



# *Conservation and Management of Federal Fisheries*

## **The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council:** *a primer on federal fishery management and public involvement*

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Public Information Officer

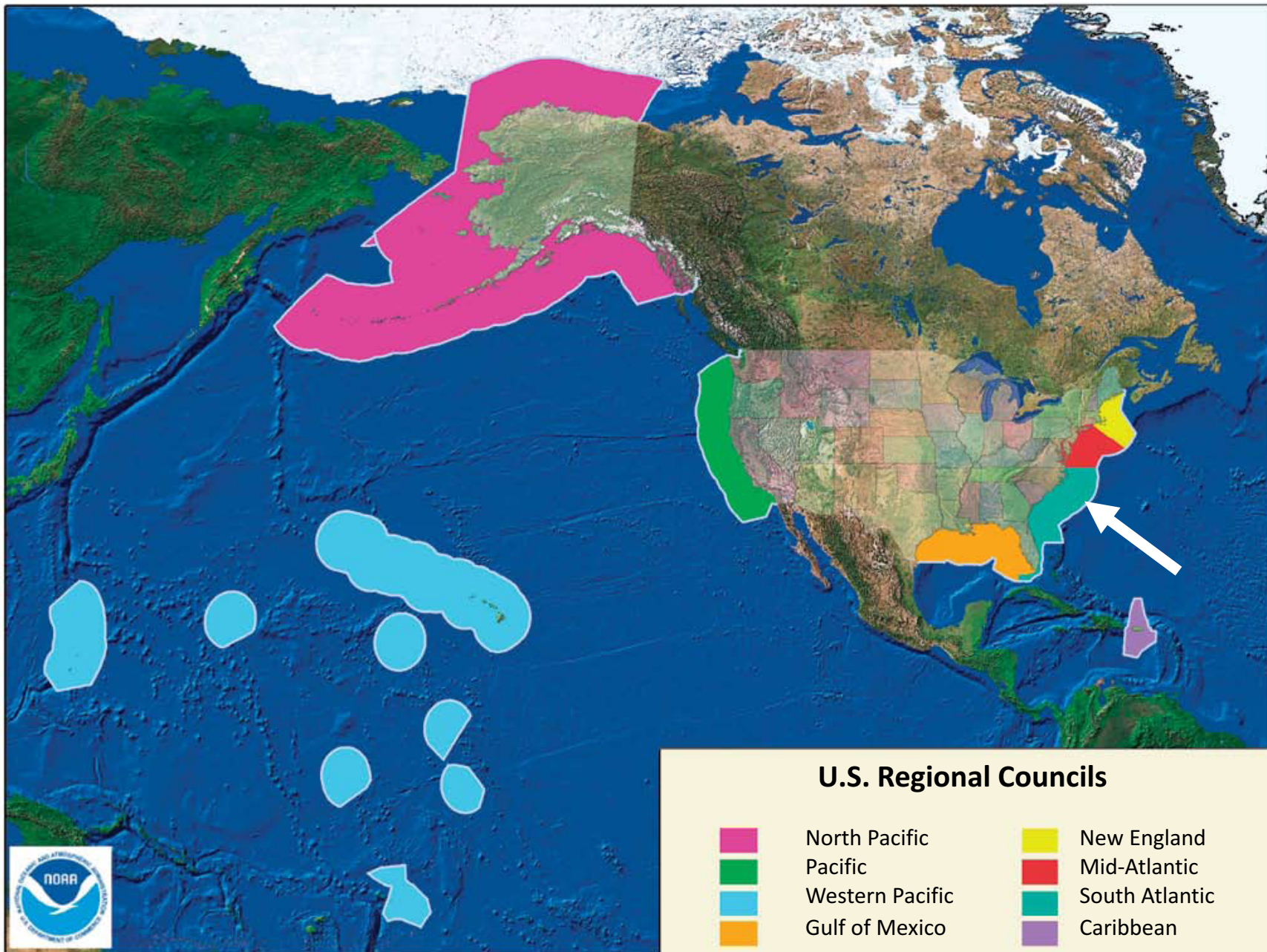
Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel Meeting

April 21, 2017

# Regional Fishery Management Councils

- **1976 Magnuson-Stevens**  
Fishery Conservation and  
Management Act
- **8 Regional Councils** in  
U.S.
- **“Conserve and Manage”**
  - Fishery Management  
Plans and amendments







# South Atlantic Jurisdiction



- Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) ranges from 3 to 200 miles off SA
- South Atlantic Region
  - North Carolina
  - South Carolina
  - Georgia
  - East Coast of Florida



# *Who are the Council members?*



- **Recreational and Commercial Fishermen**
- **State Marine Agency Reps**

- **Federal Partners**

NOAA Fisheries (NMFS)

U.S. Coast Guard

ASMFC

U.S. Fish & Wildlife

Dept. of State



# Council Members



Dr. Michelle Duval  
*Council Chair*



Charlie Phillips  
*Council Vice-Chair*

- Obligatory and At-large members are nominated by each state's governors
  - Appointed by the Secretary of Commerce
- Members serve 3 year terms





# Council Meetings



- 4 week-long meetings each year
  - **March** in **GA**
  - **June** in **FL**
  - **September** in **SC**
  - **December** in **NC**
- Committees meet - then Full Council



# *What does the Council Manage?*

## **Fishery Management Plans**

- Coastal Migratory Pelagics

*(King/Spanish Mackerels; Cobia)*

- Coral

- Dolphin Wahoo

*(Atlantic coast)*

- Golden Crab

- Habitat

- *Sargassum*

- Shrimp

- Snapper Grouper

- Spiny Lobster





# Council Committees

- Council members serve on various **committees**:
  - Snapper Grouper Committee
  - Mackerel Cobia Committee
  - Law Enforcement Committee
  - Dolphin Wahoo Committee
  - Habitat Committee
  - Advisory Panel Selection Committee

Development of management alternatives for amendments is done primarily at the **committee** level.

**Full Council** – responsible for final decisions.



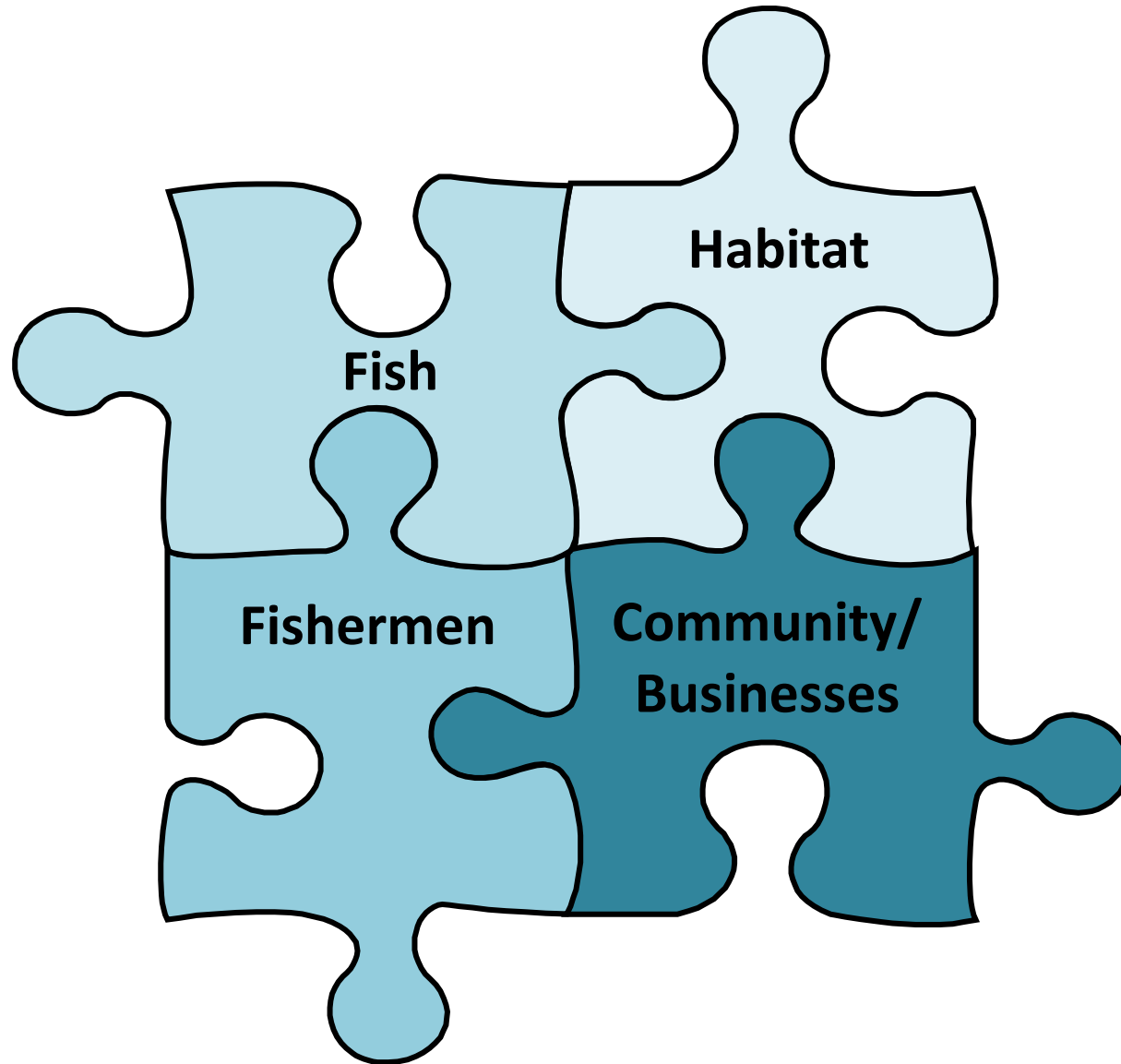
# Policy Mandates



- **Magnuson-Stevens Act**
  - *National Standards*
  - *2007 Reauthorized*
  - *Current Reauthorization in progress*
- **National Environmental Policy Act**
  - *Mandates alternatives*
- **Marine Mammal Protection Act**
- **Endangered Species Act**



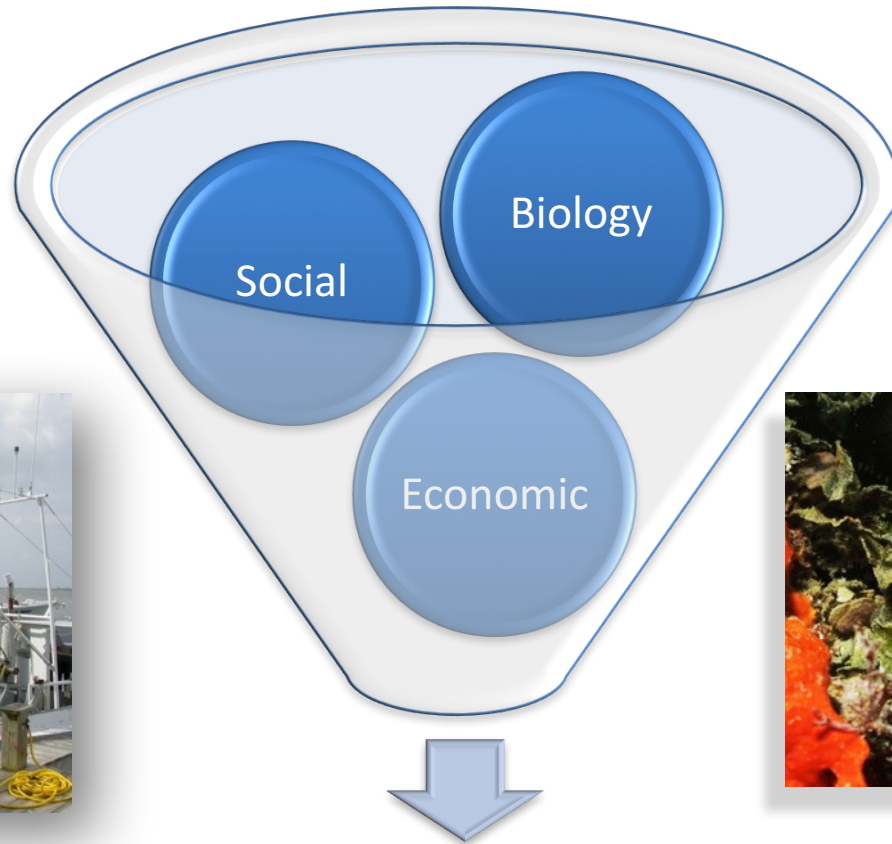
# ***What is a Fishery?***





# *How Does the Council Manage?*

*Things to Consider about the Fishery...*



**Fisheries Management**



# *Does the Council Collect Data?*



# Data Collection: *Biological Data*

*How do we know if there are enough fish?*



## Fishery Dependent Data

- **Logbook data** (commercial & charter), port agents  
*States and NOAA Fisheries*
- **Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP)**  
*NOAA Fisheries*



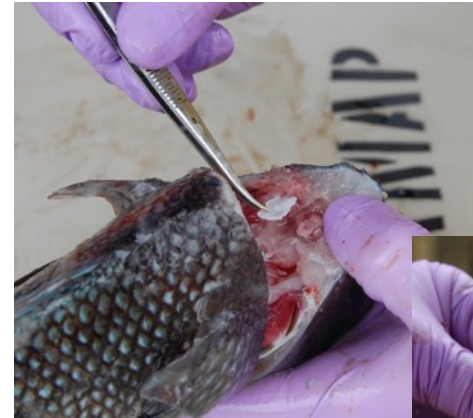
# Data Collection: *Biological Data*

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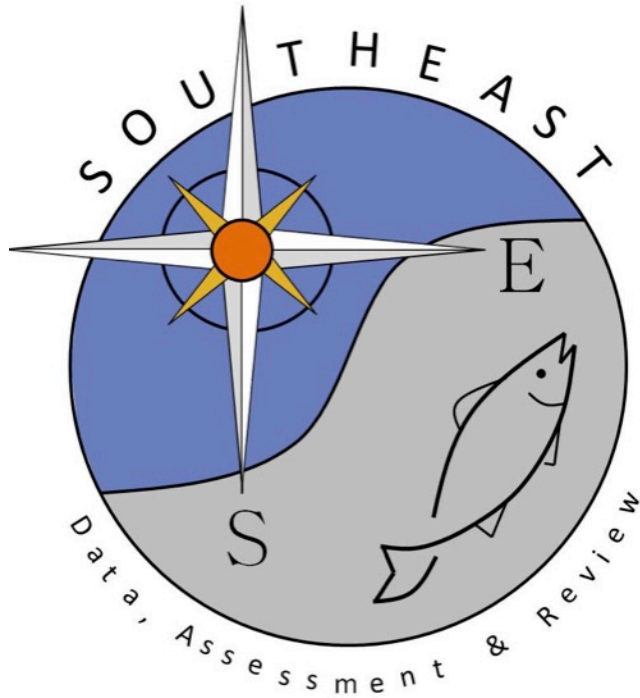


## Fishery Independent Data

- Research Surveys
- MARMAP Cruises



# Stock Assessments



- Biological data are used in stock assessments
- Southeast Data, Assessment and Review (SEDAR) stock assessment process
  - South Atlantic
  - Gulf of Mexico
  - Caribbean

[Sedarweb.org](http://Sedarweb.org)



# Economic and Social Impacts



- What are the economic impacts of options being considered in the FMP or amendment?



- How will management measures affect the fishing community?





# Scientific and Statistical Committee and Social and Economic Sciences Sub-panel



- Mandated under the MSA
- Scientific review of Council actions
- Develops fishing level recommendations



# 2007 Reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act

- Signed into place by President Bush in **January 2007**
- *End overfishing immediately* and establish Annual Catch Limits and Accountability Measures by **2010**
- Rebuild overfished stocks and establish ACLs and AMs by **2011**



# Annual Catch Limits

- The **amount of fish in numbers or pounds** that can be harvested in a single year
- Based on the **ABC** set by the Scientific and Statistical Committee
- **Allocations:**
  - *Commercial*
  - *Recreational*



# Accountability Measures (AMs)

- Measures to ensure the Annual Catch Limits are not exceeded
- **Examples:**
  - *In-season closures*
  - *Pay-back provisions*
  - *Seasonal closures*





# Public Participation is Key!

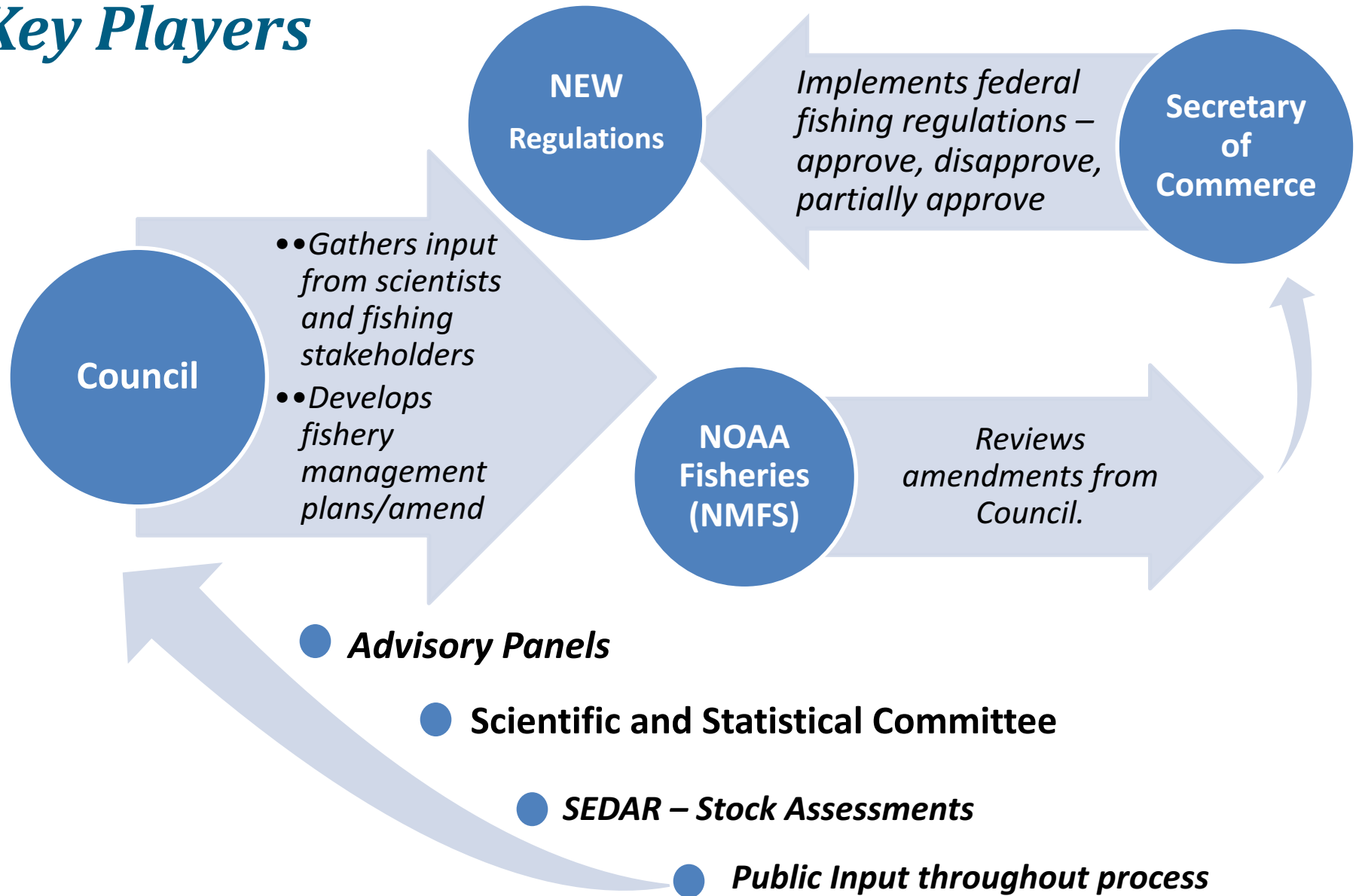


- **Mandated** by the Magnuson-Stevens Act and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- **Essential** to the Council process and management plan development



# Federal Fisheries Regulatory Process:

## *Key Players*



# SAFMC Advisory Panels

## 13 Advisory Panels

- *Citizen Science (Pool)*
- Coral
- **Dolphin Wahoo**
- Golden Crab
- Habitat Protection & Ecosystem-Based Management
- Information & Education
- Law Enforcement
- Mackerel Cobia and Cobia Sub-panel
- Deep-water Shrimp
- Shrimp
- Snapper Grouper
- Spiny Lobster
- SEDAR (Pool)



# *Who are advisory panel members?*



- Recreational fishermen
- Charter/for-hire captains
- Commercial fishermen
- Wholesale/retail business owners
- Research scientists
- Agency reps
- NGOs
- Others interested in fisheries issues





# Advisory Panel Members



- Appointed by the Council for 3-year terms

- Term limit of 3 consecutive terms

- Meet on an “as needed” basis



# AP Duties and Objectives

- Offer **continuing advice** on the assessments and specifications contained in FMPs and amendments with regard to:
  - Capacity and extent to which fishing vessels will harvest the resources considered in the FMPs
  - The effect of measures on local economies and social structures
  - Potential conflicts between user groups
  - Enforcement problems peculiar to each fishery with emphasis on expected needs



# Advisory Panels...



- Provide **recommendations** through a **formal report** to the appropriate *Council committee*
- AP recommendations are considered by the committee in development of management alternatives
- AP members – information source





