MID-ATLANTIC
FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Ecosystem Science Review: Panel Discussion

Northeast Fisheries Science Center

June 8, 2016

EAFM Guidance Document

- Development coincided with Council's **Visioning Project**
- Ecosystem related issues ranked high on the list of concerns raised by stakeholders across all user groups
- Continued EAFM development was identified as a priority in the Council's **2014-2018 Strategic Plan**

EAFM

- **Definition**: An Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management recognizes the biological, economic, social, and physical interactions among the components of ecosystems and attempts to achieve optimum yield taking those interactions into account.
- **Goal**: To manage for ecologically sustainable utilization of living marine resources while maintaining ecosystem productivity, structure and function

EAFM Development Process

- Modular Approach
- **Workshops** - evaluate science (and policy) aspects of each issue

  Forage – Habitat – Climate – Interactions
- **White Papers** - include recommendations for best practices to be incorporated into Council's EAFM operational guide
- **Guidance Document** - provides summary and synthesis "under one roof"

What's Needed?

- Science/analytical needs
  - Food web and forage abundance data
  - EFH identification/definition
  - Finer scale habitat sampling
  - Climate data/monitoring
- Management Strategy Evaluations (MSE) - Develop MSE capacity
- Social and economic data – Improve the collection/integration of social and economic data and analyses into the management process.

Additional Science Needs

- Collaborative research with industry
- Risk analysis framework to prioritize ecosystem considerations in the assessment/management process
- Development of multi-species models and modeling tools
- Ongoing integration of ecosystem considerations in stock assessments (e.g. thermal habitat, forage, etc.)

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