



NOAA
FISHERIES

NMFS Policy Updates

Council Coordination Committee
Fall 2022 Meeting - October 18, 2022
Washington, D.C.

Kelly Denit - Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries

Allocation

GAO Report (March 2020): SA & GOM Councils Would Benefit from Documented Processes for Allocation Reviews

GAO Recommendations (paraphrased)

NMFS should work with the SAFMC and GMFMC to better document allocation decisions, including what factors were considered, and documenting when allocations were considered but not changed.

SAFMC

- Developed an Allocation Decision Tree.
- Revised sector allocations for dolphin/wahoo and red porgy stocks; and provides overviews of the Council discussions on their website.

GMFMC

- Presented the Allocation Review Procedures to their SSC.
- Completed Allocation Review Guidelines.
- Updated sector allocations for red grouper.

NMFS Allocation Review Policy

- Upcoming review/renewal in Fall of 2023
- Interest in discussion for May 2023 CCC meeting?

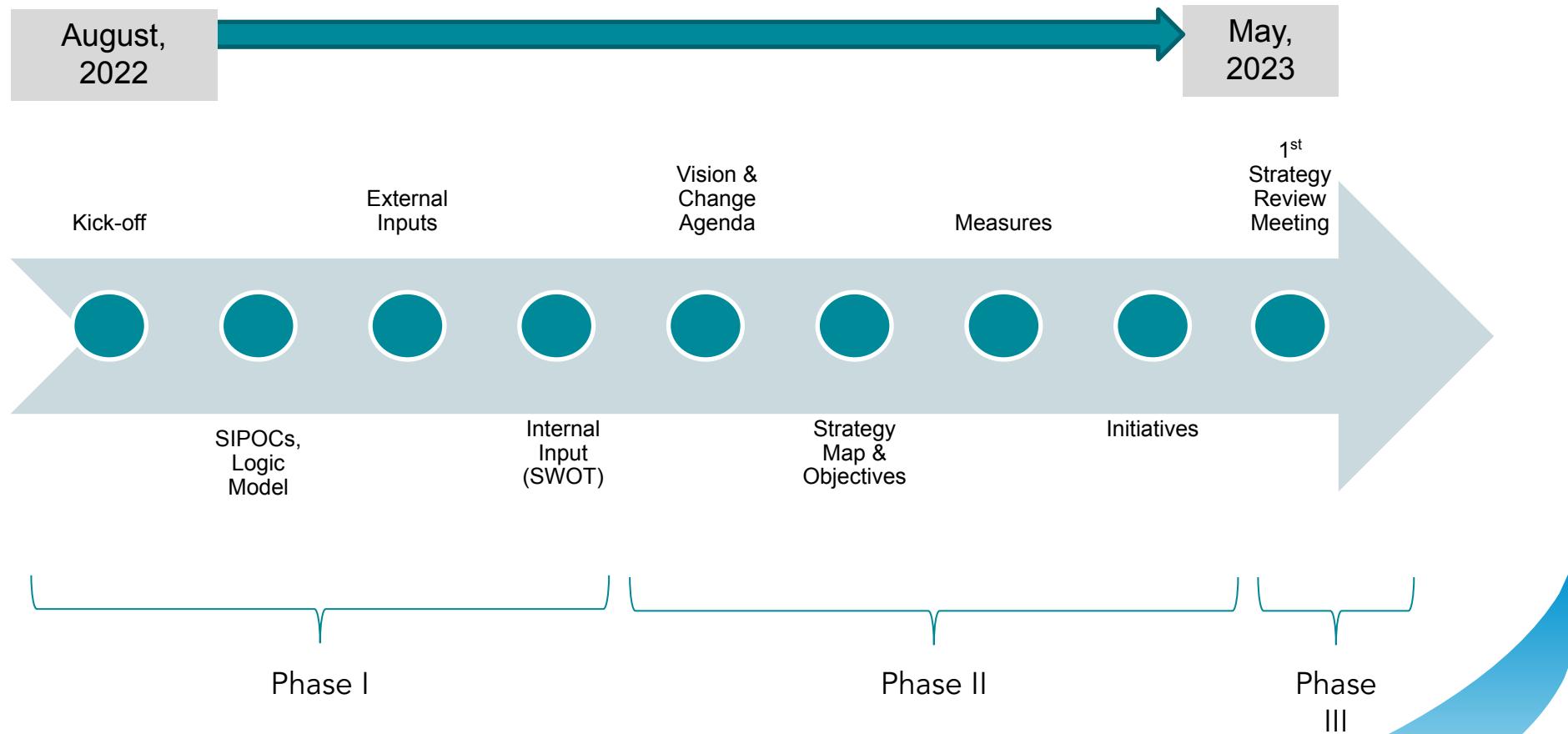
Data Confidentiality

Projects: Proposed rule and internal policies/guidance to revise the procedures related to MSA confidentiality of fisheries information.

Process:

- Proposed rule in 2023 to cover topics such as:
 - Defining when information is considered submitted
 - Mandatory vs. discretionary information
 - Limited access program exception
 - Handling data submitted to states, Interstate Commissions, and other third-parties, among other topics
- Following rulemaking, policy development, for example:
 - Replace NOAA Administrative Order 216-100
 - Procedures for releasing information in aggregate or summary form
 - Improved access to confidential information by Fishery Management Councils, Interstate Fisheries Commissions, state fishery management agencies, contractors, and other partners
 - Streamline the processes for how a current vessel permit holder can request and access fisheries data and other information

OSF Strategic Plan



Questions?



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Seafood Strategy

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Michael Rubino - Senior Advisor for Seafood Strategy,
NMFS

National Strategy for Seafood Sector Resilience and Competitiveness

The Strategy will capture what NMFS should do given current capabilities and authorities over next five years to: support seafood industry resilience and competitiveness, increase U.S. seafood production, raise domestic per capita seafood consumption, reduce illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and contribute to climate-friendly food production.

A draft Strategy was crafted based on input our agency has received from the seafood sector over many years. The CCC reviewed a draft annotated outline earlier this year.



Four Strategy Objectives

1. **Wild-capture fisheries:** Optimize sustainable production of U.S. wild-capture seafood
2. **Aquaculture:** Increase domestic marine aquaculture production and establish the U.S. as a global leader in sustainable aquaculture
3. **International trade and monitoring:** Fair, reciprocal, and sustainable seafood trade
4. **Seafood promotion, infrastructure and workforce development:** Strengthen the entire seafood sector through collaborative marketing, infrastructure modernization, and workforce development

How you can help us create an effective Strategy:

- The Draft Strategy will be posted for public comment. **Provide your written input at that time.** Councils will be notified when it is available.
- Listening sessions will also occur during the period the Strategy is in the *Federal Register*. **Provide your feedback verbally at that time.**
- The draft Strategy will be revised based on public feedback.

