

CLIMATE AND COMMUNITIES CORE TEAM REPORT ON THE SCENARIO PLANNING PROJECT

The Ad Hoc Climate and Communities Core Team (CCCT) provided a report to the Council in June ([Agenda Item D.10.a, Supplemental CCCT Report](#)) describing the steps taken to establish the climate change scenario planning exercise and a prospective timeline for future tasks. Prior to June, the CCCT was formed and Mr. Jonathan Star of Scenario Insight was contracted to facilitate the process. CCCT members participated in a workshop in May to learn scenario planning principles and initially plan the project. The CCCT met by webinar on August 8 to coordinate continued work on the project. This report provides an update on progress after June.

The CCCT is currently engaged in the early phase of the process to identify the critical uncertainties and the social, technological, economic, environmental, and political factors that will provide the scenario bounds. In this phase, Mr. Star is conducting interviews with stakeholders and Council advisory bodies, asking people open-ended questions that encourage them to think about the future. At the CCCT's May workshop, we developed a framing question for the interview process: **How will West Coast fishing communities be affected by climate-related shifting stock availability and other developments between now and 2040?** With that framing question in mind, Mr. Star is asking interviewees and advisory bodies the following questions:

1. **LOOKING BACK:** Over the past decade, what have been the most notable developments in West Coast fishing communities? What about in West Coast stock availability? Which trends surprised you most?
2. **ORACLE:** If I could answer any question for you that would help you better understand the future of West Coast fishing communities (in 2040), what would you want to know? You can ask about the world, the industry, the environment...
3. **PRE-DETERMINED:** What are the most important unstoppable or inevitable trends that you think will affect West Coast fishing communities? (What inevitable factors will affect stock availability?)
4. **WILDCARD:** What low probability events could happen to completely reshape the landscape for West Coast fishing communities?
5. **GOOD & BAD SCENARIO:** Describe how a bad scenario might evolve for West Coast fishing communities in the next 20 years? Can you describe a good scenario – what might that involve?
6. **CLOSER:** What should I have asked you that I didn't?

Interviews and other tasks that are in progress or planned for the scenario planning portion of this initiative:

- Mr. Star interviewed 15 diverse stakeholders to elicit perceptions about the most important issues and factors impacting West Coast fishing communities over the next 20-40 years. These interviews were recorded so that Dr. Phil Levin of the University of Washington/The Nature Conservancy could analyze them as part of a larger project assessing fishing communities' vulnerability to climate change.

- Time on the September Council meeting agendas of the Scientific and Statistical Committee, Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel, Ecosystem Workgroup, Habitat Committee and Groundfish Advisory Subpanel was set aside for Mr. Star to gather information from these groups on key issues. Mr. Star also participated in the August 27 Highly Migratory Species Management Team webinar for this purpose.
- Once these interviews are complete, the CCCT will use the results, along with additional information gleaned from reviewing pertinent scientific literature and other sources, to prepare the “building blocks” for scenario construction.

As discussed in our June report, the CCCT is planning a two-day scenario development workshop jointly funded by The Nature Conservancy and the Council, scheduled on January 22-23, 2019, in Orange County, California. Travel funding will be available for invited participants; however, as a public meeting, all interested stakeholders are welcome to attend. A steering committee comprised of a subset of the CCCT has been identified to develop workshop goals and objectives and assist Mr. Star in workshop development.

The overall project schedule is unchanged from that described in the June CCCT report:

Scenario validation: The Core Team will report back to the Council, its advisory bodies, and the public on the results of the Scenario Development Workshop and plans for spring 2020 Strategy Development at the March 2020 Meeting. We would ask for additional input on refining the scenarios from the Council at that meeting.

Scenario application: the Core Team will initiate and conduct the second stage of scenario planning. This will include more focused workshops or focus groups by geography and/or fishery/species groups to brainstorm on potential strategies for addressing the challenges identified in the final scenarios.

Final report: The Core Team will provide a final report to the Council, its advisory bodies, and the public at the June 2020 meeting, detailing the scenarios developed and strategies identified for its discussion and consideration of any possible follow-up actions it may wish to pursue.

PFMC
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