



SAFMC  
June 2025

THE SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

# Council Coordination Committee Summary





# CCC Spring 2025

- New Bedford, MA, May 13 – 15, 2025
- Hosted by the New England Council
- Briefing Materials available at the Regional Fishery Management Councils Website
  - <https://www.fisherycouncils.org/ccc-meetings/may-2025>

# CHANGE!



# **Assistant Administrator for NOAA Fisheries**

- Eugenio Pineiro Soler from Puerto Rico appointed
- Former CFMC member and Chair
- Expressed support for the Councils

**“Councils are where science meets reality”**

*– Eugenio Pinerio Soler*



# Council “Round Robin” Updates

- The meeting opened with each Council providing an overview of successes, challenges, and priorities.
- Some common themes emerged nationwide:
  - Insufficient science and analysis
  - Inadequate procedural flexibility and burdensome processes hinder timely responses to emerging issues
  - Declining fisheries & fishing communities
  - Changing ecosystem conditions
  - Declining outlook for future science and analysis
  - NPFMC: management success directly linked to agency investment in science & management



# Executive Order 14276

- “Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness”
- Several Councils expressed concern with the agency’s September 1, 2025, response deadline given the EO allowed 180d for Councils to respond (providing a deadline around October 14)
- The CCC requested that NMFS accept comments through October 1 to accommodate discussion at the 5 Council meetings scheduled between the end of August and the end of September.

# Science Update

Evan Howell provided the update; Cisco Werner has retired.

- Council Research Priorities:
  - Dynamic – update as needed
  - Align with core responsibilities
  - Focus on ‘must do’ research
- Support for Cooperative Research
- MRIP FES evaluation and revision
  - On track if personnel and resources continue
  - Will not transition to publishing monthly estimates



# Alignment With Management

## CHANGE!

How will NOAA Fisheries Science align with Management to ensure support for statutory requirements (e.g., frequency of assessments, surveys, data collection and warehousing, socioeconomic impact analyses, etc.)?

- Cannot plan for a sustained current science and management of the numerous stocks/stock complexes we have (**need for change**) e.g., simpler approaches
- Changing how we manage our fisheries will have impacts (positive and negative) to our staff, fisheries and fishing communities
- We want to balance national consistency and interoperability with regional flexibility while maintaining accountability
- Science and Management engagement with Councils will be critical to success here
- Changing how we co-develop a new science and management framework will require a balance of requirements, resources, and risk
- Increased uncertainty should (can) not automatically equal decreases in harvest



# Budget Update

- Have not determined final allotment to Councils for FY2025
- FY2026 and FY2027 Budget processes are delayed
- No word on when further Council funding will be conveyed.



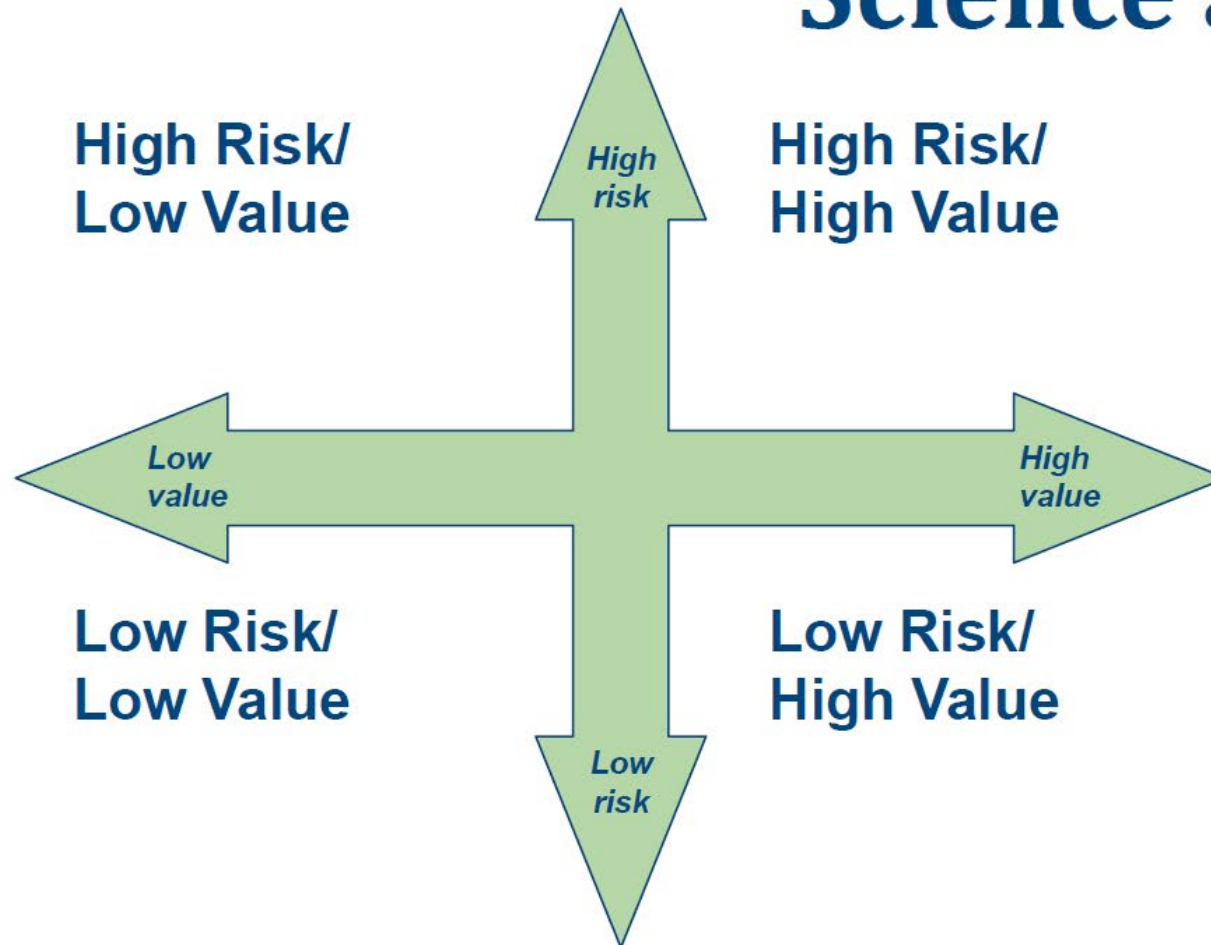
# Aligning Priorities – Kelly Denit

## CHANGE!

- We cannot continue to manage the 500+ stocks/stock complexes we have in FMPs
- There will be impacts to our staff, fisheries, and fishing communities to changing how we manage our fisheries
- We want to balance national consistency and interoperability with regional flexibility
- Engagement internally, with Councils and Commissions, and stakeholders will be critical to success
- We are likely going to need to take increased risk and strategically choose where we take that increased risk

# Our Job – Prioritize & **CHANGE!**

## Prioritization of Stocks/Complexes for Science and Management



### Value Categories

- Commercial
- Recreational
- Social

### Risk Categories

- Ratio of Catch:ACL
- Biomass/ Rebuilding Status
- Ecosystem Role
- Current / Forecast Ecosystem & Socio-economic conditions









# Science Coordination Subcommittee

- Delayed until 2027 due to funding outlook
- Proposed Theme
  - “Strategies for Robust and Efficient Fisheries Science and Management”
- Focal topics
  - Prioritizing high-value data & analyses with limited resources
  - Bridging the gap between fisheries science and the realities of fishing
  - Collecting and considering social and economic data

# MSA 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary - 2026

## Revised CCG 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Plan Proposal

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- The background of the slide features a decorative horizontal band of water with bubbles and ripples, set against a light blue gradient.
-  A. 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Logo
  -  B. 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Communications Plan
  -  C. 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Webpage on [fisherycouncils.org](https://fisherycouncils.org)
  -  D. Council specific 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary webpages
  -  E. Print product



# Next Meetings

- October 15 – 16 via webinar
- 2026
  - Host: North Pacific Council
  - Spring Meeting May 19 – 2021, Homer AK
  - Fall: likely mid-October via Webinar
- 2027
  - Host: SAFMC
  - Need to set a date for the Spring meeting by the upcoming Fall meeting