



Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
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MEMORANDUM

Date: July 25, 2022
To: Chris Moore, Executive Director
From: Kiley Dancy, Staff
Subject: East Coast Climate Change Scenario Planning Update

On Wednesday, August 10, the Council will receive an update on East Coast Climate Change Scenario Planning, including 1) a recap of the June 2022 scenario creation workshop and 2) a summary of plans for upcoming scenario deepening webinars and management group discussion sessions.

June 2022 Scenario Creation Workshop

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. A summary of the scenario creation workshop, including draft descriptions of the initial scenarios, is in development and will be posted to the meeting page as supplemental material for this agenda item. Workshop materials are available at: <https://www.mafmc.org/council-events/scenario-creation-workshop>.

Next Steps

The next step in the scenario planning process will include two “scenario deepening” webinars will be held in August 2022. These webinars will offer all interested stakeholders an opportunity to review, validate, and add details to the draft scenarios. These webinars will be held on Wednesday, August 17 from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. and on Tuesday, August 23 from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. These 2-hour sessions will begin with an overview of the outputs and stories from the draft scenarios. Participants will then have an opportunity to add comments and suggestions to make the scenarios more plausible, challenging, relevant, memorable, and divergent. For each scenario, participants will be encouraged to imagine specific examples about impacts to particular species, regions, and communities. Participants only need to attend one of the two webinars. The outcome of the two webinars will be a more detailed set of scenarios that will be used as a platform for later stages of the process. Registration information will be posted to: <https://www.mafmc.org/climate-change-scenario-planning>.

Following the scenario deepening webinars, the core team intends to hold three fishery manager brainstorming working sessions bringing together a cross section of representatives from participating management organizations. The purpose of these webinar sessions would be to have

these small groups 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. The output from these manager working sessions will ensure that the Councils & Commission will not be starting from a blank slate, but will instead have specific issues to consider and ideas to build on, setting the stage for the later summit meeting.

At their respective November and December meetings, the ASFMC, 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.

An in person summit meeting is tentatively planned for February or March 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 final set of governance, management, and monitoring recommendations from the scenario planning process.

Additional updates will be posted to the scenario planning website as they are available, at: <https://www.mafmc.org/climate-change-scenario-planning>.