

Next steps to operationalize the Gulf FEP



Ecosystem Technical Committee Meeting
May 9, 2025

Acronyms



EBFM	Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management
ETC	Ecosystem Technical Committee
FEI	Fishery Ecosystem Issue
FEP	Fishery Ecosystem Plan
O&E	Outreach and Education Technical Committee

Where do we go from here?



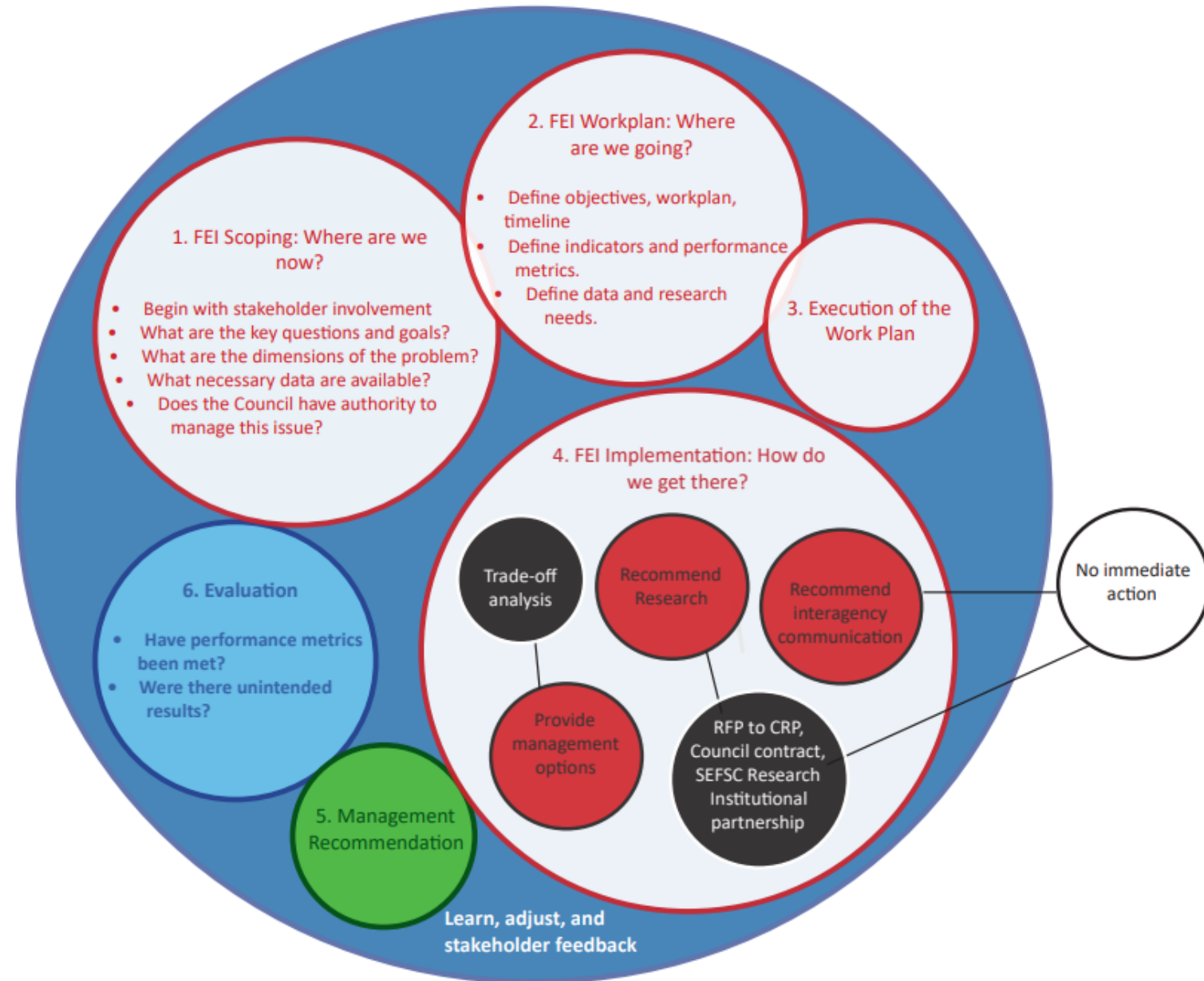
- Further modifications to FEP outline and FEI loop after test driving the pilot red tide FEI
- Define roles of participants
- Timing, outcomes, and exit ramps

FEP Document

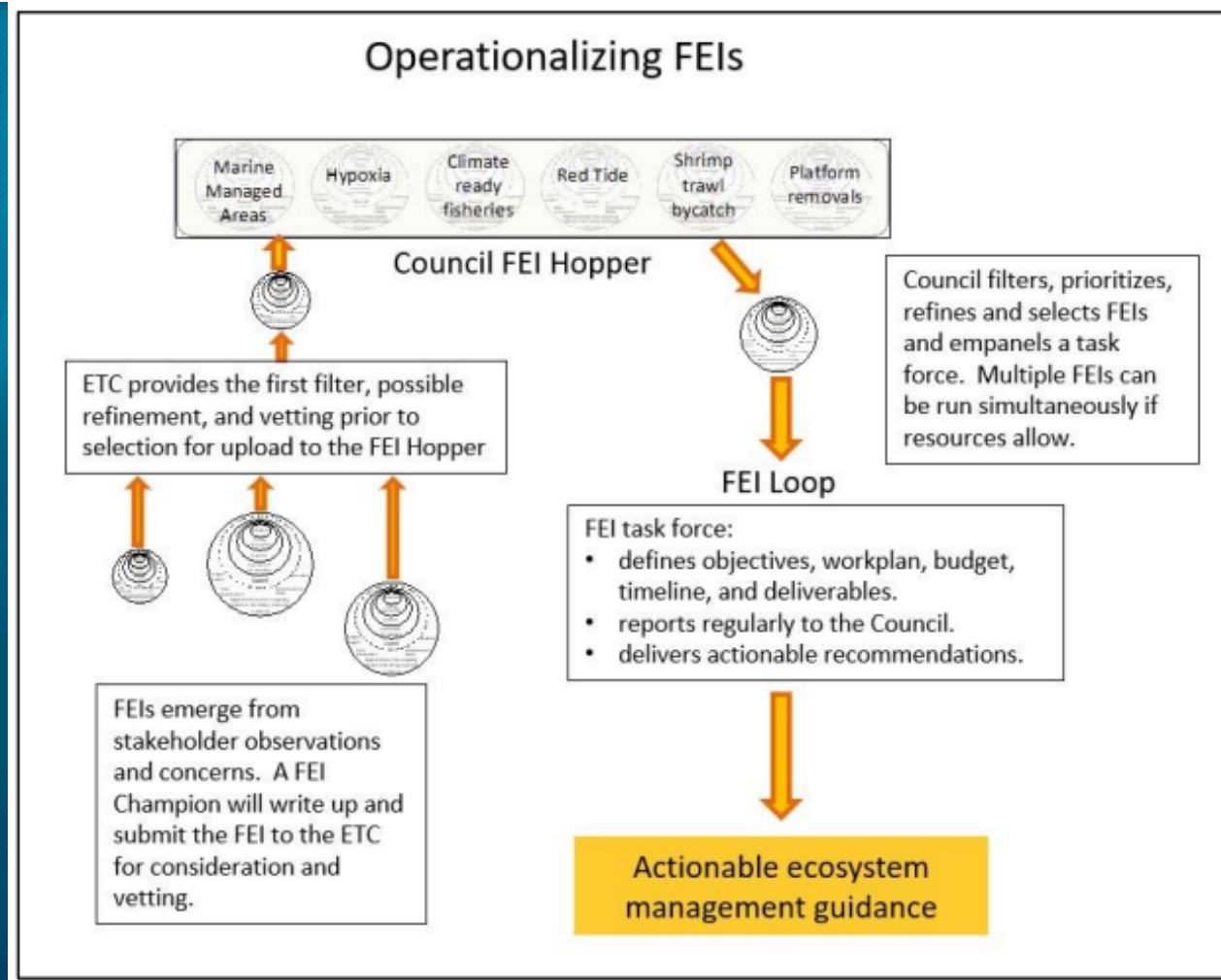


	Content
Ch 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction to national guidance to implement Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management Efforts into the Council process• Gulf Council's EBFM efforts• Overarching Goals and Objectives
Ch 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction to FEP• Introduction to FEIs• Protocol for prioritizing FEIs• Protocol for addressing extra jurisdictional issues
Ch 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communications Plan
Ch 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Intro to FEI Loop• Specifications of what information would come out of each step within the loop
Appendix	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• List of FEIs on the docket. The list would be revised at an interval determined by the Council. (e.g., annually, biannually)
Separate Modules	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Each FEI would have its own hyperlink or document outlining the issue and outcomes from each step of the FEI Loop. This would live within the Council's <i>Ecosystem</i> webpage

FEI Loop



Steps to operationalize FEIs



FEI Prioritization



- Finalize scoring system for FEI prioritization
- When does ranking occur?
 - Informed ranking - is light scoping needed first?
- Who gets to rank FEIs?
 - ETC, Council, O&E, relevant APs
- Stakeholder ranking of FEIs
 - Social science consultant

Roles of participants in FEI loop



- Council: FEI selection, review, provide direction
- ETC: prioritize FEIs, FEI loop test drive?
- FEI Task Force: drives the FEI loop in original LGL vision
 - Are FEI-specific task forces still feasible?
 - Other bodies of expertise?
- O&E: prioritize FEIs, FEI communications planning
- SEFSC/SERO staff: contribute data products, analyses, review
- Council staff: FEI loop management, drafting materials, integrating FEI components into documents that consider regulatory changes

FEI life cycle



- How often is the FEI list revisited by ETC and Council?
 - Evolving priorities and capacity
- When is an FEI loop complete?
 - Actionable outcomes
 - Offramps and exit strategies