

East Coast Climate Change Scenario Planning

Update for Commission and Council Meetings

November 2022



Introduction

The East Coast Climate Change Scenario Planning initiative is being conducted by East Coast fishery management organizations to explore future 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 Commission and Councils have been receiving updates on the activities of the initiative. This document provides an overview of what to expect at the upcoming Commission and Council meetings. Additional information is available at: <https://www.mafmc.org/climate-change-scenario-planning>.

Council and Commission Meetings: November/December 2022

At their respective November and December meetings, the ASMFC, MAFMC, SAMFC, and NEFMC will have a workshop for in-depth discussions of the scenarios.

In these workshops, each of 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 conditions were to occur?
- What needs to change in fisheries governance and management to prepare for these possibilities?
- What are the tools and processes that need to be advanced now to ensure that fisheries are governed and managed effectively in an era of climate change?

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council members are asked to review two documents in preparation for these discussions to be held the afternoon of Monday, December 5, 2022, during a workshop conducted in Full Council Session I. The first is a Scenario Narrative document (**SAFMC - FC1 Attachment 6b: Final Scenario Narratives, November 2022**) that outlines each of the four future scenarios in detail. The second is a shorter Summary of Manager Meetings (**SAFMC - FC1 Attachment 6c: Summary of Manger Sessions, November 2022**) document. This contains an initial set of ideas generated by a cross-section of fishery managers from participating management organizations. during brainstorming sessions in September / October 2022. The outcome of discussions at the November / December Council and

Commission meetings will be a set of ideas and recommendations from each management body to be considered at a summit meeting in February 2023.

Next Step

Applications Summit Meeting: February 2023

An in-person summit meeting is planned for February 15-16, 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 potential actions from the scenario planning process. Potential actions generated at the summit will be refined into a final report following the meeting. These potential actions 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.