Comprehensive ACL Amendment
IPT Meeting minutes – March 23, 2010

Attendees: NMFS SERO: Nikhil Mehta (Lead), Jack McGovern, Kate Michie, David Dale, Anik Clemens, Scott Sandorf, Meghan Yopp, Mara Levy, and Mike Travis.

NMFS Sci. Ctr.:

SAFMC: Rick DeVictor (Lead), Myra Brouwer, John Carmichael, and Kari Fenske.

-The Comprehensive ACL Amendment will use a tiered approach: (1) remove species from FMU; (2) identify ecosystem component species; (3) identify any species groups for remaining species; (4) specify ABC control rules for species and species groups; (5) set allocations for species and species groups; (6) specify ACLs and AMs; and (7) specify management measures for species and species groups to ensure ACLs are not exceeded.

Discussion:
-As per the Council's motion in March, 2010, Alternative 5 under Action 2 was moved to Action 1.
-Wreckfish SDC and allocation actions are now under the snapper-grouper actions.
-Need to add more language regarding ecosystem component species.
-Council staff presented alternatives for an ABC Control Rule at the March 2010 meeting. SSC will get a table generated with existing ABC values, to be further populated by SSC in April, 2010. SSC needs to be notified that shrimp species from the shrimp FMP need ABCs. SSC also needs to give us a methodology, if not the actual ABC numbers when they deliver the ABC Control Rule. Need to find out when we will get the guidance (output) from SSC. Might be useful to pass on the Gulf SSC report to the S. Atlantic SSC.
-Explore the possibility of Nick Farmer presenting Gulf species groupings at the Council meeting in June, 2010. Look at cluster analyses excluding species that fall under tables in Actions 1 & 2.
-Edit language in Alternative 5 under Actions 4, 10, 22, and 28 to say, "Establish ABCs based on the SSC's ABC control rule (awaiting SSC input)".
-Explore with the Council in June, the possibility of removing actions related to management measures from this amendment (greater amberjack, dolphin/wahoo, etc.), and only include actions for ACLs and AMs.

***Tasking**:*
- Rick and Nikhil -- put together a skeleton draft of the amendment, add more language regarding ecosystem component species, and look into state vs. federal regulations.
- Nikhil and Rick -- incorporate guidance from ABC control rule for data poor species into developing the alternatives for these actions.
- Nick -- explore possibility of presenting Gulf species groupings to the Council in June. Nick will look into cluster analyses excluding species that fall under tables in Actions 1 and 2.
- -Nick/Andy S. -- look into state trip ticket data. Nikhil will incorporate data (when available) into document in tabular format.
- Nikhil -- incorporate all editorial changes.

- Kari -- send the table with available ABC values to SSC to further populate once the ABC Control Rule is available.
- John C. -- notify the SSC about shrimp species in the shrimp FMP needing ABCs, request that the SSC give a methodology to compute ABCs (if not the actual ABC numbers), ask for an approximate date when we might receive SSC's output regarding the ABC Control Rule, and pass along the Gulf SSC report to the S. Atlantic SSC.

Timeline:
1. Staff/Team prepares analyses of ecosystem species designation by May 12, 2009. (completed)
2. Committee/Council review and provide guidance – June 2009 meeting (completed)
3. Staff/Team continues to work on draft amendment document during 2009. (completed)
4. Committee/Council review and provide guidance during 2009. (completed)
5. SSC provides OFL/ABC recommendations by April 2010.
6. Committee/Council review and provide guidance – June & September 2010 meeting.
7. Approve document for public hearings – December 2010.
8. Public hearings & DEIS review – January/February 2011.
9. Committee/Council review public hearing input and approve actions – April 2011.
10. Committee/Council review and approve final document – June 2011.

Points to bring forward to the Council in June, 2010
1. EC vs. Remove from FMU, pick the specific species
2. ABC control rule from SSC for un-assessed species, including those in Shrimp FMP
3. Nick's species groupings
4. Provide guidance for dolphin/wahoo ABC, ACLs, ACTs, and AMs, and indicate values should only apply to the geographic range (Atlantic) managed under the FMP
5. Remove action for ACL for *Sargassum* in this amendment if it is an annual crop, and/or EC species. Consider removal of allocation action because there is nothing to allocate. There has been a little bit of historical harvest and it has all been commercial.
6. Should golden crab be added into this amendment?
7. Should management measures be taken out [especially for Greater Amberjack (covered in Am. 21), Dolphin/Wahoo, etc.] from this amendment?