



Office of Science & Technology Overview

Stock Assessment Science Program Review
September 9-12, 2014 – Silver Spring, MD

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Director, Office of Science and Technology

U.S. Marine Fisheries Management

Mandates for NMFS' Stock Assessment Science

Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act

- Federal fisheries (also international provisions)
- Administered by US Sec. of Commerce

Atlantic Tunas Convention Act

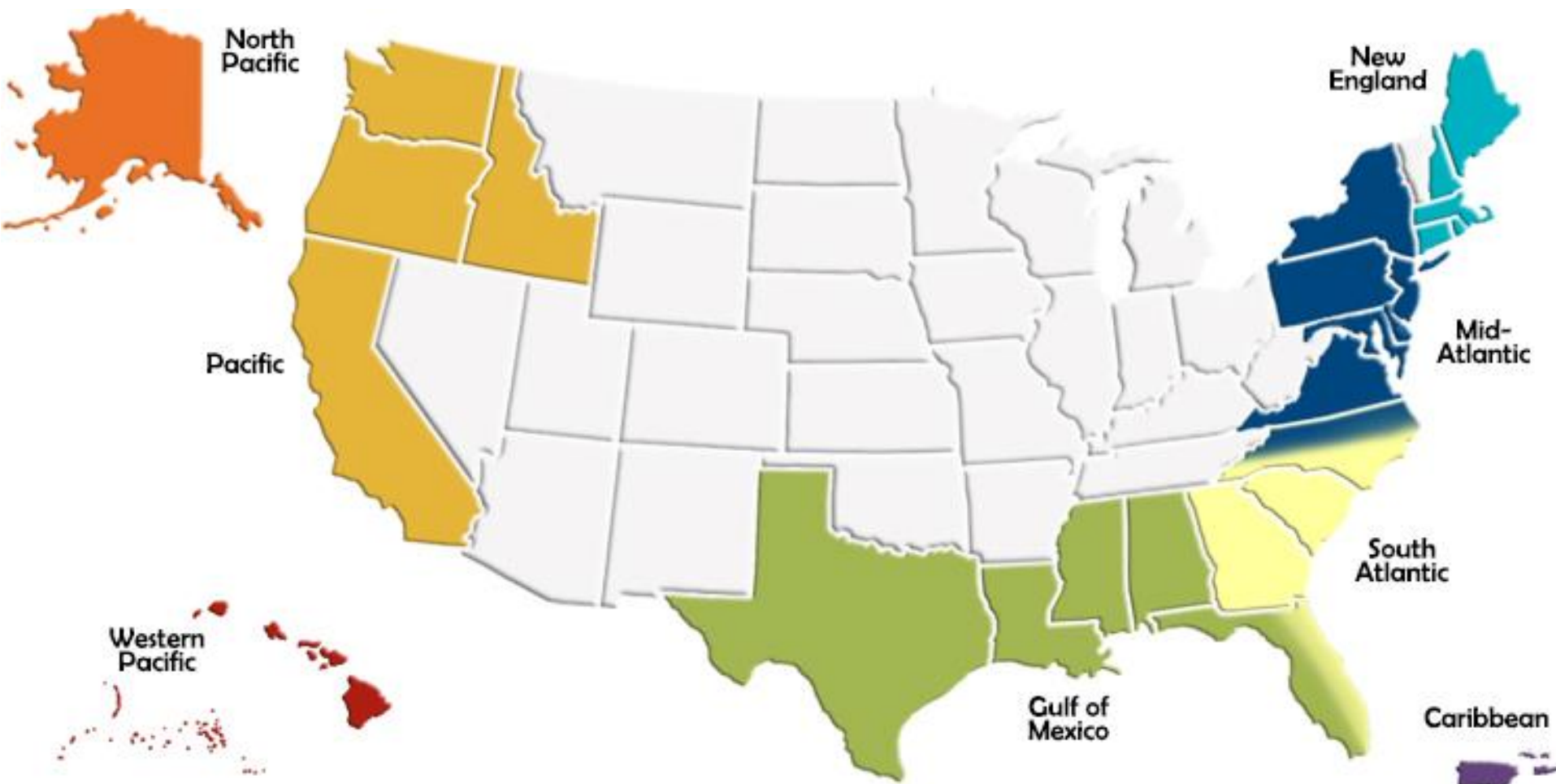
- Atlantic highly migratory species (ICCAT)
- Administered by US. Secs. of State and Commerce

Agreements with international/regional management bodies

- Other highly migratory species and interstate fisheries

Magnuson-Stevens Act

Established 8 Fishery Management Councils



Magnuson-Stevens Act

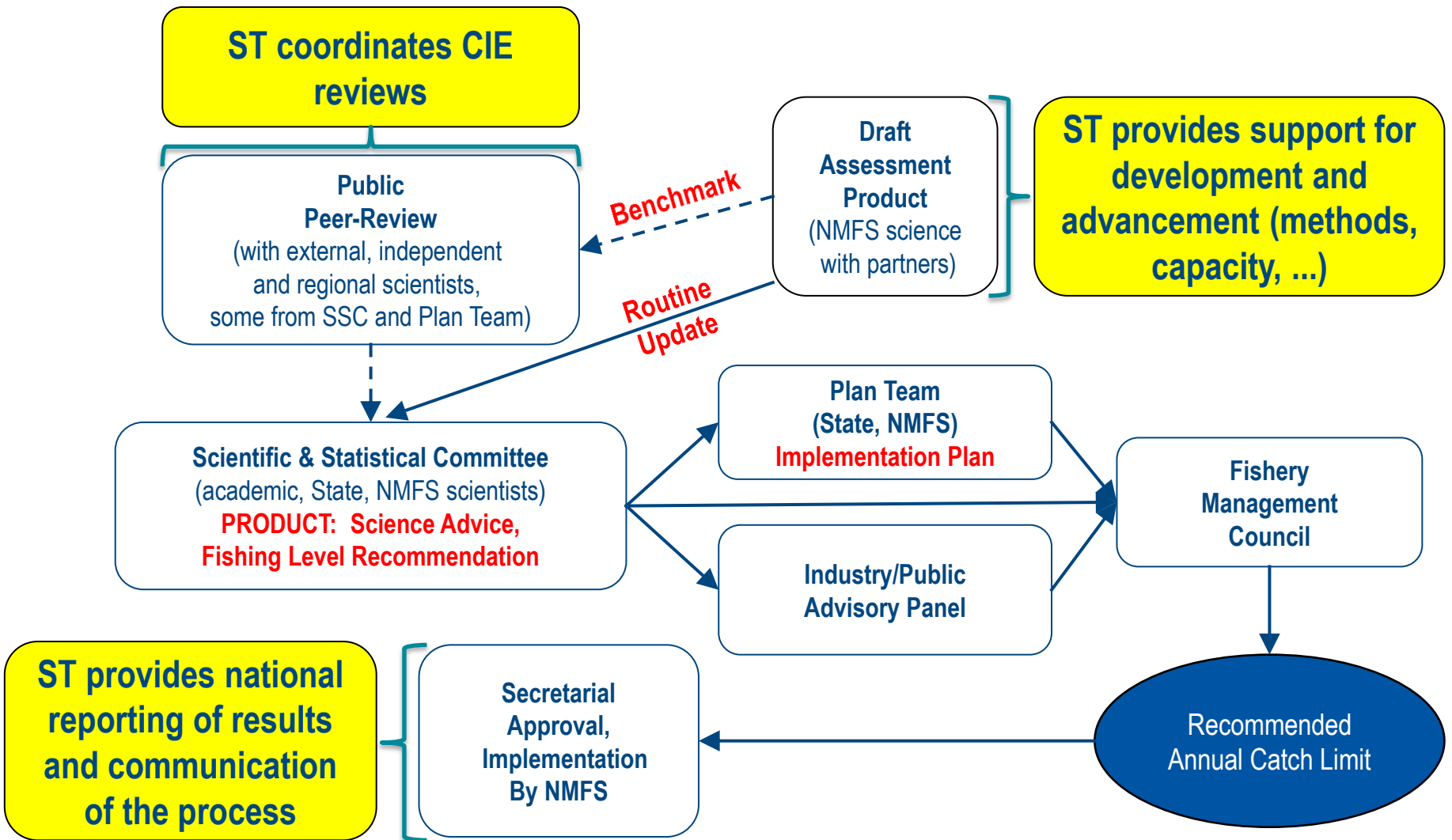
Established 10 National Standards

- *NS1*: prevent overfishing; optimize yield on a continuing basis
- *NS2*: measures based on best scientific information available

Requires Fishery Management Plans for managed stocks

- Annual Catch Limits (ACLs) and Accountability Measures
- Council Scientific and Statistical Committees interpret/review science and recommend Acceptable Biological Catch (sets max ACL)
- **NMFS science centers conduct assessments and provide science advice**

U.S. Marine Fisheries Management



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Mission

Sustain and enhance NMFS' science programs to enable sound conservation and management of LMRs and their ecosystems.

Role

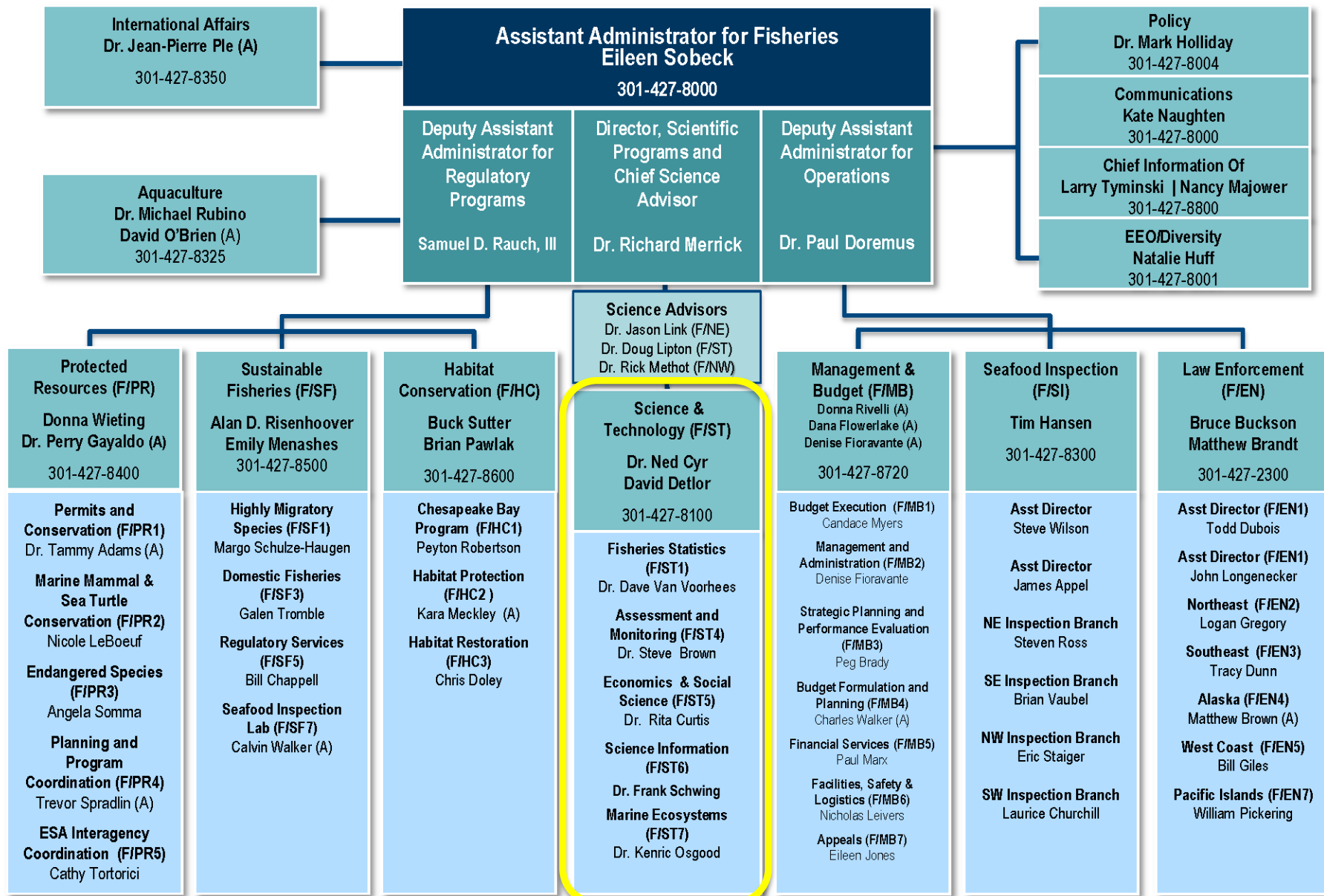
- Liaison: NMFS' scientists and NOAA/NMFS leadership and facilitate interactions with Congress and other key partners/stakeholders.
- Help direct national programs, funding, education, and training



NOAA FISHERIES

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

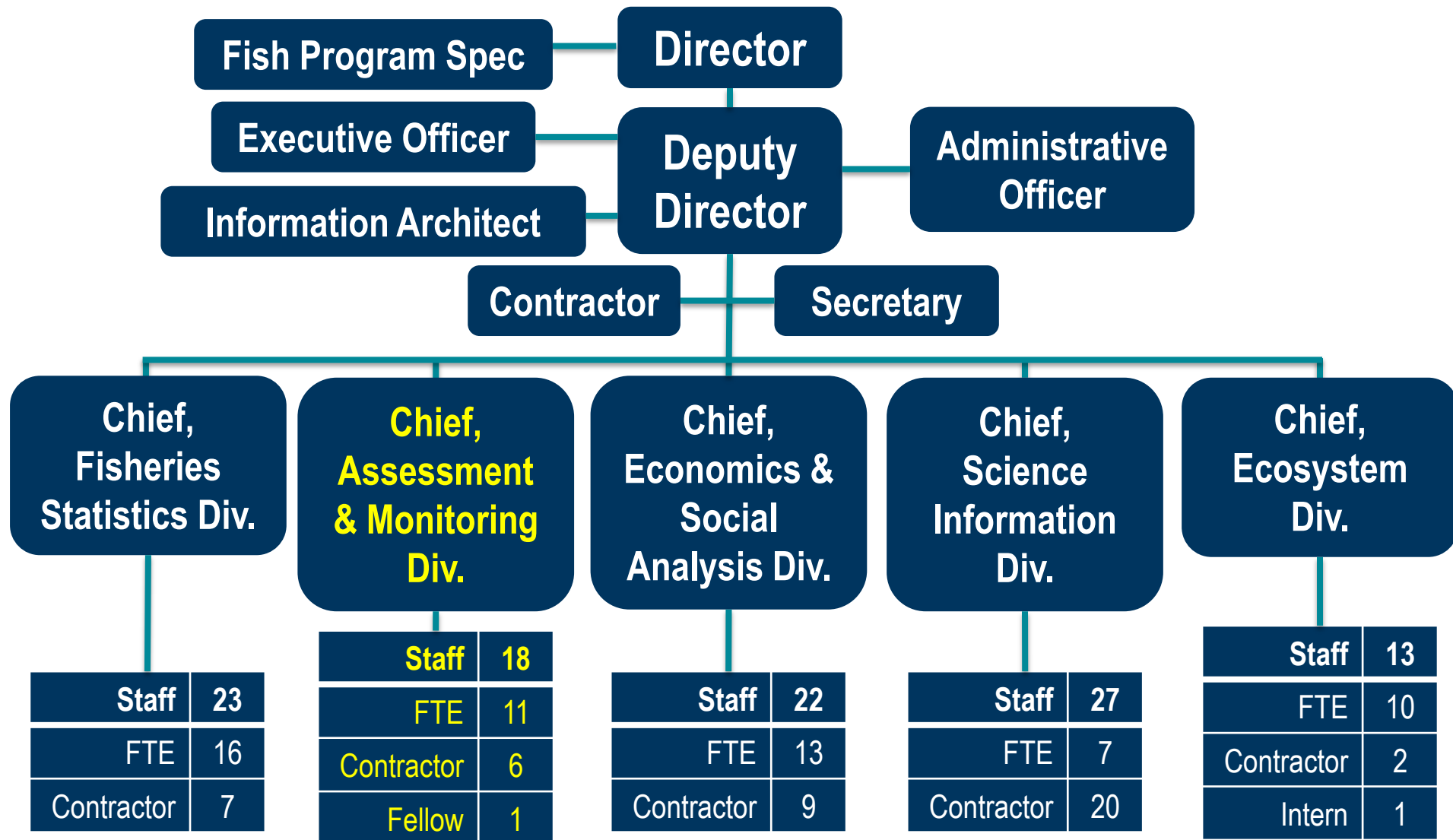
April 2, 2014



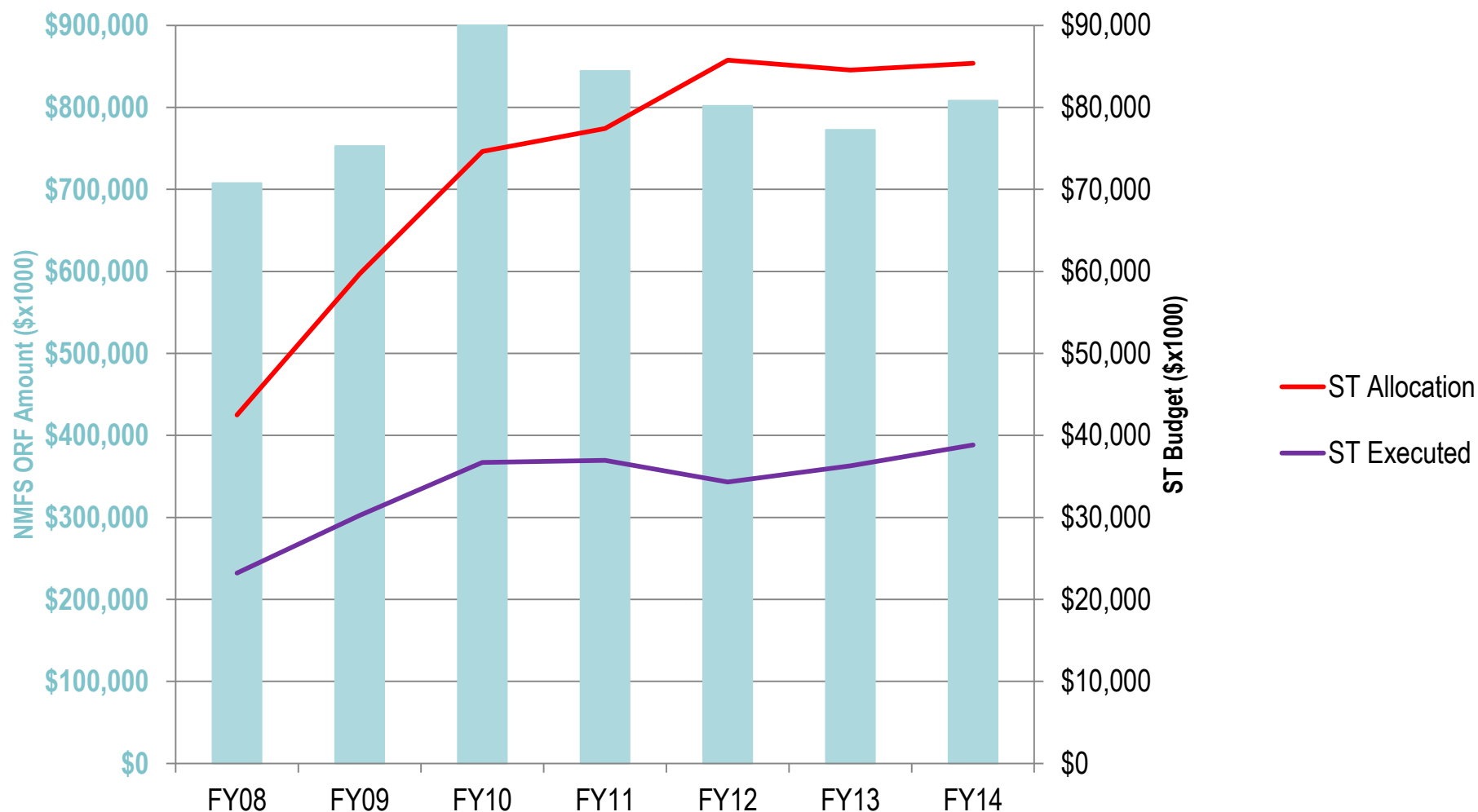
Office of Science & Technology: 5 Divisions

- **Fisheries Statistics (ST1):** Integrate/disseminate commercial fishery statistics & administer recreational survey
- **Assessment & Monitoring (ST4):** Support resource surveys; stock assessments; habitat, protected resources and seabird science; fisheries observers; cooperative research; independent peer review; advanced sampling technologies
- **Economics and Social Analysis (ST5):** Focus on economic and sociocultural data collection, analysis, and research
- **Science Information (ST6):** Develop data management support, services, and applications
- **Ecosystem (ST7):** Develop and coordinate science to advance incorporation of ecosystem information into LMR management

Office of Science & Technology: 110 Employees



Office of Science & Technology: Budget



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Strategic Science Plan: 4 themes

- **Theme 1:** Collect data & conduct assessments of LMR, ecosystems, habitats, and communities
- **Theme 2:** Advance science – improve data collection and assessments
- **Theme 3:** Manage and disseminate information
- **Theme 4:** Integrate and coordinate support services

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Strategic Plan: Theme 1 - Collect data & conduct assessments of LMR, ecosystems, habitats, and communities (7 objectives)

- Support observations (NOAA ships, charters, aircraft, advanced technology)
- Coordinate commercial observer program
- Produce/disseminate rec. fishing statistics
- Develop national commercial fishery and fish market information
- Coordinate/support socioeconomic data collection
- Lead/coordinate science support to assessment programs
- Provide tools to estimate socioeconomic impacts

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Strategic Plan: Theme 2 - Advance science – improve data collection and assessments (**6 objectives**)

- Support new/innovative observation platforms, technologies, and survey methods
- Develop/test new rec. fishing and industry survey designs
- Guide stock assessment improvement programs
- Enhance integration of climate/ecosystem in assessments
- Develop decision support tools for rec./comm. activities
- Develop economic and stakeholder valuation tools

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Theme 3: Manage and disseminate information (5 objectives)

- Assist in application of best data management practices
- Provide data reporting and analysis tools
- Improve collaboration with fishery-dependent data partners
- Use modern/secure IT data management
- Edit/publish/disseminate publications

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Theme 4: Integrate and coordinate support services (8 objectives)

- Coordinate science activities across Centers, line offices, and goal teams
- Develop and implement center and ST program reviews
- Monitor science quality through peer review
- Exchange information, improving protocols, and developing policy guidance
- Contribute to earth and ocean observing systems
- Build workforce capacity and increase diversity
- Support NMFS international science enterprise
- Support coordination across centers via Science Board

Office of Science & Technology Highlights

Programs	Communications	Data
Stock Assessment Program	Fisheries of the U.S.	Enterprise Data Management
Marine Recreational Information Program	Fisheries Economics of the U.S.	Species Information System
National Observer Program	Stock/Habitat/PR Assessment Improvement Plans	Fisheries One Stop Shop
National Cooperative Research Program	Assessment Quarterly Reports	Fishery-Independent Surveys
Integrated Ecosystem Assessment Program	Our Living Oceans	Protected Species Take
Ocean Acoustics Program	National Bycatch Report	Plankton Databases
Large Marine Ecosystems		
Climate Science		
Economics and Socio-Cultural Programs		

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Strengths

- Strong staff with diverse skill set
- Location and ability to communicate with Congress, DOC, NOAA, NMFS Leadership
- Ability to track national and international science developments
- Ability to influence Agency budget

Challenges

- Small staff for number of programs administered
- National coordination with limited travel capability across 5k miles and 6 time zones
- Limited opportunity to engage in hands-on research and develop stock assessment expertise

Solutions

- Heavy reliance on virtual meetings
- Increase field experience through recruiting and developing staff
- Create staff rotations between ST and field offices (and vice-versa)



Thank You!

