



Guidance and Comments on NMFS Fisheries Climate Governance Policy

Summary and Background

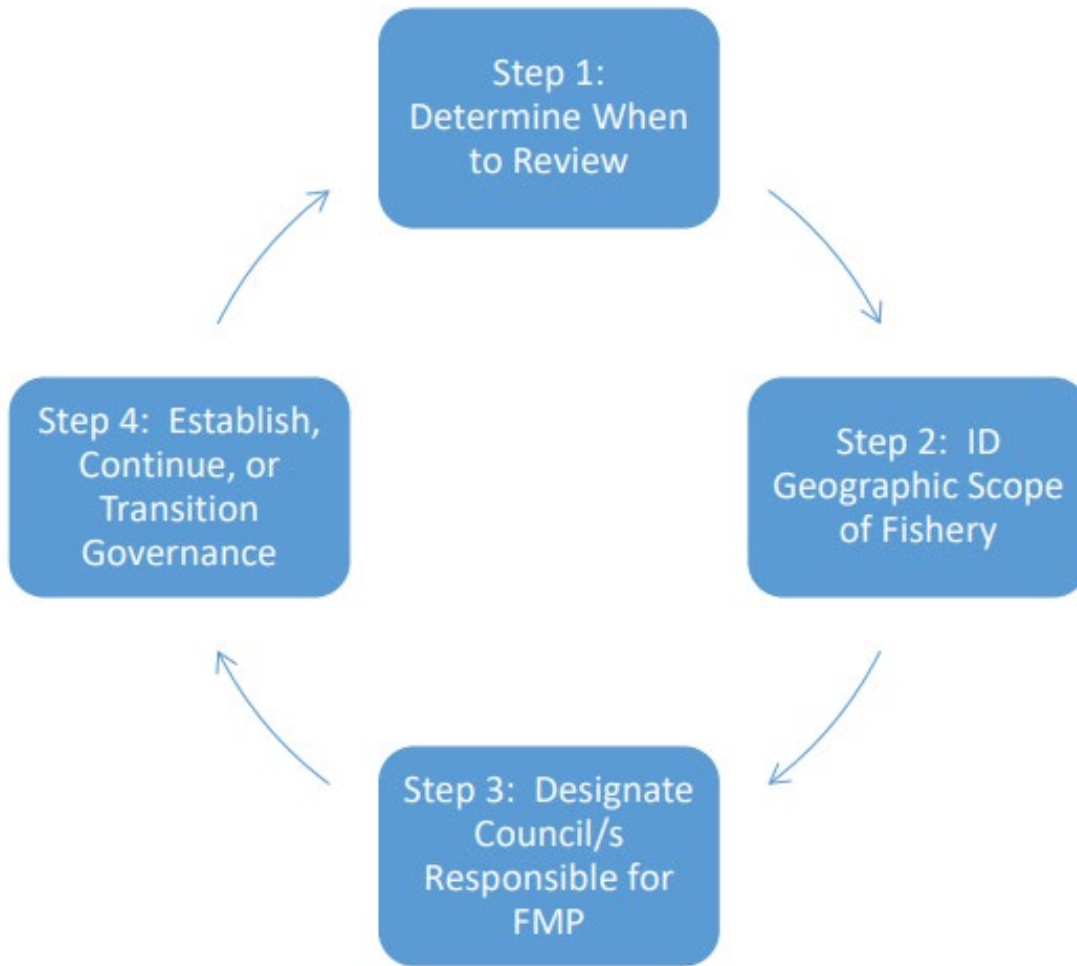
Provided by SAFMC Staff to:
South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's
Scientific and Statistical Committee
Sept 2023 Meeting

Purpose and Need

- Increasing shift in the geographic distribution of fish stocks necessitates determination of the geographic scope of fisheries and which Council assumes responsibility for FMPs
 - Shift in authority from one Council to another
 - Managed jointly (e.g., Yellowtail Snapper with GMFMC)
- The policy provides guidance on four steps:
 - (1) determining whether to review the geographic scope of a fishery and/or the designation of Council authority;
 - (2) determining the geographic scope of the fishery;
 - (3) designation of Council authority under MSA § 304(f);
 - (4) guidance for transitioning management from existing Council(s), if needed



Appendix 1: Flow Chart of Proposed Process



- Designation 1:
 - 1 Council
 - 1 FMP
- Designation 2:
 - Multiple Councils
 - 1 FMP
- Designation 3:
 - Multiple Councils
 - Multiple FMPs



Timeline for Development of Comments

May 15	NMFS distributed draft policy
May 23	Overview at CCC meeting
July 12	Mid Atlantic SSC review draft policy and provide comments
Sept 7	South Atlantic SSC review
Sept 11	Council discussion on draft policy
Oct 11-13	CCC meeting; development of joint comments
Nov 17	NMFS deadline for submission of Council comments



SSC Review

- Comment on the proposed process to review the geographic scope of a fishery and/or the determination of Council authority.
- Provide feedback on the application and potential implications of the proposed review criteria, metrics, and data sources described in Section III.
- Comment on the potential science and stock assessment implications of this policy (including development and timing of scientific advice to inform the management process).
- Provide any additional comments or recommendations for the Council for incorporation into the comment letter.

