



# ***Comprehensive ABC Control Rule Amendment***

**December 2020**

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# 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 – SSC Review of Recommendations and Requested Additional Information
- **Dec 2020 – Council guidance on further development of actions and options**



# Tentative Amendment Timing

Process Steps	Dates
Council guidance to IPT	December 2020
Finalize wording of actions & alternatives	March 2021
Review and revise action/alternatives, SSC & AP comments	June 2021
Approval for public hearings	June 2021
Public hearings	Summer 2021
Review public hearing comments and approve all actions/alternatives	September 2021
Final action to approve for secretarial review	December 2021



# Goals for Today

1. Review actions/options currently in the document
  2. Council provides guidance on actions/options/information that should be added/changed/removed
- Conceptual guidance today for IPT to use in developing draft language over the coming months
  - For each Action: Alternatives, Preliminary IPT considerations for further development





# Definitions

- Risk: Used to denote management risk and is the purview of the Council
- 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/>

# Current ABC Control Rule

- Based on assessment category
- Organized into assessment Levels:
  1. Assessed using age, length, or biomass-based model
  2. Unassessed, DBSRA (reliable landings and life history)
  3. Unassessed, DCAC (data deficient for DBSRA)
  4. Unassessed, ORCS (Only Reliable Catch Stocks; SG only)
  5. Unassessed, Decision Tree (No reliable catch)
- Inflexible, couldn't add new methods



# Action 1

## Modify the Acceptable Biological Catch Control Rules

**Alt. 1.** Status quo ABC CRs for Dolphin/Wahoo, Golden Crab, Sargassum, and Snapper Grouper (none for Coral)

- Tables 2.1 & 2.2 (p. 6-9) of March 2019 Options Paper

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

- Options to use yield at  $75\%F_{MSY}$  for ABC when no OFL distribution and/or specify ABC as multi-year constant or annual values for up to 5 years

**Alt. 3.** Current CR (Alt. 1) plus ORCS Level and with Tiers 3 (Stock Status) and 4 (PSA) replaced by a  $P^*$  adjustment depicting Council's risk tolerance



# Action 1

## Modify the Acceptable Biological Catch Control Rules

- Alts 2 & 3 both separate Stock Status and PSA from adjustments based on the assessment and its uncertainty
  - Stock Status and PSA can be provided to Council for risk tolerance determination
- Alt 2 – Cat 4 (unassessed/ORCS)
  - In progress through SSC WG; likely appendix with additional information
- Consider additional SSC feedback from Oct 2020





## Action 2

**Specify an approach for determining the acceptable risk of overfishing**

**Alt. 1.** Acceptable [management] risk of overfishing determined by ABC CR criteria evaluated by the SSC

**Alt. 2.** Council will specify [management] risk tolerance for overfishing that will provide a P\* adjustment of 0 to 20% to be added to the SSC's uncertainty adjustment, considering advice from SSC and AP



# Action 2

## Specify an approach for determining the acceptable risk of overfishing

**Alt. 3.** Council specifies acceptable risk of overfishing based on 3 stock biomass levels and 3 stock risk ratings; stock's risk category [rating] evaluated for each assessment

Risk rating (Stock Specific)	Council's Default Risk Tolerance: accepted risk of overfishing (P* values)		
	High Biomass Biomass exceeds $B_{MSY}$ (or 110% $B_{MSY}$ per Option 1)	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	0.45	0.45	0.4
medium	0.45	0.4	0.3
high	0.4	0.3	0.2



# Action 2

## Specify an approach for determining the acceptable risk of overfishing

- Alt. 3.** Council specifies acceptable risk of overfishing based on 3 stock biomass levels and 3 stock risk ratings; SSC evaluates stock's risk category [rating] for each assessment (p. 18 Table, March 2019 Options Paper)
- Opt. 1.** Allow highest [management] risk level if  $B > 110\% * B_{MSY}$ ; use  $110\% * B_{MSY}$  to set biomass midpoint for boundary between moderate and low risk levels
- Opt. 2.** Council may deviate from default risk levels by 0.1 for an individual stock; risk tolerance may not exceed 0.5
- Opt. 3.** Unassessed stocks default to moderate biomass, unless SSC recommends differently



## Action 2

**Specify an approach for determining the acceptable risk of overfishing**

**Alt. 4.** Risk tolerance of no more than 0.5 specified for each stock directly, considering advice from SSC and AP



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Mike Schmidtke



# Action 2

## **Specify an approach for determining the acceptable risk of overfishing**

- Risk Rating vs Risk Tolerance terminology can get confusing
  - Consider alternative terminology and/or additional explanation
- Add preliminary risk ratings to draft amendment
- Consider additional SSC feedback from Oct 2020



# Action 3

## **Specify an approach for determining the probability of rebuilding success for overfished stocks**

**Alt. 1.** No action; no approach specified

**Alt. 2.** Council specifies probability of rebuilding success (with SSC & AP advice)

**Alt. 3.** Council specifies probability of rebuilding success based on stock risk rating; Council may deviate from default probabilities (High Risk: 80%; Mod. Risk: 70%; Low Risk: 60%) by 10% for unforeseen/unique circumstances



# Action 3

**Specify an approach for determining the probability of rebuilding success for overfished stocks**

- Align any changes to Action 2 risk tolerance/rating language



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# Action 4

## Allow phase-in of acceptable biological catch changes

**Sub-Action 4.1.** Establish criteria specifying when phase-in is allowed.

**Alt. 1.** No phase-in of ABC changes is allowed.

**Alt. 2.** Allow when a new ABC is  $<X\%$  of the existing ABC

**Options 1-3.**  $X = 70\%$  (Opt. 1),  $80\%$  (Opt. 2), or  $90\%$  (Opt. 3)

**Alt. 3.** Allow phase-in when stock biomass exceeds a specific level

**Option 1.**  $B > MSST$

**Option 2.**  $B > B_{MSY} - MSST$  midpoint

**Sub-Action 4.2.** Specify approach for phase-in of ABC changes

**Alt. 1.** Not allowed

**Alt. 2-4.** Allowed over 3 (Alt. 2), 2 (Alt. 3), or 1 year(s) (Alt. 4)





# Action 4

## Allow phase-in of acceptable biological catch changes

- Consider changes to language presentation to condense “action” language, moving more of the details to discussion
  - Potentially combine options of % change in ABC and timeframes (consider phasing in larger changes over longer times and smaller changes over shorter times)
- Consider phasing in of ABC increases as well
- Incorporate language from and reference NMFS Guidance
- Consider additional SSC feedback from Oct 2020



# Action 5

## Allow carry-over of unharvested catch

**Sub-Action 5.1.** Establish criteria specifying circumstances when unharvested catch can be carried over from one year to increase the available harvest in the next year.

**Alt. 1.** No carry-over of unharvested catch

**Alts. 2-5:** Carry-over allowed if...

**Alt. 2.** the stock is neither overfished nor experiencing overfishing

**Alt. 3.**  $B > B_{MSY}$ -MSST midpoint AND stock is not experiencing overfishing

**Alt. 4.** a fishery sector has experienced a regulatory closure due to catch exceeding the sector ACL within the previous 3 years

**Alt. 5.** total landings over the previous 3 years < landed catch component of ABC; carry-over conducted by sector and not allowed during a phase-in



# Action 5

## Allow carry-over of unharvested catch

**Sub-Action 5.2.** Specify limits on the amount of unharvested catch that may be carried over from one year to increase the available harvest in the next year.

**Alt. 1.** No carry-over of unharvested catch.

**Alts. 2-4:** Carry-over allowed for...

**Alt. 2.** an individual fishery sector using the ACL-ABC buffer

**Alt. 3.** an individual fishery sector that results in an adjusted ACL that exceeds the original ABC for the year receiving unharvested catch

- If the OFL is unknown, the revised ABC may not exceed 105% (**Option 1**), 110% (**Option 2**), or 120% (**Option 3**) of the original ABC, or no carry-over will be allowed (**Option 4**)

**Alt. 4.** an individual fishery sector of up to 25% of the sector ACL



# Action 5

## Allow carry-over of unharvested catch

- Consider removal of Sub-Action 5.2 Alt. 2 (carry-over using ACL-ABC buffer); can already be done by changing the ACL
- Incorporate language from and reference NMFS Guidance
- Consider additional SSC feedback from Apr 2021





## Council Discussion

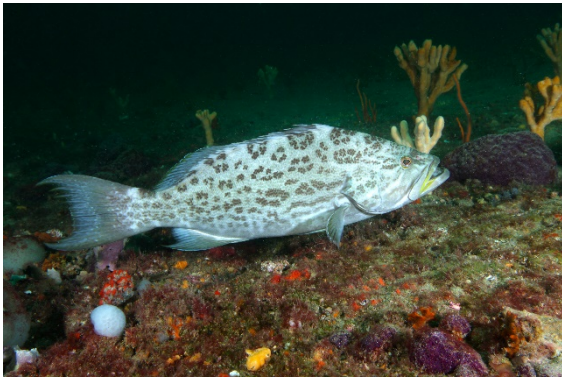


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