2015 National Scientific and Statistical Committee Workshop - V

Ala Moana Hotel, Honolulu, HI
February 23 – 25, 2015

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Subtheme 1.a: ABC specification for data-limited and model-resistant stocks

i. Develop recommendations for quantifying uncertainty and translating those uncertainties into risk, particularly for data-poor stocks;
ii. Learn from different regions on how they dealt with data-limited and model-resistant stocks;
iii. Develop a framework for addressing ABC specification for data-limited and model-resistant stocks;
iv. Determine mechanism to coordinate state and federal policies for ACL-based management.

Subtheme 1.b: Implementation of National Standard 2 in the face of uncertainties

i. Gather inputs from the SSCs on the regional differences in the process for determining "best scientific information available";
ii. Provide recommendations on how each Council can comply with revised National Standard 2 (NS2) guidelines particularly for data-poor situations;
iii. Compile regional best practices in dealing with NS2 in ABC specification and respective Stock Assessment Reviews.

Subtheme 2: Evaluating existing ABC control rules: issues, challenges and solutions

i. Review the performance of each council's ABC control rules. Identify issues and challenges that confronted the SSCs in making an ABC specification and highlight the process used to solve issues;
ii. Develop evaluation and monitoring standards to assess the performance of the control rules in managing the stocks;
iii. Describe how each region intends to improve the existing ABC control rules to minimize uncertainties;
iv. Explore the advantages and disadvantages of explicitly and/or implicitly accounting for uncertainties when specifying ABCs;
v. Discuss ways to translate uncertainties into risk assessment and risk management as related to fishery management objectives.

Subtheme 3.a (Part 1): Incorporating ecological, environmental and climate variability in stock assessment and ecosystem based fishery management

i. From the discussion, document potential impacts of ecological and climate variabilities on FMP managed stocks. Describe historical changes in the fishery as affected by ecological and climate variabilities;

ii. Develop recommendation on priority research and data collection to address data needs to incorporate climate and ecosystem variabilities in assessments and fishery management strategies;
iii. Develop the terms of reference for incorporating ecological and climatic variability in stock assessments and fishery management approaches.

Subtheme 3.a (Part 2): Incorporating ecological, environmental and climatic considerations in stock assessments and ecosystem based fishery management

i. Enumerate areas for inter-council collaboration addressing shifting stock distribution; Document the process and lessons learned from regions implementing an inter-council collaboration;
ii. Describe practical and viable management targets in light of uncertainties surrounding climate change;
iii. Discuss a process to quantify risks from climate and ecosystem uncertainties and apply them in fishery management strategies.

Subtheme 3.b (Part 1): Building habitat condition in stock assessments and fishery management strategies

i. Compile regional strategies to incorporate habitat considerations in assessments and fishery management strategies
ii. Discuss how habitat conditions affect productivity and how these are considered in fishery management

Subtheme 3.b (Part 2): Building habitat condition in fishery management strategies

i. Discuss and document lessons learned on how other Councils delineate EFH and HAPCs for the different fisheries;
ii. Discern process to incorporate EFH and HAPCs into fishery management strategies beyond the current use of federal consultation

TRIGGER QUESTIONS

Subtheme 1.a: ABC specification for data-limited and model-resistant stocks

i. What are the best practices used in grouping management unit species into species complexes in each region and what methods are used to determine OFL and ABCs?
ii. How can we use socioeconomic information in lieu of /or in combination with biological information in the OFL-ACL continuum, especially in data-limited situations?
iii. What are the various risk policies in place for data-poor stocks?
iv. How each SSC account for state fishery management in ABC specification/ACL-based management?

Subtheme 1.b: Implementation of National Standard 2 in the face of uncertainties

i. Are there examples of the 302(g)(1)(e) peer review process where it serves both NMFS and Councils in determining best scientific information available?
ii. Are the only available data the best available data?
iii. What are the best practices in each region for determining what the best scientific information available is?

Subtheme 2: Evaluating existing ABC control rules: issues, challenges and solutions

i. How are sources of uncertainties accounted for in your respective ABC specifications?
ii. What are the lessons learned from the previous ABC specification? (Problems and innovative solutions)
iii. What are the various risk policies developed by each council?
iv. How can the councils take advantage of the Management Strategy Evaluation approach to evaluate the performance of the existing control rules?

Subtheme 3.a (Part 1): Incorporating ecological, environmental and climatic variability in stock assessments and ecosystem based fishery management

i. How do you integrate ecosystem end-to-end models into a stock assessment/fishery management strategy and tactic?
ii. How can fishery management strategies adapt to changing ecosystems? How do you attribute the current stock status to the existing management framework versus ecosystem changes?
iii. How did other SSCs develop their ecosystem level reference points? Or what are they currently doing to develop those? What are the appropriate the ecosystem level reference points?

Subtheme 3.a (Part 2): Incorporating ecological, environmental and climatic considerations in stock assessments and ecosystem based fishery management

i. How can SSCs in adjacent regions collaborate on managing stocks that shifted spatial distribution due to climate driven forcings?

ii. Should the fishery management objective be to manage based on the current state of the fishery or should the objective be to rebuild the stock to a near pristine level, especially considering the current impacts of climatic variabilities?

Subtheme 3.b (Part 1): Building habitat consideration in stock assessment and fishery management strategies

i. How important are habitat considerations incorporated into fishery management strategies?
ii. What fishery management strategies incorporate habitat considerations?
iii. What process did your council undertake to incorporate habitat considerations into fishery management strategies?
iv. How does habitat condition affect estimates of productivity in assessments or fishery management strategies?

Subtheme 3.b (Part 2): Building habitat condition in fishery management strategies

i. How does each SSC/Council define “essential” for Essential Fish Habitat?
ii. How does each SSC/Council define “ecological function”, “sensitivity”, “susceptibility”, and “rarity” of Habitat Areas of Particular Concern?
iii. How does each Council utilize the 4 levels described in the MSRA EFH implementation regulations (50 C.F.R. §600.815(a)(1)(iii)) in designating the management unit species? To what extent are these applied?
iv. How is EFH used as a fishery management tool?
v. How does each SSC link/integrate habitat quality information with fishery productivity and incorporate such relationships in fishery management decisions?
vi. How can the state/condition of the habitat determine the need to make significant EFH/HAPC consultation suggestions?