



EAST COAST SCENARIO PLANNING FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

BRIEFING ON POTENTIAL INITIATIVE

PREPARED FOR THE SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT
COUNCIL

SEPTEMBER 2020



WHAT IS SCENARIO PLANNING?

“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).

Provides a structured process for managers to explore and describe multiple plausible futures and to consider how to best adapt and respond to them.

Strategic Challenge



Issues resulting from climate change



POTENTIAL EAST COAST INITIATIVE

In November 2019, the Northeast Regional Coordinating Committee (NRCC) discussed a potential climate change scenario planning process for the East Coast.

NRCC agreed to move forward with region-wide planning to explore jurisdictional and governance issues from shifting stocks.

Scenario planning working group (SPWG) formed and tasked with developing proposal for NRCC to review.



SCENARIO PLANNING WORKING GROUP

SPWG currently includes representatives from all the NRCC members, NMFS HQ, and the SAFMC.

Gathered info about logistics, costs, facilitation, pros and cons of various scales, etc.

The Nature Conservancy secured a substantial grant to conduct scenario planning and has offered to partner on the East Coast project.

Information and recommendations were presented to the NRCC at their July 30, 2020 meeting.



NRCC COMMENTS

All members agreed that scenario planning is important and could help with governance discussions.

Some supportive of moving ahead immediately, others concerned about commitment and priority setting.

States are going to realize funding impacts from pandemic; concern about staff and time commitments.

Regarding TNC's funding offer: there may be potential complications in having an outside grant provide funding for expenditures normally covered by Council grants or appropriated budgets for Agency staff.



NRCC COMMENTS (CONT'D)

- Acknowledged the need to further evaluate the legal and potential optics issues with accepting the TNC funding.
- Agreed to designate the SPWG as the core group for the project and suggested the following next steps:
 - The Mid-Atlantic Council will take the lead on discussions with NOAA GC on partnering with TNC.
 - Discuss with the South Atlantic Council its commitment to this project.
 - Allow NRCC member organizations (and SAFMC) to discuss scenario planning in fall priority setting discussions and/or revisit the topic and issue at the fall NRCC meeting (November).



NEEDED COUNCIL GUIDANCE

- Does the Council wish to participate in this region-wide initiative?
- If so, when does the Council wish to have more in-depth discussion?
- Where would this fit in workplan for 2021 (and beyond?) in terms of priority?