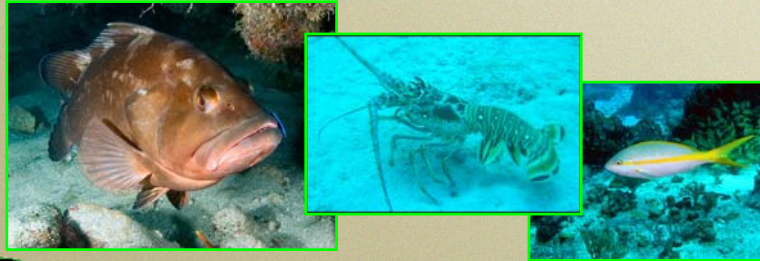


Marine Fisheries State-Federal Coordination Workshop

National Marine Fisheries Service



Report date: May 22, 2009

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Division of Marine Fisheries Management

This is a brief overview of the role of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in the development and implementation of federal marine fisheries regulations. Dr. Roy Crabtree, Southeastern Regional Administrator for the NMFS, is our guest today and is available to answer questions and provide additional details regarding the role and responsibilities of his agency.

Federal Fishery Management Plans

- Councils or Secretary of Commerce prepare plans
- NMFS reviews Council plans
- Secretary of Commerce approves or returns to Council
- Once approved NMFS adopts federal regulations
- Regulations enforced by NMFS, U.S. Coast Guard, and State Enforcement Agencies



Either a fishery management Council or the Secretary of Commerce may prepare a plan or plan amendment. Council plans are submitted to NMFS for review. Under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Act), the Secretary of Commerce is also empowered to prepare and implement a fishery management plan or a plan amendment. These are called Secretarial Plans or Amendments. Following this review, the plan is submitted to the United States Secretary of Commerce for approval. Once the plan is approved, NMFS adopts federal regulations. The plan is then enforced by NMFS, the U.S. Coast Guard, and state enforcement agencies.

The components of a fishery management plan are outlined in detail in the Act. All fishery management plans must also conform to environmental review standards as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

NEPA and Fishery Management

Requires Environmental Impact Statements (EIS)

- Environmental consequences of a proposed action
- Alternatives to the proposed action
- Public review and comment
- Management plans include EIS elements
- Other federal laws are followed



The NEPA is the main environmental law for the United States and is followed during the fishery management process. NEPA requires that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) be prepared for federally-proposed actions significantly affecting the human environment. The EIS must include an analysis of the environmental consequences of a proposed action in a fishery management plan, and an investigation and documentation of alternatives to the proposed action. A draft of the EIS is disclosed to the public for review and commenting before a final decision on the proposed action is completed. All Council fishery management plans and amendments incorporate the required elements of an EIS.

Other federal laws are followed by NMFS in the course of fishery management activities. These include the Paperwork Reduction Act, the Coastal Zone Management Act, Endangered Species Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, and other orders and acts of Congress.

Questions or Discussion?

UP NEXT: State/Federal Coordination –
Regulatory Coordination



The following staff presentations will provide a brief overview of state fishery management activities that are coordinated with federal management programs.