



**NOAA  
FISHERIES**

Headquarters

# EBFM and EFH Nexus

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# Draft EBFM Policy

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Department of Commerce – National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration – National Marine Fisheries Service	
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE POLICY STATEMENT (number)	
[EFFECTIVE DATE]	
Fisheries Management	
Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management Policy	
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SUMMARY OF SUBJECTS:	

## Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management Policy

of the

National Marine Fisheries Service

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

### POLICY STATEMENT

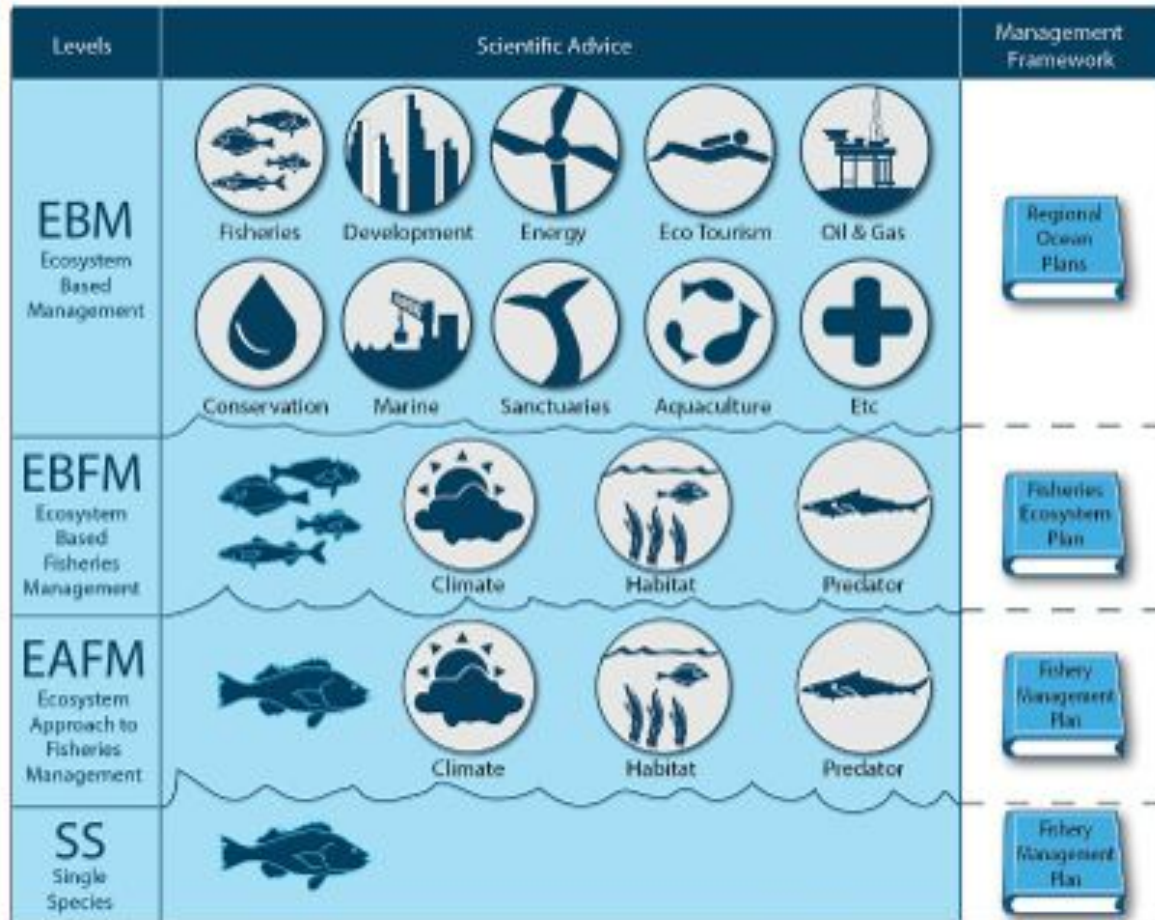
NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) strongly supports the implementation of Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management (EBFM), to better inform decisions and help achieve and optimize the benefits from marine fisheries by evaluating trade-offs among and between fisheries (commercial,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

### BACKGROUND

NOAA believes ecosystem-based management (EBM) will assist the agency in better meeting



# EBFM as part of a continuum



# Is EBFM happening?

- All fishery management councils are implementing ecosystem-based fisheries management in some form within their fisheries.
- Councils have developed ten Fishery Ecosystem Plans.
- [Tech Memo](#): Summarizes FEPs as benchmarked against 1999 EPAP recommendations.
- Mid-Atlantic developing an EAFM guidance document.

# What can EBFM do for fisheries management?

- Strengthen our ability to understand and address complex ecosystem interactions in decisions we make about:
  - How many fish to catch
  - Where and when to catch them
  - Who can catch them
- Can help us end overfishing and rebuild stocks for the long term benefit of the nation by helping us respond to, anticipate, and manage impacts from various components of the ecosystem and across multiple fisheries.

# What can EFH do for fisheries management

- MSA recognized that “one of the greatest long-term threats to the viability of commercial and recreational fisheries is the continuing loss of marine, estuarine, and other aquatic habitats. Habitat considerations should receive increased attention for the conservation and management of fishery resources of the United States”
- MSA also defined “fishery resources” to include habitat.
- MSA further requires identification, description and conservation of essential fish habitat.

# Where does the intersection lie?

- EFH as a tool for EBFM implementation.
- Ecosystem information informing EFH implementation.

# EFH as a tool for EBFM

Example Management topics	EAFM	EBFM	EFH Nexus
Unmanaged forage fish		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Prey as a component of EFH. Minimization of fishing impacts.
Managed forage fish	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Prey as a component of EFH. EFH identification and description. Minimization of fishing impact.
Bycatch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Structural EFH as bycatch. Minimization of fishing impacts.
Stock Status - Recruitment and Biomass	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		EFH information tiers. Habitat status informing scientific uncertainty and survey designs.



# Ecosystem inputs into EFH

Example Ecosystem Information	EAFM	EBFM	EFH nexus
Climate/oceanographic data	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EFH identification.</li> <li>• Rules for determining “essential”</li> <li>• HAPCs</li> <li>• Prioritizing EFH Consultations</li> </ul>
Habitat productivity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Habitat sensitivity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Habitat importance to the ecosystem, stock complex	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Habitat rarity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

# Questions?

