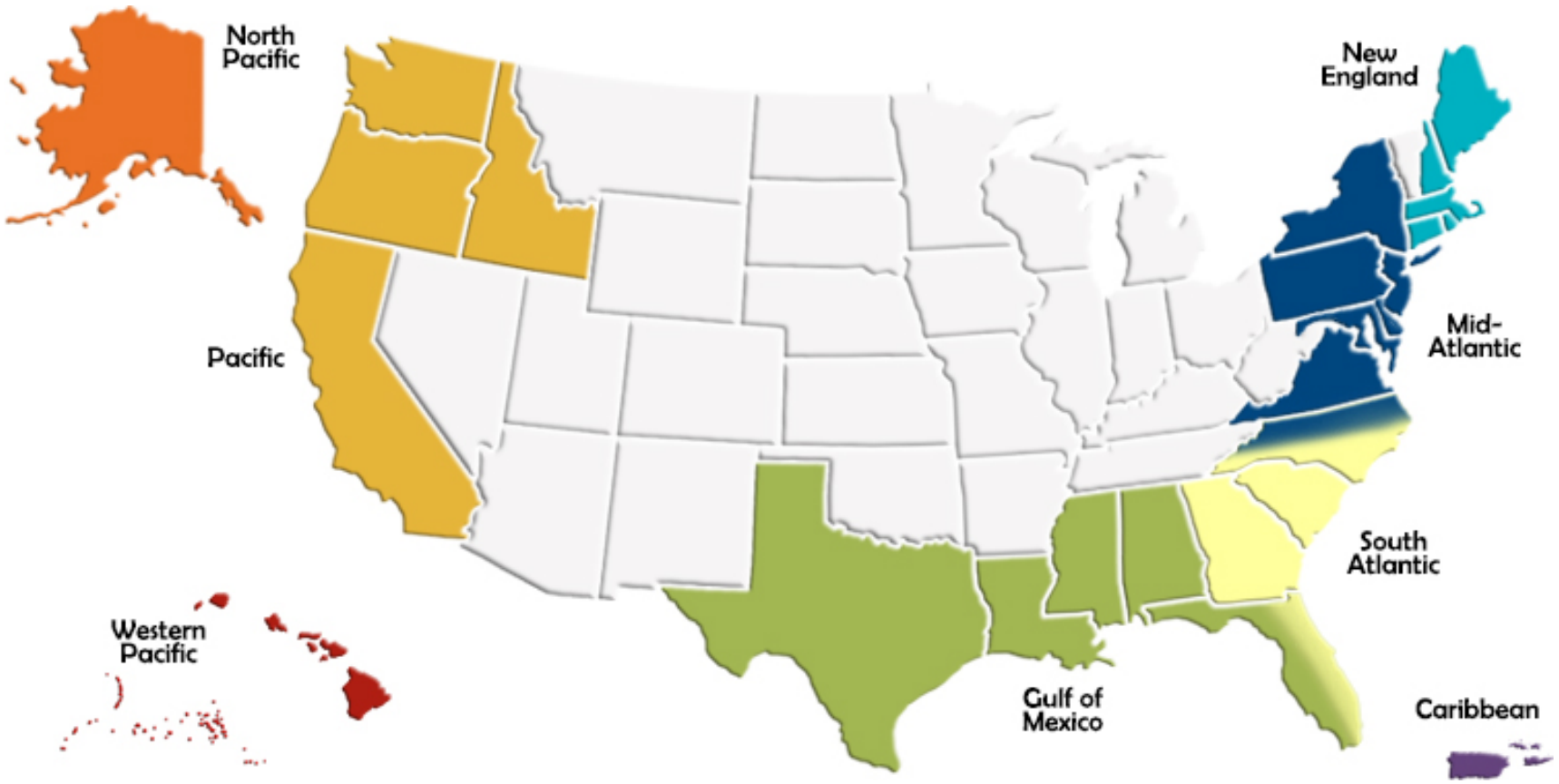
# Bycatch Management and Mitigation in the US

- Reduction of discard and bycatch required in US under three different statutes but **no national or regional discard ban** – specific language in Magnuson Stevens Act:
  - Conservation and management measures shall, **to the extent practicable, minimize bycatch, and to the extent bycatch cannot be avoided, minimize the mortality of such bycatch.**
- National policies and programs set broad goals
- Implementation/regulation is regional and involves extensive stakeholder participation through Regional Fishery Management Councils

# Bycatch Management and Mitigation in the US – Important Considerations

- National Bycatch Reduction Strategy (Monitor & Estimate, Research, Conserve & Manage, Enforce, Communicate)
- Monitoring by observers and electronic tools (video, logbooks)
- National Bycatch Report
- Catch Share Programs/Co-management of target and bycatch
- Constructive engagement of all interested parties through the Council process
- Innovation through support for research and development of mitigation approaches – gear technology, avoidance, etc. – National Bycatch Reduction Engineering Program
- AccountabIlity (Annual Catch Limits, Compliance Monitoring, etc.)

# REGIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT
# Under the Magnuson Stevens Act



# Bycatch Management and Mitigation in the US – Regional Examples

- Each region has a range of bycatch challenges e.g.
  - salmon and halibut in Alaska groundfish
  - rockfish and salmon in West Coast hake and groundfish fisheries
  - red snapper and other finfish, and turtles in Gulf of Mexico and S. Atlantic shrimp fisheries
  - river herring and shad in Mid Atlantic mackerel fishery
  - depleted groundfish species in groundfish and scallop fisheries of New England

# Bycatch Management and Mitigation in the US – Useful Links

- http://www.npfmc.org/wp-content/PDFdocuments/resources/FleetProfiles412.pdf - Alaska fleet profiles
- https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries/bycatch-reduction
- http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/protected_species/marine_mammals/bycatch_in_commercial_fisheries.html
- http://www.psmfc.org/program/pacific-fisheries-bycatch-program
- http://www.pcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/D3a_NMFS_Rpt1_SalmonBycatch_JUN2015BB.pdf
- https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/sites/default/files/679b27.pdf - Alaska IR/IU
- http://www.gulfsouthfoundation.org/uploads/60_FINAL_REPORT.pdf - Gulf/SA Shrimp
- https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/sfd/sectordocs/Sector%20Management%20Fact%20Sheet%20Aug%2009.pdf – New England Groundfish Sectors
- http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/ecosystems/bycatch/discard-and-release-mortality - action plan for fish release mortality science
- http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/fisheries_eco/bycatch/nationalreport.html