

## Accountability measures (AMs)

**Purpose:** The purpose of AMs is to reduce the risk that a fishery or fishery sub-component (e.g. vessels, sectors, fishing category) will exceed the Allowable Biological Catch (ABC) and the acceptable risk of overfishing (OFL).

**Types:** Proactive In-season measures are intended to slow the rate of fishing and catch so that pre-existing limits on landings or catch are not exceeded by the end of the fishing year. Reactive post-season measures are intended to mitigate for previous year's overages caused by a fishery or fishery sub-component, often in ways that make certain groups accountable for previous overages. Both are usually automatic, i.e. do not require Council intervention, fully described in plan amendments, and often triggered by the fishery or fishery sub-component exceeding a landings or catch trigger.

Type and management action	NEFMC Fishery Employed	Pros	Cons	Application to whiting fishing?
<b>Proactive in-season actions (applies to each management area)</b>				
Seasonal quota allocations	Groundfish common pool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduces market disruption that would be caused by long fishery closures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Causes potential periodic closures</li> </ul>	
Provisional area closures	Herring; summer flounder (states)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As an AM, closures identify areas with directed fisheries or areas with high catches</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential for derby effects</li> <li>Differentially affects fishermen that traditionally fish in closed area</li> <li>May restrict ability to fish for other species in the areas</li> <li>Requires at sea enforcement</li> </ul>	

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Possession limit reductions (may be defined by fishery or gear)	Skates; Atlantic mackerel; butterfish; scup; tilefish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduces incentive to target species/stock</li> <li>• Allows landing of some incidental catch</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential for derby effects</li> <li>• Some non-targeted trips may exceed limit, causing discarding</li> </ul>	
DAS reductions or restrictions, DAS differentials		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Easily monitored with existing equipment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unfair to fishermen who did not use DAS</li> <li>• Potential for derby effects</li> <li>• Requires separate monitoring of DAS</li> </ul>	
Prohibit landings, fishery closure	Herring (by area); red crab; Atlantic mackerel recreational; bluefish recreational; summer flounder commercial and recreational; scup recreational; black sea bass commercial and recreational	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allows landing of 100% of limit by directed fishery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Causes discarding of incidental catch</li> <li>• Disrupts markets for extended fishery closures</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	
<b>• Reactive post-season actions</b>				
One for one adjustments to a following seasonal allocation	Groundfish sectors and common pool; herring; scallop IFQ; monkfish, red crab; Atlantic mackerel; spiny dogfish; scup; black sea bass; surf clams and ocean quohogs; tilefish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct correction for previous overages by specific fishery subcomponents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restricts fishing in future years, even if biomass has changed substantially</li> <li>• Encourages fishing above limits in current year (Wimpy effect)</li> </ul>	

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Triggers for in-season actions become more conservative	Skates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduces risk of future overages without a one to one payback</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May prevent fishery from achieving OY in future years</li> </ul>	
Adjustments to future management measures (fishing season, minimum fish size, possession limits, DAS reduction)	Groundfish recreational; scallop limited access; monkfish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduces risk of future overages without a one to one payback</li> <li>• More robust to scientific uncertainty</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delays response to overfishing until measures become effective in a future year.</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	