

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Ecosystem Update

Council Member Ongoing Development
November 15-16, 2022



Gulf Council ecosystem groups and recent activities

Direct Council involvement

- Ecosystem Committee
 - *Provided comment on NMFS Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management Policy and Road Map*

Technical advisory bodies

- Special Ecosystem Scientific and Statistical Committee
 - *Feedback on Science Center's red grouper stock assessment incorporating red tide events*
- Ecosystem technical committee (ETC)
 - *Development of Fishery Ecosystem Plan*



Ecosystem consideration in Gulf of Mexico fisheries management

Red grouper

- Protogynous hermaphrodite
- “habitat engineers”
- Vulnerable to red tide
- Lucrative stock



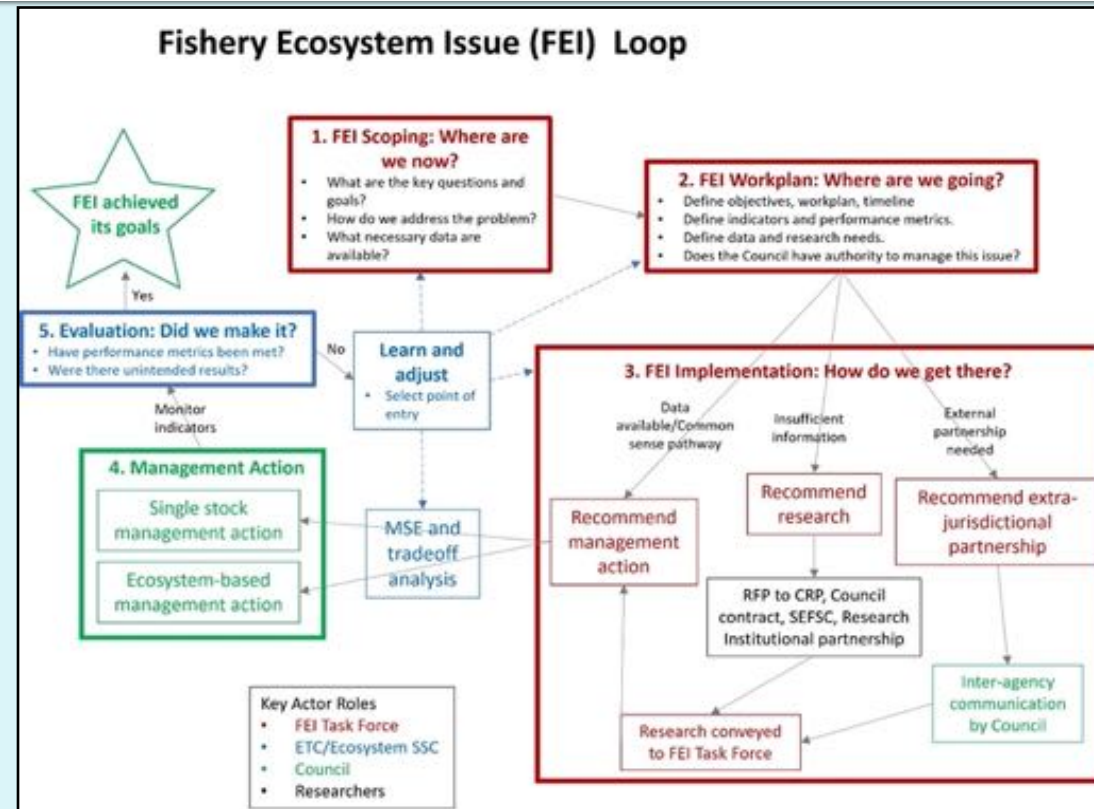
Recent stock assessment

- Red tide history surveys (SEFSC)
- Modeled red tide removals as a “fleet”
- Varied red tide severity for projection analysis

Development of a Gulf of Mexico FEP

Overseen by ETC

- Initial meeting in March 2020
- Contracted LGL Ecological Associates



Draft FEP presented to Council April 2022

- Proposed work flow design centered about Fishery Ecosystem Issues (FEI)
- Assigned tasks to Council and advisory bodies



Development of a Gulf of Mexico FEP

Next steps

- Identify FEIs and create a prioritization criteria
- Increase stakeholder engagement
- Outreach & Education Technical Committee December 2022



Questions?

