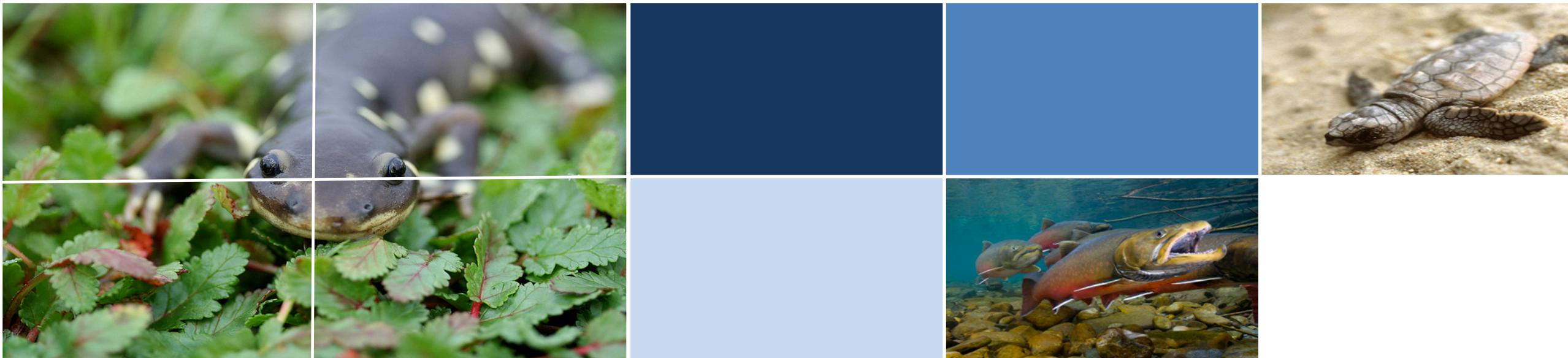


ESA Classification Process Overview

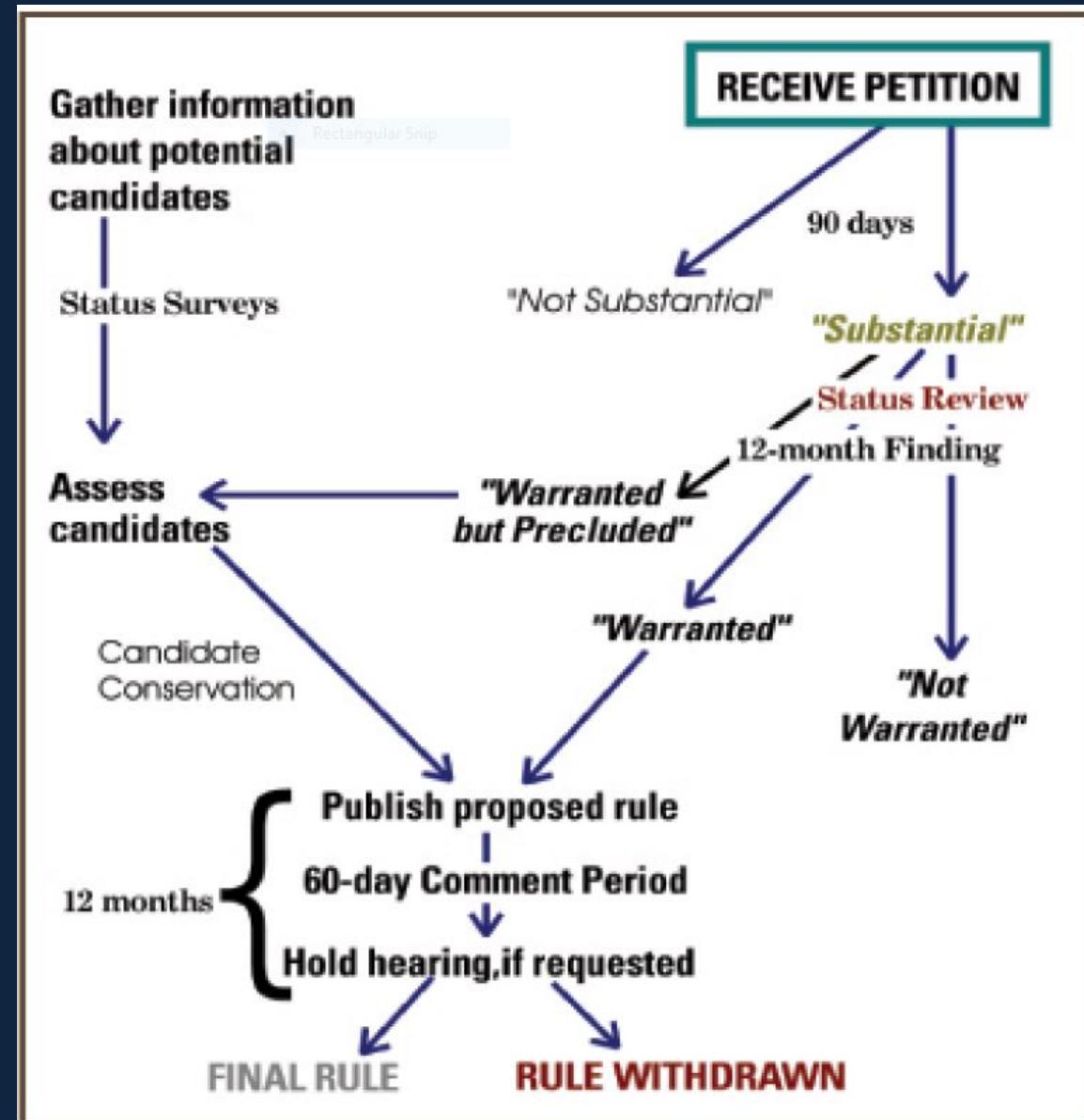




Listing Process in a Nutshell

Seems simple, so what's the big deal?

- Workload
- Staffing resources
- Budget
- Litigation
- Process
- Best available information





Classification Program



FWS Internal Review of Listing Program

Key Recommendations from Report

- Make the scientific analysis more explicit and transparent
- Re-allocate staff and funding resources from the review and editing phase of listing rulemaking to the scientific and decision analysis phase
- Use teams to complete work products
- Finalize key policy and guidance documents
- Improve communication within the program, throughout FWS, and with external partners



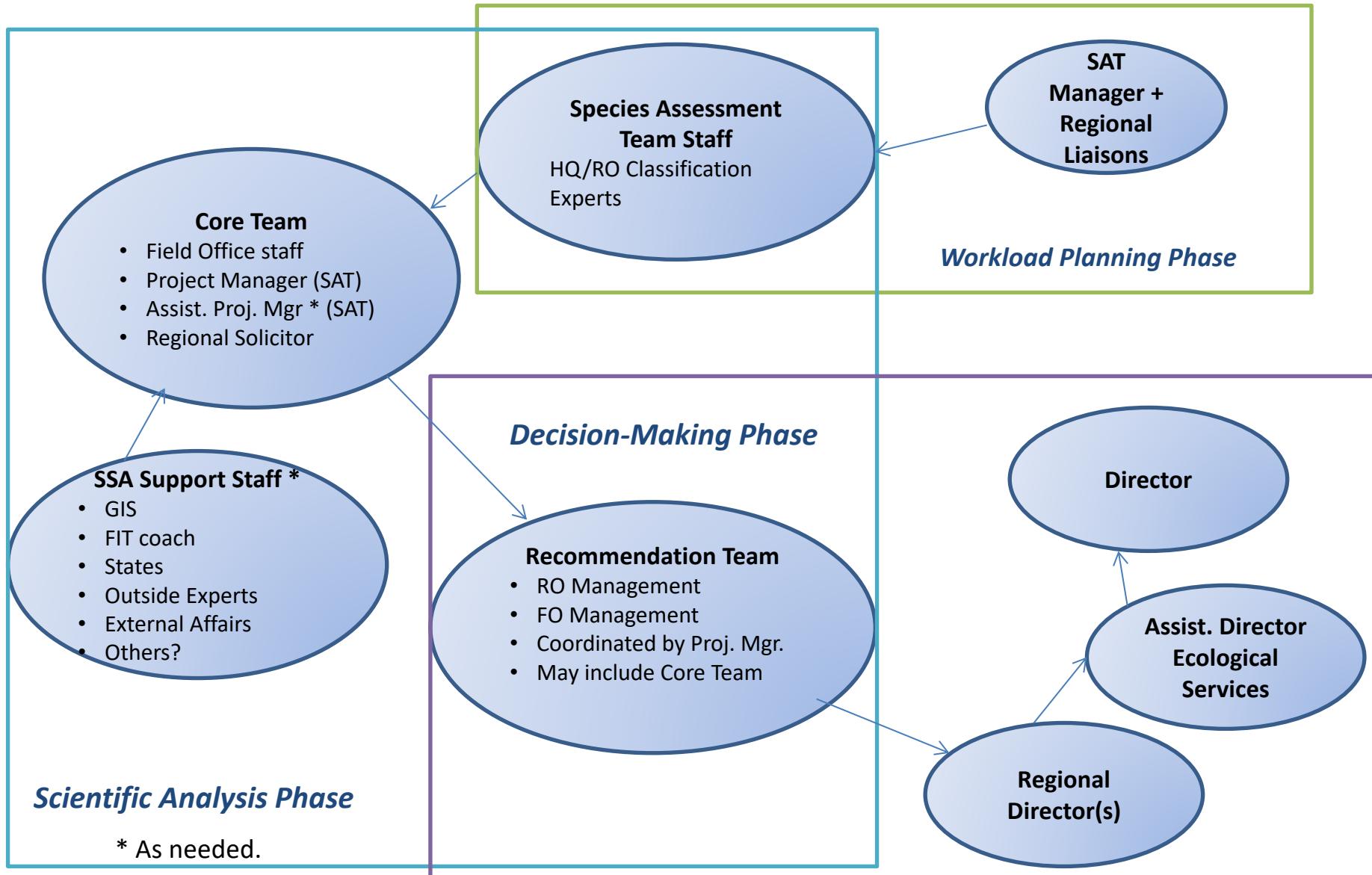
Scientific Analysis Phase – using the SSA Framework

- A key component in separating the scientific analysis from the decision-making phases
- Living documents that support all ESA functions (e.g., candidate assessment, listing, recovery, consultations, permits)
- SSA Training through NCTC and Regions
 - Online videos
- Framework Implementation Team (FIT) may serve as SSA coaches
- FWS SSA Google site:
<https://sites.google.com/a/fws.gov/ssa/>



Species Status Assessment Framework

Domestic Classification Process Flow Chart





National Workplan Details

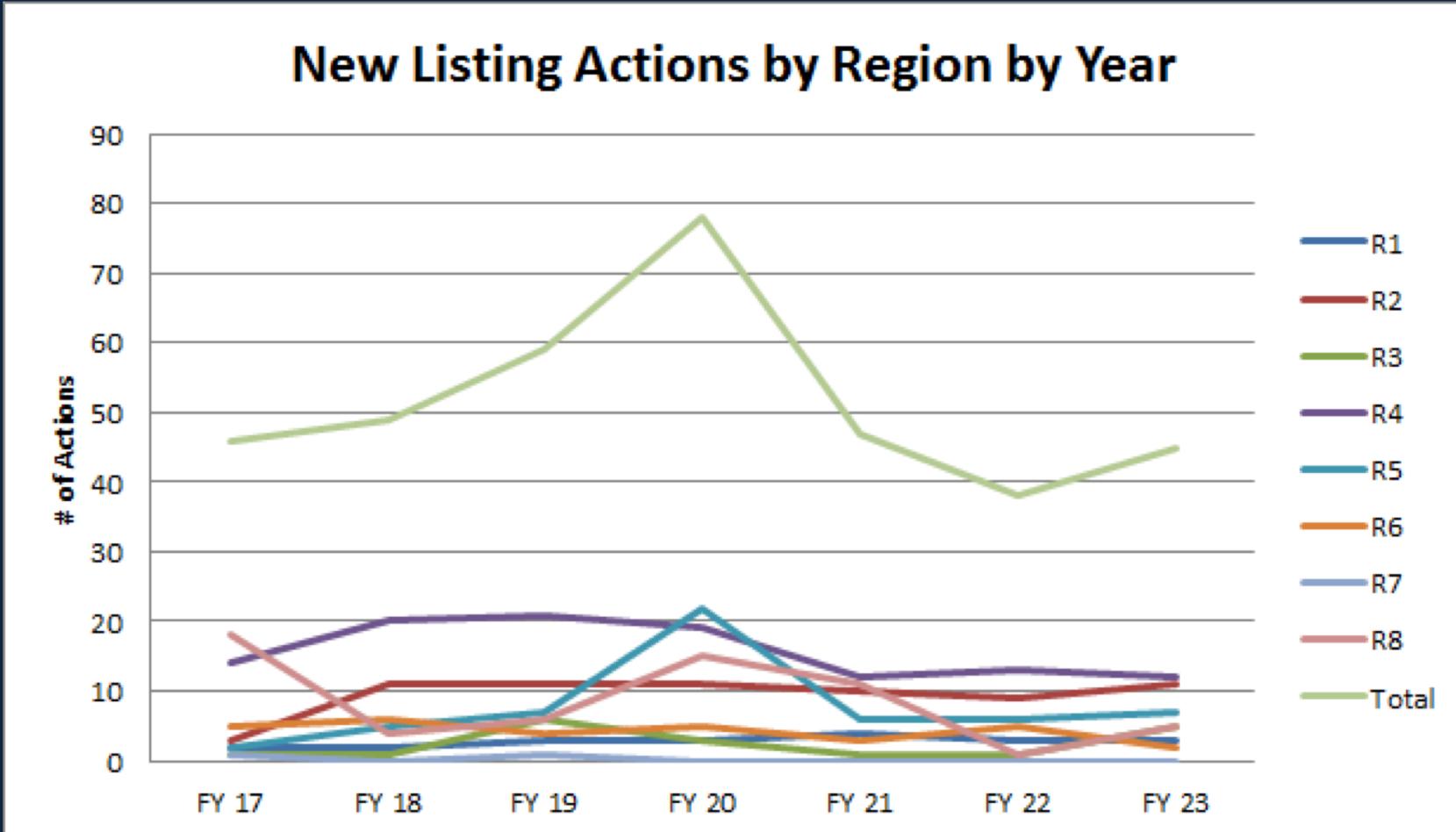


- Covers a 7-year period: 2017 – 2023
- Includes all 30 remaining candidates, most within the first 3 years
- Includes 320 of the 555 outstanding 12-month findings. Of those not included in workplan:
 - Most of these are Bin 5 – little known
 - Some bin 3s and 4s where FO capacity is limiting in R4
- Includes 11 FWS-initiated status reviews

	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	Total
# Species/Year	46	49	59	78	47	38	45	362



Workplan Actions Per Year FY17-23





National Listing Workplan Goals

- Provides **predictability** to States and other partners on what we are doing and when
- Is **flexible** to address new species when needed
- Decreases deadline **litigation** compelling FWS to complete listing/critical habitat actions within certain deadlines
- Aligns/mobilizes **conservation** delivery
- Reflects biological **priorities**
- **Distributes** workload across the country
- Seeks **efficiencies** by batching actions when possible and combining warranted findings with proposed listing and CH rules



12-month finding prioritization system

- Bin 1: **Critically Imperiled** – Species that appear to be critically imperiled and in need of immediate action.
- Bin 2: **Strong Data Available on Species' Status** – Species for which we have existing strong scientific data supporting a clear decision on status.
- Bin 3: **New Science Underway to Inform Key Uncertainties**
- Bin 4: **Conservation Efforts in Development or Underway**
- Bin 5: **Limited Data Currently Available** – Species for which there is little information on status and threats available to inform a petition finding.



Other Considerations

- 
- Integrating Downlisting/Delisting into the SAT
 - Multiple products due with a proposed listing, mean process takes longer
 - Shifts in budget and staffing priorities
 - FY 19, proposed \$10M decrease in Listing from FY16/17 levels when workplan developed; \$3M increase in Recovery
 - By 9/30/19, all recovery plans will contain quantitative recovery criteria
 - Backlog of recovery plans (~400 needed) and 5 year reviews (300+/yr.)
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Questions?

