



NOAA
FISHERIES

National Ecosystem –Based Fishery Management Initiatives

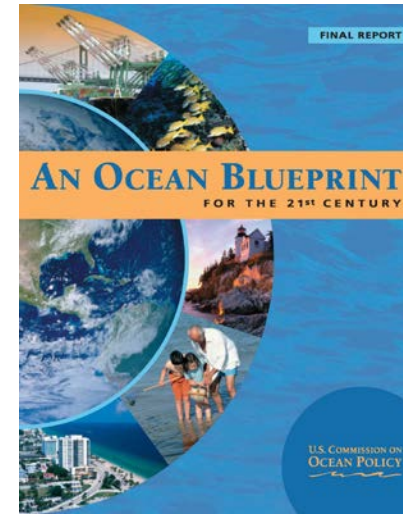
A Policy Perspective

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National Policy Direction

- 1994 – GAO report calls for ecosystem based management
- 1999 – Ecosystem Principles Advisory Panel
- 2004 – \$2M appropriation for EBM pilots in Atlantic
- 2004 – U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy Report – calls for EBM.
- 2006 – Congress reauthorizes Magnuson Stevens without substantial EBM provisions
- 2012 – NOAA names Jason Link as Senior Scientist for Ecosystem Management



Existing Statutory Landscape

- Can implement EBFM within the existing Magnuson Stevens Act framework
- Endangered Species and Marine Mammal Protection Act implementation require ecosystem information
- National Environmental Policy Act implementation benefits from ecosystem information



Magnuson Stevens Act

- Mandatory MSA provisions related to EBFM:
 - OY should include environmental, social and economic factors (NS1)
 - Management actions should consider the needs of fishing communities (NS8)
 - Bycatch shall be minimized (NS9)
 - Essential fish habitat provisions(303(a)(7)) and (303(b)(4))

Example “How-to” Guidance

- 1987 – NMFS Program Development Plan for Ecosystem Monitoring and Fisheries Management
- 1999- Ecosystem Principles Advisory Panel Report to Congress
- 2005 - “Developing Regional Marine Ecosystem Approaches to Management” NOAA Technical Memo
- 2014- “Training course: Essential Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM)” Joint FAO report/Coral Reef Triangle

The Five Steps of EAFM



(From the Joint FAO/Coral Reef Triangle "Training Course: Essential Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM))

Lenfest Ocean Program Initiative

- Fishery Ecosystem Task Force
- Charged to create a practical blueprint for managers for EBFM
- NOAA serves as Task Force co-chair. Councils and NOAA participation on Advisory Committee.



Task Force Convened on Fisheries and Ecosystems

For more than a decade, scientists have recognized that fisheries management should consider the interconnections between fishing, fished species, humans, and the well-being of the larger marine environment. There is strong support for this approach, known as ecosystem-based fisheries management, but no clear path to implementation.

Recognizing this, the Lenfest Ocean Program has charged a team of scientists with creating a practical blueprint that managers can use to make ecosystem-based fisheries management operational. The Fishery Ecosystem Task Force will hold a series of meetings and provide recommendations in 2010.

ECOSYSTEM-BASED FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

U.S. fisheries management is organized around Fishery Management Plans (FMPs), traditionally focused on a single species or an associated group of species. Fisheries science has in the past been similarly oriented, so the most well-developed methods focus on maintaining individual species at sustainable levels.

Ecosystem-based fisheries management builds on single-species management by accounting for the relationships among all ecosystem components—marine organisms, humans, and the environment—in a holistic, synthetic, integrated fashion. To begin implementing this approach, some regional fishery councils have adopted or are drafting fishery ecosystem plans (FEPs) as a parallel to FMPs. But the plans differ substantially, and there is no standard for what they should contain.



"This Task Force will take the next step in making ecosystem-based fisheries management a reality. We are working closely with managers and stakeholders to ensure our work will be useful and won't just sit on a shelf."

- Tim Esington, Task Force Chair

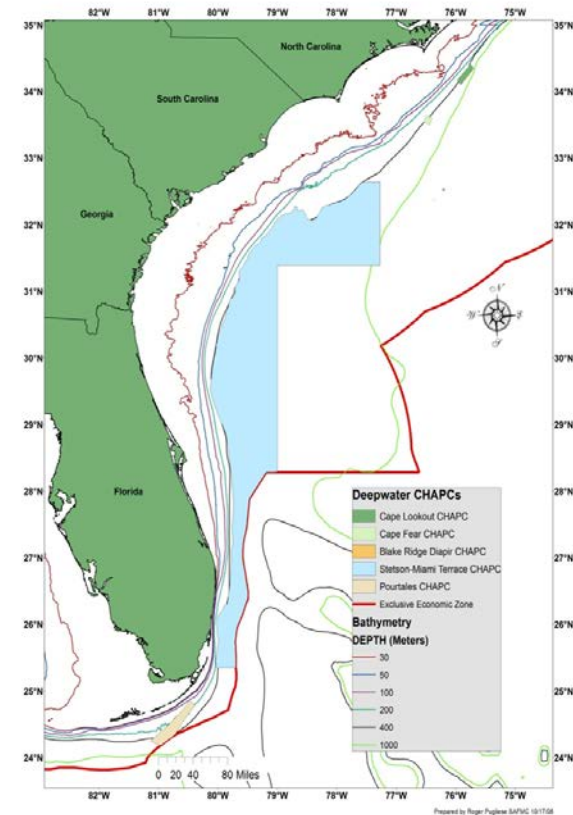


"We are going to examine Fishery Ecosystem Plans and similar documents from around the globe. There has been a lot of innovation in the U.S. and beyond, and we will stand on the shoulders of this collective wisdom."

- Phil Levin, Task Force Co-Chair

Fishery Ecosystem Plans

- FEPs in place for Western Pacific, Aleutian Islands, Pacific, and South Atlantic Councils
- FEP in development for Mid-Atlantic Council
- Chesapeake Bay FEP
- All represent a diversity of approaches and purposes



Value of FEPs/EBFM

- Source documents that support required analyses.
- Tools for engaging with non-fishing stake-holders on impacts that affect fisheries.
- Better positions fishery managers to prepare for changing environmental conditions over short and long-term.
- More effectively support clear management priorities with ecosystem information.



Looking Ahead

- Interest in EBFM continues to grow.
- Many successful examples of EBFM implementation that can be built on.
- Flexibility offers Councils an opportunity to tailor approach to the most pressing management needs.
- Opportunities to engage through Lenfest Initiative and as MSA reauthorization process unfolds.

Thank you.