Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

• Five states
• 1,631 miles of coast/186,200 nm² EEZ
• 69 species in 6 FMPs and
• 330 species in the Coral FMP

• Approximately 700 species harvested
  (state and federal waters combined)

• Economic value
  – $800 million commercial dockside
  – $8.1 billion recreational expenditures
Physical Environment

- Temperate to tropical ecosystems
- Half of all wetlands in the US
- 3,900 square miles of seagrasses
- Broad shelves 124 mi. wide
- Mississippi River
- Coral reefs
Recent Management Tools: Marine Protected Areas

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- Other considerations
Future Directions Being Considered

- Ecosystem management
- SEDAR Process to improve assessments
- Continue use of traditional management tools (size limits, bag limits, trip limits, quotas)
- Review the use of IFQ programs
- Consider additional HAPCs and MPAs
- Develop additional strategies to reduce bycatch and bycatch mortality
NEW MPAs & CORAL PROTECTION

• **HAPC’s Established Regulating Gear: 1/05**

• **Pulley’s Ridge** – Northern-most and deepest pristine area with coral characteristic of the Caribbean Sea.

• **Stetson Bank, McGrail Bank, and East and West Flower Garden Banks** - Deep water pinnacles off of Texas/Louisiana shelf.
Proposed Action to minimize adverse effects of fishing on EFH on Pulley Ridge and in Tortugas Ecological Reserves
Proposed Action to Minimize adverse effects of fishing on EFH in the Western Gulf