

REPORT ON REGIONAL WORKSHOPS FOCUSING ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF
CLIMATE CHANGE FOR WEST COAST FISHERIES AND FISHING COMMUNITIES:
PARTICIPANT INPUT ON CLIMATE CHANGE SCENARIOS

The Council has been conducting a climate change scenario planning exercise as part of the Fishery Ecosystem Plan. Four regional implications workshops were recently held. During these sessions participants were asked to consider different possible futures for the California current ecosystem in 2040. The report from these workshops was provided in the Council advance briefing book ([Agenda Item I.2, Attachment 1](#)).

The primary function of scenarios is as a platform for idea generation. The four different stories helped participants consider the challenges and opportunities of the future, and then to identify the possible actions that stakeholders should take to prepare. Usually, these are suggestions that make sense to consider no matter which scenario plays out.

However, there is also a secondary, ongoing function of a set of scenarios: to create a ‘map’ that can help organizations be more flexible in their ongoing strategy as conditions change. By gaining a better understanding of landscape of future possibilities, organizations can more readily anticipate and plan for new circumstances. Using scenarios in this way typically involves identifying a set of indicators that can be monitored for change. It also involves a general scanning of the environment for new developments that are indicative of a particular scenario.

One method to begin this process is to gain an understanding of the “baseline” location on the scenario matrix. Accordingly, following the workshops we surveyed participants, focusing on two specific questions:

1. Considering the four scenarios, which do you think most closely describes the conditions we are seeing today (in 2021)?
2. Considering the four scenarios, which do you think is the most likely outcome for 2040?

Fifty-nine participants (out of about 90 total) responded to our survey; the distributions of their responses to these two questions are shown in Figures 1 and 2.

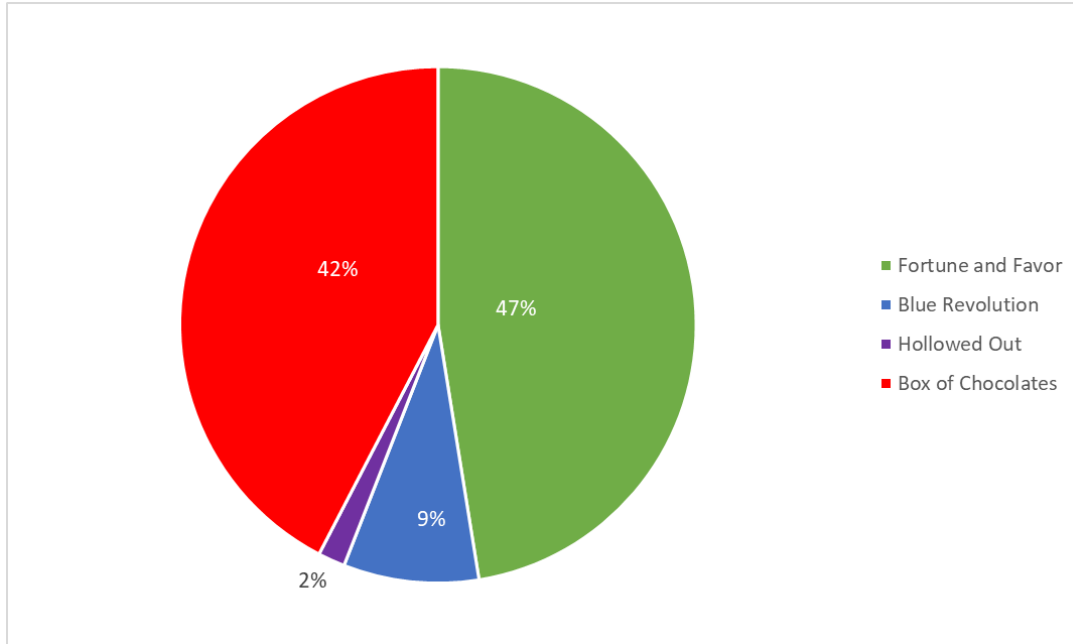


Figure 1. Response to question Which scenario most closely describes conditions in 2021? One respondent (1.7%) chose Hollowed Out.

As shown in Figure 1, nearly half of respondents felt that Fortune & Favor was closest to conditions of today, while 42% saw Box of Chocolates as best representing conditions today.

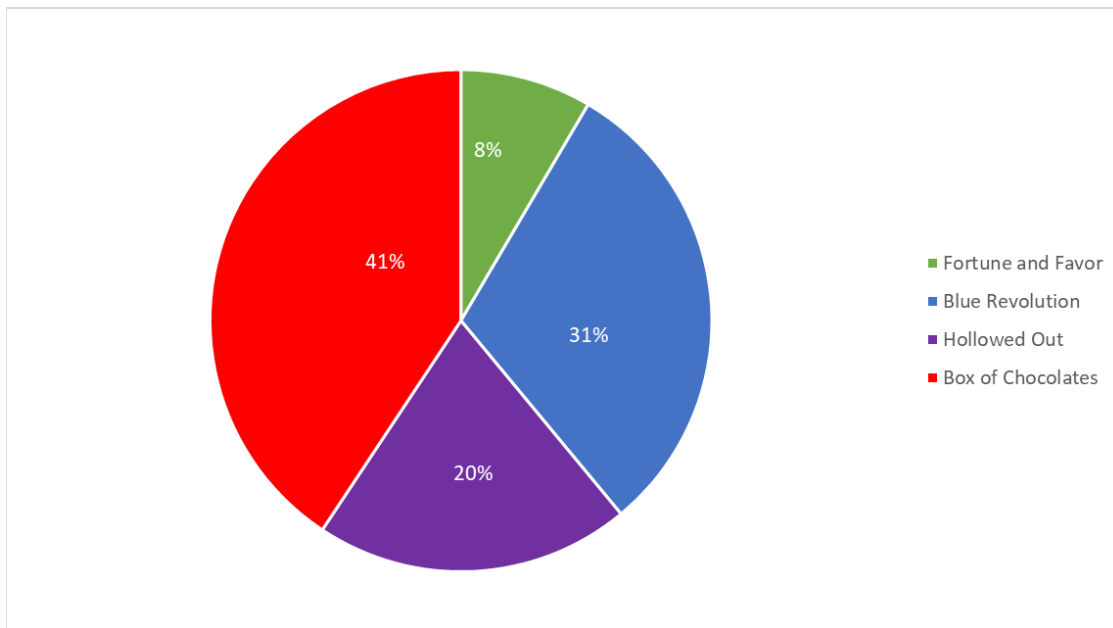


Figure 2. Response to question Which scenario is the most likely outcome by 2040?

As shown in Figure 2, by 2040, under 10% of respondents feel that we will be in a Fortune & Favor scenario. Most predict that Box Chocolates will be scenario that best represents 2040, but sizeable proportions of our participants saw Blue Revolution (31%) and Hollowed Out (20%) as the most likely outcomes.

There is also data available on responses according to how participants identified themselves (harvester, fishing community, fishery management or scientist / researcher). Tables 1 and 2 provide **actual numbers** of responses by participant affiliation.

Table 1. Which scenario most closely describes conditions in 2021? (Number responding)

	Fortune & Favor	Blue Revolution	Hollowed Out	Box of Chocolates	Total
Harvester/Processor	15	0	0	6	21
Fishing Community	6	1	1	5	13
Fishery Management	5	1	0	9	15
Scientist / Researcher	2	3	0	5	10
Total	28	5	1	25	59

Table 2. Which scenario is the most likely outcome by 2040? (Number responding)

	Fortune & Favor	Blue Revolution	Hollowed Out	Box of Chocolates	Total
Harvester/Processor	5	6	3	7	21
Fishing Community	0	4	6	3	13
Fishery Management	0	5	1	9	15
Scientist / Researcher	0	3	2	5	10
TOTAL	5	18	12	24	59