



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

Headquarters

A National Perspective on NOAA Fisheries Ecosystem-related Efforts

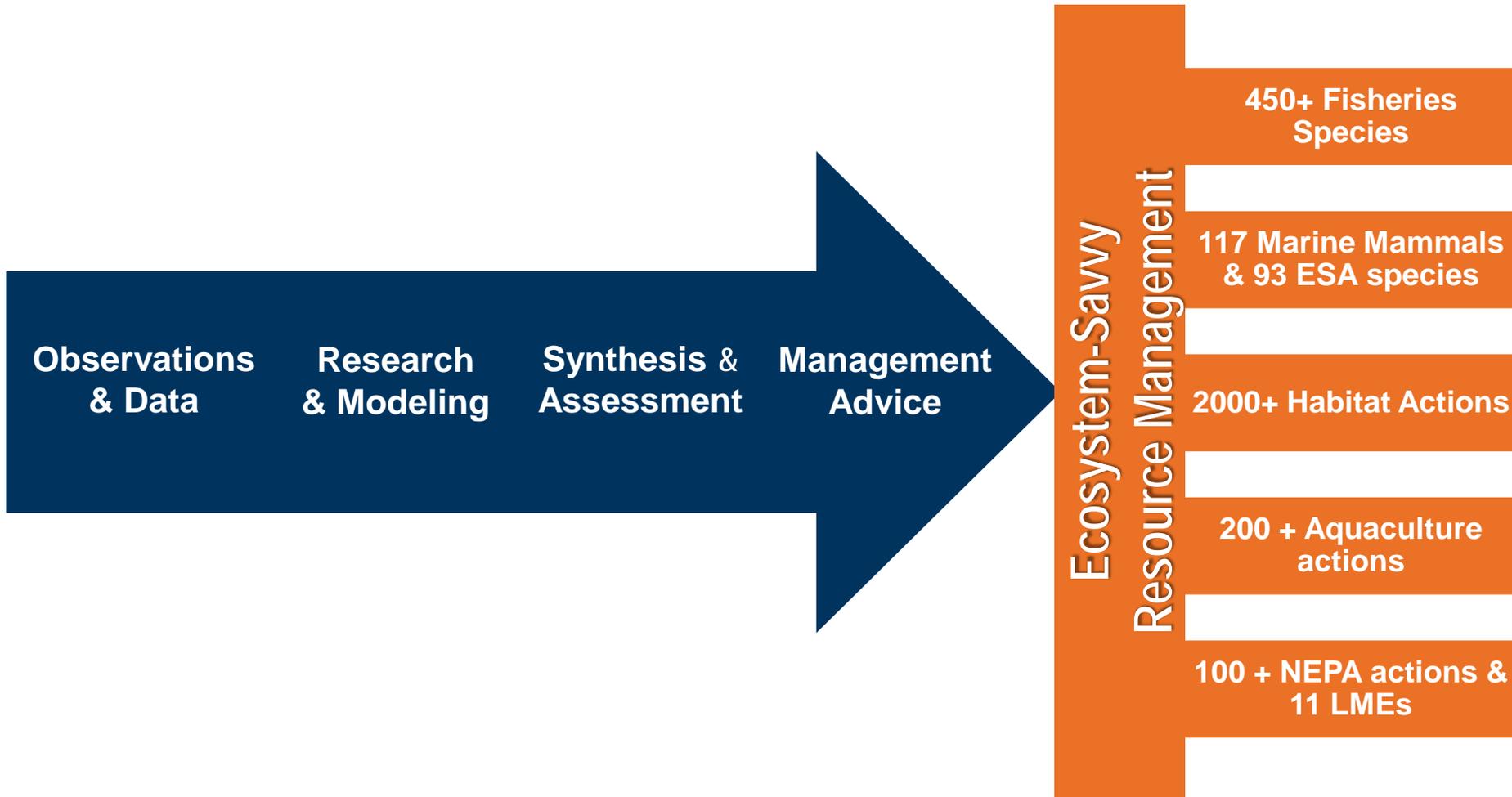
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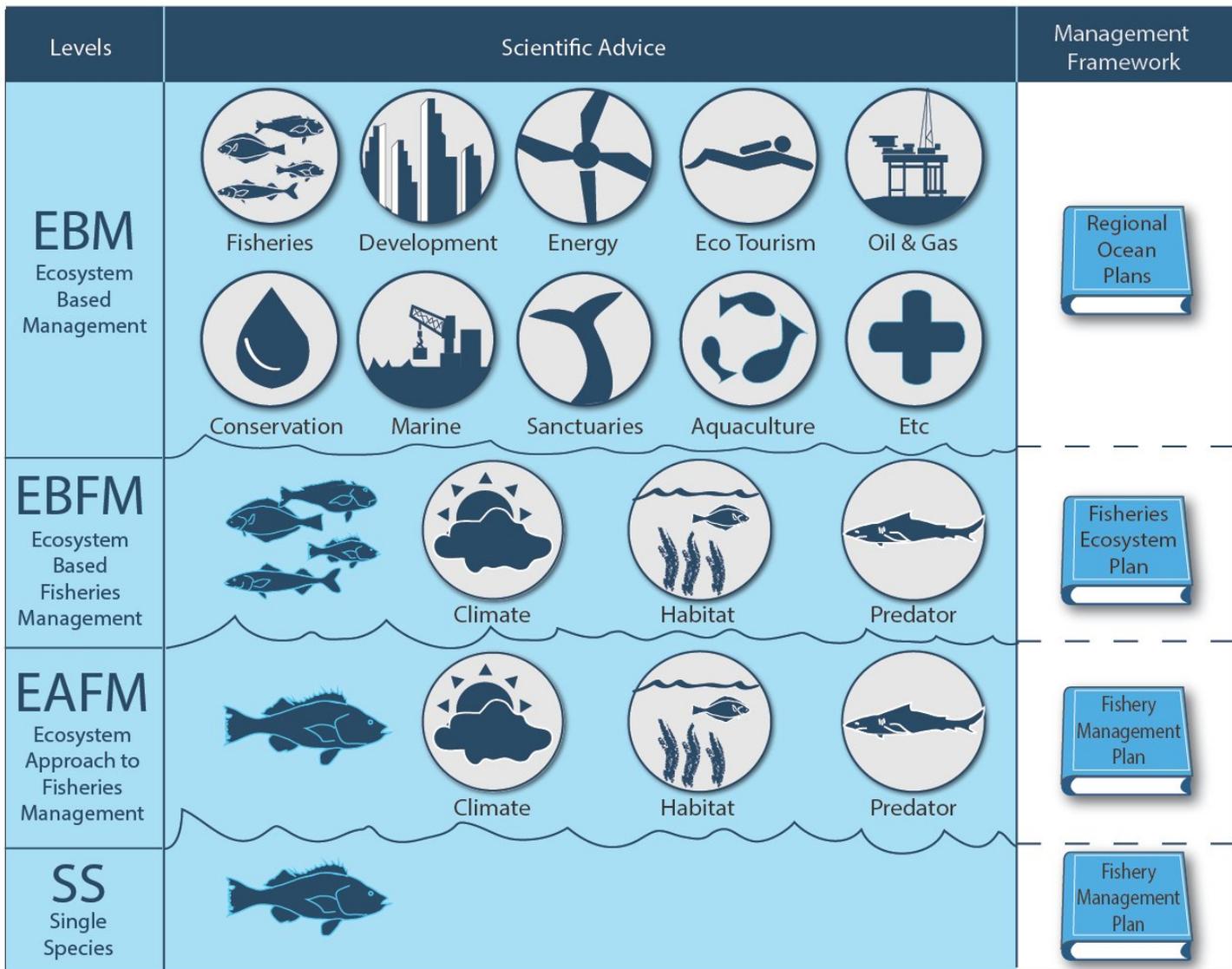
November , 2016

Take Aways

- NOAA Fisheries needs to, can and is committed to doing EBFM
- Making EBFM operational remains a key challenge, but is one we are up for!
- We cannot do this without strong partnerships with the Fishery Management Councils, and State Commissions.

Multiple Mandates, Multiple Opportunities





Why are we doing EBFM & Related Efforts?

- Clarify the agency's commitment to integrating its management programs for living marine resources
- Recognize and plan to address challenges under changing climate, ecological, and ocean conditions
- Build on, collate and better coordinate NOAA and Councils past progress and successes
- Address the many tradeoffs that are increasingly arising
- Reap the many benefits from a more systematic approach



Why an EBFM Policy Statement?

- Clarify, solidify, and document NMFS' commitment to EBFM
- Establish a framework of guiding principles to enhance and accelerate the implementation of EBFM within NMFS

Key Issues:

- Relate EBFM to existing legal authorities and requirements for LMR management
- Identify elements of a systematic approach



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Policy Statement

NOAA Fisheries strongly supports implementation of Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management (EBFM) to better inform and enable better decisions regarding trade-offs among and between fisheries (commercial, recreational, and subsistence), aquaculture, protected species, biodiversity, and habitats. Recognizing the interconnectedness of these ecosystem components will help maintain resilient and productive ecosystems (including the human communities on which they depend), even as they respond to climate, habitat, ecological, and other environmental changes.

Policy Defines EBFM as:

A systematic approach to fisheries management in a geographically specified area that contributes to the resilience and sustainability of the ecosystem; recognizes the physical, biological, economic, and social interactions among the affected fishery-related components of the ecosystem, including humans; and seeks to optimize benefits among a diverse set of societal goals

EBFM Guiding Principles

Outcome

6. Maintain Resilient Ecosystems

What is our advice?

5. Incorporate ecosystem considerations into management advice

What are our options?

4. Explore and address trade-offs within an ecosystem

What are our priorities?

3. Prioritize vulnerabilities and risks of ecosystems and their components

What is the foundational science we need?

2. Advance our understanding of ecosystem processes

What are our objectives?

1. Implement ecosystem-level planning

Policy Update

- The Final Policy was released the end of May
- It incorporates the issues we heard in public comment
- Many comments we received on the Policy were addressed through the Road Map



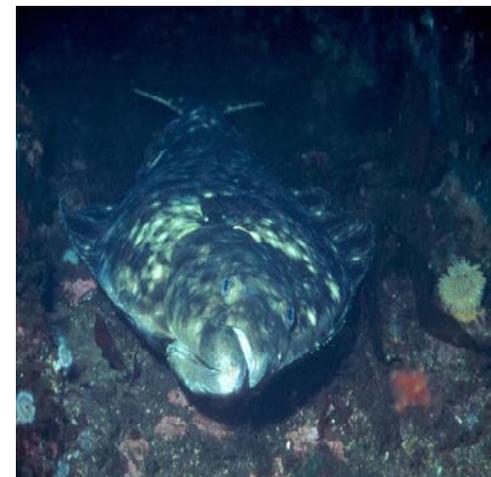
Why an EBFM Road Map?



- Guides implementation of the Final EBFM Policy
- Incorporates the menu of options for implementation and benchmarks for NMFS

Key Questions:

- What does successful EBFM look like?
- What do we need for successful implementation of EBFM?
- How do we measure completion and success of EBFM?

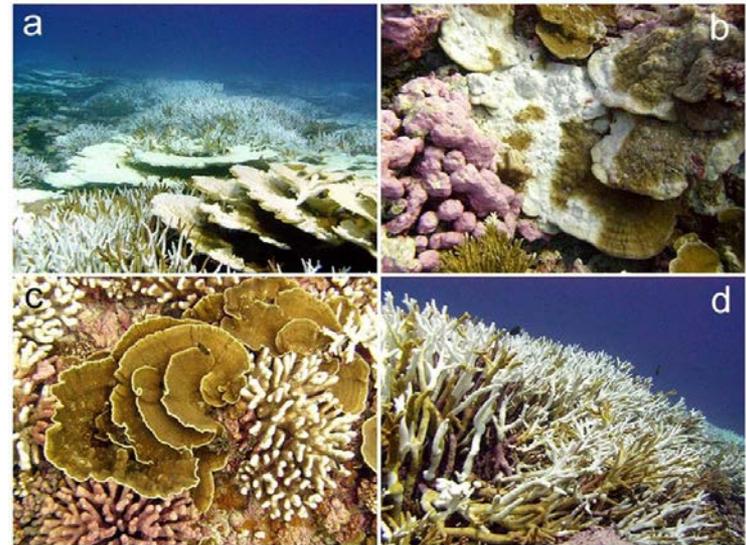


6 Guiding Principles, with Core Components are:

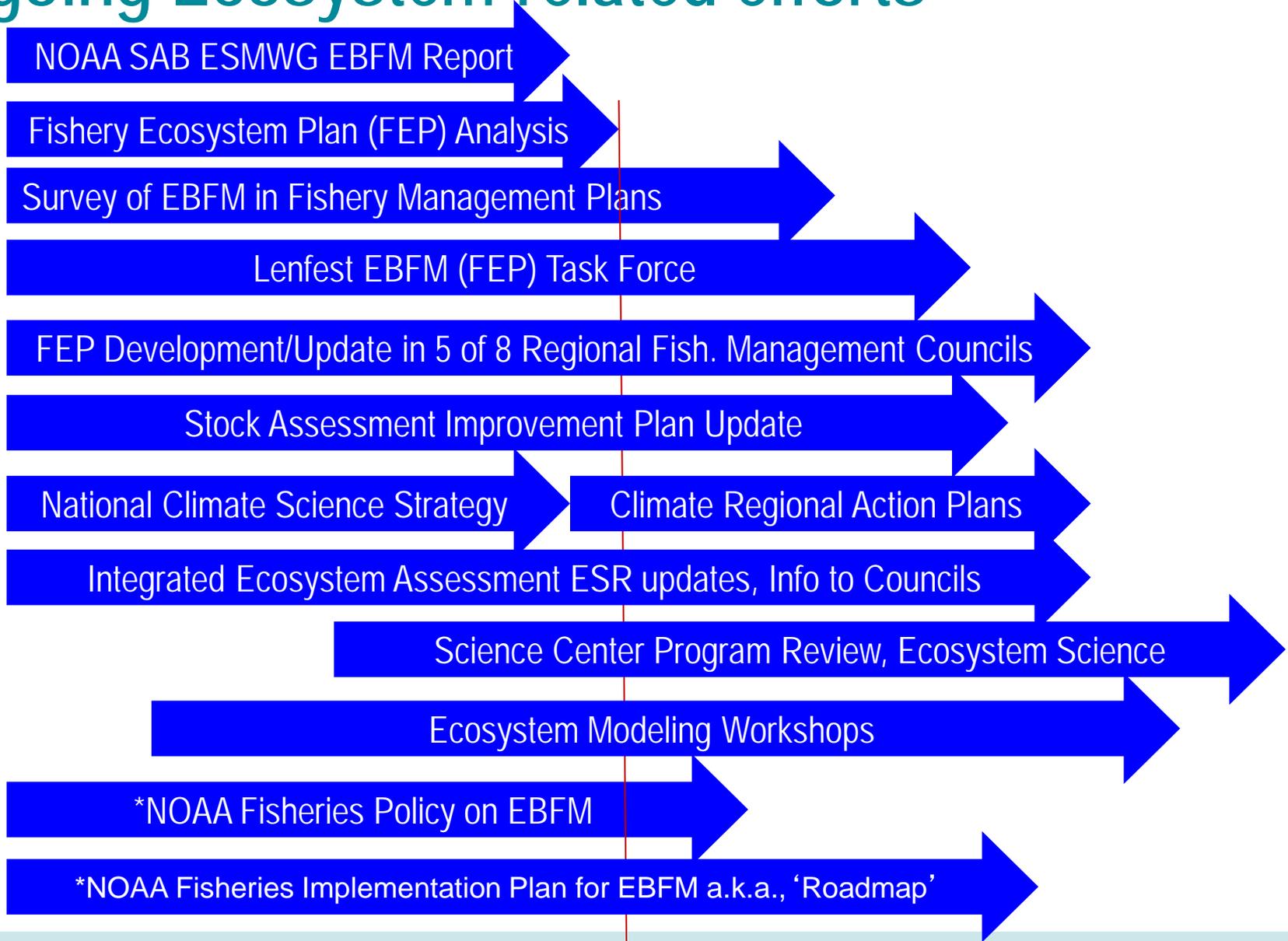
1. **Implement ecosystem-level planning**
 - Engagement Strategy
 - Fishery Ecosystem Plans
2. **Advance our understanding of ecosystem processes**
 - Conduct Science to Understand Ecosystems
 - Ecosystem Status Reports
3. **Prioritize vulnerabilities and risks of ecosystems and their components**
 - Ecosystem-level Risk Assessment
 - Managed Species, Habitats & Communities Risk assessment
4. **Explore and address trade-offs within an ecosystem**
 - Modeling Capacity
 - Management Strategy Evaluations
5. **Incorporate ecosystem considerations into management advice**
 - Ecosystem-level Reference Points
 - Incorporate Ecosystem Considerations for Living Marine Resources
 - Systematic Advice for Other Management Considerations
6. **Maintain resilient ecosystems**
 - Evaluate Resilience
 - Evaluate Community well-being

Next Steps for Road Map

- Finished informal Council comment Period for 45 days
- Informal public review ended on October 15th
- Hope to finalize in Winter of 2016



Ongoing Ecosystem-related efforts



Summary

- EBFM is needed, and NMFS is committed to doing so
- These efforts will help us meet our mission more effectively
- These efforts are a start to codify what operational EBFM looks like
- We, and our partners, are already doing ~20-30% of the EBFM elements
- Want to maintain a continued dialogue

