

Red Crab Amendment 3

Range of Alternatives

NEFMC
January 2010 Council Meeting
Portsmouth, NH



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Goals of Amendment 3

1. Bring the Red Crab FMP in compliance with new requirements of the re-authorized MSA – new ACL and AM requirements
2. Consider measures to improve red crab management
3. Adopt ABC control rule if feasible (currently there is only an interim ABC due to data-poor nature of the red crab resource)
4. Establish specifications for fishing years 2012-2013

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GOAL 1 – Magnuson-Stevens Act Compliance

- Implement new terms required by MSRA
- Implement ACLs and AMs
- Include ABC control rule (to be developed by SSC)

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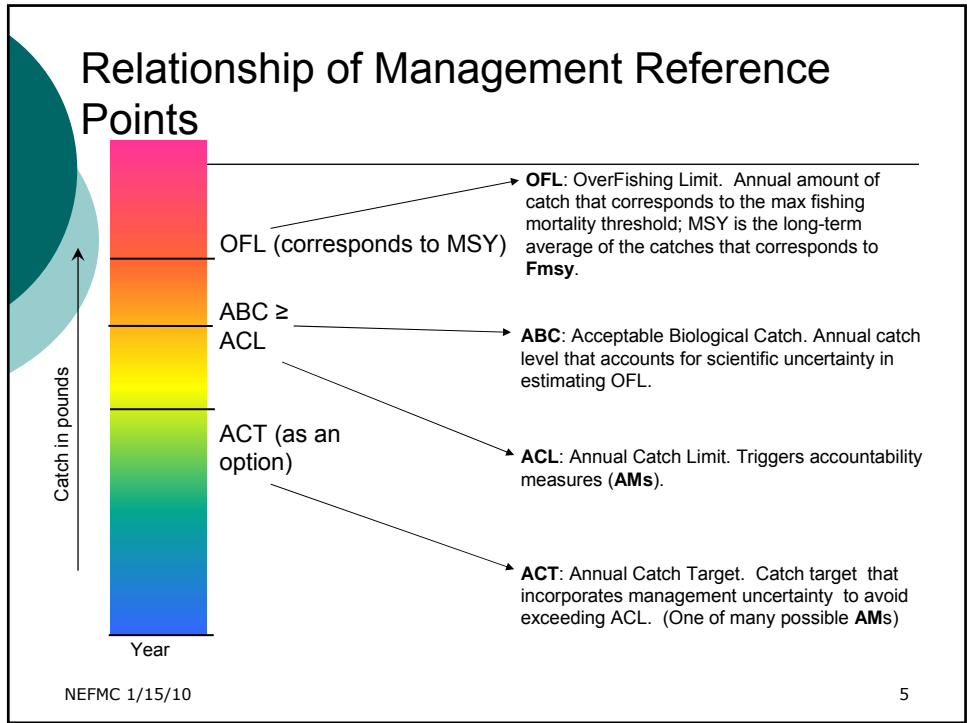


Management Unit Terms

- Target stock: **Deep sea red crab**
- Non-target species: **None**
- Ecosystem Component Species: **None.**
- State/federal ACL issues: **None**

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- ## Options for ACL and ACT
1. $OFL \geq ABC \geq ACL$
 2. $OFL \geq (ABC=ACL) \geq ACT$
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AM Alternatives

- PROACTIVE
 - NMFS would have authority to close fishery when it was projected to reach the ACL
 - ACT (as an option)
- REACTIVE
 - Payback excess catch over the ACL in the next period

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GOAL 2 – Consider measures to improve red crab management

Current management

- DAS controls based on a target TAC
 - Total DAS is divided equally by the number of active permits.
 - Permit holders are not allowed to transfer DAS.
- Possession limits (75k lb)
- Trap limits (600); maximum trap size
- Prohibition on landing females (> 1 tote)
- 3-year specifications & SAFE report; annual review by PDT

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GOAL 2 – Consider measures to improve red crab management

Changes for consideration by Council

- Replace target TAC, DAS and trip limits with a hard TAC to allow the fleet to operate more efficiently
- Carry forward ACL short fall up to some percentage of the ACL
- Reconsider annual review requirements

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GOALS 3 & 4

3. Adopt ABC control rule if feasible (currently there is only an interim ABC due to data-poor nature of the red crab resource)
4. Establish specifications for fishing years 2012-2013

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Timetable

JAN – Approve range of alternatives

MAR – SSC recommends ABC control rule

APR – Council approves alternatives for public hearings

JUN – Council approves final amendment measures

