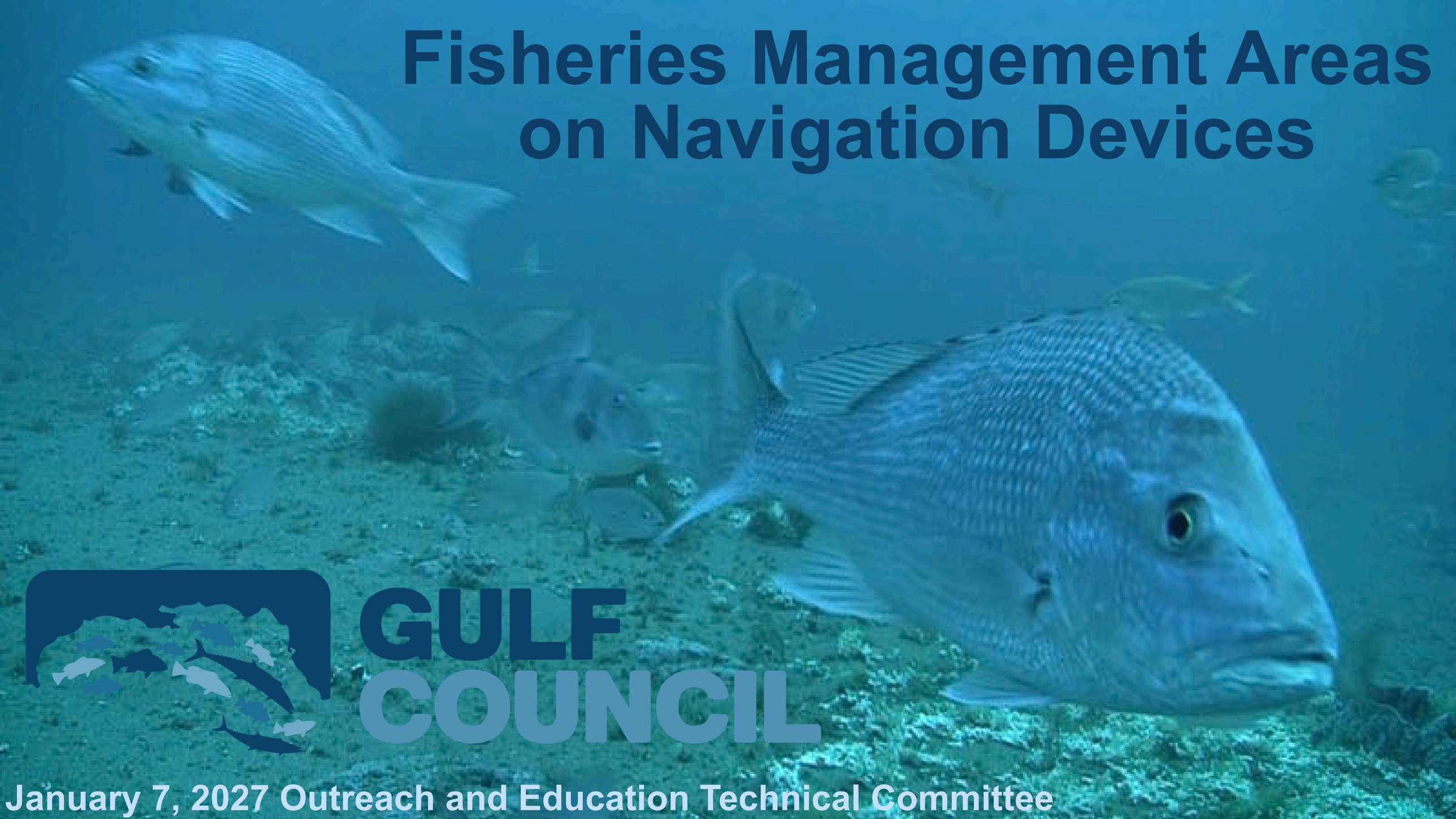
Fisheries Management Areas on Navigation Devices



GULF COUNCIL

January 7, 2027 Outreach and Education Technical Committee

History:

December 2024 – O&E supported staff in exploring a path to adding management areas and boundaries to commercially available mapping tools.

January 2025 – Council warned staff to have low expectations for success

December 2025 - O&E suggests Council draft a letter to NOAA

January 2026 - Directed staff to send a letter to NOAA Fisheries encouraging NOAA Fisheries to develop a system for providing appropriate marine regulatory areas and boundaries to companies producing marine charts and mapping units.





Directly Sharing Boundaries/Areas

What type of file to use?

GPX files are the universal standard for most marine navigation devices

- No polygon option.
  - Waypoints - not useful
  - Tracks - series of waypoints, HUGE amount of memory
  - Routes - best solution for simple boundaries.
    - Large boundaires would use lots of memory
    - Older plotters severely limit number of points
    - Would need to break up larger boundaries (9-mile line) into smaller increments

KML/KMZ files are commonly used for boundaries in Google Earth

- Not useful for marine navigation devices

Sharing Boundaries/Areas Directly

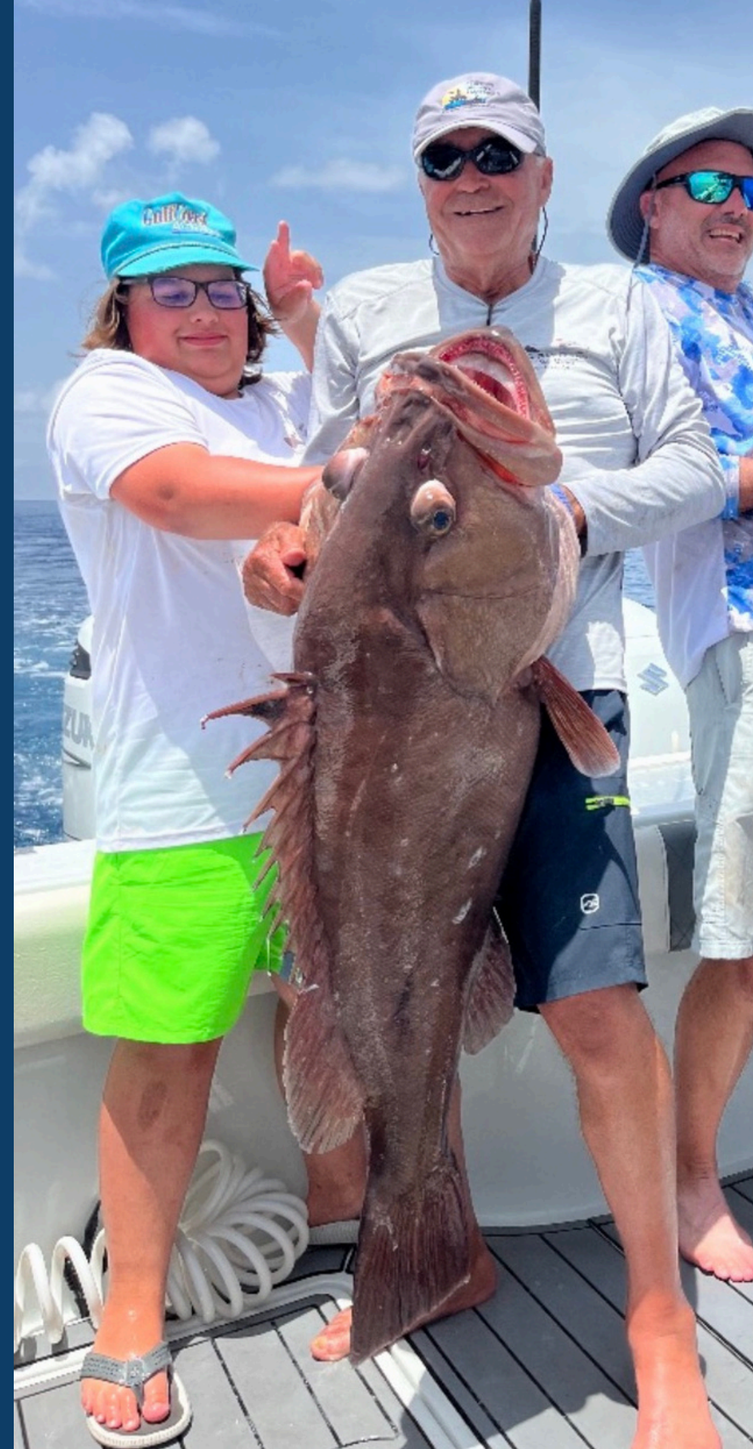
Installation

App Imports

- Some apps only work on phones/tablets
  - Files would have to be imported from phone/tablet file manager
- Mechanism for adding files via app are manufacturer specific

MicroSD Card

- Most marine navigation devices allow effective import via microSD card
- Mechanism for saving files are manufacturer specific



File Basics

- What file types should we share? GPX/KLM/KLZ, other?
- How should when break them into managable pieces?
  - invidual areas?
  - how to manage large boundaries
    - 9-mile (CMP)
    - Reef Fish Management
    - Commercial King Mackerel Zones
    - Longline Boundary
    - Texas Closures
    - Shrimp Red Snapper Bycatch Areas

Outreach / Education Approach?

- How should we educate users to improve success in transerfing files onto marine navigation units?

