

FINAL
SUMMARY REPORT
ABC CONTROL RULE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
Fort Lauderdale, FL
June 14, 2018

The Committee approved minutes from the March 2018 meeting and the agenda for this meeting.

ABC Control Rule Amendment Discussion

Council staff guided the Committee through the ABC Control Rule Options Paper and SSC Chairman Dr. Sedberry provided the SSC comments. The Committee supported the modified timeline, provided guidance on the document, and approved it, as modified, for scoping. For the scoping presentation, staff was advised to strive for clear and simple explanations of the technical actions in this amendment.

The Committee provided the following specific guidance on the Actions and Alternatives.

- Action 1: ABC modifications
 - For Alternative 2, recommend that fixed multi-year ABC values could be requested to address social and economic effects, increase fishery stability, and address new information available from other sources such as Fishery Performance Reports.
- Action 2: Risk tolerance
 - Biomass determination for risk tolerance:
 - Consider the direction of biomass trends when evaluating a biomass value for risk determination. This should be addressed by the SSC as part of the justification for a recommendation for ABC.
 - Ensure the discussion clearly states that the Council is responsible for setting risk tolerance, and will consider SSC recommendations in so doing.
 - Other factors to consider in setting risk tolerance:
 - Time between assessments,
 - Existence of a reliable abundance index
 - Management performance relative to ACL
 - Overall assessment trends particularly recruitment periods
 - Susceptibility, and social/economic/regulatory considerations that might affect susceptibility or desirability over time.
- Action 4: Phase-in
 - Support adding the 1-year phase in alternative (Sub-action 4.2, alternative 4).
- Action 5: Carry-over
 - Recommend modifying Sub-action 1, alternative 4, to allow carry over when total landings are less than the ABC (rather than the ACL).
 - Suggest that the IPT consider improving the wording of Sub-action 1, alternatives 4 and 5, to make them more consistent.
 - The discussion should note that impacts on rebuilding plans should be considered as part of carry-over justifications.
- General Comments

- Address the effect of interim analyses on risk determinations, carry-over, and phase-in.
- Consider how highly uncertain information or analyses can lead to extreme actions that may create additional fishery issues rather than solve fishery problems, and potentially exacerbate uncertainty. There is concern that this could create a negative feedback system where the actions justified by uncertainty actually increase uncertainty.
- The Council would like to see the IPT consider a mechanism that would allow incremental changes in response to uncertain information, thereby allowing time to evaluate fishery responses and effects on uncertainty.
- The Council noted that simply being the only information available does not justify its use for management, and that the SSC should consider NS guidance and wording when making recommendations on BSIA and use for management.
- Clarify through discussion that the Council may also take a more conservative approach regarding risk, carry-over, and phase in, and that the alternatives will provide bounds.

MOTION #1: APPROVE THE REVISED SCHEDULE.
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOTION #2: TAKE THE ABC CONTROL RULE AMENDMENT AS AMENDED TO SCOPING.
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Recreational Accountability Measures

The Committee met to discuss further development of an amendment to modify recreational accountability measures. They discussed the draft purpose and need. They reviewed draft actions and alternatives and gave direction to staff for further development. The Committee decided to keep this amendment focused on species in the Snapper Grouper and Dolphin Wahoo FMPs. The Committee stated that they wanted to consider future timing for the amendment such as when it should be sent out for scoping and further development as part of the Executive/Finance Committee Agenda at the September 2018 Council Meeting.

Timing and Tasks

Note: Council staff drafts the timing and task motion based on Committee action. If points require clarification, they will be added to the draft motion. The Committee should review this wording carefully to be sure it accurately reflects their intent prior to making the motion.

Motion #3. ADOPT THE FOLLOWING TIMING AND TASKS:

- Incorporate the Council’s recommendations for the ABC control rule document and prepare for scoping. Conduct scoping between the September and December 2018 Council meetings.
- Request that the SSC develop initial stock risk ratings at its October 2018 meeting.
- Review scoping comments and SSC recommendations in December 2018.

- Consider timing and future development of the recreational accountability measures during Executive Finance in September 2018.

(based on these suggested tasks, the ABC COW would not need to meet in September 2018)

APPROVED BY COUNCIL