

# MPAs for Fishery Management off Alaska

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# FMPs, Exclusive Economic Zones by Regional Council

Nationwide:  
47 FMPs, 909 Fish Stocks  
Dept. Commerce  
2 Secretarial FMPs

North Pacific  
Fishery Mgt. Council  
5 FMPs

Pacific  
Fishery Mgt. Council  
4 FMPs

New England  
Fishery Mgt. Council  
7 FMPs

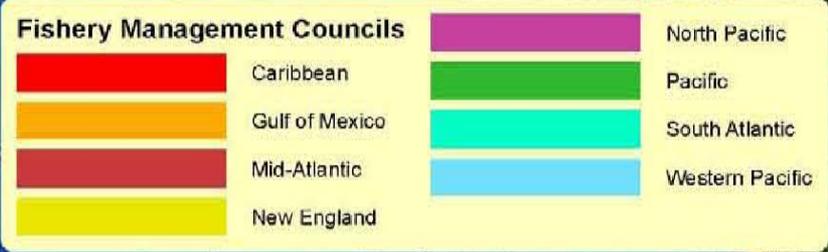
Mid-Atlantic  
Fishery Mgt. Council  
6 FMPs

South Atlantic  
Fishery Mgt. Council  
7 FMPs

Western Pacific  
Fishery Mgt. Council  
5 FMPs

Gulf Of Mexico  
Fishery Mgt. Council  
7 FMPs

Caribbean  
Fishery Mgt. Council  
4 FMPs



# The Fishing Fleet Managed by the Council

## Catcher Vessels (deliver shoreside)

- 150 Trawlers: **pollock, cod, flatfish, rockfish**
- 500 Longliners: **cod, halibut, sablefish**
- 75 Jig Gear vessels: **cod**
- 300 Pot Gear vessels: **cod, crabs**

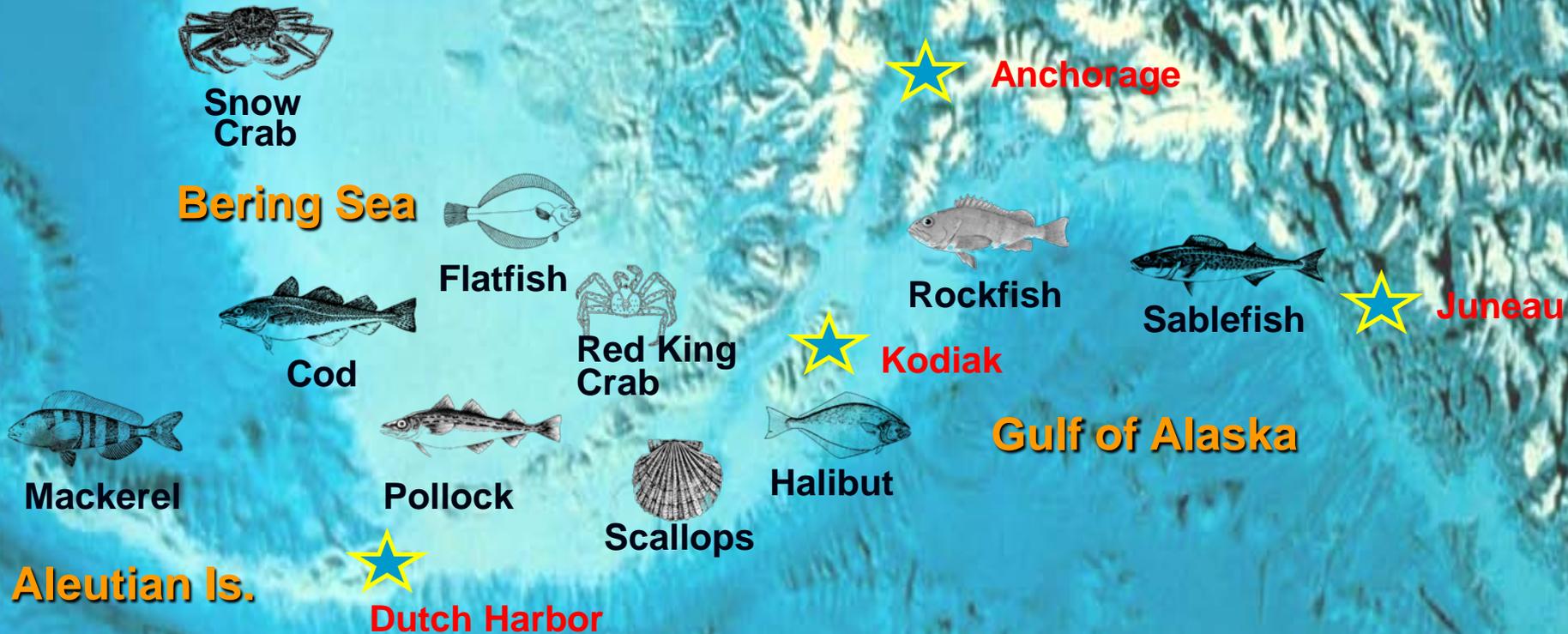
## Catcher-Processors (process at sea)

- 35 Trawlers: **pollock, flatfish, mackerel, rockfish**
- 50 Longliners: **cod, sablefish, turbot**
- 10 Pot Gear vessels: **cod, crabs**
- 5 Dredge Gear vessels: **scallops**



Note: vessel numbers are rounded numbers based on recent participation.

# Major Fish Species Managed by the Council



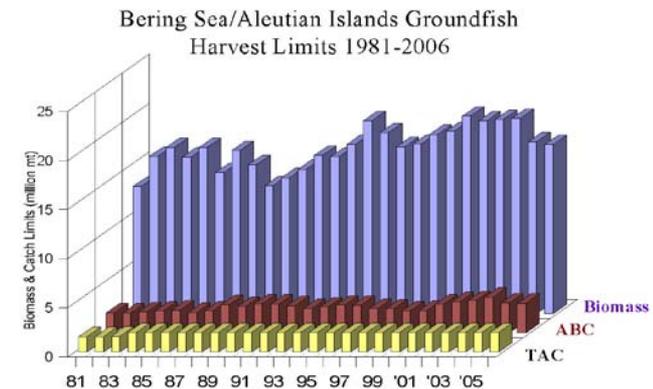
# Alaska Fisheries are Well Managed

Fish stocks are healthy: No overfishing; No overfished groundfish.

Reliance on scientific advice, using an ecosystem-based approach to management.

Comprehensive monitoring.

Viable & profitable fisheries.



# Total area coverage for all areas that appear to meet MPA Criteria

EEZ = 1,019,261 nm<sup>2</sup>

Closed Areas = 988,817 nm<sup>2</sup>

97% covered by MPAs

Pink = No Federal Fishery MPAs

**Salmon closure area**

Closed under FMP to salmon fishing with nets

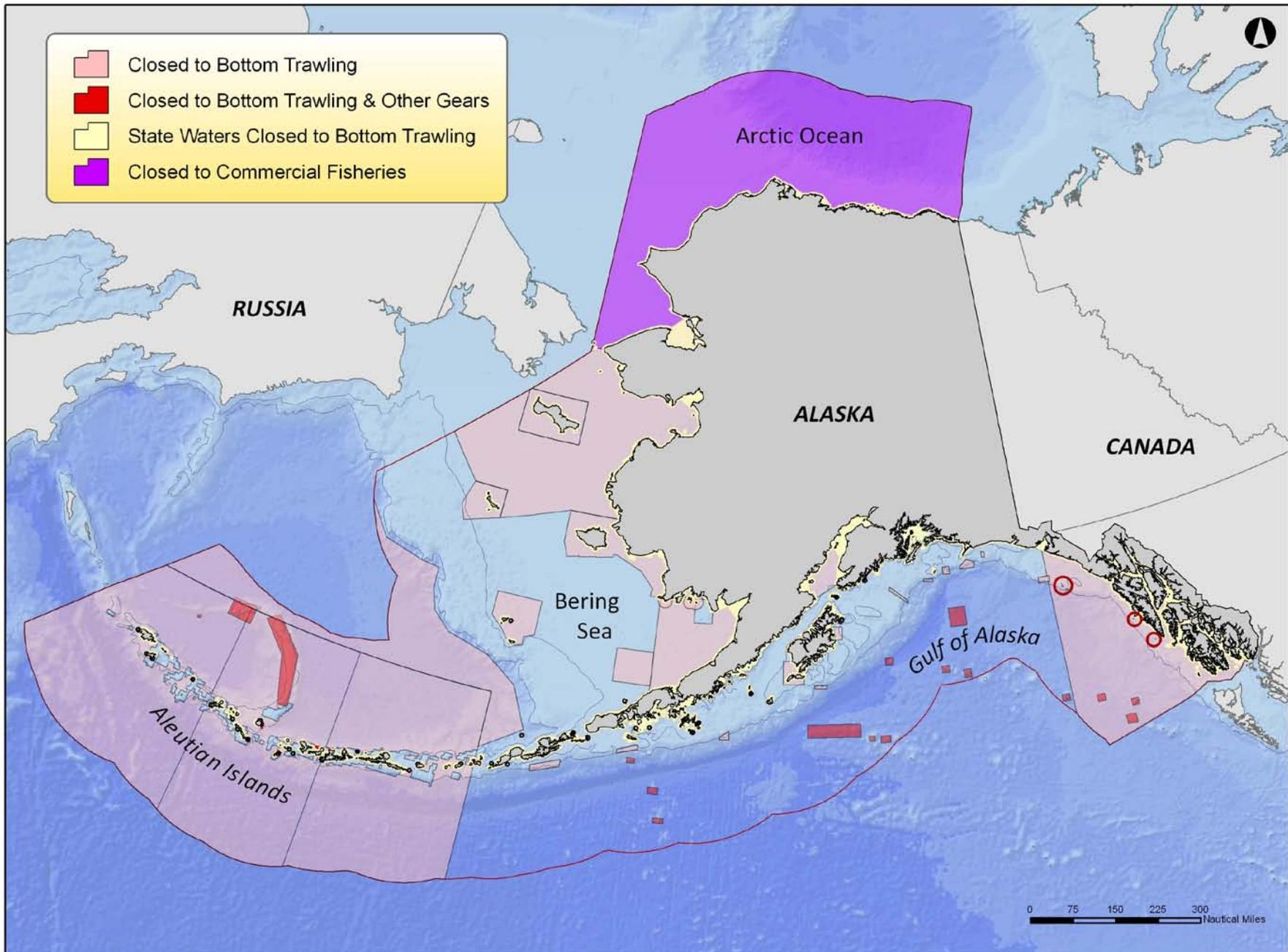
**Southeast Alaska Trawl Closure**

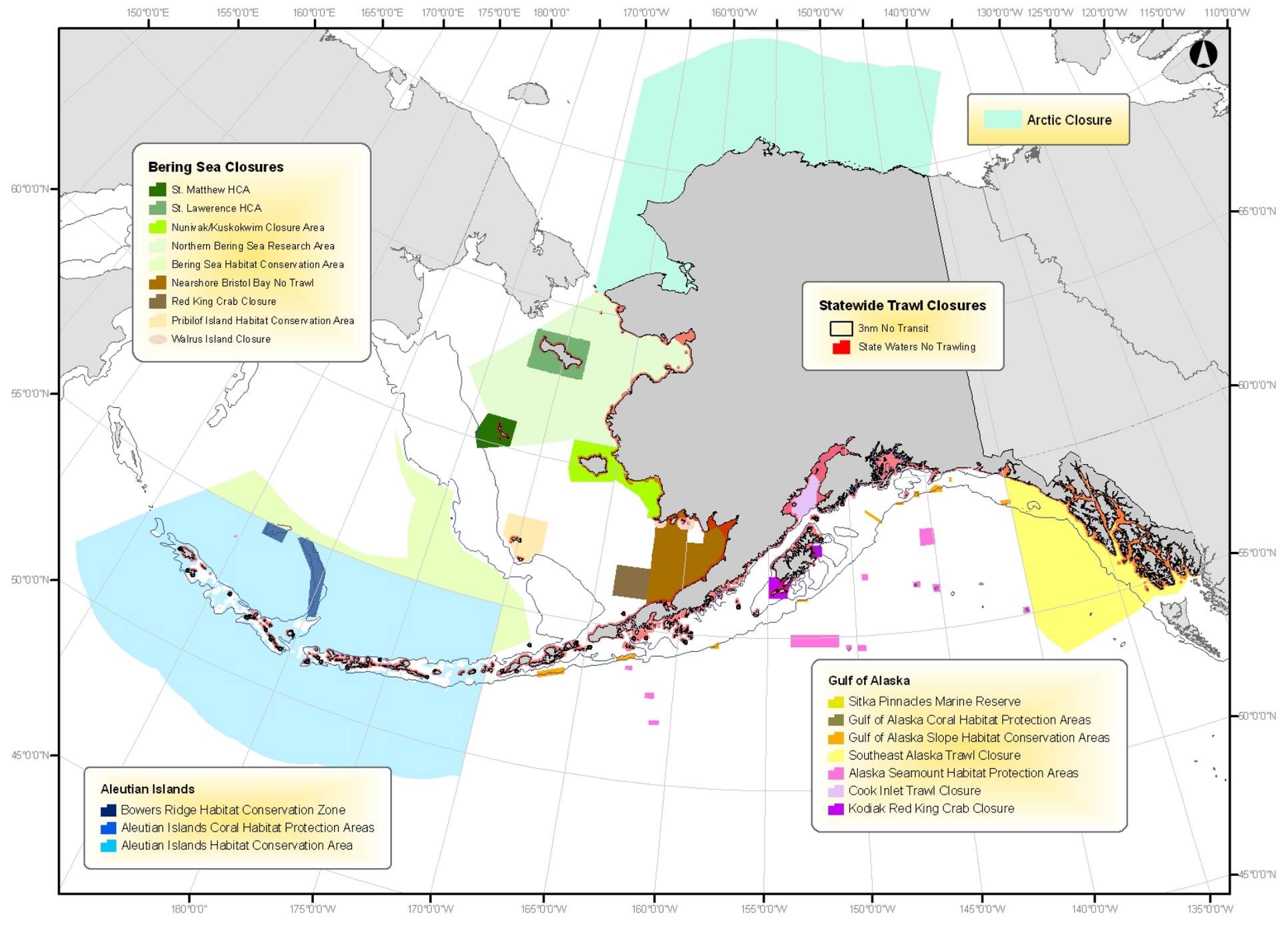
Closed under FMP to all trawling

0 90 180 270 360 Nautical Miles



175°00'E 180°00' 175°00'W 170°00'W 165°00'W 160°00'W 155°00'W 150°00'W 145°00'W 140°00'W 135°00'W





# Status of region re: MPA system

NMFS sent a letter to the Council in May, with list of eligible sites.

Initial list of eligible sites from MPA Center contained errors and omissions.

Council will review discussion paper and revised list of potential eligible sites in December, and decide how to proceed.



# Issues of Concern:

## 1. Avoid Harm Provision

- Avoid harm provision = new requirement. How do we know if our regulations meet this requirement for our own MPAs? And for evaluating fishing regulatory changes on other agency MPAs, how do we do that if we don't know what resources are protected by the MPA?
- One suggestion: The resource(s) protected by each MPA should be listed, and an evaluation of the avoid harm provision should be made at initial listing, and re-evaluated at every regulatory change.

# Issues of Concern:

## 2. Gap Analysis

- Gap Analysis - entire EEZ will be covered many times over to meet all 21 PCOs using only MPAs. When is enough, enough?
- SSC is the peer review process pursuant to the Information Quality Act. The SSC needs to evaluate the Gap analysis to see if it represents the best scientific information available.



# Issues of Concern:

## 3. Council Authority

- Only the Councils, not NMFS, have the authority to initiate action to develop new fishery MPAs, modify or eliminate them. Yet under MPA framework, NMFS given authority to override Councils recommendations re: MPAs in system.
- Once an MPA is on the list, it is only a presidential signature away from being a national monument [WPFMC experience].

