



**GULF
COUNCIL**

August 2026

50 Years of Gulf Council Management

AN ENDURING SYSTEM IN A CHANGING WORLD

50 Years in Context

Mobile Phones
Widely Available

Rise of Satellite
Technology

Birth of the
Internet

Rise of Personal
Computing

Publicly Available
GPS

Globalization & Trade
Expansion

Social Media
Revolution

Rise of AI
and Big Data

1976

1980

1990

2000

2010

2020

2026

50 Years of Management



Managed Species

- 31 Reef Fish
- 3 Coastal Migratory Pelagics
- 4 Shrimp
- Spiny Lobster
- Red drum
- 140+ Corals

Stock Status Overtime

4 Stocks have been Overfished

- Greater Amberjack
- Gag (rebuilt 2014/ relisted 2021)
- Gray Trigger (2017)
- Red Snapper (rebuilding)

12 Stocks have Experienced Overfishing

- Currently None

50 Years of Fisheries



Leads the Nation in Recreational Landings

2nd Most Commercial Landings in the Nation

Generates the 3rd Most Commercial Revenue in the Nation

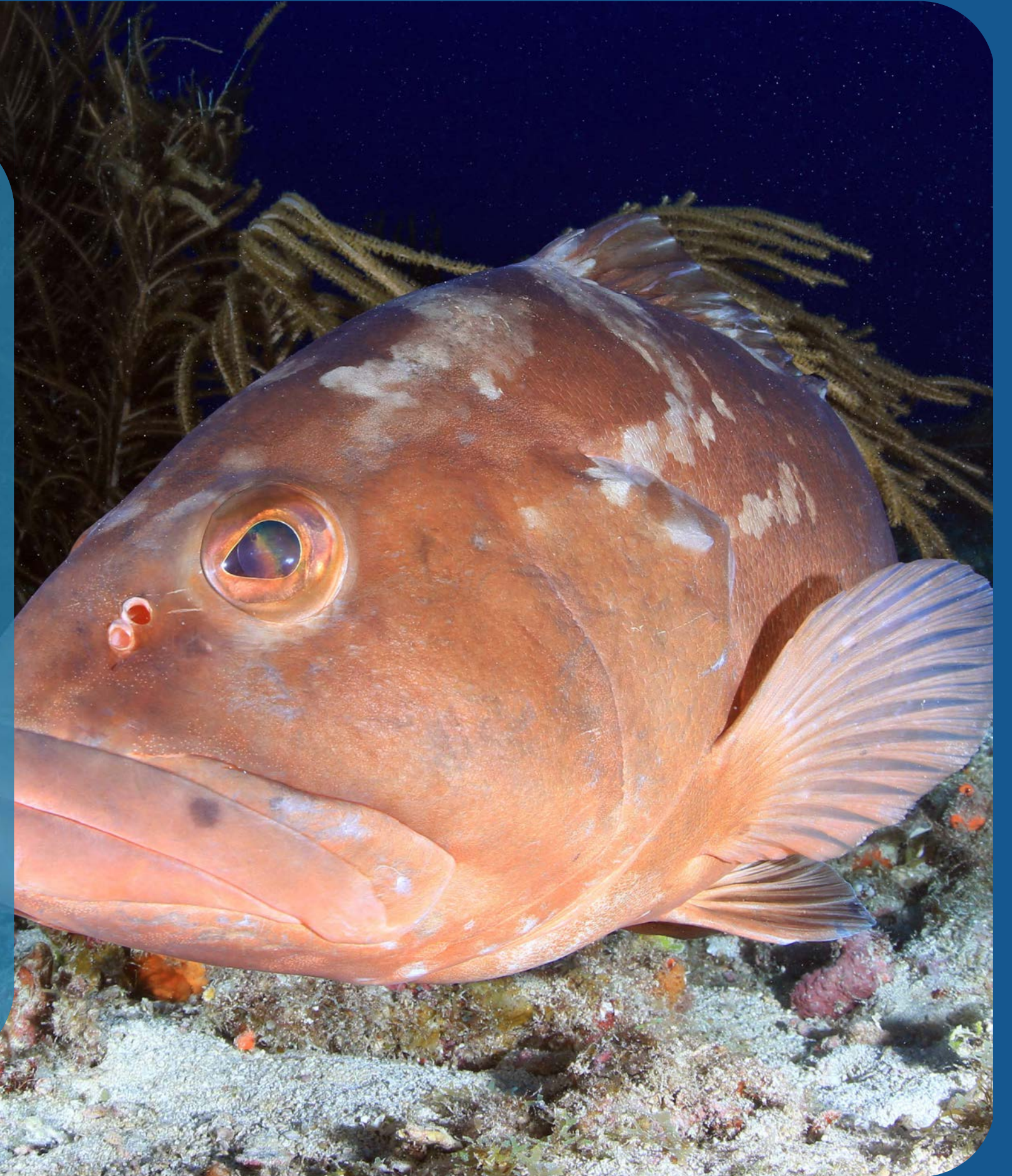


50 Years of Fishing Communities

Over 50 Years of Change, What Has Made the Council System Endure?

Warren Magnuson emphasized the value of regional management of fishery resources within a national framework.

Ted Stevens asserted that those who are closest to the fisheries are in the best position to make decisions about their management.



Regional Management Within a National Framework

Sustainable

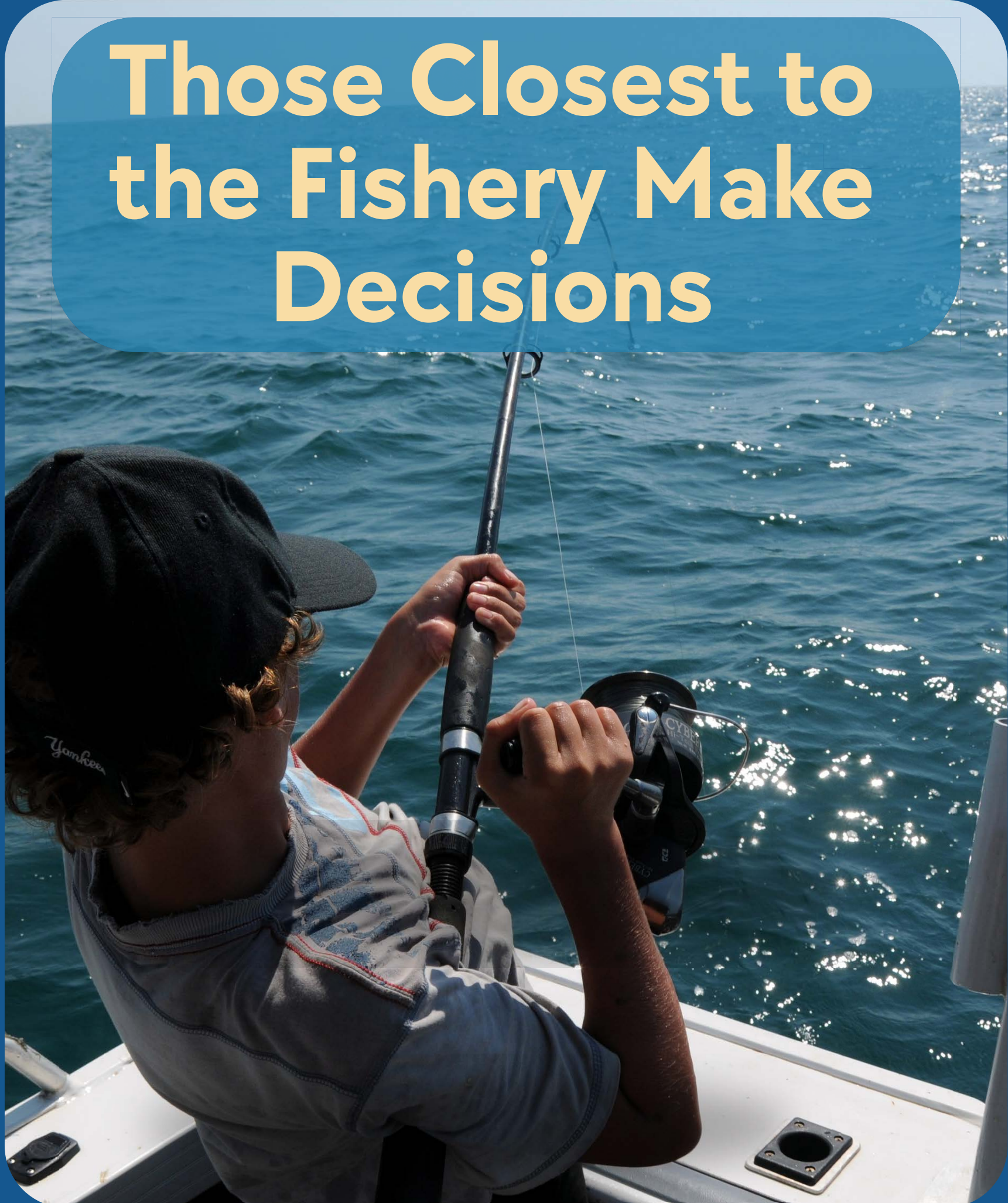
The Councils have played a central role in transforming U.S. fisheries into some of the most sustainably managed in the world, leading efforts to rebuild fish stocks, reduce bycatch, and protect essential fish habitat.

Adaptive

The Councils continue to evolve in response to emerging issues and changing conditions through the development of adaptive and innovative management approaches.

Science Based

The Council system relies upon and invests in collaborative science. Council SSC's recommend harvest limits to promote sustainable catch.

A young boy with curly hair, wearing a black baseball cap and a grey t-shirt, is seen from the back, fishing from a white boat. He is holding a fishing rod with both hands, and the line extends into the blue ocean. The background shows the vast expanse of the sea under a clear sky.

Those Closest to the Fishery Make Decisions

Stakeholder Driven - Transparent

The Council provides an open, inclusive forum for fishermen, scientists, managers and the public to collaborate on fishery management decisions.

This participatory process ensures that management reflects both science and on-the-water experience.

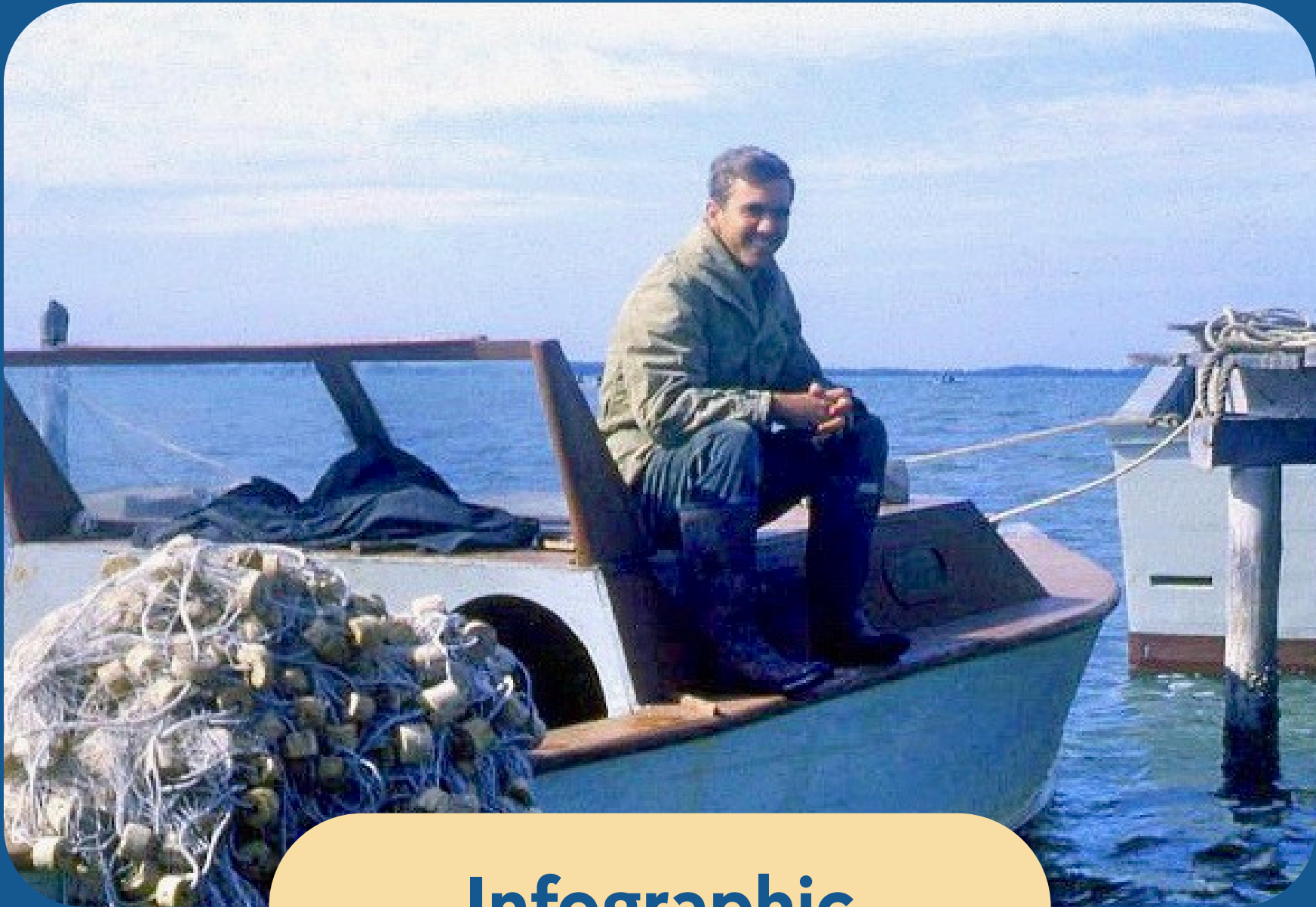
Regionally Tailored Management

The council system gives fishery managers the flexibility to use local input to develop management strategies appropriate for each region's unique fisheries, challenges, and opportunities. The Gulf has taken it a step further with state delegation.

Economic and Community Benefits

Commercial, recreational fisheries contribute millions of jobs and generate billions of dollars annually while also providing recreational opportunities and supplying food to the nation. They're also deeply tied to the culture and traditions of coastal communities.

Marking 50 Years



Infographic

Gulf Fisheries by the numbers.

- **Commercial and Recreational value by state**
 - **Trips, Landings, Jobs, Sales**
- **General, Gulf-wide facts**
- **Involving fishermen**



Photo Contest

Showcasing 50 years of Gulf Fisheries

- **6 photo categories**
- **5 categories judged by Council and Staff**
- **1 category judged by peers on social media**



GULF COUNCIL BY THE NUMBERS

#1 U.S. RANK
Recreational Harvest

#2 U.S. RANK
Commercial Harvest

REGIONAL IMPACT

91,565

TOTAL JOBS SUPPORTED

\$10,162,956,056

IN TOTAL SALES

SPECIES MANAGED

35

FINFISH SPECIES

5

CRUSTACEANS

140+

CORALS

AREA MANAGED

218,000

SQUARE MILES

17,000

MILES OF COASTLINE

INVOLVING FISHERMEN

Effective fisheries management depends on the knowledge and experience of the people who use the resource every day. The Gulf Council invests significant time and effort in reaching fishermen, gathering feedback, and creating opportunities for meaningful public participation to ensure that management decisions are based on local expertise.

REEL Input

ADVISORS

19

ADVISORY BODIES

179

PARTICIPANTS

FISHERMAN FEEDBACK

4,000

ON-THE-WATER
OBSERVATIONS ACROSS

17 SPECIES

COUNCIL MEETING TESTIMONY

2,377

PUBLIC TESTIMONIES
SINCE 2015

- **3,580** comments gathered through **246** hearings on 35 topics
- **9,000** written comments since 2017
- **100** anonymous voicemail comments since June 2025

The Council NET-work

200,000

WEBSITE SESSIONS
PER YEAR

150,000

YOUTUBE VIEWS
ACROSS 144 VIDEOS

18,000

SOCIAL MEDIA
SUBSCRIBERS

- **17,000** Facebook followers
- **304** YouTube subscribers
- **569** Instagram followers
- **7,000** email subscribers



FISHERY IMPACTS BY STATE



SCAN TO
LEARN MORE

TEXAS

COMMERCIAL RECREATIONAL

LANDINGS (POUNDS) TRIPS
51,082,163 1,042,587

JOBS
7,617 4,481

SALES
\$633,805,109 \$732,625,597

LOUISIANA

COMMERCIAL RECREATIONAL

LANDINGS (POUNDS) TRIPS
694,742,637 1,677,877

JOBS
22,727 4,516

SALES
\$1,522,561,804 \$659,006,618

MISSISSIPPI

COMMERCIAL RECREATIONAL

LANDINGS (POUNDS) TRIPS
253,658,459 5,548,861

JOBS
6,047 365

SALES
\$387,898,882 \$89,218,563

ALABAMA

COMMERCIAL RECREATIONAL

LANDINGS (POUNDS) TRIPS
26,558,054 5,800,992

JOBS
7,228 4,318

SALES
\$415,068,143 \$645,864,287

WEST FLORIDA

COMMERCIAL RECREATIONAL

LANDINGS (POUNDS) TRIPS
53,682,198 42,795,395

JOBS
6,235 28,030

SALES
\$748,216,853 \$4,328,690,200

COMMERCIAL

TOTAL LANDINGS
1,079,723,511 POUNDS

SUPPORTED

GENERATED

TOTAL JOBS

49,855

TOTAL SALES

\$3,707,550,791

RECREATIONAL

TOTAL TRIPS
56,865,712

SUPPORTED

GENERATED

TOTAL JOBS

41,710

TOTAL SALES

\$6,455,405,265

ABOUT THE DATA: All statistics on this page are from 2024 as reported by NOAA. Values for recreational trips and jobs are calculated by combining all states and all modes of fishing (shore, private, and charter) with the exception of TX shore. Values are based on all marine fisheries including both state and federally managed species. Values for FL, AL, MS provided by MRIP, LA values provided by LA Creel, TX values provided by TPWD. Imports not included.

Photo Contest: Showcasing 50 Years of Fisheries

Six Categories:

1. Best Recreational Fishing Photo
2. Best Commercial Fishing Photo
3. Best Historical Photo
4. Best Marine Life or Habitat Photo
5. Best Coastal Community Photo
6. Best Catch



Recreational

Photo Contest: Showcasing 50 Years of Fisheries

Judging

- 5 categories judged by Council and Staff
- Best Catch Category judged publically

Stats

- 181 photos submitted by 110 different people
- 92k social media views
- 5.9k Social media interactions
- 1.2k Best Catch votes
- +134 Social media followers



Snappa Slappa



Thought It Was a Shark

Reef Donkey



David vs. Goliath



**GULF
COUNCIL**

**50th Anniversary
Photo Contest**

Photo Contest: Best Recreational Photo



Congratulations Frank Harwell

Photo Contest:

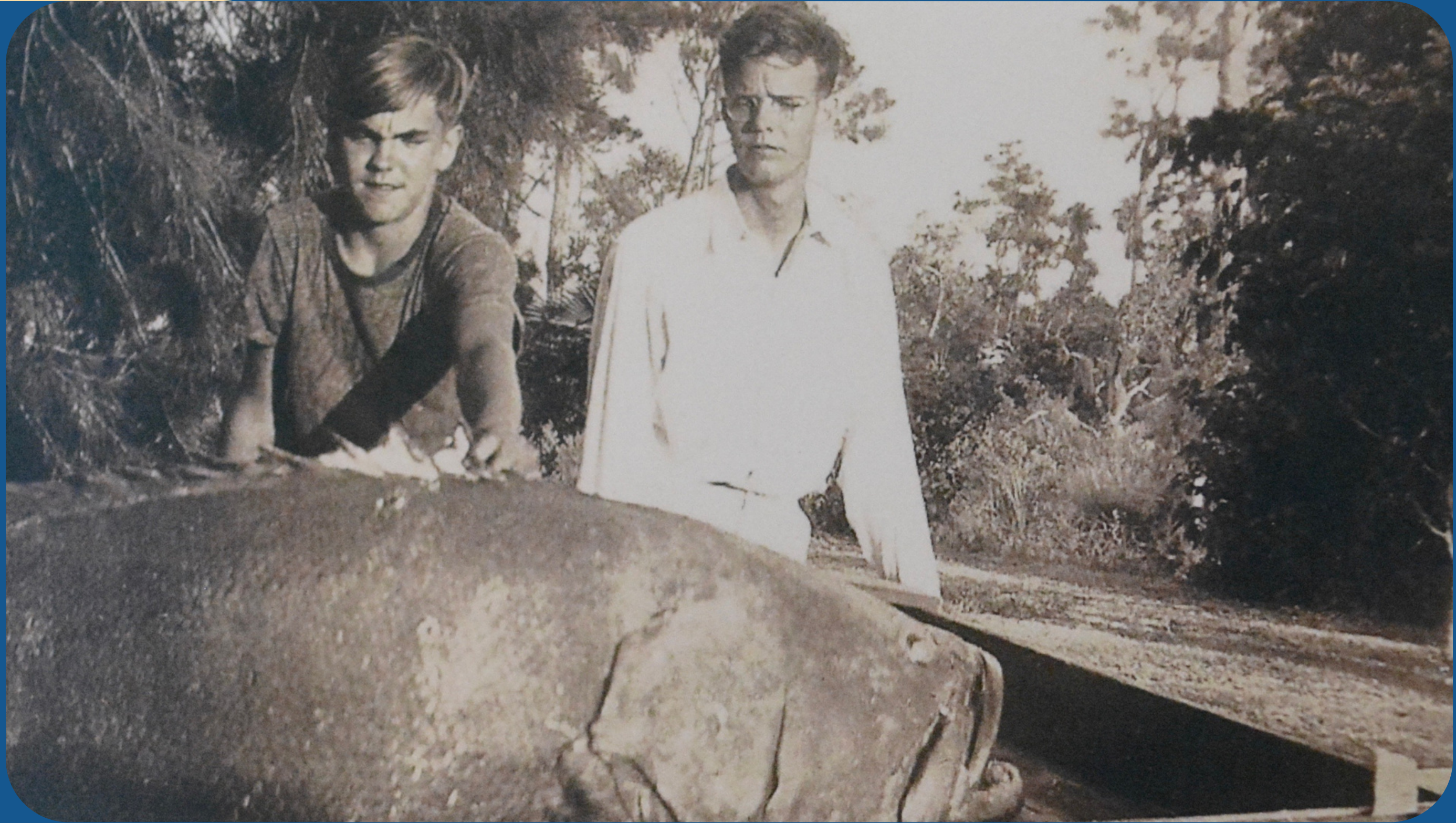
Best Commercial Photo

Congratulations

Alicia Paul & Joe Harp



Photo Contest: Best Historical Photo



Congratulations Wally Ericson

Photo Contest: Best Marine Life/Habitat Photo



Congratulations Robert Ellis

Photo Contest: Best Coastal Community Photo



Congratulations Barbara Hamlin

Photo Contest:

Best Catch Photo

**Congratulations Lacey Hughes
& Jaime Lee Wilson**



Looking into the Future

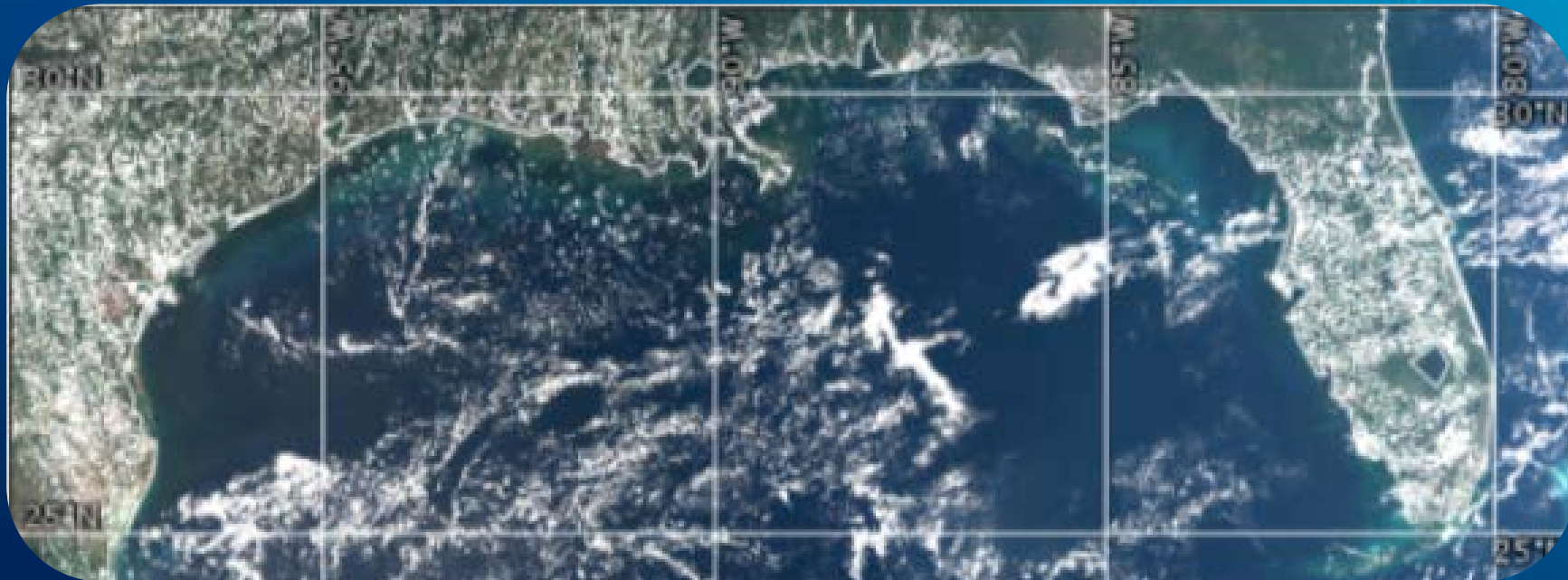
A Changing World

- A changing ocean and climate
- Evolving science and technology
- New and diverse stakeholders and ocean use
- Increasing demand on our fisheries



An Enduring System

- A system built to adapt
- Commitment to science, community, and stewardship





**What Do We Want The Next
50 Years of Council
Management to Look Like?**

A vibrant sunset or sunrise over a body of water. The sun is low on the horizon, partially obscured by dark, dramatic clouds. Bright rays of light emanate from the sun, reflecting off the water's surface and creating a shimmering path. The sky is a mix of deep blues and oranges, while the water transitions from a deep blue in the foreground to a lighter, more reflective blue near the horizon.

Thank You
