

# East Coast Climate Change Scenario Planning

## What to Expect at a Scenario Creation Workshop

Scenario planning is an approach that helps people and organizations prepare for uncertain futures. We know that climate change is already creating a time of transition for East Coast fisheries, but we cannot be sure of the precise nature of the changes to come. In this scenario workshop, participants will discuss the possibilities of how climate change might affect East Coast fisheries over the next 20 years.

Over 75 participants - commercial and recreational fishers, climate, social, and fishery scientists, representatives of non-governmental organizations, community leaders, and fishery managers - will attend this workshop, collaborating to imagine what the future might hold. The conversations will give participants the chance to imagine multiple different ways in which climate change might affect fisheries. Sessions will be focused on creating a **scenario framework**, containing a few different stories that describe how the next 20 years might play out and what this could mean for all fishery stakeholders along the East Coast. In future stages of this process, the scenarios will be used to explore the consequences for fishery governance and management, and to consider changes that may be beneficial under a range of different future conditions.

The Scenario Creation workshop is not about generating and agreeing to solutions that address today's immediate concerns - although there will no doubt be many good ideas raised. We will note these for future reference. Instead, it's best to think of this workshop as building the platform for important conversations to come. It's an opportunity to creatively consider what challenges and opportunities we might face over the next 20 years. What will change? What will stay the same? What do we expect to happen? What could surprise us? And are we prepared for such developments?

Here are three guidelines for participants that will ensure a successful workshop:

**Be curious:** As a participant, we want you to bring your expertise and experience with fisheries to bear - but we also want you to approach the scenario conversation with curiosity. None of us know precisely what the future holds, so it's important we listen to and learn from each other.

**Be collaborative:** Scenario workshops are very interactive. Don't expect to sit back and listen to presentations. You will be working and collaborating in groups to create the scenarios. Bring lots of ideas and be willing to share them with others.

**Be creative:** Scenario work relies on our imagination. During the sessions, don't focus only on the things that you think are likely to happen. Instead, be open-minded about other possibilities, and try to imagine some of the less likely developments that might surprise us in future.