

Revisiting the FEI List

September 2023

Recap: Fishery Ecosystem Issue Selection Exercise

Protected Species Bycatch	regional lack of access to stocks	hms shark management) identifying environmental drivers of stock productivity				Chasing OY	Resilience to Climate Change in the Gulf of Mexico Fishing Communities
	Freshening of			Regime state changes among		ethics issue -		Removal
hypoxic zone of MS	ecosystems (e.g., MS River freshwater diversions).	research gaps	Oil and gas exploration	changes among aquatic resources and the fishery ecosystem as a whole	Recreational fishing effort	poaching, high grading, etc	Red tide	of oil platforms
							ude	
Essential fish habitat change (restoration, loss, range shifts)	Multi-species fishery management (e.g. integrated management strategies across multiple fish stocks)	Lionfish	fishery disaster response	Marine spatial planning / user conflicts	reducing multispecies discarding	Connecting species vulnerability & habitat vulnerability to climate change	Offshore wind energy	Depredation
				localized	Species' and	IUU -	55	Management
increasing stakeholder involvement & finite resource	Evaluation of closed areas - effectiveness, ongoing need, need for new approaches in current areas to meet eccsystem	Juv. fish habitat degradation/water quality	data collection gaps	regional depletion of stocks	resources' vulnerability and resiliency to climate change	Mexican lanchas	Nuisance Sargassum	Strategy Evaluation for Penaeid Shrimp
	objectives							
long term shifts in stock/complex productivity	Re-evaluation of stock complexes - do species within complexes respond similarly to management actions?	Offshore finfish aquaculture	lack of enforcement	Environmentally driven regime shifts	Meeting multiple management objectives (access, fish size, days, etc.)	msa restrictions or inflexibility	Identifying and addressing barriers to adaptation to environmental change in the COM fisheries (Environmental Justice)	Addressing regulatory discards

Recap: Fishery Ecosystem Issue Selection Exercise



Uncertainties

- How big should the Fishery Ecosystem Issue be?
 - Large scope, e.g., climate change, water quality, habitat
 - Narrower scope, e.g., red tide, offshore wind energy

Potential list:

- 1. Reducing discards
- 2. Offshore wind energy
- 3. Red tide
- 4. Finfish depredation
- Impacts of climate change on fish and communities
- Achieving Optimum Yield (OY) for the reef fish complex



Council Discussion June 2023

Potential list of Fishery Ecosystem Issues

- 1. Reducing discards
- 2. Offshore wind energy
- 3. Red tide
- 4. Finfish depredation
- 5. Impacts of climate change on fish and communities
- 6. Achieving Optimum Yield (OY) for the reef fish complex.

Discussion

•

- Limitations over the Council's authority to address offshore wind energy.
- Too broad a scope to have an FEI on Achieving OY for the Reef Fish complex
- Responding to climate change and reducing discards might be FEI's of higher concern

anagem

ETC Recommendations

Assignment was to select four Fishery Ecosystem Issues and rank them, so:

- a. Current four after Council's motion
 - 1. Reducing discards
 - 2. Red tide
 - 3. Finfish depredation
 - 4. Impacts of climate change on fish and communities
- **b.** What is the path forward?

