Workshop on Annual Catch Limits (ACLs)

May 21-22 2009 Traynor Room AFSC

Documents available at:
http://fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/current_issues/ACL/ACL.htm

Draft agenda

Thursday 9:00 AM

1. **Introduction**, meeting goals, adoption of agenda, appointment of rapporteurs .... Livingston
2. **Overviews**:
   a. NS1 guidelines: .... Methot
   b. FMP revisions and compliance issues for groundfish, crab and scallop stocks: .... Stram
   c. Legal requirements by 2011 .... Jernigan
3. Scientific workgroup report on NS2
   a. NS2 "Best available science" .... Livingston/Dorn/Felthoven
   b. Necessary revisions to FMPs? .... Group

10:30--Break

4. Ecosystem components vulnerability assessments
   a. General methods .... Spencer
   b. Application to some Alaska species .... Ormseth

12:00--Lunch

5. Uncertainty and ACL specifications
   a. Uncertainty correction approaches:
      i. Overview .... Methot
      ii. Probability .... Shertzer/Hanselman
      iii. Probability/Decision theoretic .... Thompson
   b. Discussion comparing approaches .... Group
      i. Groundfish (by Tier)
      ii. BSAI Crab

Friday 8:00 AM

6. Applicability to crab and scallop ABC control rules
   a. Approach for crab stocks by Tier: formula-based approach
      i. Based on groundfish example (modified by uncertainty correction?) .... TBD
      ii. Other examples? .... TBD
   b. Approach for scallop stocks (weathervane only)
      i. Tier-based approach/formula-based for scallop stocks
         Regional OFLs and ABCs? .... Stram
      ii. Other approaches for ABC-setting: constant buffer, GHL-ceiling
      iii. How to incorporate uncertainty in absence of Tier-based approach .... Group
7. Prioritizing FMP amendments:
   timing, tasking and analytical requirements .... Council staff/Group

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Background: The North Pacific Fishery Management Council is required amend its FMPs to comply with provisions of the new National Standard guidelines. In order to do so, a workshop is being held to develop methodologies for addressing aspects of these provisions for Groundfish, Crab and Scallop FMPs including discussion of incorporating uncertainty into catch specifications; developing annual biological catch limits for BSAI crab stocks and Alaskan scallops; addressing data quality requirements; and new ecosystem component criteria. The workshop will provide a report to the Council on approaches and priorities for amending the FMPs to implement the new NS1 Guidelines. NMFS has several working groups which have met to provide reports on these topics (namely ACL determinations, data quality, and vulnerability analyses) but final reports from these groups are not yet completed. However, draft information from these National-level working groups will be provided as available during this workshop.