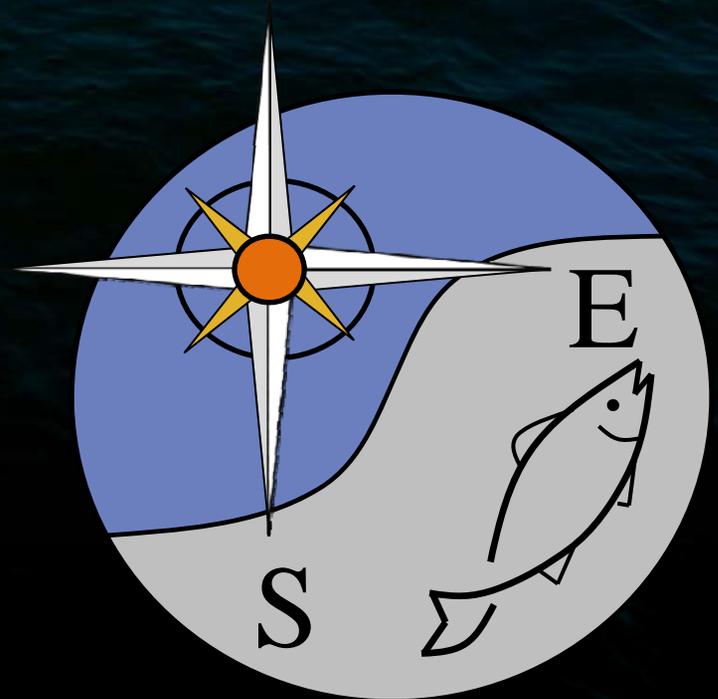


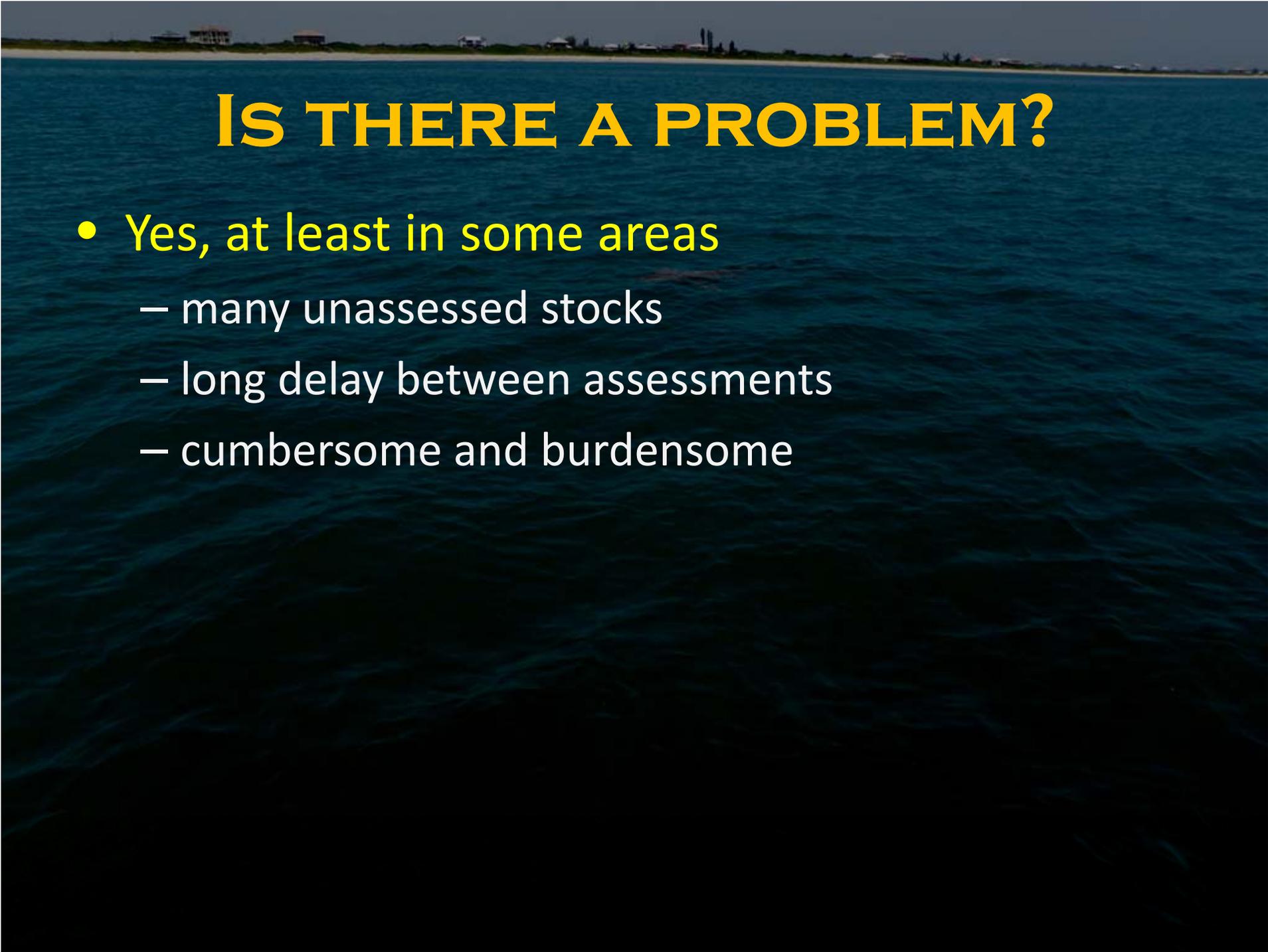
ASSESSMENT AND PEER REVIEW THROUGHPUT

John Carmichael
SAFMC/SEDAR



Peerus Reviewii





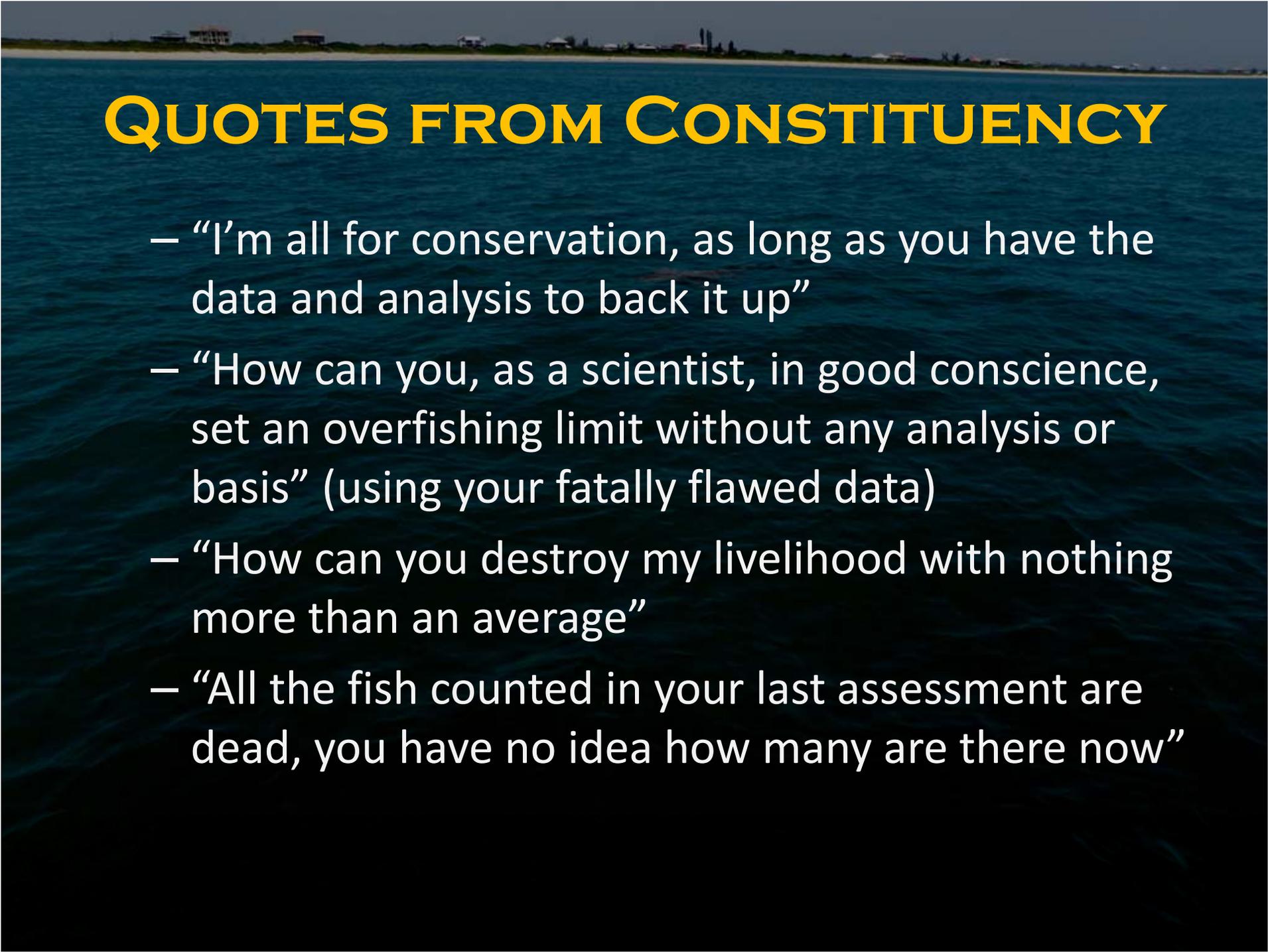
IS THERE A PROBLEM?

- Yes, at least in some areas
 - many unassessed stocks
 - long delay between assessments
 - cumbersome and burdensome

HOW BAD IS IT?

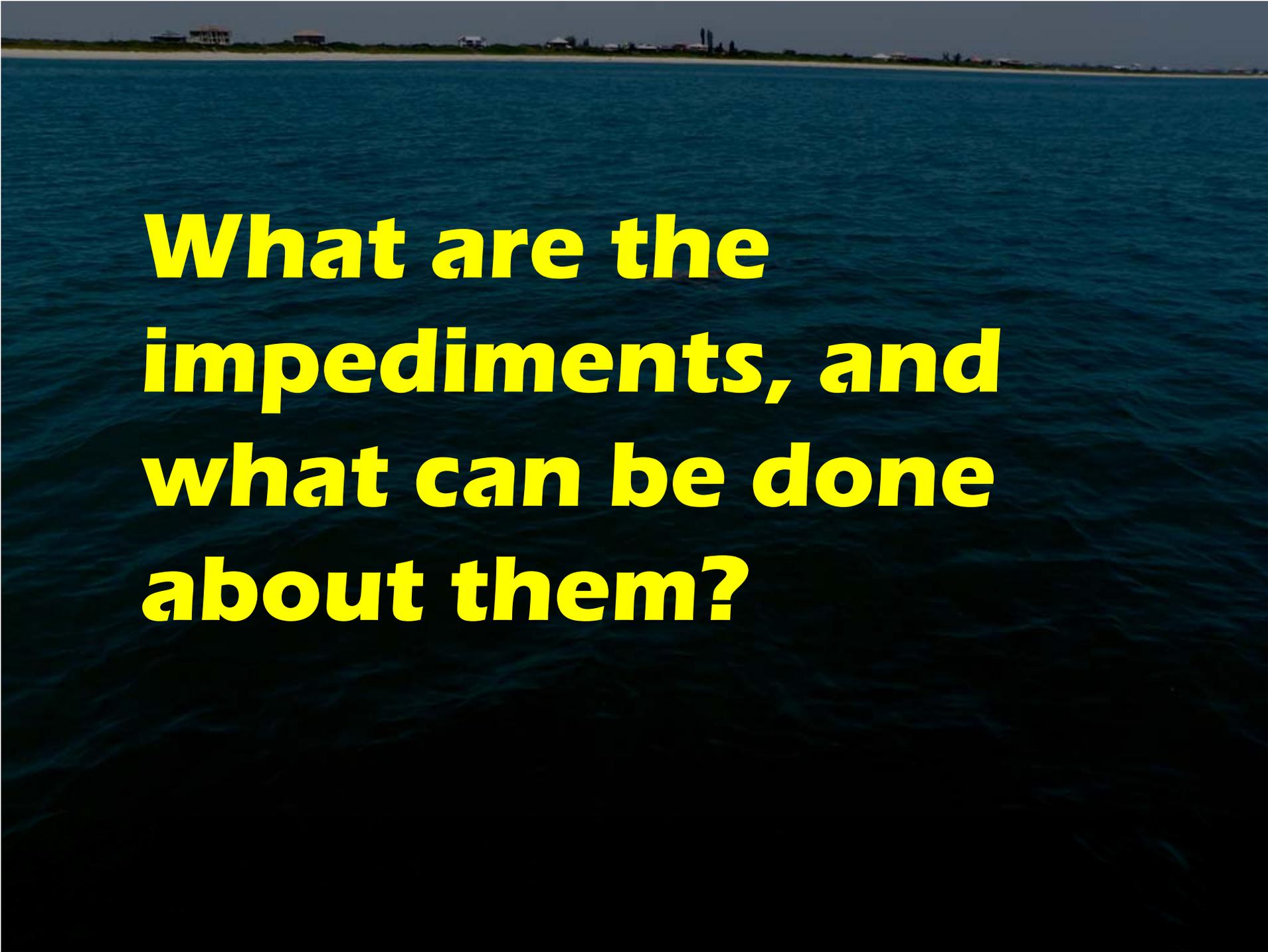
“The process is broken”

- provides too few assessments
- incorporates data that are out of date
 - Terminal year is too long ago
- Inability to respond to developing issues
 - Planning, logistics and data prep take time
 - overallocation of resources = no reserves
- Cumbersome reviews with low consistency

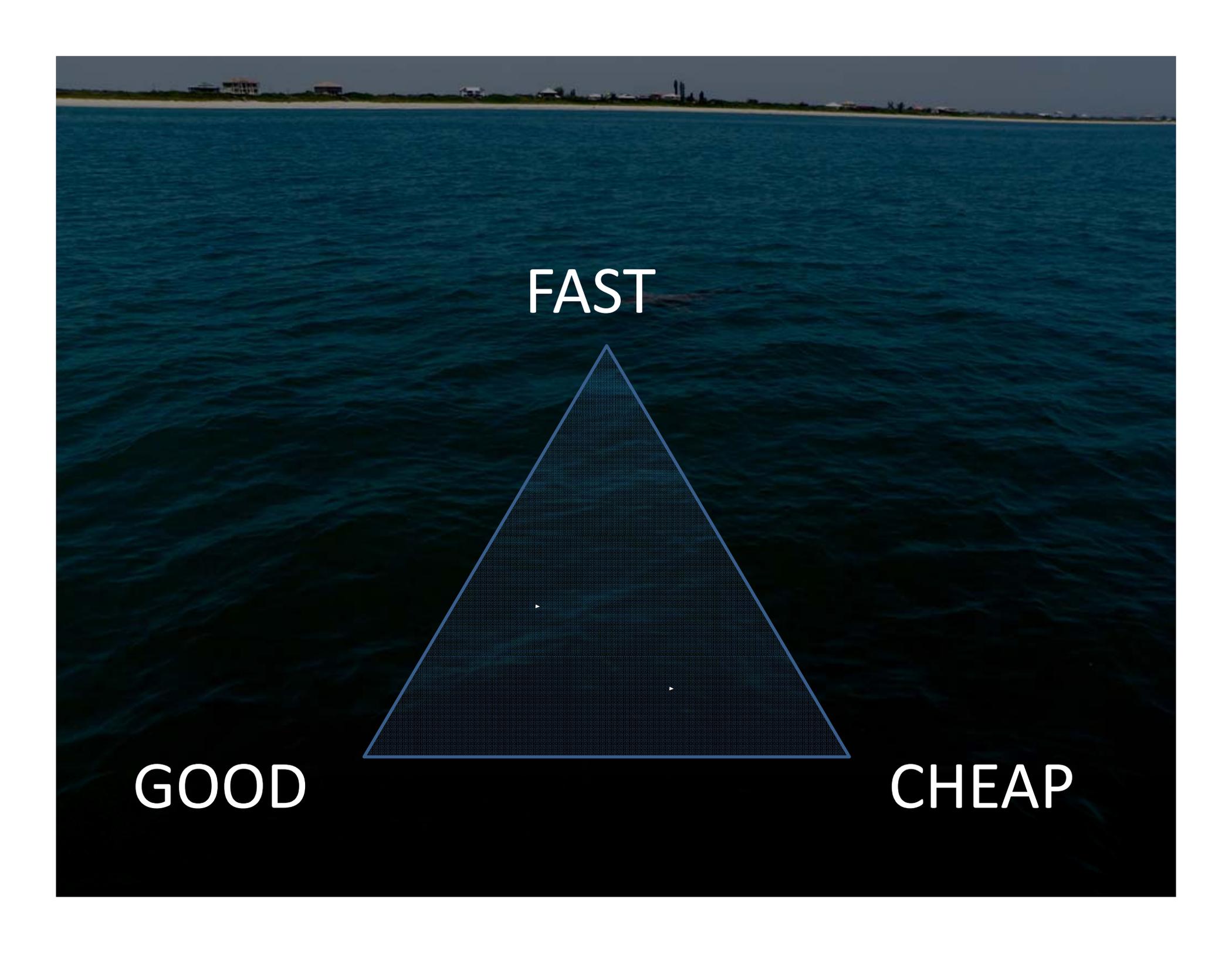


QUOTES FROM CONSTITUENCY

- “I’m all for conservation, as long as you have the data and analysis to back it up”
- “How can you, as a scientist, in good conscience, set an overfishing limit without any analysis or basis” (using your fatally flawed data)
- “How can you destroy my livelihood with nothing more than an average”
- “All the fish counted in your last assessment are dead, you have no idea how many are there now”



***What are the
impediments, and
what can be done
about them?***

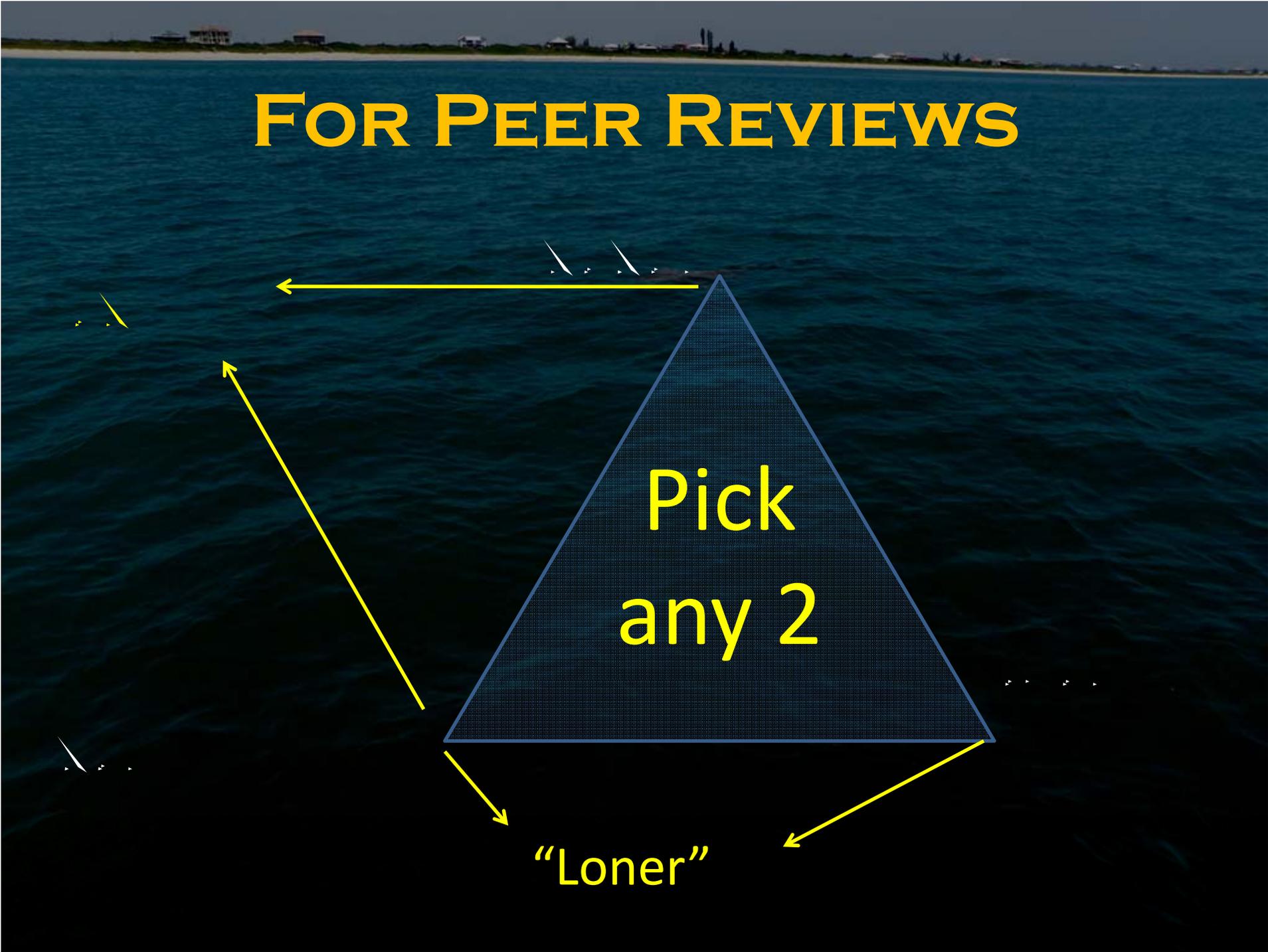


FAST

GOOD

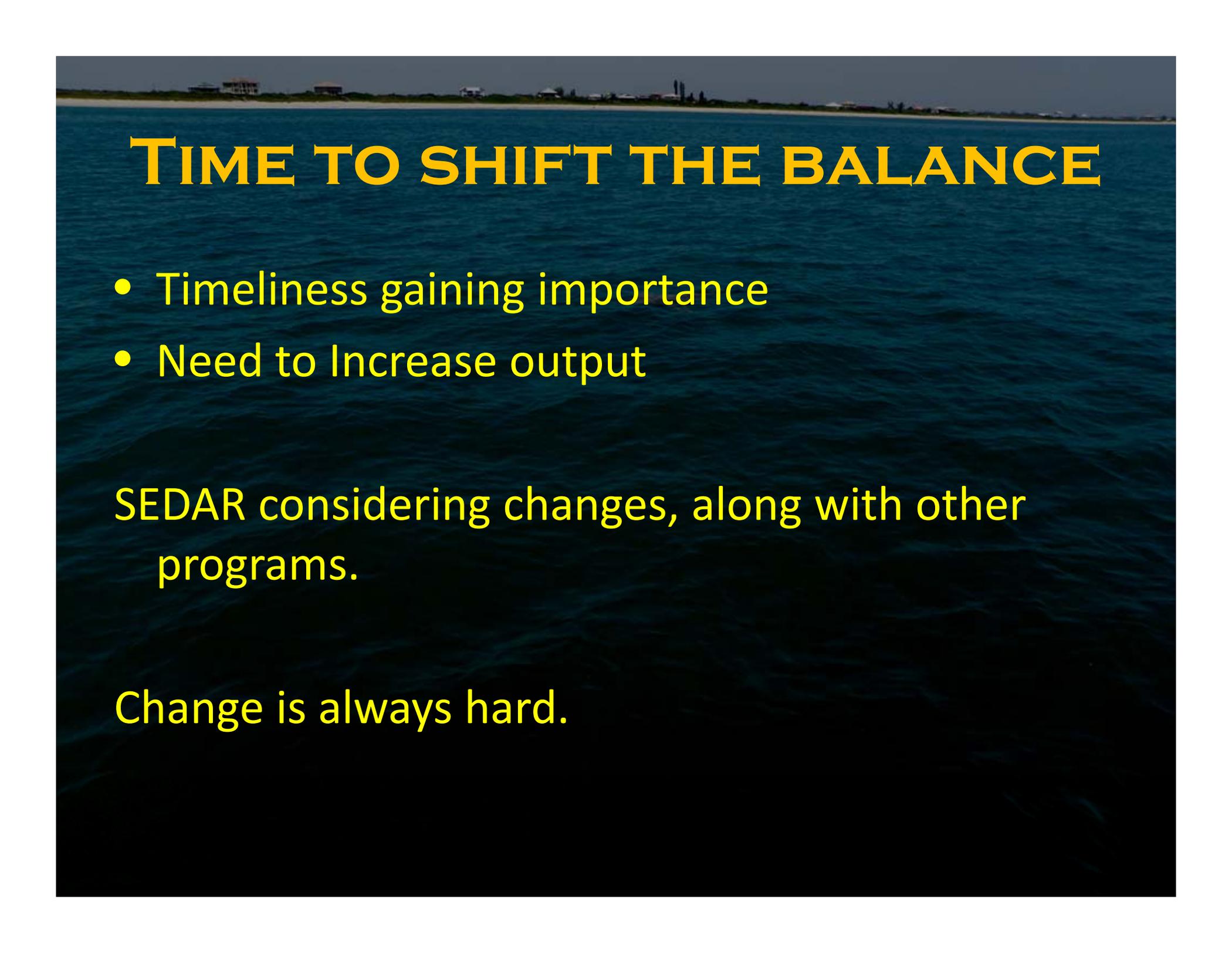
CHEAP

FOR PEER REVIEWS



Pick
any 2

"Loner"



TIME TO SHIFT THE BALANCE

- Timeliness gaining importance
- Need to Increase output

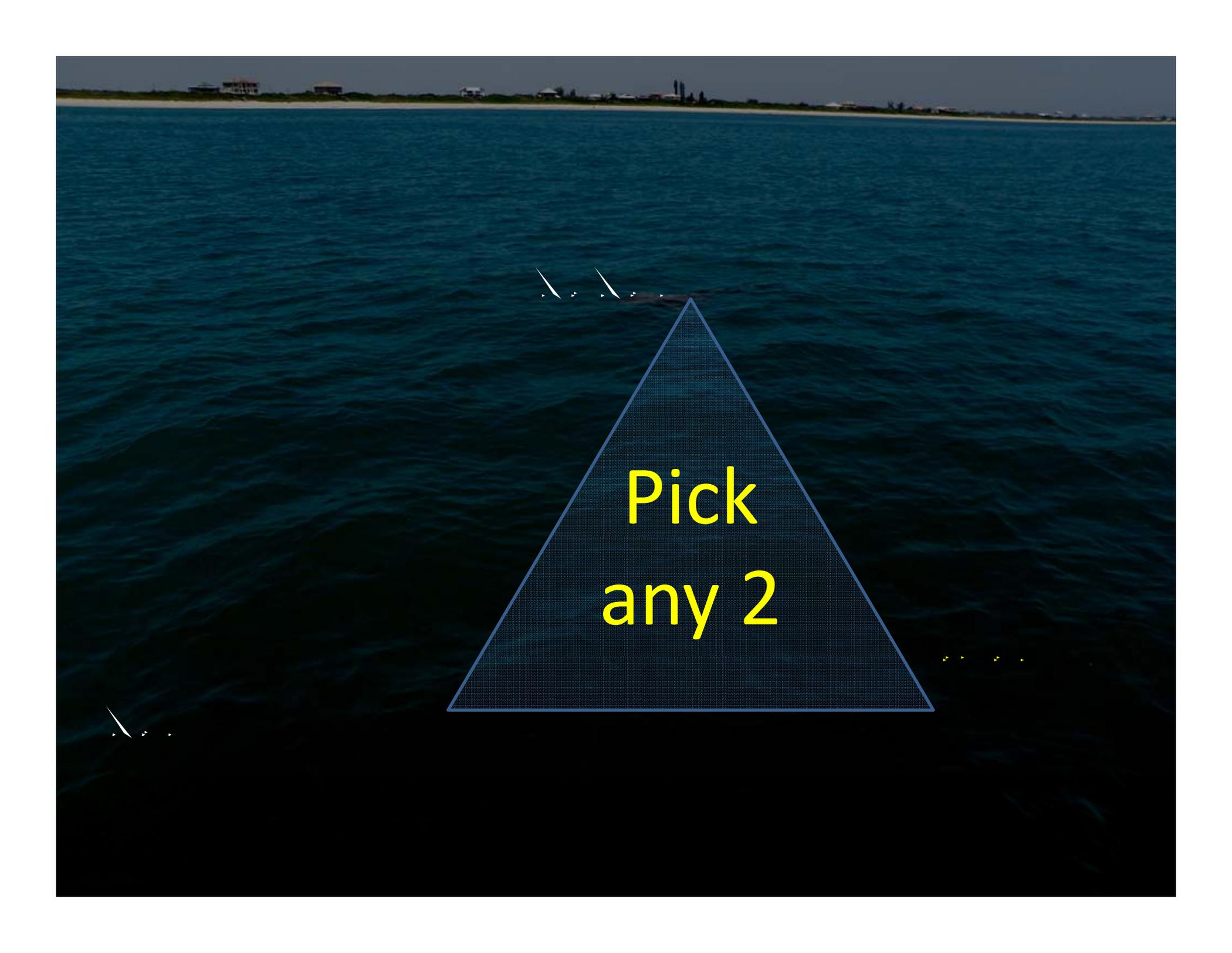
SEDAR considering changes, along with other programs.

Change is always hard.



IMPEDIMENTS TO CHANGE

- Resources are fixed, or at least slow to come
- Managers have expectations of scientific sophistication (especially when there are consequences).
- Constituents becoming accustomed to transparency and 'voice'
- Critics know that delays are often favorable
- Procedures become institutionalized
- Peer Reviews are required

An aerial photograph of a vast, deep blue body of water. In the distance, a thin strip of land with several buildings is visible under a clear sky. A semi-transparent blue triangle with a fine grid pattern is superimposed on the water. Inside the triangle, the text "Pick any 2" is written in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font. The text is centered within the triangle. There are a few small white birds visible on the water's surface, one near the top vertex of the triangle and another near the bottom-left vertex. A small cluster of yellow lights is visible on the water's surface to the right of the triangle's base.

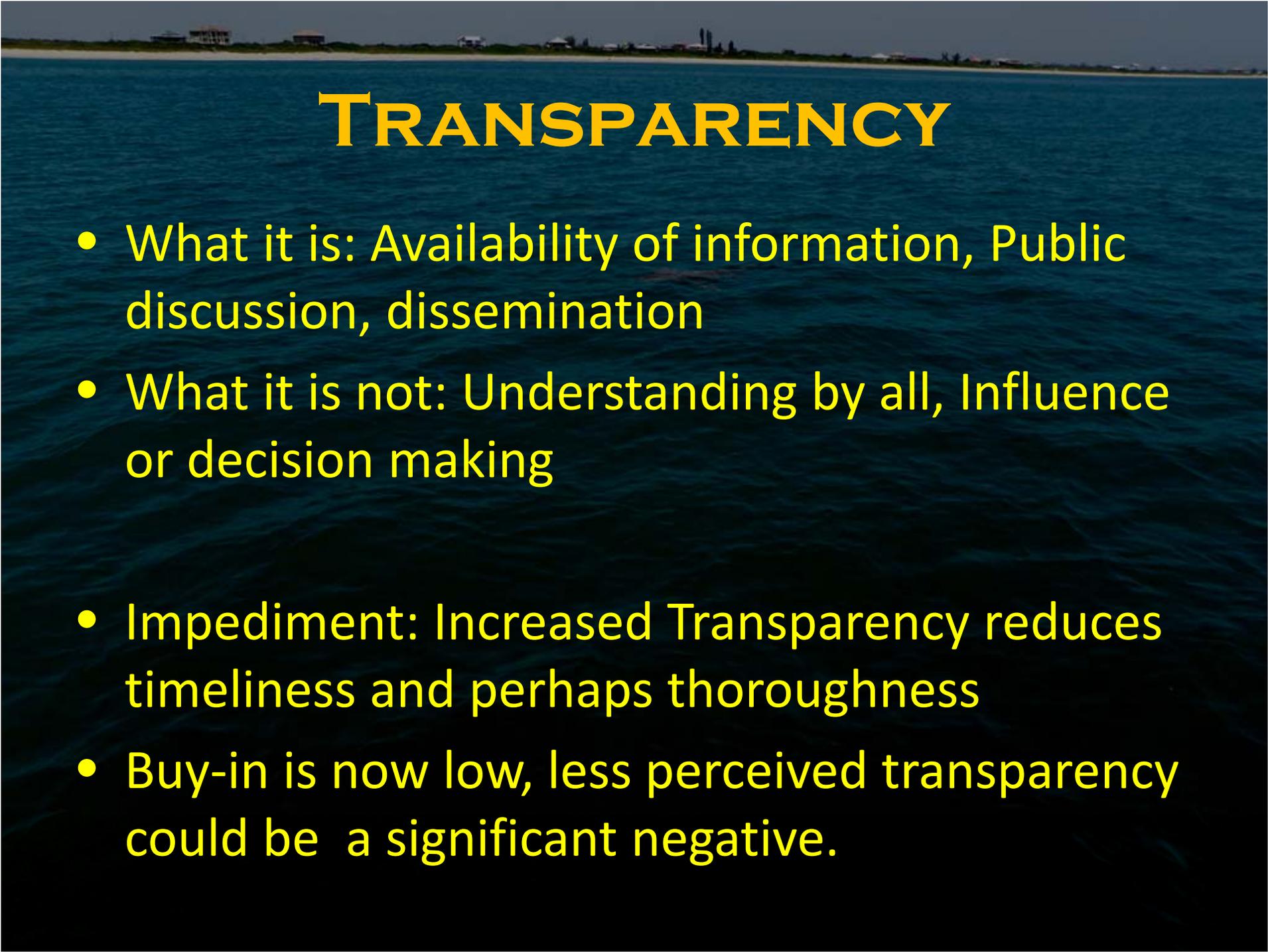
Pick
any 2



TRADEOFFS REQUIRED

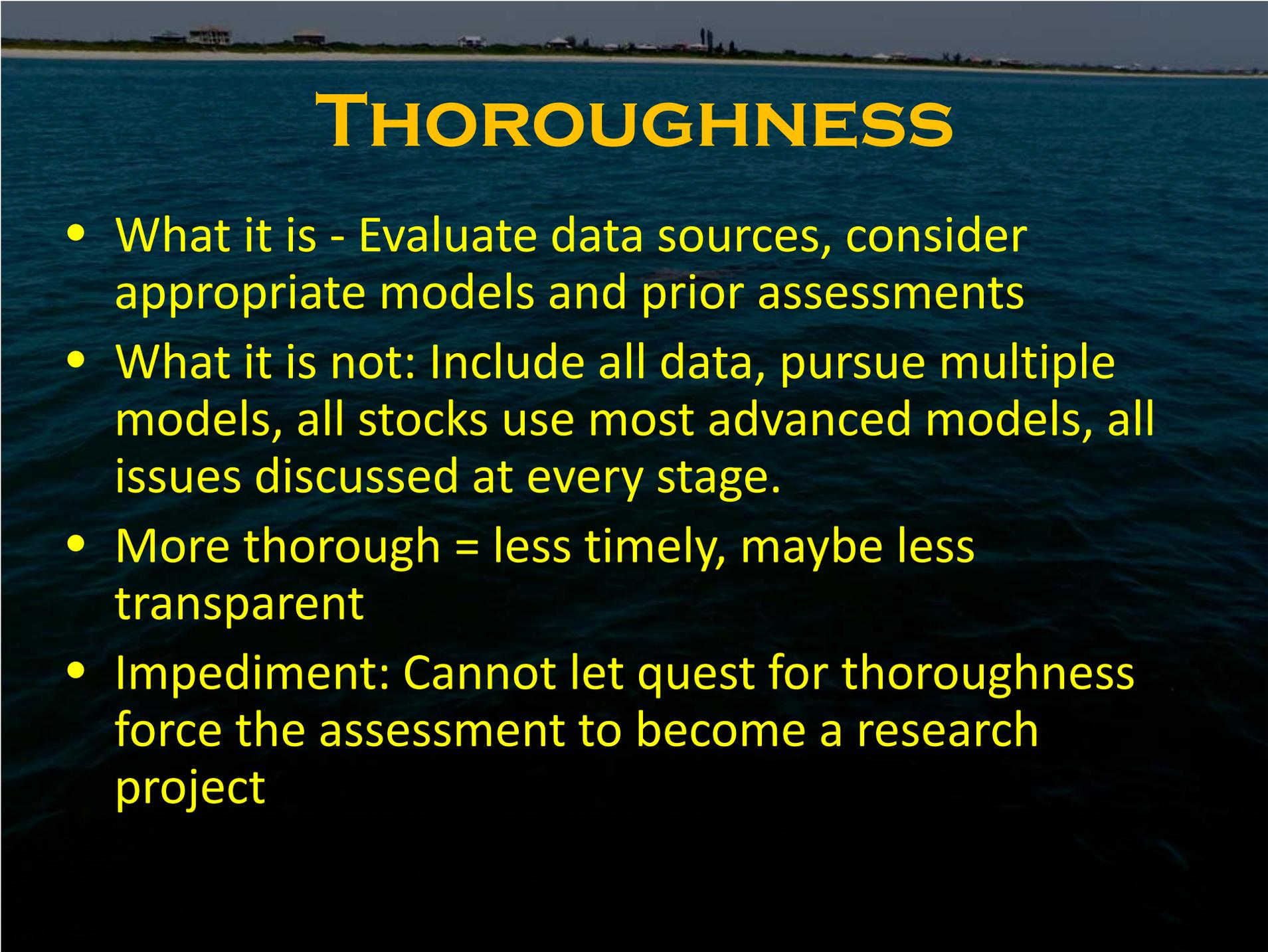
Impacts on Transparency and Thoroughness to be more Timely?

- Assessment Process
- Peer Reviews
- Outside assessments
- Management



TRANSPARENCY

- What it is: Availability of information, Public discussion, dissemination
- What it is not: Understanding by all, Influence or decision making
- Impediment: Increased Transparency reduces timeliness and perhaps thoroughness
- Buy-in is now low, less perceived transparency could be a significant negative.



THOROUGHNESS

- What it is - Evaluate data sources, consider appropriate models and prior assessments
- What it is not: Include all data, pursue multiple models, all stocks use most advanced models, all issues discussed at every stage.
- More thorough = less timely, maybe less transparent
- Impediment: Cannot let quest for thoroughness force the assessment to become a research project

ASSESSMENT PROCESS

- Standard models?
- Streamlined Data Access?
- Benchmarks vs. Updates and other things in between
 - Need rules, else viewed as avoiding review
 - May help manage expectations
- Rely more on analysts, less on committees
 - with caution, avoiding personalizing
- Balance new while not backsliding on the existing

OUTSIDE ASSESSMENTS

- Consider other sources
- Concern that QA/QC will occupy as much time as doing the assessment
- Will submitters commit to care and feeding?

PEER REVIEWS

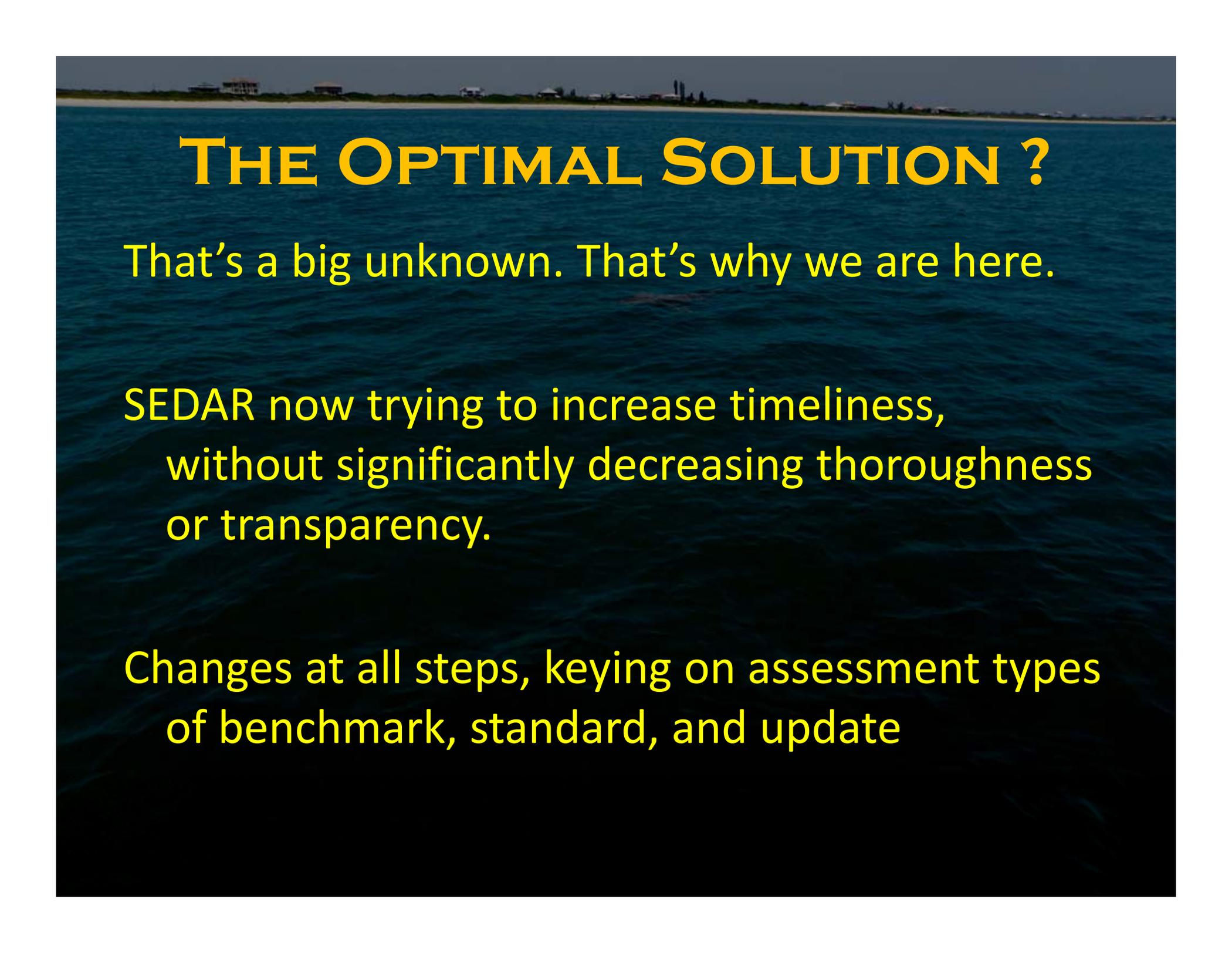
- Fewer Peer Reviews?
 - Focus on benchmarks
- Less intensive peer reviews, handling more stocks?
 - “desk” as opposed to meeting?
 - Feasible for mature programs
- Tiered system of reviews
 - needs for a benchmark differ from those for an update
- SSC and Peer Review Integration
 - Regional differences

AVOID PEER REVIEW REJECTIONS

- Rejections are a huge step backwards and incredible loss of resources (TIME)
- Get something from review, even if assessment 'rejected'
 - Qualitative advice often clear
- Move away from pass-fail scenarios
- Carefully crafted TORs

MANAGED EXPECTATIONS

- Managers may need to accept a lower level of scientific advice
 - Do all stocks need the same (Cadillac) assessment
 - Do we need to age all species
- Specify criteria for multiple years
 - Consider for some stocks
- Constituents accept less participation
- Some issues ‘not up for discussion’

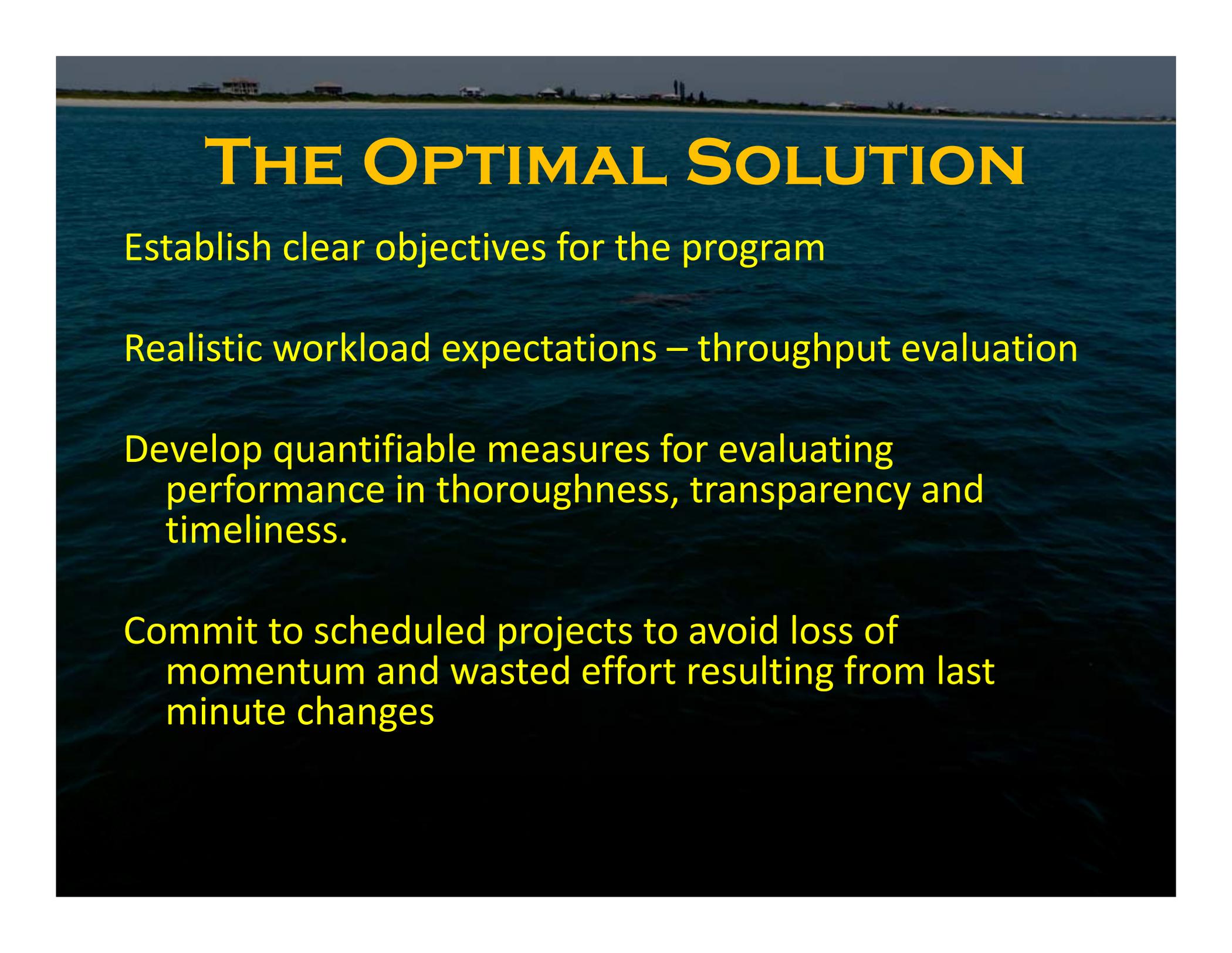


THE OPTIMAL SOLUTION ?

That's a big unknown. That's why we are here.

SEDAR now trying to increase timeliness,
without significantly decreasing thoroughness
or transparency.

Changes at all steps, keying on assessment types
of benchmark, standard, and update



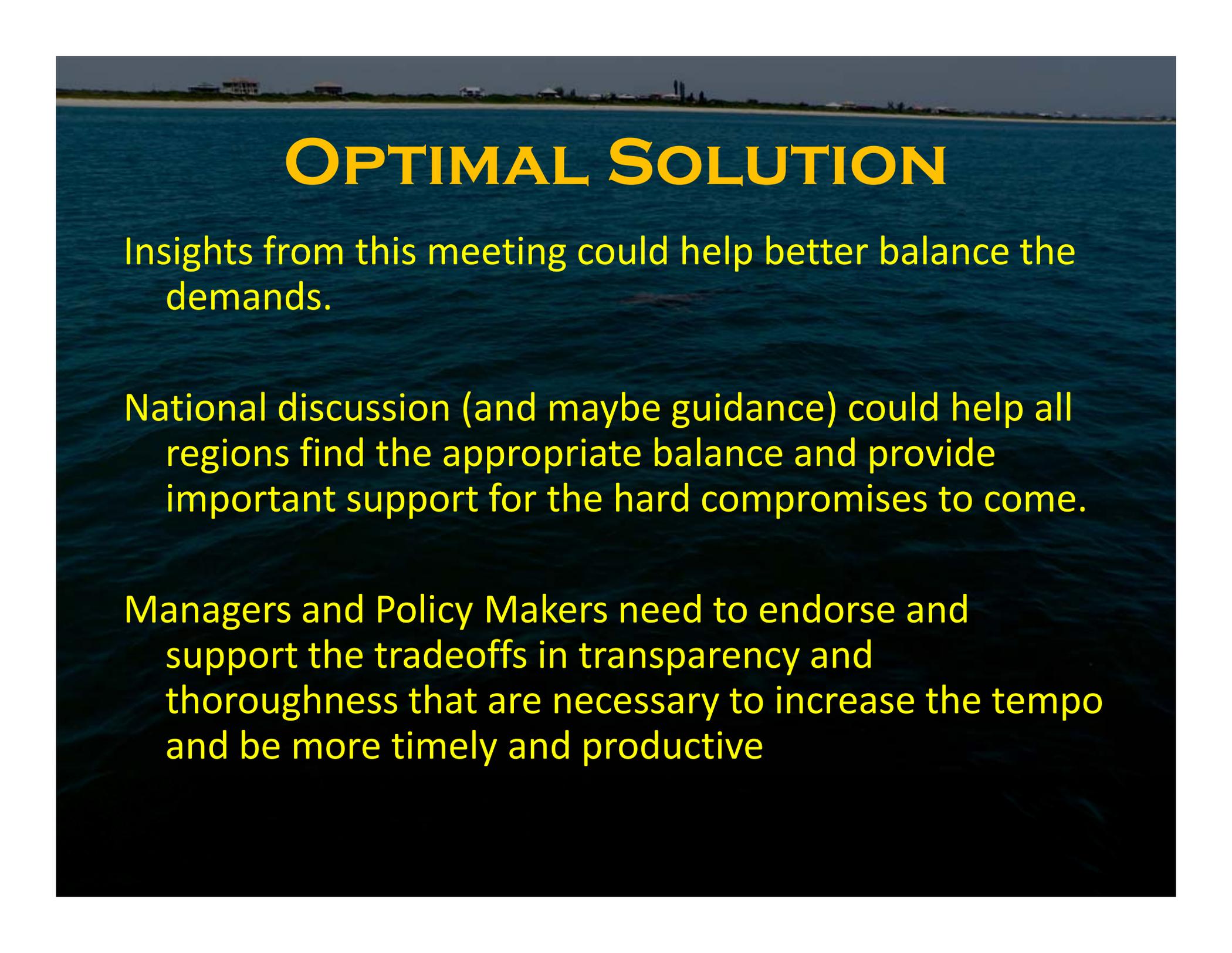
THE OPTIMAL SOLUTION

Establish clear objectives for the program

Realistic workload expectations – throughput evaluation

Develop quantifiable measures for evaluating performance in thoroughness, transparency and timeliness.

Commit to scheduled projects to avoid loss of momentum and wasted effort resulting from last minute changes



OPTIMAL SOLUTION

Insights from this meeting could help better balance the demands.

National discussion (and maybe guidance) could help all regions find the appropriate balance and provide important support for the hard compromises to come.

Managers and Policy Makers need to endorse and support the tradeoffs in transparency and thoroughness that are necessary to increase the tempo and be more timely and productive

