



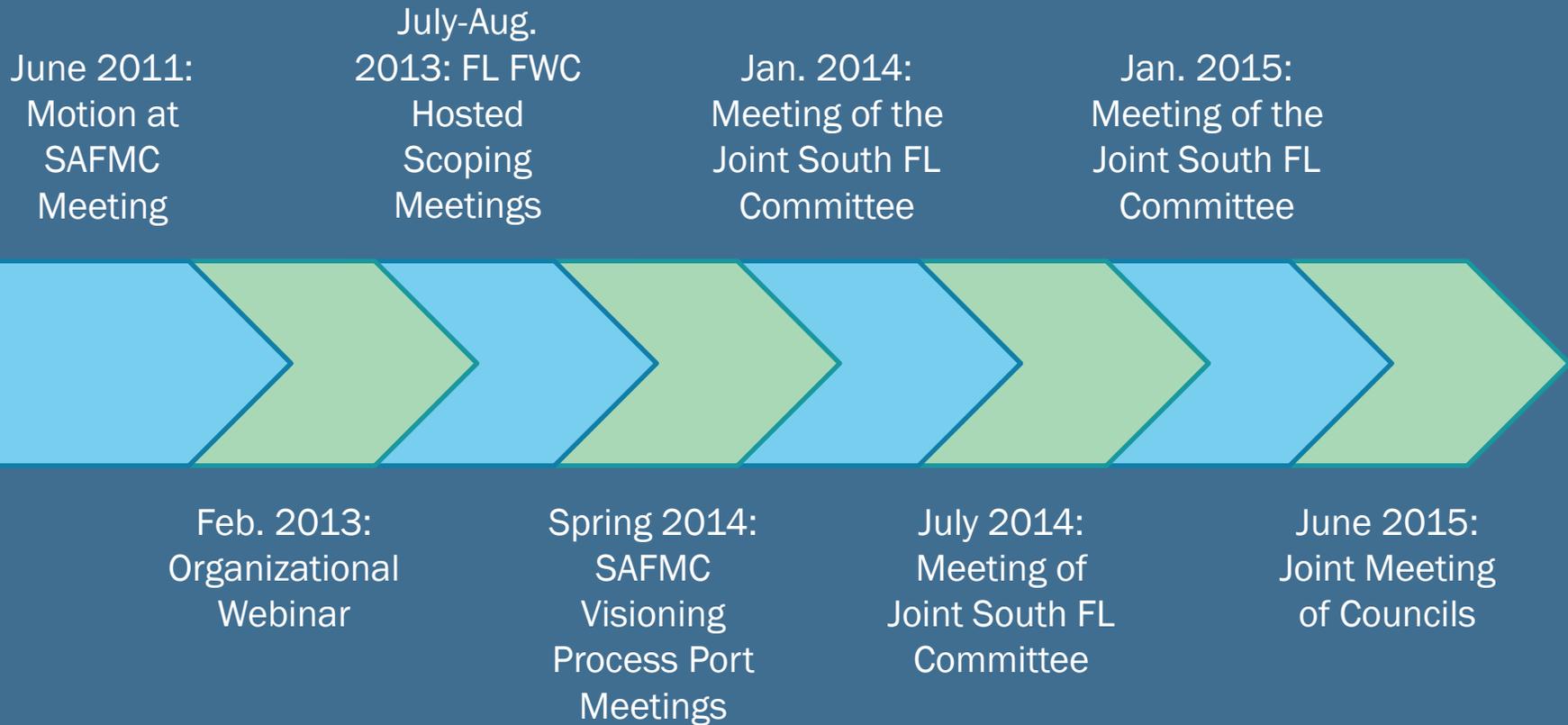
## Addressing Fisheries Management in the South Florida Region

# Catalyst for Action

*Motion at the June 2011 South Atlantic Council Meeting:*

Send a letter to the Gulf Council and the NMFS requesting the formation of an ad hoc joint committee (South Atlantic and Gulf councils) to consider the development of a joint management plan for south Florida fisheries. The ad hoc committee would also discuss with the State of Florida delegation of management for some species to the State of Florida.

# Timeline



# Rationale

*From South Atlantic Council Meeting in June 2011:*

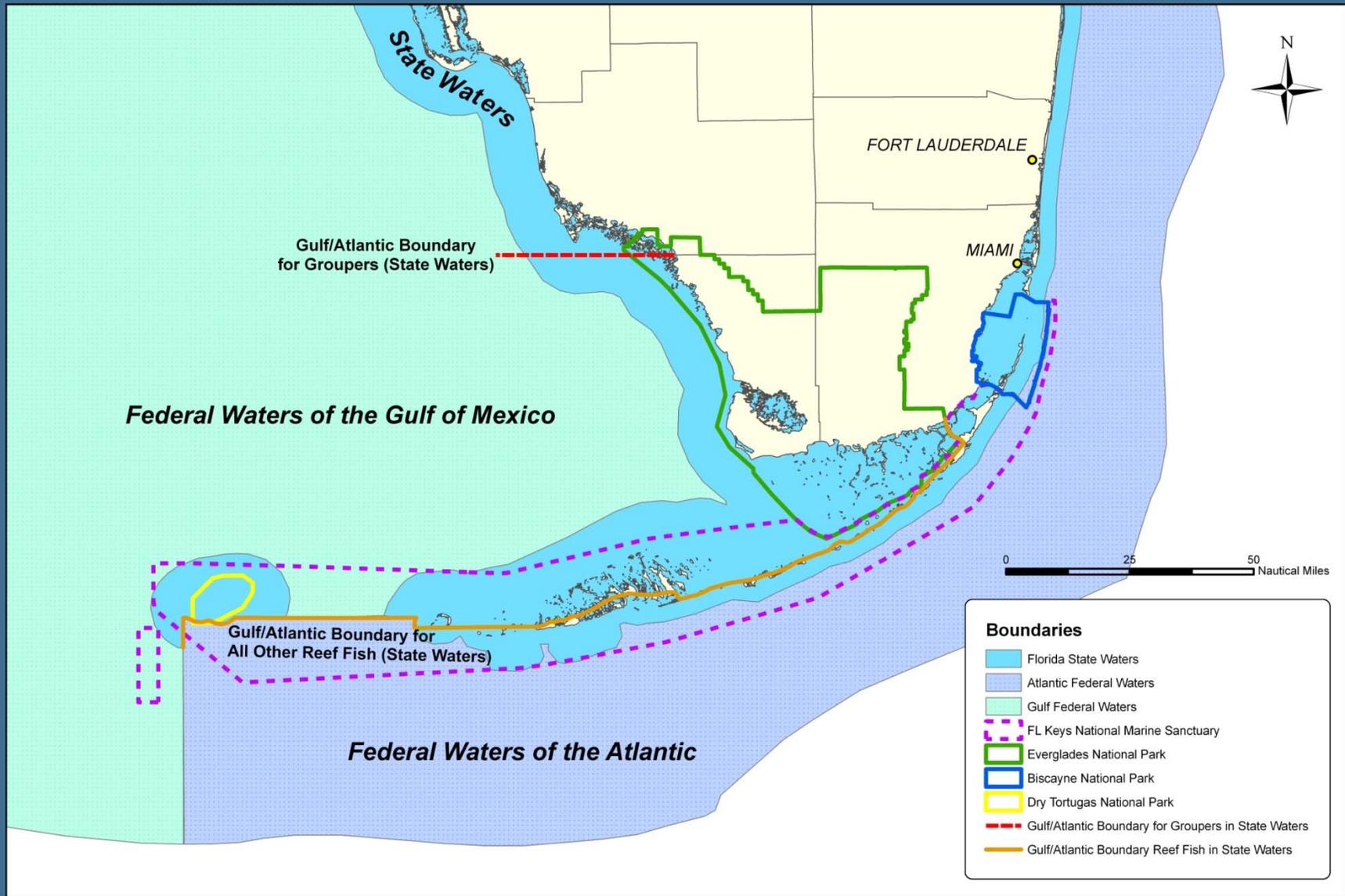
- Fishermen consistently express confusion and frustration with the multiple jurisdictional boundaries and regulations in the Florida Keys

*From FWC-hosted Scoping Meetings:*

- Consistency between state and federal rules is needed
- South Florida's ecosystem and fisheries are unique

*From South Atlantic Council Visioning Process Port Meetings:*

- Fishermen express concern over inconsistent regulations between Florida state waters, Gulf federal waters, and Atlantic federal waters (e.g., size limits, bag limits, and seasons)



# Strategy Suggestions from FWC/Council Scoping Workshops

- Develop regional management for species common to south Florida
- Create a regional management council for the Keys or south Florida
- Develop a regional FMP modeled after Caribbean “Island” FMPs
- Place all of the Keys under the jurisdiction of either the South Atlantic or Gulf Council
- Manage fisheries based on species not on boundary lines
- Species that were specifically addressed
  - Yellowtail snapper
  - Mutton snapper
  - Mangrove snapper
  - Red snapper
  - Snowy grouper
  - Groupers (general)
  - Hogfish
  - Jacks
  - Lobster

# Yellowtail Snapper Comments

- Manage the stock as a single unit in Atlantic and Gulf with one quota
- Transfer management authority to Florida FWC
- Change the fishing year to minimize disruptions to the fishery when quotas are met
- Implement a spawning season closure during the summer
- Circle hook requirement
  - Exempt the fishery from the requirement in the Gulf
  - Maintain the requirement



# Mutton Snapper Comments

- Protect spawning fish by:
  - Implementing a spawning season closure
  - Lowering bag limits



# Grouper Comments

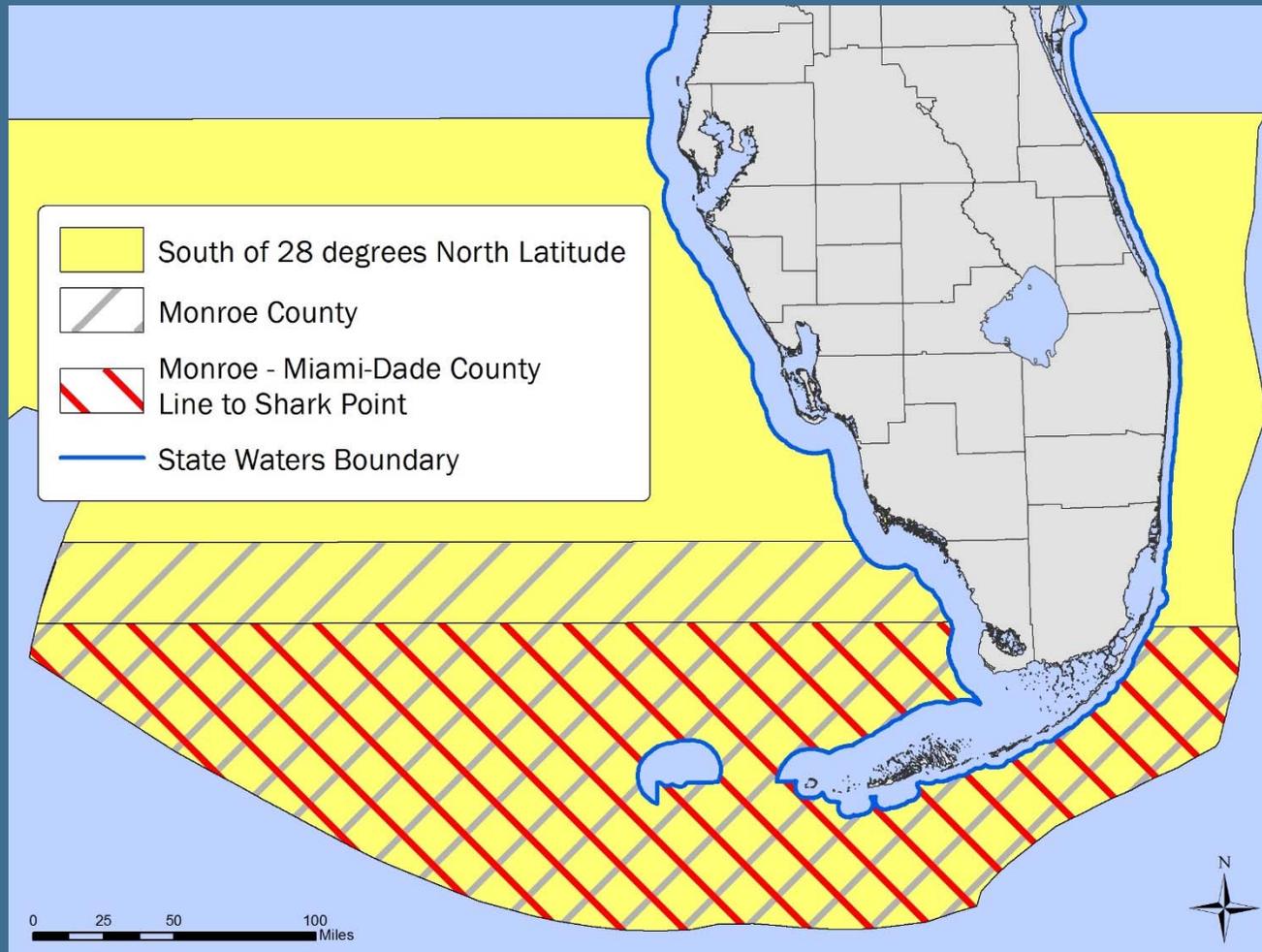
- Develop consistent regulations between Atlantic and Gulf waters
- The Atlantic shallow-water grouper closure:
  - Unnecessary because there are few gag grouper in south Florida
  - Shift the closure from Jan-Apr to Mar-May

# How Has the Committee Proposed Addressing these Concerns?

- Delegate authority over specific management items in federal waters off Florida to the State of Florida for yellowtail snapper, mutton snapper, and black grouper
- Jointly set the ABC and ACL for yellowtail snapper, mutton snapper, and black grouper
- Modify recreational bag limit and commercial trip limit for mutton snapper in federal waters
- Modify the shallow-water grouper species compositions, seasonal closures, bag limits, and size limits in federal waters
- Modify the black grouper seasonal closure and bag limits in federal waters
- Change the circle hook requirements
- Set uniform accountability measures for yellowtail snapper, mutton snapper, and black grouper

# What Constitutes South Florida?

*Some proposed actions are being considered to apply only to a sub-area off south Florida:*



# How Each Council's Approach has Differed

## *South Atlantic Council:*

- This amendment can be an opportunity to address broader issues in management of snapper and grouper species throughout the Council's jurisdiction:
  - e.g., Seasonal closures for shallow-water groupers
  - Modifications on seasonal closures in south Florida could have a cascading effect throughout the Council's jurisdiction

## *Gulf Council:*

- Keep the focus of the amendment solely on issues pertinent to south Florida area

