



NEFMC Risk Policy Workshop Agenda
March 20-21, 2013

Hawthorne Hotel Ballroom
18 Washington Square W.
Salem, MA 01970

Workshop Goals

The goal of this workshop is to provide a structured platform for discussion between the New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC), Council staff, Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), Advisory Panels, Northeast Regional Office (NERO), Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC), and other management partners to advance the development and articulation of a comprehensive risk policy used to determine Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) buffers for New England fisheries.

Specifically, the workshop agenda supports the following objectives:

- Strengthen working relationships and communication channels among members of the New England Council community;
- Establish a clear understanding of the concept of risk, the relationship between risk and uncertainty, and a common language with which to frame discussions about risk and risk policy;
- Illustrate the experiences of other regions in developing risk policies and articulating risk tolerances, with a focus on process, outcomes and lessons learned;
- Facilitate a critical examination of the factors that should be incorporated in an ABC risk policy;
- Outline the attributes and components of a successful ABC risk policy for New England fisheries; and
- Generate ideas on how the Council might move forward in developing and adopting a formal ABC risk policy.

Agenda begins on next page

DAY 1 | WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2013

7:30 – 8:30 am Workshop Registration and Continental breakfast

Location: Ballroom, main level

8:30 – 9:00 am Workshop introduction and opening remarks

Welcome and opening remarks

- *Rip Cunningham, NEFMC Council Chair*
- *Dr. Jake Kritzer, NEFMC SSC Chair*

Agenda overview, goals and objectives for the workshop

- *John Henderschedt and Kim Gordon, Fisheries Leadership & Sustainability Forum*

9:00 – 10:00 am Understanding risk

Objective: Introduce the concept of risk as function of both probability and severity of consequences, and establish a frame of reference for workshop discussions.

Introduction to risk

- *Roland Cormier, Regional Director of Ecosystems Management, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada*

Introduction to risk in ABC specification

- *Tom Nies, NEFMC Executive Director*

Q&A/Discussion

10:00 – 10:15 am BREAK

10:15 – 11:45 am Managing risk and uncertainty

Objective: Provide a basic understanding of scientific uncertainty, management uncertainty and the link between uncertainty and risk; review guidance provided in the National Standard 1 Guidelines regarding addressing risk and uncertainty.

Primer on scientific and management uncertainty

- *Dr. Luiz Barbieri, Marine Fisheries Research Section Leader, Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute; South Atlantic Fishery Management Council SSC, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council SSC*

Risk and uncertainty in the National Standard 1 Guidelines

- *George Darcy, Assistant Regional Administrator, NOAA Fisheries/Northeast Regional Office*

Q&A/Discussion

- 11:45 – 1:00 pm** **LUNCH** (provided)
Location: The library, lower level
- 1:00 – 1:45 pm** **Lessons learned from New England’s experience**
Objective: Identify the challenges presented by the current approach for managing risk and uncertainty, and the lessons learned from establishing ABCs for New England fisheries.
- *Tom Nies, NEFMC Executive Director*
 - *Dr. Jake Kritzer, NEFMC SSC Chair*
- Q&A/Discussion**
- 1:45 – 3:15 pm** **Experiences from other council regions**
Objective: Examine the process, lessons learned, and recent developments in ABC risk policy approaches of other regional councils.
- Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
- *Dr. Chris Moore, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council*
- Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
- *Bob Gill, former Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council member (2006-2012)*
- North Pacific Fishery Management Council
- *Dr. Jim Ianelli, Stock Assessment Scientist, NOAA Fisheries/Alaska Fisheries Science Center*
- Q&A/Discussion**
- 3:15 – 3:30 pm** **BREAK**
- 3:30 – 4:30 pm** **Attributes of a successful ABC risk policy**
Objective: Identify the attributes of a successful ABC risk policy for New England fisheries, and highlight the gap between the existing ABC risk policy and the policy the region would like to apply in the future.
Fisheries Forum facilitators
- Discussion questions:
- What should an ABC risk policy accomplish?
 - What are the characteristics of an ABC risk policy that supports these accomplishments?
 - How does this characterization differ from the current ABC risk policy?

4:30 – 5:00 pm **Defining risk**
Objective: Propose a working definition of risk to guide the Council’s development of an ABC risk policy.
Fisheries Forum facilitators

DAY 2 | THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2013

7:30 – 8:30 am **Continental Breakfast**
Location: The library, lower level

8:30 – 8:45 am **Recap of day 1/Intro to day 2**
Fisheries Forum facilitators

8:45 – 9:00 am **Working groups: Risk considerations**
Objective: Examine the biological, ecological, social and economic considerations associated with the Council’s selection of ABCs, and discuss how these considerations should be reflected into the Council’s ABC risk policy.
Fisheries Forum facilitators

*See page 6 of the agenda for working group descriptions

9:00 – 10:00 am **Working group rotation 1***

10:00 – 10:15 am **BREAK**

10:15 – 11:15 am **Working group rotation 2***

11:15 – 11:20 am *Transition to next working group*

11:20 – 12:20 pm **Working group rotation 3***

12:20 – 1:15 pm **LUNCH** (provided)
Location: The library, lower level

1:15 – 2:15 pm **Working group rotation 4 ***

2:15 – 3:00 pm **Working group recap**
Objective: Highlight the themes of discussion across all four working group rotations.
Fisheries Forum facilitators

Informal presentations: Report-back from each breakout group
Working group facilitators

Discussion questions:

- How did these discussions inform your perspective on what should be incorporated into an ABC risk policy?
- What common themes emerged across the different breakout groups?

3:00– 3:15 pm

BREAK

3:15 – 4:30 pm

Sketching out a risk policy approach

Objective: Discuss how the risk policy attributes and considerations identified during the workshop can be translated into a risk policy for establishing ABCs for New England fisheries.

Fisheries Forum facilitators

Discussion questions:

- What are the desired outcomes/outputs from the Council’s ABC risk policy (e.g. control rule for each managed stock, maximum and minimum buffer thresholds, etc.)?
- How might a risk policy be structured (e.g. tiered approach, scoring matrix, decision table, etc.)?
- How could the risk policy incorporate probabilities, consequences and uncertainty when determining ABC buffers?

4:30 – 5:00 pm

Group discussion: Recommendations and next steps

Objective: Share perspectives on how the Council can move forward in developing an ABC risk policy. Identify questions and information needs that should be explored or discussed further.

Fisheries Forum facilitators

Discussion questions:

- Do you have any suggestions on how the Council can move forward in developing an ABC risk policy for New England fisheries?
- What insights or recommendations can you share based upon your role in the management process?

5:00 – 5:15 pm

Workshop Wrap up and Closing remarks

***Working group rotations:**

Participants will rotate through four working groups, focusing on one category of potential considerations in each rotation. Subject matter guides will be present in each working group to answer questions, share their experience and help guide the group's discussion.

Biological Considerations

What are the biological implications to the targeted stock resulting from the level at which ABCs are set?

- *Dr. Jim Ianelli, Stock Assessment Scientist, NOAA Fisheries/Alaska Fisheries Science Center*
- *Dr. Paul Rago, Chief, Population Dynamics Branch, NOAA Fisheries/Northeast Fisheries Science Center*

Ecological Considerations

What are the implications to the ecosystem that result from targeted removals associated with ABCs?

- *Dr. Mike Fogarty, Chief, Ecosystem Assessment Program, NOAA Fisheries, Northeast Fisheries Science Center; NEFMC SSC*
- *Dr. Jamie Cournane, Research Scientist, Institute for the Study of Earth, Oceans and Space, University of New Hampshire*

Social Considerations

What are the social implications (to individuals, communities, fisheries, etc.) of the level of fishing allowed by established ABCs?

- *Dr. Matt McPherson, Chief, Social Sciences Branch, NOAA Fisheries/Northeast Fisheries Science Center*
- *Dr. Patricia Pinto da Silva, Social Scientist, NOAA Fisheries/Northeast Fisheries Science Center; NEFMC SSC*

Economic Considerations

What are the economic implications (to individuals, businesses, communities, etc.) of the level of fishing allowed by established ABCs?

- *Merrick Burden, Executive Director, Marine Conservation Alliance*
- *Dr. David Tomberlin, Economist, NOAA Fisheries/Office of Science and Technology; MAFMC SSC*