

The Ecosystem Pilot Project

An overview

Overview

- The project
- NEFMC's Pilot Project goal
- What is an Ecosystem Approach?
- What is a Fishery Ecosystem Plan?
- NEFMC's Pilot Project objectives



The Project

- FY 04 Omnibus Spending rider:
 - *NOS*
 - *NOAA Fisheries*
 - *Four Councils*
 - **Gulf Coast FMC**
 - **South Atlantic FMC**
 - **Mid-Atlantic FMC**
 - **New England FMC**
- **Initiate public participation in developing EAFM**

NOS

Eco-GIS: Working with Councils and NOAA Fisheries to develop GIS tools

- *Aid scientists by increasing use of spatially explicit models*
- *Aid managers by increasing integration/visualization*
 - Management options
 - Potential outcomes



NOAA

Three themes:

- Enhance Regional Ecosystem Governance Structures through Fishery Management Councils
 - Determine management objectives, threats, options, and alternatives; evaluate ability of Council's to expand their role
- Develop Quantitative Decision Support Tools
 - Develop tools to aid decision makers in evaluating management options (models and GIS)
- Conduct Technical Workshops
 - Establish dialog between science and management in applying ecosystem principles to fisheries; assess state-of-the-art techniques; determine technical needs

NEFMC

Four specified deliverables:

- Attitudes/values survey
- Regional stakeholder meetings
- Technical needs and inventory of information
- Synthesis report



Project goal

Gather information from stakeholders relevant to the *potential* development of a Fishery Ecosystem Plan

“NMFS currently is developing a policy that would require regional FEPs.

This pilot project will provide a timely way to gather public input regarding the objectives and goals to be accomplished through the introduction of FEPs.

The intent of the FEPs is to provide a framework for organizing information about the structure and function of ecosystems and for developing ways to enhance decision making when goals of single-species or fishery-by-fishery management approaches conflict.”

What is an EAM?

An ecosystem approach to management is a geographically specified and adaptive process which (a) takes account of ecosystem knowledge and uncertainties, (b) considers multiple external influences, and (c) strives to balance diverse societal objectives

NOAA Ecosystems Principals Advisory Panel (1999)



Principles of EAM

- Objectives are a matter of societal choice
- Management should be decentralized to lowest possible level
- Consider effects on adjacent ecosystems
- Need to manage in an economic context, focusing on:
 - Reducing market distortions that adversely affect ecosystem structure, function and biodiversity
 - Align incentives to promote conservation and sustainable use
 - Internalize costs and benefits within a given ecosystem

Principles (con't)

- Maintaining ecosystem services (structure and function) should be a primary objective
- Focus on appropriate spatial and temporal scales
- Set long-term objectives for management
- Recognize that change is inevitable (the steady-state myth)
- Consider all forms of relevant information, including indigenous and local knowledge
- Seek to involve all relevant sectors of society and scientific disciplines

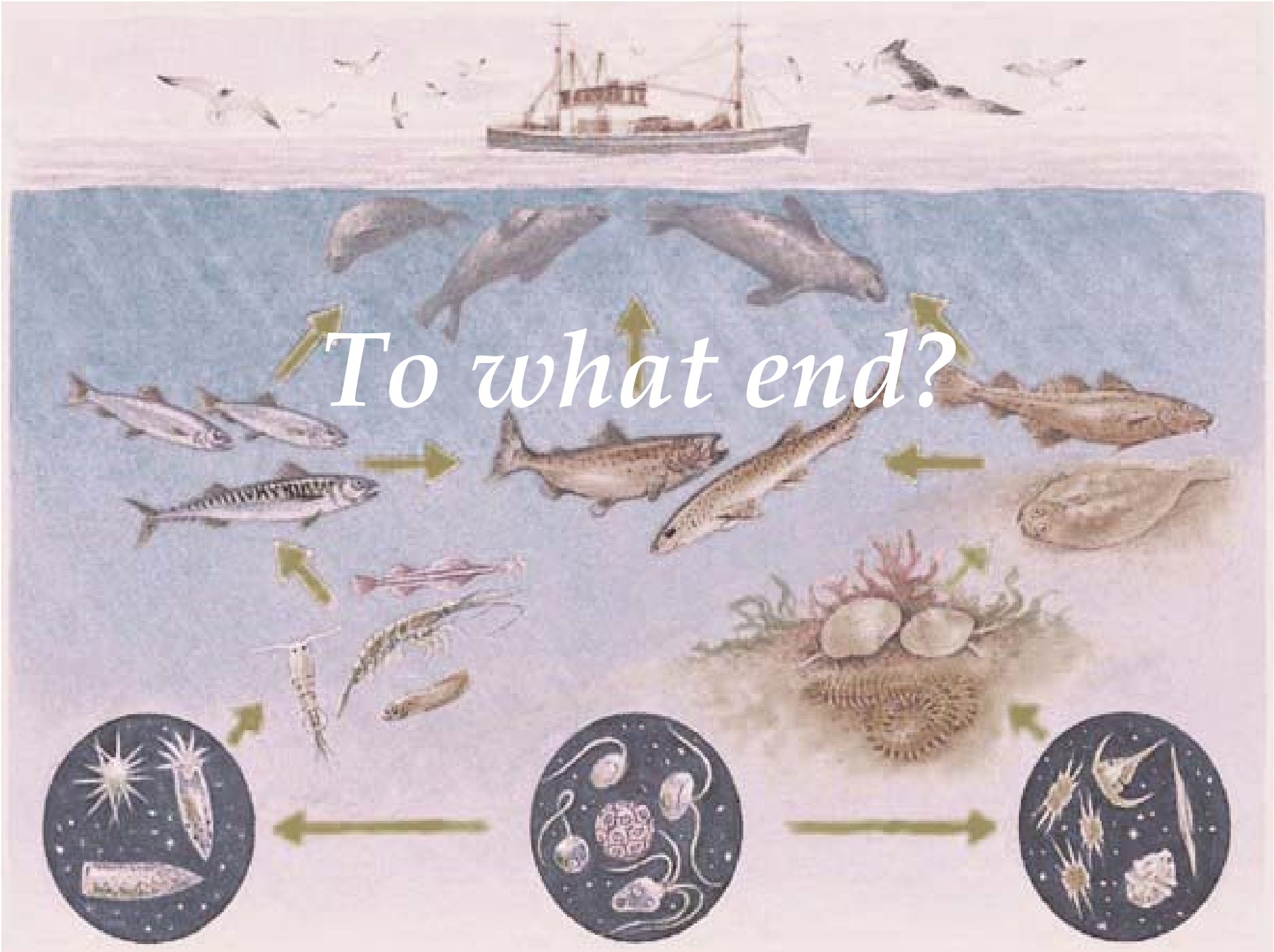
International Union for the Conservation of Natural Resources, 2004

What is an FEP?

- Strategic document
 - Sets over-arching goals
 - Addresses trade-offs between competing fisheries
 - Defines:
 - Spatial boundaries
 - Management units
- May support, not supplant, FMPs

Project objectives

1. Introduce concepts of ecosystem-based management to Council and public
 - *Committee/Council presentations, conferences, etc.*
2. Inform the broad (EBM) and narrow (EBFM) views of these concepts
 - *Jurisdictional issues paper*
 - *Coastal pollution paper*
3. Collect relevant information from stakeholders
 - *Stakeholder workshops*
 - *Attitudes and values survey*



To what end?