

EAST COAST CLIMATE CHANGE SCENARIO PLANNING INITIATIVE

NRCC

May 2021



New England
Fishery Management
Council



OVERVIEW

- Recap of timeline and progress to date
- Items for NRCC consideration:
 1. Core team recommendations for additional members
 2. Update on facilitator/clarify funding details
 3. Approve draft objectives & focal question
 4. Approve draft expected outcomes
 5. Approve proposed process & timeline
 6. Clarify expectations for NRCC review/approval of various steps
- Next steps

TIMELINE TO DATE

- **November 2019:** NRCC agreed to explore scenario planning (SP) initiative to address governance issues related to shifting stocks.
- **Early 2020:** Formed working group (WG) to explore & plan, with reps from MAFMC, NEFMC, ASMFC, GARFO, NEFSC, SAFMC.
- **July and November 2020:** Discussed WG recommendations and agreed to move forward with East Coast initiative.
- **Early 2021:** Core team formed.
- **Spring 2021:** Two core team meetings. Facilitator contracted. Updates at MAFMC, NEFMC, ASMFC meetings, (SAFMC in June).

I. CORE TEAM MEMBERSHIP

- Primary technical group, working with facilitator to conduct research, planning, coordination, producing materials.
- In March, core team recommended adding:
 - Wendy Morrison, NMFS HQ (served on prior NRCC working group; experience w/ other NMFS scenario planning initiatives)
 - Someone from the SEFSC w/ climate change & fisheries science expertise, if available
- Current team:

Organization	Representative
MAFMC	Kiley Dancy
ASMFC	Toni Kerns
NMFS GARFO	Moira Kelly
NEFMC	Deirdre Boelke
NMFS NEFSC	Sean Lucey
SAFMC	Roger Pugliese

2. UPDATE ON FACILITATION

- Finalized facilitator contract with Jonathan Star, Scenario Insight LLC
 - Participated in last core team meeting to develop draft objectives/focal question and expected outcomes
- Facilitation funding from TNC grant (via ASMFC)
 - Current contract includes facilitation costs through first workshop (late 2021/early 2022); addendum will be needed to better estimate costs for rest of process
 - Remaining TNC grant money (if available) intended to be used for workshop costs such as facility rental and limited non-federal workshop participant travel

2. FUNDING DISCUSSION

- Additional funding offered from NMFS HQ to support workshop participation, outreach, and other workshop expenses
- Plus, potential for part-time detail of staff member from SERO to support core team and assist with research & logistics

2. FUNDING DISCUSSION

- Given some likely constraints in how various funding sources can be used, recommend NRCC clarify limitations/constraints, identify which aspects of exercise should be funded by various sources.
 - e.g., Council/Commissioner travel, Council member stipends, federal employee travel, etc.
 - Are there any aspects of this process TNC funds should or should not be used for?
- NRCC could also identify and prioritize other potential uses for any available funds beyond facilitation/workshop costs, if applicable.

3. DRAFT OBJECTIVES AND FOCAL QUESTION

- Core team and facilitator developed draft objectives/focal question for NRCC consideration, based on NRCC-identified general topic of management and governance issues related to climate-driven changes in the fisheries, particularly changing stock distribution
- Recommend leaving as draft through a public scoping process, to be refined based on public input if necessary

3. DRAFT OBJECTIVES AND FOCAL QUESTION

- **Draft objectives: why are we doing this work?**
 - (i) To explore how fishery governance and management issues will be affected by climate-driven change in fisheries, particularly shifting stock availability and distributions.
 - (ii) To develop a set of tools and processes, which provide flexible and resilient fisheries management strategies that effectively address uncertainty in an era of climate change.

3. DRAFT OBJECTIVES AND **FOCAL QUESTION**

- **Strategic challenge:** how should east coast fishery management and governance evolve in an era of climate change?
- **Draft focal question:**
 - How will climate change affect stock distribution, availability, and other aspects of fisheries over the course of the next 20 years? And what does this mean for effective future governance and management across multiple jurisdictions?

4. DRAFT EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- A set of scenarios that describe different ways that climate change could affect the future of east coast fisheries.
- An understanding of the implications of these scenarios and the challenges and opportunities facing fishery management in future, including a better understanding of the limitations of current systems.
- A set of near-term and long-term management priorities that help achieve fishery management objectives under a range of different future conditions.
- Policy recommendations for broader governance changes that would improve our ability to adapt to varying future scenarios.
- A list of data gaps, research needs, and monitoring needs for changing conditions.
- A framework for ongoing conversation and idea generation with and amongst various stakeholders.

5. PROPOSED PROCESS AND TIMELINE

- Based on 2020 NRCC working group recommendations; following NPS handbook.
- 6-phase process from now through summer 2022
- Includes public “scoping” process and two major stakeholder workshops:
 1. Scenario building workshop
 2. Implications/applications workshop

5. PROPOSED PROCESS AND TIMELINE

Phase	Summary	Approximate timing
Phase 1: Orientation	Establish objectives, process, structure. Form core team; secure facilitator.	Late 2020-Early Summer 2021
Phase 2: Scoping	Structured outreach process for stakeholder perspectives on uncertainties in east coast fisheries & project objectives	Summer/Fall 2021 (Virtual)
Phase 3: Exploration	Identify and analyze key uncertainties driving change in east coast fisheries; prep for first workshop	Fall 2021 (In person and/or virtual)
Phase 4: Synthesis	Workshop to develop scenarios	Late 2021/Early 2022 (In person)
Phase 5: Application	Evaluate implications and management responses; develop recommendations	Spring/Summer 2022 (In person)
Phase 6: Monitoring	Identify key indicators to monitor change	Summer 2022 (In person and/or virtual)

Additional details included in Table 1 of draft process document

6. NRCC VS. CORE TEAM DECISION MAKING

- Given relatively infrequent NRCC meetings, which aspects does NRCC need to explicitly review/approve (as opposed to core team & facilitator decision)?
- e.g., does NRCC want to approve a plan for scoping process? A plan for involvement of different groups in exploration phase? Workshop participants?

NEXT STEPS

- Core team and facilitator will plan for a scoping process
 - Objectives, methods of gathering input, groups to seek input from, etc.
 - How to use feedback received