

Innovative and Comprehensive Management for Snapper Grouper

Jessica McCawley, Kerry Marhefka & John Carmichael

September 2025

Topics

- Review plan components introduced in June 2025
- Instructions for the brainstorming exercise
- Next steps

GOAL

Through INNOVATION, adapt to CHANGE that is coming in NMFS and maintain a viable snapper grouper fishery

- Gain EFFICIENCY in conducting business
- Improve TIMELINESS of actions
- Become more PROACTIVE and less REACTIVE

Innovation Plan Components

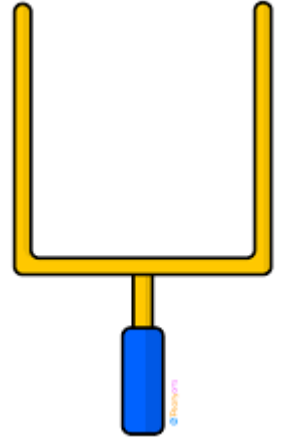
- Goalposts: provide high level guidance for evaluating individual decisions
- Basic Principles: establish a series of facts and shared expectations so deliberation can move forward efficiently
- Action Goals: Short, mid- and long-term plans

Goalposts – things to achieve

- Overarching principles and standards to guide individual decisions
- Informed by feedback regularly received from constituents, APs, port meeting, public comment
- Work with, but do not replace, FMP Goals and Objectives
- Guide where we are going and identify success

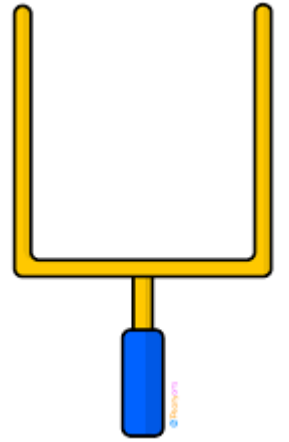
Goalpost Trigger Questions

- What do you want the fishery to look like in the future?
- What are your ideas for better snapper grouper management?
- What changes would you like in how we conduct SG committee business?



Goalpost Examples

- Ensure year-round access to some component of SG for commercial and recreational fisheries
- Provide pathways for new commercial entrants
- Promote gears and practices to reduce discard losses
- Increase regulatory flexibility to better meet local needs
- Improve trust and confidence of stakeholders
- Improve management-science compatibility
- Streamline routine actions and discussions (ACL changes)
- Increase use of Local Ecological Knowledge



Basic Principles (or Boundary Lines)

- Simple, factual statements of Council consent and agreement
- Allow Council to avoid repeatedly debating issues with each amendment or action
- Limit the need to rehash discussion points as all know the consensus position
- Establish the boundaries of Council discussions

Basic Principles Triggers



- What are some facts that you think all Council members agree to?
- What are some “axle-wrapping” topics we cannot change that slow our progress and hinder discussion of things we can fix?
- What habits do we have as a group that limit our effectiveness?


Basic Principles Examples



- The Council does not desire significant changes in sector allocations
- Avoid blaming others (sectors, states, rules) for problems we must all solve
- Science will not provide clear answers to all questions or resolve all conflicts
- Avoid rehashing unanswerable questions & debating known unknowns
- Make timely decisions using our best judgement with the information at hand
- No actions of the Council are forever

Action Plan

- Series of short, mid- and long-term actions
- Developed by the Council
- Can be directed at multiple council needs
 - Implementing this approach by defining goalposts and principles
 - Respond to EOs and NMFS directives
 - Incorporate innovative ideas into management actions, both underway and upcoming
- Incorporated into the workplan



To be discussed
in Detail in
December 2025

What does success look like?

Amendment schedules stay on track

Free up space on the workplan to proactively address big-picture topics

Increased constituent satisfaction

How does this fit into the Council process?

- Directed at how the Council conducts business and approaches finding solutions
- Functions at a higher level than FMP goals and objectives or port meetings & Lines meetings
- Builds on visioning and other constituent input by giving a framework to guide discussion and decision-making

Innovation Brainstorming

- Interactive “Sticky Wall” exercise to brainstorm GOALPOSTS and PRINCIPLES.
- At this Meeting
 - Conduct Exercise
 - Review Outcomes
 - Sticky Dot Exercise
- December 2025
 - Review outcomes and ranking
 - Prioritize and refine components
 - Discuss Action Plan and implementation steps

Sticky Wall Brainstorm Exercise

- 2 Sticky Walls – Goalpost and Principles
- 15 minutes to write down your Goalpost ideas and stick them on the Goalpost wall.
- 15 minutes to write down your Principles ideas and stick them on the Principles wall.
- 15 minute break while we set up for the review
- Gather around the Goalpost wall to review, cluster, consolidate the ideas
- Gather around the Principles wall to review, cluster, consolidate
- Return to the Table for final wrap up and next steps
- Sticky Dot: Place your dots on your top Goalposts and Principles

Outcomes and Next Step

- Many Many ideas from Everyone!
- Complete summary of all ideas in an appendix to the SG report
 - Including pictures of the actual walls
- Summary document for discussion in December including the strawman ranking
- Continue the discussion in December
 - Review brainstorm ideas and prioritize items
 - Develop the action plan

What are some facts
that you think all Council
members agree to?

What are some axle-wrapping topics we cannot change that slow our progress and hinder discussion of things we can fix?

What habits do we have
as a group that limit our
effectiveness?

What do you want the
fishery to look like in the
future?

What are your ideas for
better snapper grouper
management?

What changes would you
like to see in how we
conduct SG committee
business?