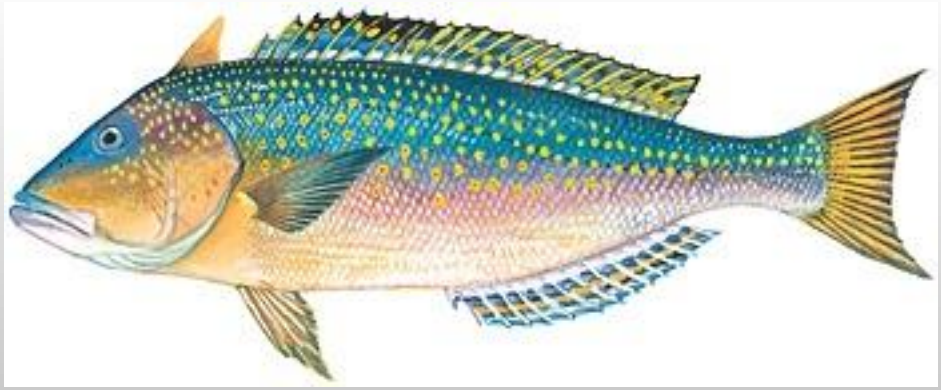


MAFMC SSC and the Peer Review Process

NEFSC Program Review

May 2014

MID-ATLANTIC
FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

MAFMC SSC

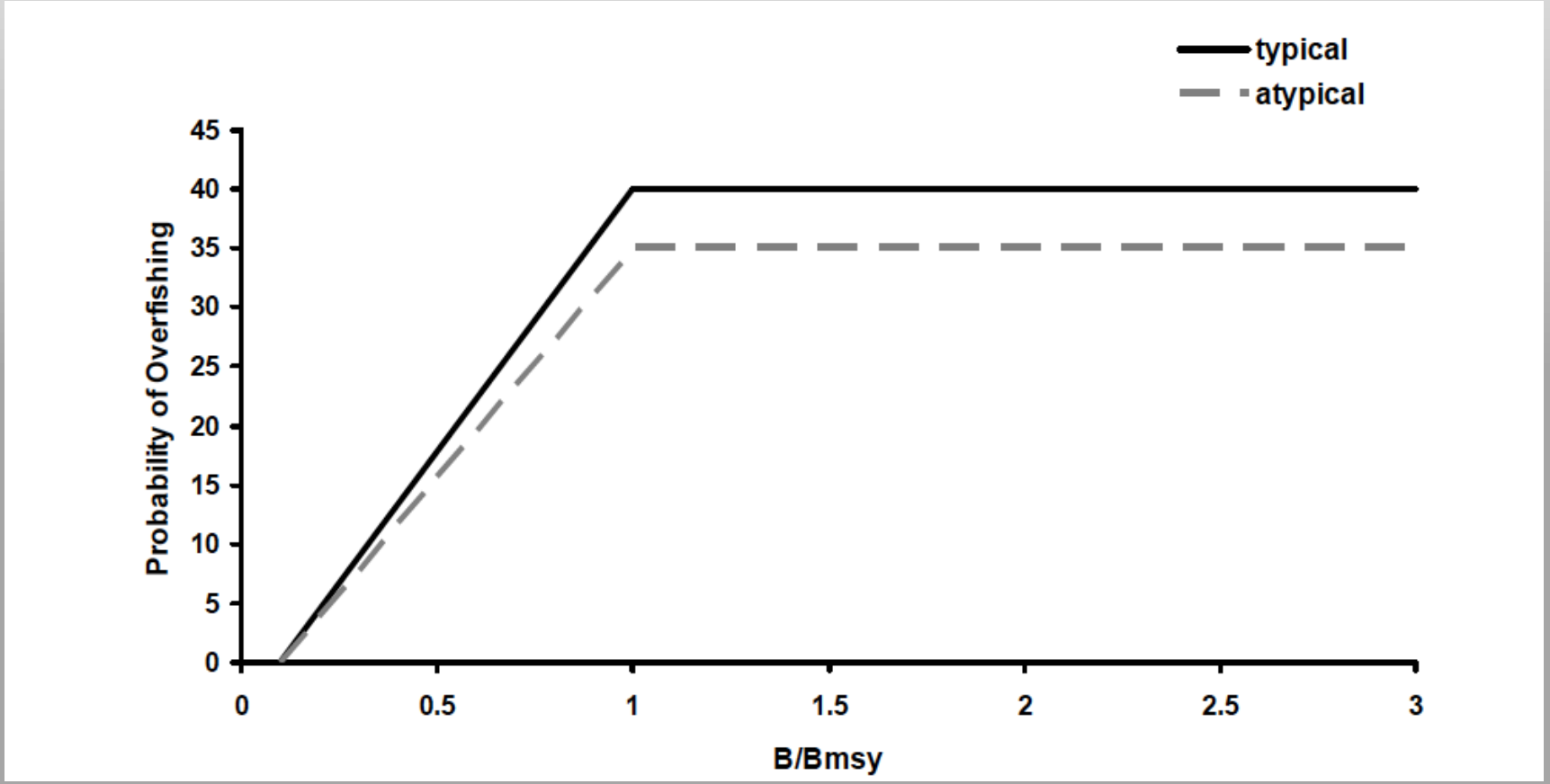
- 20 Members
  - All Ph.D.s
  - 12 stock assessment scientists
  - 2+ ecosystems scientists
  - 6 social scientists
- 14 from academia
- 6 from NOAA Fisheries
  - 2 NEFSC
  - 2 HQ
  - 2 retired

MID-ATLANTIC
FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

ABC Control Rule

- Level 1 – accepted assessment, all major scientific uncertainty accounted for
- Level 2 – accepted assessment, most major sources of scientific uncertainty accounted for, including OFL
- Level 3 – accepted assessment, OFL uncertainty not fully accounted for
- Level 4 – assessment unaccepted or not available, ad hoc approach to selecting ABC

Council's Risk Policy



ABC TORs from Council

- Documents Used
- Assessment Level (1-4)
- OFL
- ABC
  - How many years?
  - Basis for interim re-examination
- Significant Sources of Uncertainty
- Ecosystem Considerations
- Research and Monitoring Recommendations
- Certification of BSIA

ABC Status of MAFMC Species

Species	Level	ABCs until…
Tilefish	3	2017
Illex Squid	4	2017
Longfin Squid	4	2017
Atlantic Mackerel	4	2015
Butterfish	3	2017
Surf Clams	3	2016
Ocean Quahogs	4	2016
Bluefish	3	2014
Summer Flounder	3	2016
Scup	3	2015
Black Sea Bass	4	2015
Spiny Dogfish	3	2015

Most Significant Sources of Scientific Uncertainty

- Stock outside range of surveys (e.g., mackerel, squids, dogfish)
- Model challenged (e.g., Black Sea Bass)
- Fishery concentrated in only a part of the range (e.g., Tilefish, clams, quahogs)
- Unusual Life Histories (e.g., quahogs, Black Sea Bass, Tilefish?)

SSC Interactions with NEFSC Scientists

- NEFSC lead scientists attend SSC meetings
- Working with NEFSC scientists on rumble strip approach
- Special Workshops
  - Black Sea Bass data sets
  - Setting ABCs for Protogynous Hermaphrodites
  - Four National SSC Workshops (so far)

Rumble Strip Approach

- Developed in recognition of data and NEFSC staff limitations
- Relies on minimum use of survey or catch indices that can be generated relatively quickly
- Introducing them one-by-one as SSC updates ABC recommendations

Rumble Strip Approach Example for Tilefish

ABCs should be re-examined annually in light of substantial changes in the size distribution in the catch or in the spatial distribution of the fishery

Rumble Strip Approach Example for Dogfish

Next year, the SSC will examine:

- discard rates,
- survey abundance trends (size composition, sex ratio and pup size),
- average size and sex in commercial landings, agreement between observed and predicted catch and survey forecasts,
- changes in Canadian landings, and the spatial distributions of catch and survey abundances.

SSC's Role in the Peer Review Process

- SSC members chair SARCs
  - Tom Miller (Black Sea Bass)
  - Rob Latour (Butterfish)
  - Cynthia Jones (Bluefish)
- SSC comments on draft TORs for SAW/SARCs

Outstanding Issues

- SSC vs SARCs – who makes the call on OFLs?
- Diminishing need for annual updates
- “Research track” process still not well-defined
- Model- and survey-challenged species