

Tab Q, No. 4(ai)



# Ecosystem Technical Committee Recommendations

October 2023

# ETC Meeting Agenda

- Gulf Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP)
- Draft Fishery Ecosystem Issue (FEI) Loop
- Prioritization Metrics (Homework Discussion)
- Revisiting the FEI List
- Regional Management Councils' Climate Resilience Funding (IRA) Opportunity (Update under Admin Committee)



# Gulf FEP (Document)

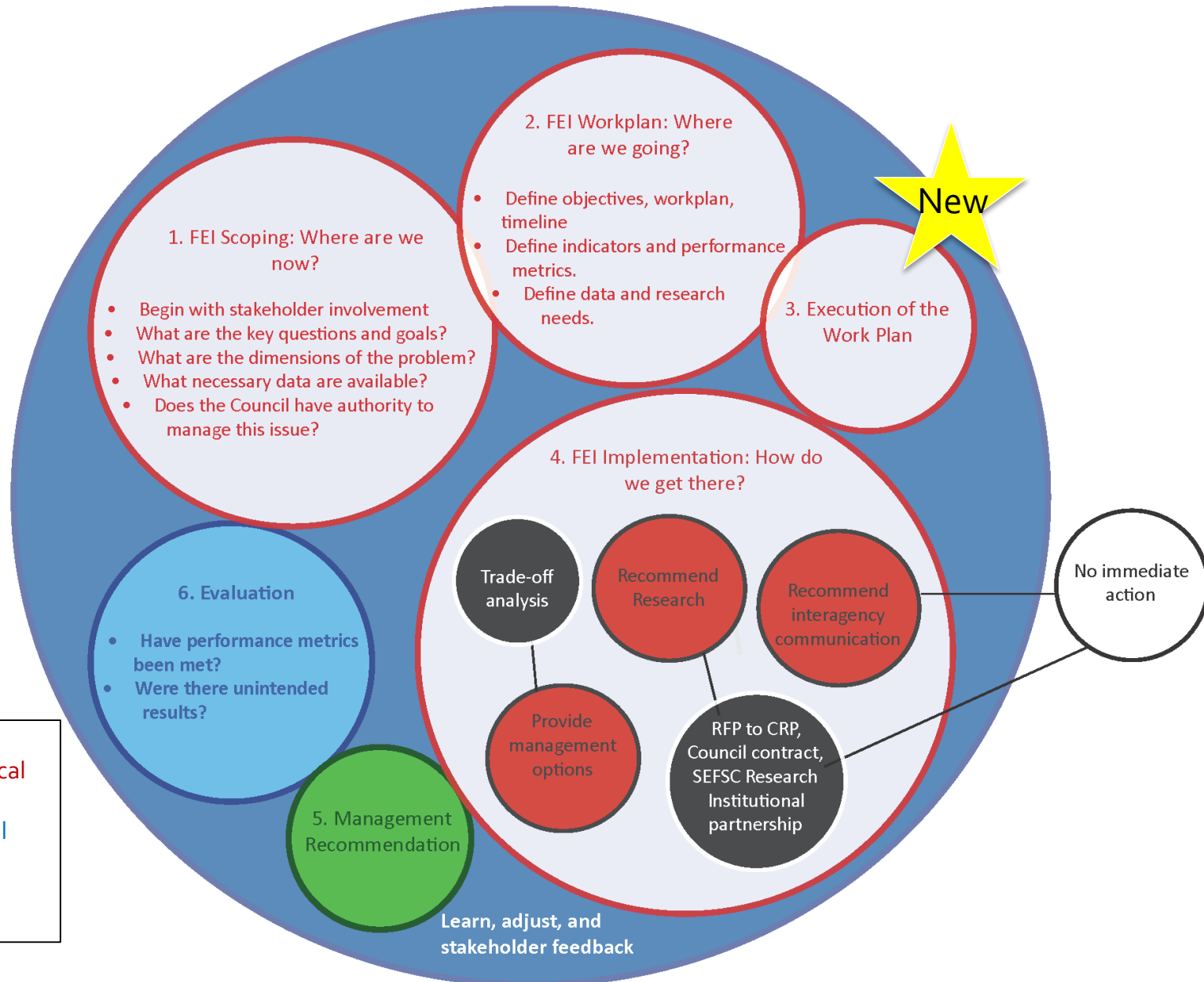
	Content
Ch 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introduction to national guidance to implement EBFM into Council process</li><li>• Gulf Council's EBFM Efforts</li><li>• Overarching Goal and Objectives</li></ul>
Ch 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Intro to FEP</li><li>• Intro to FEIs</li><li>• Protocol for prioritizing FEIs</li><li>• Protocol for addressing extra jurisdictional issues</li></ul>
Ch 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Communications Plan</li></ul>
Ch 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Intro to FEI Loop</li><li>• Specifications of what information would come out of each step within the loop</li></ul>
Appendix	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• List of FEIs on the docket. The list would be revised at an interval determined by the Council (e.g., annually, biannually)</li></ul>
Separate Modules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Each FEI would be its own document outlining the issue and outcomes from each step of the FEI Loop. This would live within the Council's <i>Ecosystem</i> webpage</li></ul>

# Gulf FEP (Process)

- ETC recommends including opportunities to review and reassess the FEI list and loop to ensure the success of the FEP
  - Annual revisions to the FEI list may entail a large workload, a 3-5 year assessment period may be more appropriate.
- Persistent feedback/communications with the public is ideal.
  - Importance of the Communications Plan



# Draft Fisheries Ecosystem Issue Loop



## Key Actor Roles

- IPT and O&E Technical Committee
- Ecosystem Technical Committee
- Gulf Council
- SEFSC/Researchers

# Outreach and Education Technical Committee Role in FEI Loop

The ETC reviewed and approved a preliminary outline for stakeholder engagement

**Before**

**Identifying/Prioritizing FEIs**

**Communicating FEP/FEI purpose and process**

**During**

**Each FEI will require an individualized approach to stakeholder engagement dependent upon**

**Develop an engagement plan that accounts for various tiers of Council Stakeholders**

**After**

**Evaluate effectiveness of communication methods and inclusion of stakeholder feedback**

**Communicate results**

The O&E will meet December 19, 2023 to discuss progress on the FEP



# Prioritization Metrics

- Assignment to work individually and present at the meeting
  - We asked the ETC to develop a ranking structure that included category and scale by which to prioritize Fishery Ecosystem Issues
- Recommendations from the meeting:

Social and Ecological Scope	Management Capacity
Impacts to Stakeholders	Pathway to Actionability
Affected FMP	FEI Responsiveness
Geographic Scale	Urgency
	Impact of Inaction



# Revisiting the FEI List

Re-cap: Council directed ETC to select top 4 FEIs

## **ETC Sept 2023 Motion**

The Ecosystem Technical Committee (ETC) recommends to select one pilot Fishery Ecosystem Issue (FEI) in order to help develop the Fishery Ecosystem Plan process and the FEI loop procedures. The ETC recommends that Red Tide be the FEI that is initially piloted.

*Motion carried with no opposition*





**Questions?**