Tab M, No. 4(b)

Shark Depredation in US Gulf Recreational Fisheries

What do we know?
Where are we headed?

JM Drymon, TH Curtis, MJ Ajemian,
K Gibson-Banks, GA Casselberry, DM Coffey,
AJ Danylchuk, P Dominguez Rein-Loring, AE Jargowsky,
KD King, MP McCallister, EG Prasky, RJD Wells



Photo by David Hay Jones



What have we been working on in the past few years?

What do we want to work on in the future?

Where are we headed?



Photo by David Hay Jones

Drymon and Scyphers 2017
Marine Policy

Drymon et al. 2019
North American Journal of Fisheries Management

Drymon et al. 2020
Fisheries

Casselberry et al. 2022
Fisheries Research

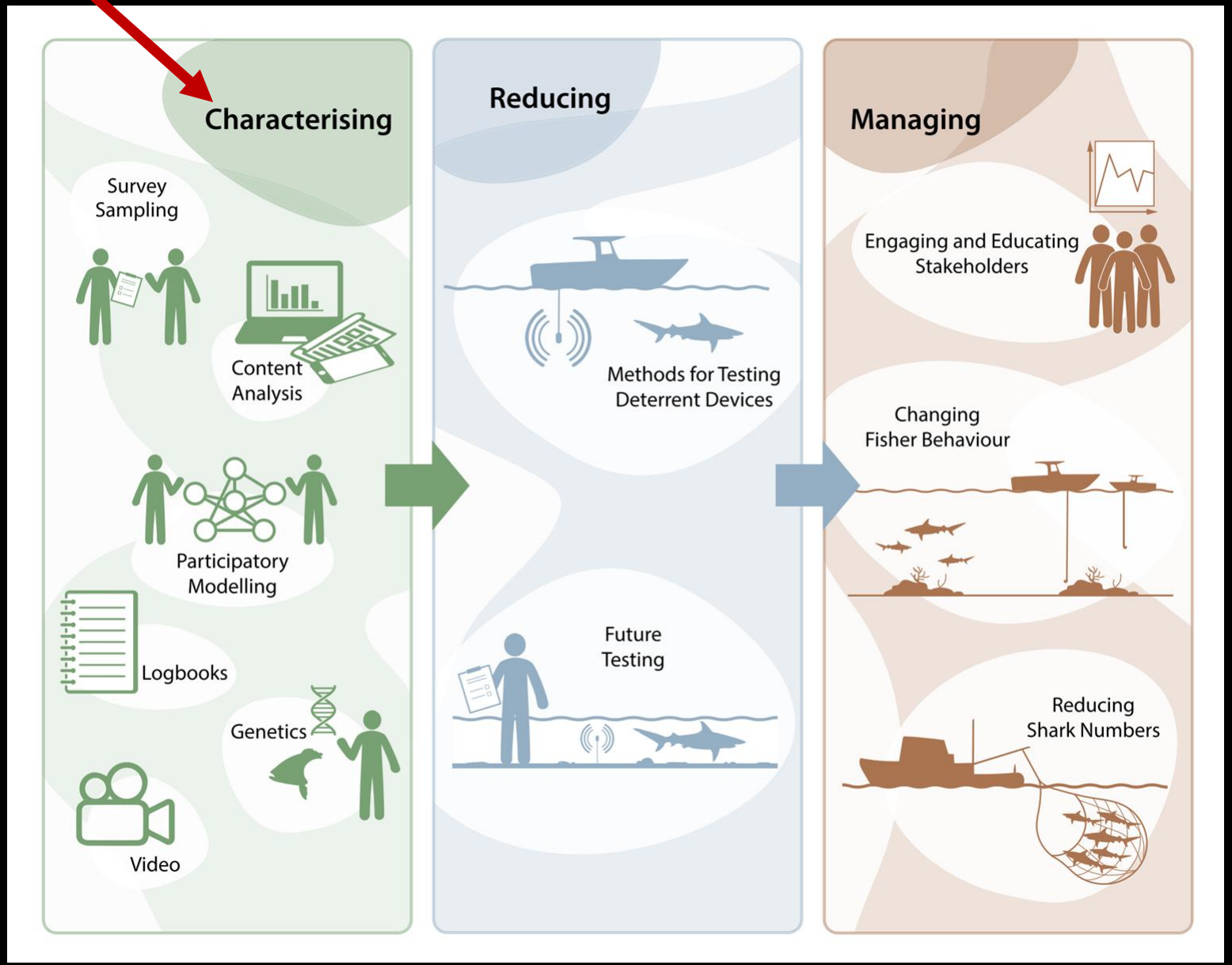
Prasky et al. 2023
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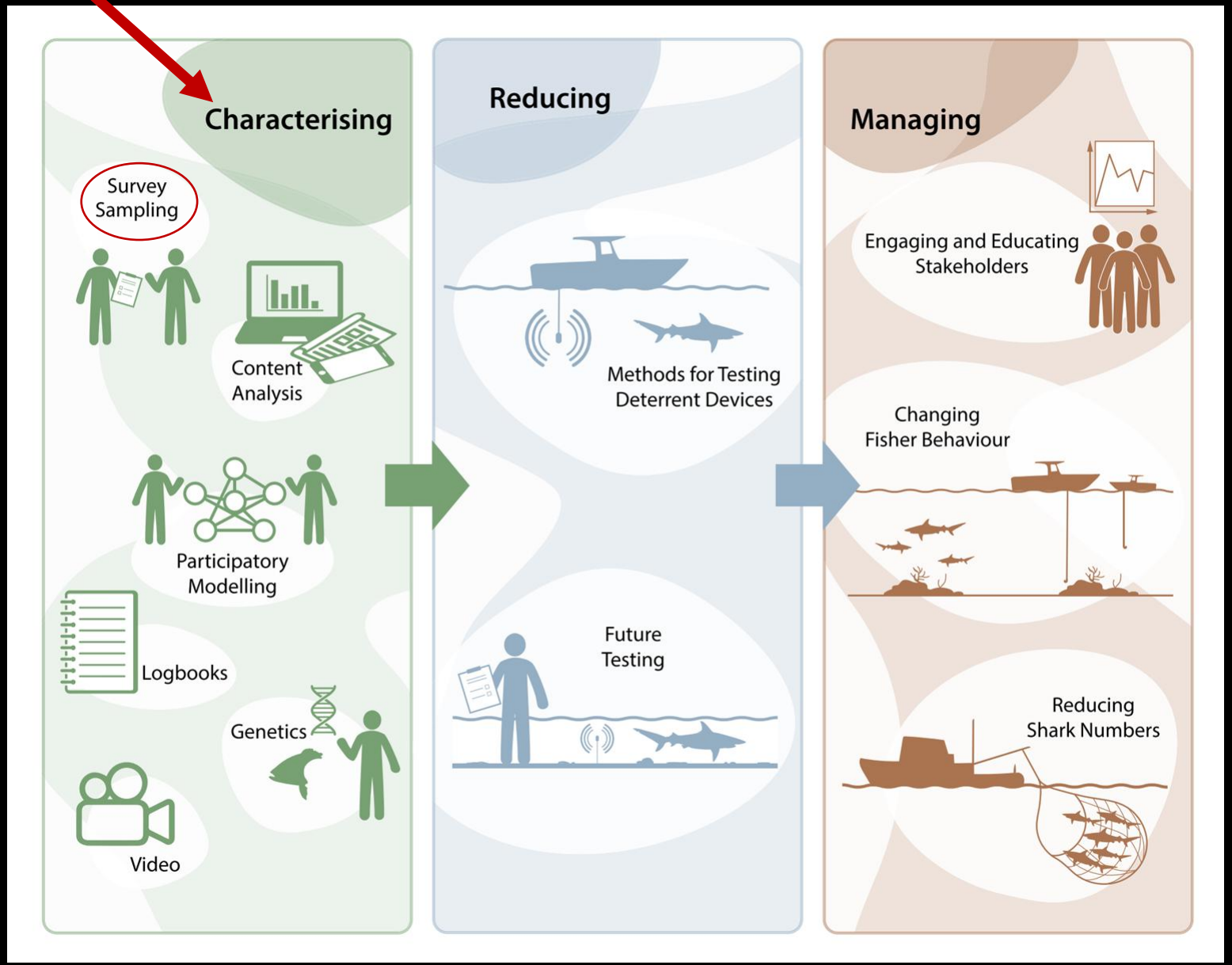
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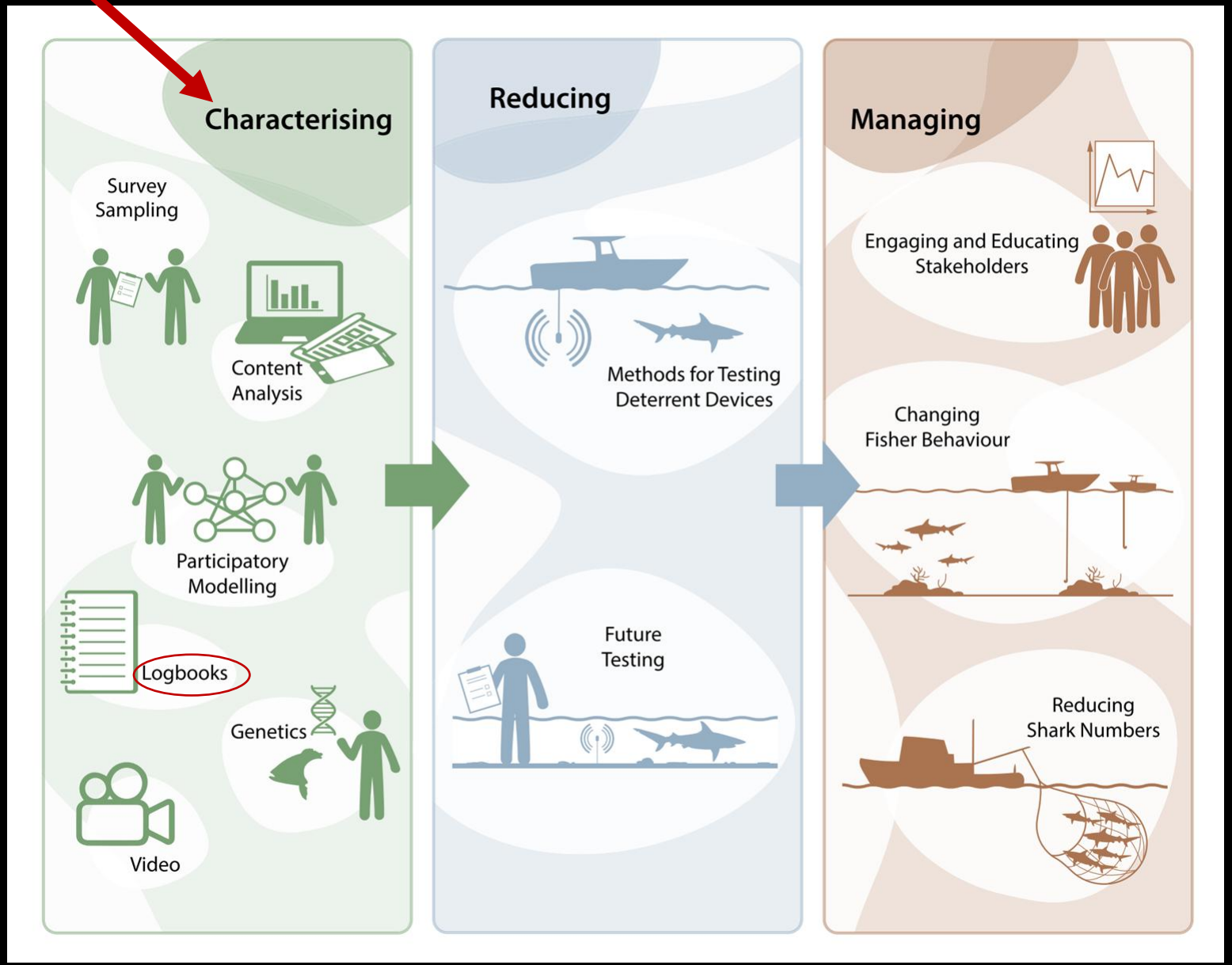
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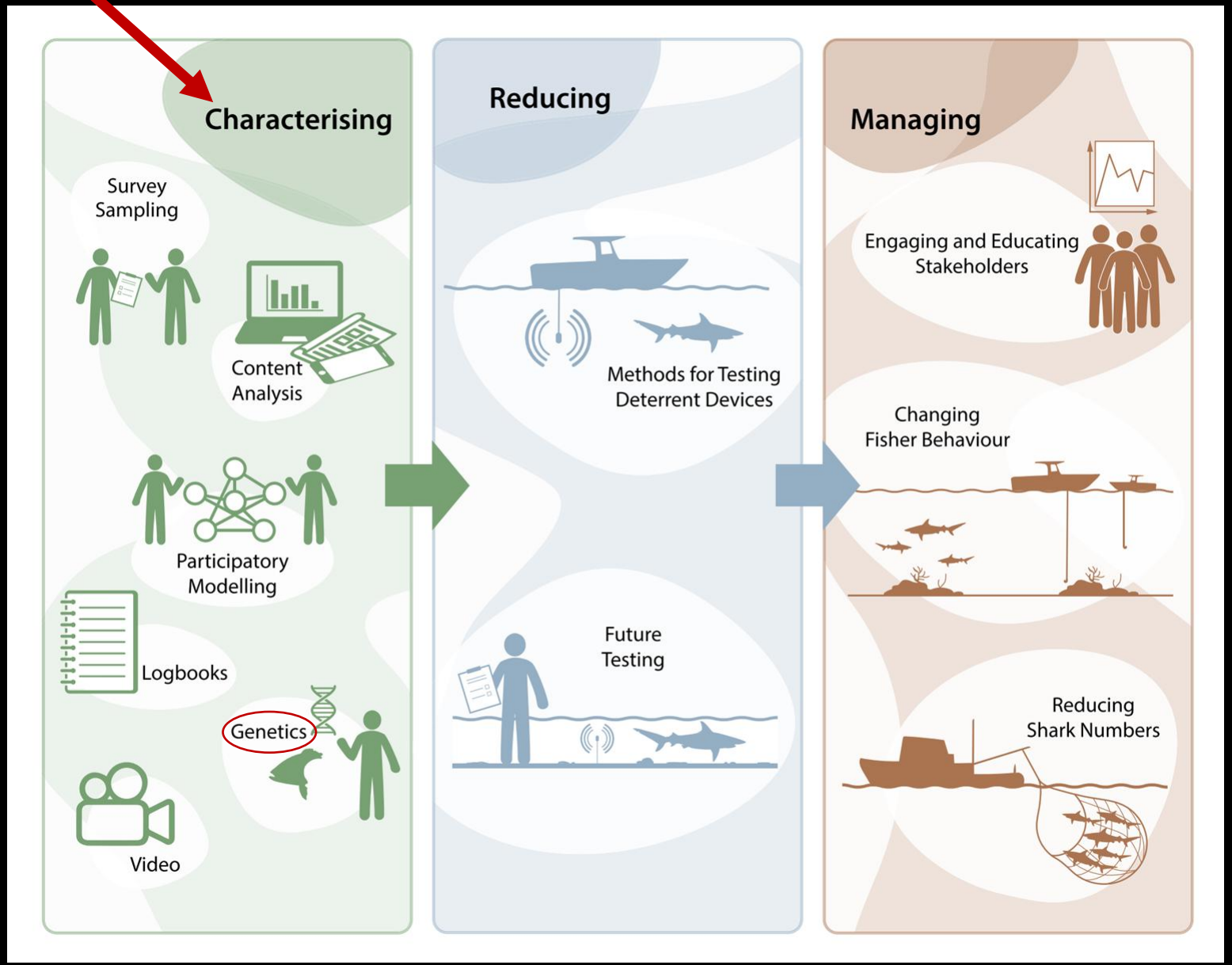
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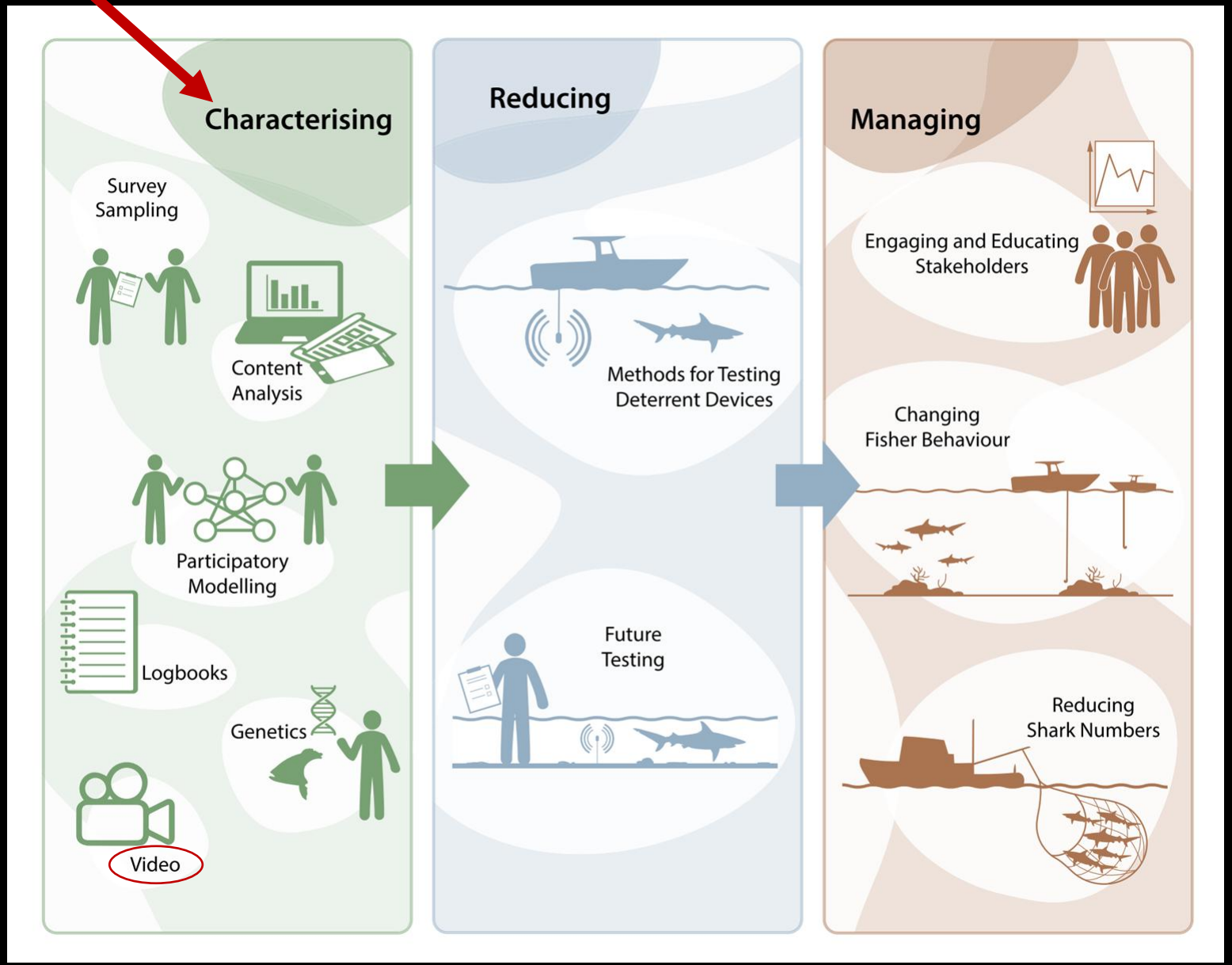
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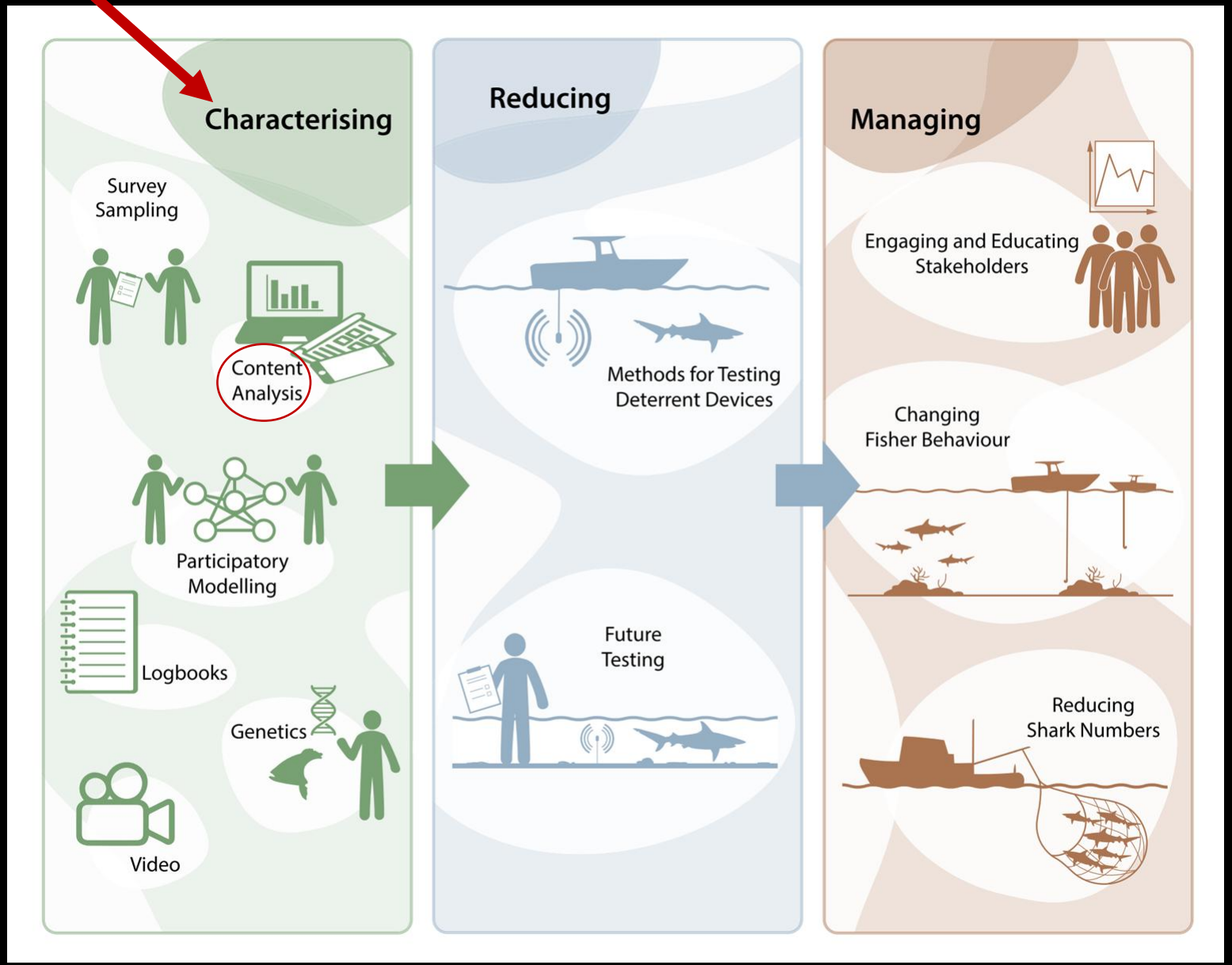
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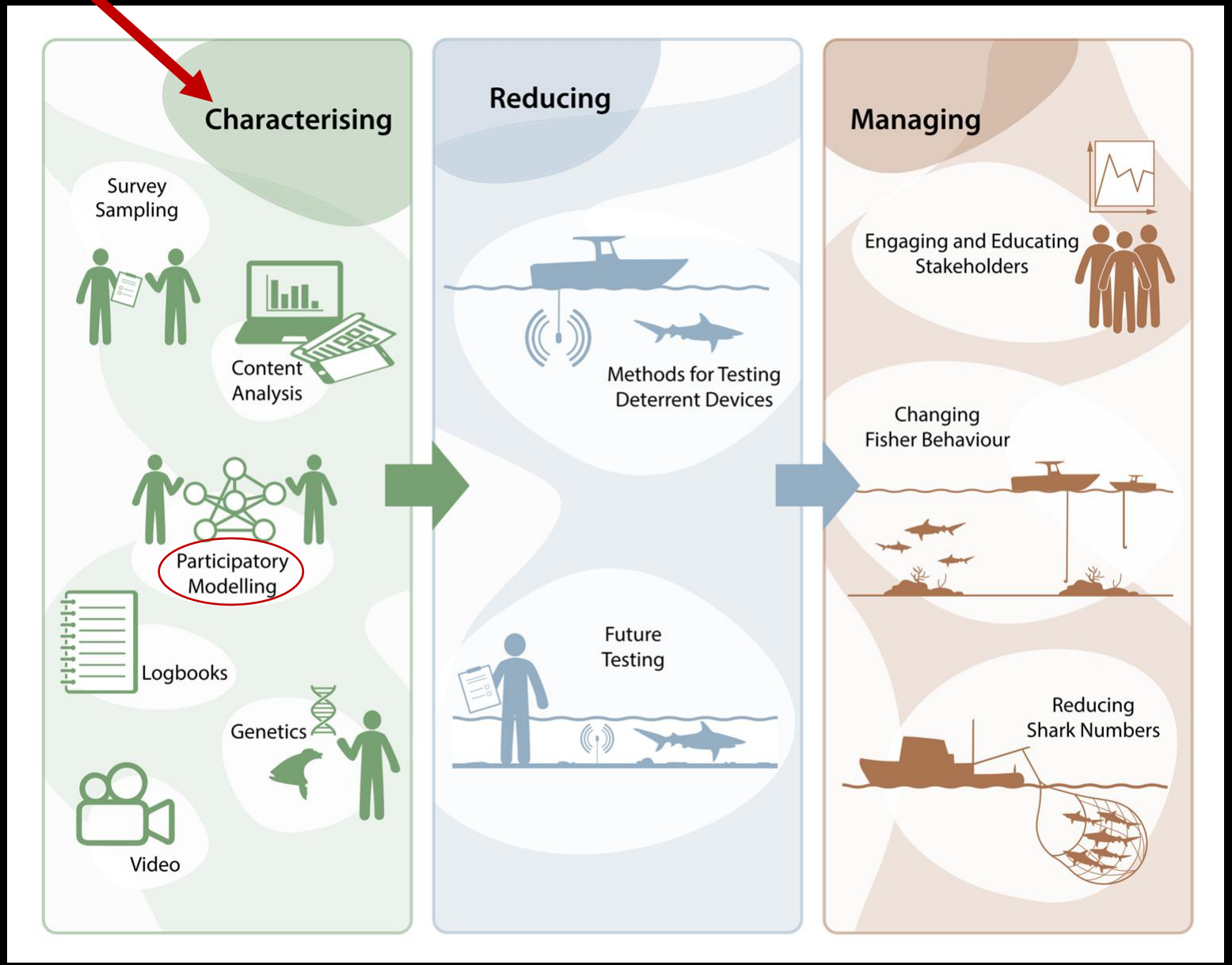
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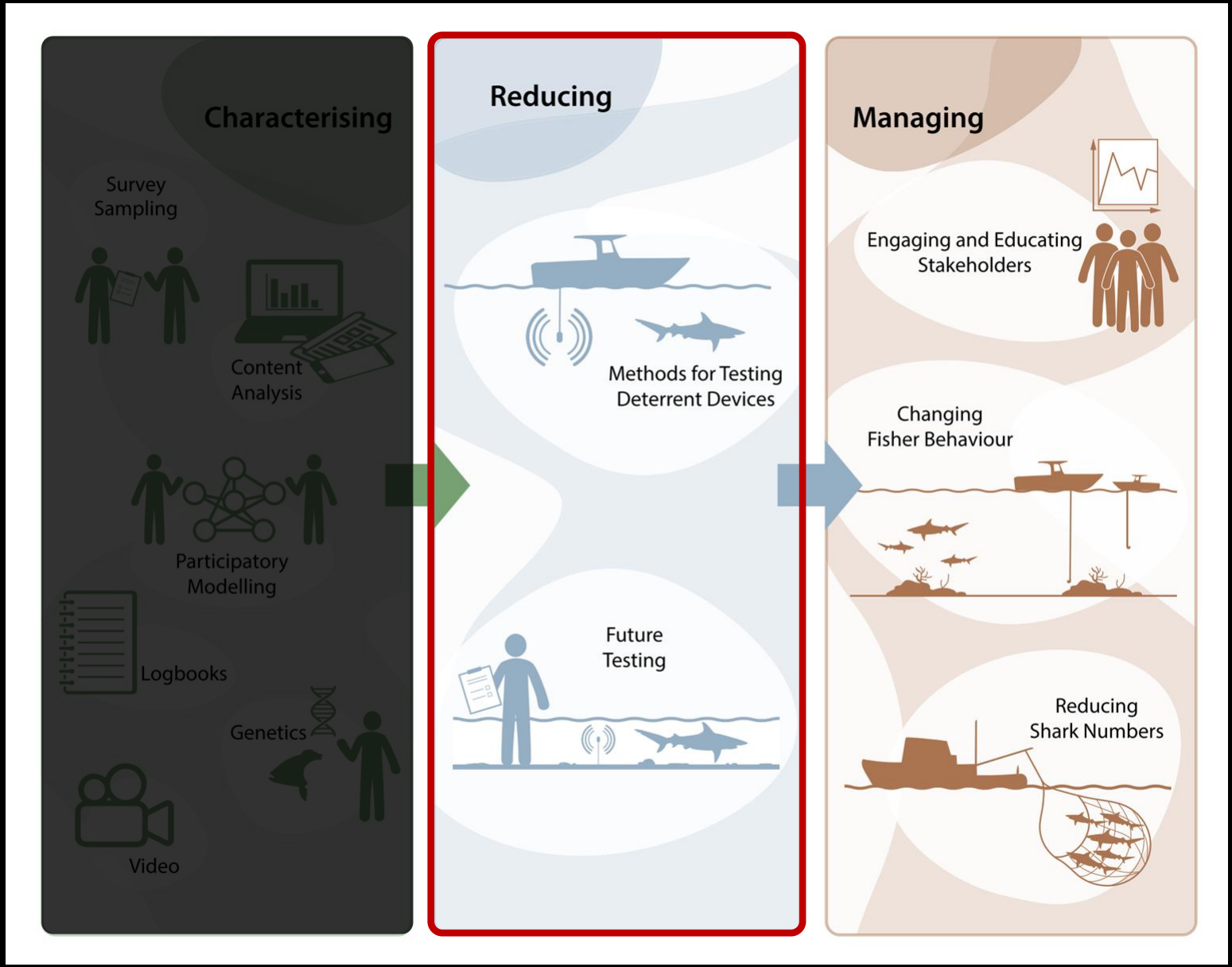
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After ten years, we're finally moving beyond simply characterizing the nature of depredation

Funding from NOAA Fisheries through the GSMFC to test a new deterrent, the SharkGuard



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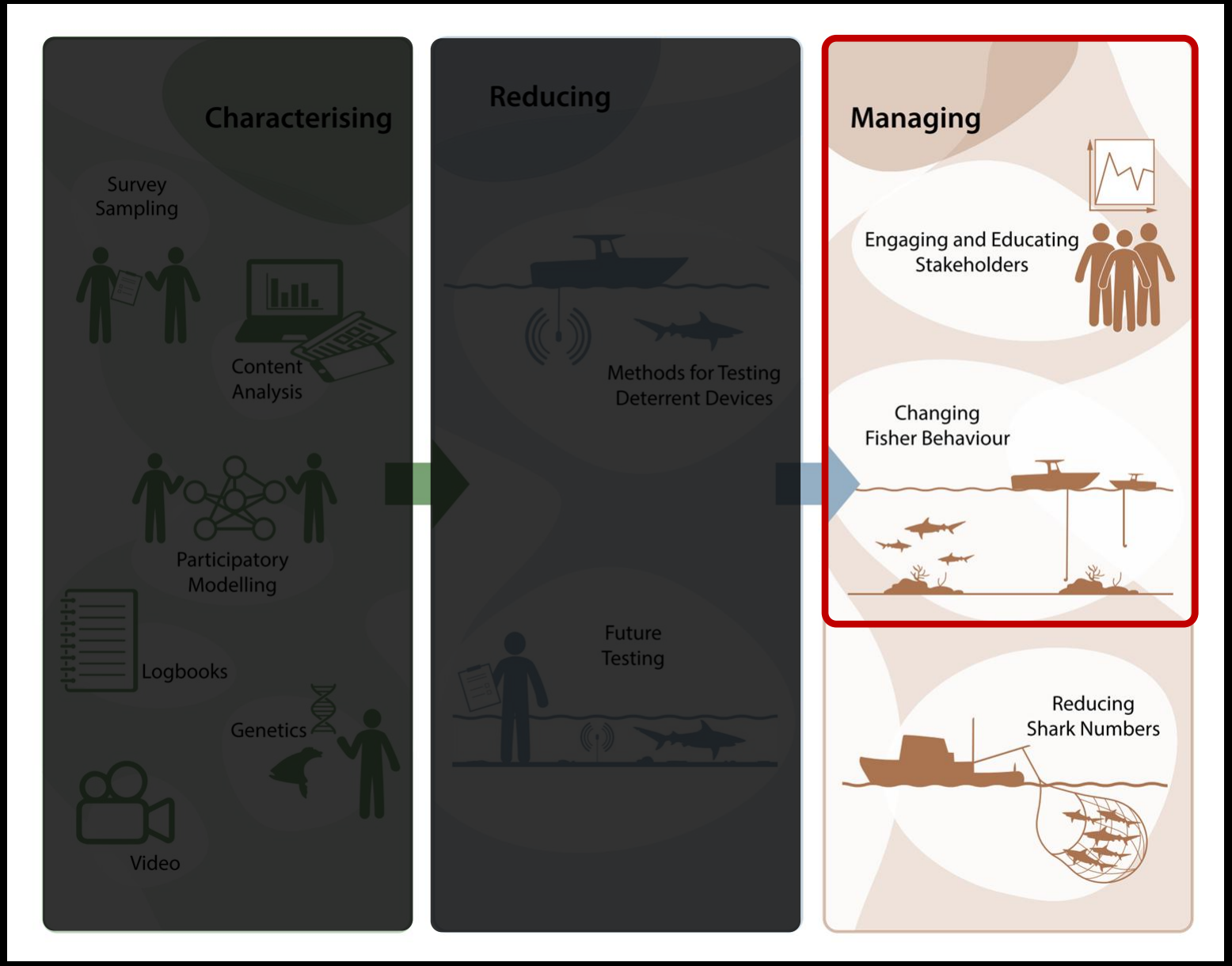
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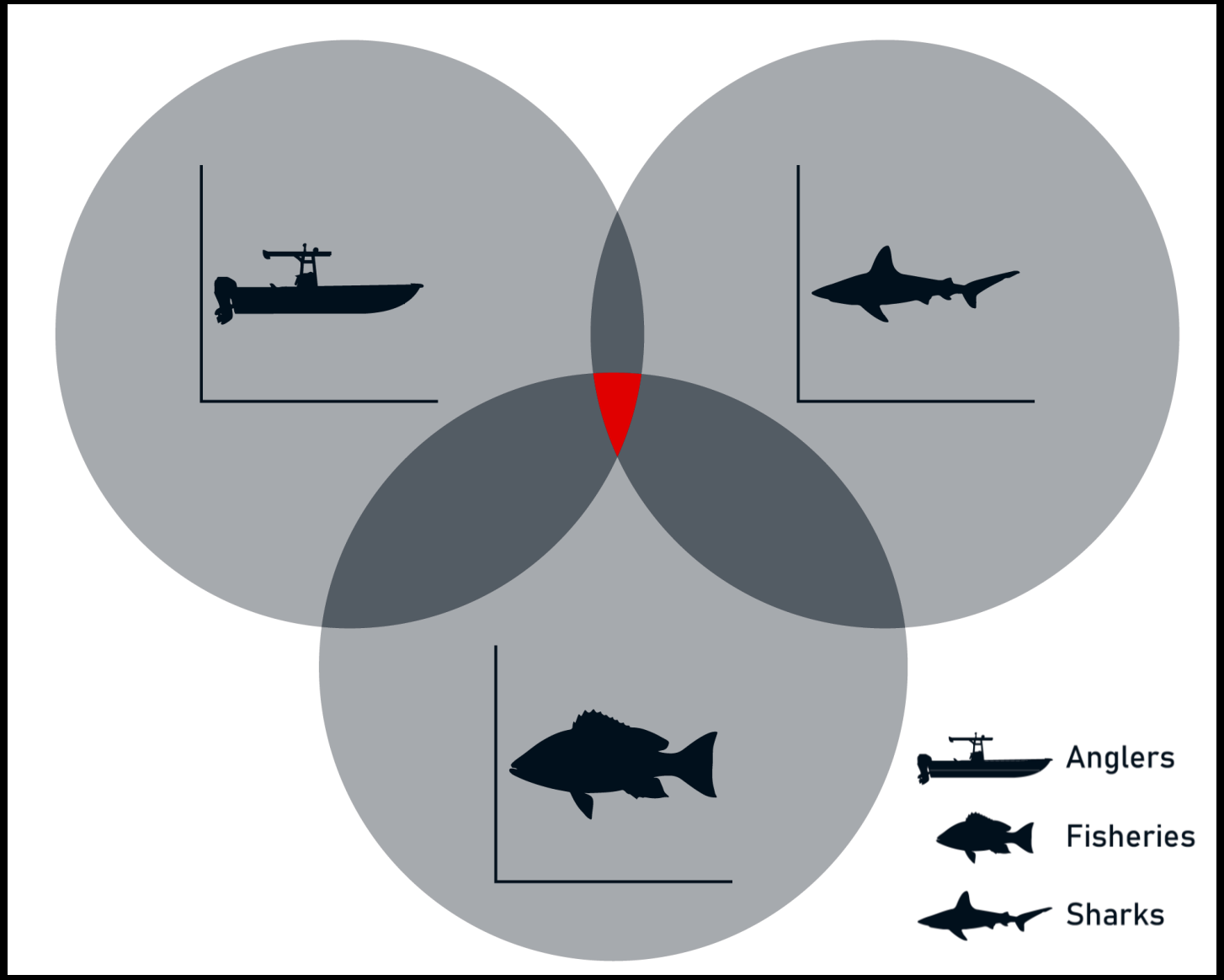
Working collaboratively with Dr. Ajemian at FAU and Drs. Boucek and Dowd at BTT to test this device across a range of fisheries



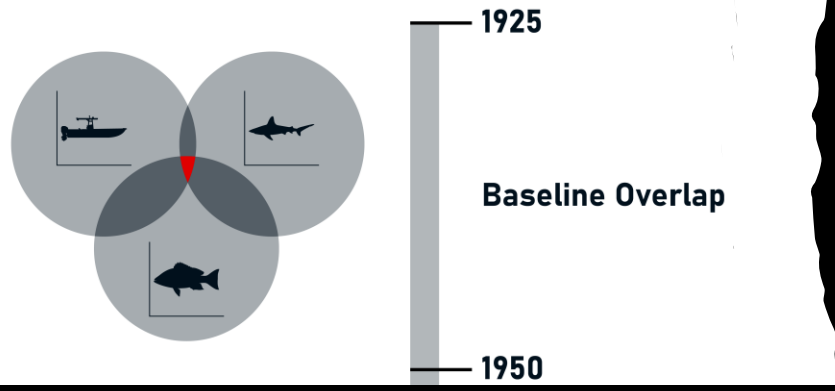
Managing: engaging with and educating stakeholders with an eye towards changing behaviors



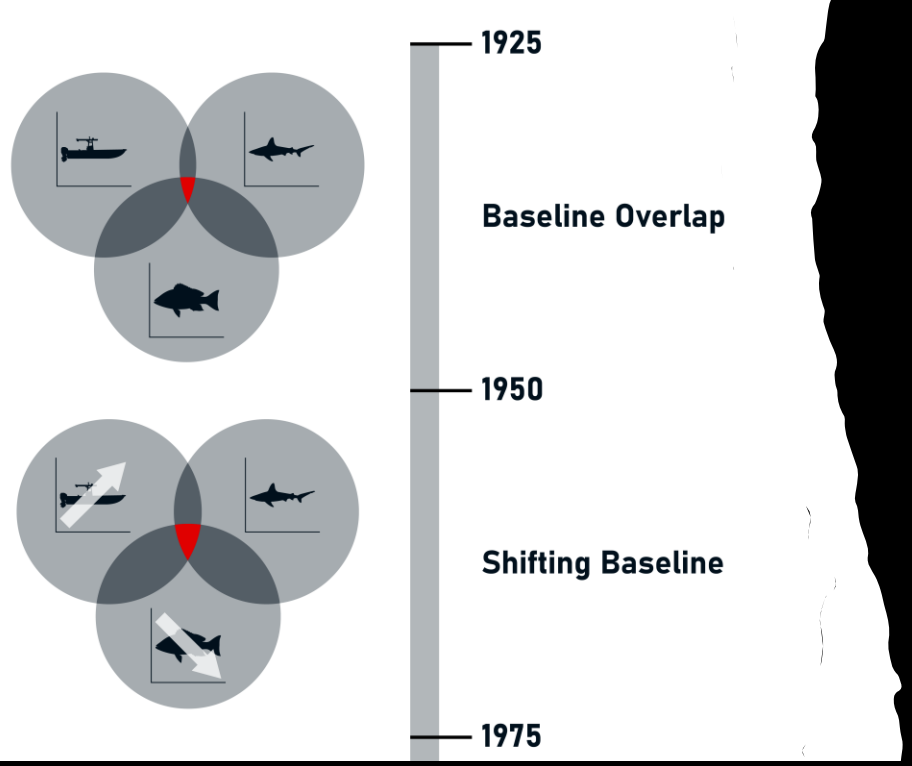
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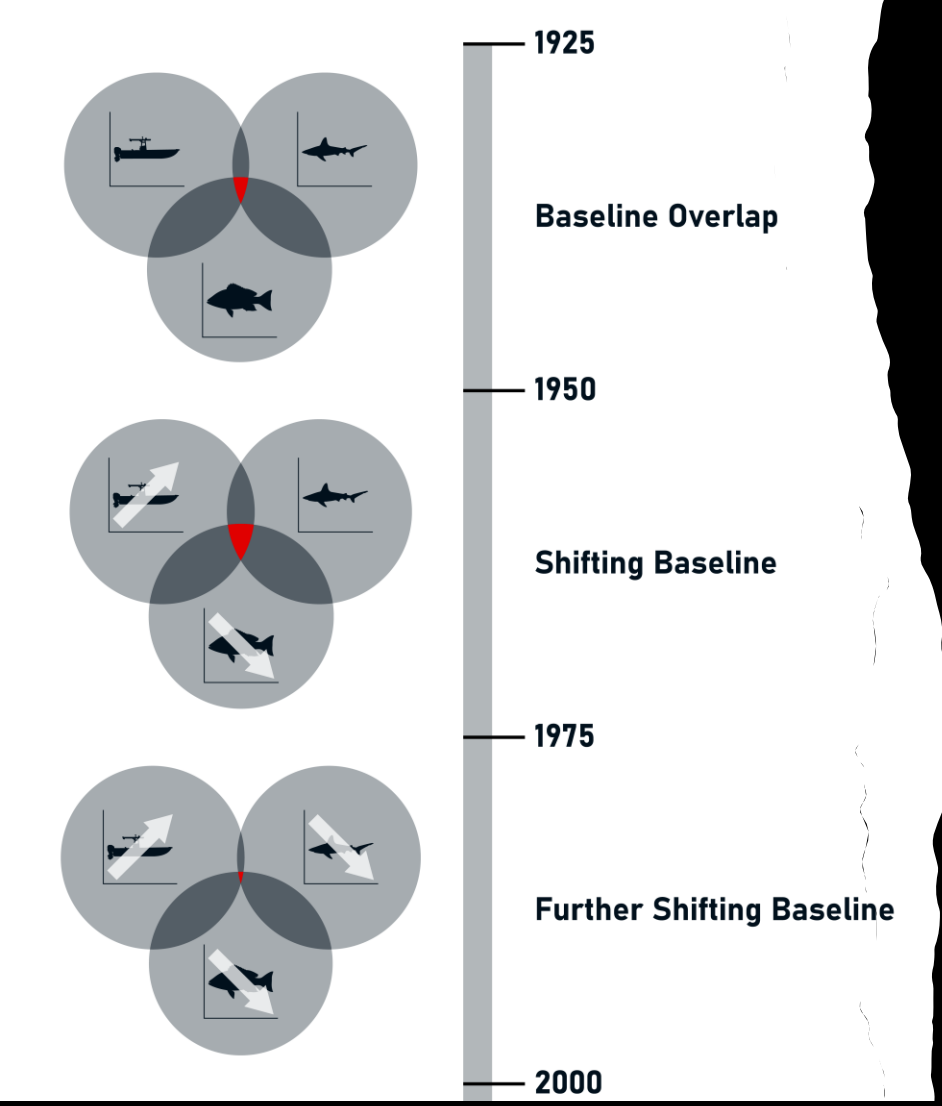


- Emerging shark fishery in Port Salerno, Florida
- Sharks are "the **scourge** of Florida waters"
- Overlap in a relatively untouched ecosystem



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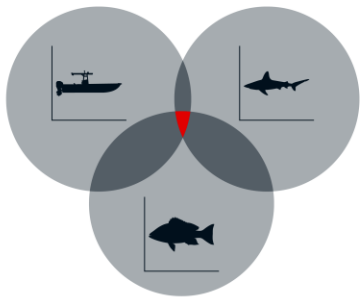
- Post WWII, shark fisheries were no longer needed
- Sharks are **feared** (the Jaws effect)
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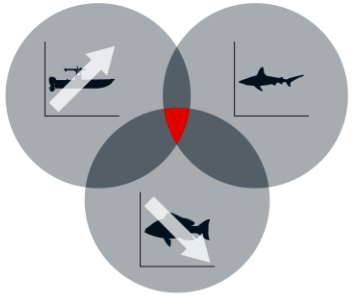
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- Shark populations are an "underutilized resource"
- Sharks are **targeted** for the fin trade
- Overlap likely at an all-time low



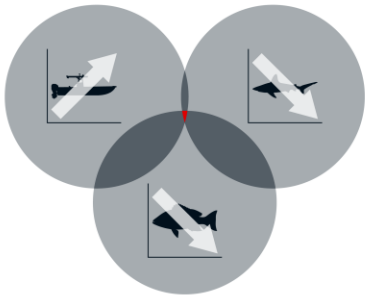
1925

Baseline Overlap



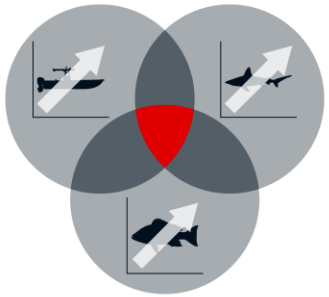
1950

Shifting Baseline



1975

Further Shifting Baseline



2000

Lifting Baseline

2025

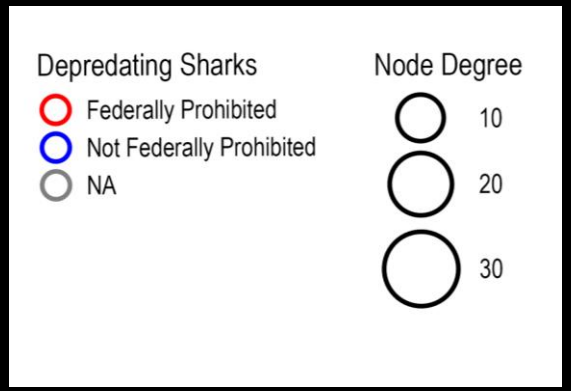
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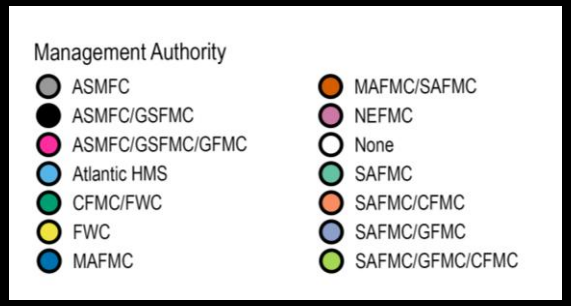
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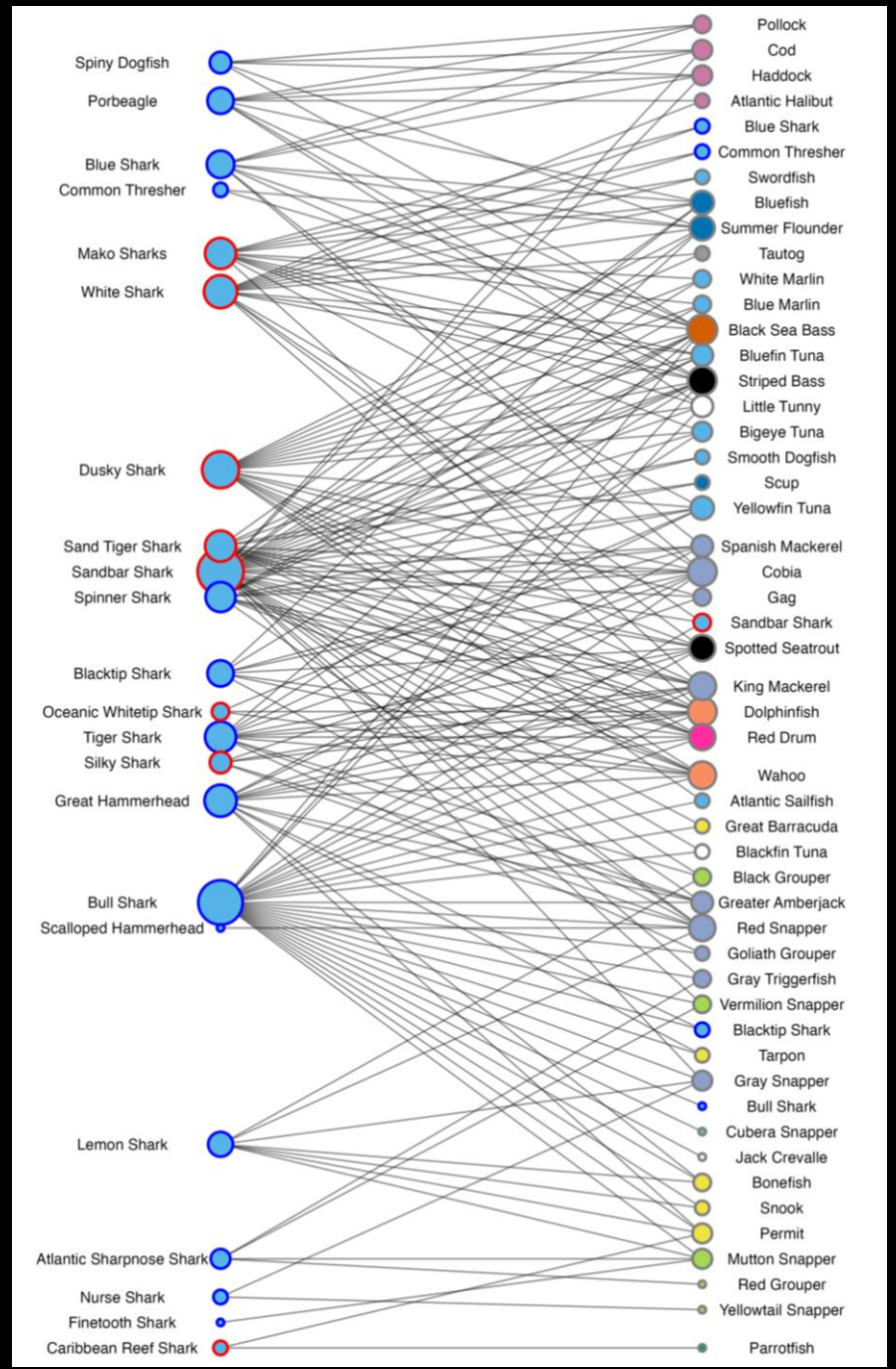
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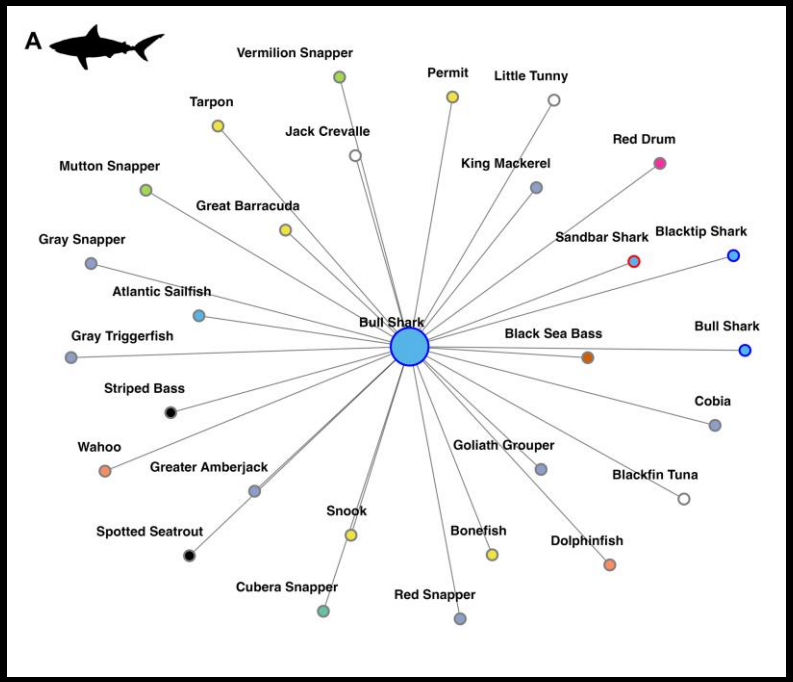
- Shark populations are rebuilding
- Sharks are **revered**
- Overlap likely at an all-time high

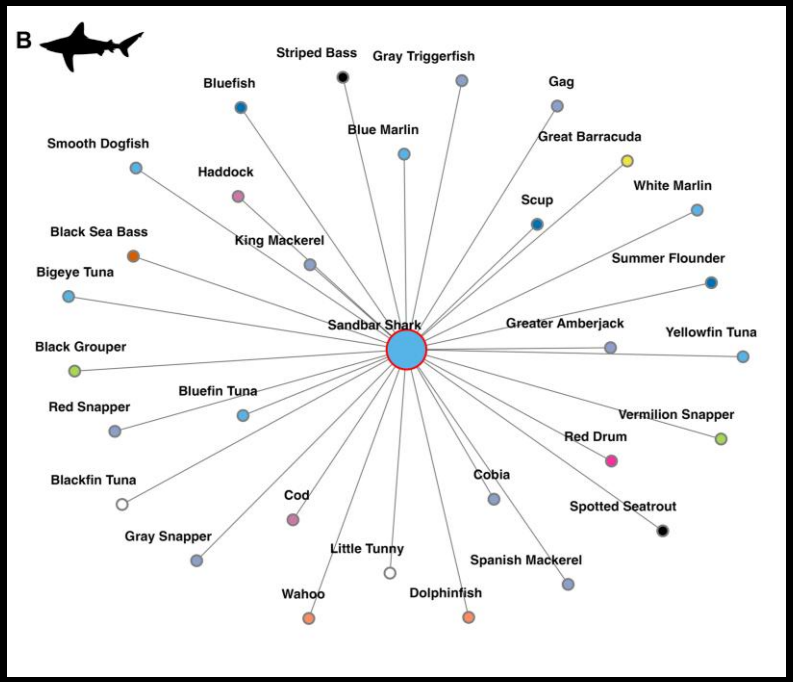
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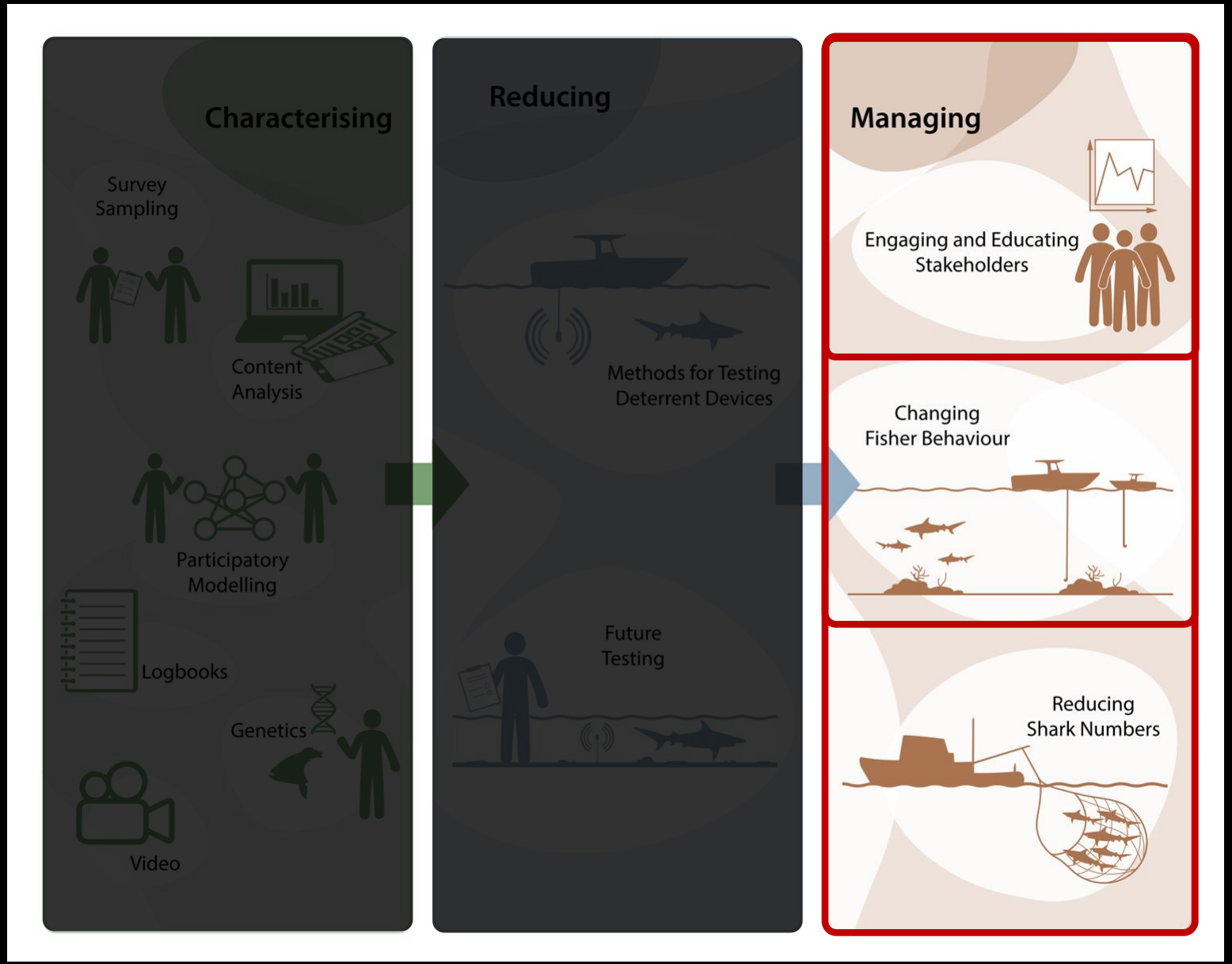
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What now?

The message is important
Focus on the species we can do something about

Encourage behavior changes
Avoiding highly fished areas and moving once taxed are simple ways to reduce depredation

Be open to sustainable harvest
If new markets open for sustainably managed shark species, we want to engage in those conversations



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Thank You



Photo by David Hay Jones