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# Fisheries Allocation

Fisheries Allocation  
Presentation for the 2014 Interim Council  
Coordination Committee

February 19, 2014

# Overview

- Background
- Lapointe Report
- Morrison and Scott Report
- Allocation Website
- TOR – Working Group



# Background

Allocation is an important issue for managers and constituents

- Allocation has been discussed at 5 CCC meetings since January 2011
- Allocation was a prominent subject at MONF3
- NMFS has received multiple requests from constituents and Congress on the need to address allocation issues



# Background

NMFS activities included:

- Plummer et al. 2012 report “The Allocation of Fishery Harvests under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act: Principles and Practice”
- George Lapointe’s report “Marine Fisheries Allocation Issues: Findings, Discussions and Options”
- Morrison and Scott report “Review of Laws, Guidance, Technical Memorandums and Case Studies Related to Fisheries Allocation Decisions”
- New website on fisheries allocation compiling available information to be released later this month

# Lapointe Allocation Report

Summarizes interviews with stakeholders about allocation issues and recommends five areas that need more focus:

1. Improve stakeholder engagement
2. Improve biological and social science research
3. Create a formalized review of all allocation decisions
4. Create a compilation of allocation decisions with lessons learned
5. Provide guidance on general issues to consider when making allocation decisions
  - Lapointe also highlighted the need to improve the efficiency and transparency of the allocation process

# Morrison and Scott Report

Responds to Lapointe's fourth recommendation. It contains:

- Summaries of current and past allocation decisions
- A review of MSA requirements
- Summaries of NMFS National Standard Guidance
- Summaries of NMFS Technical Memorandums relevant to allocation (including catch shares)
- Case law relevant to allocation
- Case studies of sector and inter-sector allocation decisions from states and other countries
- Appendices list past allocation decisions between commercial and recreational fisheries and distribution to catch share quota holders

# Where are we now?

- Two of the recommended next steps from the Lapointe report include determining when and how to review allocation decisions and creating a list of issues to consider when making allocation decisions.
- At CCC's request, NMFS has prepared a terms of reference proposal to formulate guidance on allocations.
  - Decision Summary Document from 2013 Annual CCC Meeting: *"Provide recommendations ... on specifications of a possible National Scientific and Statistical Committee task to identify performance standards for possible allocation review processes and analysis of proposed allocation revisions"*



# Terms of Reference - Purpose

Provide *technical* and *policy* recommendations (via a written report) for fisheries managers on the following topics related to fisheries allocations:

1. Under what circumstances should allocation decisions be revisited?
2. What issues should be considered when updating allocation decisions?
3. What biological, sociological and economic data and analyses are required for these decisions? If data are not available, what other methods can be used?



# 1. Under what circumstances should allocation decisions be revisited and/or updated?

- What factors should be considered in determining a timeline (i.e. every 5-7 years) for reviewing allocations taking into account the availability of biological, social and economic indicators? Based on these factors, provide guidance on a timeline for reviewing allocations.
- What thresholds (economic, biological and social), if any, should be considered for determining when an allocation should be revisited and/or updated?
- What performance criteria exist that could help Councils determine if a current allocation meets the goals and objectives of that fishery?
- Should the trigger for looking at allocations come from a threshold of public interest (e.g. petition based)?

## 2. What issues should be considered when updating allocation decisions?

- What guiding principles (such as minimizing scientific uncertainty, using trends rather than point data, etc.) should be used when making allocation decisions?
- What factors (such as ecosystem impacts, cultural significance, fishery participation, fishery dependence, etc.) should be considered when making an allocation decision?

### 3. What biological, sociological and economic data and analyses are required for these decisions?

- What data and analyses are currently being used for allocation decisions?
- What other data and analyses would you recommend to improve the quality of decisions?
- When data is absent, what proxies can be applied? Can proxies be improved to provide more accurate estimates?

# Terms of Reference – Expert Engagement

Considerations about who should be involved:

1. Subject matter experts: fish ecologists, social scientists, fisheries economists, fisheries managers, legal advisor, and fishery participants
2. Affiliations: Regional Fishery Management Councils, NMFS Science Centers, NMFS Regional Offices, and Headquarters Offices, and constituents

## Questions to Discuss:

- Have we asked the right questions?
- Do we have the right list of experts to be involved?
- How should the group be convened (NMFS, CCC, other)?
- What are the expected deliverables?
- What is the timeframe?