

Federal Fisheries Management Process



Marine Fisheries 101 Workshop
April 24, 2018



FEDERAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

U.S. Congress:
Enacted the
Magnuson Stevens
Act

U.S. Secretary of Commerce

8 Regional Fishery Management Councils:

Includes Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (GMFMC) and South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC)

NOAA Fisheries

Science and Statistical Committee (SSC)

Develops Fishery Management Plans for fisheries in federal waters

Implements regulations for fisheries in federal waters

Body of scientific experts that advises each council; FWC scientists serve on both the GMFMC and SAFMC SSCs



Non voting Council Members:
USFWS, USCG, U.S. State Dept., and ASMFC or GSMFC

Voting Council Members:

- 17 on GMFMC and 13 on SAFMC
 - Principal state official for marine fisheries management from each member state
 - NOAA Fisheries Regional Director
 - Stakeholders in marine fisheries

Stakeholders on councils are:

- Appointed by U.S. Secretary of Commerce for 3 year terms
- Nominated by state governors

FWC Staff represent the Commission as a voting council member on both the GMFMC and SAFMC



Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act

- Directs conservation and management in federal waters
- Congressional mandates
 - End overfishing
 - Rebuild overfished fisheries
 - Minimize bycatch
 - Improve data collection
 - Set specific harvest limits or quotas (ACLs)
- NOAA Fisheries implements the Act



Warren Magnuson

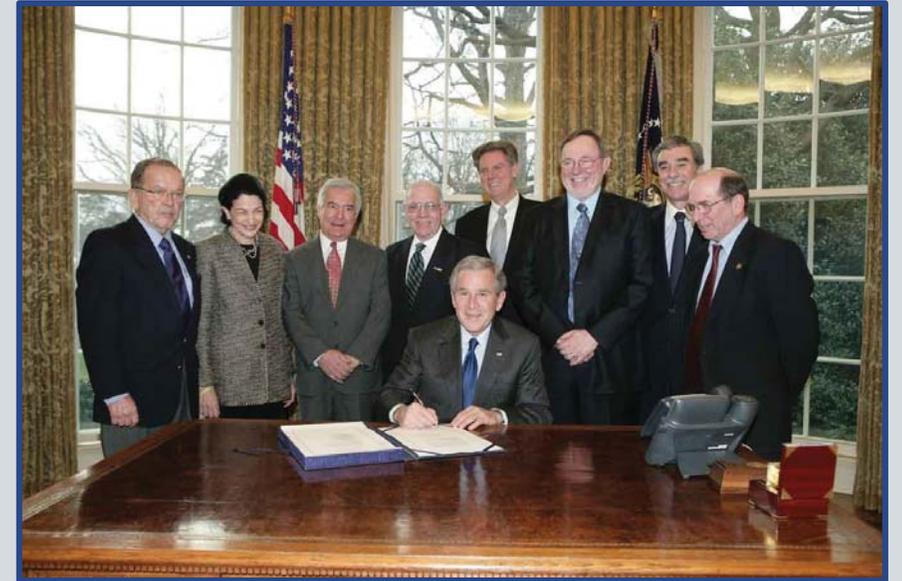


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Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act

- Other important features
 - Limits foreign fishing
 - 10 National Standards
 - 8 Regional Councils
 - Fishery Management Plans
 - Limited Access Privilege Programs (IFQ)



What Are Regional Councils?

- Created by Congress
- Make management recommendations
- Member states represented
- Staff and budget
- Meet several times a year
- Forums for public input



South Atlantic Fishery Management Council



- 4 states represented
- 17 Council members
 - 13 voting members
 - NOAA Fisheries and state agencies have permanent representation
- Governor-nominated members
 - 2 from each state
 - Seek balance



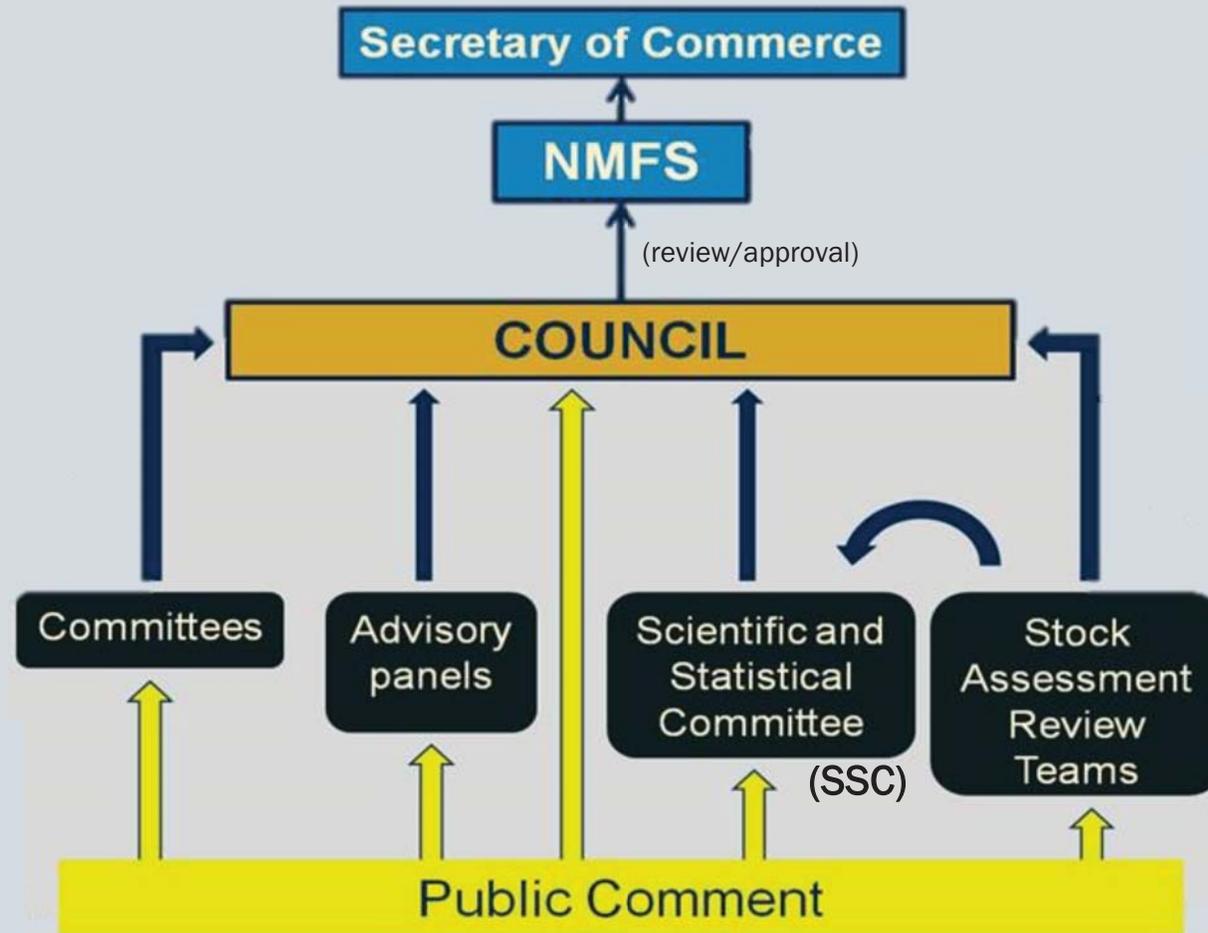
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council



- 5 states represented
- 21 Council members
 - 17 voting members
 - NOAA Fisheries and state agencies have permanent representation
- Governor-nominated members
 - Florida has 3
 - Other states have 2 each
 - Seek balance

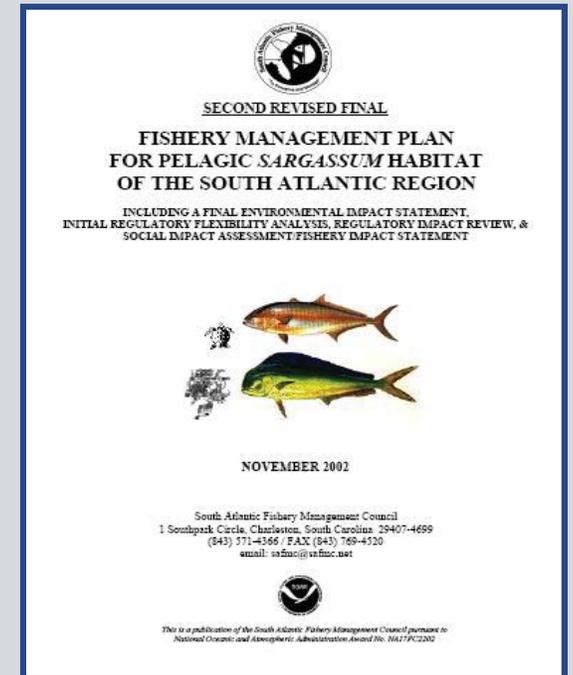


Council Management Process



More about Management Plans

- May be prepared by councils or U.S. Secretary of Commerce
- Elements included in management plans
 - Comply with 10 National Standards
 - Prevent overfishing and rebuild stocks
 - Achieve long-term health and stability
 - Establish allocations and harvest limits



South Atlantic Council Management Plans

- Dolphin wahoo
- Shrimp
- Golden crab
- Snapper grouper
- Sargassum
- Coral, coral reefs, and live hard bottom
- *Coastal migratory pelagics*
- *Spiny lobster*

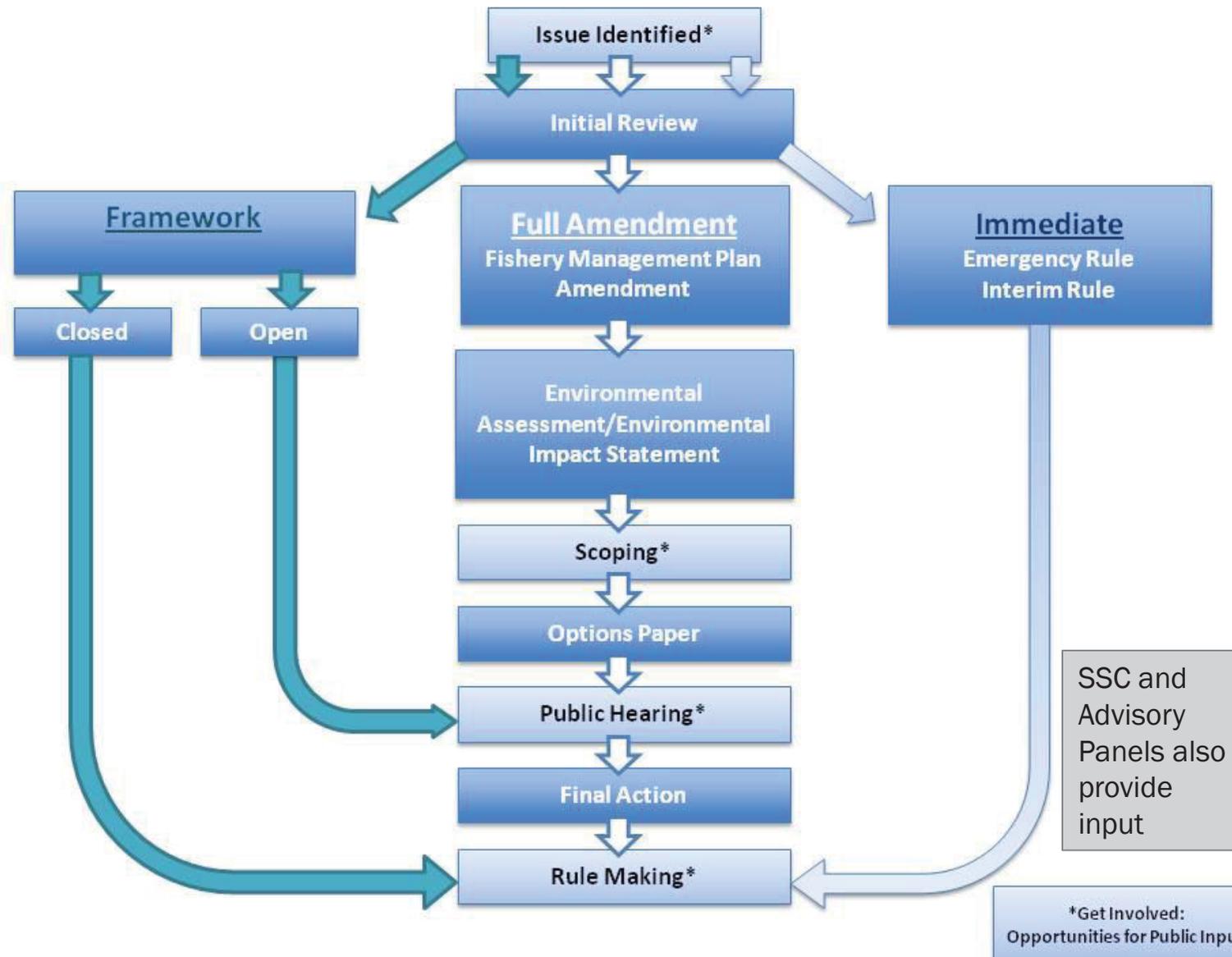


Gulf of Mexico Council Management Plans

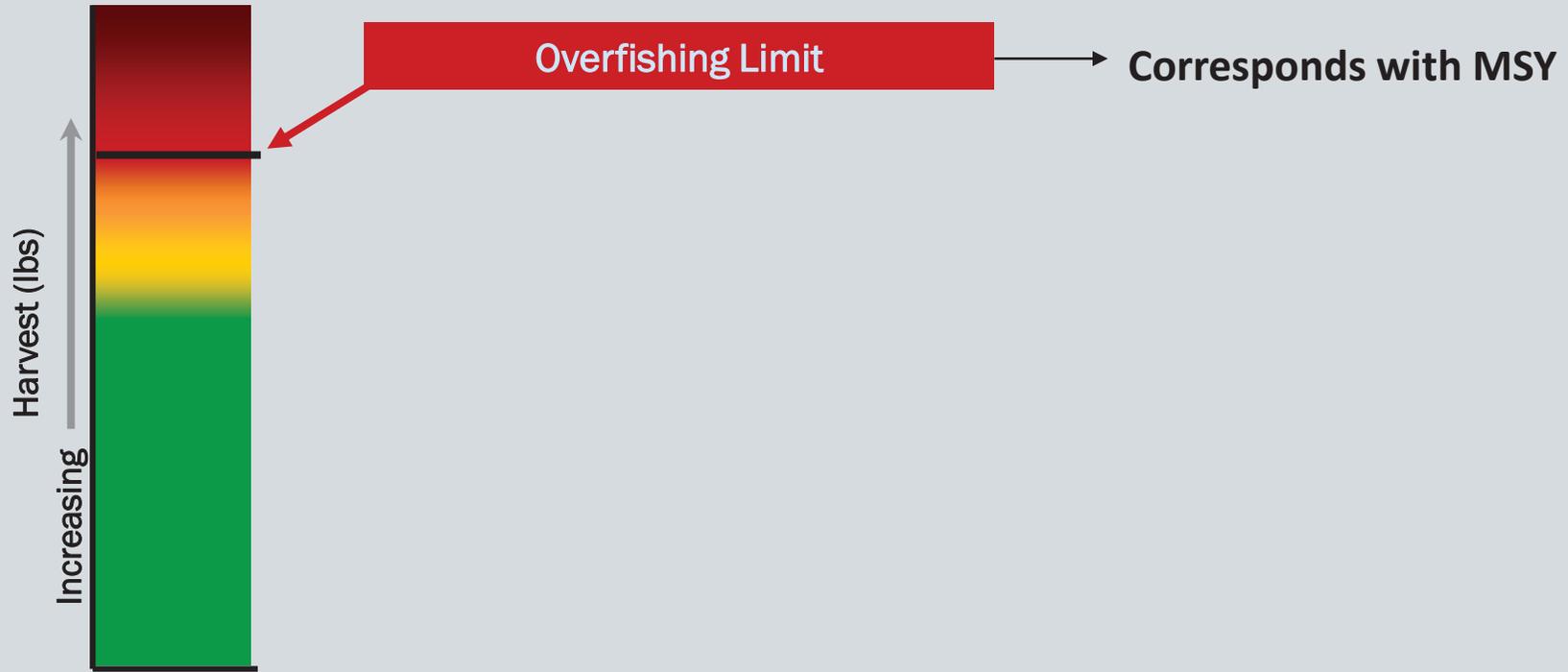
- Reef fish
- Shrimp
- Red drum
- Coral and coral reefs
- *Coastal migratory pelagics*
- *Spiny lobster*



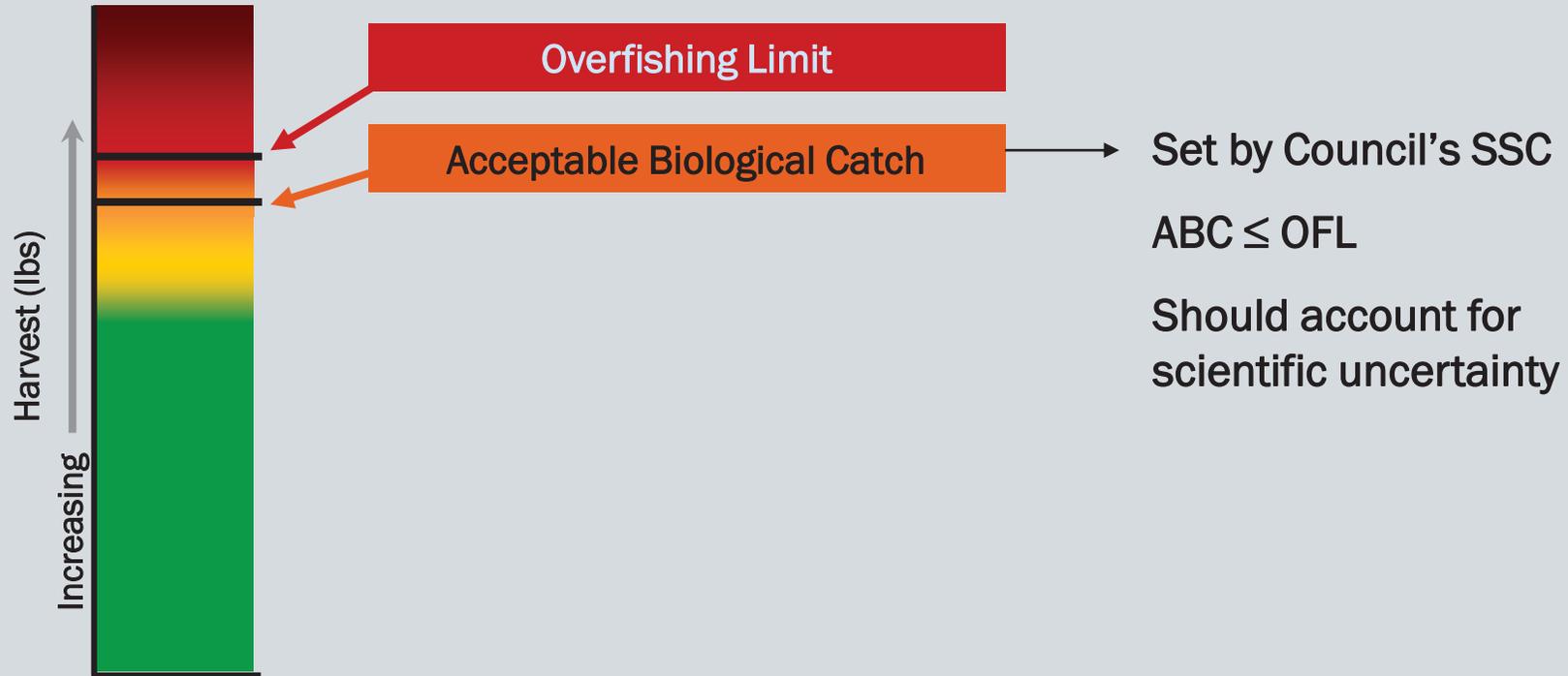
Council Rulemaking Process



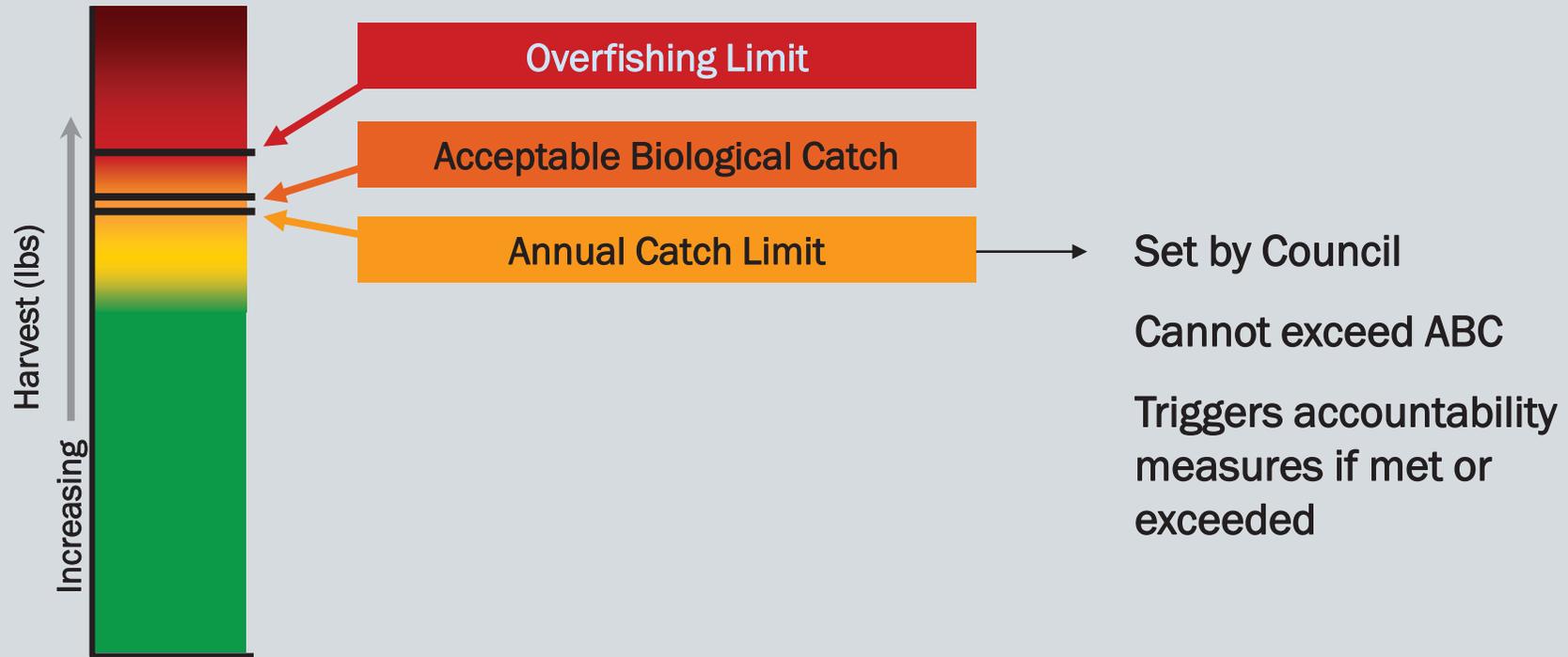
Overfishing Limit (OFL)



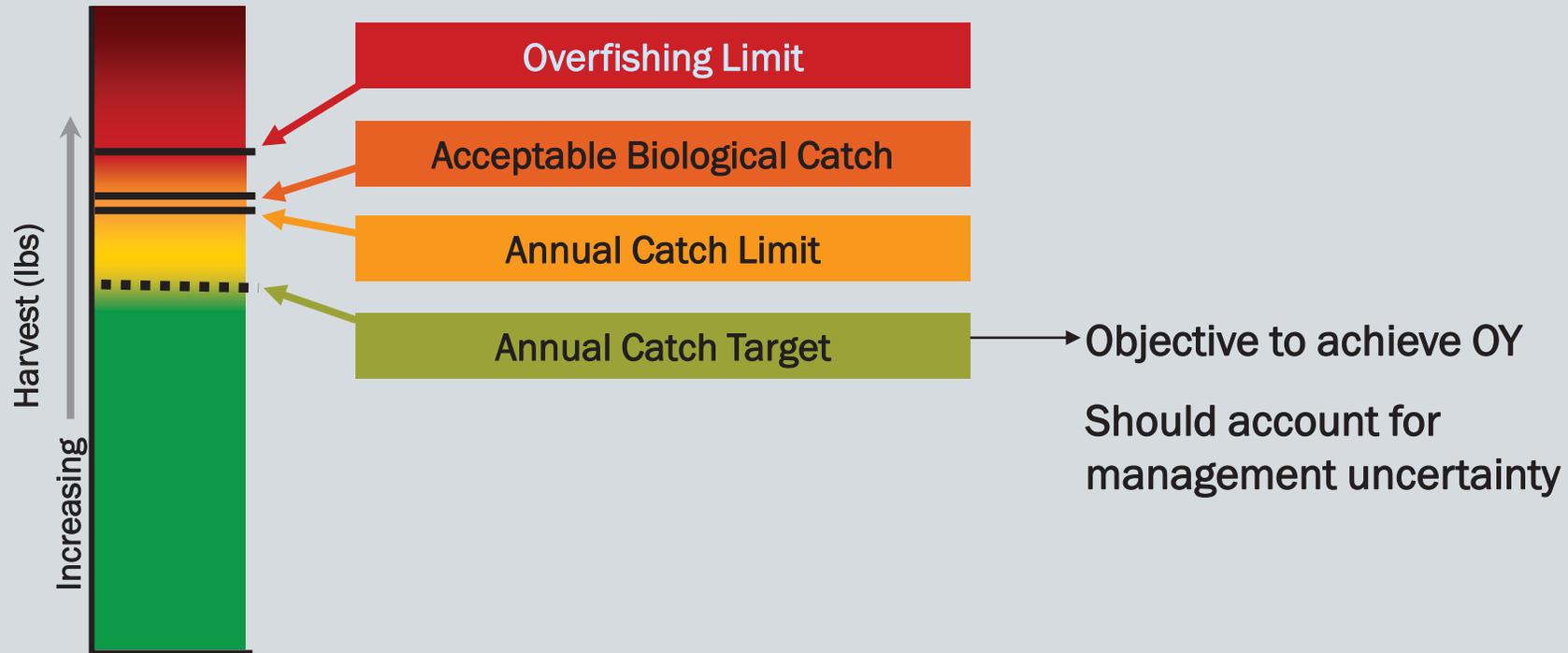
Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC)



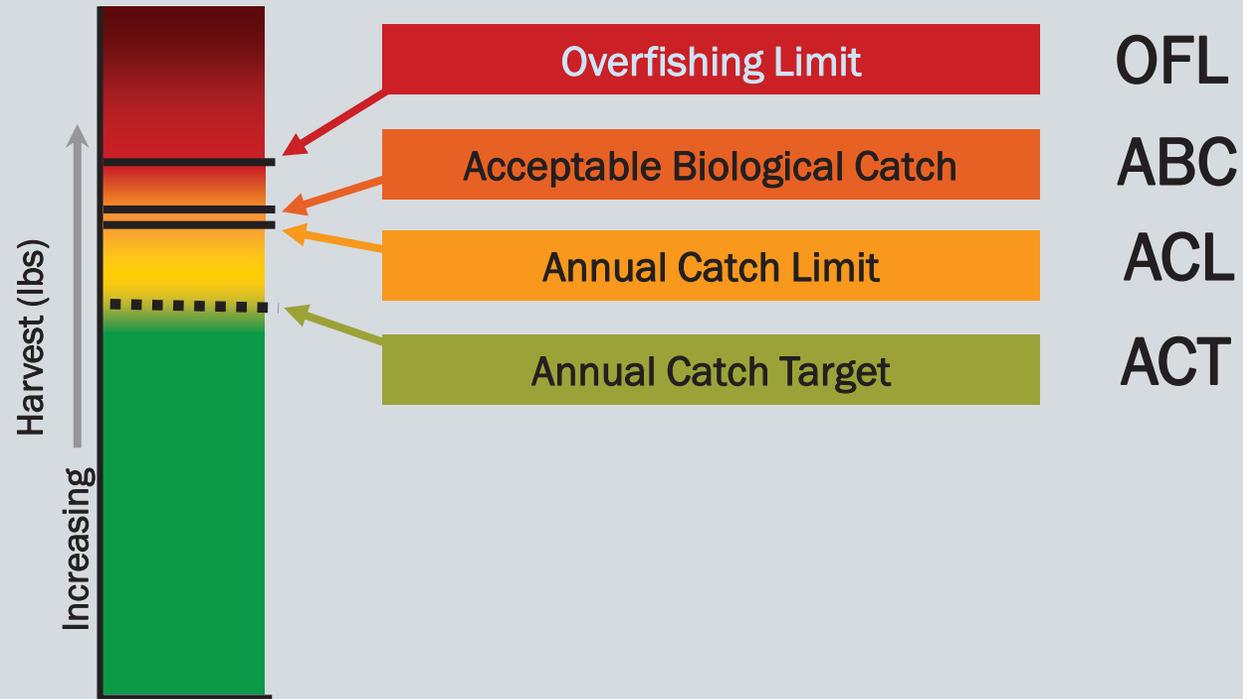
Annual Catch Limit (ACL)



Annual Catch Target (ACT)



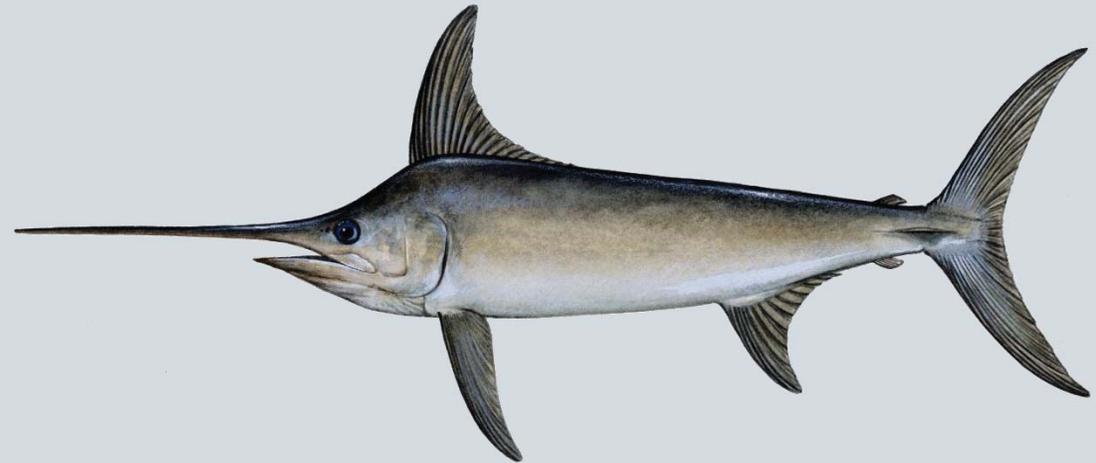
Fisheries Management Thresholds Used by Federal Councils



NOAA Fisheries Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Division



- Manages sharks, tunas, swordfish, and billfishes in Atlantic, Gulf, and Caribbean federal waters
- Coordinates management on federal and international levels
- HMS Advisory Panel provides input on management
 - FWC represented



Law Enforcement in Federal Waters

- NOAA Office of Law Enforcement (OLE), U.S. Coast Guard and FWC enforce federal fisheries regulations
- Cooperative Enforcement Agreement (CEA) with NOAA OLE authorizes FWC to enforce federal fisheries regulations
- Joint Enforcement Agreement (JEA) with NOAA OLE provides FWC with funding for operational costs and equipment



Law Enforcement in Federal Waters



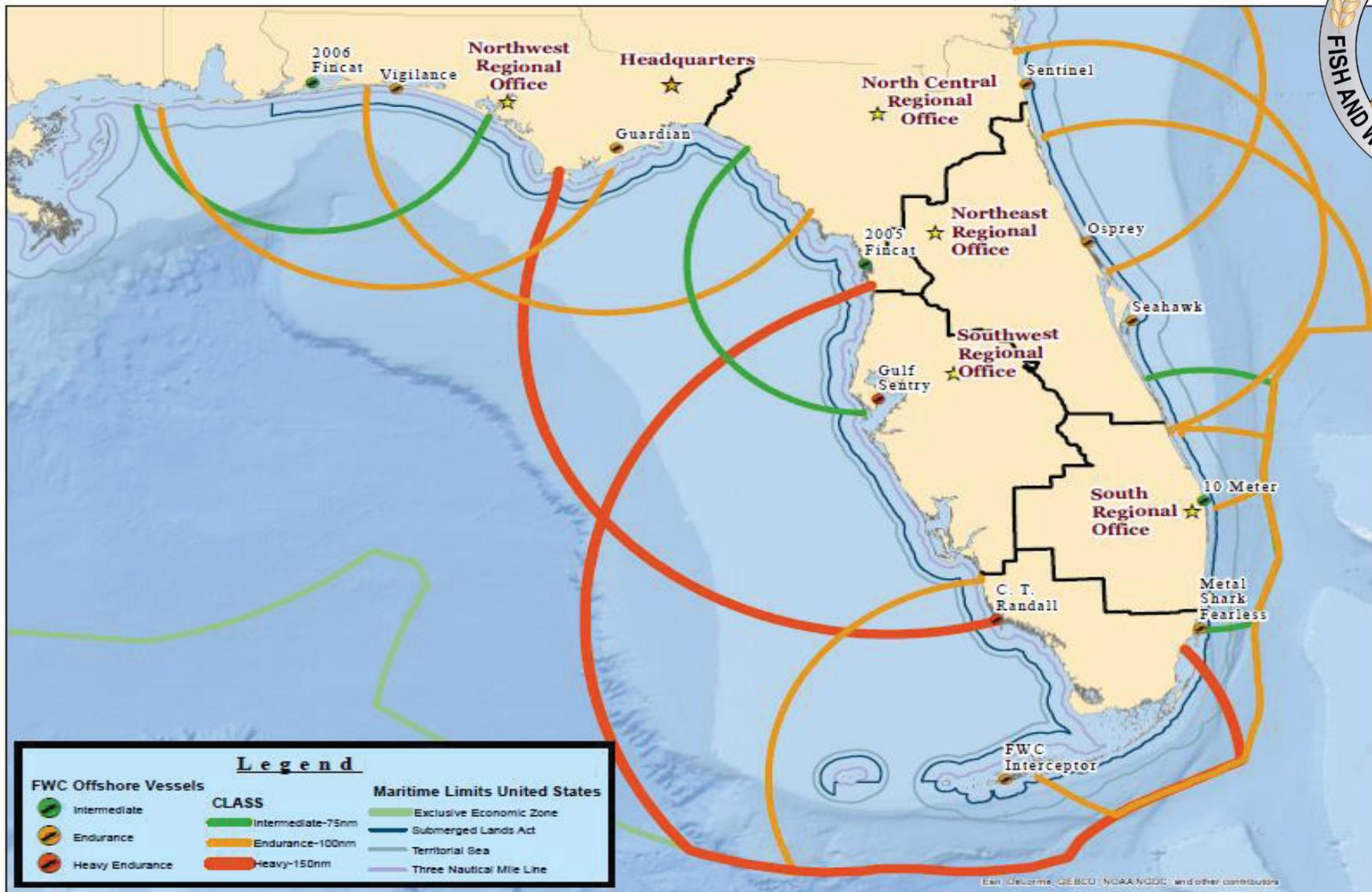
FWC Offshore Patrol Vessel Program

Conducts Federal Fisheries Enforcement

- 2 Heavy Endurance Class Vessels
 - Provide long range multiple day patrols
 - 57 - 85 feet in length
- 7 Endurance Class Vessels
 - Provide long range single day patrols
 - 38 - 45 feet in length
- 3 Intermediate Class Vessels
 - Provide medium range single day patrols
 - 32 - 33 feet in length



Offshore Patrol Vessel Map



Map: Delorme, GEBCO, NOAA/NGDC, and other contributors

FWC Role in Federal Management

- FWC is embedded in federal management process
- Staff participation at many levels and venues to provide FWC perspective and expertise
 - Science
 - Enforcement
 - Management
- Staff updates Commission on federal management via Council reports
 - May include requests for Commission direction
- Commission may consider consistency with federal regulations
 - Expedited rulemaking process allowed by Florida Statutes



Up next: State vs Federal Contrast and Successful Examples