



# **Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management in a Changing Environment**

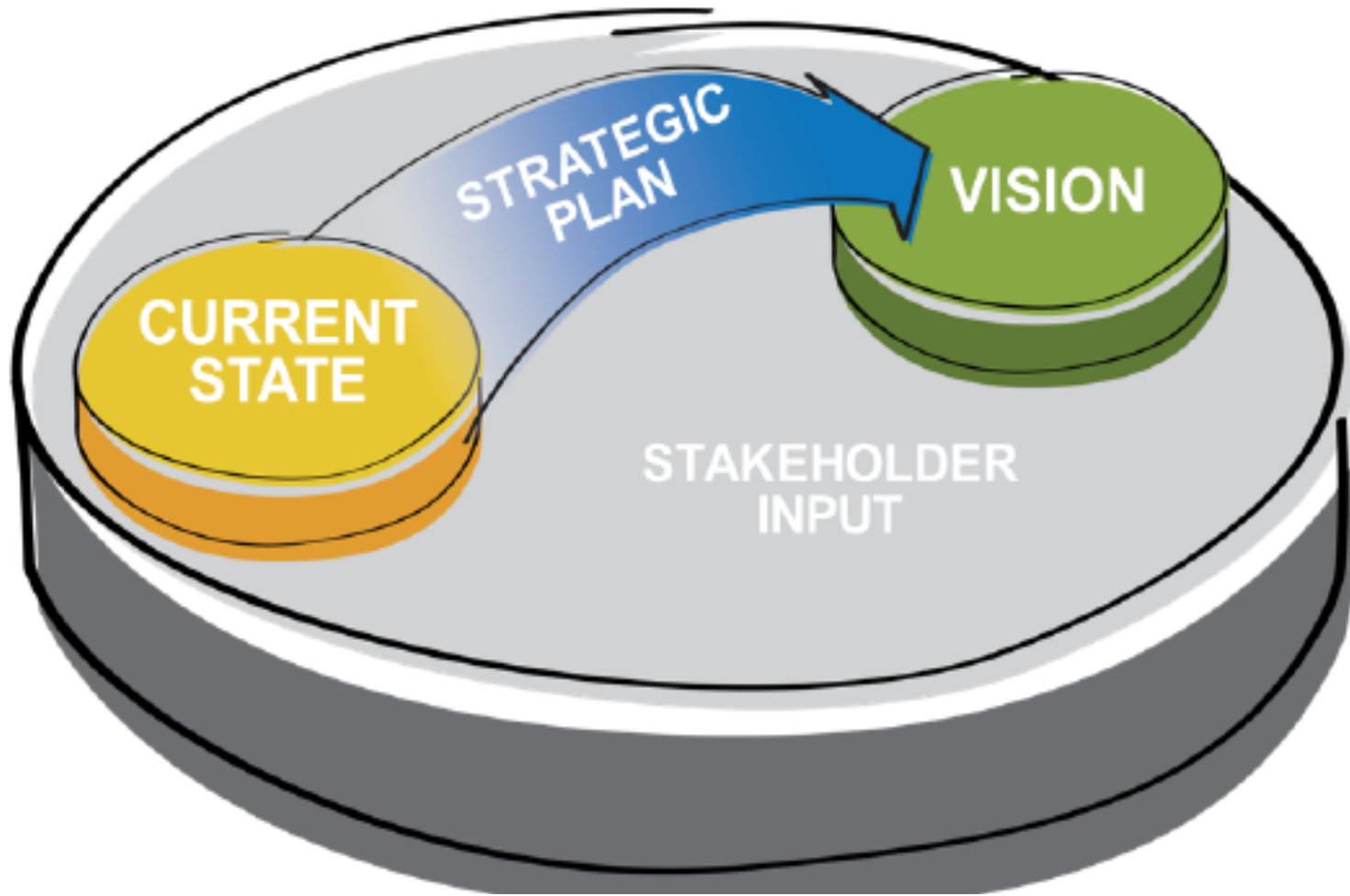
*Warren Elliott*

*Fisheries Forum*

*Monterey, CA*



# Visioning & Strategic Planning



# MAFMC Vision and Strategic Plan

- **Ecosystem related issues ranked high on the list of concerns raised by stakeholders across all user groups**
- **Objective 15: “Advance an ecosystem approach to fisheries management through development of EAFM Guidance Document”**

# EAFM Strategy Allows for...

Transition from single-species to ecosystem level management

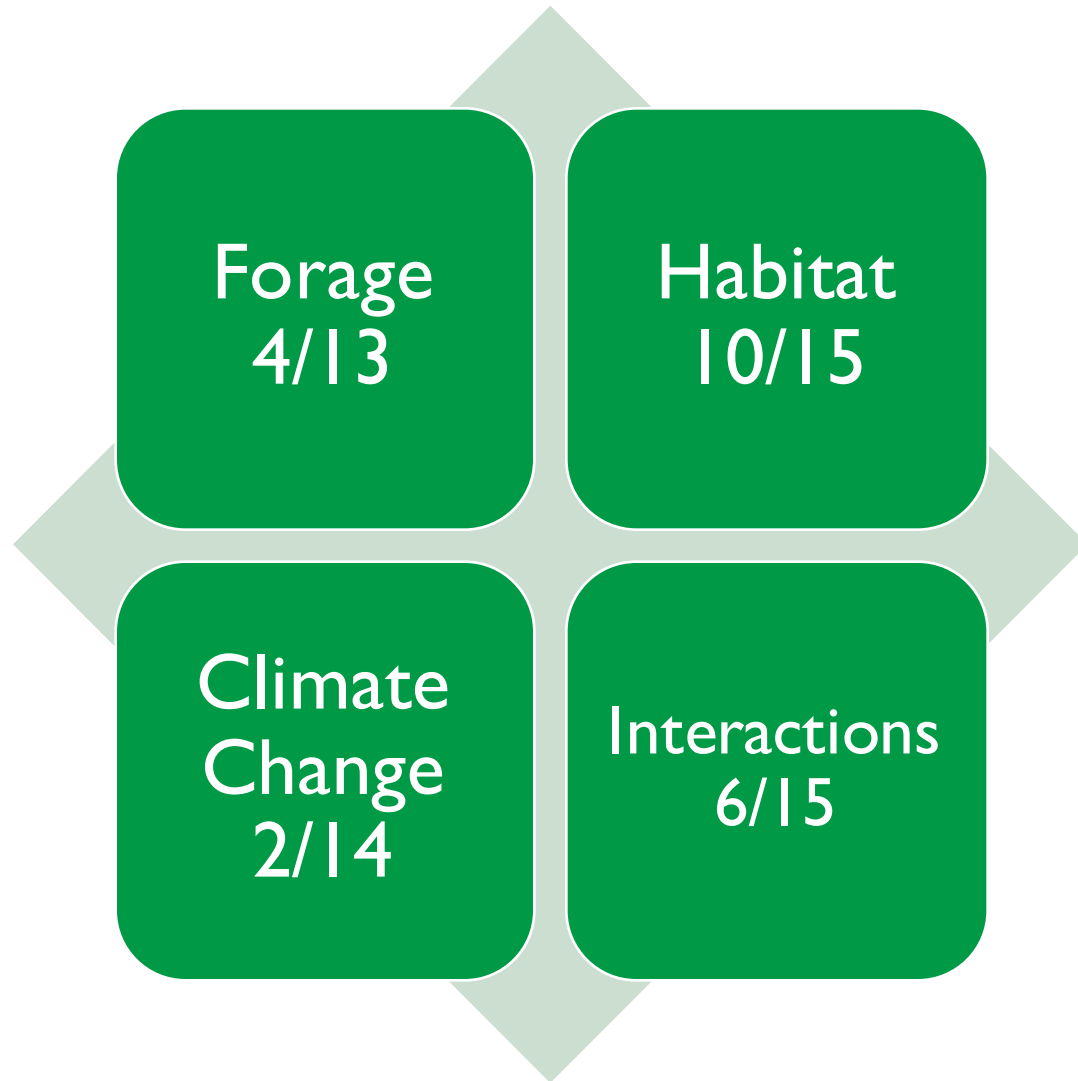
Movement towards a definition of OY which takes into account interactions at multiple dimensions of the ecosystem and....

Recognizes that humans are a major component of marine ecosystems.

# EAFM Guidance Document

- Umbrella for coordination of ecosystem considerations across existing FMPs
- Non-regulatory document designed to provide policy guidance with regulatory actions taken through existing FMP structure
- Best approach as MAFMC managed species exist in numerous ecosystems and a substantial portion of these are outside of MAFMC jurisdiction (i.e., 3 east coast Councils and ASMFC) (Not FEP)

# Process and Focus Areas



# Process Continued

White Paper Developed

EOP and AP meetings

Adopted by Council 8/8/16

# Conclusion

- Very collaborative process.
- We are in a transitional state – data and science are incomplete
- Need to move forward both strategically and systematically
- Deliberate, stepwise approach will have better outcomes than radical change



# Next Steps

- Comprehensive Risk Assessment (Data/modeling)
- Prioritize
- More to follow on implementation after lunch, stay tuned Dr. Sara Gaichas

# Questions?

