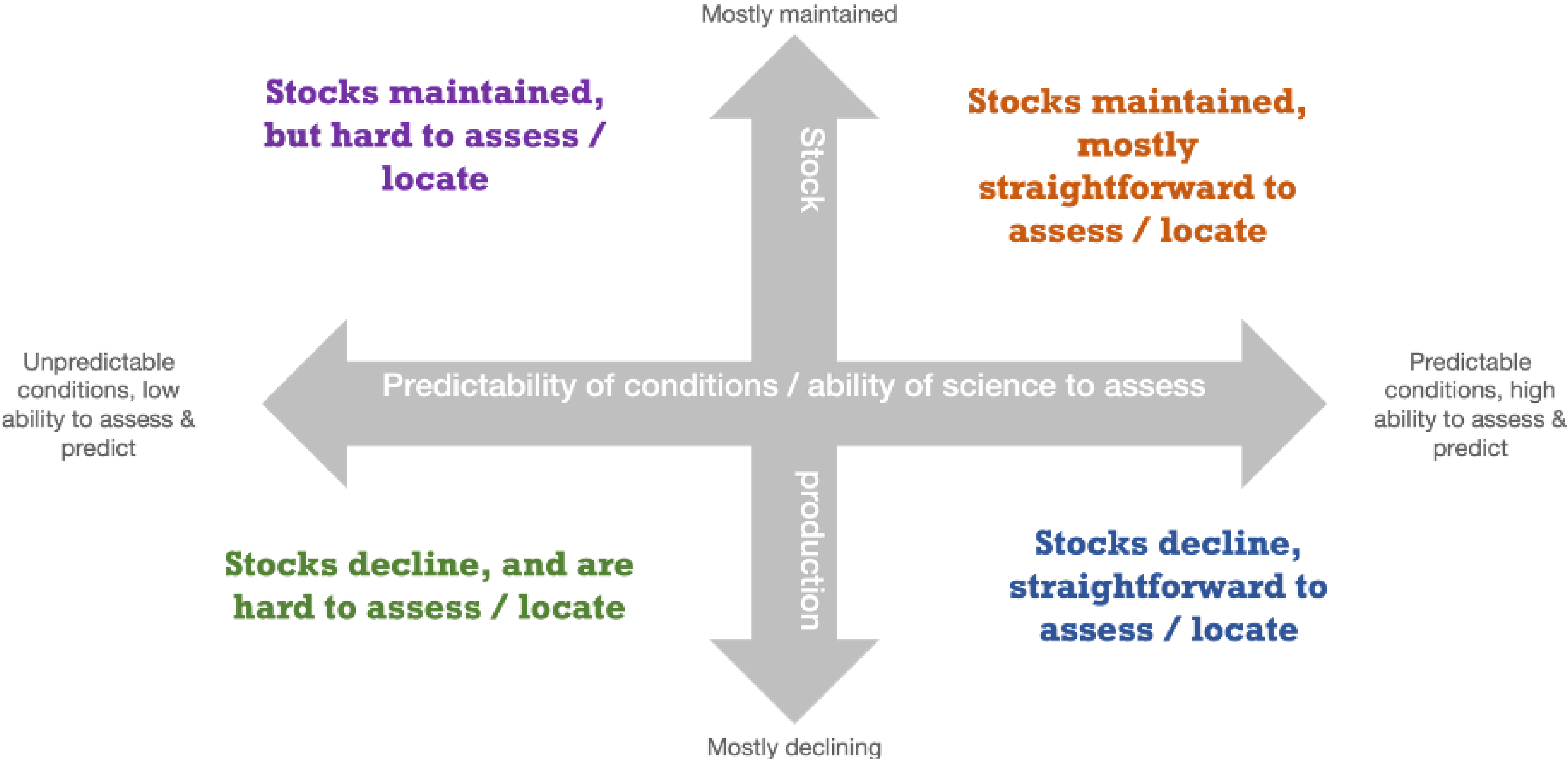
Unpredictable
changes &
conditions, low
ability to assess

Predictability of conditions / ability of science to assess by
2040

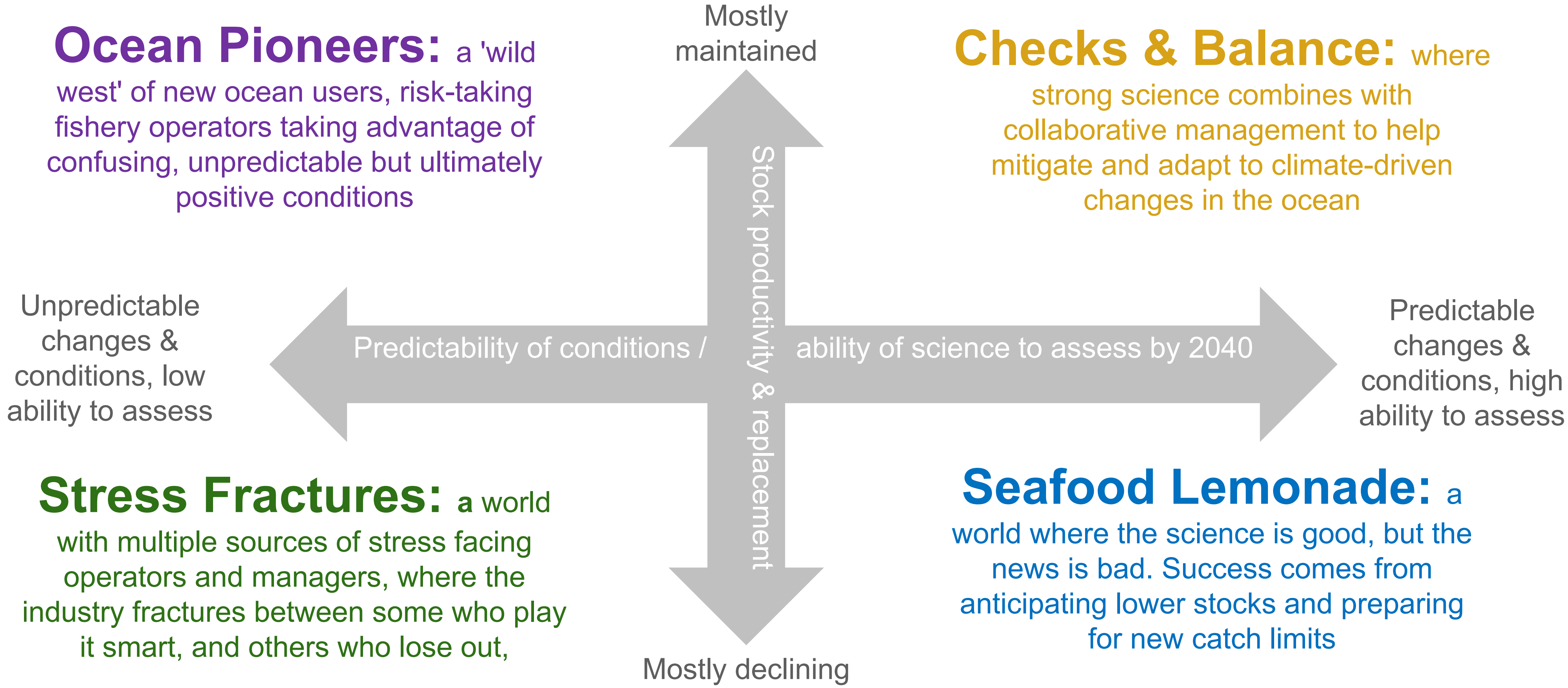
Predictable
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Scenario Framework: East Coast Fisheries in 2040

Combining the uncertainties results in a matrix that creates four different stories of the future



Scenario Framework: East Coast Fisheries in 2040



Scenario Deepening and Applications: Next Steps

Scenario Deepening Webinars: August 2022

- . Two 2-hour webinars will be held on the following dates:
 - **Wednesday, August 17, 3-5 pm**
 - **Tuesday, August 23, 10 am-12 pm**

Applications Phase Fishery Manager Brainstorming Working Groups: September 2022 (new)

- . Purpose: Identify the issues, ideas, and options that should be discussed at scenario planning conversations at Council & Commission fall

Summit Meeting: Tentatively February 2023

The summit meeting will discuss input from management body sessions, with the goal of developing a final set of governance, management, and monitoring recommendations from the scenario planning process

