

# What to Expect at a Scenario Creation Workshop

The following information was provided in advance of the June 2022 East Coast Scenario Planning Workshop to set expectations for this meeting to develop draft scenarios. Those undertaking their own scenario work could adapt something similar for a relevant workshop or other component of the scenario planning process.

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 exercise, participants will discuss the possibilities of how climate change might affect east coast fisheries over the next 20 years. The conversations will pay particular attention to possible changes in stock availability and distribution, but many other factors will come into play as well.

Over 75 participants – commercial and recreational fishers, climate and social scientists, representatives of NGOs, community leaders and fishery managers – will collaborate to imagine what the future might hold. The outcome of the workshop will be a **scenario framework**. This will contain a few different stories that describe how the next 20 years might play out and what this might mean for all fishery stakeholders along the East Coast. Following the workshop, these scenarios will then be used to consider whether changes to current fishery governance and management approaches are merited.

This workshop is not about reaching decisions and generating 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 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 approaches 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:** These kinds of conversations are best done in small groups, so expect to be working with others and generating ideas in that small group format. The conversations move quickly, and there is almost never enough time to do full justice to the issues raised.
- **Be creative:** The onus in this session will be on imagining things that might happen. Don't only focus on the things that you think are likely to happen. Instead, try to imagine some of the unexpected developments that might surprise us in future.