4.0 Goals and objectives

The following list of goals and objectives were adopted by the NEFMC for use in this eFEP, as a starting point for focusing debate. The Council expects that these goals and objectives will be revised or given relative weights during a Management Strategy Evaluation.

4.1 Goals – measurable or desirable outcomes

4.1.1 Overarching Goal

To protect the ecological integrity of US marine resources as a sustainable source of wealth and well-being for current and future generations (Goal A)

4.1.2 Strategic Goals (Derived from Magnuson definition of OY as in Risk Policy Document):

1. Optimize Food Provision through targeted fishing and fishing for species for bait
2. Optimize Employment
3. Optimize Recreational Opportunity
4. Optimize Intrinsic (Existence) values
5. Optimize Profitability
6. Promote stability in both the biological and social systems

4.1.3 Objectives - General description of how the FEP is designed to achieve goals

4.1.3.1 Strategic Objectives

1. Maintain/restore functional production levels (ecosystem, community scale emphasis)
2. Maintain/restore functional biomass levels (community/species scale emphasis)
3. Maintain/restore functional trophic structure
4. Maintain/restore functional habitat

4.1.3.2 Operational Objectives (SMART: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound)

1. Ecosystem and community/aggregate fishing mortality and or total catch is below established dynamic threshold (Strategic Objective 1)
   a. Phrased as probability according to risk policy
   b. Specified for each spatial scale and time unit
   c. Dynamic to account for environmental/climate shifts

d. "GB EPU total catch has less than 40% probability of exceeding the total catch limit between 2016-2018"

2. Fishing-related mortality for threatened/endangered/protected species is minimized (could establish caps if desired) (Strategic Objective 2)

3. Managed and protected species biomass is above established minimum threshold (Strategic Objectives 1, 2 and 3)
   a. Phrased as probability according to risk policy
   b. Specified for each spatial scale and time unit
   c. Dynamic to account for environmental/climate shifts
   d. "GB haddock biomass has less than 40% probability of dropping below minimum B threshold between 2016-2018"

4. Maintain ecosystem structure within historical variation, recognizing inherent dynamic properties of the system; Ecosystem structure includes size structure, trophic structure, and Species Complex structure. (Strategic Objective 3)

   a. Maintain size structure within acceptable limits; e.g. *The large fish indicator within defined limits

   b. Maintain trophic structure within acceptable limits; e.g.
      i. *Marine trophic index of the community (MTI) within defined limits
      ii. *Mean trophic level of the community within defined limits
      iii. *Mean trophic level of the modelled community within defined limits

   c. Maintain Species Complex structure within acceptable limits; e.g. * species complex biomass across ecosystem components within defined limits

5. Maintain habitat productivity and diversity (Strategic Objective 4)

6. Habitat structure and function are maintained for exploited species

7. Minimize the risk of permanent (>20 years) impacts; e.g.
   a. Corals and sponges
   b. Other vulnerable biogenic habitats
   c. Coastal habitats vulnerable to Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)
   d. Vulnerable physical habitats (e.g. relict glacial gravel banks)