

Tab E, No. 5(b)



NOAA
FISHERIES
Headquarters

Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management

Dr. Jason Link

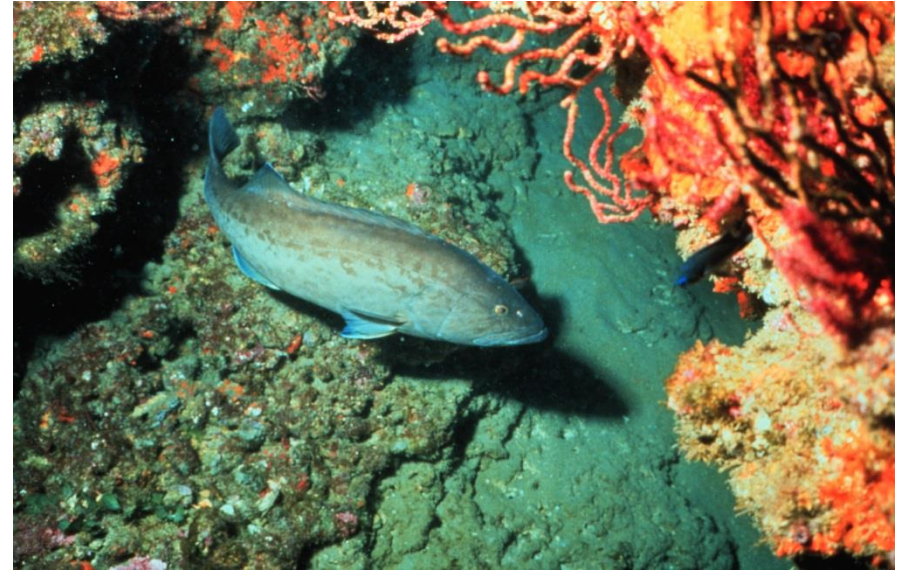
Gulf Fisheries Management Council: October 5, 2015

Take Aways

- NOAA Fisheries needs to, can and is committed to doing EBFM
- There are many benefits of doing EBFM
- NOAA Fisheries aim is to provide a menu of analytical options to address ecosystem considerations
- Making EBFM operational remains a key challenge, but is one we are up for in partnership with you!

Gag Grouper

- Tough to estimate mortality & spawning stock biomass in Gag grouper assessments
- Red tide associated mortality included in assessment
- Improved information, improved model performance
- Improved understanding – especially recruitment & mortality– improved stock status

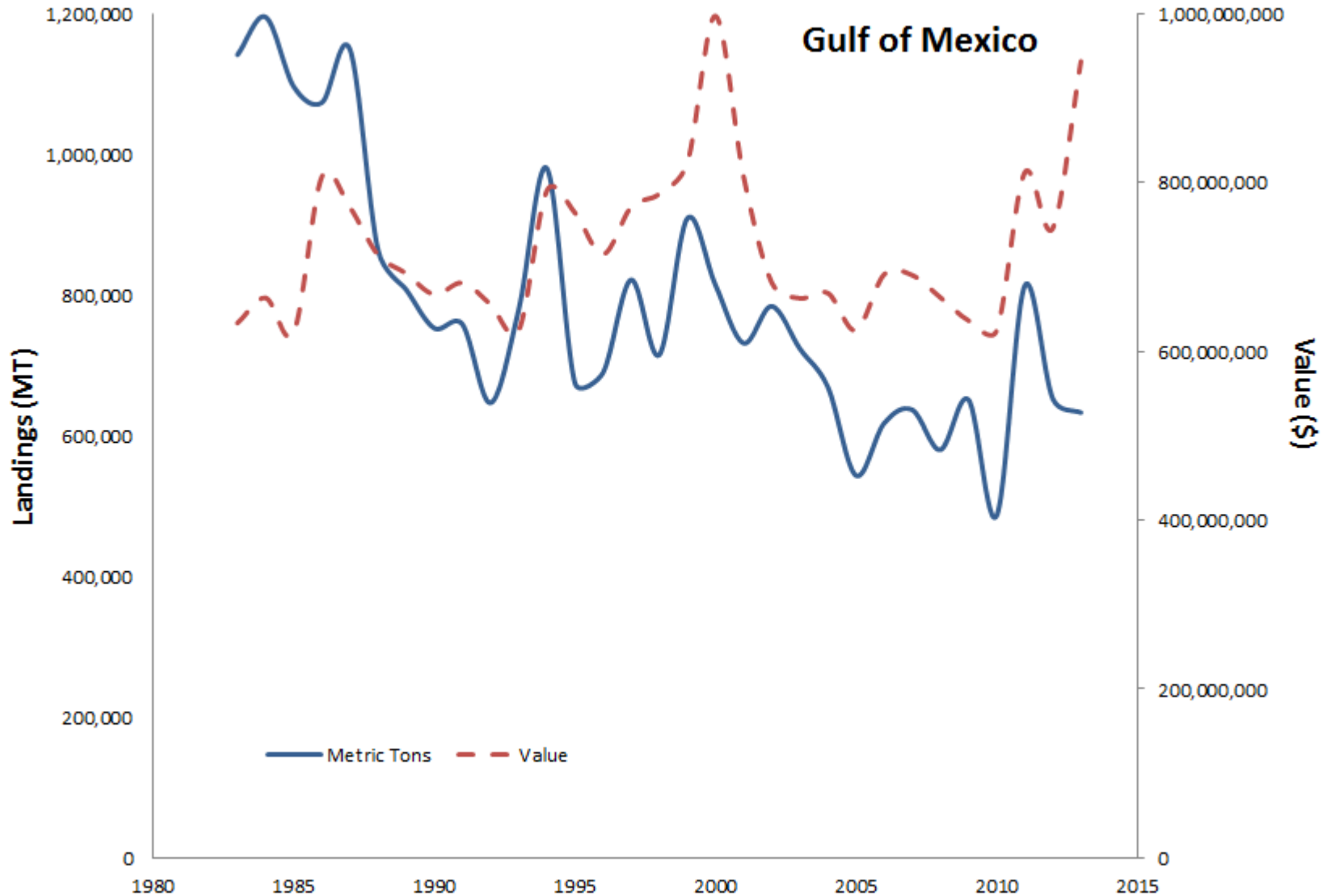


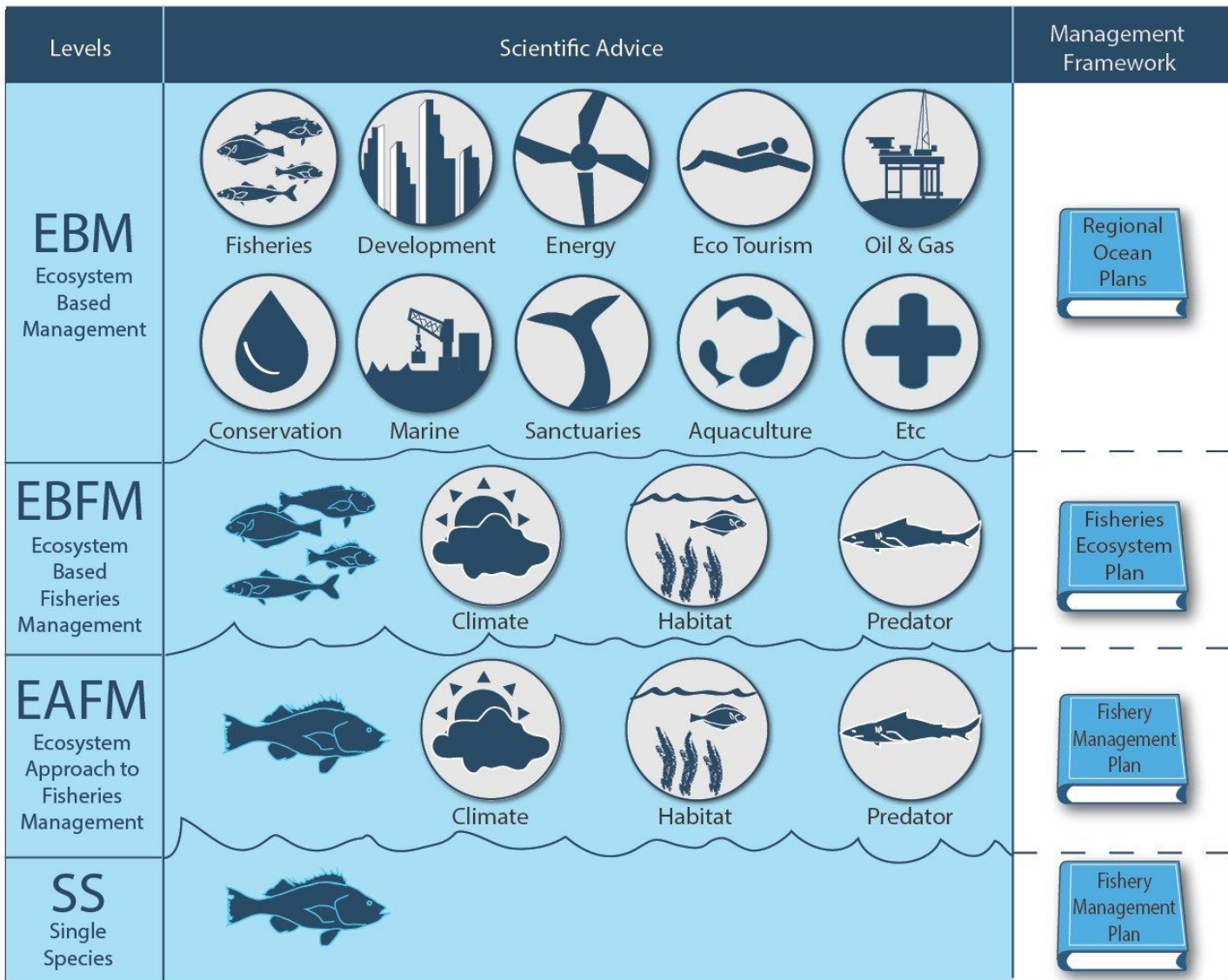
Coral Reefs and Associated Fishes

- Changes in climate CO₂, acidification, bleaching
- Impacts to coral health
- Trickle through impacts to reef fish production?
- Impacts to vibrant sport fishery, recreational fishery, and diving industries?



An Overall Systems Perspective

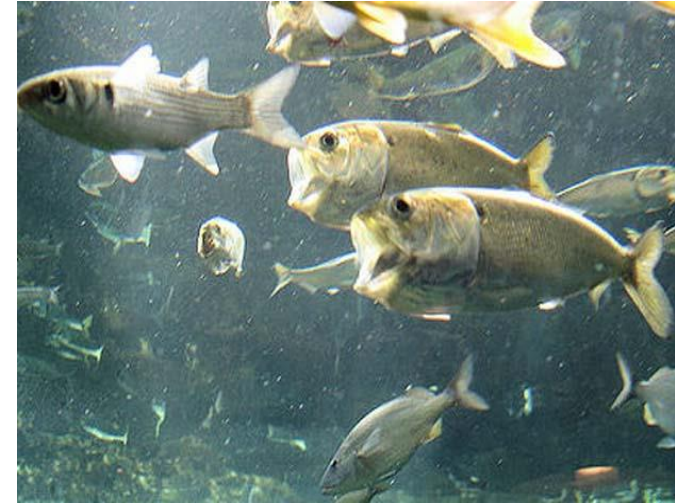




<http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/ecosystems/ebfm/index>

Policy Components

- Policy Statement
- Background
- Purpose of and Need for Policy
- Definition of EBFM
- Context of EBFM
- Benefits
- Guiding Principles
- Legal Authorities and Mandates
- NOAA Fisheries Responsibilities



Policy Statement

NOAA Fisheries strongly supports the implementation of Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management (EBFM), to better inform decisions and help achieve and optimize the benefits from marine fisheries by evaluating trade-offs among and between fisheries (commercial, recreational, and subsistence), aquaculture, protected species, biodiversity, and habitats, while maintaining resilient and productive ecosystems.

Policy Defines EBFM as:

A systematic approach to fisheries management in a geographically specified area that ensures the resilience and sustainability of the ecosystem ; recognizes the physical, biological, economic, and social interactions among the affected components of the ecosystem, including humans; and seeks to optimize benefits among a diverse set of societal goals.

EBFM Guiding Principles

Outcome

6. Maintain Resilient Ecosystems

What is our advice?

5. Incorporate ecosystem considerations into management advice

What are our options?

4. Explore and address trade-offs within an ecosystem

What are our priorities?

3. Prioritize vulnerabilities and risks of ecosystems and their components

What are our objectives?

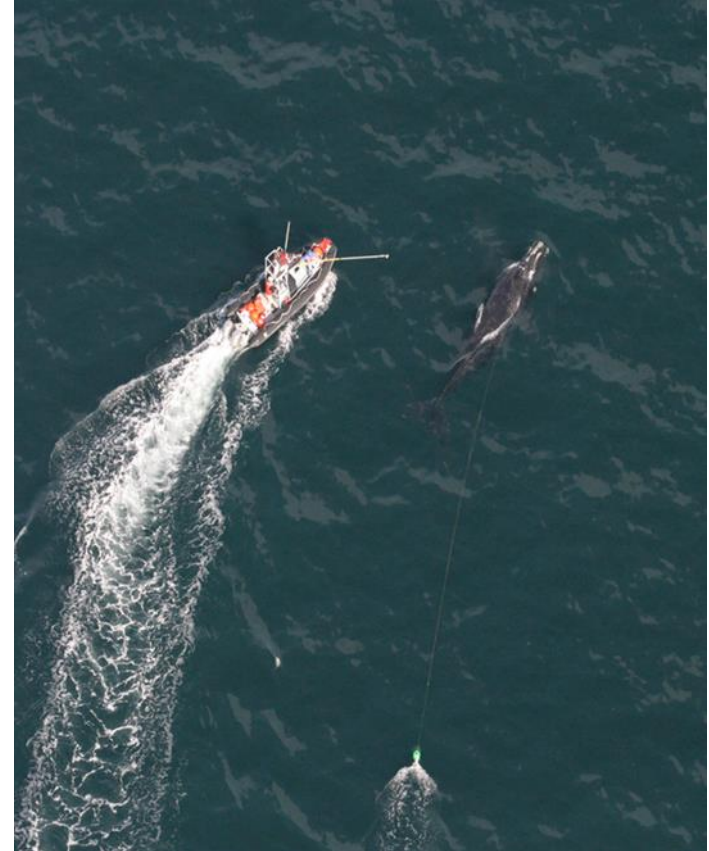
2. Implement ecosystem-level planning

What is the foundational science we need?

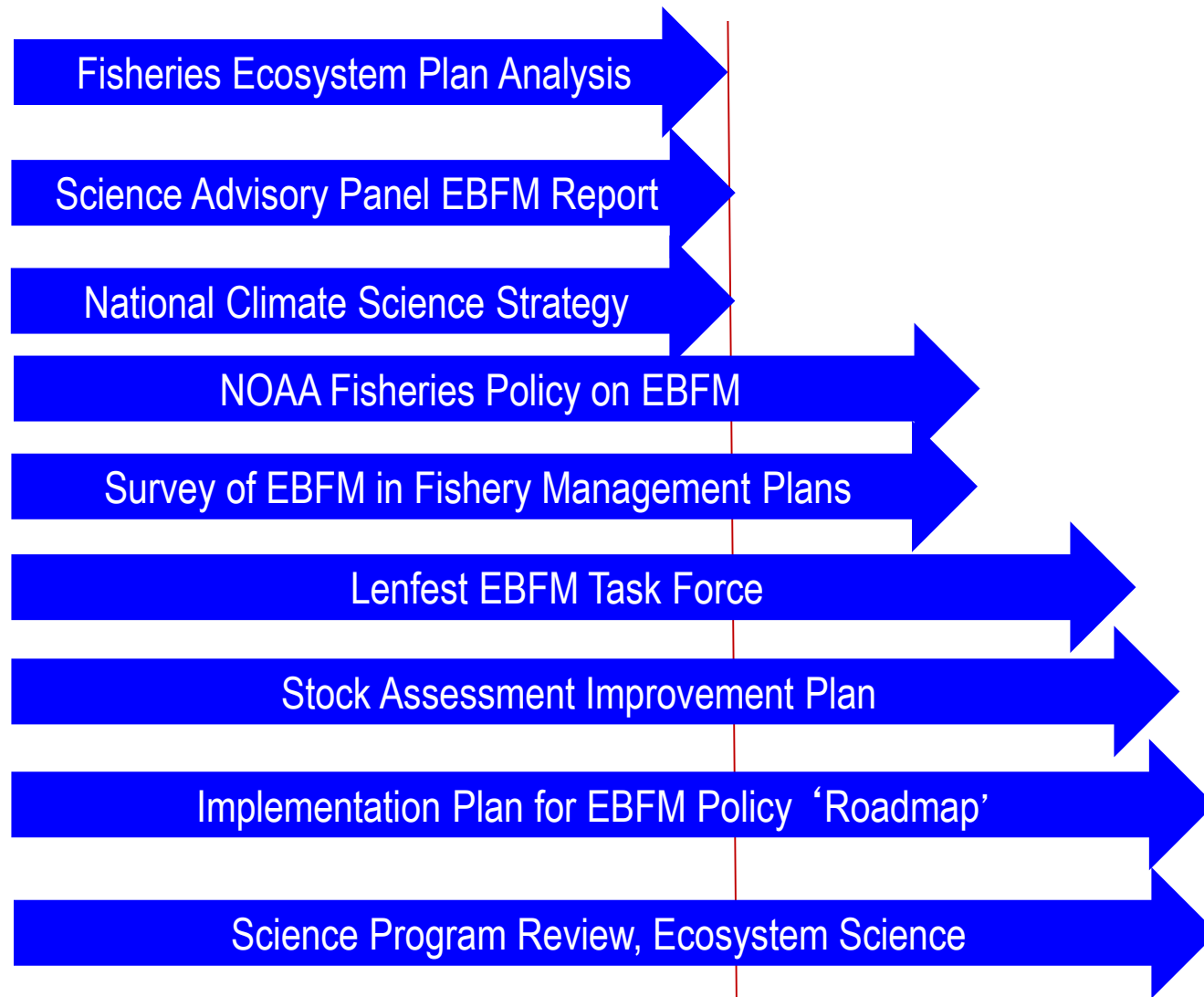
1. Advance our understanding of ecosystem processes

Next Steps for Policy

- Will be open for informal comment through Dec 16, 2015
- Comments to Heather Sagar and Jason Link
- Developing associated EBFM Road Map to answer the “what’s next” question
- Hope to finalize in early 2016



Ecosystem-related Efforts



Questions?

<http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/ecosystems/ebfm/creating-an-ebfm-management-policy>