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THE SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

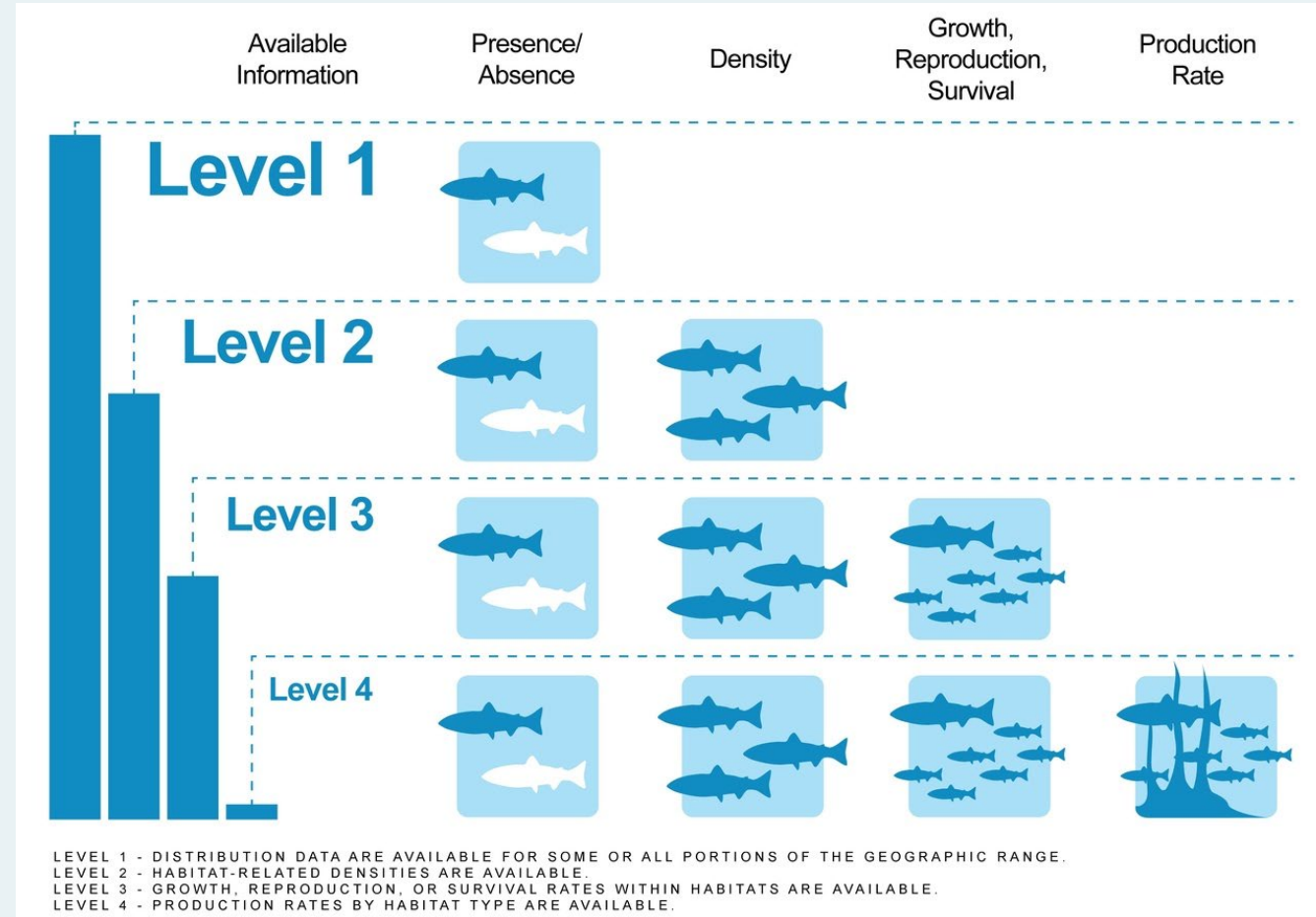
2029 EFH five-year review



Background Information



- Need to ensure EFH recommendations are accurate and targeted to waters and substrate necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth
- Currently, SAFMC EFH definitions are at Level 1 (possibly level 2 for some species)
- Gameplan:
 - Update life history
 - Identify important habitats by FMP or species
 - Integrate available abundance information
 - Redescribe EFH and EFH-HAPC



Life History



What's in the User Guide

- General life history information
- Some habitat usage

How do we tackle this?

- Start with:
 - Species specific
 - FMP
- Review existing life history information in the user guide
- Literature search
- Contact data providers for Fishery independent and dependent data
- Update EFH designation if needed

Working group or volunteers?



Abundance



What's in the User Guide

- Abundance not currently included

How do we tackle this?

- Describe habitat usage by FMP
- Evaluate the importance of each habitat type
- Add habitat usage information into the user guide with supporting data
- First step: Contact data providers

Best Data Contacts?



Integrated Ecosystem Assessment

- Requested during October 2024 HEAP
- Passed on the request to the Council March 2025
- NMFS response: What are the Goals and Objectives of the IEA?



Integrated Ecosystem Assessment

- NOAA's Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (IEA) is an approach:
 - engages scientists, stakeholders, and managers to integrate all components of an ecosystem
 - including human needs and activities, into the decision-making process so that managers can balance trade-offs and determine what is more likely to achieve their desired goals.
 - provides the science necessary to carry out Ecosystem-Based Management and is a key part of NOAA's ecosystem science enterprise.
- Each IEA is scalable, collaborative, adaptable, and flexible

IEA: Other regions



[Alaska](#)



[California Current](#)



[Gulf of America](#)



[Hawaii'i](#)



[Northeast](#)

Integrated Ecosystem Assessment

Next Steps:

- Request presentations from Center or Regional Office on development of an IEA
- Request presentation on management uses of an IEA

HEAP request

- Are there suggestions on which region(s) to get a presentation?

Thank you

