

THE SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

ABC Control Rule

Summary Tables

ABC Control Rule Categories for Assessments (Table 2.1.1.2)

Category	Criteria	ABC Determination
Category 1	Stock is assessed; scientific uncertainty is adequately incorporated.	The P* is applied to the assessment information to derive ABC.
Category 2	Stock is assessed; scientific uncertainty is not adequately evaluated or some assessment outputs may be lacking.	The SSC will adjust the measures of uncertainty, P* will then be applied to the assessment information.
Category 3	The stock is assessed; scientific uncertainty is not adequately evaluated and cannot be addressed by adjusting the available uncertainty measures.	The SSC will develop uncertainty measures as necessary to apply the P* to the available assessment information. Alternatively, the SSC may apply a direct buffer to the overfishing limit (or an overfishing limit proxy) to derive the ABC.
Category 4	No formal stock assessment accepted to provide OFL and ABC recommendations (reviewed through Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review [SEDAR] or SSC).	OFL and ABC will be developed according to the strategy proposed by the SSC's Data-Limited Working Group (Appendix I). The SSC will attempt to estimate OFL and its uncertainty using available data, applicable methods, and expert judgement. If an OFL and its uncertainty are defined, the SSC will apply P* to derive ABC. If an OFL is unable to be defined, the SSC will directly recommend an ABC. The process of updating OFLs and ABCs for unassessed stocks will occur over time as directed by the Council. The current OFL and ABC for unassessed species and species complexes will be maintained until updated levels are recommended by the SSC and approved by the Council.

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 stock risk rating and stock biomass are used together to derive P*

→ 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.

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 → scientific uncertainty/management risk buffer (P*) → ABC



ABC Control Rule Introduction

OFL

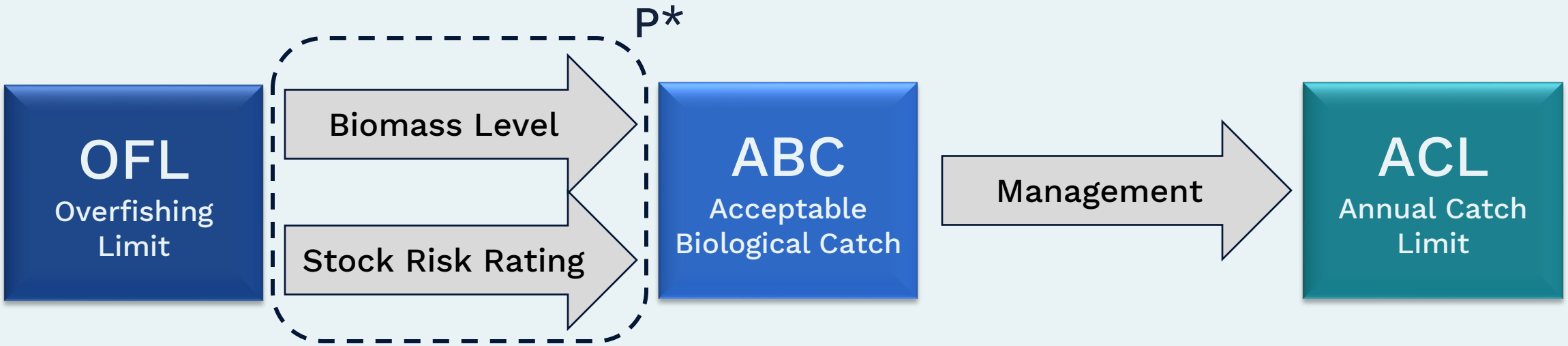
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ABC

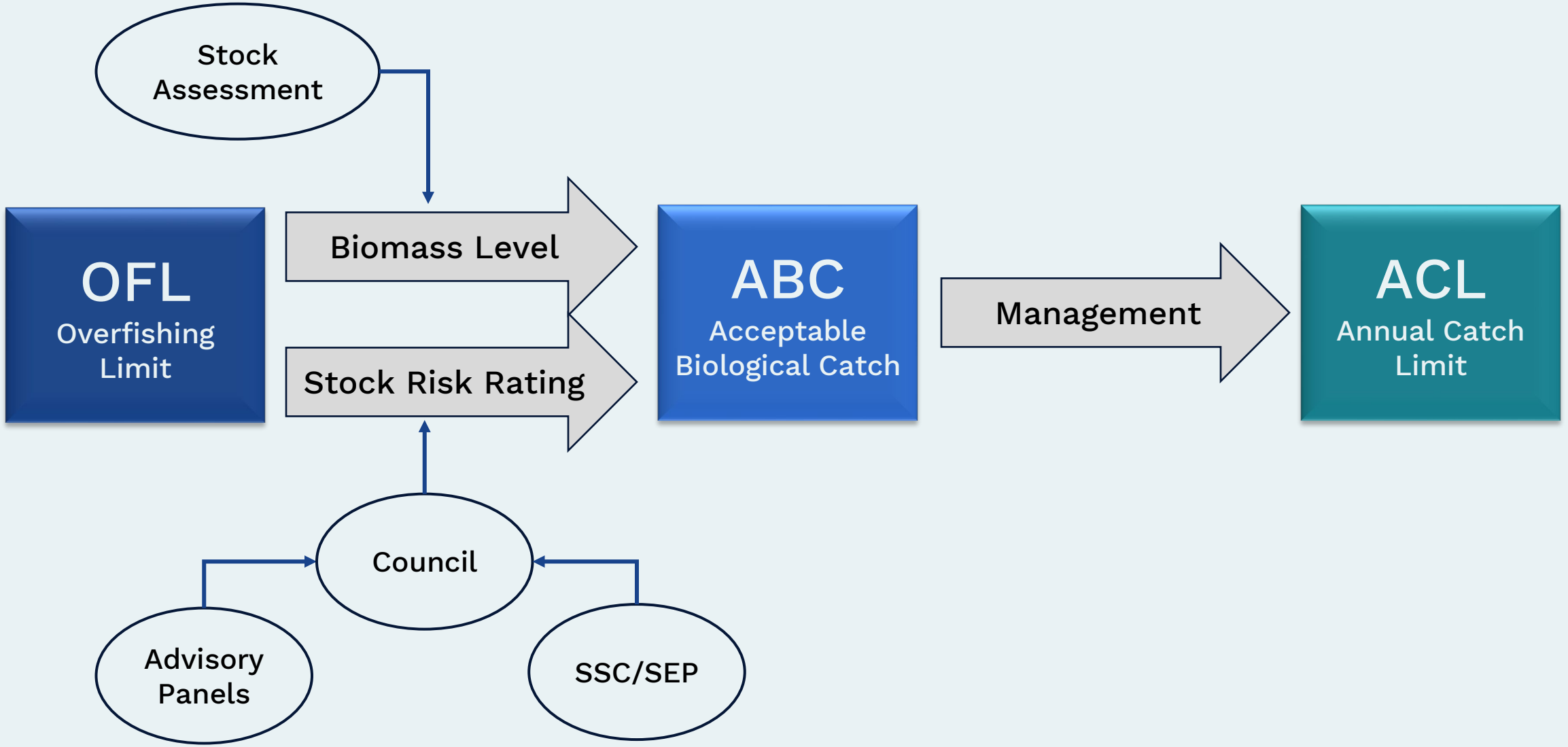
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ABC Control Rule

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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	

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.