



**NOAA**  
**FISHERIES**

Southeast  
Regional  
Office

# Federal Fishery Management in South Florida and the Keys

Dr. Roy Crabtree  
Regional Administrator

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council  
February 20, 2018

Department of Commerce



National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
Administration



NOAA Fisheries



Regional Offices



Science Centers



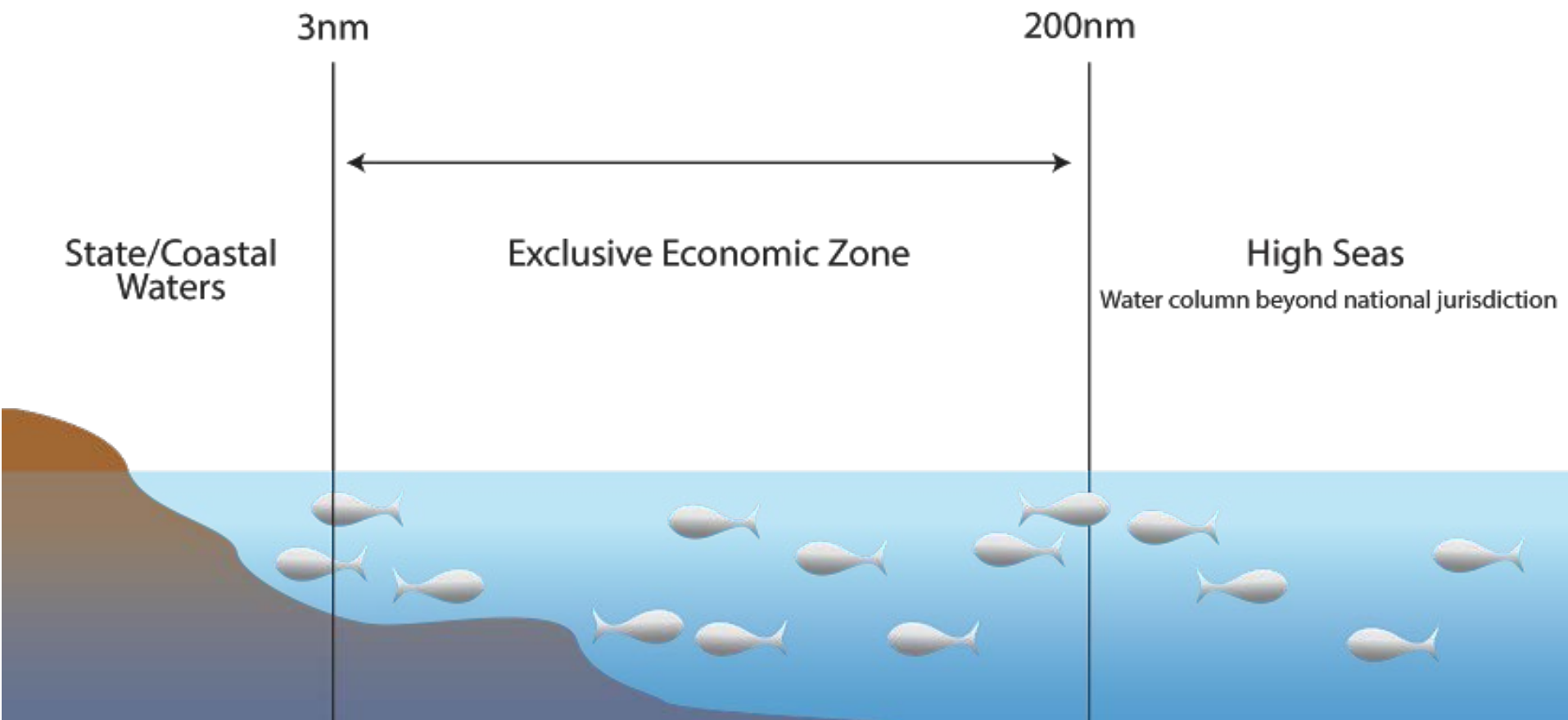
Southeast Regional Office



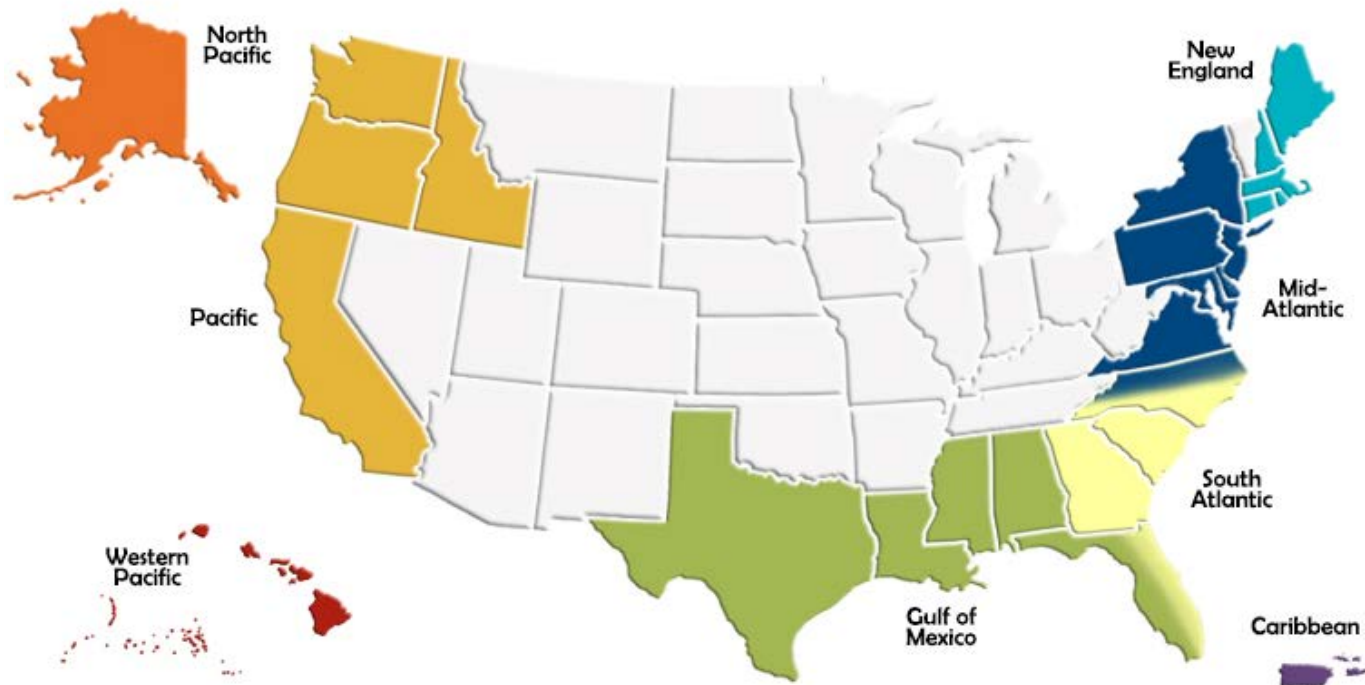
# Magnuson-Stevens Act

- Prescribes stakeholder driven, public process for fishery management decision making within federal waters (U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone)
- Creates eight regional fishery management councils
- Provides ten national policy standards for fishery conservation and management
- Charges Secretary of Commerce with implementation

# The Magnuson-Stevens Act (1976)



# Regional Fishery Management Councils



New England



Mid-Atlantic



South Atlantic



Caribbean



Gulf of Mexico



Pacific



Western Pacific



North Pacific



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# Council Membership

## Voting members (13 South Atlantic, 17 Gulf)

- Directors of state marine resource management agencies (or designees) (4 South Atlantic, 5 Gulf)
- Individuals nominated by state governors and appointed by Secretary of Commerce to represent commercial, recreational and “other” interests (8 South Atlantic, 11 Gulf)
- NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Administrator

## Non-voting members

# Florida Representatives – South Atlantic



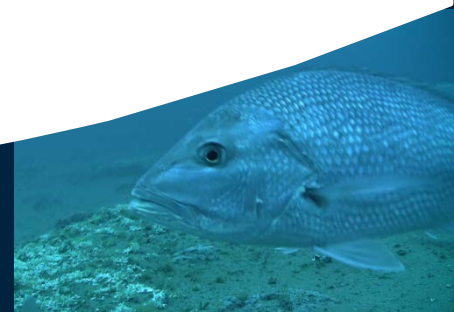
**Chester Brewer**  
Recreational / At large  
[wbsafmc@gmail.com](mailto:wbsafmc@gmail.com)



**Ben C. Hartig**  
Commercial / Obligatory  
[mackattackben@att.net](mailto:mackattackben@att.net)



**Jessica R. McCawley**  
Florida Fish and Wildlife  
Conservation Commission  
[jessica.mccawley@myfwc.com](mailto:jessica.mccawley@myfwc.com)





# Florida Representatives – Gulf of Mexico



**Phil Dyskow**  
Recreational / At large  
[phil.dyskow@gmail.com](mailto:phil.dyskow@gmail.com)



**Thomas Frazer**  
Other / At large  
[frazer@ufl.edu](mailto:frazer@ufl.edu)



**John Sanchez**  
Commercial /  
Obligatory  
[john@blaylockoil.com](mailto:john@blaylockoil.com)



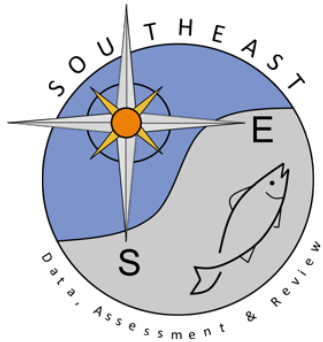
**Martha Guyas**  
Florida Fish and Wildlife  
Conservation Commission  
[martha.guyas@myFWC.com](mailto:martha.guyas@myFWC.com)





# Key Council Functions

- Identify conservation and management needs and research priorities
- Draft fishery management proposals for review by the Secretary of Commerce
- Conduct Public Meetings
  - Council, Committee and Advisory Panel meetings
  - Scoping meetings
  - Public hearings



## SouthEast Data, Assessment, and Review



Each step open and transparent  
Independent peer-review  
Exhaustively documented



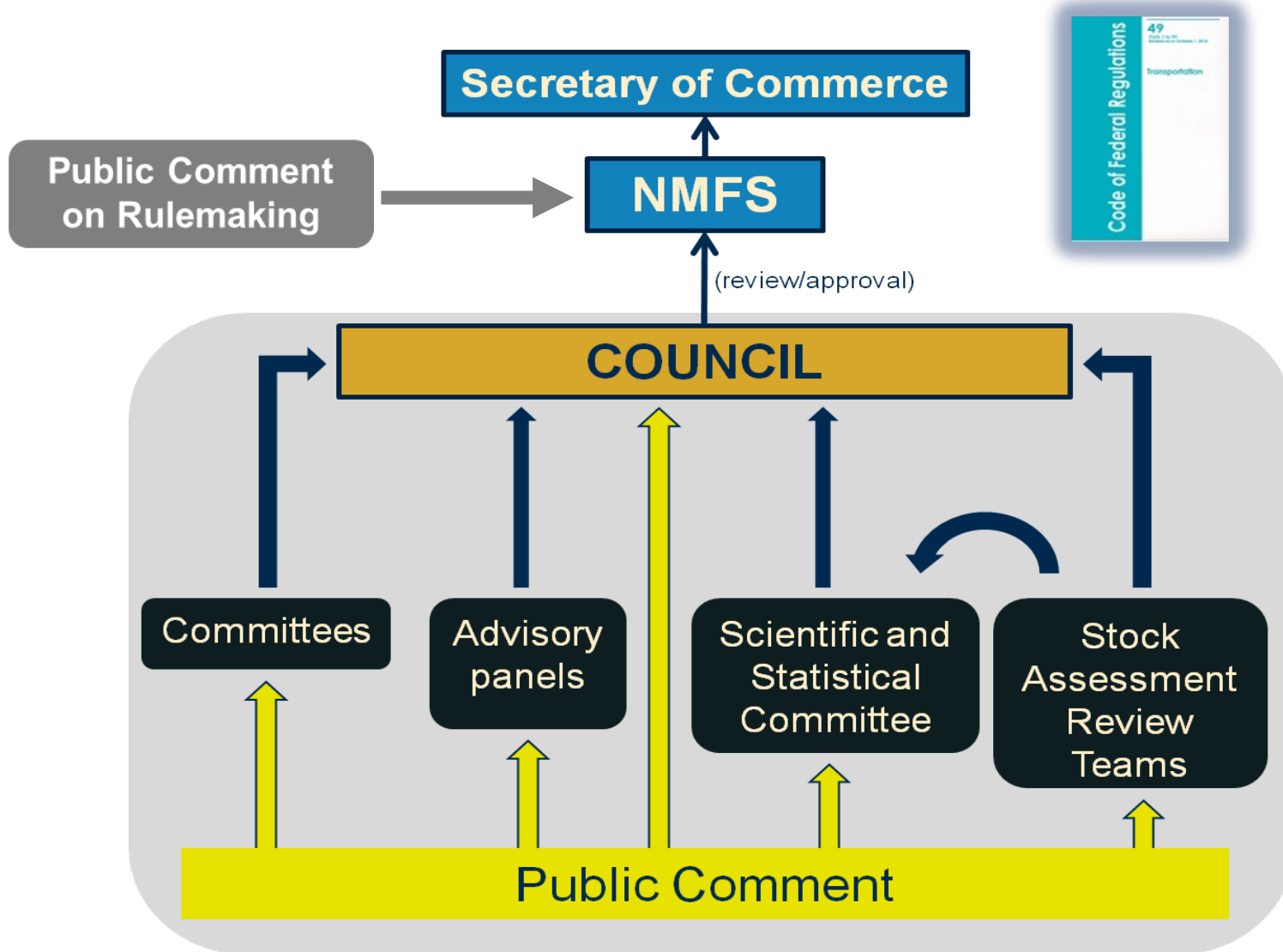
## Science and Statistical Committee



Final scientific review  
Recommends catch limits  
(ABC) to Council



# The Fishery Rulemaking Process

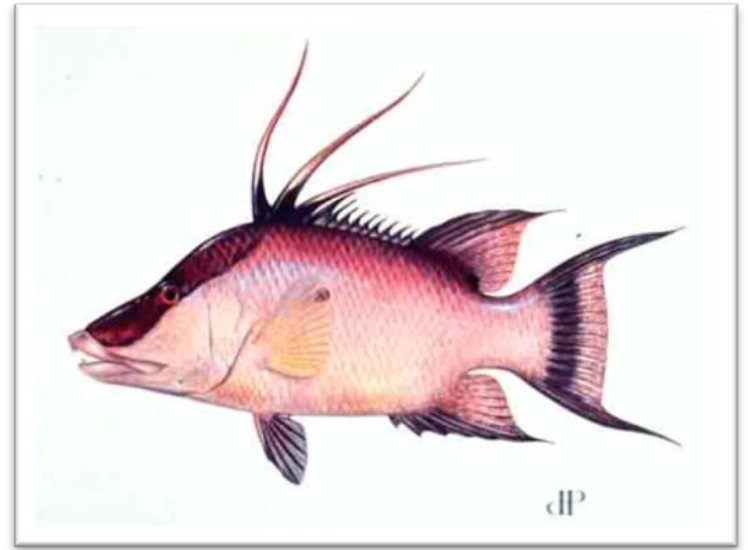


# National Standards: 10 Principles for Managing Fish

1. Prevent overfishing while achieving optimum yield
2. Use the best scientific information available
3. Manage individual stocks as a unit
4. No discrimination
5. Promote efficiency
6. Consider variations in fisheries and catches
7. Minimize costs and avoid duplications
8. Consider the importance of fishery resources to communities
9. Minimize bycatch
10. Promote safety of human life at sea

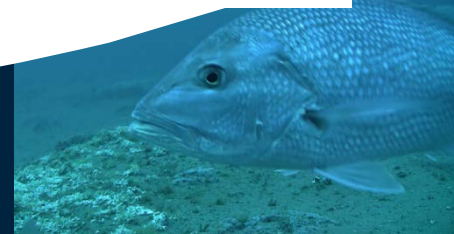
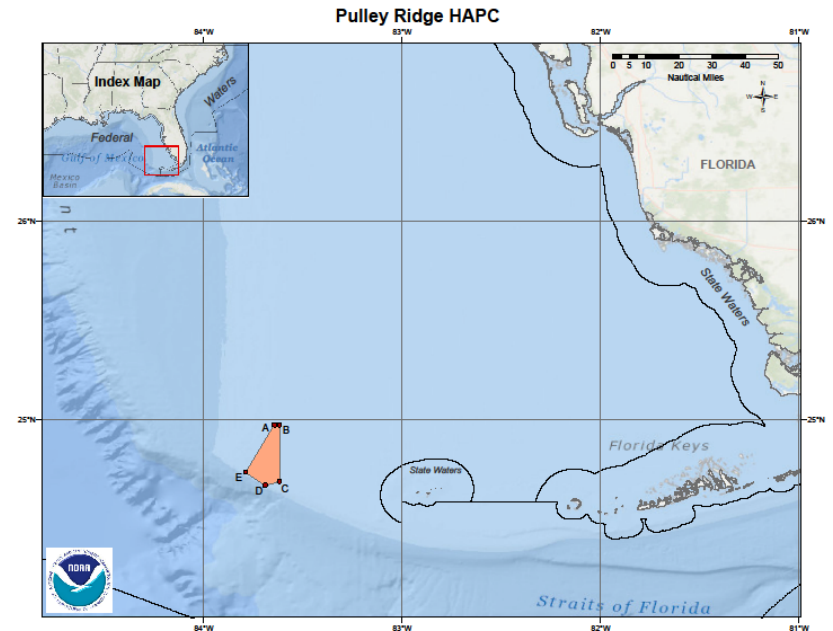
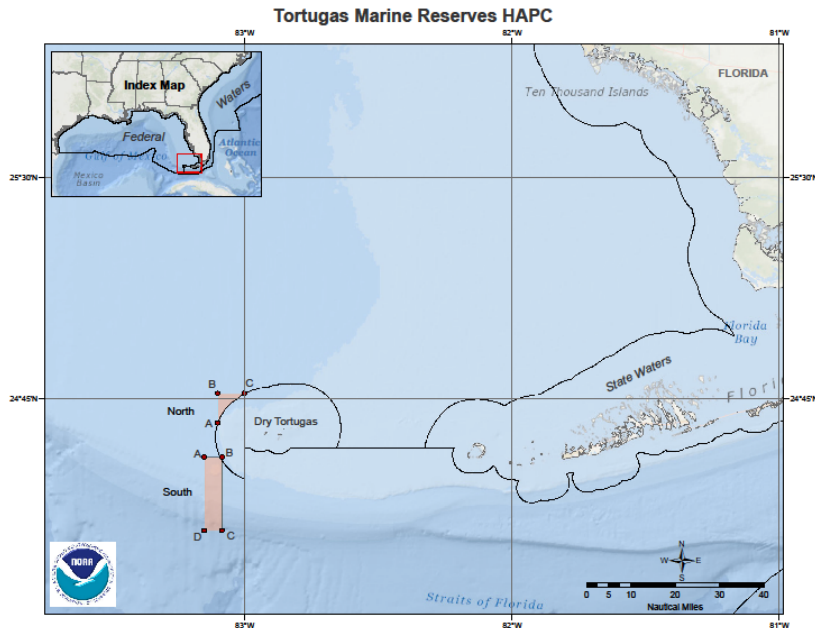
# Key Policies

- Constrain harvest to science-based annual catch limits to prevent overfishing
- End overfishing immediately
- Rebuild overfished stocks as quickly as possible and within 10 years unless prevented by biology, environmental conditions, or international agreements



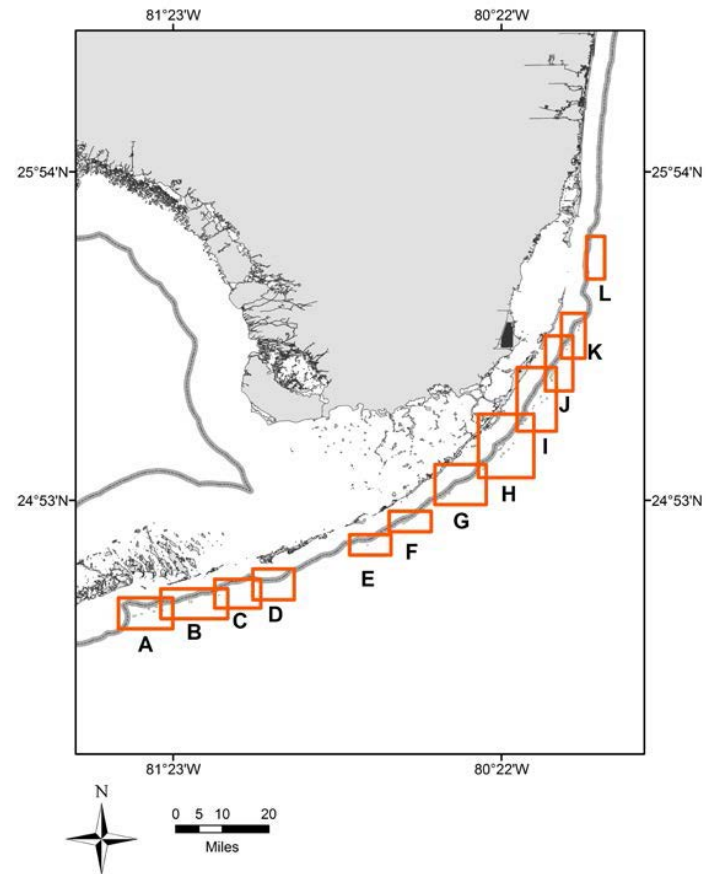
# Other Mandates Impacting Fishery Policy

- **Magnuson-Stevens Act**; Identify and protect essential fish habitat (e.g., Tortugas Marine Reserves and Pulley Ridge Habitat Areas of Particular Concern)



# Other Mandates Impacting Fishery Policy

- **Endangered Species Act;** Safeguard listed species and critical habitat (Spiny Lobster Closed Areas)
- **Marine Mammal Protection Act;** Safeguard marine mammals (authorizations and stranding response)





# National Marine Sanctuaries Act – Procedures for Designation and Implementation; Fishing Regulations

## NMSA Section 304(a)(5)

Provides appropriate fishery management council opportunity to prepare draft fishing regulations for federal waters

Councils may draft regulations or determine regulations are not necessary

NMSA national standards used as guidance to extent consistent & compatible with goals & objectives of proposed designation  
Council decisions accepted unless fail to fulfill purposes & policies of NMSA, and goals & objectives of proposed designation

Secretary prepares regulations if Council declines opportunity, fails to act in timely manner, or determination is rejected

Secretary cooperates with other fishery management authorities at earliest practicable stage



# 1998 Protocol for Cooperative Fisheries Management

- Describes federal and state agency roles in managing FKNMS fishery resources
- Shared objectives
  - Consistent regulations
  - Streamlined and flexible management system
  - Voluntary compliance and effective enforcement



# Key Management Challenges in South Florida

- Unique species
- Multiple jurisdictions
  - South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Councils
  - NOAA Fisheries, National Ocean Service,
  - Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
- Differing authorities and mandates

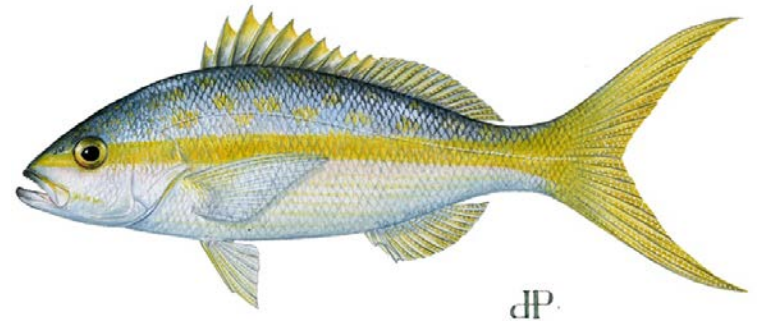


Photo Courtesy of Diane Peebles

# Public Engagement Opportunities



MUTTON SNAPPER

*Lutjanus analis*

- Fishery management council meetings, hearings, and advisory panels
- NOAA Fisheries rulemaking processes
- Marine Recreational Education Program (MREP)
- South Atlantic Council citizen science initiative
  - Communication / Outreach / Education
  - Data Management
  - Finance
  - Projects / Topics Management
  - Volunteers



# Questions?

