Results from the Great Red Snapper Count

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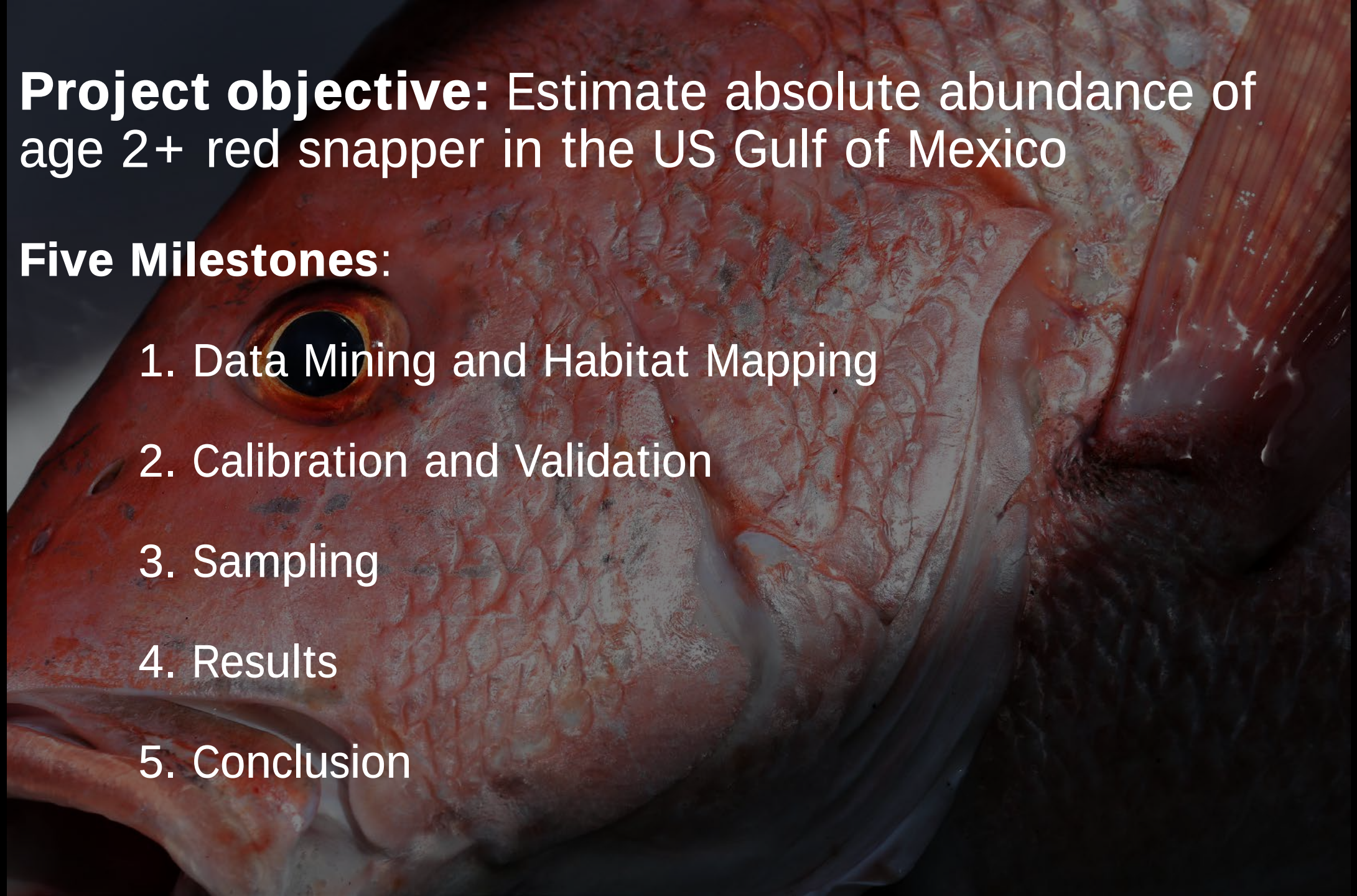
2. *Mississippi–Alabama Sea Grant Consortium*
3. *Harte Research Institute, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi*

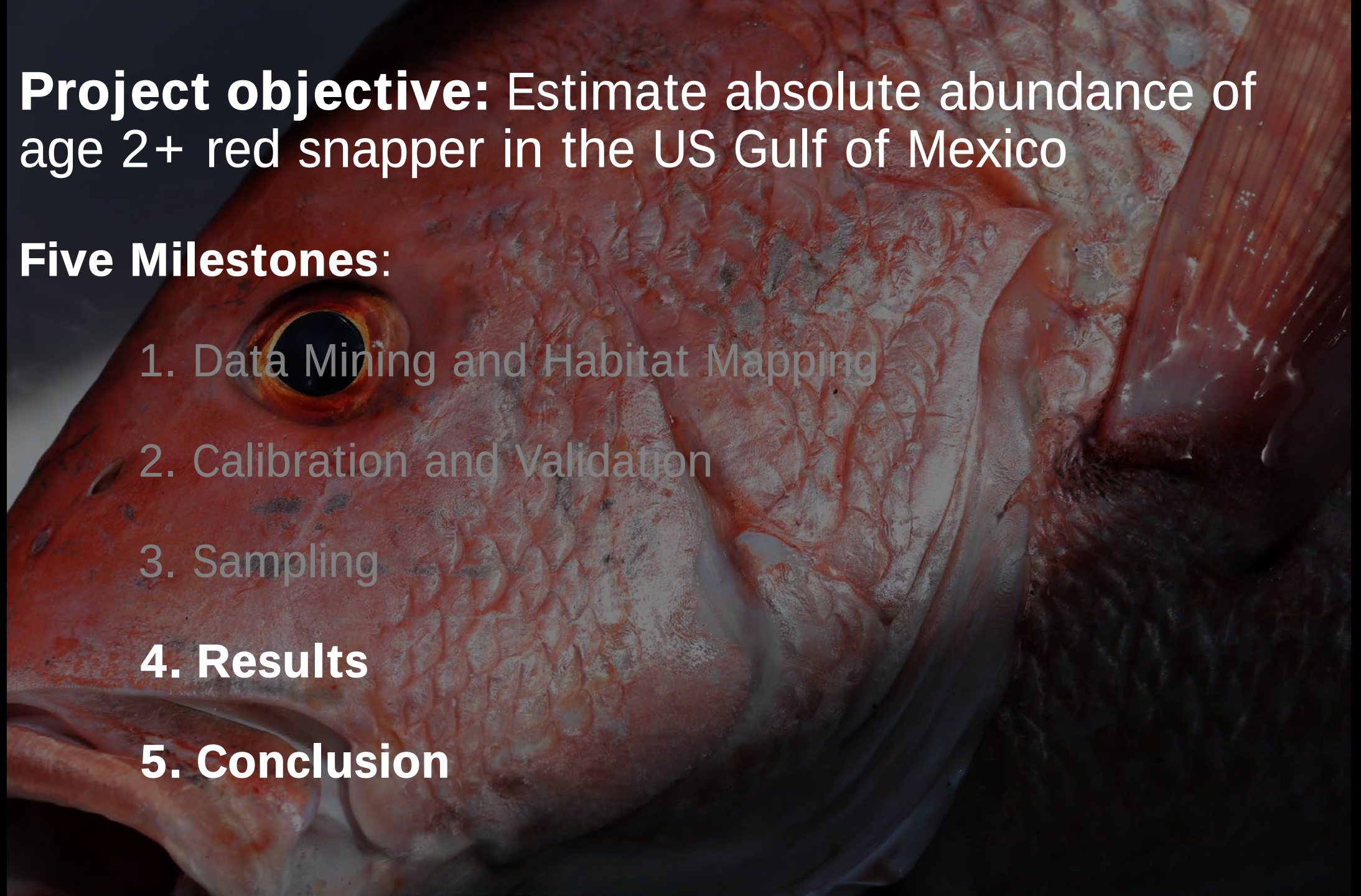
Photo by Mike Kittrell



Project objective: Estimate absolute abundance of age 2+ red snapper in the US Gulf of Mexico

Five Milestones:

1. Data Mining and Habitat Mapping
2. Calibration and Validation
3. Sampling
4. Results
5. Conclusion



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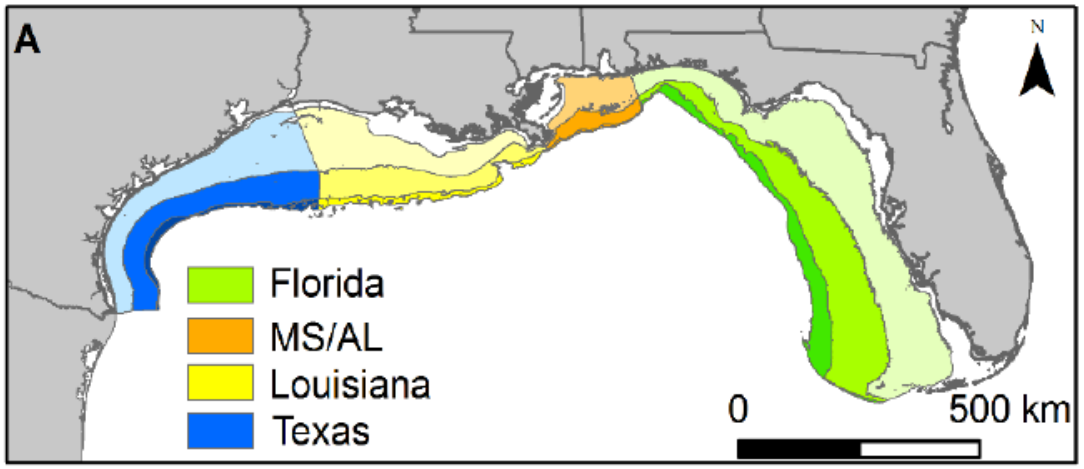
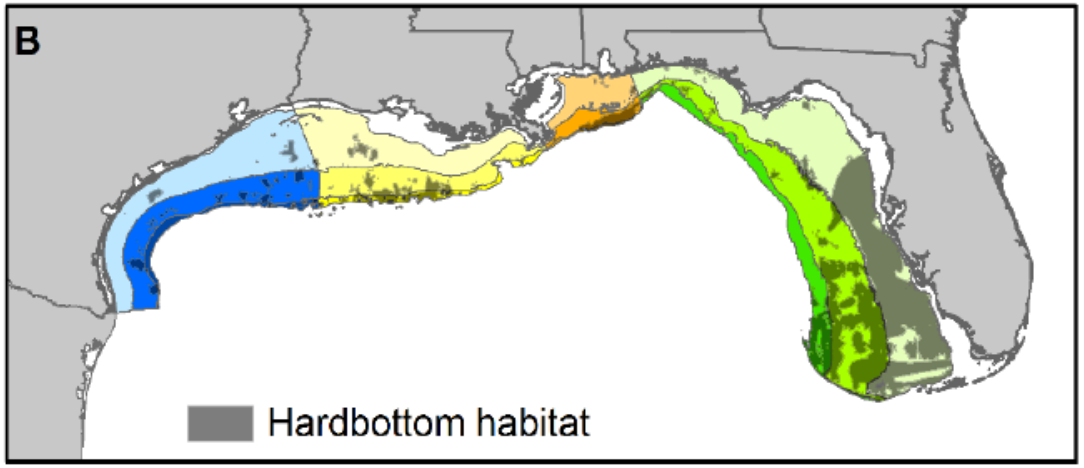
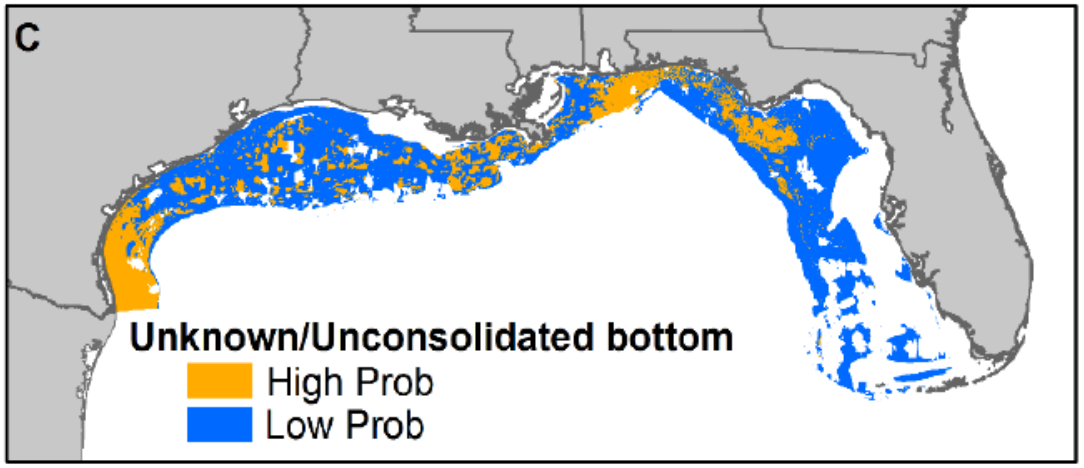
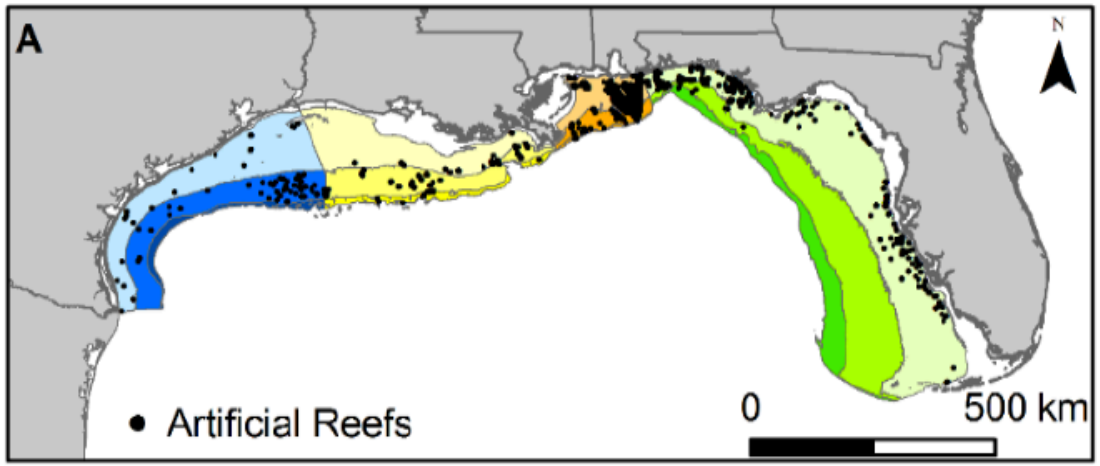
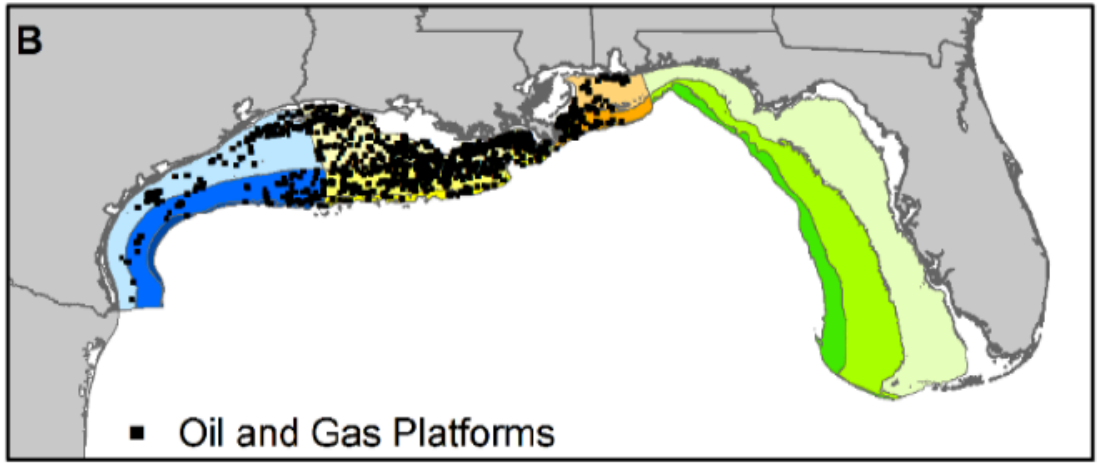
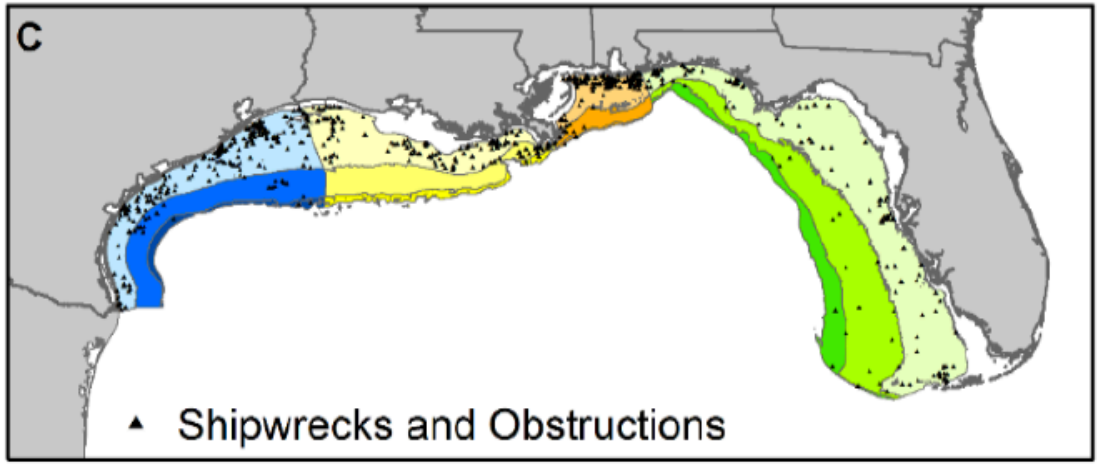

A
N
Florida
MS/AL
Louisiana
Texas
0
500 km


B
Hardbottom habitat

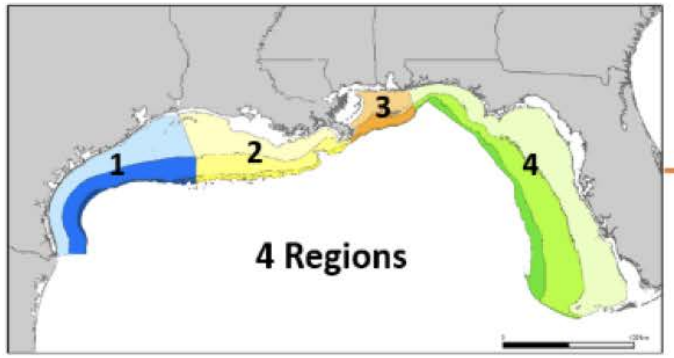

C
Unknown/Unconsolidated bottom
High Prob
Low Prob


A
N
Artificial Reefs
0
500 km


B
Oil and Gas Platforms


C
Shipwrecks and Obstructions

Habitat Classification



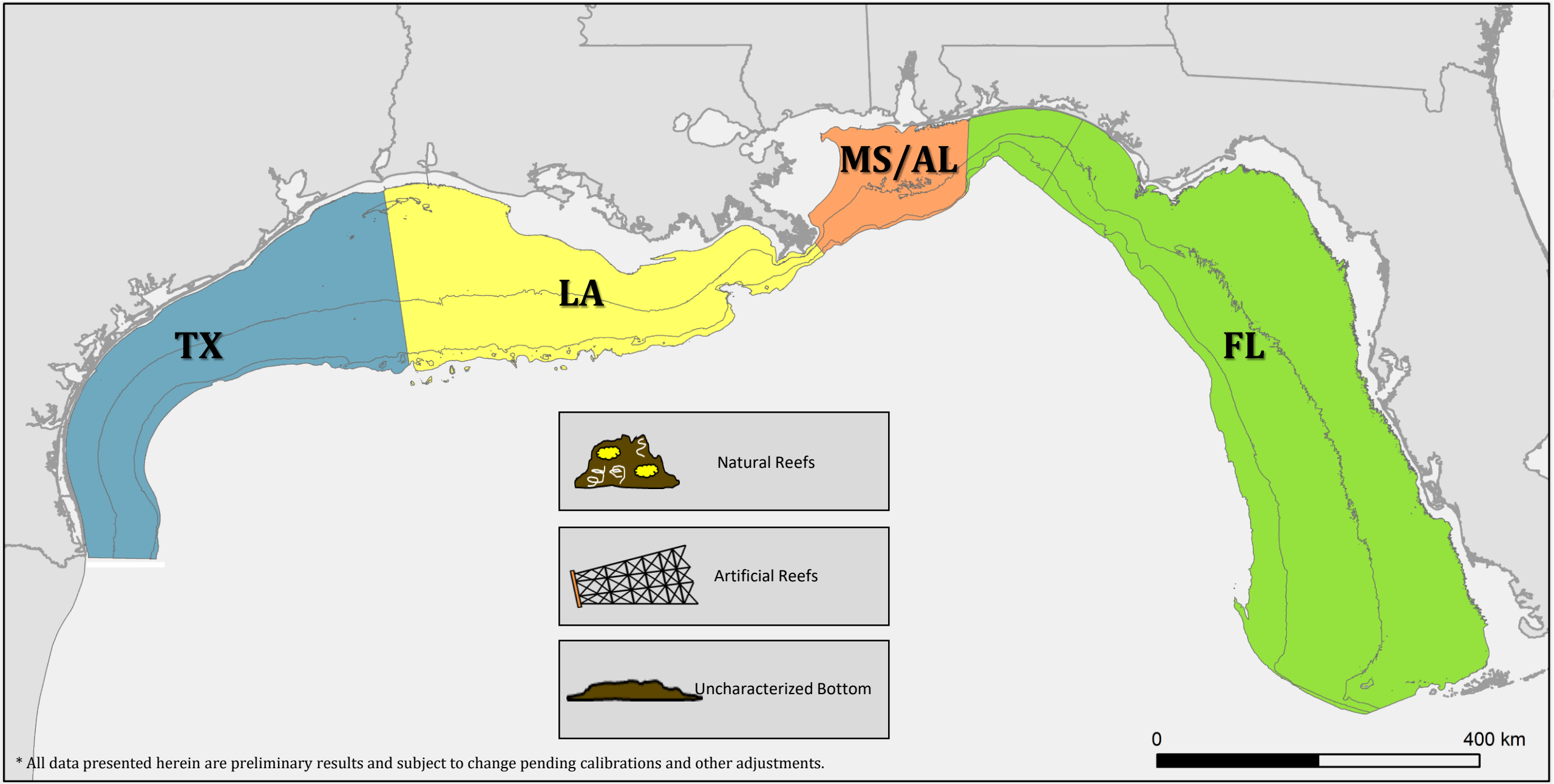
- Shallow (10 - 40 m)
  - Artificial Reef
    - Large
    - Small
  - Natural Reefs
  - Uncharacterized Bottom
- Mid-depth (40 – 100 m)
  - Artificial Reef
    - Large
    - Small
  - Natural Reefs
  - Uncharacterized Bottom
- Deep (100 - 160 m)
  - Artificial Reef
    - Large
    - Small
  - Natural Reefs
  - Uncharacterized Bottom
- Shelf Slope
  - Salt domes, Seamounts, other natural features


DEFENDER

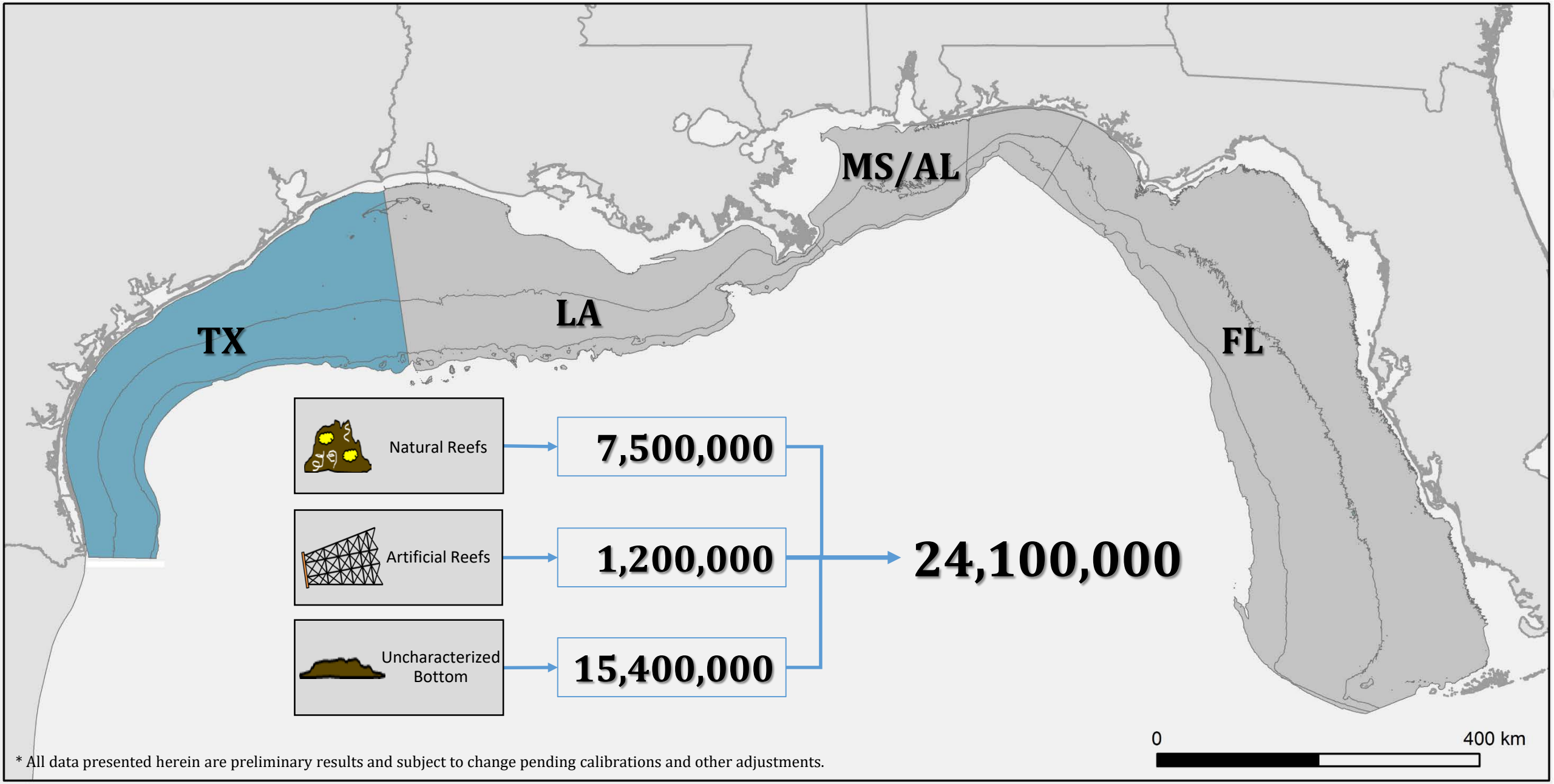

OUTLAND
752


phantom
DEEP OCEAN
DEEP OCEAN


C-BASS



* All data presented herein are preliminary results and subject to change pending calibrations and other adjustments.



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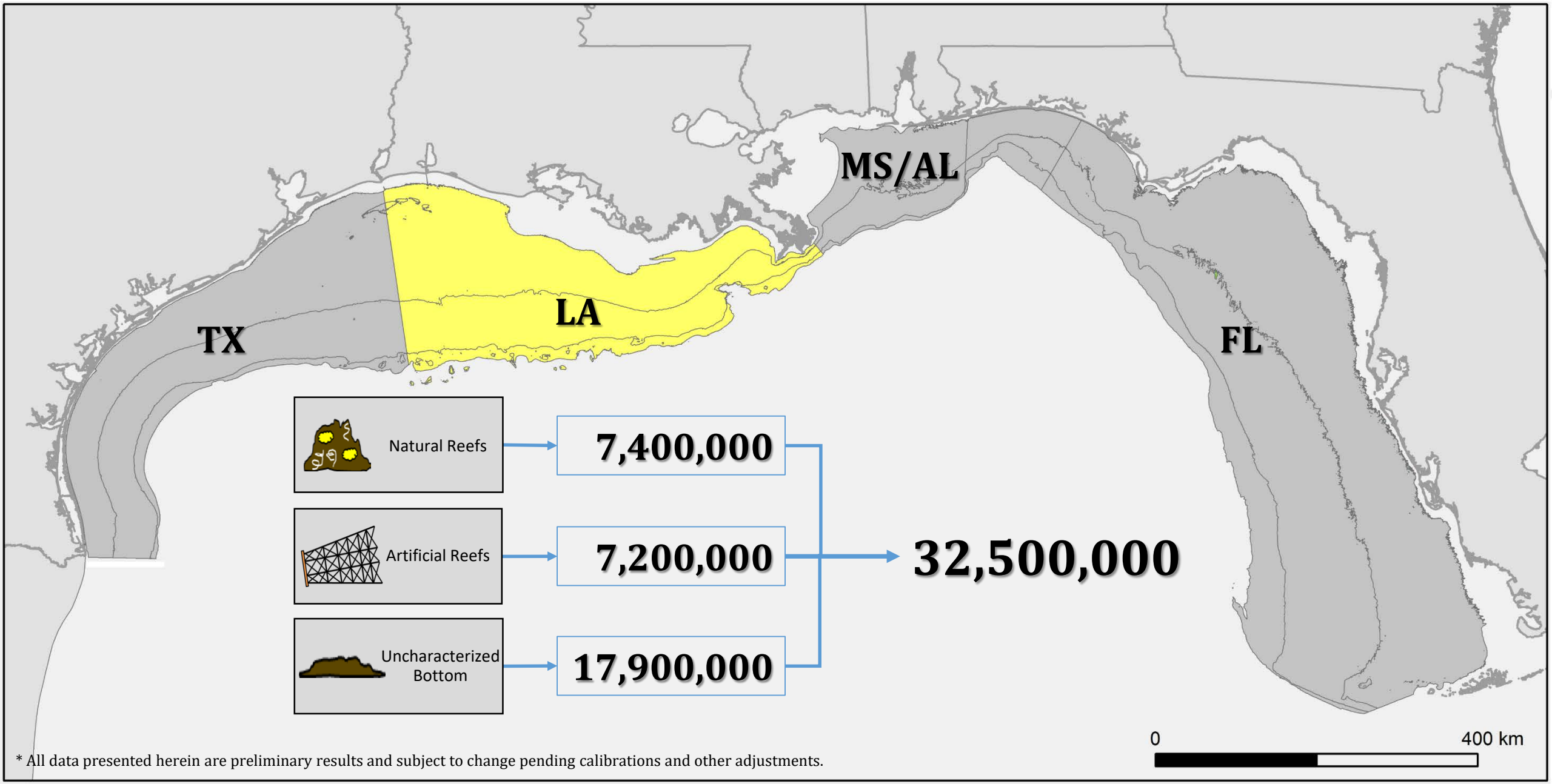

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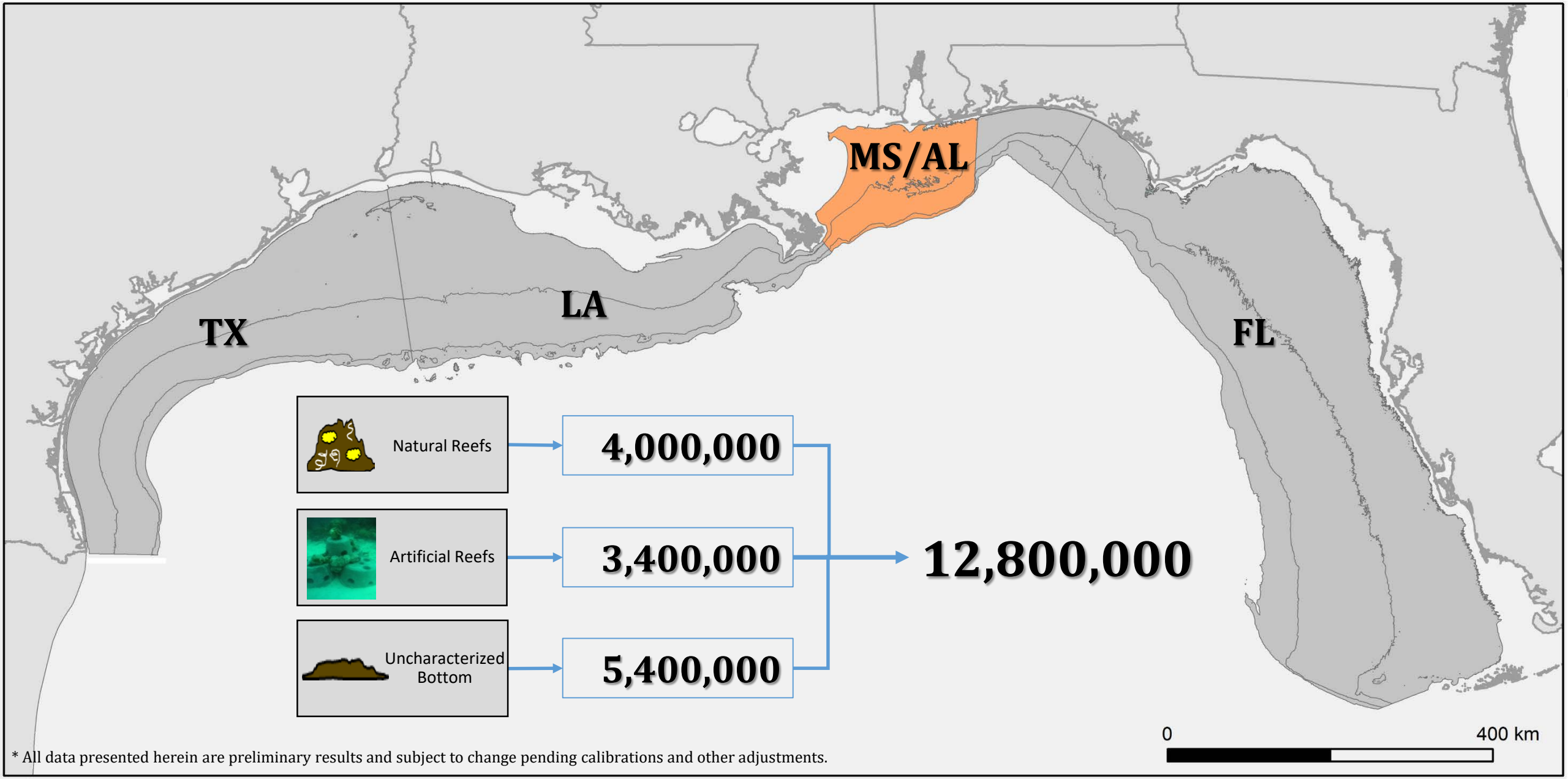

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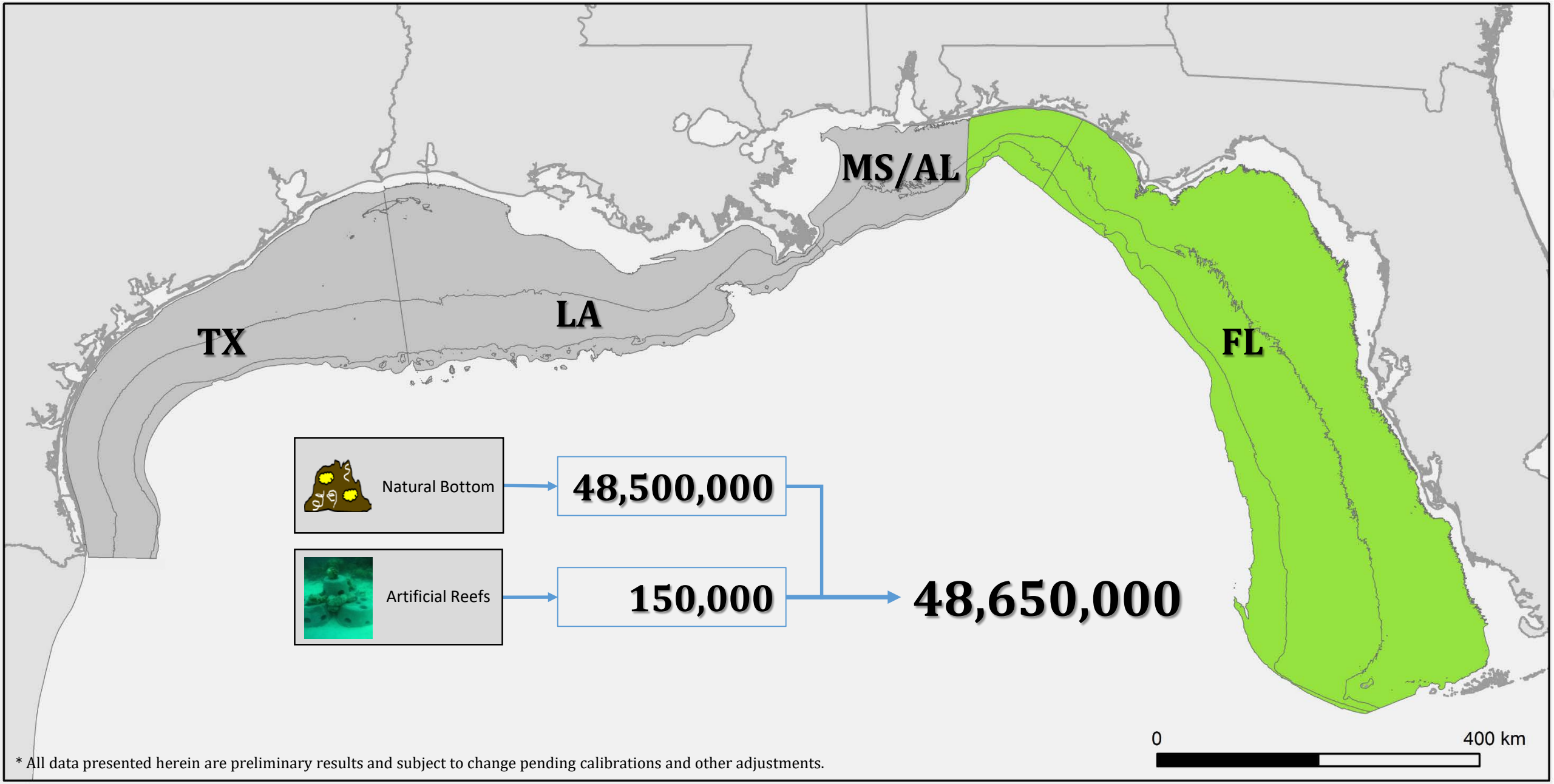

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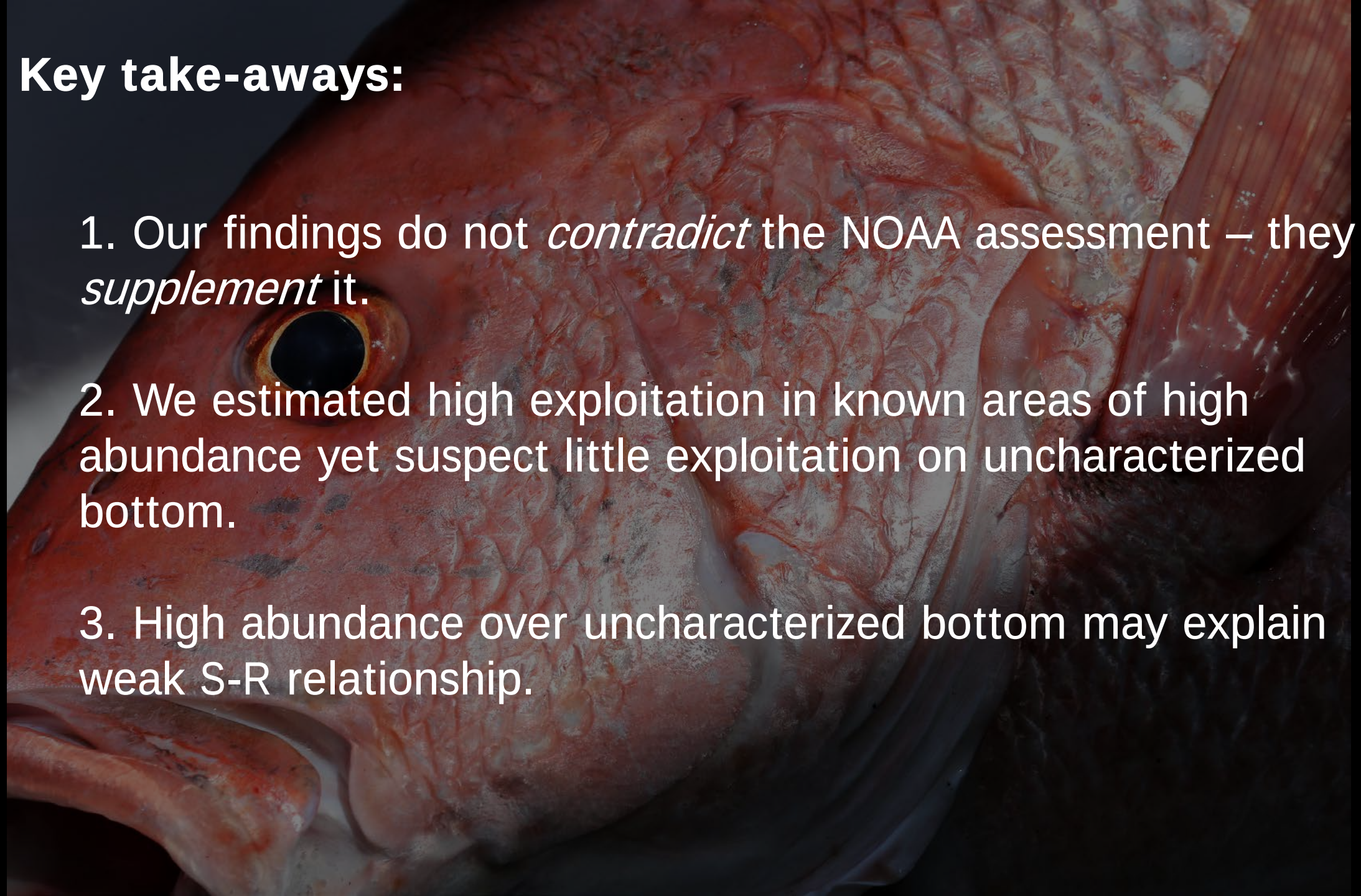
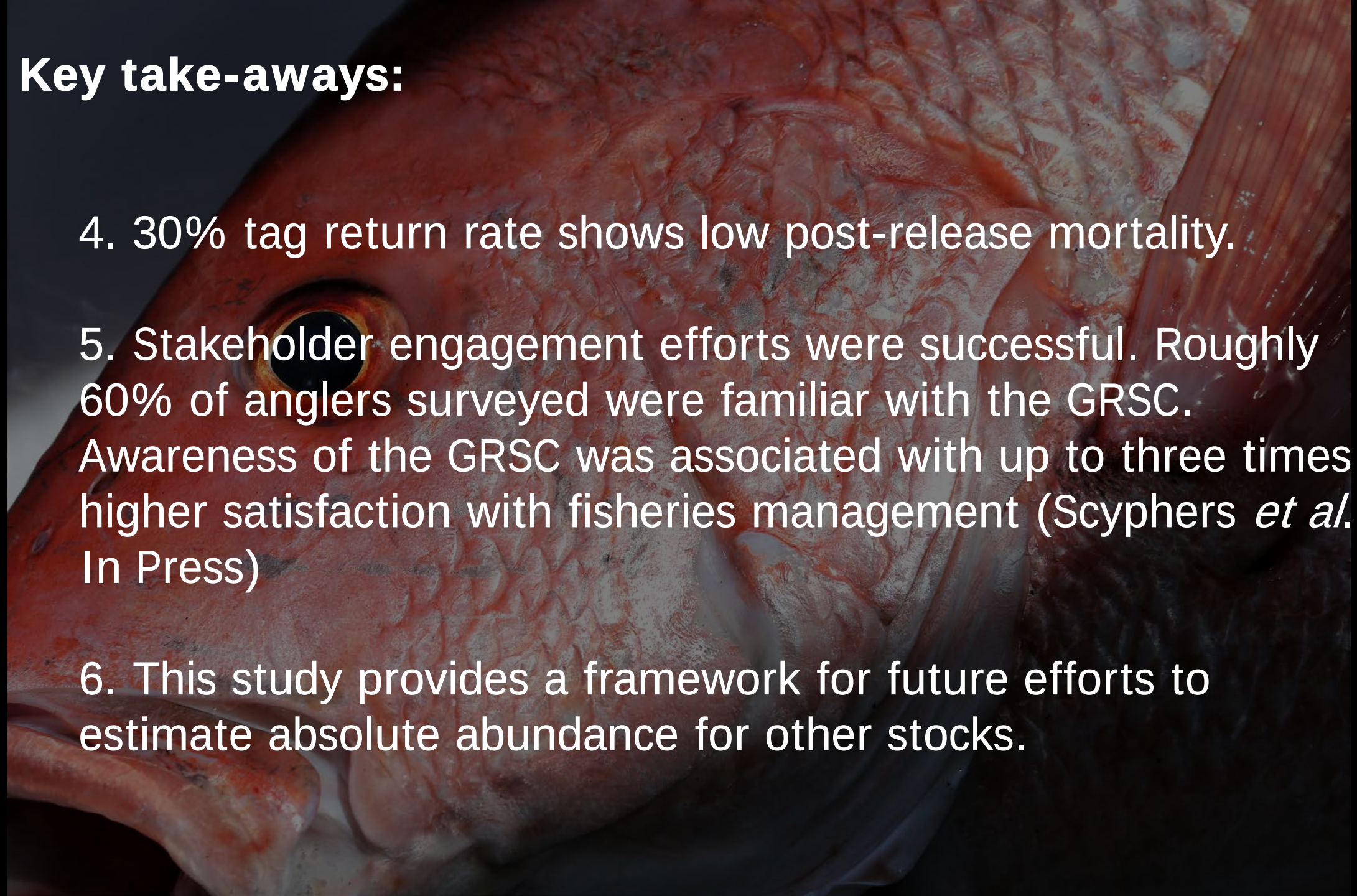


Key take-aways:

1. Our findings do not *contradict* the NOAA assessment – they *supplement* it.

2. We estimated high exploitation in known areas of high abundance yet suspect little exploitation on uncharacterized bottom.

3. High abundance over uncharacterized bottom may explain weak S-R relationship.



Key take-aways:

4. 30% tag return rate shows low post-release mortality.

5. Stakeholder engagement efforts were successful. Roughly 60% of anglers surveyed were familiar with the GRSC. Awareness of the GRSC was associated with up to three times higher satisfaction with fisheries management (Scyphers *et al.* In Press)

6. This study provides a framework for future efforts to estimate absolute abundance for other stocks.

Final Steps

March 24 (9am)

Project press release. Coordinated effort by GRSC team, National Sea Grant Office, NOAA Fisheries

March 30 – April 2

Review of GRSC by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council SSC

Questions