



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

Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel Meeting

April 19-20, 2017

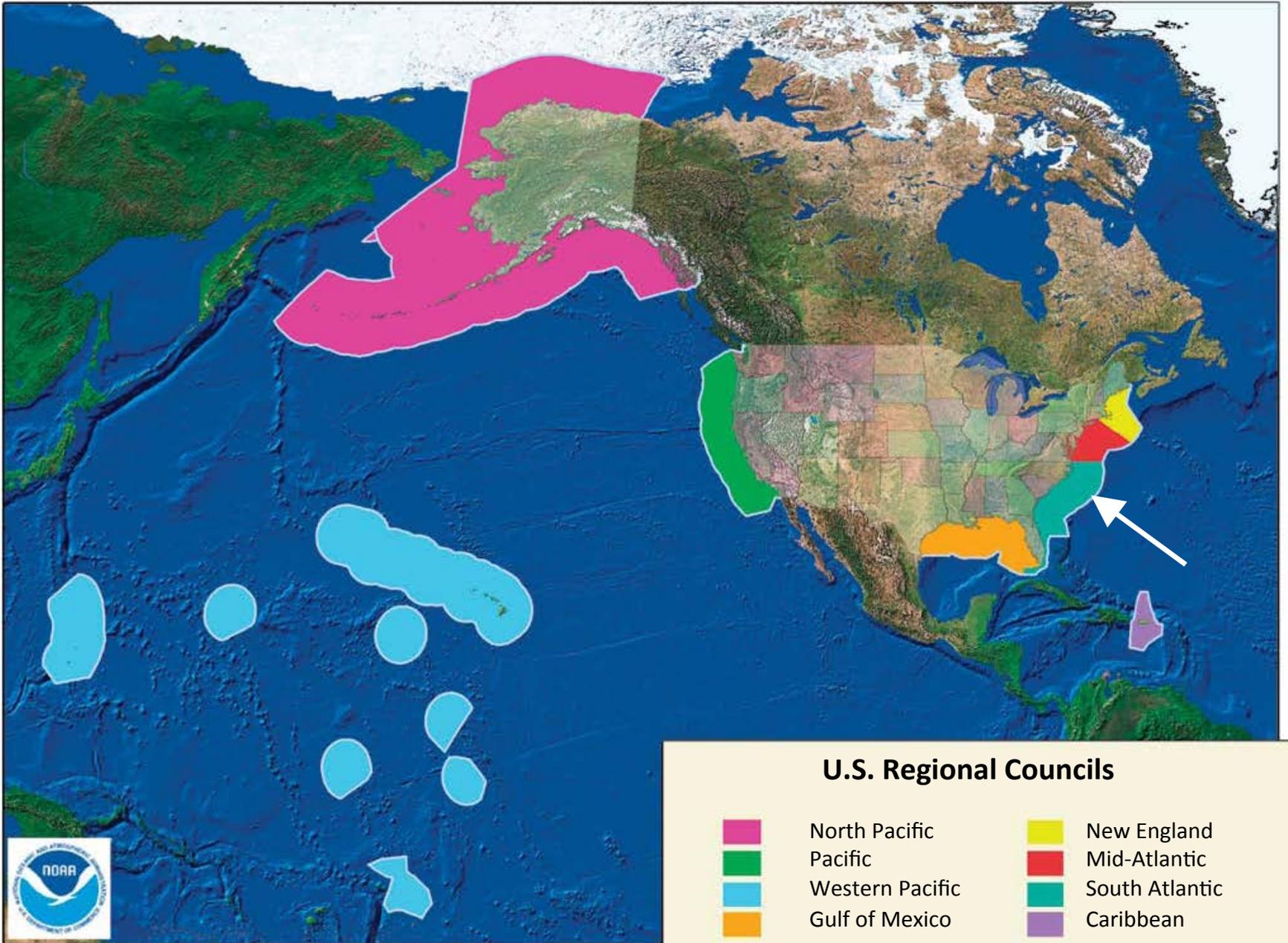
Regional Fishery Management Councils

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



Courtesy of Ted Stevens Foundation, 1973



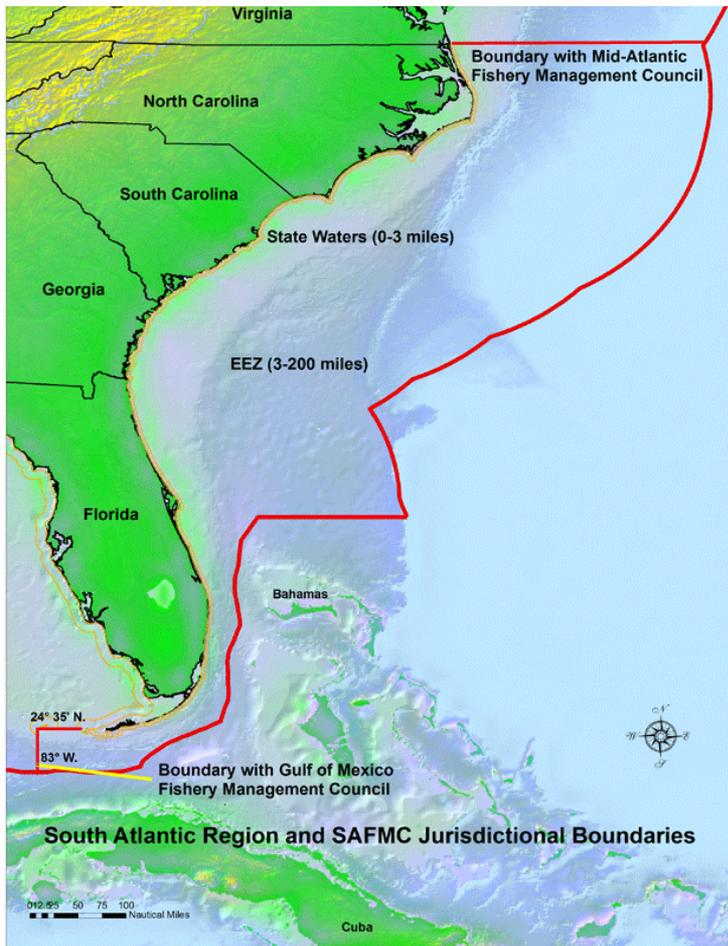


U.S. Regional Councils

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------|---|----------------|
|  | North Pacific |  | New England |
|  | Pacific |  | Mid-Atlantic |
|  | Western Pacific |  | South Atlantic |
|  | Gulf of Mexico |  | Caribbean |



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
- 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.



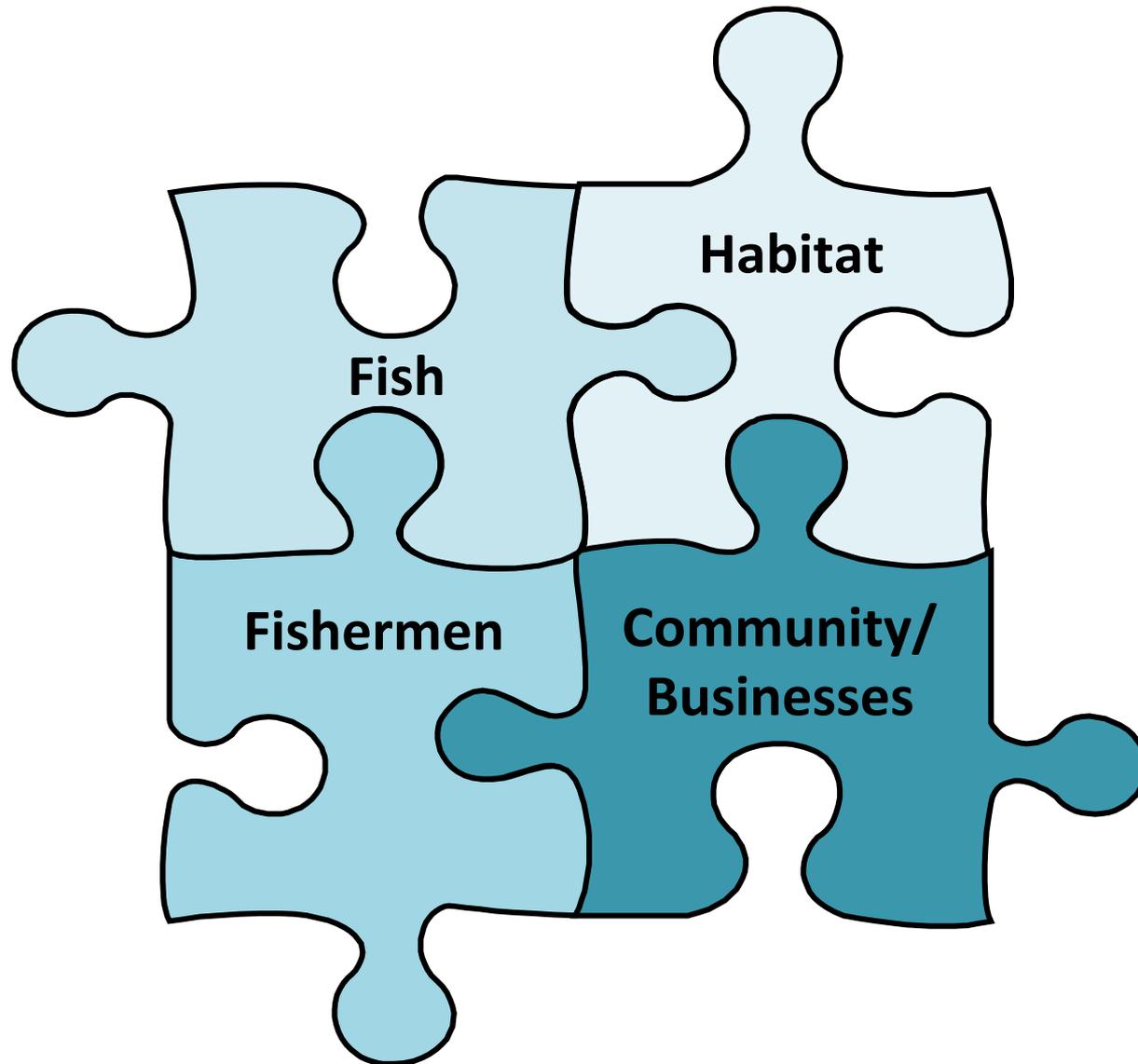
Policy Mandates



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

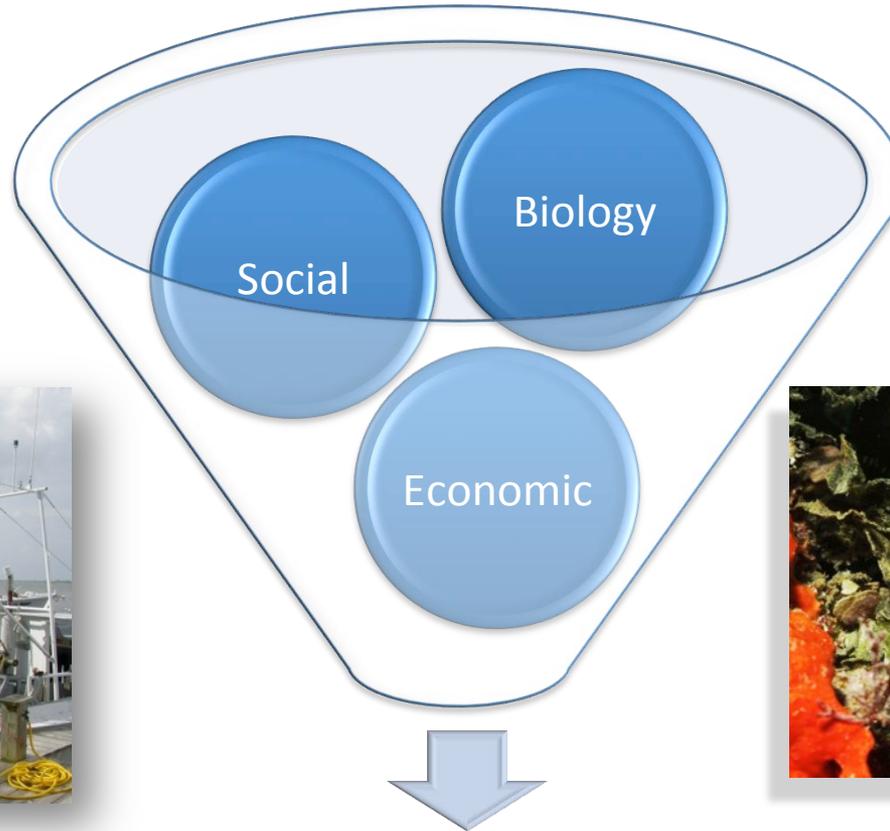


What is a Fishery?



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*

How do we know if there are enough fish?

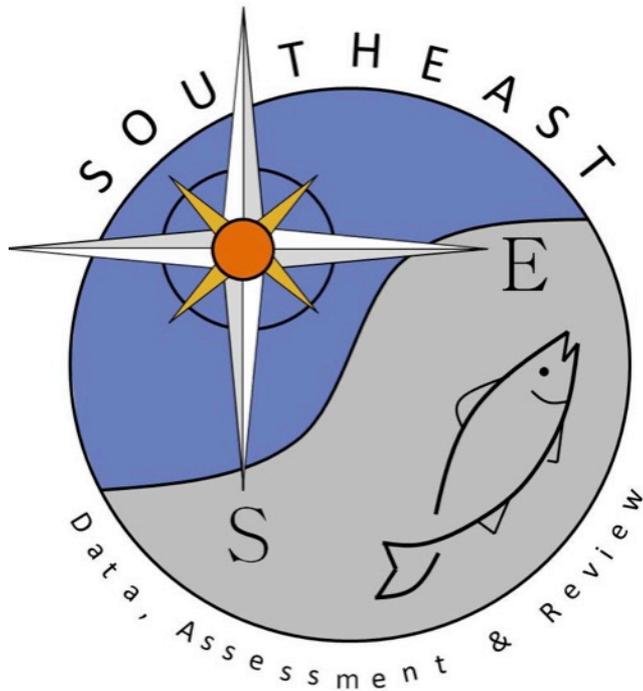


Fishery Independent Data

- Research Surveys
- MARMAP Cruises



Stock Assessments



Sedarweb.org

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



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!

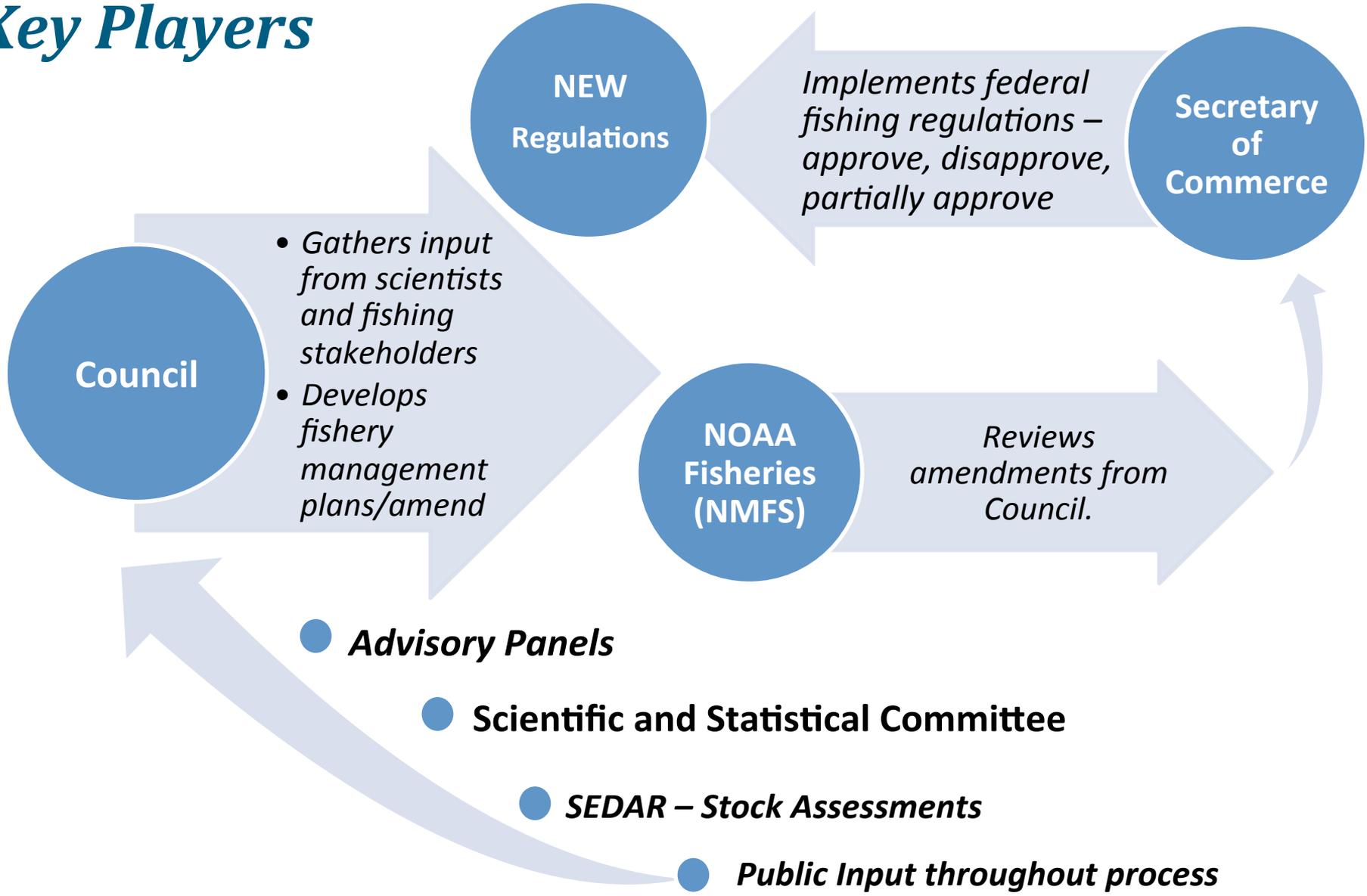


- Mandated by the Magnuson-Stevens Act and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- Essential to the Council process and management plan development



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





NO FISHING

FEED THE FISH!
BAIT AVAILABLE
IN SHIP'S STORE

