



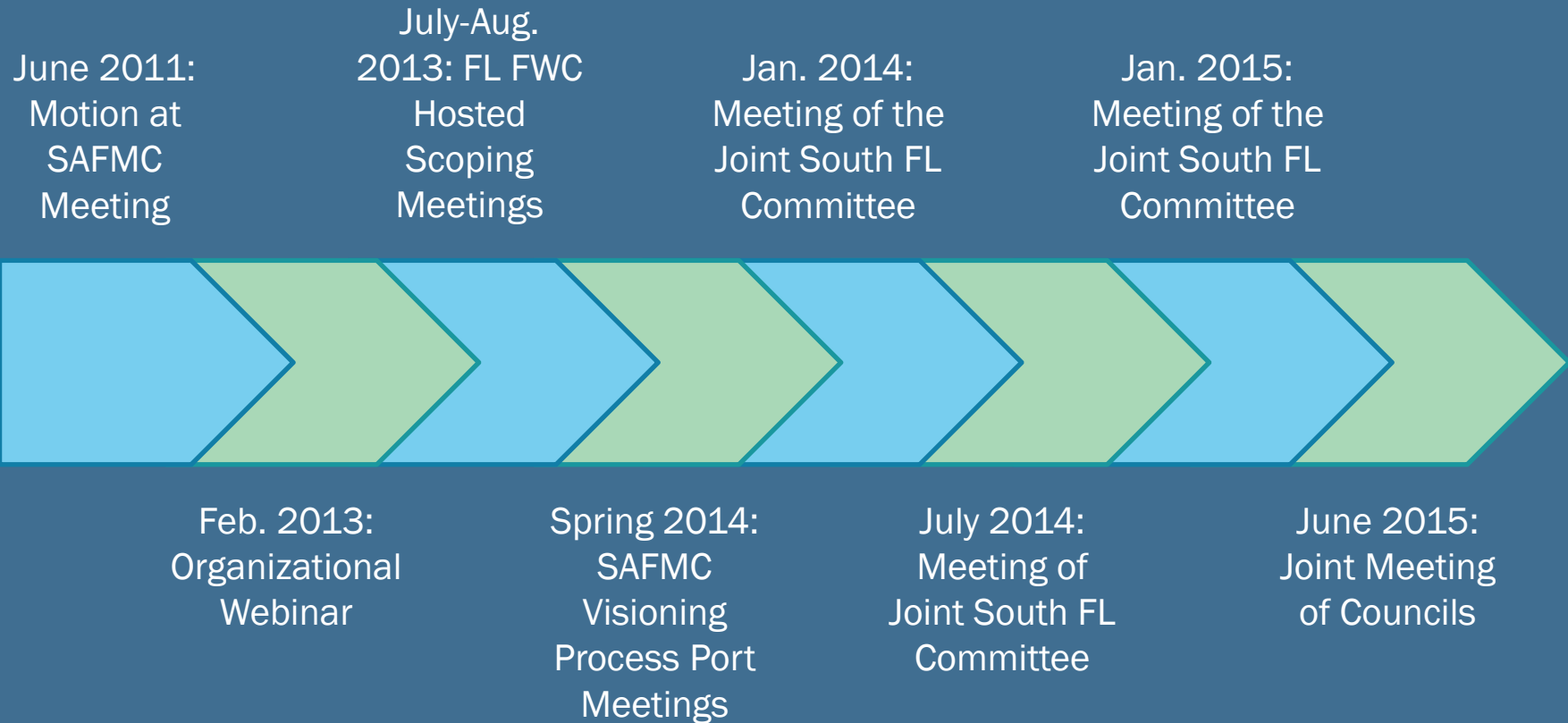
Addressing Fisheries Management in the South Florida Region

Catalyst for Action

Motion at the June 2011 South Atlantic Council Meeting:

Send a letter to the Gulf Council and the NMFS requesting the formation of an ad hoc joint committee (South Atlantic and Gulf councils) to consider the development of a joint management plan for south Florida fisheries. The ad hoc committee would also discuss with the State of Florida delegation of management for some species to the State of Florida.

Timeline



Rationale

From South Atlantic Council Meeting in June 2011:

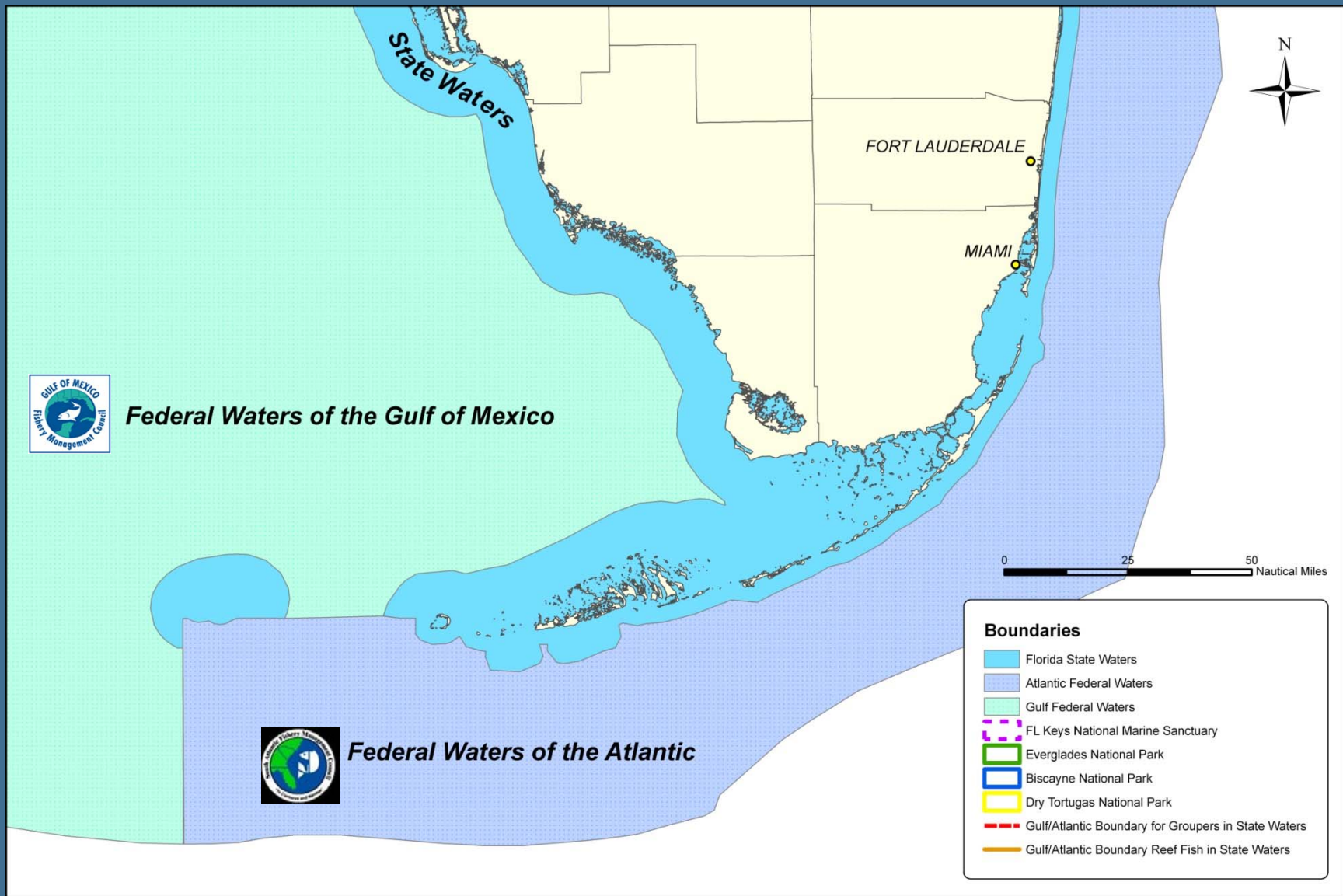
- Fishermen consistently express confusion and frustration with the multiple jurisdictional boundaries and regulations in the Florida Keys

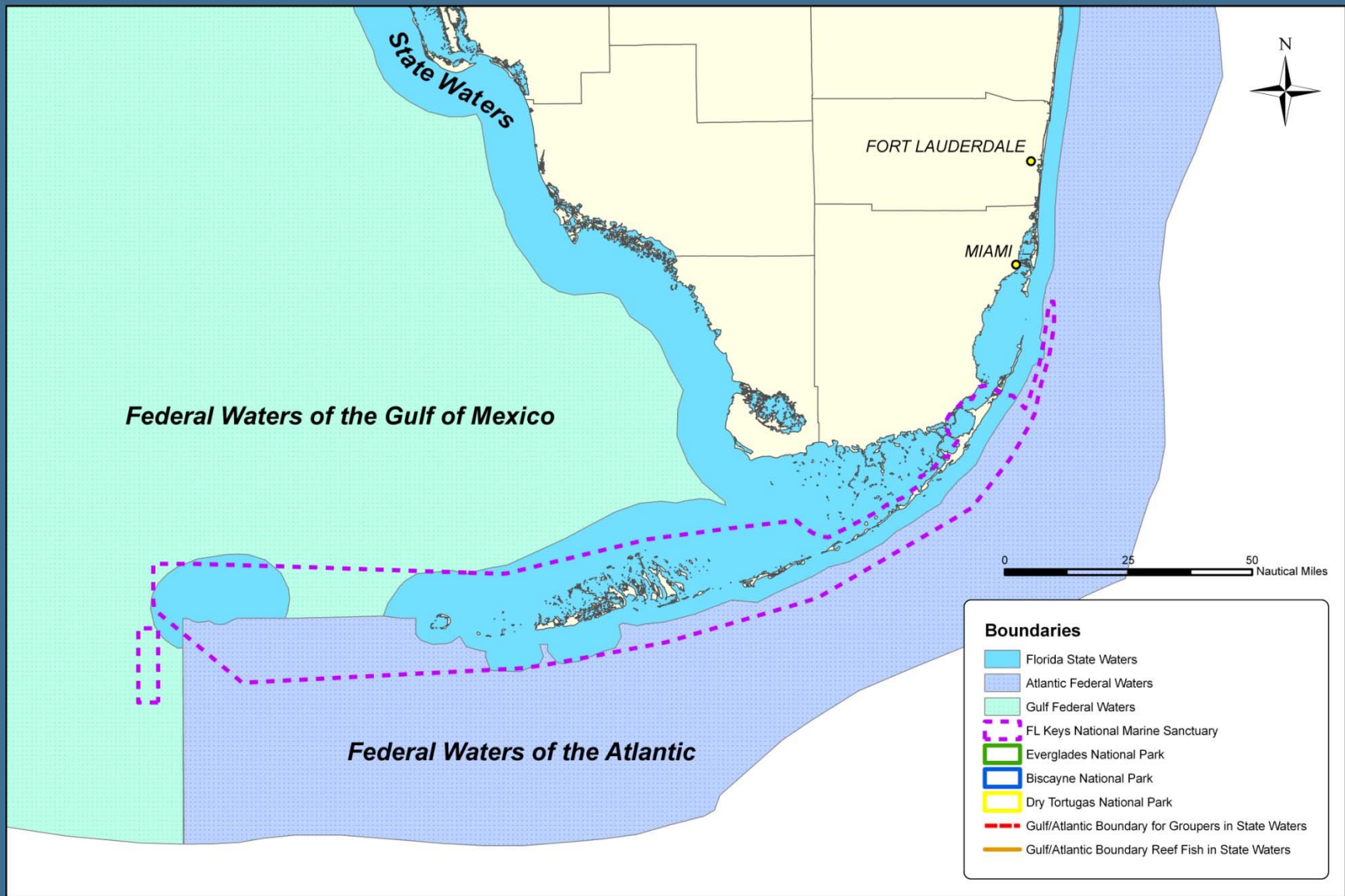
From FWC-hosted Scoping Meetings:

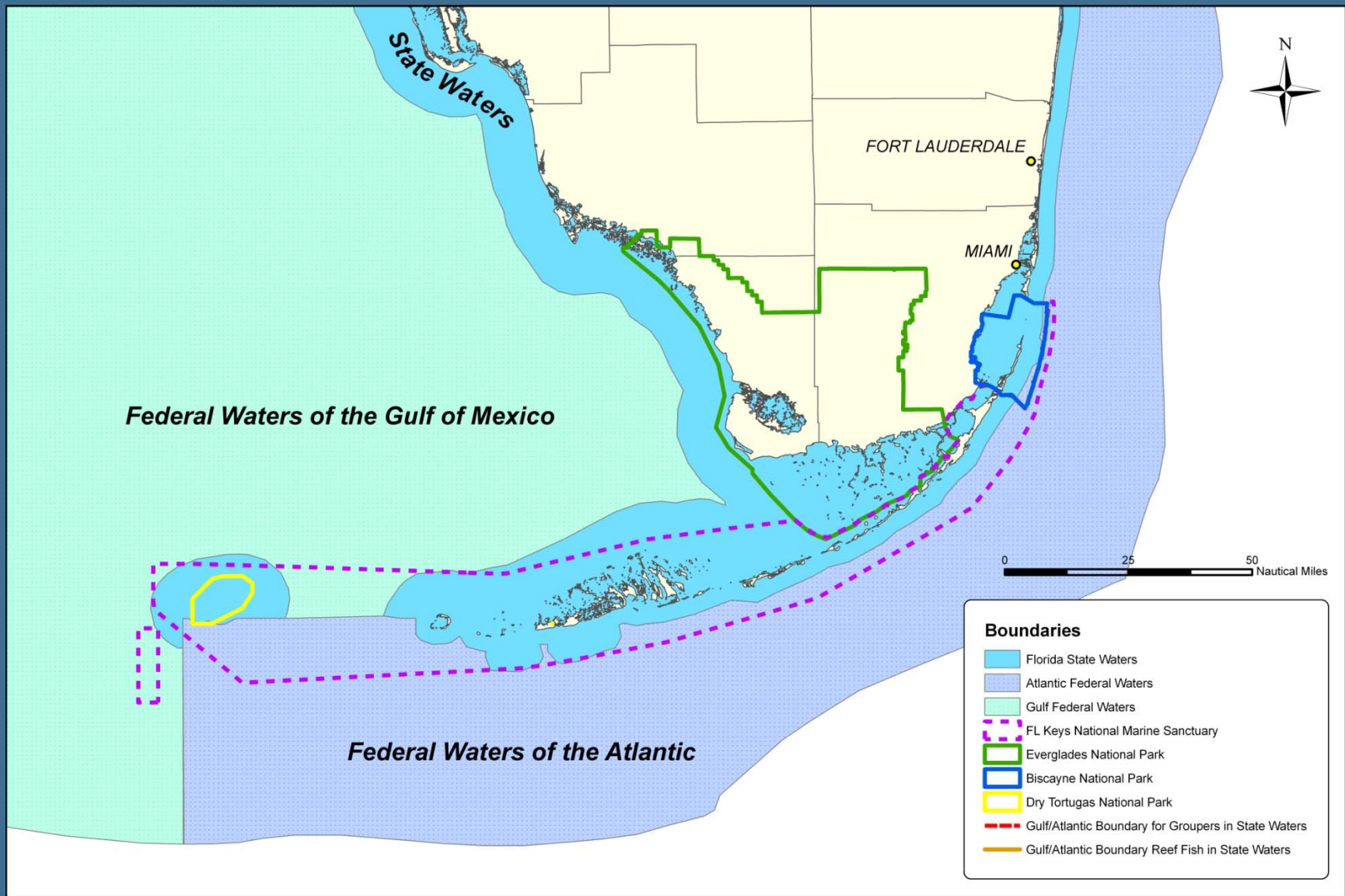
- Consistency between state and federal rules is needed
- South Florida's ecosystem and fisheries are unique

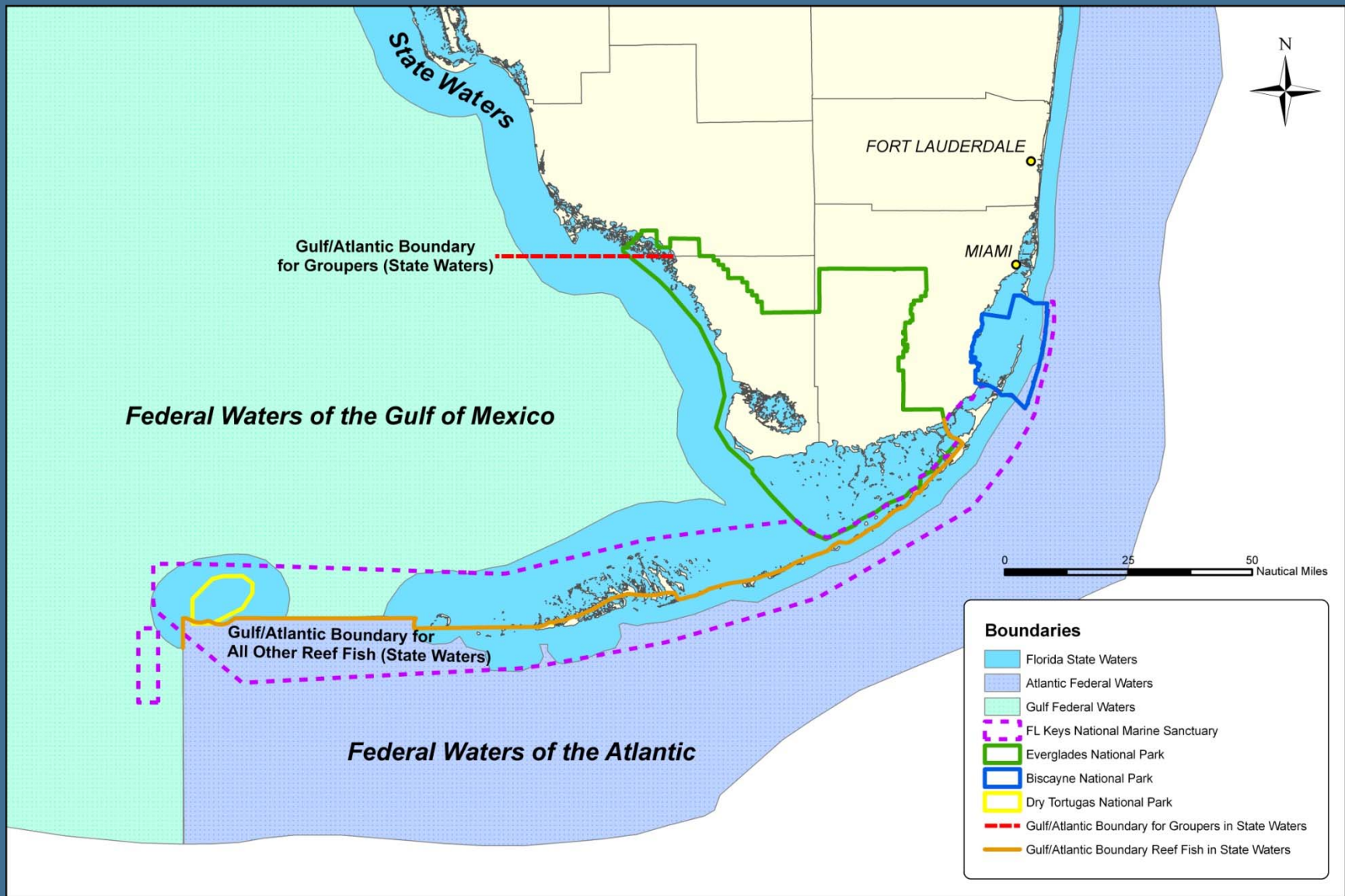
From South Atlantic Council Visioning Process Port Meetings:

- Fishermen express concern over inconsistent regulations between Florida state waters, Gulf federal waters, and Atlantic federal waters (e.g., size limits, bag limits, and seasons)









Strategy Suggestions from FWC/Council Scoping Workshops

- Develop regional management for species common to south Florida
- Create a regional management council for the Keys or south Florida
- Develop a regional FMP modeled after Caribbean “Island” FMPs
- Place all of the Keys under the jurisdiction of either the South Atlantic or Gulf Council
- Manage fisheries based on species not on boundary lines
- Species that were specifically addressed
 - Yellowtail snapper
 - Mutton snapper
 - Mangrove snapper
 - Red snapper
 - Snowy grouper
 - Groupers (general)
 - Hogfish
 - Jacks
 - Lobster

Yellowtail Snapper Comments

- Manage the stock as a single unit in Atlantic and Gulf with one quota
- Transfer management authority to Florida FWC
- Change the fishing year to minimize disruptions to the fishery when quotas are met
- Implement a spawning season closure during the summer
- Circle hook requirement
 - Exempt the fishery from the requirement in the Gulf
 - Maintain the requirement



Mutton Snapper Comments

- Protect spawning fish by:
 - Implementing a spawning season closure
 - Lowering bag limits



Grouper Comments

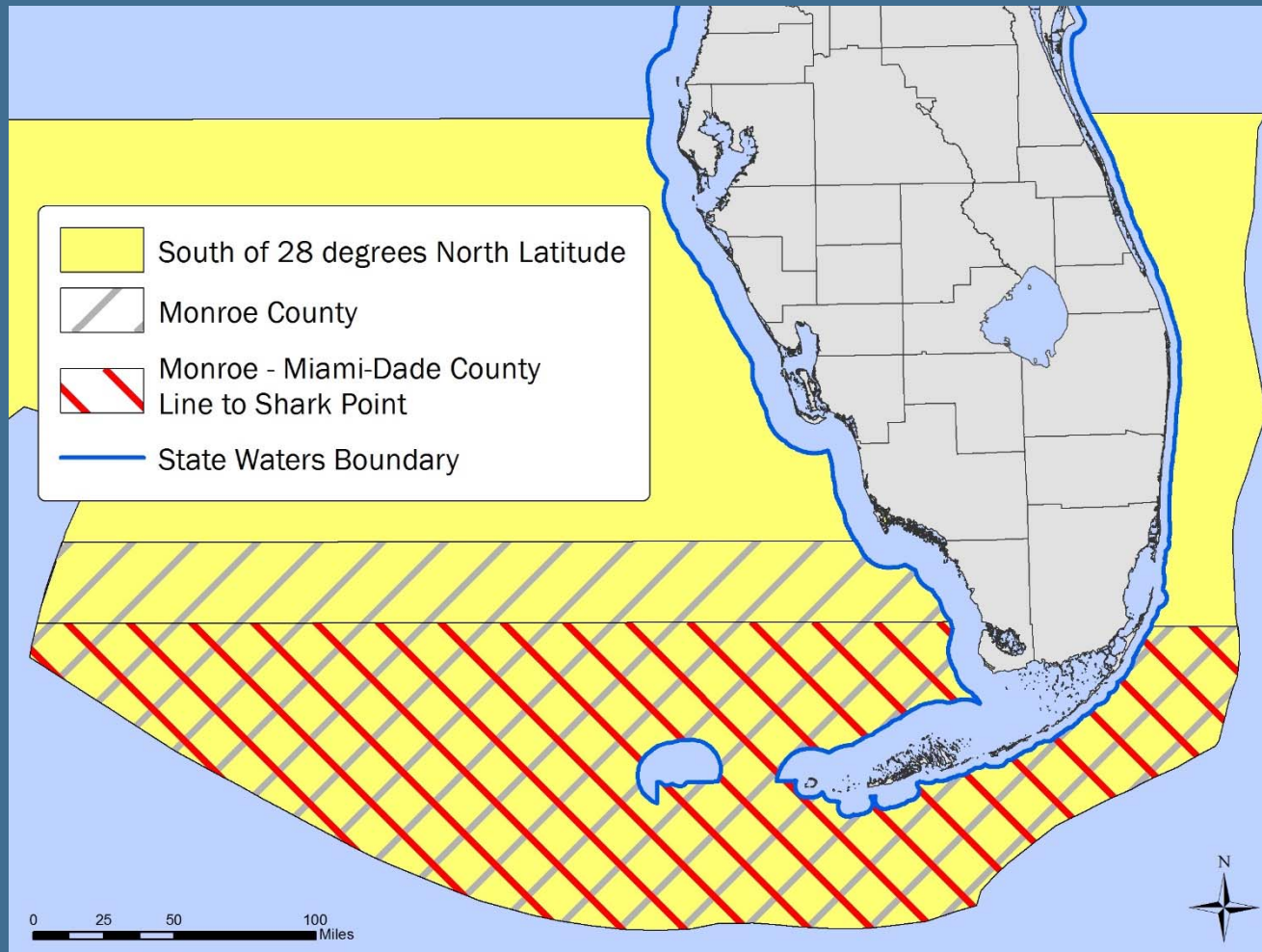
- Develop consistent regulations between Atlantic and Gulf waters
- The Atlantic shallow-water grouper closure:
 - Unnecessary because there are few gag grouper in south Florida
 - Shift the closure from Jan-Apr to Mar-May

How Has the Committee Proposed Addressing these Concerns?

- Delegate authority over specific management items in federal waters off Florida to the State of Florida for yellowtail snapper, mutton snapper, and black grouper
- Jointly set the ABC and ACL for yellowtail snapper, mutton snapper, and black grouper
- Modify recreational bag limit and commercial trip limit for mutton snapper in federal waters
- Modify the shallow-water grouper species compositions, seasonal closures, bag limits, and size limits in federal waters
- Modify the black grouper seasonal closure and bag limits in federal waters
- Change the circle hook requirements
- Set uniform accountability measures for yellowtail snapper, mutton snapper, and black grouper

What Constitutes South Florida?

Some proposed actions are being considered to apply only to a sub-area off south Florida:



How Each Council's Approach has Differed

South Atlantic Council:

- This amendment can be an opportunity to address broader issues in management of snapper and grouper species throughout the Council's jurisdiction:
 - e.g., Seasonal closures for shallow-water groupers
 - Modifications on seasonal closures in south Florida could have a cascading effect throughout the Council's jurisdiction

Gulf Council:

- Keep the focus of the amendment solely on issues pertinent to south Florida area

