

Development of Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management Plan

Phase I: Prepare Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management Plan. Establish Goals and Objectives for EBFM. Establish 3 Ecosystem Production Units, GOM, GB and SNE. This action will hopefully have a Categorical Exclusion (CE) from NEPA (1 year).

Phase II: Prepare Amendment 1. Identify management and scientific requirements to implement EBFM. Establish Monkfish and skate complex as part of Multispecies Plan. Consider predation and competition and consider new reference points based on new modeling approaches for the new Multispecies complex. This action will have an EIS (2 years).

Phase III: Prepare Amendment 2. Implement Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management. Implement quota based management in all 3 Ecosystem Production Units (EPU, i.e. GOM, GB and SNE). Allocate all fishery resources (9 current FMPs) to each EPU (new spatial management). Establish accumulation limits, transferability requirements, and permitting and monitoring requirements, etc. (identified in Phase II). This action will have an EIS (3 years).