

Scenario Planning to Address Climate Change

Fall 2020 APs Update

Background

- Many fisheries are facing very uncertain times – unpredictable events, climate change, alterations in global markets, pandemic, etc.
- How can fishery managers take these unpredictable events into consideration when making recommendations that are required to maintain sustainable fishery resources and fishing communities?
- How can the Councils plan ahead when these unpredictable events are so uncertain?

Scenario planning?

- Regional management agencies on the east coast (New England and Mid-Atlantic Councils, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, NMFS) have been discussing Scenario Planning as a possible tool to address these challenges and formed a task force to investigate the issue further.
- Opportunity to evaluate challenging climate change related management issues, such as redistribution of stocks in a changing ocean environment across multiple management agency jurisdictions.
- Complex jurisdictional issues are coming!

What is Scenario Planning (SP)

- Method of identifying uncertainties and determining options that will meet management goals across multiple possible sets of future conditions.
- Participants get together and consider different possible future states, or scenarios. Together the group develops robust management strategies for uncontrollable or uncertain environment.
- Other Councils and federal agencies have used or are in the process of applying this approach.

Scenario Planning Working Group



Summary of SPWG Recommendations

- #1: Appoint a Core Team
- #2: Hire a professional facilitator with scenario planning experience
- #3: Establish an ad hoc Scenario Planning Committee
- #4: Ensure robust public participation
- #5: Accept The Nature Conservancy's offer to partner
- #6: Two workshop model; 18-36 months

What next?

- NRCC discussed this topic in July 2020 – general support but still many questions.
- MAFMC work priority for 2020, under consideration for 2021.
- SAFMC briefly discussed at their last meeting, more detailed presentation planned for early 2021. General support for this approach.
- NEFMC Executive Committee is finalizing priorities for 2021 in late October