

ECOSYSTEM WORKGROUP REPORT ON THE CLIMATE AND COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE WORKSHOP REPORT

The Ecosystem Workgroup (EWG) thanks the Climate and Communities Core Team (CCCT) and Mr. Jonathan Star for the reports from the January scenario planning workshop in support of the Climate and Communities Initiative. We particularly appreciate the work of the January workshop participants in sorting through and narrowing a broad range of possible futures under a variety of disciplines.

Scenario planning is one part of this initiative. The EWG notes that the goal of the initiative is to:

“ . . . consider strategies for improving the flexibility and responsiveness of our management actions to near-term climate shift and long-term climate change, and strategies for increasing the resiliency of our managed stocks and fisheries to those changes.”

The Council’s first objective for the initiative was to “build a collective understanding of the best available climate science forecasts for change in the California Current Ecosystem (CCE) over the near- and long-term.”

Scenario planning supports the Council’s second objective for the initiative, which was for the Council to assess:

- How West Coast fisheries management systems may interact with each other to affect fisheries operations in different coastal communities;
- How Council decisions may be affected by climate science forecasts;
- How the results of Council decisions may (or may not) have unintended consequences as our climate shifts and changes; and,
- How Council decision-making might be modified to better account for the greater variability and uncertainty associated with near-term climate shift and long-term climate change.

With the initiative goal and objectives in mind, the EWG reviewed the scenario planning process described in **Agenda Item G.3.a Supplemental CCI Workshop Presentation 1** and considered next steps for the Council process. In the five-step process described on the third slide of that presentation (Figure 1, herein), it appears that the Council is in the fourth step of that process, where the scenario stories are to be validated.

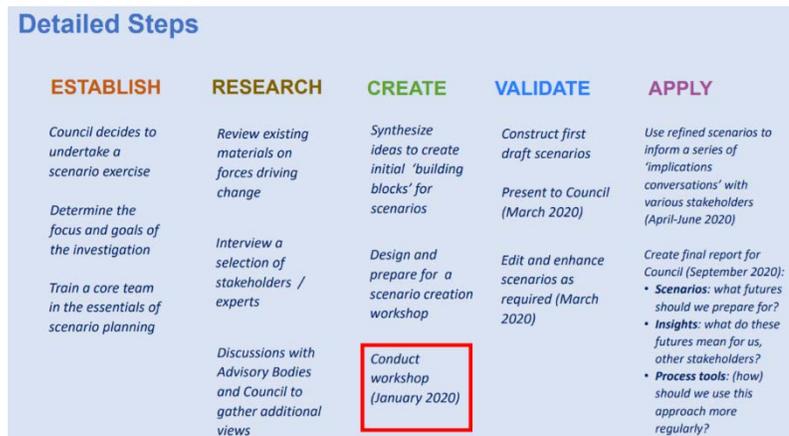


Figure 1: Scenario Planning Process steps, excerpted from G.3.a Supplemental Presentation 1

The primary workshop report in Agenda Item G.3, Attachment 1 distinguishes between the scenario framework, the two-by-two matrix with arrows for different future climate and ocean conditions, and the scenario stories about futures within each box of that matrix (Figure 2, herein). The EWG supports the use of the scenario framework provided in that report, which would consider potential futures where the California Current Ecosystem exhibits more or less climate variability and increases or decreases in species abundance and availability to engage in further scenario stories validation discussions.

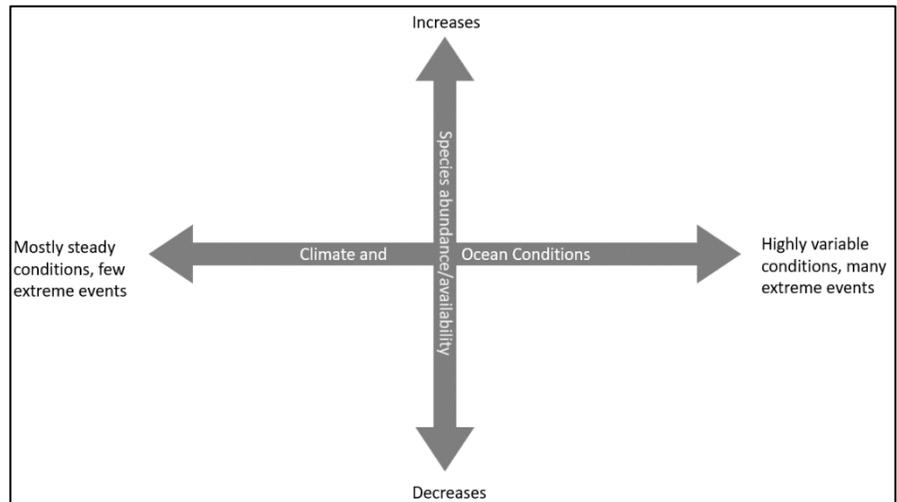


Figure 2: Scenario planning framework matrix

The EWG agrees with the SSC that the scenario stories provided in Appendix 1 of the workshop report need more detail. We recommend that the Validate step of this scenario planning process include enhancing and editing the scenario stories with the overall initiative’s goal and objectives in mind. To achieve that, the EWG recommends the Council approve a process where:

1. The CCCT, at its next webinar meeting on March 20, 2020, discusses and provides guidance to the advisory bodies (ABs) and management teams (MTs) on deepening and validating of the scenario stories.
2. Each set of FMP ABs and MT meet to deepen and validate the scenario stories using the scenario framework developed at the scenario workshop and shown in Figure 2 of this report. That deepening and validation process for the scenario stories should result in stories with a level of specificity and clarity similar to the examples provided in Figure 3 (Atlantic salmon, species-specific) and Figure 4 (Alaska National Park System, region-specific) of this report.
3. FMP ABs and MTs designate representatives to meet with the CCCT to finalize the validation and deepening of the scenario stories.
4. CCCT presents the validated scenarios to Council at a future Council meeting.

Additionally, the Council should provide the CCCT guidance on the following:

- Desired scale and focus of the scenario stories (e.g., region-by-region, FMP, species level). If scenario stories are developed for FMP species, only a few representative species should be chosen for each FMP (see Highly Migratory Species matrix in workshop report Appendix 1).
- Process for using these scenario stories and framework to engage with focus groups.

In order to allow proper maturation of the scenarios, the EWG agrees with the EAS that Council should consider extending the timeframe to complete the scenario planning process of the initiative past the September 2020 meeting.

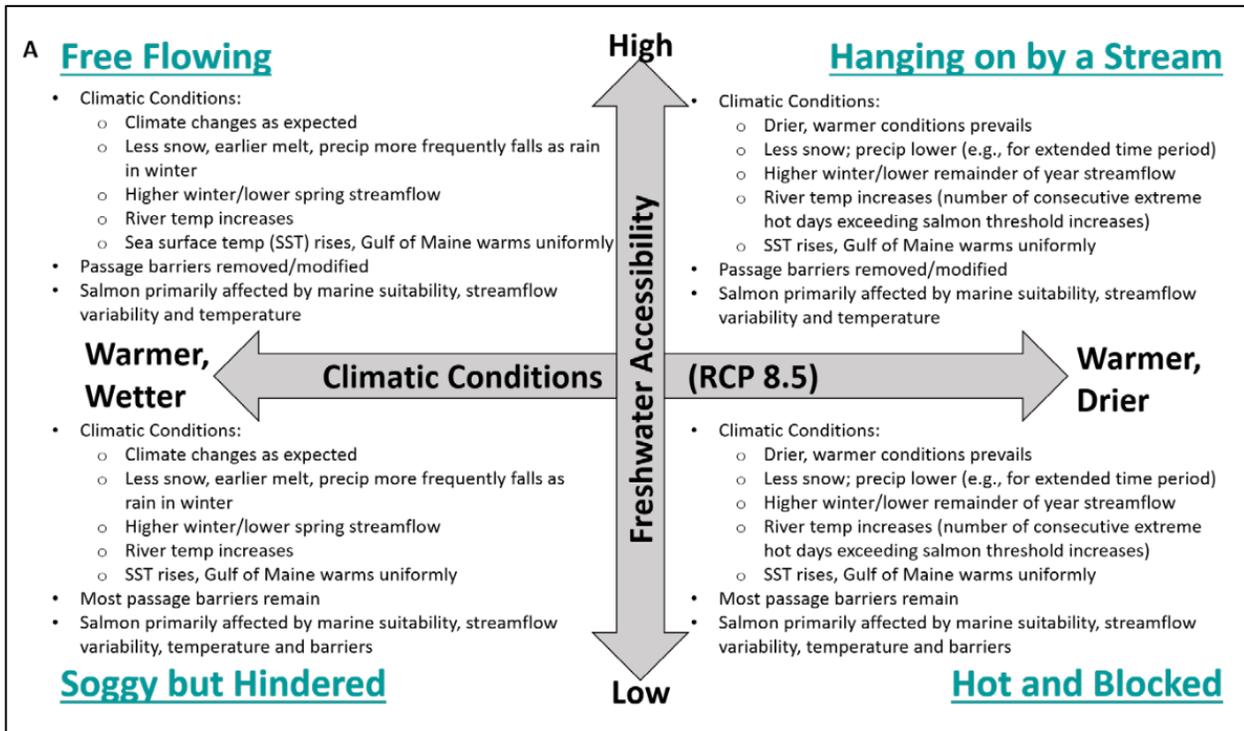


Figure 3: Atlantic salmon scenario stories from Borggaard, D. L., et al. 2019. Atlantic Salmon Scenario Planning Pilot Report. Greater Atlantic Region Policy Series [19-05]. NOAA Fisheries Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office - www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/policyseries. 89 p.

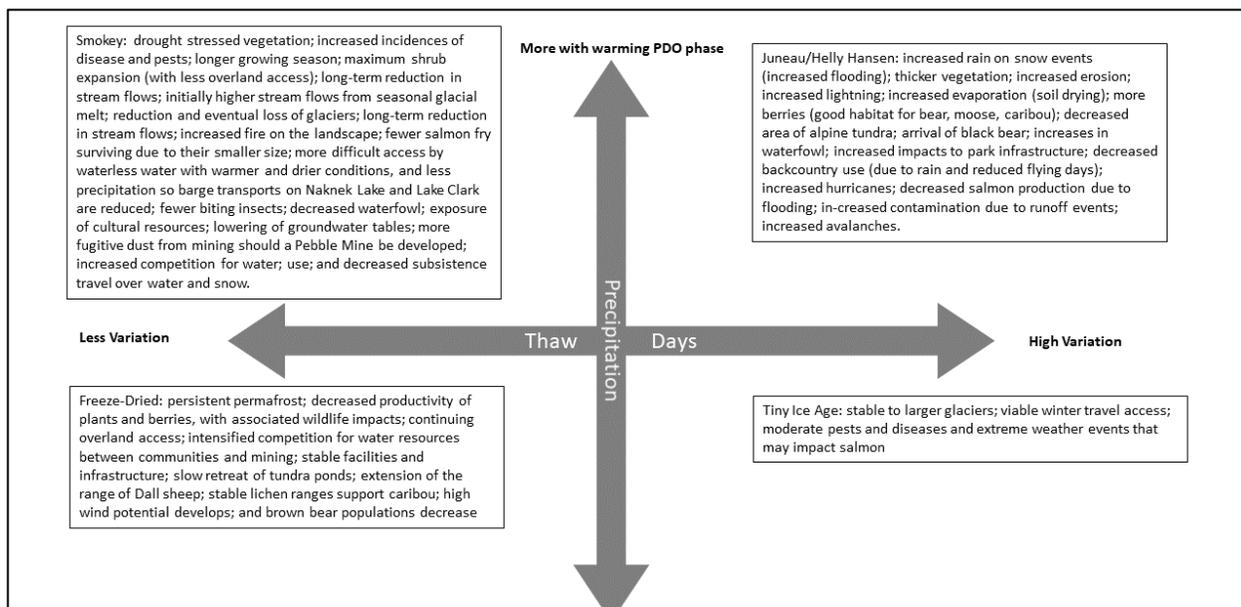


Figure 4: Scenario stories from Southwest Alaska Network, adapted from Winfree, R., B. Rice, J. Morris, D. Callaway, J. Mow, N. Fresco, and D. Weeks. Using Scenarios to Prepare for Climate Change in Alaska National Park System Areas. Connections to Natural and Cultural Resource Studies in Alaska's National Parks Series.