

Modifications to the greater amberjack recreational management measures



Update on progress

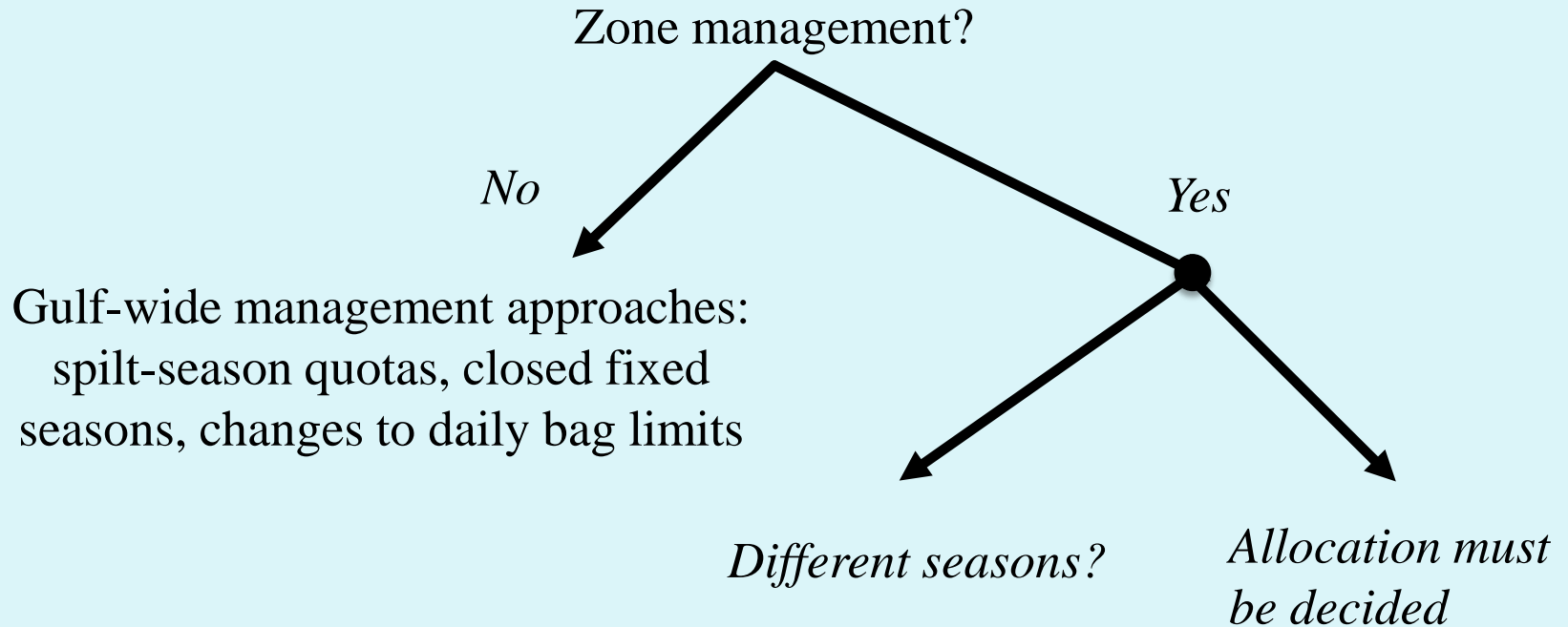
- **October 2019 Council motions:**
 - Develop a decision support tool for potential zone management
 - Include options for a split-season quota for consideration
- **Updated progress**
 - Decision support tool created
 - Zone management options: no zones, two zones, three zones
 - Allows for setting different seasons within in zones
 - Options for Gulf-wide spilt-season quota
 - Tool uses MRIP-Coastal Household Telephone Survey
 - Number of potential scenarios too are numerous and complex for a document at this time
- **How is the 2019/2020 season shaping up?**
 - Stock ACT for season is 1,086,985 lbs ww
 - More likely than last year that the season will open May 1, 2020
 - Progress has begun on the operational assessment (terminal year 2018) to be completed first quarter of 2021
 - Aims to incorporate MRIP-Fishing Effort Survey data



Decisions to be considered

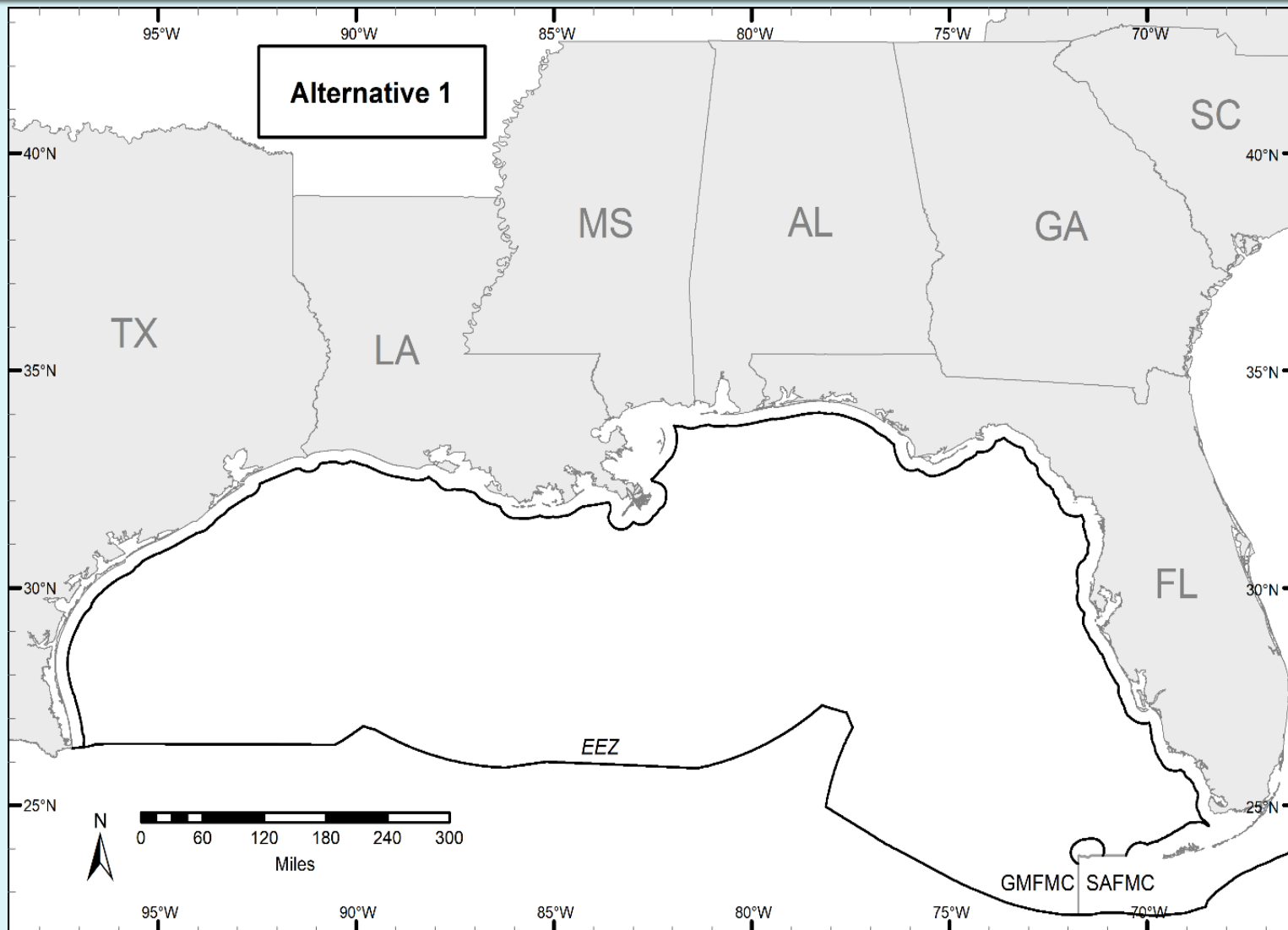
- **Zone management**
- **Split-season quota**
- **Fixed closed season**
- **Modification to daily bag limits**

Draft framework decision tree



Potential scenario: No zones

Gulf-wide measures



Potential scenario: No zones

Gulf-wide measures

- Here is what is currently in the decision tool (when selecting the ‘No zone’ option in the tool) and how this may look in the document:

Action 1: Establish Recreational Seasonal Quotas (ACTs).

Alternative 1: No action. Do not establish recreational seasonal quotas.

Alternative 2: Allocate the recreational quota: 50% fall season and 50% to the spring season.

Alternative 3: Allocate the recreational quota: 60% fall season and 40% to the spring season.

Alternative 4: Allocate the recreational quota: 70% fall season and 30% to the spring season.



Potential scenario: No zones

Gulf-wide measures

Action 2: Modify the Recreational Fixed Closed Seasons.

***Alternative 1:** Retain the recreational season closures of November 1 – April 30 and June 1 – August 31 (Open August 1 – October 31 and May 1 – May 31)*

***Alternative 2:** Modify the recreational seasonal closures to be November 1 – April 30 and June 1 – August 31 (Open September 1 – October 31 and May 1 – May 31).*

***Alternative 3:** Modify the recreational seasonal closures to be November 1 – April 30 and May 21 – July 31 (Open August 1- October 31 and May 1 – May 20).*

***Alternative 4:** Modify the recreational seasonal closures to be November 1 – April 30 and May 21 – August 31 (Open September 1- October 31 and May 1 – May 20).*

***Alternative 5:** Modify the recreational seasonal closures to be October 1 – April 30 and May 21 – June 30 (Open July 1- September 30 and May 1 – May 20).*



Potential scenario: No zones

Gulf-wide measures

Allocation options	Alt 1		Alt 2		Alt 3		Alt 4		Alt 5	
None	92%		75%		84%		67%		75%	
Fall 50%/Spring 50%	F: 139%	S: 46%	F: 104%	S: 46%	F: 139%	S: 30%	F: 104%	S: 30%	F: 120%	S: 30%
Fall 60%/Spring 40%	F: 115%	S: 58%	F: 87%	S: 58%	F: 115%	S: 37%	F: 87%	S: 37%	F: 100%	S: 37%
Fall 70%/Spring 30%	F: 99%	S: 77%	F: 75%	S: 77%	F: 99%	S: 50%	F: 75%	S: 50%	F: 86%	S: 50%

Alternative 1: Open August 1 – October 31 and May 1 – May 31

Alternative 2: Open September 1 – October 31 and May 1 – May 31

Alternative 3: Open August 1- October 31 and May 1 – May 20

Alternative 4: Open September 1- October 31 and May 1 – May 20

Alternative 5: Open July 1- September 30 and May 1 – May 20



Potential scenario: No zones Gulf-wide measures

Action 3: Modify the Recreational Bag and Possession Limit.

Alternative 1: No Action – Maintain the current one fish per angler per day recreational bag limit.

Alternative 2: Reduce the recreational bag limit to one fish per two or fewer anglers per day.

Alternative 3: Reduce the recreational bag limit to one fish per three or fewer anglers per day.

Alternative 4: Reduce the recreational bag limit to one fish per six or fewer anglers per day.

Alternative 5: Allow only one daily bag limit of greater amberjack per anglers on multi-day trips.

Note: Alternative 5 can be selected in addition to any of **Alternatives 1-4**.



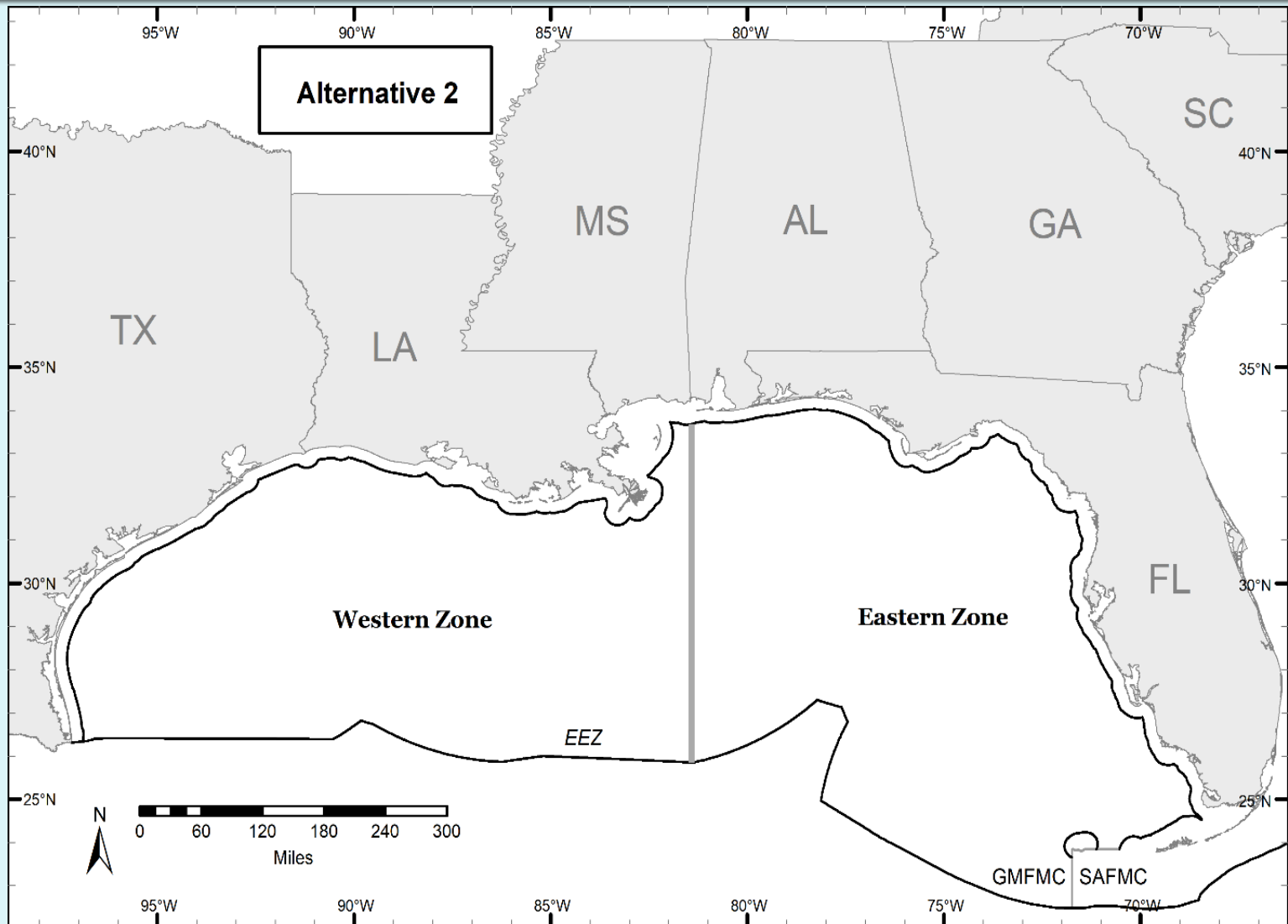
Summary of 'No zone' scenarios

Summary and potential next steps

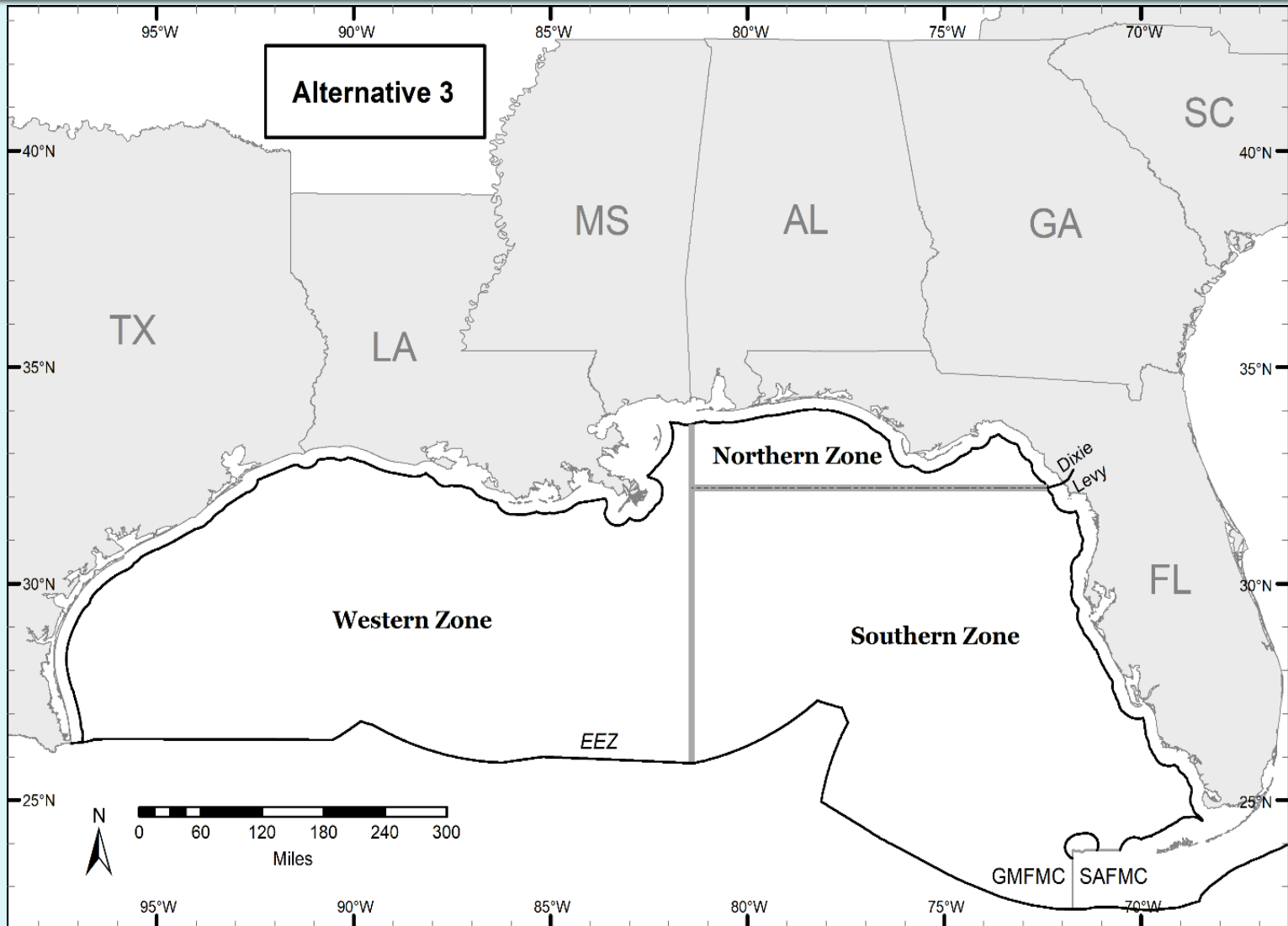
- These measures would be applied to the entire Gulf
- All three management approaches could be selected
 - Could establish a split season quota, modify the fixed closed season, and modify the daily bag limit
- Could still run into the same issue where one season exceeds the ACT and the next season would not be able to open
- All of these changes can be accomplished in a framework action
- Pros:
 - Could increase season length; Be implemented quickly
- Cons:
 - May restrict access across the Gulf; Some measures would not reduce harvest considerably (i.e. daily bag limits)



Potential scenario: Two zones are established



Potential scenario: Three zones are established



Considerations for zone management

- An allocation decision must be made and rationale has to be given
 - Average historical (1992-2008) landings* have been:
 - Two zone option: 16.5% West & 83.5% East
 - Three zone option: 16.5% West, 70.0% North, & 13.5% South
- Different fishing seasons and/or bag limits could be established within zones
 - Very complicated very quickly

**Reference period before recent management changes was selected here as example; other periods could be used. Landings used were MRIP-CHTS*



Potential scenario: Zones are established

Action 1: Establish Recreational Fishing Zones and Allocate the Recreational Quota (ACT) between Zones.

Alternative 1: Do not establish zones

Alternative 2: Establish a **Western Zone** (Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi) and **Eastern Zone** (Alabama, Florida).

Must have Allocation options: xx% west; xx% east **Must have justification**

May have Season sub options: TBD dates west is open; TBD dates east is open

Alternative 3: Establish a **Western Zone** (Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi), **Northern Zone** (Alabama to Florida Dixie/Levy county line), and **Southern Zone** (south of Florida Dixie/Levy county line through Monroe County)

Must have Allocation options: xx% west; xx% north; xx% south **Must have justification**

May have Season sub options: TBD dates west is open; TBD dates north is open; TBD dates south is open

- An allocation option for each zone would have to be selected
- This would have to be done in an amendment rather than a framework action



Summary of zone management scenarios

- **What should the zones be?**
 - How many?
 - Enforceable? Provisions for moving between zones?
 - Data collection and monitoring at appropriate timeliness and spatial scale?
- **What would allocation be between zones?**
 - Landings? Time period?
 - Zone-specific payback provisions
 - 2009-present landings data are confounded by multiple factors
- **Different bag limits, start of fishing year, fixed closures within zones?**
 - Analyses are constrained to landings information
- **Pros**
 - Could increase accessibility regionally
- **Cons**
 - MRIP in east but not west; what if a zone exceeds stock ACT?; further dividing small amount of data



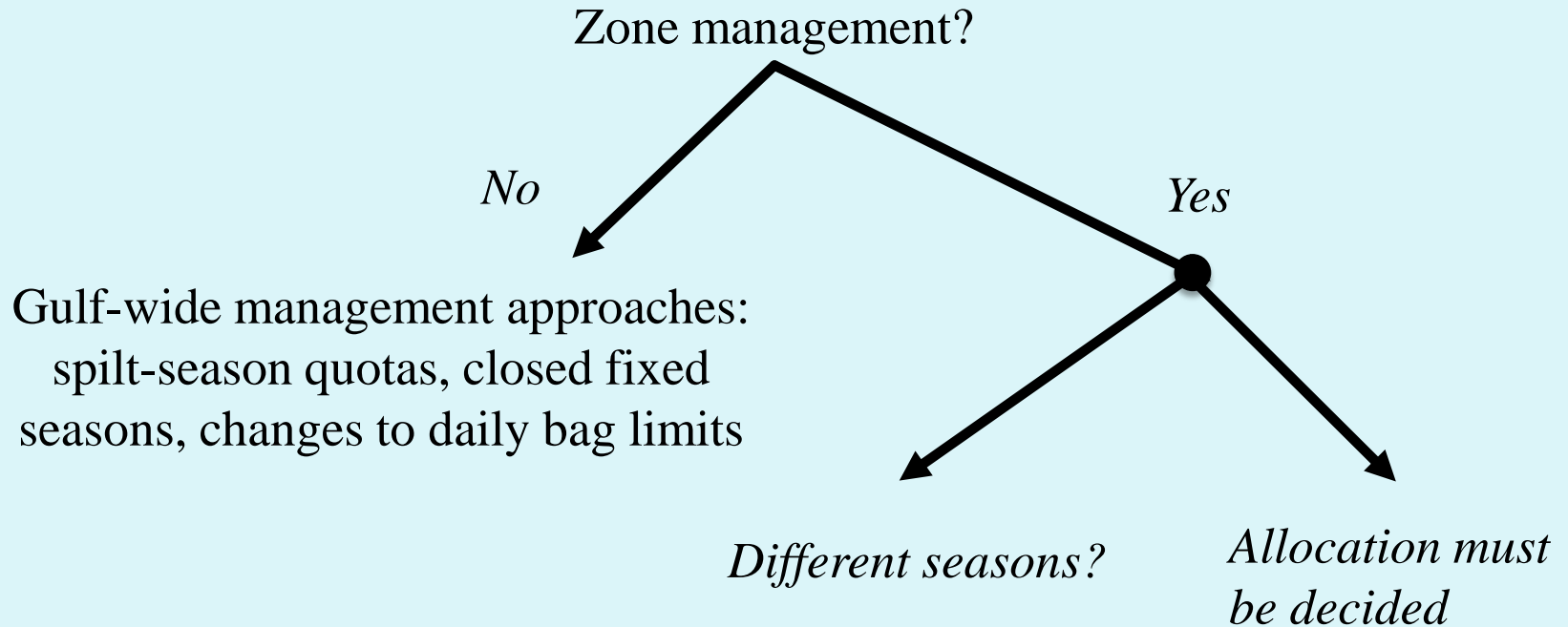
Greater amberjack decision support tool

- This tool allows users to quickly visualize and compare a variety of potential management scenarios
- The tool can be modified based on Council input
- Note: The tool does not currently incorporate any modifications to bag limits
- Tool can be accessed here:

https://gulfcouncilportal.shinyapps.io/GAJ_tool/



Draft framework decision tree



Questions?

