Summary Notes from Red Crab PDT Meeting

10/27/09

Starboard Galley Restaurant

Newburyport, MA

Discussion of Amendment 3 and MSY Re-evaluation

PDT members present were Richard Allen, Chairman, Moira Kelly, NERO, Allison Guinan, NERO, Rick Wahle, Bigelow Marine Sciences Laboratory, Toni Chute, NEFSC, and Barbara Rountree, NEFSC.

Also present were Mike Pentony, NERO, Chris Kellogg, NEFMC, Jon Williams, New England Red Crab Harvesters, and Frank Wetmore, Red Crab Advisory Panel Chairman.

Mike Pentony - inquired whether the Council will be appointing a Red Crab Committee.

Chris Kellogg – there are plans for a Committee; Paul is comfortable with PDT running with it in conjunction with Advisory Panel.

Mike P – raised the question of the need for an EIS rather than an EA.

Allison G – Dave didn't offer a definitive answer.

Mike P – the 8-year time lag since the last EIS raises a question. Will there be formal scoping?

Chris – had assumed EA.

Mike – hard TAC would not trigger EIS. A hard TAC is not automatically an accountability measure - requires in-season closure authority – see fluke/sea bass FMP.

General Discussion of requirements for MSY re-evaluation using Moira's draft as a discussion guide:

Bias analysis – digitize images, analyze

Include 5% of discards on top of landings to account for discard mortality; otherwise, 5% will be deducted from the TAC and lost from landings.

Data from monkfish survey should be updated.

Toni will send Moira a justification of the use of zero depletion delta.

New information – Alec MacCall's explanation of DCAC results as generally being 50-75% of MSY.

2-point Boundary Model – why was it essentially ignored by the Review Panel? Is it more appropriate than DCAC model considering the issue of changing selectivity?

DCAC model as implemented through the NOAA Fisheries Tool Box produces confidence intervals that were not presented in the DPSWG Working Paper. Confidence intervals give an indication of the probability that a given TAC will exceed the true sustainable yield as calculated by the model. DCAC model uses Monte Carlo simulation with 10,000 iterations. Input values for natural mortality, the Fmsy to M ratio, and the depletion delta are assigned standard deviations that produce a range of possible outcomes for each iteration. The methodology takes into account the uncertainty surrounding the input values and produces confidence intervals around the results.

The question was raised as to why landings information improved in 1982, as indicated in the current and previous specification documents. It was suggested that there was a change in the NMFS port sampling program in 1982.

Rick Wahle took on the tasks of assisting in the assessment of biases in the two surveys and exploring the linkage between CPUE and abundances from the surveys.

Measures to be considered in Amendment 3:

- Annual catch limit – hard TAC – requires good data collection
- Accountability measures
    - Proactive – in-season notice and closure
    - Reactive – payback overage
- Roll-over of TAC and carry-over of DAS? (DAS only carry-over for one year, then go away, DAS that were carried-over are charged first.)
- Trip limits? Go away.
- Late January Council meeting for approval of measures.