



Comprehensive ABC Control Rule Amendment

March 2022

Mike Schmidtke, SAFMC Staff

ABC Control Rule Amd Process Overview

- 2018-2019 – Amd initiated, drafted, scoping conducted, put on hold awaiting NMFS guidance
- July 2020 – NMFS guidance on carry-overs and phase-ins
- Sept 2020 – Council direction to resume Amd development
- Oct 2020-Oct 2021 – SSC review of alternatives
- **Mar 2022 – Council review alternatives and provide guidance for draft amendment**



ABC Control Rule Amd Process Overview

- Considers 3* general actions:
 1. ABC Control Rule Modifications
 2. Phasing in ABC Changes (previously reviewed; not scheduled for discussion today)
 3. Carry-over of Unharvested Catch
 - Eligibility (Action 3) and implementation (Action 4) addressed in separate actions



Photo credits: Richard DeLizza,
Don DeMaria, Kate Quigley



Goals for Today

1. Review Action 1 updates to Action 1 language and process for using stock risk ratings (**Act 1-Alt 2**)
 2. Review updated language and process for implementing carry-overs defined in Action 4
 3. Provide any additional guidance for the IPT in developing the draft amendment
- **Draft Amendment to be considered by Council for public hearings in June 2022**
 - **Some highlighted language in the Decision Document are minor wording edits or clarifications and may not be covered in the presentation. If any disagreement with any highlighted language, please let staff know.**





Definitions

- Risk: Used to denote management risk and is the purview of the Council (under Action 2-Alt 2, includes stock risk rating)
- Uncertainty: Used to denote scientific uncertainty (of assessment results, projections, etc.) and is the purview of the SSC



<https://ecotalker.wordpress.com/2019/07/02/cartoon-for-the-day/>

Action 1. Modify the ABC Control Rule

Alt. 2. Categorizes assessed stocks based on info used to evaluate and characterize assessment uncertainty (**Table 3**)

- **Risk Tolerance:** P^* specified by Council using biomass and stock risk rating (**Table 4**); additional Options (2a-c) may be considered
- **Overfished Stocks:** Rebuilding plan takes precedence



Action 1. Modify the ABC Control Rule

Alt. 2: Addressing Management Risk (P*)

- P* determined by **Stock Risk Rating** and relative biomass

Table 2.

Stock Risk Rating	Council's Default Risk Tolerance: accepted risk of overfishing (P* values)		
	High Biomass Biomass exceeds B_{MSY} (or 110% B_{MSY} per Sub-Alternative 2a)	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%

Sub-Alternative 2a. Adjusts the boundary between high and moderate biomass to 110% B_{MSY} and between moderate and low biomass to the midpoint between 110% B_{MSY} and MSST.



What is the Stock Risk Rating based on?

3 Categories of Attributes:

Biological	Human Dimension	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	



What is the Stock Risk Rating based on?

- 3 Categorical Risk of Overexploitation Scores: High (1), Medium (2), Low (3)
 - Environmental attributes either High or unknown
- Each known attribute is scored (unknowns not included), then scores within each category are averaged (Score=Number, Rating=H/M/L)
- Category scores are averaged for an overall score ranging from 1-3
- **How to translate overall scores to overall risk ratings?**



What is the Stock Risk Rating based on?

- **How to translate overall scores to risk ratings?**
 - **SSC recommendation: Approximately uniform distribution of scored species (49 total; includes SG and DW); i.e., ~1/3 High, 1/3 Medium, 1/3 Low**



What are the preliminary ratings from SSC-recommended scoring method?

High Risk	Medium Risk	Low Risk
<p>Black Grouper Blueline Tilefish Gag Golden Tilefish FLK/EFL Hogfish GA-NC Hogfish Mutton Snapper Red Grouper Red Snapper Snowy Grouper Wreckfish Yellowtail Snapper Misty Grouper Silk Snapper Yellowedge Grouper Gray Snapper</p>	<p>Black Sea Bass Gray Triggerfish Greater Amberjack Red Porgy Scamp Vermilion Snapper Blackfin Snapper Queen Snapper Almaco Jack Banded Rudderfish Lesser Amberjack Cubera Snapper Sailors Choice Yellowmouth Grouper Jolthead Porgy Knobbed Porgy Saucereye Porgy Dolphin Wahoo</p>	<p>Atlantic Spadefish Bar Jack Sand Tilefish Lane Snapper Margate Tomtate White Grunt Coney Graysby Red Hind Rock Hind Yellowfin Grouper Scup Whitebone Porgy</p>



How will Stock Risk Ratings be updated and used for assessed stocks?

- **USE OF STOCK RISK RATINGS WOULD BE PROSPECTIVELY APPLIED; NO CURRENT ABCS WOULD BE CHANGED THROUGH APPROVAL OF THE ABC CR AMENDMENT**

Before Operational Assessment:

- Preliminary attribute scores provided to SSC and AP
- SSC and AP recommend any changes; Council considers recommendations and determines the risk rating



How will Stock Risk Ratings be updated and used for assessed stocks?

During Operational Assessment:

- Projection analyses will be run using $P^*=50\%$ and the P^* value defined by **Table 2** to derive estimates of OFL and ABC, respectively

Table 2.

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Low	45%	45%	40%
Medium	45%	40%	30%
High	40%	30%	20%



What about unassessed stocks?

- SSC Working Group would work through groups of unassessed stocks to determine ABC recommendations
- Council would determine risk rating as described for assessed stocks
- If OFL can be defined, the standard ABC control rule of applying P* values of 50% and the value from **Table 2** would be applied to determine OFL and ABC
- If OFL cannot be defined, SSC will recommend ABC directly and describe how the Council's risk rating was considered in their report



Questions?

Council Action: Discuss and provide guidance on the stock risk rating approach, including scoring methods and process for use



Action 1. Modify the ABC Control Rule

Alternative 3

Table 3.

Level 1 – Assessed Stocks	
Tier	Tier Classification and Methodology to Compute ABC
1. Assessment Information (10%)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Quantitative assessment provides estimates of exploitation and biomass; includes MSY-derived benchmarks. (0%) 2. Reliable measures of exploitation or biomass, no MSY benchmarks, proxy reference points. (2.5%) 3. Relative measures of exploitation or biomass, absolute measures of status unavailable. Proxy reference points. (5%) 4. Reliable catch history. (7.5%)* 5. Scarce or unreliable catch records. (10%)*
2. Uncertainty Characterization (10%)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete. Key determinant – uncertainty in both assessment inputs and environmental conditions are included. (0%) 2. High. Key determinant – reflects more than just uncertainty in future recruitment. (2.5%) 3. Medium. Uncertainties are addressed via statistical techniques and sensitivities, but full uncertainty is not carried forward in projections. (5%) 4. Low. Distributions of F_{MSY} and MSY are lacking. (7.5%) 5. None. Only single point estimates; no sensitivities or uncertainty evaluations. (10%)



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*SSC recommends removal and redistribution of remaining percentages



Questions?

Council Action: Should the IPT develop Action 1-Alternative 3 according to the SSC's recommendation, removing Level 1, Tier 1, Classifications 4 and 5?



Action 3. Carry-Over Eligibility

- Language added to clarify that only the unharvested portion of the **originally specified sector ACL** may be carried over
- Language also added to clarify that amounts carried over would only be available to be caught in the immediate next year (no delays)
- Otherwise, same language as previously reviewed and defining a stock or sector's **annual eligibility and the amount of unharvested ACL eligible** for carry-over



Action 4. Carry-Over Implementation

- 3 Sub-Actions; same language, one for each FMP (SG, DW, GC)
- When specifying an ABC and ACL, the Council would determine whether carry-over will be authorized, if **annual conditions** cause a stock ACL or sector ACL to qualify for carry-over
 - Carry-over written into the amendment
 - Carry-over would happen automatically in every year when annual conditions from Action 3 are met (not overfished, not overfishing, etc.)



Action 4. Carry-Over Implementation

- 3 Sub-Actions; same language, one for each FMP (SG, DW, GC)
- When specifying an ABC and ACL, the Council would determine whether carry-over will be authorized, if **annual conditions** cause a stock ACL or sector ACL to qualify for carry-over
 - Council IS ABLE BUT NOT REQUIRED to approve carry-over during the amendment process (if not in an amendment, carry-over not allowed)
 - IF the Council approves carry-over via an amendment, that approval is for carry-over to occur automatically in ALL years that a stock/sector qualifies (until changed by a future amendment)



Shadow Shark Carry-Over Example

- **Shadow Shark Stock Status:** Not Overfished and Overfishing Not Occurring
- **OFL:** 12,000 lbs
- **Via amendment, Council has approved:**
 - **ABC = Total ACL = 10,000 lbs**
 - **Sector Allocation: 50/50**
 - **Both sector ACLs will carry-over when eligible**
- **Criteria for annual eligibility:** Not overfished and not overfishing status, **underage of the sector ACL** (Action 3-Sub-Action 3.1-Alternative 2 [No Sub-Alternatives])
- **Amount eligible for carry-over:** **Temporary revised ABC and total ACL may not exceed OFL** (Action 3-Sub-Action 3.2-Alternative 2)



Shadow Shark Carry-Over Example

Year	Effective ABC (lbs)	Commercial ACL (lbs)	Commercial Landings (lbs)	Commercial Carry-Over	Recreational ACL (lbs)	Recreational Landings (lbs)	Recreational Carry-Over
2023	10,000	5,000	4,000	1,000 lbs to 2024	5,000	5,200	None
2024	11,000	6,000	5,200	None	5,000	4,500	500 lbs to 2025
2025	10,500	5,000	5,500	None	5,500	4,500	500 lbs to 2026
2026	10,500	5,000	3,000	1,000 lbs to 2027	5,500	3,500	1,000 lbs to 2027
2027	12,000	6,000	2,500	2,000 lbs to 2028	6,000	6,500	None
2028	12,000	7,000			5,000		



Questions?

Council Action: Discuss and provide any necessary guidance to the IPT for further development of Actions 3 and 4

