

DRAFT
Gulf Council MRIP-FES
Exposure Analysis

October 2024



Proposed diagram to classify exposure analyses

Motion from August 2023 Council meeting: To direct Council Staff to provide an inventory of Council actions in the foreseeable future that we expect to be impacted by changes in FES along with levels of exposure and bring back findings to the Council in October 2023.

- Considered potential exposure of changes in MRIP-FES on ongoing actions or planned stock assessment projects¹
- Focus on ongoing or planned management actions
 - Tab A, No. 6: Proposed Actions for 2023 (9/7/2023)
 - SEDAR Project Planning Grid (May 2023)
- Did not consider potential impacts to previously completed actions; does not assume impacts are absent from these actions
- Working assumption is that potential changes to MRIP-FES would be a scaling issue only rather than impact stock status.
 - For example, if the estimated effort is reduced by 40%, the daily catch rate (recreational) would decline in-turn by 40% thus, no anticipated effect on recreational season duration (e.g., Greater Amberjack recreational season)
- Changes to MRIP-FES would affect sector allocations similar to previous actions
- Stocks that have recreational landings that could be managed in SRFS are anticipated to have less exposure than Gulf-wide stocks that utilize FES.
- Stocks without a prominent shore component would also be expected to have less exposure (e.g., red grouper)

1. <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/recreational-fishing-data/fishing-effort-survey-research-and-improvements>

Recreational Landings Data Exposure Analysis

- The next slide is a draft classification scheme to assess the exposure to changes in MRIP-FES
- Four tiers are proposed, 1 being no exposure concern to 4 being the most exposure.

Description of Tiers

Tier 1: No Exposure

- Stocks or management actions without MRIP-FES data or a small percentage of the landings are attributed to the recreational sector.

Tier 2: Low Exposure

- Stocks with some exposure;
- Potentially mitigated with use of other data units (e.g., SRFS)
- Stocks with little recreational harvest

Tier 3: Medium Exposure

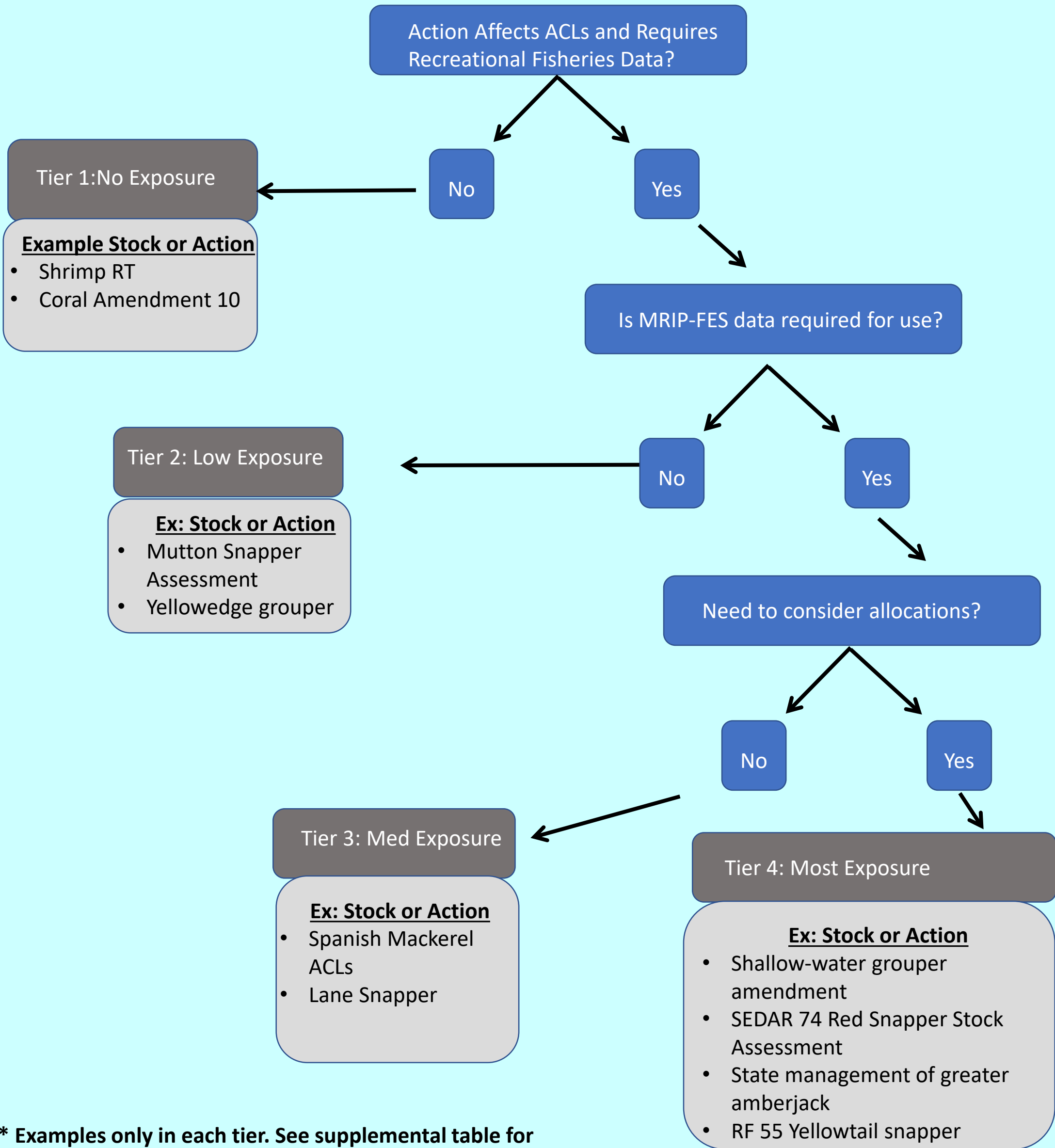
- Stocks with planned management changes using MRIP-FES
- No sector allocations (or could be addressed using SRFS)
- Healthy stock status, not overfished or undergoing overfishing
- Is not expected to result in additional management restrictions

Tier 4: Most Exposure

- Stocks with planned management changes using MRIP-FES
- Stocks with high magnitude of shore mode landings
- Likely have existing sector allocations
- Stocks with complex management
- May be subject to rebuilding plans
- Mixed used stocks

*Presence of shore-mode landings could increase exposure to MRIP-FES

Stock Assessment or Management Action



* Examples only in each tier. See supplemental table for comprehensive list

Next Steps:

- Proposed flowchart could evaluate ongoing projects relative to the potential impact of MRIP-FES recreational data on science and management
- Result: many actions could continue as scheduled
- Higher exposure may warrant additional consideration:
- **Option 1:** Delay high exposure management actions and stock assessments until the next MRIP pilot project is complete and peer-reviewed
 - **Pro:** avoid allocation issues using data that may change in the near-future
 - **Con:** may prevent necessary management measures; considerable time delay for new data (2026 or later)
- **Option 2:** Continue with MRIP-FES calibrated stock management actions and stock assessments
 - **Pro:** Would allow continued progress toward fulfilling obligations under the MSA
 - **Pro:** Use of MRIP-FES data not expected to affect stock status
 - **Con:** Allocation decisions difficult or impossible; if necessary may prevent completion of a management action
 - **Con:** Stock assessment and management actions will require further revision pending pilot study
 - **Con:** Foster distrust among stakeholders if MRIP-FES is used with known liabilities