

State Management and the Workplan

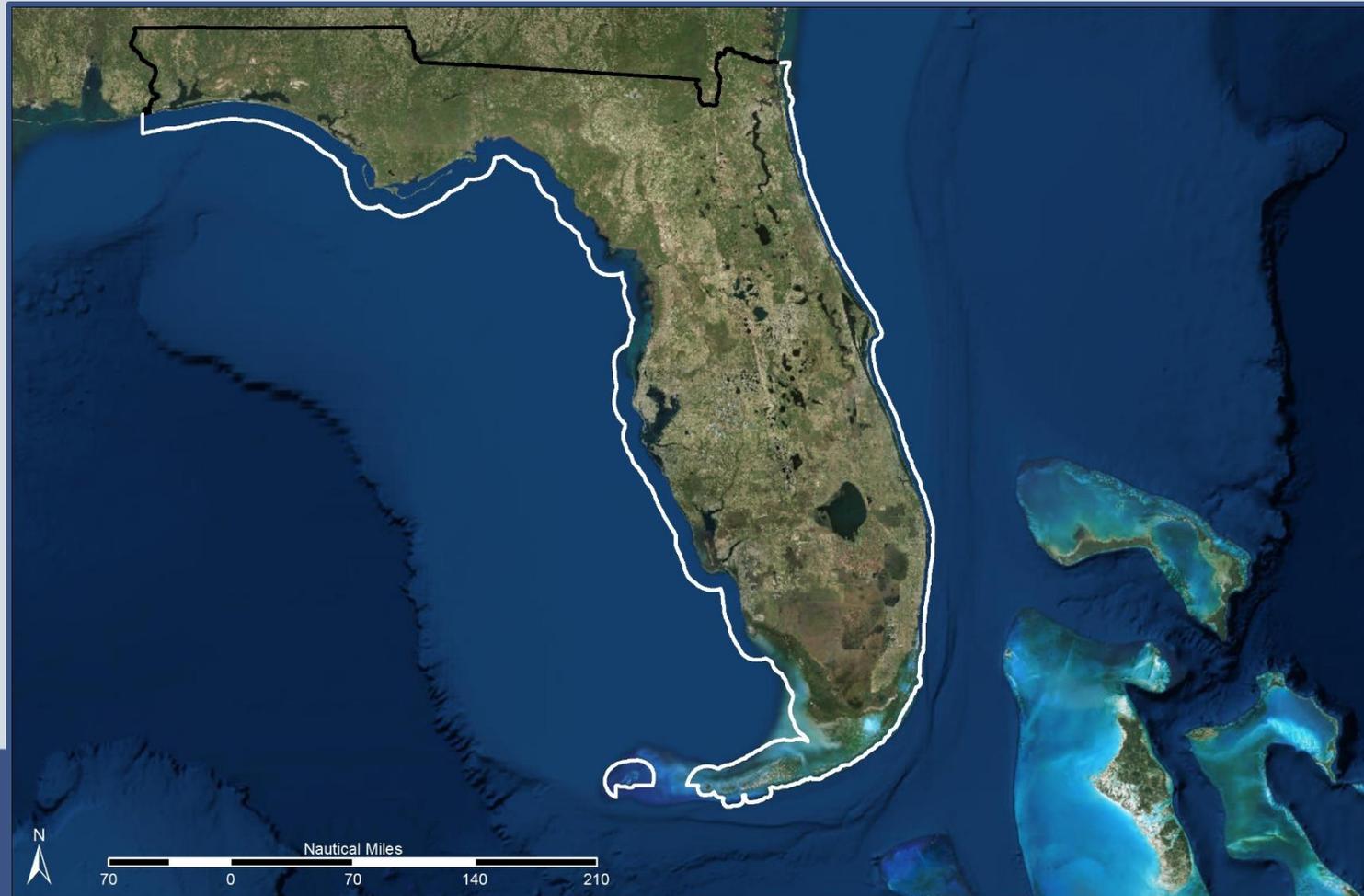


Marine Fisheries 101 Workshop
April 24, 2018



State Waters

- Atlantic Coast: Shoreline to 3 nautical miles offshore
- Gulf Coast: Shoreline to 9 nautical miles offshore

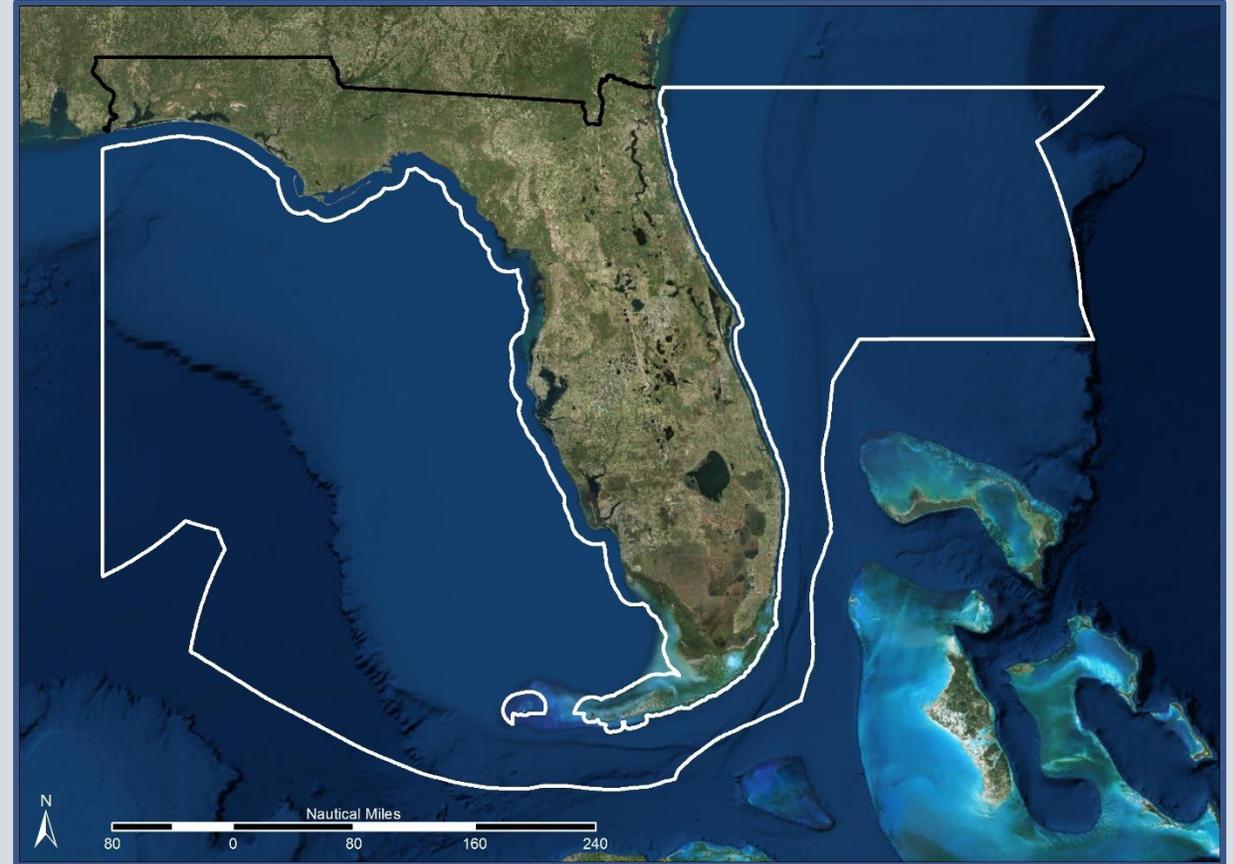


FWC's Authority in State and Federal Waters

- The Commission's authority in state waters is provided by Florida's Constitution

“The commission shall exercise the regulatory and executive powers of the state with respect to wild animal life and fresh water aquatic life, and shall also exercise regulatory and executive powers of the state with respect to marine life...”

- Federal law (Magnuson) provides each state the authority to manage fisheries in federal waters in certain situations
 - There is no federal management plan for a particular species
 - State regulations are consistent with federal regulations



Coordination Among States – Interstate Commissions



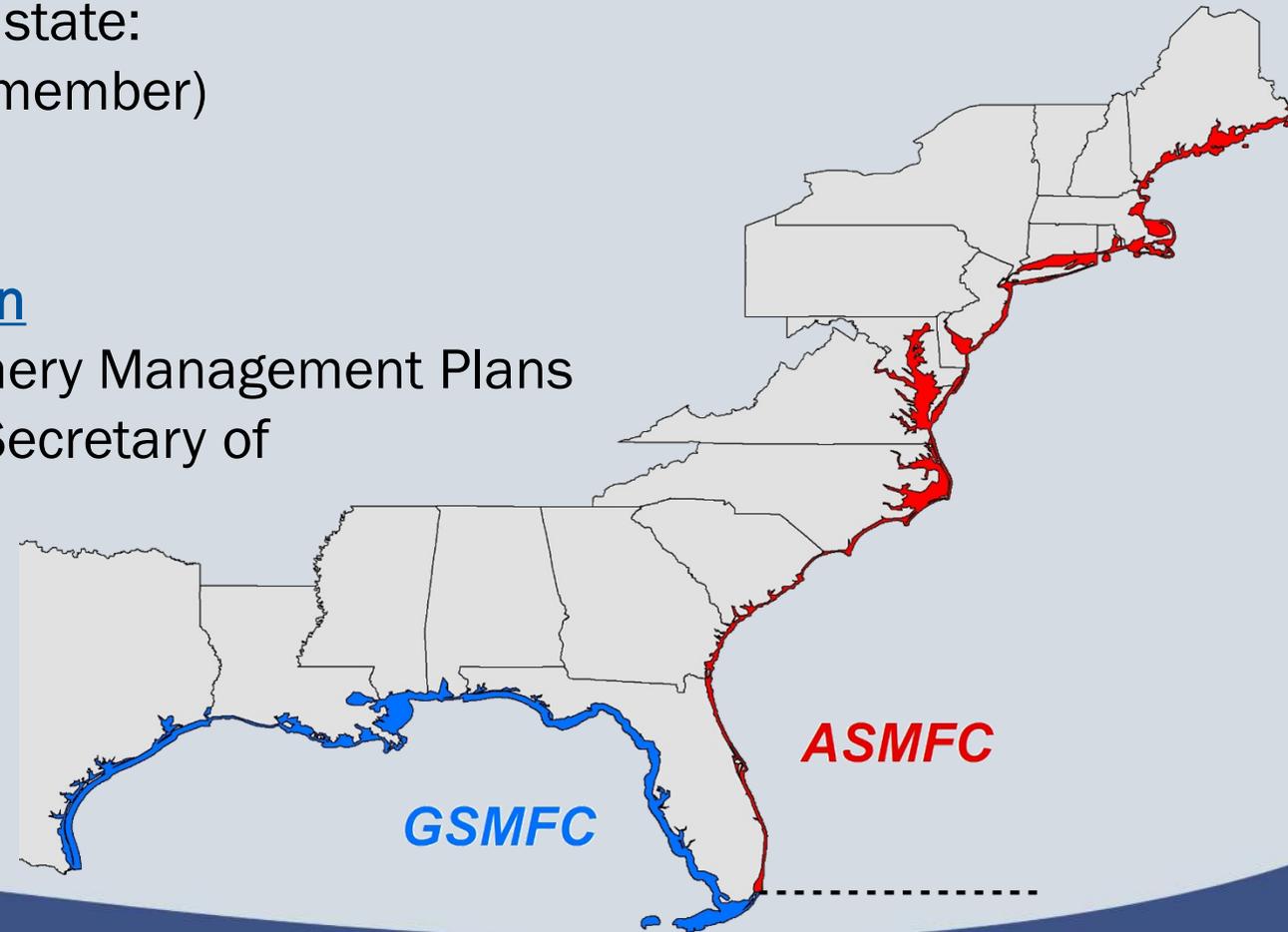
- Interstate commissions established by Congress
- Coordinate management of near-shore species that move among states
- Each commission has 3 members per state:
 - Agency representative (FWC staff member)
 - Legislative representative
 - Governor appointee

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

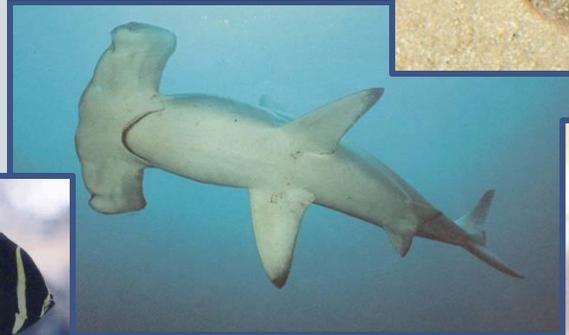
- Develops regulatory measures via Fishery Management Plans
- States required to comply or the U.S. Secretary of Commerce can close the state fishery

Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission

- Non-regulatory compact
- Promotion and conservation of state-waters fisheries



Numerous and Diverse Fisheries



Identifying Conservation and Management Issues

Issues identified through a variety of sources

- Stakeholders
- FWRI research staff
- Law Enforcement
- Management staff
- Federal fisheries managers
- Agency leadership

Topics vary widely

- Unethical or undesirable fishing practices
- Biological concerns within a fishery
- User group conflicts
- Regulatory loopholes that impact enforcement of a management measure



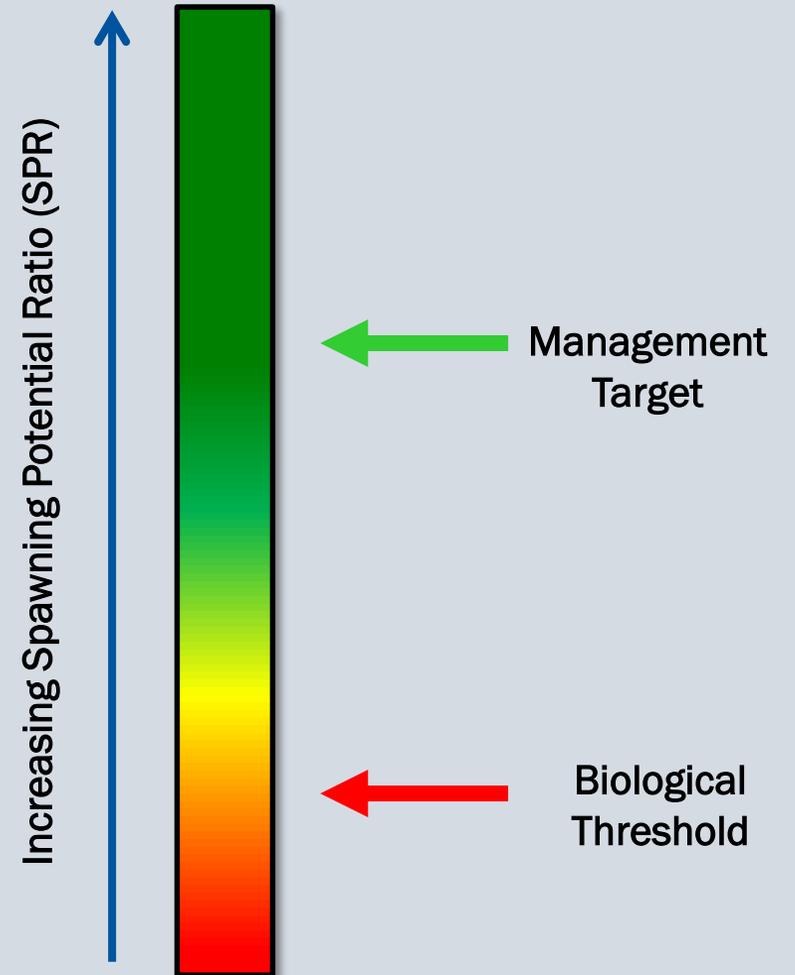
Evaluating Population Sustainability

Biological threshold: sustainability concerns with a stock below this level

Management target: represents the ideal

- Based on biological/social/economic factors
 - Lifespan and reproduction rates
 - Vulnerability to environmental factors
- Higher when managing for abundance

Buffer between the target and threshold provides additional assurances of continued sustainability



Developing the Annual Workplan

DMFM and FWRI leadership meet annually to coordinate research and management activities

- Review fishery issues and concerns
 - Topics to address with outreach
 - Short-term and multi-year regulatory matters
- Identify available research relevant to various topics
- Prioritize potential work items
- Develop timelines for priority topics



Prioritizing Staff Efforts

- Resource concerns – regional, statewide, and federal levels
 - Stock assessment schedule effects timing
- Economic and social importance
- Speed at which regulatory items can move forward
 - Urgency of the situation
 - Complexity
 - Need for additional data collection or analysis
 - Adjustments to stock assessment schedules
 - Level of stakeholder coordination needed
- Influx of short-term concerns affects ability to address complex, long-term issues



Resulting workplan presented to the Commission for approval or modification

2017-2018 Workplan

HIGH

Deepwater Coral HAPCs
 Gulf Gray Triggerfish
 Vermilion Snapper

Agency Strategic Planning
 Bay Scallops
 Fisheries Management Outreach
 Lionfish
 Oysters
 Reef Ecosystem Management
 Rule Cleanup
 Sharks
 Shrimp
 Snook
 Spotted Seatrout
 Trap Fisheries Management
 Federal Legislation
 Goliath Grouper
 IFQ 5-Year Review
 Gulf and Atlantic Red Snapper
 Sector Reallocation
 Lobster
 Gulf Gag Grouper

MEDIUM

Multi-day Fishing Limits in Tortugas
 SAL Updates
 Western Dry Rocks
 Permit

Sheepshead
 Tripletail
 Citizen Science Opportunities
 Regulatory Discards
 Predator Species and Nuisance Behavior
 Cobia
 Habitat and Water Quality
 Gulf Black Sea Bass
 Mullet
 Wholesale/Retail Sales Requirements
 Florida Threatened Species
 Flounder
 Mangrove Snapper
 Grouper Closures
 Electronic Reporting
 Red Drum

LOW

Cownose Rays
 Blackfin Tuna
 Orange Cup Coral
 Slipper Lobster
 Horseshoe Crab
 Spot and Atlantic Croaker
 Marine Life Trends Analysis
 Red Drum Tournament Permit
 Marine Life Management (aquarium trade)
 Menhaden
 Blueline Tilefish

Blue = Federal Issue

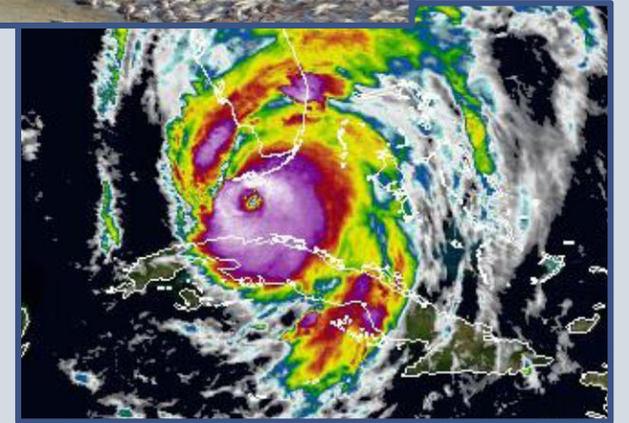
 = New

 = Carry-over



Addressing Items Outside the Workplan

- Issues often arise mid-workplan
 - Emerging issues can create a sense of urgency
 - Must determine whether to take immediate action
- Mid-workplan items vary in nature
 - Critical or environmentally-induced problems
 - Perceived localized or broader changes in a fishery
 - Increased interest around previously-identified issues



Options for addressing mid-workplan issues

- Executive orders: pressing or immediate needs
- Delay action until the following workplan
- Reprioritize staff efforts to address in the current workplan year



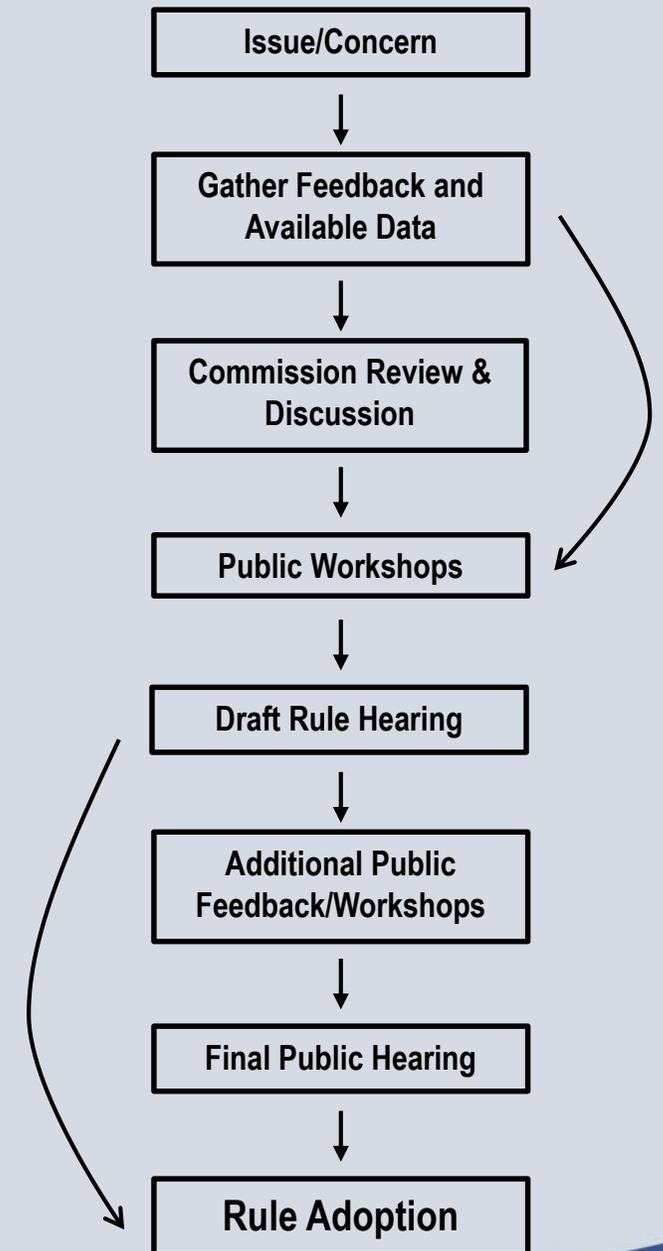
Trade-offs Associated with Shifting Priorities

- Reprioritizing efforts is required to address emerging issues
 - Improved nimbleness and effectiveness for short-term issues
 - Replaces or delays previous priorities
 - Reduces overall efficiency
- Research and monitoring efforts may need to be redirected
- Stock assessment schedule for unrelated species may be impacted
- Progress on complex, long-term issues often stops
 - Complex issues require longer timelines
 - Work on smaller pieces builds toward addressing the whole
 - Redirection of effort disrupts flow
 - Lost momentum impacts stakeholder engagement and investment
 - Previous gains can be lost



Rule Development Process

- Multiple opportunities for Commission consideration
- Public workshops or other formal feedback opportunities are commonly held
- Public noticing requirements apply
- Full process takes a minimum of 6 months
 - 9–12 months is typical
- Executive orders can be implemented immediately if warranted



Post Rulemaking Follow-up

- Changes are communicated to the public
- Monitoring continues
 - FWRI monitors fish populations and catch
 - DMFM continues to gather feedback
 - Assessment conducted 3-4 years after change

Law enforcement: Key to successful management

- Progressive enforcement to achieve compliance
 - Educational phase followed by issuing warnings and citations
- High compliance rates help ensure management success



Conservation Through Innovation: an Agency Strategic Initiative

2013: the Commission expressed an interest in focusing efforts on marine fisheries management under the Agency Strategic Plan

Implementing a comprehensive approach, using innovative conservation tools and strategies. Strategies may include enhancing partnerships, incentives, and streamlining regulations.

1. Effective long-term marine fisheries management
2. Streamlined fisheries regulations
3. Improved communication
4. Marine habitat management
5. Ensuring public access



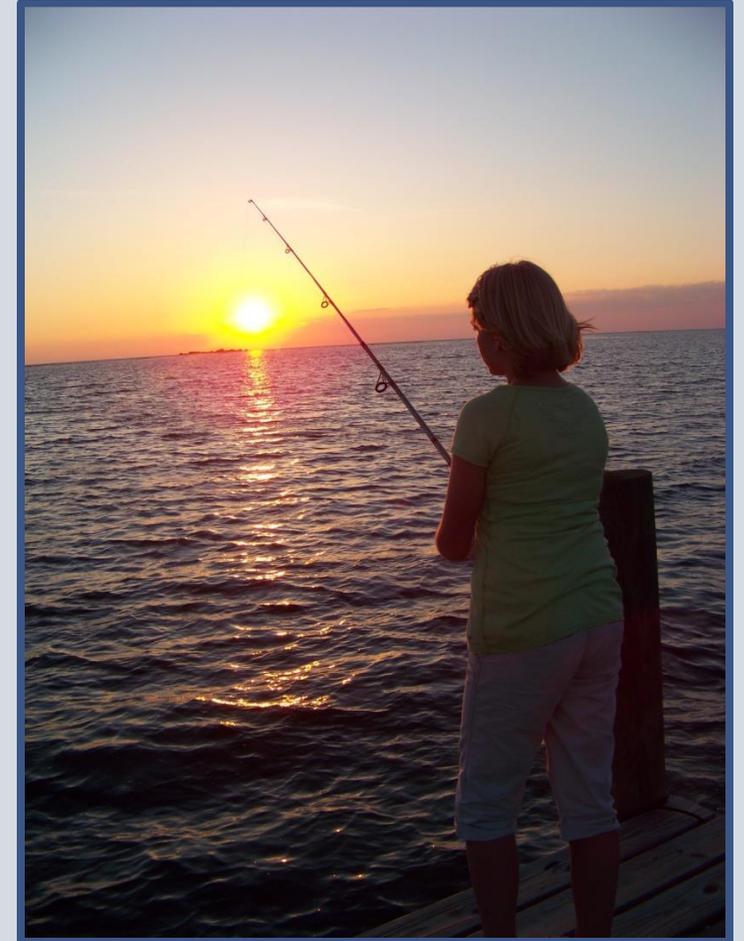
Cross-Divisional Coordination

Effective management requires broad agency coordination

- FWRI leadership and subject matter experts
- Law Enforcement leadership and field staff
- Regional leadership
- Office of Licensing and Permitting
- Legal Office
- Office of Community Relations
- Legislative Affairs

Strategic Initiative efforts seek to broaden that coordination

- HSC marine habitat staff
- Field staff across the state
- Better engagement with partners



Up next: Federal fisheries management process

**The following slides are considered backup material
and are not anticipated to be part of the actual
presentation**



Current Long-term Management Topics

- Trap fisheries management
 - Lobster
 - Stone crab
 - Blue crab
- Gulf and Atlantic red snapper
- Shrimp fisheries management
 - Streamlining and modernizing
 - Resolving conflicts with other fisheries
- Federal legislation
 - Modernizing Magnuson
 - Shark Conservation and management
- Oysters
- Lionfish control

