



THE SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

## **Eighth National Scientific Coordination Subcommittee Meeting Summary**

**Social and Economic Panel Meeting – April 2025**



# Applying ABC Control Rules in a Changing Environment



Goal: Provide actionable guidance on how to best support Councils in the management of fisheries, specifically the application of ABC control rules, in a changing environment.

*SSCs have been challenged in applying ABC control rules in a manner that reliably achieves management goals given the degree of ecosystem change and scientific uncertainty that Council regions are experiencing.*

# Applying ABC Control Rules in a Changing Environment

## Sub-Themes

Advances in Ecosystem Science and Assessment to Inform ABC Control Rules in a Dynamic Environment

Application of Social Science to Achieve Management Goals under Dynamic Conditions

Adaptation of Reference Points, Control Rules, and Rebuilding Plans to a Changing Environment

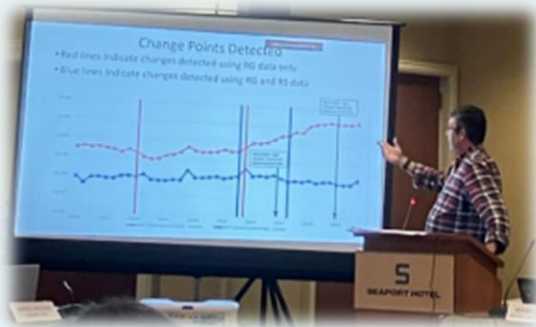


# Application of Social Science to Achieve Management Goals Under Dynamic Conditions



## Case Study Presentations

- WPFMC's SEEM Indicators, collecting fishermen's observations (Justin Hospital and Craig Severance)
- Using catch shares market information to inform fisheries management (Andrew Ropicki)
- Spasming sablefish: Unraveling the quandary of a climate boon and socioeconomic swoon (Dan Goethel)
- Using LEK to advance ecosystem approaches for fisheries management in the U.S. Caribbean (J.J. Cruz Motta and Tarsila Seara)



## Discussion Questions

How are SSCs and Councils balancing tradeoffs between resilience, precaution, and human dimension objectives in:

1. revisions to or implementation of their risk policy,
2. informing ABC control rules and catch advice,
3. input on management other than catch setting.

Identify actionable approaches for using social science for climate informed management where information is available.

Identify information gaps and discuss how management might proceed without the information.



# Application of Social Science to Achieve Management Goals Under Dynamic Conditions

Challenges	Recommendations
Data Limitations	<i>Address information gaps:</i> identify and fill data gaps; address constraint of data confidentiality issues.

## Questions for the Social and Economic Panel

- What are the most *significant* data gaps in our understanding of the South Atlantic social and economic environment.
  - Are there available data sources or ongoing research that has not been explored to-date that would help fill these gaps?



# Application of Social Science to Achieve Management Goals Under Dynamic Conditions

Challenges	Recommendations
Regional Differences	<i>Engage and formalize use of social science:</i> respond to public testimony, foster relationships and trust; use local ecological knowledge, cooperative research, and industry input.

## Questions for the Social and Economic Panel

- How can the Council better illustrate the ways in which they utilize public testimony and LEK in the management process?
  - How can the Council improve the public testimony process?
- How can the Council encourage participation in the public participation processes that already exist (public comment, advisory panels, Citizen Science, *Lines*, etc.)



# Application of Social Science to Achieve Management Goals Under Dynamic Conditions

Challenges	Recommendations
Capacity Limitations	<i>More coordination:</i> focus the available staff resources; define how SSCs can contribute; use cooperative research.

## Questions for the Social and Economic Panel

- Are there opportunities for Council staff to better coordinate with external entities to leverage resources that have not been explored to-date?
- Given limited staff resources, how can Council staff capitalize on nontraditional sources of social and economic data (*foreshadowing, for a presentation later in the meeting*)?



# Application of Social Science to Achieve Management Goals Under Dynamic Conditions

Challenges	Recommendations
Ad Hoc Uptake	<i>Strategic guidance:</i> define on-ramps for social science; consider alignment of scales of data, timing of science and decisions, and roles; adapt decision making process to incorporate social science.

## Questions for the Social and Economic Panel

- How can Council staff better illustrate the role of social and economic data in the analysis of management actions to the Council?
  - How can the decision-making process more explicitly incorporate social science?
- Does the Social and Economic Panel feel they need more information on how Council members understand social science and what they are looking to receive from the Panel?





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Regional Differences	<i>Engage and formalize use of social science:</i> respond to public testimony, foster relationships and trust; use local ecological knowledge, cooperative research, and industry input.
Capacity Limitations	<i>More coordination:</i> focus the available staff resources; define how SSCs can contribute; use cooperative research.
Ad Hoc Uptake	<i>Strategic guidance:</i> define on-ramps for social science; consider alignment of scales of data, timing of science and decisions, and roles; adapt decision making process to incorporate social science.

SCS9 will be hosted by the Gulf Fishery Management Council in 2026. Does the SEP have suggestions for a social science sub-theme(s) to include?

Any other thoughts or comments?