



# Annual Catch Limits How do they work?



## ALPHABET SOUP

- 1) ABC = Acceptable Biological Catch
- 2) ACL = Annual Catch Limit
- 3) ACT = Annual Catch Target
- 4) OFL = Overfishing Limit
- 5) P\* = Risk of Overfishing (Scientific Uncertainty)
- 6) SEEM = Social Economic Ecological & Management Uncertainties



## NOAA Fisheries Stock Assessment

A stock assessment provides the science needed for fishery management. It tells the health of the fish population, determines OFL and projects future quota levels.



## Council Stock Assessment Review

The Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council, advised by its Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), accepts the assessment. The Council assembles the P\* and SEEM working groups.



## P\* Analysis

Quantifies quality of information used in the assessment. This generates the ABC.



## SEEM Analysis

Quantifies social and economic importance of the fishery and ability to quickly adapt management measures. This generates the ACL or ACT.



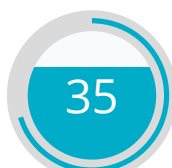
ACLs ensure that fisheries operate in a sustainable manner



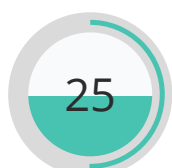
## Let's put it together



**Overfishing Limit (OFL)**  
(-) minus Scientific Uncertainty  
e.g., 15%



= **Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC)**  
(-) minus SEEM Uncertainty  
e.g., 10%



= **Annual Catch Limits (ACL)**

## Council Action and NOAA Implementation

Council votes to accept the annual fishing levels for each fishery in the Fishery Ecosystem Plans.

Council recommends accountability measures to address exceeding the ACL and prevent overfishing.

NMFS reviews and implements Council recommendations in **federal waters (3-200 miles offshore)**.