



NOAA
FISHERIES

Bycatch Strategy

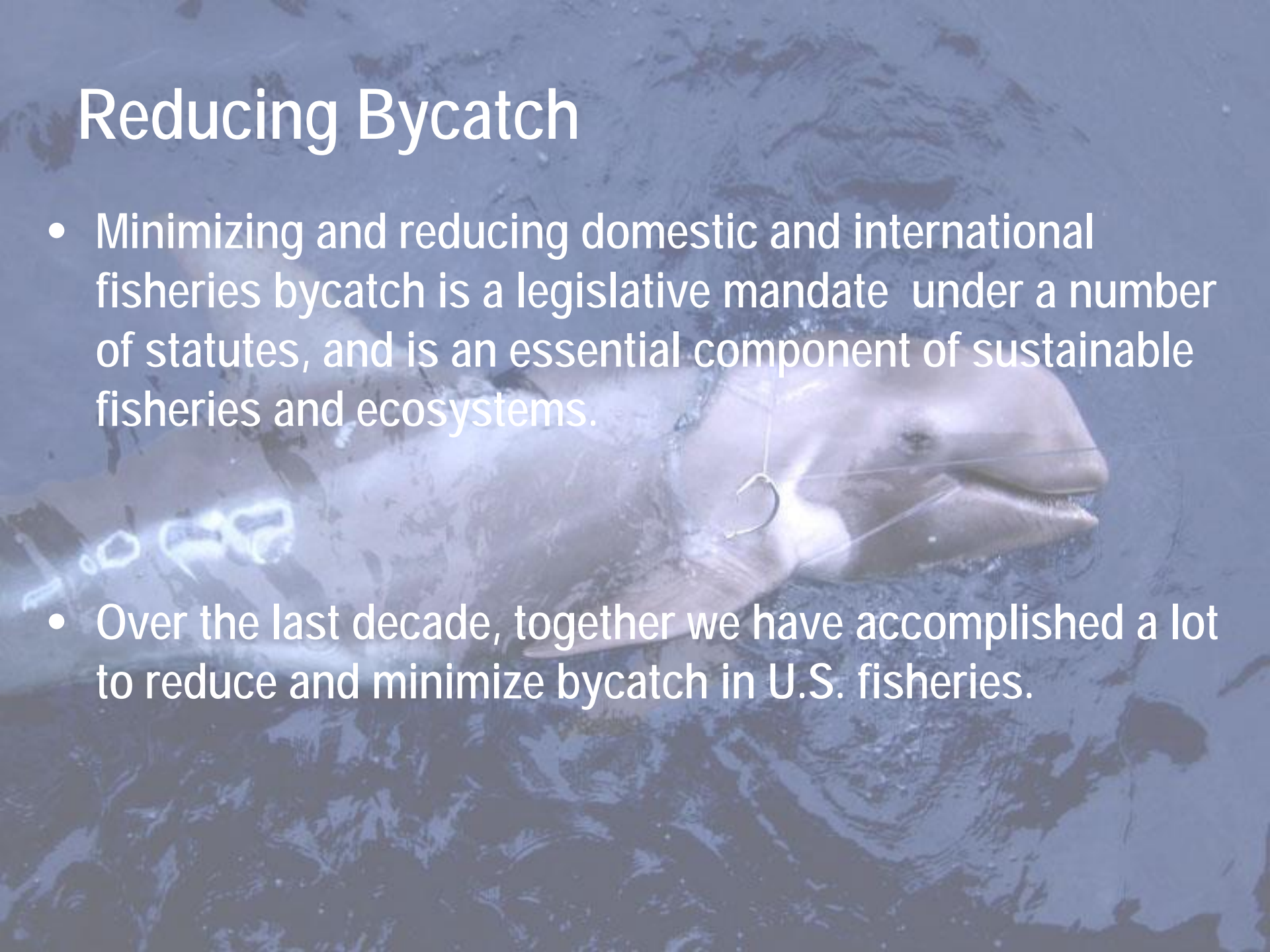
Council Coordination Committee meeting

June 23, 2015

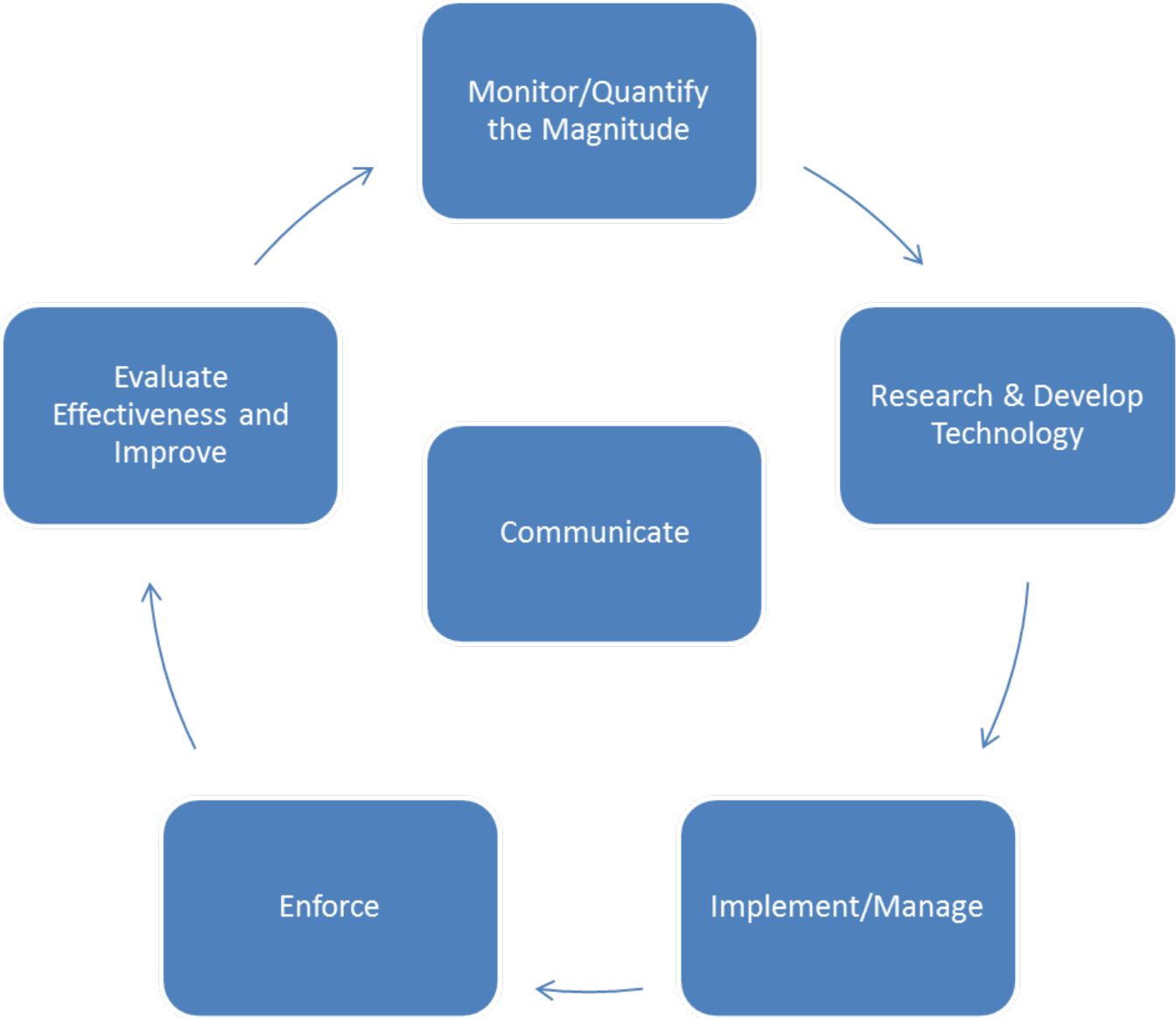


Reducing Bycatch

- Minimizing and reducing domestic and international fisheries bycatch is a legislative mandate under a number of statutes, and is an essential component of sustainable fisheries and ecosystems.
- Over the last decade, together we have accomplished a lot to reduce and minimize bycatch in U.S. fisheries.



Bycatch reduction involves:



Revising Our Strategy

- NOAA Fisheries is beginning a review of our national bycatch priorities and strategies regionally, nationally, and internationally with the intent of developing a new **National Bycatch Strategy**.
- Our objectives include:
 - Improve coordination and effectiveness of addressing bycatch
 - Clarify regional, national and international priorities

We'd like to hear from you...

- What do we do well?
- What can we do better? How can we improve our effectiveness?
- Are there specific science and management approaches we should emphasize?
- How should we prioritize our activities?
- How can we incentivize fishermen to minimize bycatch?
- How can we use partnerships to be more effective?
- These questions and more information can be found on our website:
http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/by_catch/comments.html
- Please send your responses to nmfs.bycatch@noaa.gov by July 10, 2015

Bycatch Explained Webpage

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Bycatch Explained

What is Bycatch?

Fishermen sometimes catch and discard animals they do not want, cannot sell, or are not allowed to keep. This is collectively known as bycatch. Bycatch can be a bigger problem for some fisheries than others. In 2005, NOAA Fisheries estimated that about 17 percent of catch was bycatch in those U.S. commercial fisheries for which we have relevant data. Since then, there have been numerous efforts to reduce bycatch.

Why is Bycatch a Problem?

Unwanted catch is an issue both ecologically and economically. Animals that are discarded often die and cannot reproduce, impacting vulnerable ecosystems. Bycatch can also slow the rebuilding of overfished stocks and place protected species at further risk. Meanwhile, bycatch of one species may limit opportunities to fish for other species. This creates uncertainty and economic costs for fishermen.

What is NOAA Fisheries' role?

Our goal at NOAA Fisheries is to ensure fisheries remain sustainable and protected species are given their best chance to recover. We work with our partners and fishermen to avoid bycatch and when they can't, we work with them to safely release their unintended catch. We have a number of resources and authorities to track bycatch, encourage innovation, and reduce bycatch.

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- Summary of the issues
- Efforts to:
 - Track bycatch
 - Encourage innovation
 - Reduce bycatch
- Success stories

http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/stories/2015/05/05_07_15whatisbycatch.html

Communications Coordination

- The Councils are one of our closest partners and there are benefits to coordinating our communication efforts.
- What is the best way to approach this communication?
 - Coordinate with Council staff
 - Share success stories
 - Other ideas?
- Success stories and other ideas can be sent to:
nmfs.bycatch@noaa.gov

A photograph of a whale's tail breaching the surface of the ocean. The tail is dark and has a distinctive shape with two lobes. It is surrounded by a large splash of white water. The background is a vast expanse of blue ocean with gentle waves.

Questions?