



Things that are working well under the current MSA:

1. IPTs (Interdisciplinary Planning Teams), in conjunction with NOAA Fisheries, have helped streamline the NEPA process
2. Increased emphasis on outreach has improved stakeholder understanding...but more needs to be done

Things that need to be improved in the next MSA:



1. NOAA/Council interactions

- a. More and quicker feedback on all issues (e.g., SOPPs, policy changes, reviews)
- b. Incorporate input from Councils (not just edits) on policy changes

Things that need to be improved in the next MSA:

2. Ecosystem-based Fishery Management

a. Help with developing goals and models that are regionally specific

b. National assistance in facilitating a "Large Marine Ecosystem" approach to Gulf fisheries that accommodates international and inter-jurisdictional cooperation

2. Ecosystem-based Fishery Management (cont.)

c. Recognize the importance of geo-referenced data and tools to better understand ecosystem relationships

d. Re-think and expand the definition of a fishing community to allow for "communities of interest" (e.g., mode of fishing, gear type, fishery) and not just location-based.



Things that need to be improved in the next MSA:



3. Stock assessments

- a. Directed toward achieving OY, not MSY
- b. Incorporate episodic events
- c. Improve data collection
- d. Increase the number of assessments!