Allocation Review

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

September 2019

Definitions

- **Fisheries Allocation Review:** the evaluation that leads to the decision of whether or not the development and evaluation of allocation options is warranted, but is not, in and of itself, an implicit trigger to consider alternative allocations.

- **Evaluation of Fisheries Allocation Options for an FMP Amendment**: If the allocation review determines a reallocation is warranted then the full analysis and evaluation of allocation options should be initiated. The goal is an FMP amendment (or framework action) to update the allocation or maintain status quo.

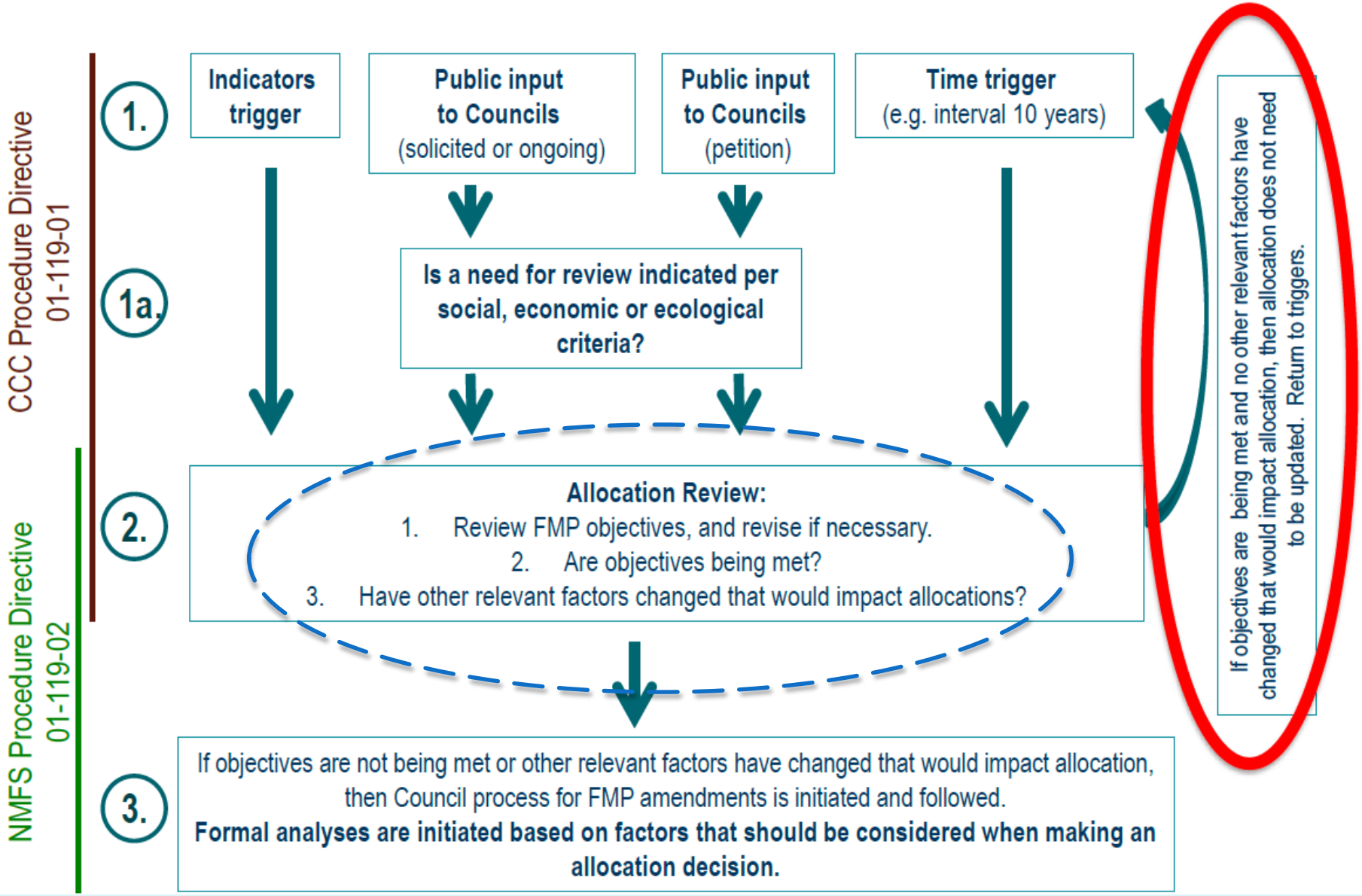
Fisheries Allocation Review Policy

- Fisheries Allocation Review Policy recommends the use of **adaptive management** for allocation reviews.

- **Adaptive management**: the on-going process of evaluating if management objectives have been met and adjusting management strategies in response.

- Process includes periodical re-evaluation and updating of the **management goals and objectives** to ensure they are relevant to current conditions and needs.

Steps in Adaptive Management of Allocations



Allocation Review Triggers

Review triggers: criteria for initiating allocation reviews

- **Time-based criteria:** most straightforward and simplest
- **Public interest-based:** Council's process offers frequent opportunities for public comment
- **Indicator-based:** most burdensome. Require the selection of indicators, the establishment of a tracking process, and thresholds; would result in a more onerous process than the allocation review itself

Selection of Review Triggers

Council has selected these allocation review triggers:

- **Time-based** as **primary trigger**; and,
- Council's **public comment process** as **secondary trigger**

Council could initiate supplemental reviews if new information is available (for example, data recalibration)

Suggested triggers do not preclude the Council from conducting additional allocation reviews

Fisheries Allocations in the Gulf of Mexico

Fisheries allocations subject to the Allocation Review Policy include allocations:

- between the commercial and recreational sectors;
- within the recreational sector, i.e., between the federal for-hire and the private angling components;
- between Gulf zones and gear types;
- between the Gulf and South Atlantic Councils; and,
- between the five states in the Gulf of Mexico.

Time intervals & expected starts of initial allocation reviews

Allocations	Time Intervals	First review (expected start)
Recreational red snapper ACL allocation between the private angling and federal for-hire components	4 years	April 2023
Red snapper allocations between the Gulf states	5 years	April 2024
Gray triggerfish and greater amberjack allocations between the recreational and commercial sectors	6 years	April 2025
Gulf of Mexico group king mackerel allocations between the recreational and commercial sectors, zones, and gear types	6 years	April 2025
Recreational and commercial allocations of red snapper, gag, red grouper and, SWG, DWG, and tilefish IFQ aggregates	7 years	April 2026
Black grouper, mutton snapper, yellowtail snapper allocations between the Gulf and South Atlantic Councils	7 years	April 2026

Allocation Review Workgroup

Council motion: To direct staff to contact SERO and SEFSC staff to convene an allocation review workgroup to identify criteria that would be appropriate for the species identified in the draft NMFS allocation review triggers letter. (April 2019)

Assane Diagne (GMFMC)	David Carter (SEFSC)
Ava Lasseter (GMFMC)	Juan Agar (SEFSC)
John Froeschke (GMFMC)	Matthew McPherson (SEFSC)
Matt Freeman (GMFMC)	David Records (SERO)
Daniel Goethel (SEFSC)	Peter Hood (SERO)
Matthew W. Smith (SEFSC)	Mike Jepson (SERO)
Nathan Vaughan (SEFSC)	Mike Travis (SERO)

- Workgroup met June 24 and July 24, 2019

Allocation Review Procedures

- Notice indicating species to be reviewed
- Membership of allocation review panel
- Allocation Review template
- Council input
- SSC and SE SSC recommendations
- AP recommendations
- Council discussions

Allocation Review

- FMP goals and objectives
- Regulatory structure (seasons, bag limits…)
- ABCs/ACLs/Quotas
- ACL/quota utilization rates
- Ladings history (by user group)
- Discards and discard mortality rates
- Protected species bycatch

Allocation Review

- Accountability Measures (e.g., season closure, payback)
- Status of stock(s)
- Participation and effort trends (e.g., permits, vessels, trips)
- Habitat impacts and environmental events (e.g., red tide)
- Economic efficiency considerations (consumer and producer surplus by user group, IFQ allocation transfer price
- Distributional effects (e.g., economic impacts, demographic trends, community engagement and reliance, and social vulnerability indicators)

Allocation Review

- Tiered allocation review (varying levels of complexity)
- Number of tiers
- Information to include in each tier

Thank you