



**NOAA**  
**FISHERIES**

# Bycatch Update

Council Coordination Committee

February 28, 2017

# Outline

- Bycatch Reduction Strategy
- SBRM Final Rule

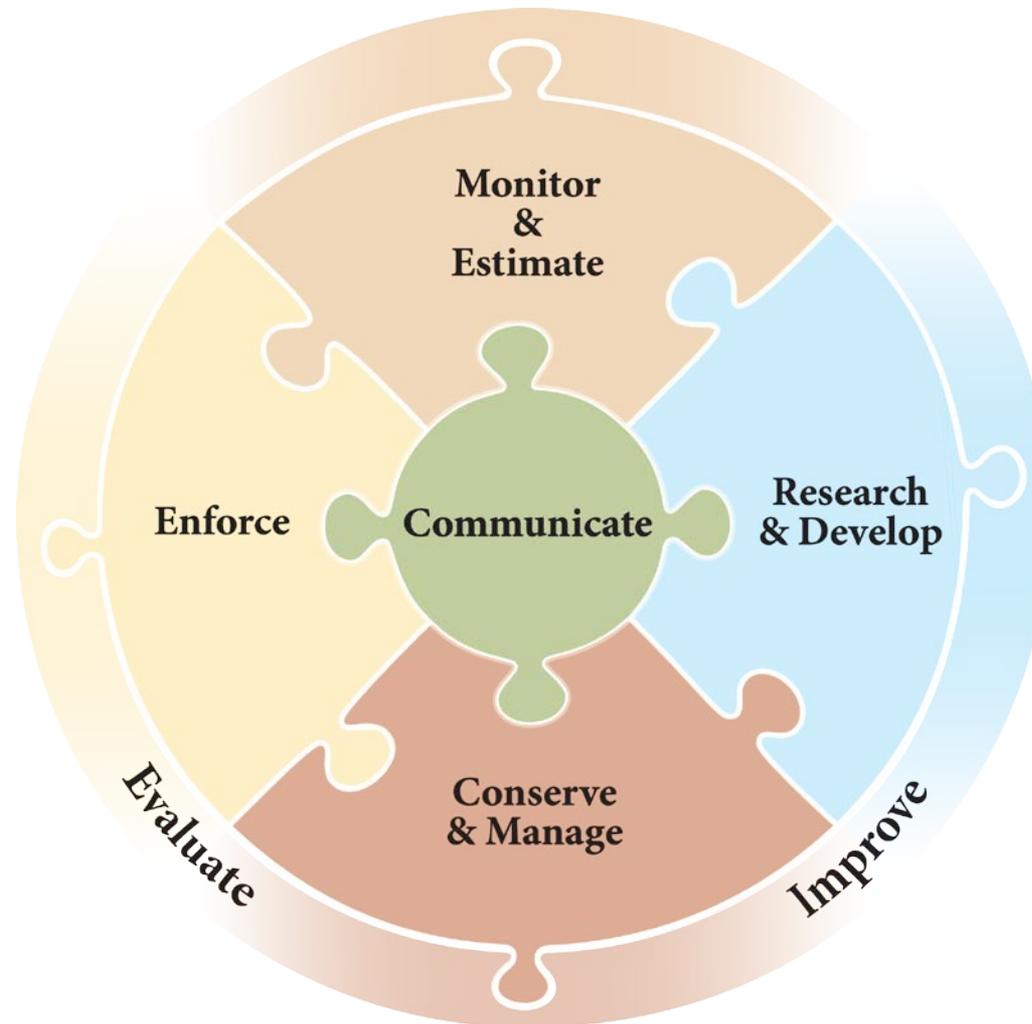
# Bycatch Reduction Strategy

- Final Bycatch Strategy – December 2016  
[http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/fisheries\\_eco/bycatch/strategy.html](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/fisheries_eco/bycatch/strategy.html)
- Guide and coordinate NOAA Fisheries' efforts to reduce bycatch and bycatch mortality in support of sustainably managing fisheries and recovering and conserving protected species

# Bycatch Reduction Strategy

- Clarification of statutory authorities
- Reducing bycatch includes:
  - Minimize the amount of bycatch
  - Minimize the mortality, serious injury, and adverse impacts of bycatch
  - Increase utilization of fish that would otherwise be economic discards, taking into account conservation and management requirements

# Bycatch Reduction Strategy – 5 Objectives



# Bycatch Reduction Strategy – Next Steps

- Development of national and regional-level implementation plans
  - Apply national-level objectives to specific priorities and needs of each region and its fisheries
  - In coordination with partners

# SBRM Final Rule

- Published January 19, 2017 (82 FR 6317)
- MSA 303(a)(11) requires that any FMP establish a standardized reporting methodology to assess the amount of type of bycatch occurring in a fishery
- Final rule focuses on process for establishing, documenting, and reviewing SBRMs

# Key Components

- Defining “standardized reporting methodology” as including data collection, recording, and reporting procedures
- Requiring SBRM procedure(s) to be included in an FMP
- Considerations Councils must assess in establishing and reviewing SBRMs
  - The characteristics of the bycatch occurring in the fishery
  - The feasibility of the methodology
  - The uncertainty of the data resulting from the methodology
  - How the data resulting from the methodology will be used to assess the amount and type of bycatch occurring in the fishery.

# SBRM – Next Steps

- All FMPs must be consistent with Final Rule by Feb 21, 2022 (5 years).
  - Conduct a review of FMPs for consistency
  - Amend FMPs, *if needed*, to be consistent



# Discussion

