

**FINAL
SUMMARY REPORT
ABC CONTROL RULE – COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
December 4, 2017**

1. Revisions to the ABC Control Rule

John Carmichael provided the Committee a presentation on the latest developments in the ABC Control Rule (CR) modification actions, including recommendations from the November 6, 2017 webinar meeting. Primary points of discussion included the additional descriptive information on the overall control rule concept, risk tolerance criteria and levels, carry-over provisions, and accountability measures. Key points and recommendations based on the discussion at this meeting are summarized below:

- Evaluate the performance of past phase-in actions, for Snowy Grouper and Black Sea Bass.
- Consider assessment status and the age of an assessment when assigning stocks to risk levels. Once the modified rule is implemented, the SSC will be asked to provide initial stock risk category assignments.
- Review the ACCSP PSE workshop for possible guidance on evaluating recreational estimates and uncertainty.
- Clarify in the alternatives and discussion that carry-over adjustments are only in effect for 1 year.
- Modify the action allowing carry-over of a percentage of an ACL, to allow carrying over up to 25% of a sector ACL. It was noted that other requirements, such as not exceeding OFL or 110% of the original ABC, provide important safeguards to the stock and will limit the possible carry over.
- Added an alternative to the carry-over action that removes the requirement for a past regulatory closure, and suggested that the IPT and SSC be asked to comment on the criteria for allowing carry-over.
- Add consideration of PSE levels to the options for evaluating the reliability of recreational catch estimates.
- Discussed the monitoring committee approach, used by the Mid-Atlantic Council, for evaluating recreational catch estimates and the need to apply AMs.
- Recommended that the Council consider addressing accountability measures through a framework action.

MOTIONS

No motions were made.