

Next Steps to Operationalize FEP

Goals of the FEP

- Inform management decisions based on interactions among biological, physical, social, economic, and other factors
- Identify indicators to measure progress

While

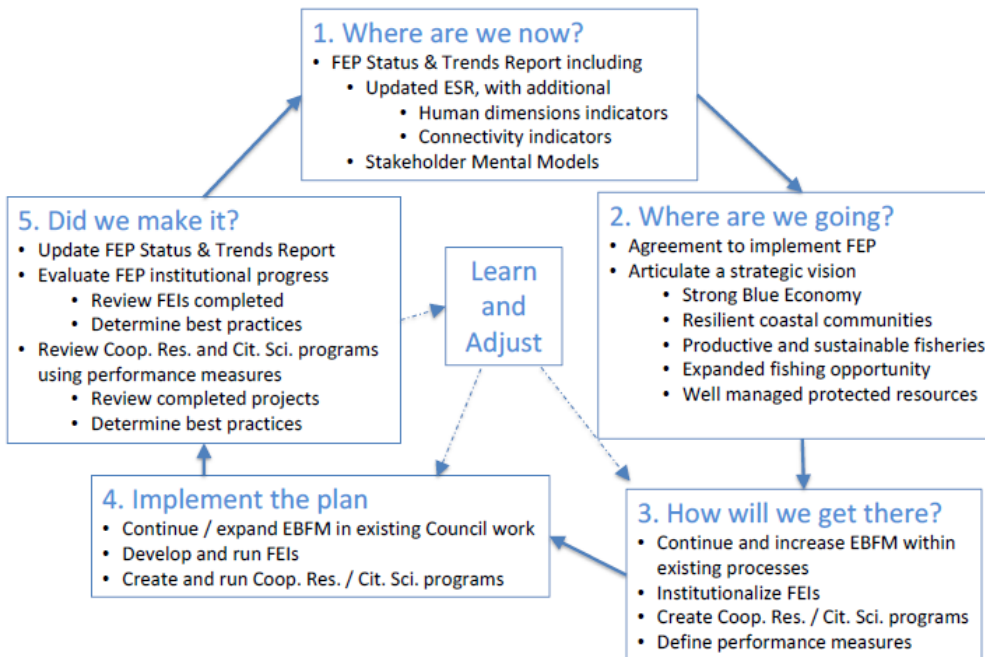
- Maintaining or improving fishery productivity and economic stability



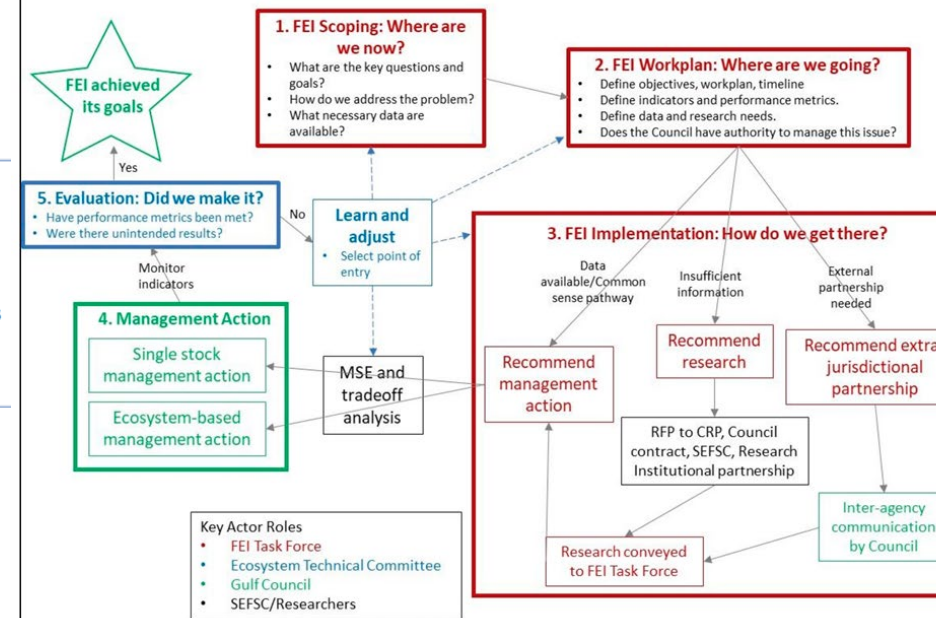
Translating the FEP into the Council Process

- FEP versus FEI Loop
 - At this point, begin testing and modifying both simultaneously

The GOM FEP Loop

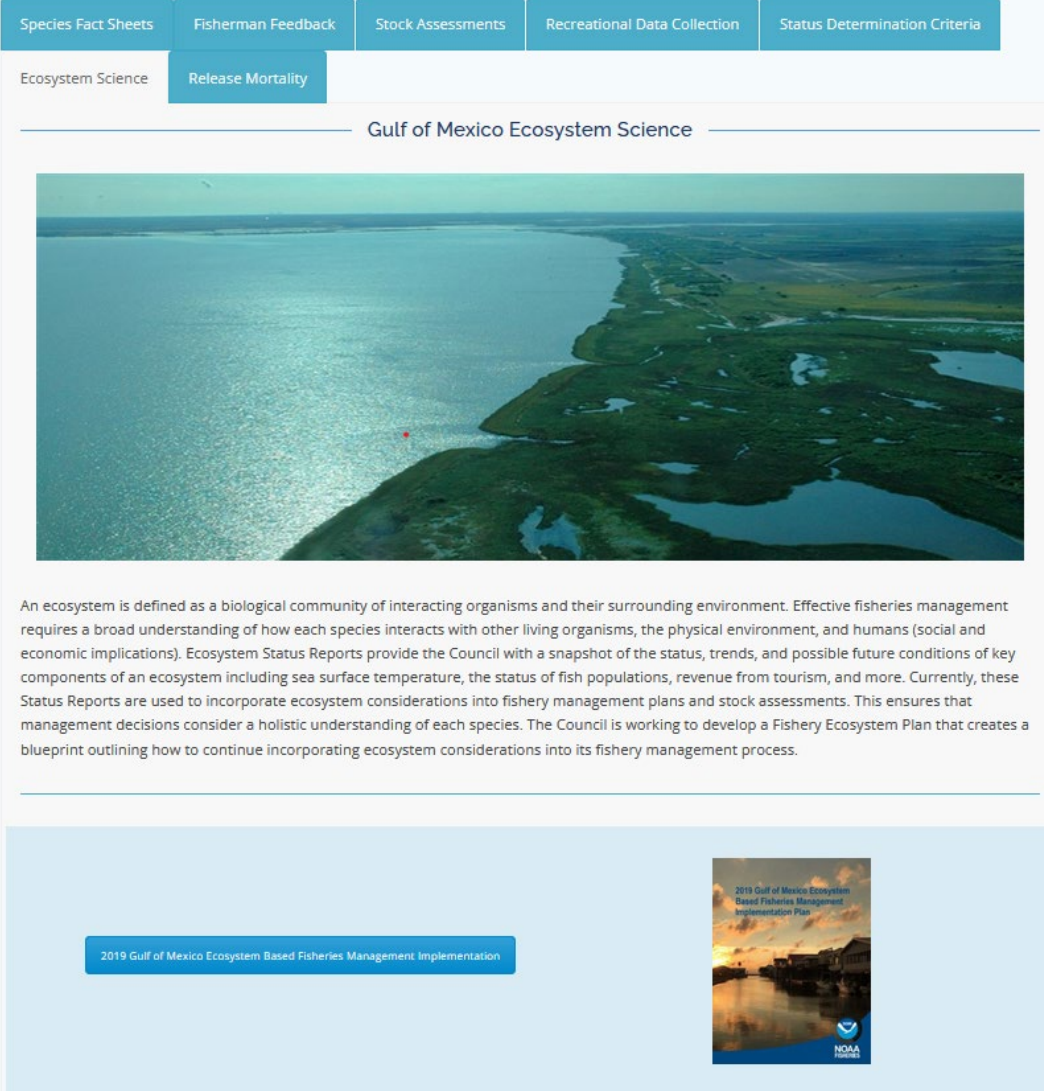


Fishery Ecosystem Issue (FEI) Loop



Translating the FEP into the Council Process

- How would the final FEP look?
 - Could be a short document, [website](#) that would house the FEIs with references to Council action/document.




The screenshot displays a navigation menu with the following items: Species Fact Sheets, Fisherman Feedback, Stock Assessments, Recreational Data Collection, and Status Determination Criteria. Below this, the 'Ecosystem Science' section is active, with 'Release Mortality' highlighted. The main content area is titled 'Gulf of Mexico Ecosystem Science' and features an aerial photograph of a coastal wetland area. Below the image, a paragraph defines an ecosystem and discusses the importance of holistic management in fisheries. At the bottom, there is a blue button labeled '2019 Gulf of Mexico Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management Implementation' and a small thumbnail image of the '2019 Gulf of Mexico Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management Implementation Plan' report cover, which includes the NOAA logo.

Species Fact Sheets | Fisherman Feedback | Stock Assessments | Recreational Data Collection | Status Determination Criteria

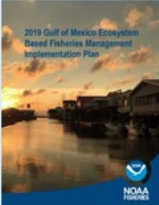
Ecosystem Science | **Release Mortality**

Gulf of Mexico Ecosystem Science



An ecosystem is defined as a biological community of interacting organisms and their surrounding environment. Effective fisheries management requires a broad understanding of how each species interacts with other living organisms, the physical environment, and humans (social and economic implications). Ecosystem Status Reports provide the Council with a snapshot of the status, trends, and possible future conditions of key components of an ecosystem including sea surface temperature, the status of fish populations, revenue from tourism, and more. Currently, these Status Reports are used to incorporate ecosystem considerations into fishery management plans and stock assessments. This ensures that management decisions consider a holistic understanding of each species. The Council is working to develop a Fishery Ecosystem Plan that creates a blueprint outlining how to continue incorporating ecosystem considerations into its fishery management process.

2019 Gulf of Mexico Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management Implementation



Translating the FEP into the Council Process

- Limitations of Council's authority
 - Can it lead to a Council action? If not,
 - Can it provide supporting rationale making a management decision.
 - Provide the steps to work with other agencies for extra-jurisdictional issues.
- Public expectations and perceptions
 - Demonstrate that public input has been gathered and considered
 - Temper expectations



Questions?