

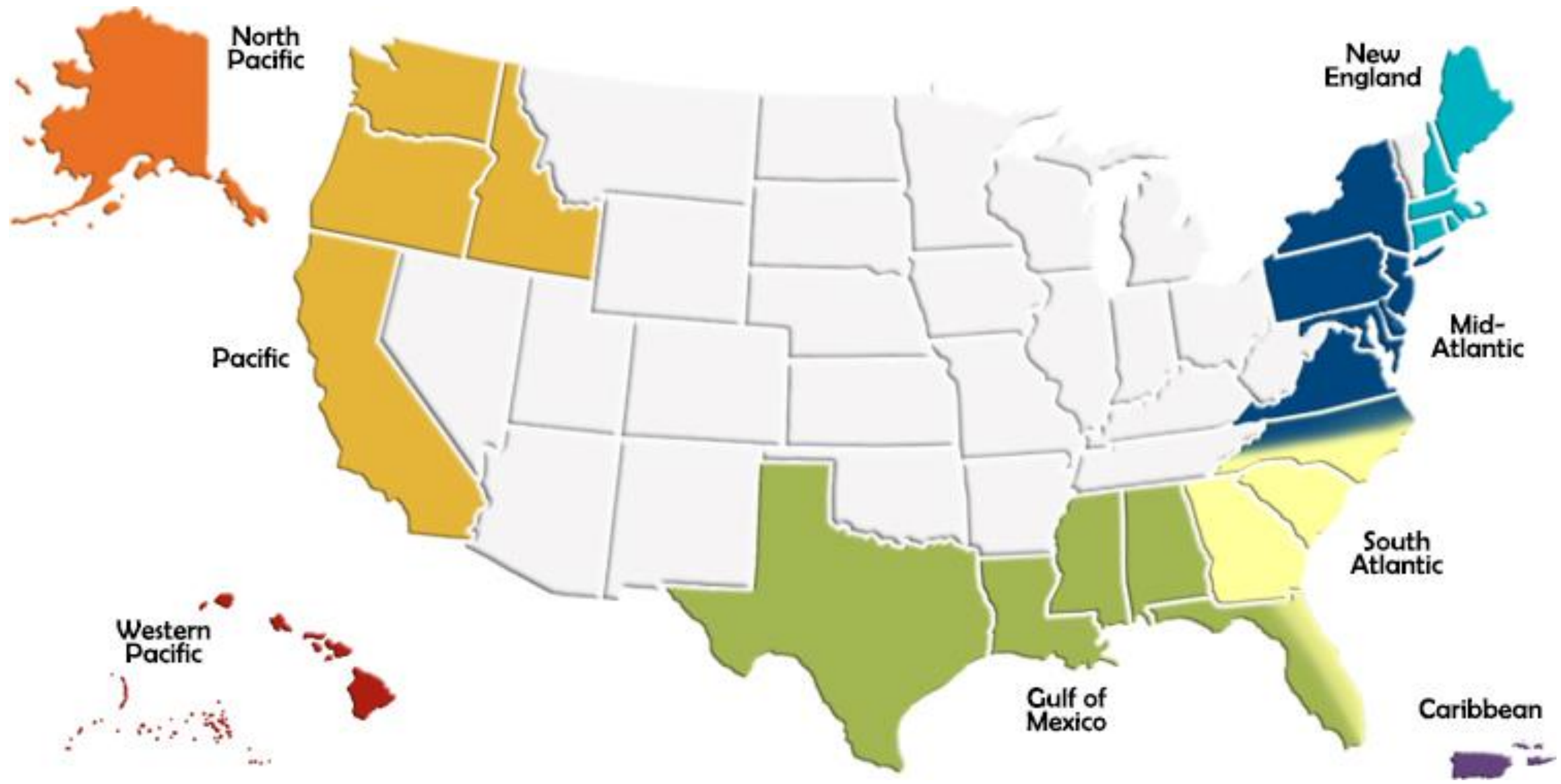


**Supporting a \$4.2 Billion Fishing Industry with
Diminishing State and Federal Budgets:
Magnuson Stevens Act Reauthorization**

Photo: Corey Arnold/coreyfishes.com

Core Provisions of MSA

Management Flexibility: key tenet of MSA is that fisheries management should be tailored to the specific region and fishery



Ten National Standards

1. Achieve OY and prevent overfishing
2. Best available scientific information
3. Manage stocks as a unit
4. Allocations fair and equitable, promote conservation, and prevent excessive shares
5. Consider efficiency in utilization; not have economic allocation as sole purpose
6. Allow for variations and contingencies
7. Minimize costs, avoid duplication
8. Provide for sustained participation of fishing dependent communities and to minimize adverse economic impacts
9. Minimize bycatch, and bycatch mortality
10. Promote safety of human life at sea

Management Tools

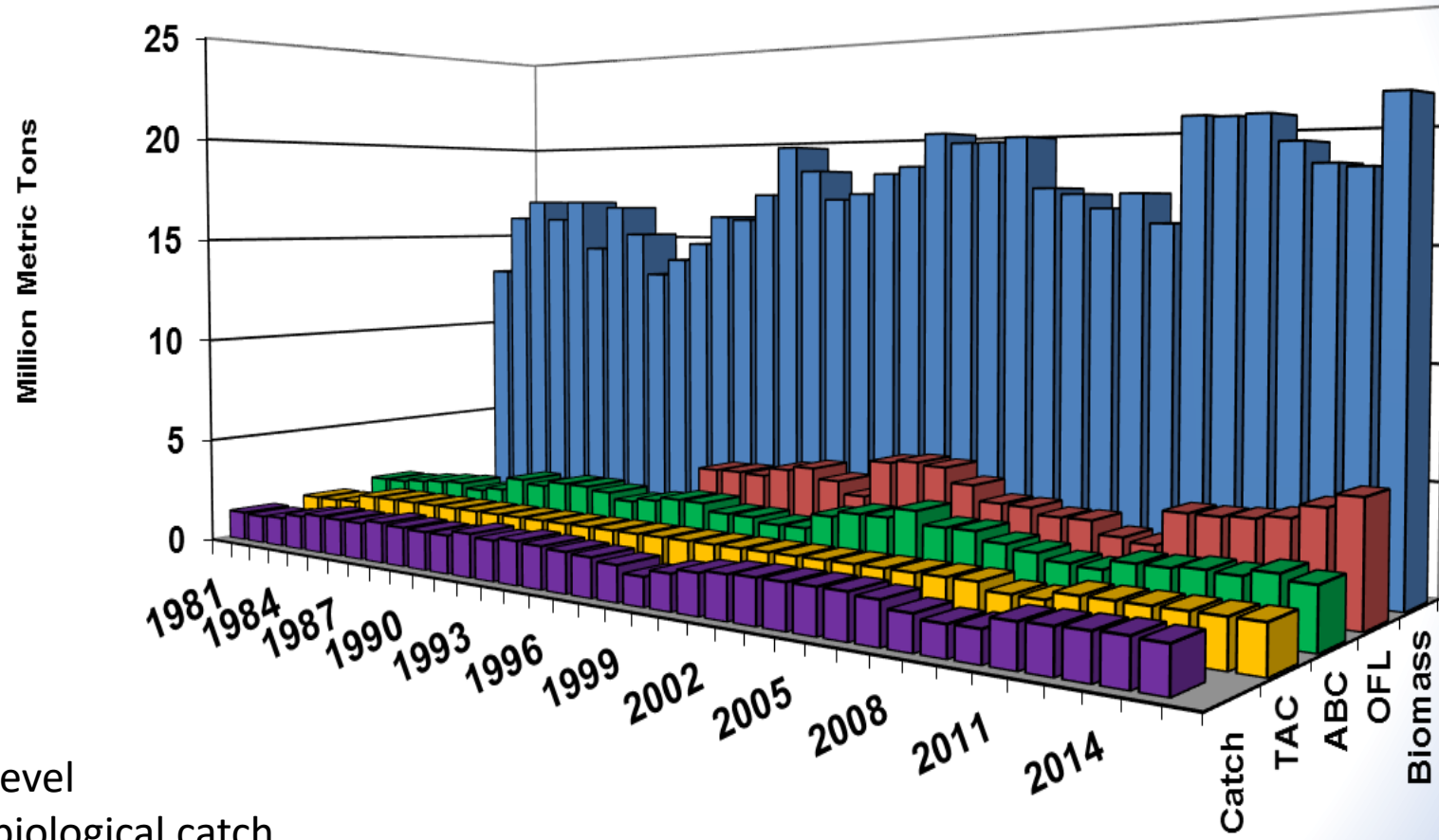
- Catch share programs: provides wide discretion with respect to program design
- Exempted Fishing Permits: encourages innovation and industry partnership
- Ecosystem-based Fishery Management: allows regional councils to adopt Fishery Ecosystem Plans tailored to their respective regions

Core Provisions of MSA

Science-based Management: past reauthorizations have strengthened the conservation provisions of the act by mandating science-based decision-making.

- Annual Catch Limits
- Accountability Measures
- Rebuilding Timelines

ACLs in Practice



OFL - overfishing level

ABC - acceptable biological catch

TAC - total allowable catch

MSA Reauthorization



Various Bills

House of Representatives

- House Natural Resources Committee passed H.R. 200 through markup
- Bill is a combination of Rep. Young's bill and the Senate's Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Act
- Bill now goes to floor for full member vote; can receive additional amendments

Senate:

- Commerce Committee passed amended version of Modernizing Rec. Fisheries Act
- Full MSA draft expected from Sen. Sullivan's office this spring

Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Act (S. 1520)

Relaxes science-based provisions of MSA:

- In House version, has potential to exempt recreational fisheries from annual catch limits
- In both versions, rebuilding timelines would be relaxed

Limits tools and discretion of regional fishery management councils:

- Makes exempted fishing permit process burdensome
- Places moratorium on catch shares in mixed-use fisheries

What's Driving Reauthorization?



How do we support a \$4.2 billion fishing industry with diminishing federal and state budgets?

1. Keep doing what works

- *Maintain Flexibility*: Resist MSA amendments that would address regional issues through national legislation
- *Maintain the Alaskan model*: ACLs prevent overfishing

2. Fix the problem:

- If the problem is poor data, improve the data

How do we support a \$4.2 billion fishing industry with diminishing federal and state budgets?

3. Change the way we talk about funding fisheries management

- Funding science and data collection is an *investment* not a subsidy
 - Better data = more fish = more revenue for local communities
 - Better data = better management decisions = more stable investment environment
 - Better data = more stakeholder buy-in = more stable management environment

How do we support a \$4.2 billion fishing industry with diminishing federal and state budgets?

4. What can we do?

- Advocate for investment in fisheries science
- Advocate for an MSA bill that maintains science-based catch limits, regional flexibility, and a full suite of tools for managers
- Advocate for an MSA bill that improves accountability across sectors