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# Managing in an Ecosystem Context: Progress and Opportunities (ESA, MSFCMA, NEPA and beyond)

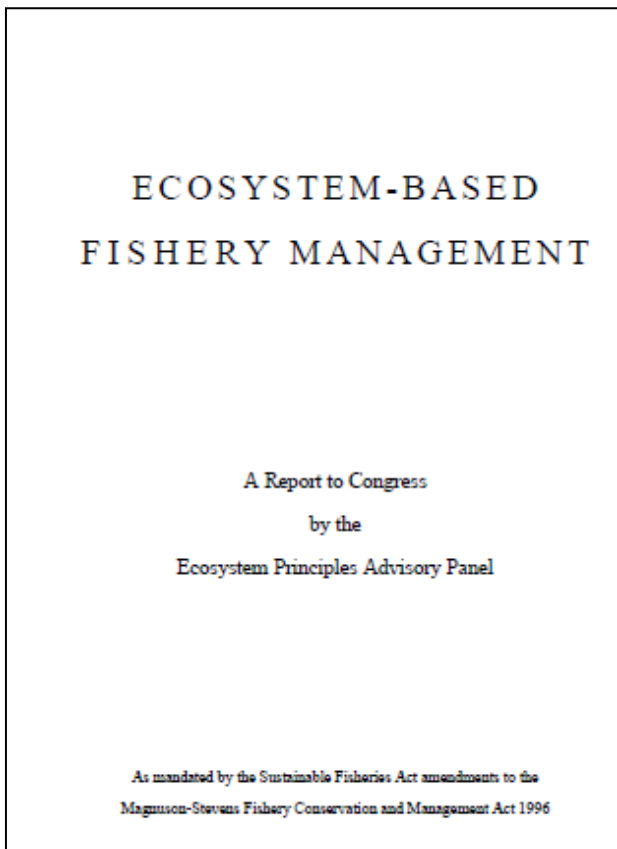
Anne Babcock Hollowed  
Alaska Fisheries Science Center



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## An ecosystem-based approach for Alaska groundfish fisheries

David Witherell, Clarence Pautzke, and David Fluharty

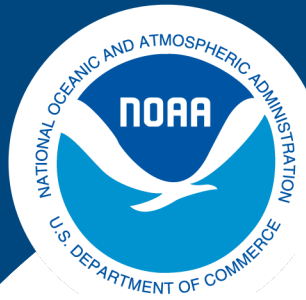


- ✓ **Prevent Overfishing – Annual Catch Limits**
- ✓ **Promote Sustainable Fisheries and Communities – science based guidelines**
- ✓ **Preserve Food Web – Weak stock management**
- ✓ **Manage Incidental Catch and Reduce Bycatch and Waste**
- ✓ **Avoid Impacts to Seabirds and Marine Mammals**
- ✓ **Reduce and Avoid Impacts to Habitat**
- ✓ **Promote Equitable and Efficient Use of Fishery Resources**
- ✓ **Increase Alaska Native Consultation**
- ✓ **Improve Data Quality, Monitoring and Enforcement**

[http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/npfmc/PDFdocuments/meetings/Management\\_FMP.pdf](http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/npfmc/PDFdocuments/meetings/Management_FMP.pdf)



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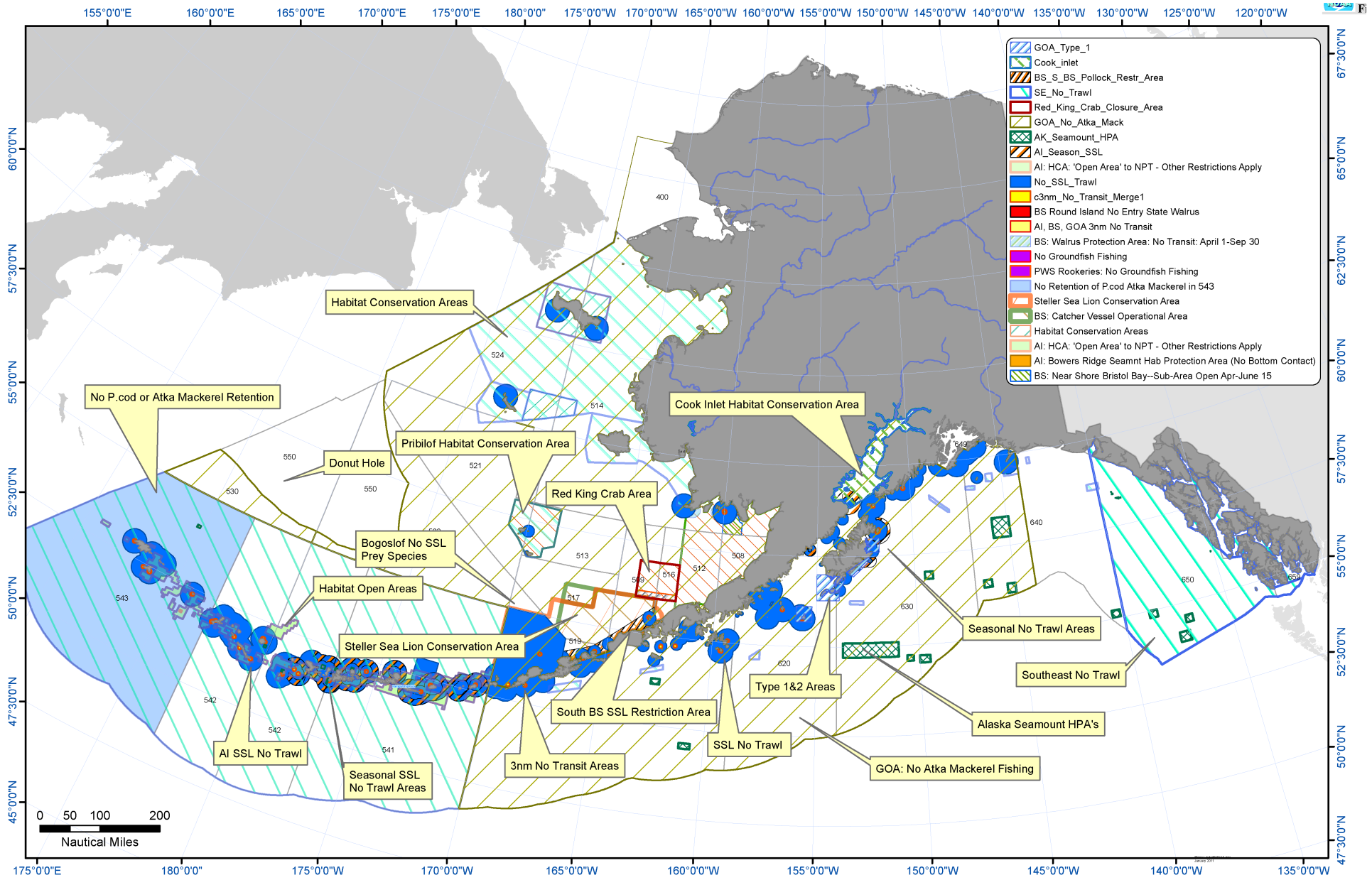


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## Management Approaches (Fulton et al. 2014, Plos One)

- ✓ Property rights (Sablefish and halibut ITQ 1995; American Fisheries Act 1998 (pollock); Amendment 80 (non-pollock trawl))
- ✓ Community-based management (CDQ 1992)
- ✓ Time/Area and quota regulation
  - Time – Area
  - Gear (optional)
  - ❖ Effort (no)
  - Catch limits
- ✓ Incentive-based approaches
- ✓ Spatial management?

# Spatial Management



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From Steve Lewis - AKR

# Managing Incidental Catch of Prohibited Species

- Catch Limits
- Gear/Area closures
- Bristol Bay Red King Crab Conservation Area
- Chinook and Other salmon (primarily chum):
  - Hard cap + Incentive Program Agreements (IPAs)



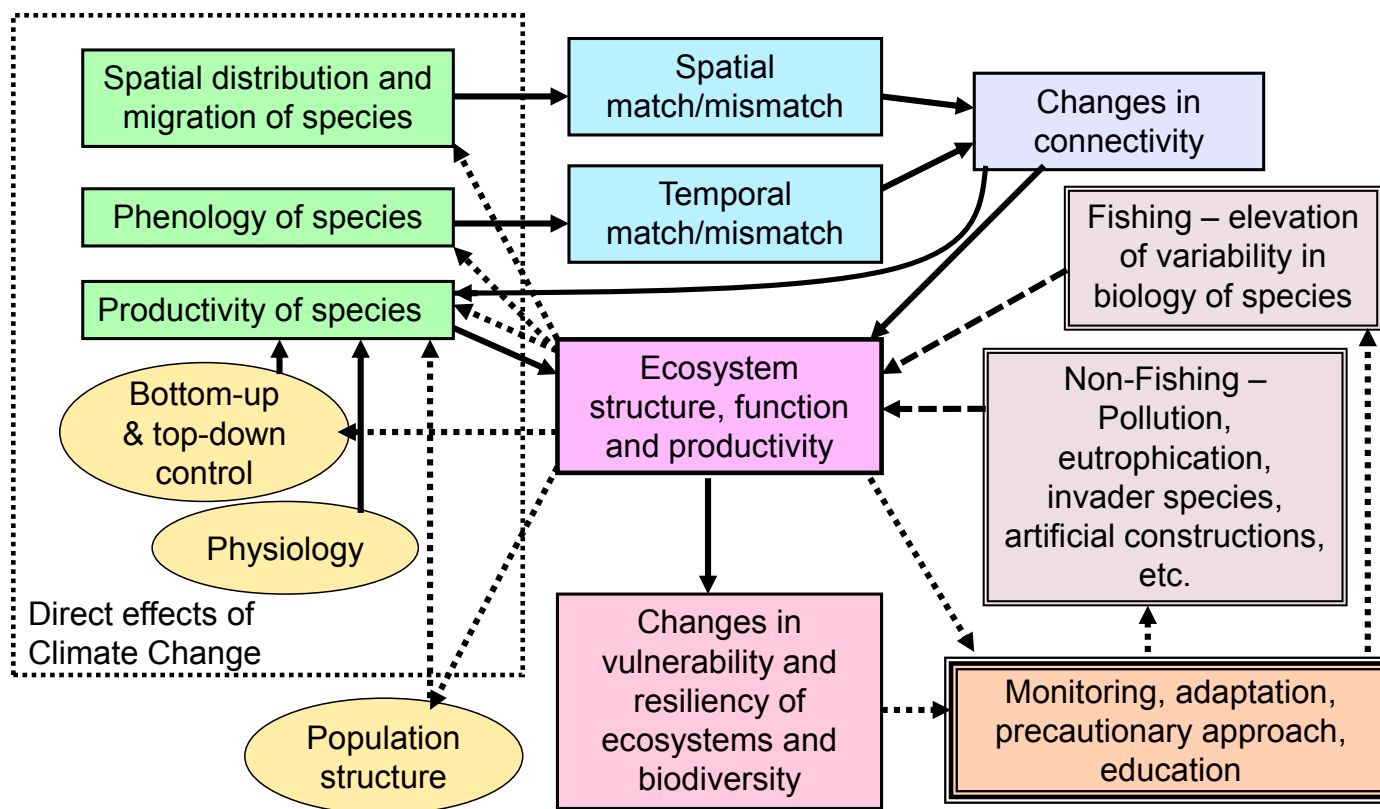
# Integrated Ecosystem Assessments: Developing the Scientific Basis for Ecosystem-Based Management of the Ocean

Phillip S. Levin\*, Michael J. Fogarty, Steven A. Murawski, David Fluharty

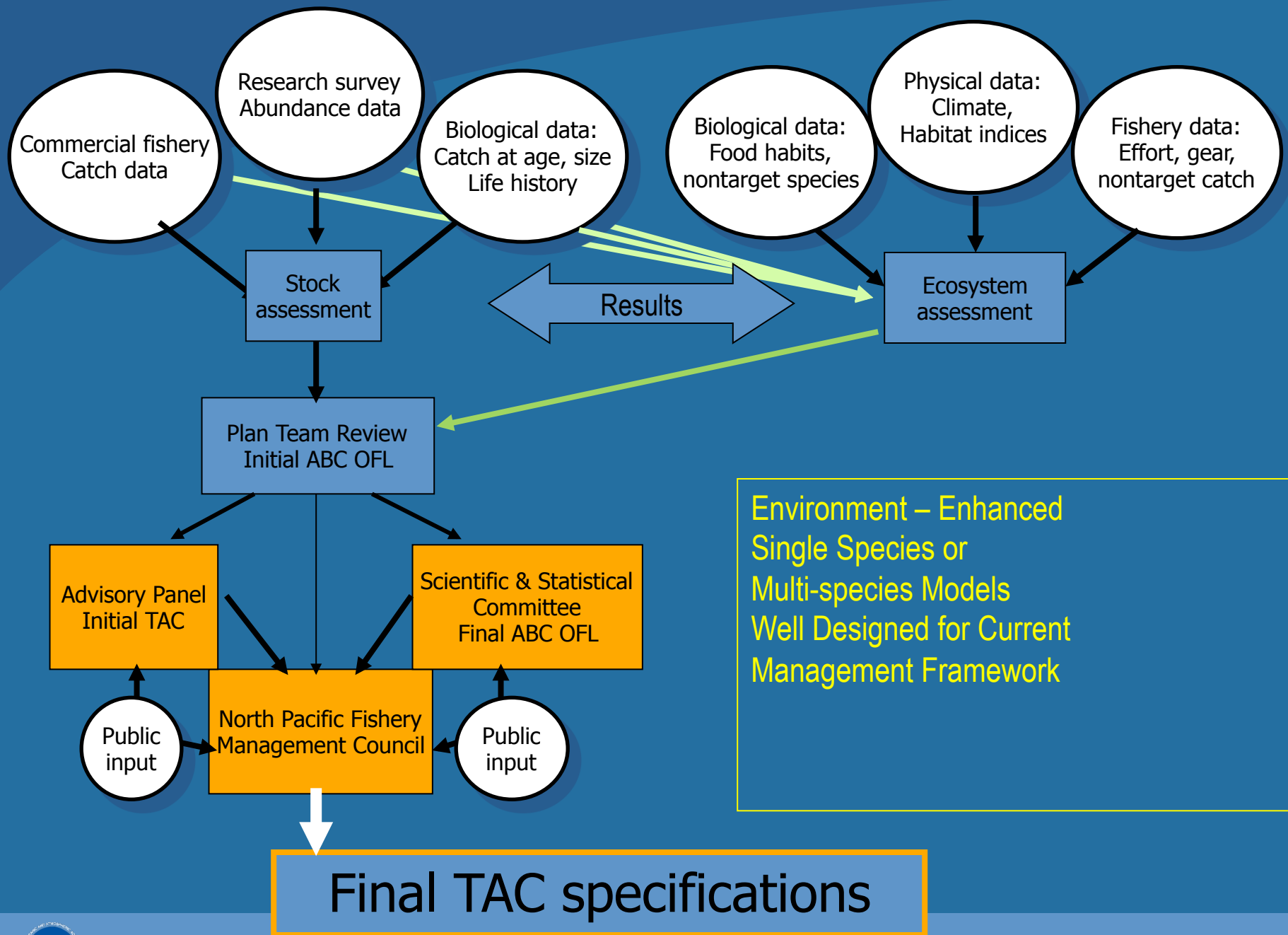
## Core Elements IEA

- Scoping
- Develop indicators
- Risk analysis
- Assessment
- MSE

## Fully Coupled End to End Ecosystem Model



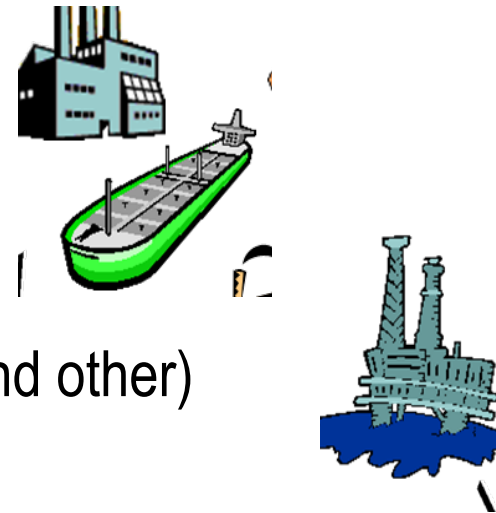




Environment – Enhanced  
 Single Species or  
 Multi-species Models  
 Well Designed for Current  
 Management Framework

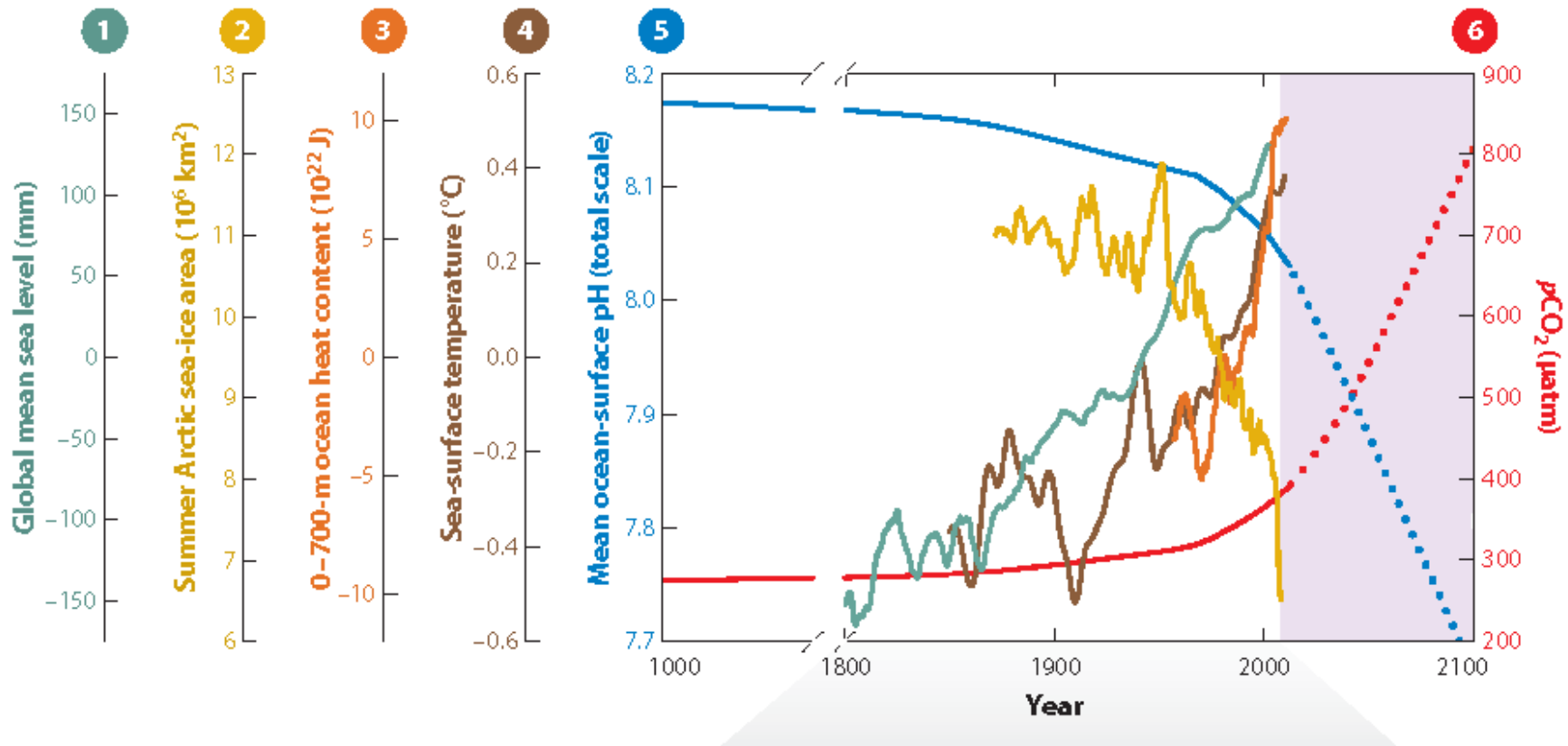
# Emerging Issues

- Climate change
- Population Growth (Food Security, Market Demand)
- Increased shipping
  - Effects of sound in the marine environment
  - Invasive species
  - Ship strikes on whales
- Impacts of offshore energy development (oil and other)
- International Science Advice:
  - FAO - Sustainable Development Goals
  - Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) global vulnerability assessments
  - Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change





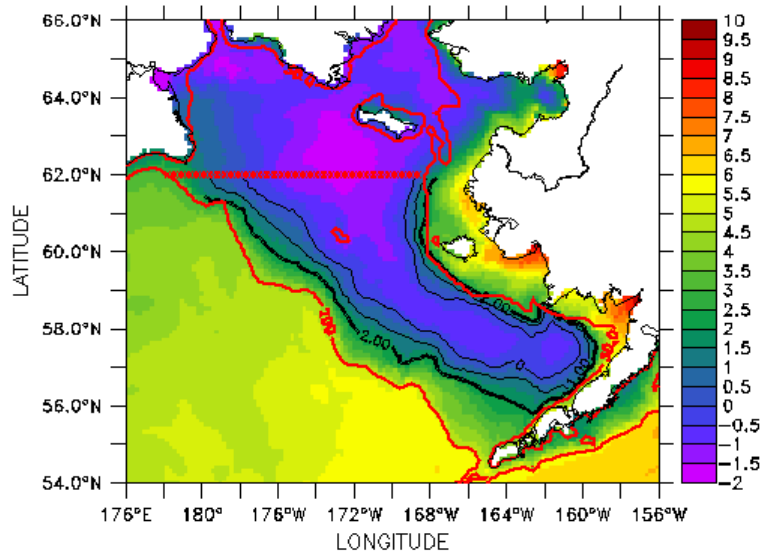
# Physical Changes: Observations and projections



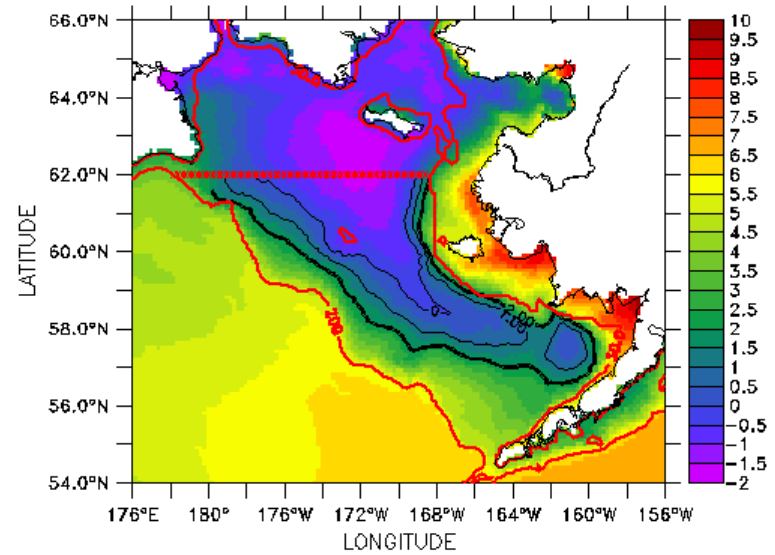
(a) Changes in global mean sea level (teal line; Jevrejeva et al. 2008), summer Arctic sea-ice area (yellow line; Walsh & Chapman 2001), 0–700-m ocean heat content (orange line; Levitus et al. 2009), sea-surface temperature (brown line; Rayner et al. 2006), mean ocean-surface pH (blue line; Natl. Res. Council 2010), and pCO<sub>2</sub> (red line; Petit et al. 1999). Light purple shaded region denotes projected changes in pH and pCO<sub>2</sub> consistent with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's twenty-first-century A2 emissions scenario with rapid population growth.



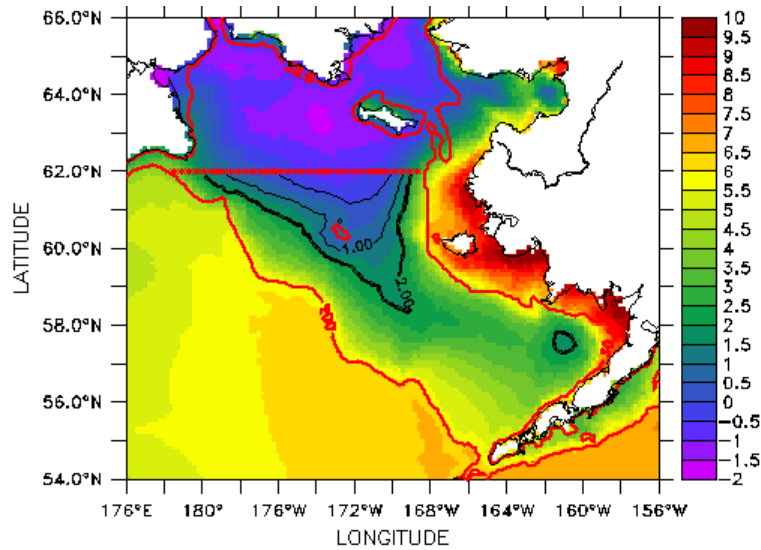
# Projected EBS July bottom temperatures in SE Bering Sea ( Al Hermann JISAO)



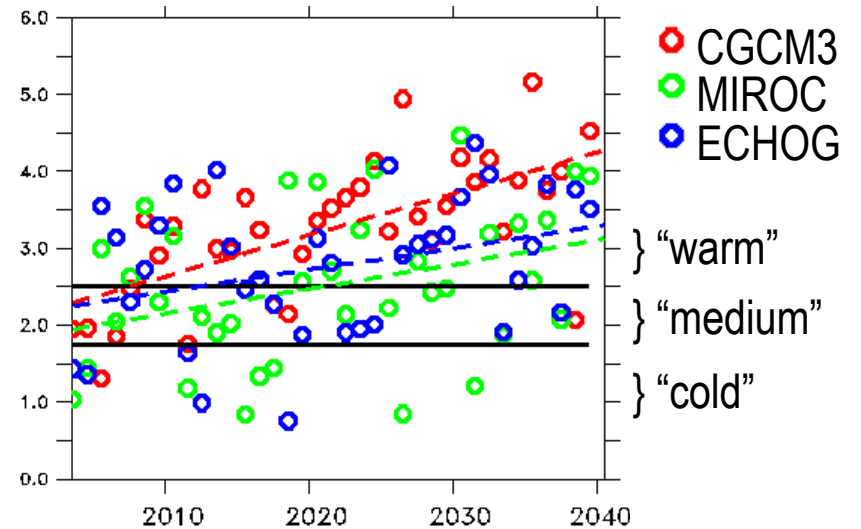
ensemble ave cold year



ensemble ave medium year

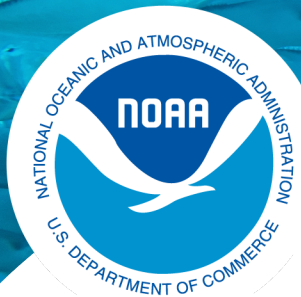


ensemble ave warm year

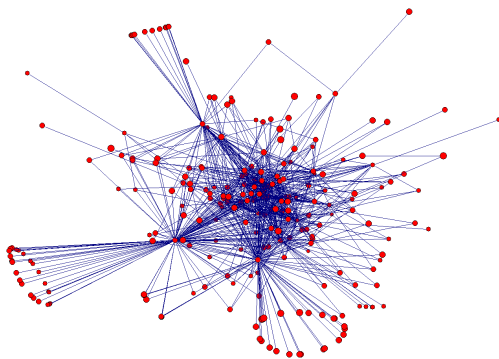


mean EBS bottom temperature





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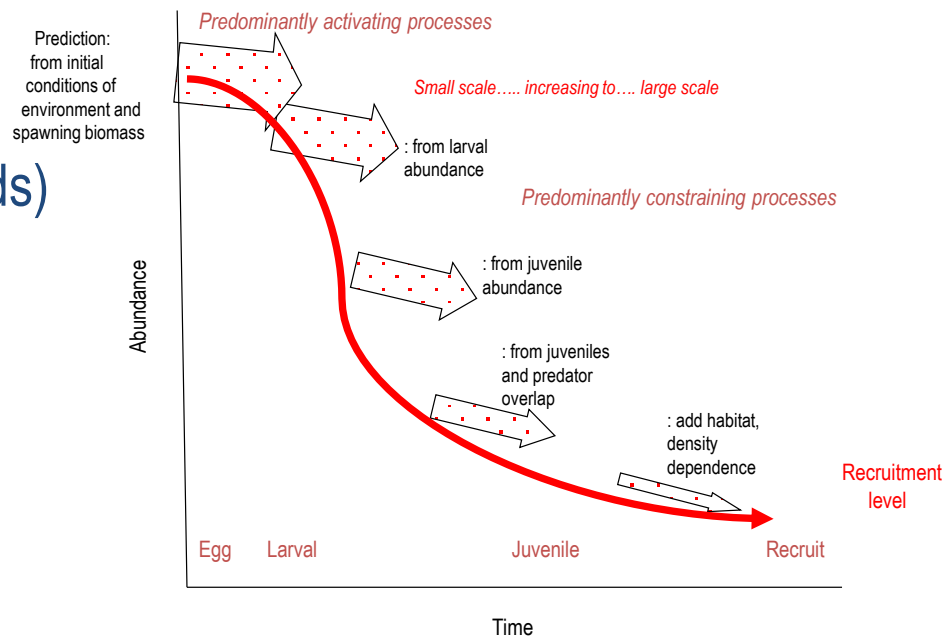
GOA food web network:  
Prioritize process studies on nodal species  
Gaichas & Francis (2008) CJFAS 65:1965-1982

- ✓ Growth – bio-energetics
- ✓ Recruitment
- ✓ Catchability (non-trawlable grounds)
- ✓ Selectivity/availability
- ✓ Phenology
- ✓ Natural mortality
- ✓ Bio-economic (fishers choice)
- ✓ Stock structure

# Tracking Climate Impacts Through Life History Gauntlet

## Recruitment Processes Alliance GOA IERP

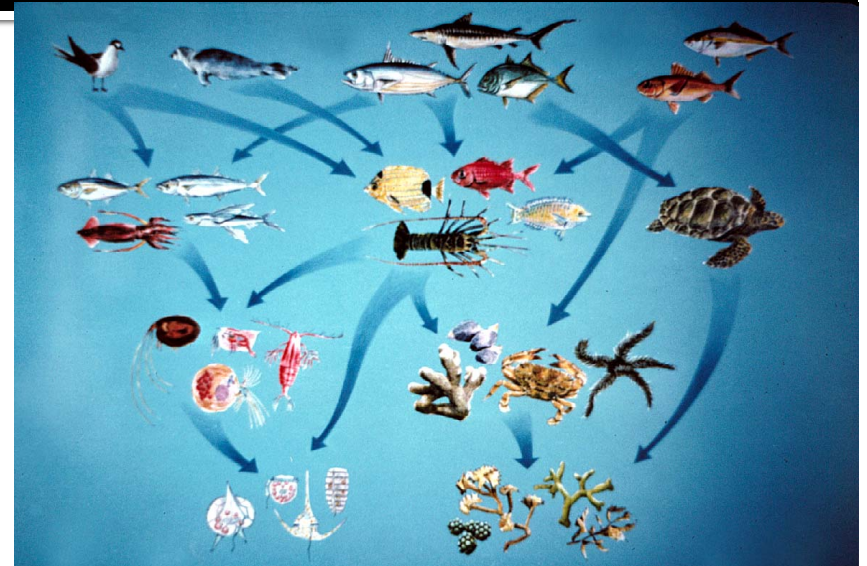
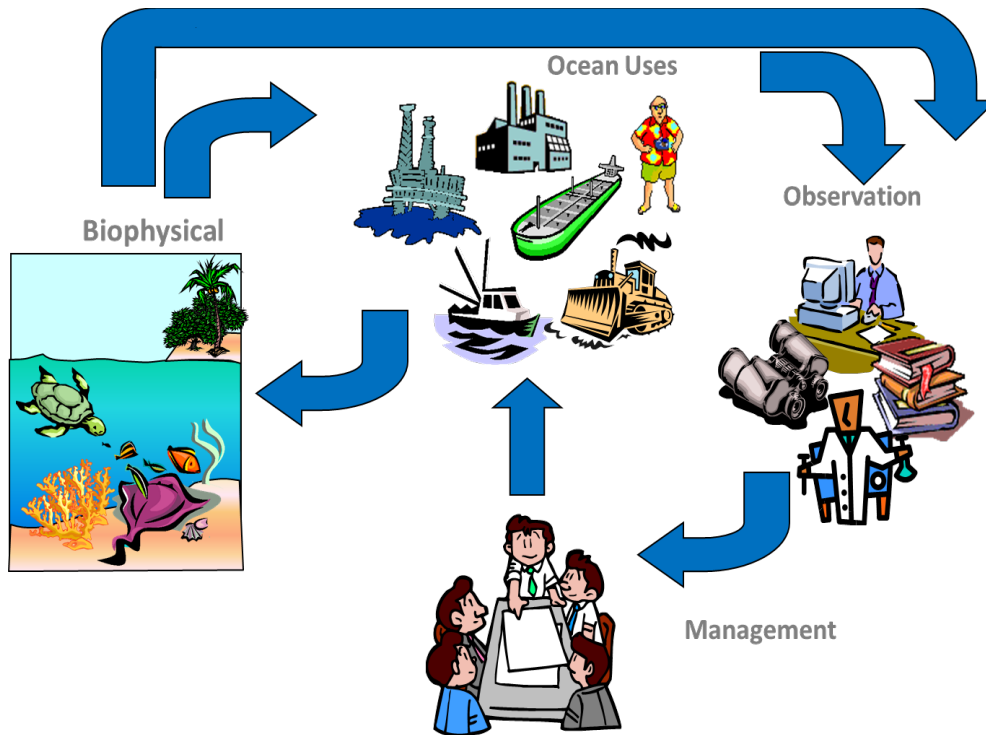
Scheme of Continuous Refinement of  
Recruitment Forecast



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# Technical Options- Scenario Testing

- System MSEs



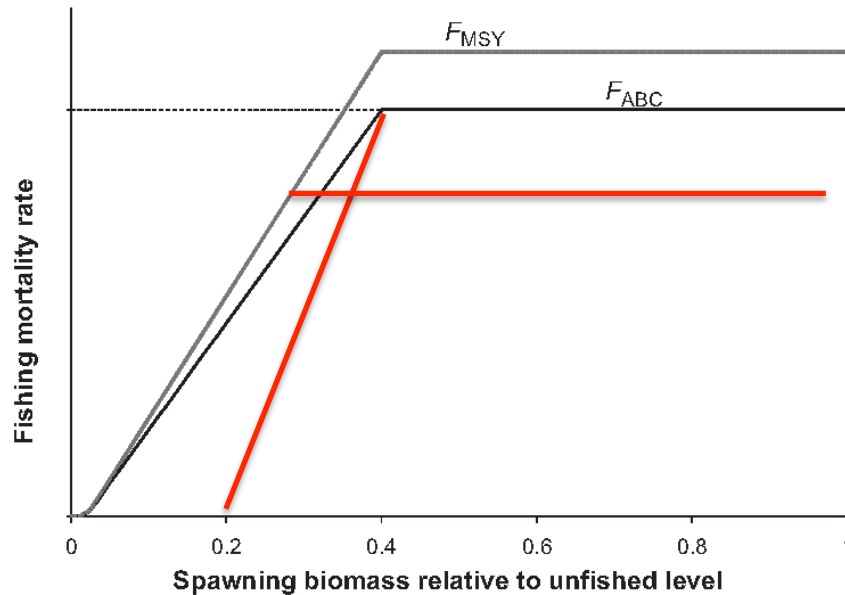
A'mar et al. 2009 GOA pollock  
Mueter et al 2011 BS pollock  
lanelli et al. 2011 BS pollock  
Wilderbuer et al 2013 rock sole  
Holsman et al. submitted BS MSM



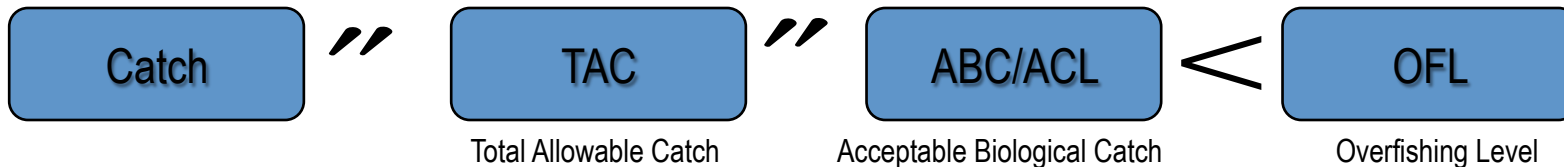
# Change Fishing Strategy?

*“modifying management strategies to include environmental factors seldom improves the ability to achieve management goals unless the system is well known.” Punt et al. 2013*

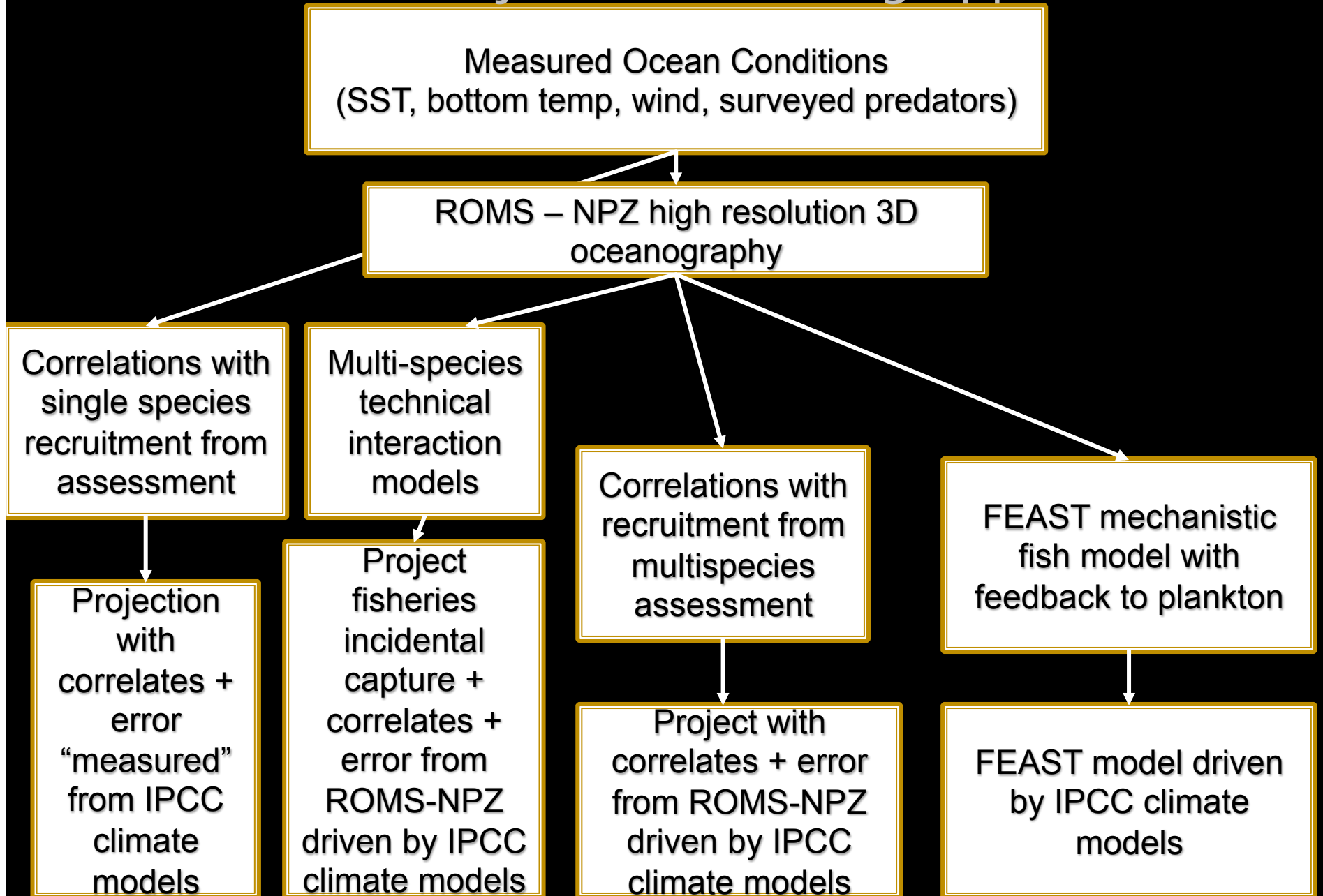
Schematic of Harvest Control Rule



- Alt. 1: (no action) Adjust quota to maintain historical Bmsy
- Alt 2: Adopt steeper control rule to create a larger no fishing buffer.
- Alt 3: Adopt larger buffer between OFL and ABC to account for increased uncertainty due to climate change
- Alt 4: Account for climate impact on growth, maturation schedule, M, fishery selectivity . Then reset biological reference points

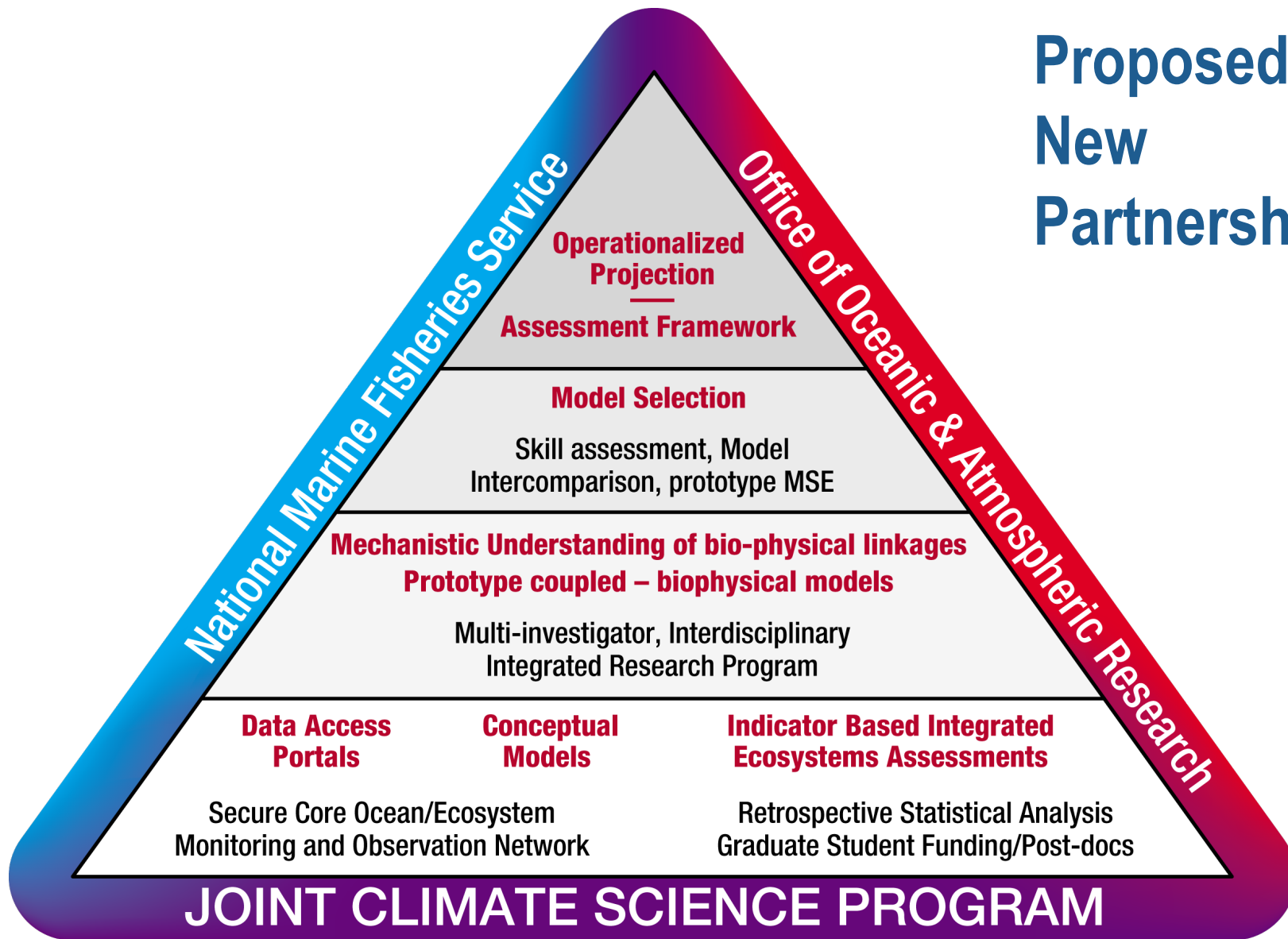


# AFSC's Projection Modeling Approaches





# Proposed New Partnership



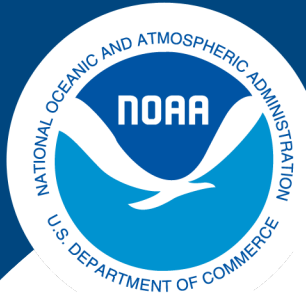
Deliverables listed in **RED**

Funding request listed in **BLACK**



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# Summary:



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- Maintain and enhance monitoring.
- Prioritize process field work to inform functional form of biological response of key species
- Defining biological reference points may be challenging.
- Select precautionary harvest strategies that are robust to changing environment.
- Management strategy evaluations will help to identify sustainable harvest strategies and to evaluate trade-offs of changes in harvest strategies.
- Engagement with stakeholders to discuss landscape of future management systems needed.
  - Management System will continue to evolve.
- Multi-model portfolio of projection modeling approaches needed