



Scientific and
Statistical
Committee
Meeting

August 2026



THE SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Stock Risk Ratings

South Atlantic ABC Control Rule



ABC Control Rule Introduction

OFL

- The Overfishing Limit (OFL) is the annual catch level of a fish stock that corresponds to its Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY). It is the maximum amount of fish that can be caught without jeopardizing the stock's ability to produce MSY.

ABC

- SSC-recommended maximum amount of fish that can be annually harvested after accounting for scientific uncertainty and management risk tolerance

ABC Control Rule

- Defines how risk and uncertainty are evaluated. Used to estimate ABC from OFL
- $OFL \rightarrow \text{scientific uncertainty/management risk buffer (P}^*) \rightarrow ABC$



ABC Control Rule Introduction

OFL

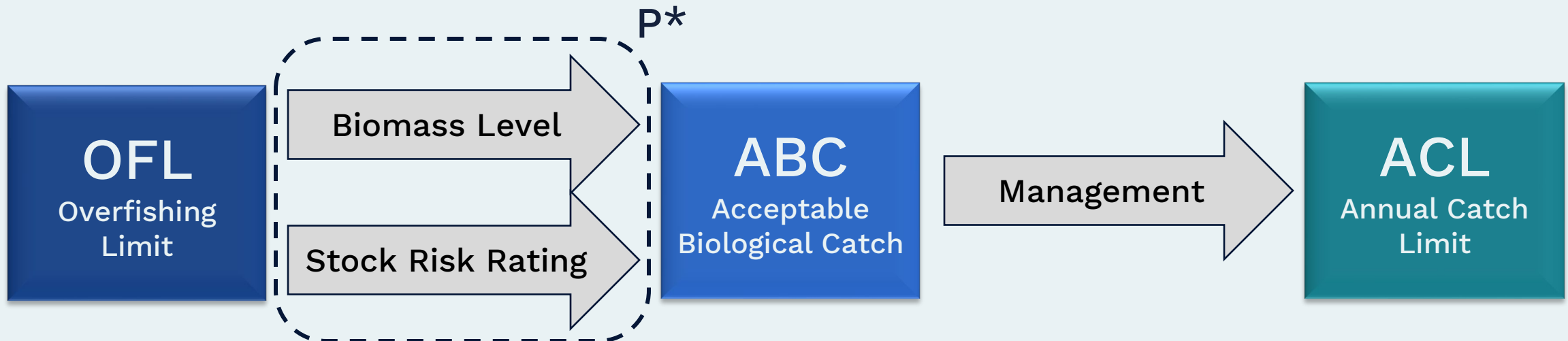
- The Overfishing Limit (OFL) is the annual catch level of a fish stock that corresponds to its Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY). It is the maximum amount of fish that can be caught without jeopardizing the stock's ability to produce MSY.

ABC

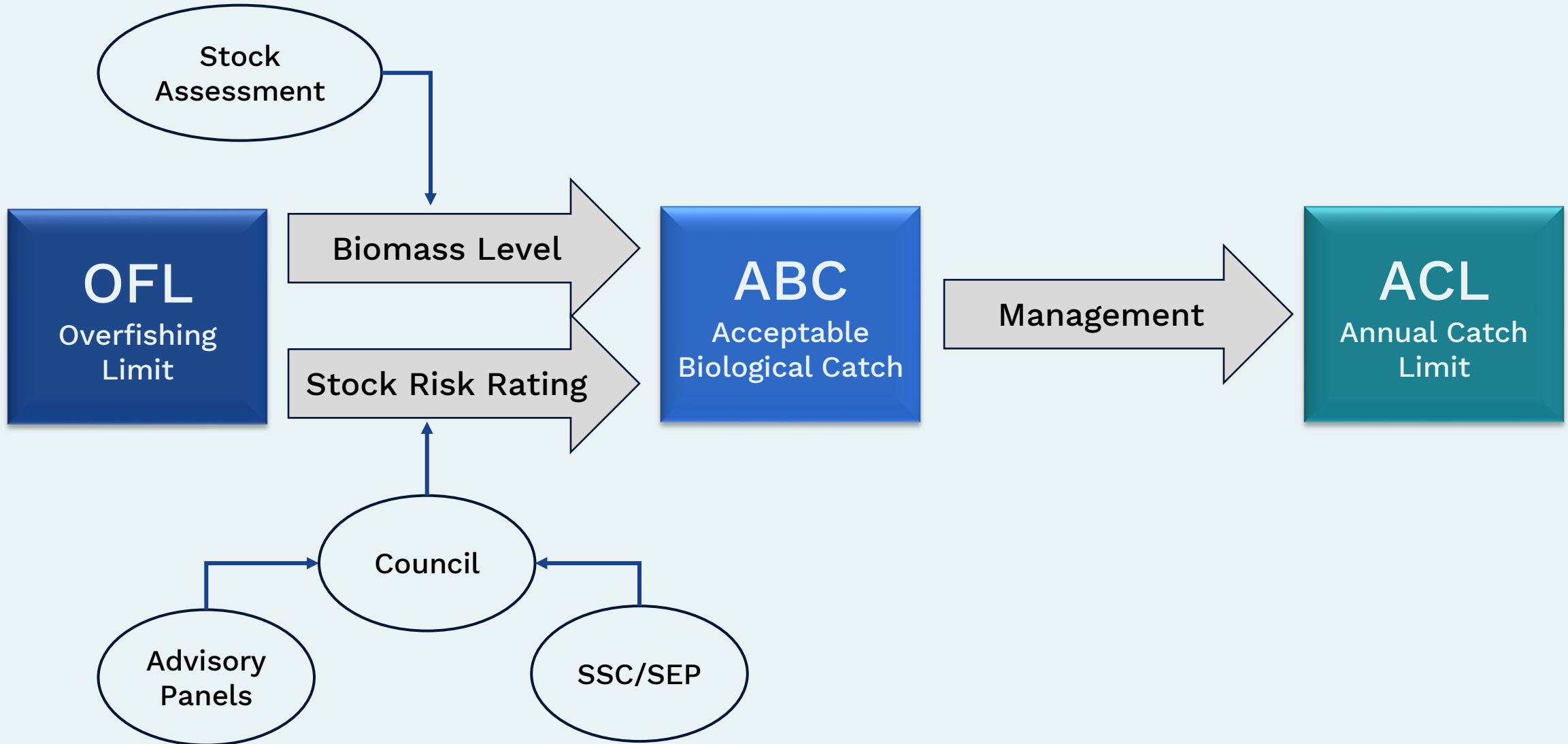
- SSC-recommended maximum amount of fish that can be annually harvested after accounting for scientific uncertainty and management risk tolerance

ABC Control Rule

- Defines how risk and uncertainty are evaluated. Used to estimate ABC from OFL
- $OFL \rightarrow \text{scientific uncertainty/management risk buffer } (P^*) \rightarrow ABC$



ABC Control Rule Introduction



What is the Stock Risk Rating based on?

Biological	Human Dimensions	Environmental
Estimated natural mortality	Ability to regulate fishery	Ecosystem importance
Age at maturity	Potential for discard losses	Climate change
	Annual commercial value	Other
	Recreational desirability	
	Social concerns	

→ See excel table for descriptions of stock risk rating categories

What is the Stock Risk Rating based on?

Biological	Human Dimensions	Environmental
Estimated natural mortality	Ability to regulate fishery	Ecosystem importance
Age at maturity	Potential for discard losses	Climate change
	Annual commercial value	Other
	Recreational desirability	
	Social concerns	



SSC
Input



SSC
Input

ABC Control Rule Summary Table of Default Risk Tolerance Levels (Table 2.1.1.3)

Stock Risk Rating	High Biomass Biomass exceeds B_{MSY} (or 110% B_{MSY})	Moderate Biomass Biomass is ABOVE the midpoint between B_{MSY} and MSST	Low Biomass Biomass is below the midpoint between B_{MSY} and MSST
Low	45%	45%	40%
Medium	45%	40%	30%
High	40%	30%	20%

- The **OFL** has a default P^* of 50% (MSA requirement)
- The stock risk rating and stock biomass would be used together to derive P^* for the **ABC**

Steps for Stock Risk Rating Use

- **Before Assessment:**
 - SSC and AP recommend risk values for attributes that contribute to the stock risk rating to the Council.
 - The Council reviews SSC and AP recommended risk values and determines the stock risk rating.
- **During Assessment:**
 - P^* will be derived using an estimate of relative biomass and the Council's stock risk rating (Table 2.1.1.3)
 - Projection analyses will be run using $P^*=50\%$ and the P^* value defined by Table 2.1.1.3 to derive estimates of OFL and ABC, respectively.

Steps for Stock Risk Rating Use

- Before Assessment:
 - SSC and AP recommend risk values for attributes that contribute to the stock risk rating to the Council.
 - The Council reviews SSC and AP recommended risk values and determines the stock risk rating.
- During Assessment:
 - P^* will be derived using an estimate of relative biomass and the Council's stock risk rating (Table 2.1.1.3)
 - Projection analyses will be run using $P^*=50\%$ and the P^* value defined by Table 2.1.1.3 to derive estimates of OFL and ABC, respectively.