



# SAFMC Fishery Management Process Review

## Resilient Fisheries Project Overview

### Description

This project aims to enhance the Council's responsiveness to changing fisheries and ecosystems by improving regulatory processes and governance structures. It will focus on three objectives: resolving regulatory bottlenecks, optimizing the Council's committee structure and coordination, and developing a more robust risk policy framework. The study includes internal assessments and comparisons with other Councils to ensure recommendations reflect best practices and legal obligations under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, NEPA, and APA. Case studies of recent amendments will help illustrate challenges and opportunities. Stakeholder engagement is central, involving a wide range of Council and industry participants. The outcomes will provide strategies for more adaptive management in evolving ecosystems and regulatory contexts. Project outcomes and recommendations will be coordinated with the Ecosystem Information Review project.

### Progress Updates

- Development of an FMP Tracking dashboard is well underway, with the contractors working with Council staff to ensure regular feedback during development.
- Report development continues and now includes SAFMC Management Process Assessment, Bottleneck Meta-Analysis, and NEPA Efficiency Analysis. Contractors are now reviewing SAFMC advisory body structure and comparing across regions.
- The Contractors are meeting with staff regularly to review progress and receive feedback on draft deliverables. The next oversight team meeting is scheduled for the end of June.

### Project Team

*Contractors:* Purcie Bennett-Nickerson; Aaron Kornbluth; Steve Poland

*Oversight Team:* Michelle Bachman (NEFMC), Myra Brouwer, Chip Collier, Kiley Dancy (MAFMC), John Hadley, Lara Klubansky, Michelle Walsh (NOAA SERO), Verena Wang (Gulf Council)

### Project Timeline

#### 2025

- ✓ **Jun** - Request for proposals released.
- ✓ **Jul/Aug** - Proposals reviewed and contractor selected
- ✓ **Aug** - Project Oversight Team formed; Begin Phase 1: Comprehensive Assessment and Analysis
- ✓ **Sept** - Begin quarterly Project Oversight Team meetings; Stakeholder Engagement Strategy and Interview Implementation Guide and Tool Submitted
- ✓ **Oct** - Dashboard to track FMP development
- ✓ **Dec** - Report on Process Mapping and Case Study;

#### 2026

- ✓ **Feb** - Report on Bottlenecks, Benchmarking, and NEPA Efficiency
- Jun** - Report on Committee Structures and Comparison
- Dec** - Report on Risk Policy Framework

#### 2027

- Jan** - Begin Phase 2: Synthesis and Recommendation Development
- Mar** - Completion of Final Report and Presentation to Council

Implementation will begin with the Council reviewing and project outcomes and recommendations.