

Skate Specifications

Adjustments to Skate ABC
specifications and management
measures



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Mean survey biomass Figure 1

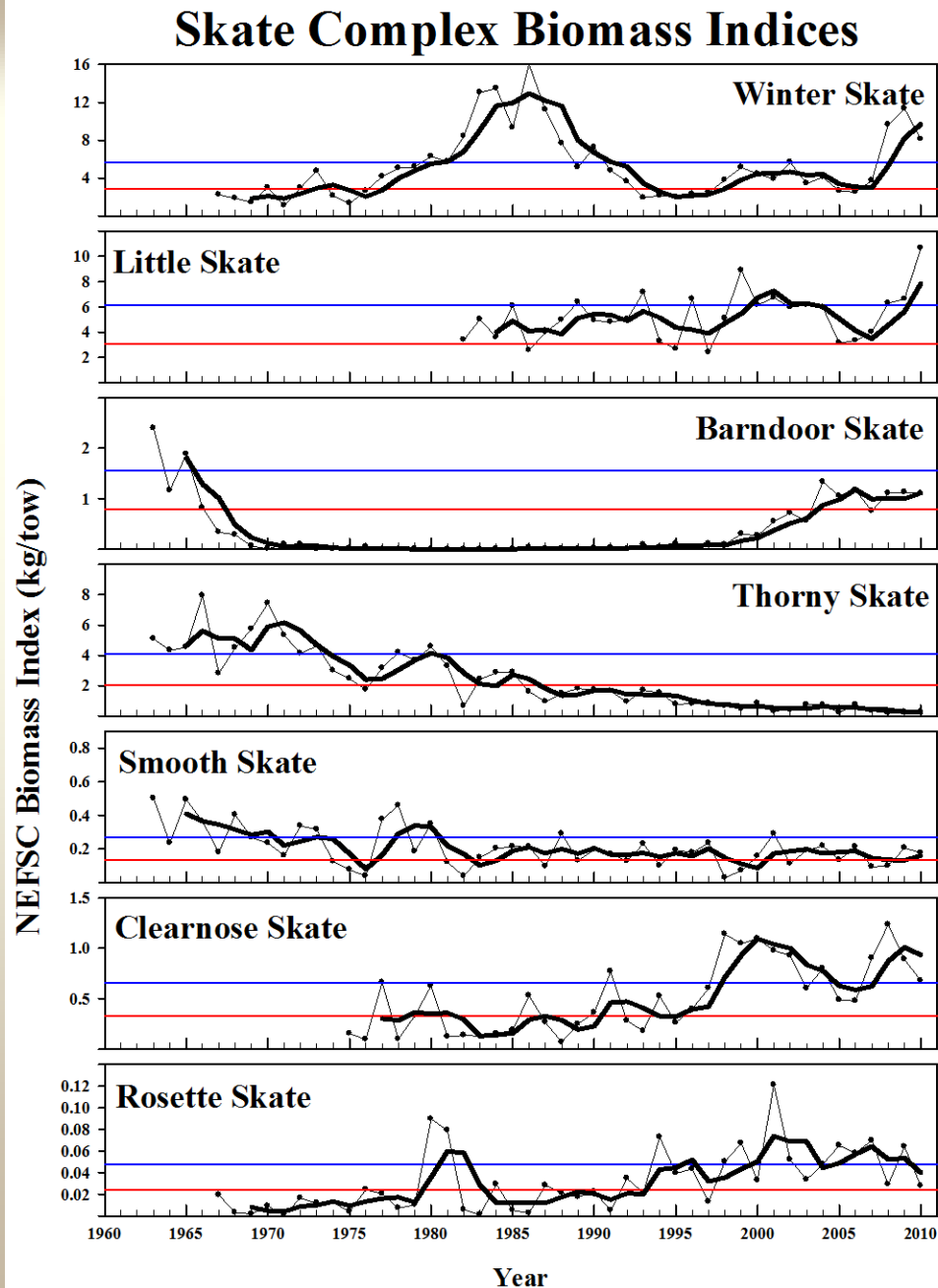


Figure 1. NEFSC survey biomass indices (kg/tow). Thin lines with symbols are annual indices, thick lines are 3-year moving averages, and the thin horizontal lines are the biomass thresholds developed through 2007/08 using consistent strata sets.

2010 fishery performance

Table 2

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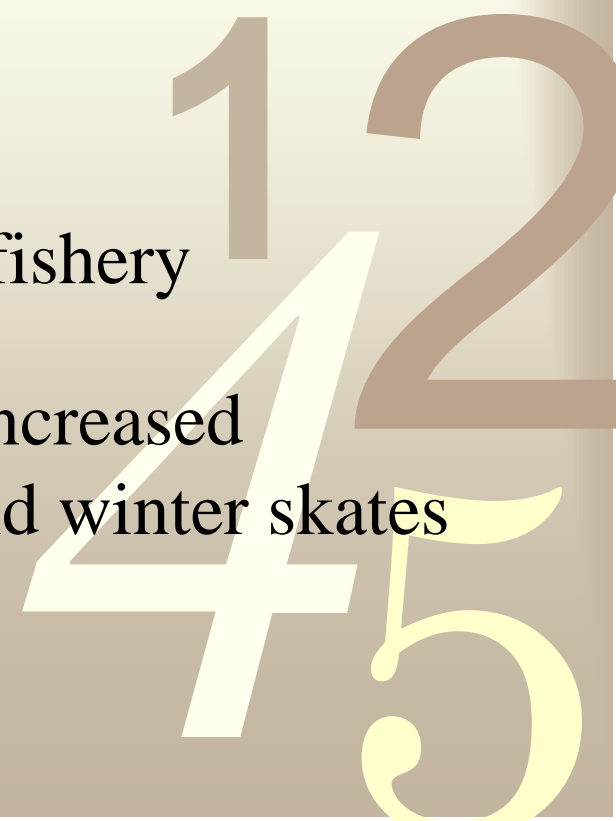
	Federal	Federal (mt)	State	State (mt)	%Federal	%State	Total	Total (mt)	TAL (mt)	Percent of TAL/ACL
Wings	19,382,854	8,792	2,850,052	1,293	87.1	12.8	22,241,698	10,089	9,209	95
Bait	8,792,771	3,988	1,231,847	559	87.7	12.3	10,028,606	4,549	4,639	86
Total Landings (A)	28,175,625	12,780	4,081,899	1,852	87.3	12.6	32,270,304	14,638		36
Transfers at sea (B)							3,595,351	1,631		4
Estimated dead discards (C)							41,389,321	18,774		46
ACL							90,565,872	41,080		85



Data updates

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- Landings declined from 2009
- State landings increased from expectations
 - Differences in monitoring
 - Reaction to skate regulations
- Transfers at sea for bait
- Use of disposition code to monitor fishery landings
- Discard rate (dead discards/catch) increased
- Lower discard mortality for little and winter skates caught by trawls



Skate ACL Specifications

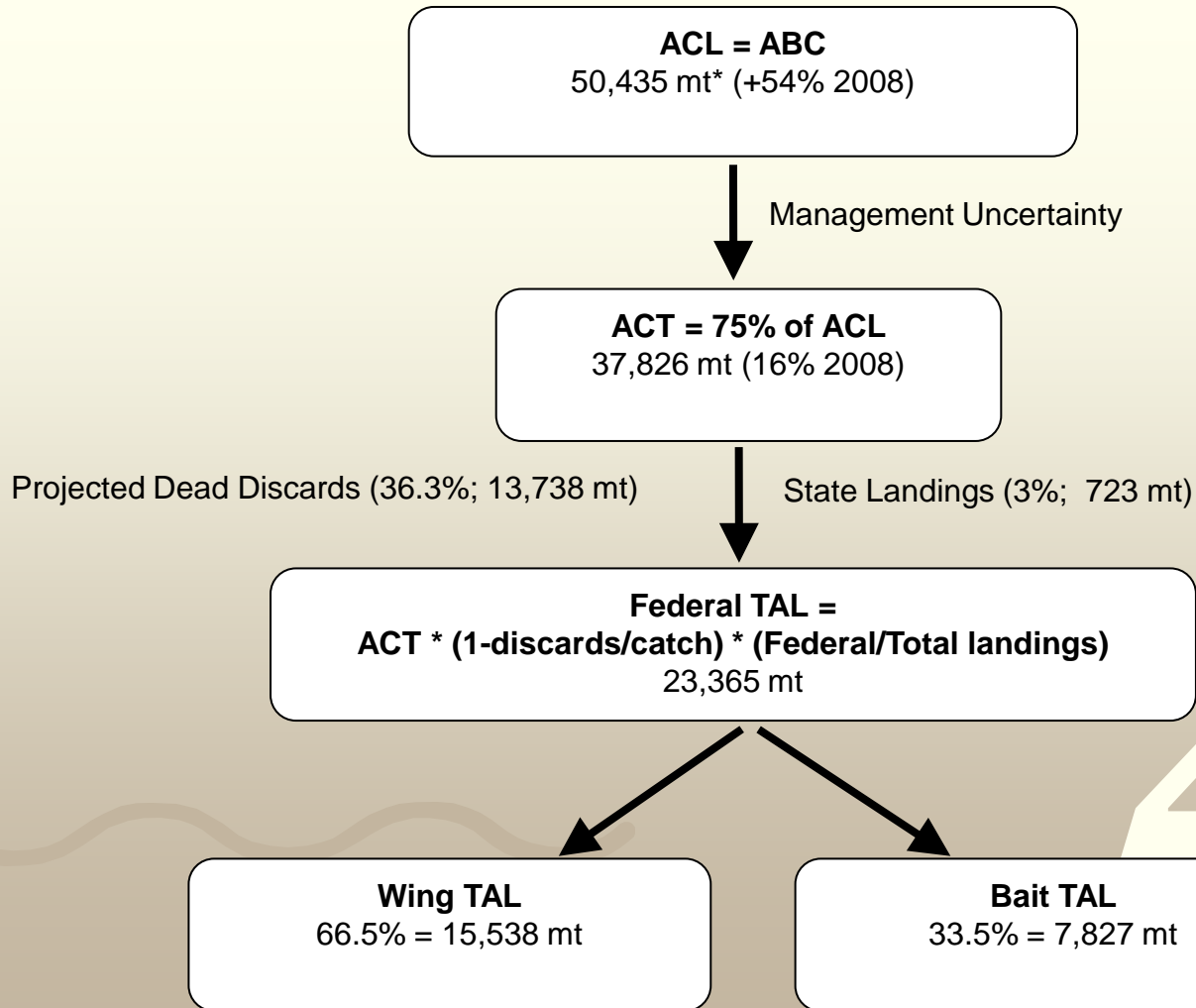
	(A)	(B)	(F)	(G)
	Current specifications	Bigelow strata	New discard mortality rate applied	3% state landings set aside
	2006-2008 survey, 2007-2009 discards	2008-2010 survey, 2007-2009 discards	2008-2010 survey, 2008-2010 discards	2008-2010 survey, 2008-2010 discards
ACL specifications				
ABC (mt)	41,080	69,215	50,435	50,435
ACT (mt)	30,810	51,911	37,826	37,826
TAL (mt)	14,780	24,903	24,088	24,088
Assumed state landings	924	924	3,035	723
Federal TAL	13,856	23,979	21,053	23,365
Wing TAL	9,214	15,946	14,000	15,538
Percent change 2007	-27.5%	25.5%	10.2%	23.6%
Bait TAL	4,642	8,033	7,053	7,827
Season 1	1,430	2,474	2,172	2,411
Season 2	1,722	2,980	2,617	2,904
Season 3	1,490	2,579	2,264	2,513
C/B medians				
Barndoor	3.230	3.222	2.938	2.938
Clearnose	2.440	2.695	5.910	5.910
Little	2.390	2.898	2.384	2.384
Rosette	2.190	2.090	3.622	3.622
Smooth	1.690	1.669	2.388	2.388
Thorny	3.140	3.117	2.300	2.300
Winter	4.120	4.067	2.256	2.256
Survey biomass (mean kg/tow)				
Barndoor	1.020	1.114	1.114	1.114
Clearnose	1.037	0.933	0.933	0.933
Little	5.040	7.848	7.848	7.848
Rosette	0.053	0.040	0.040	0.040
Smooth	0.133	0.161	0.161	0.161
Thorny	0.420	0.245	0.245	0.245
Winter	5.230	9.684	9.684	9.684
Discard rate	52.0%	52.0%	36.3%	36.3%
Discard mortality	50.0%	50.0%	31.0%	31.0%



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ACL Flowchart

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TAL monitoring

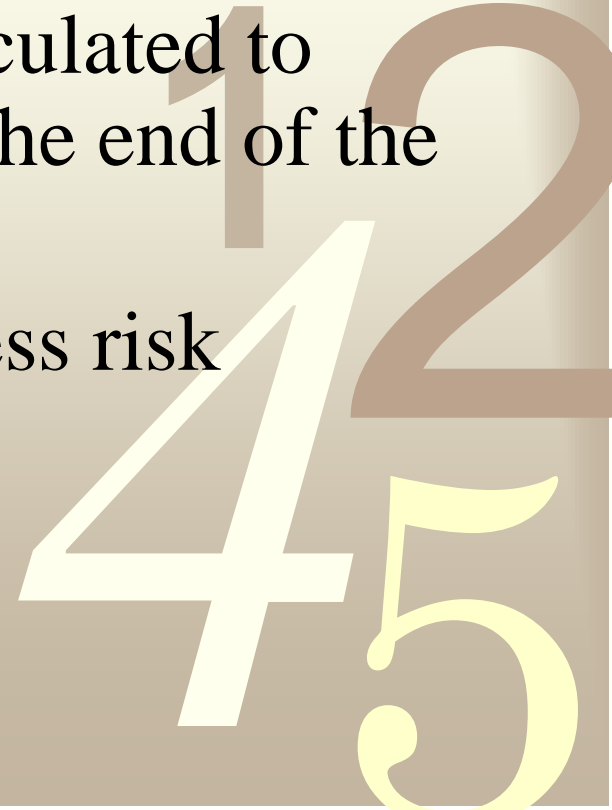
- Retain 3% state waters TAL set aside
- Retain the existing bait/wing TAL proportions
- Monitor transfers at sea for bait against bait TAL



Skate wing fishery specifications

0011

- Determine possession limit specifications using Scenario 3 approach
- Develop second alternative calculated to take 85% of the wing TAL by the end of the fishing year
- Run sensitivity analyses to assess risk
- Raise the TAL trigger to 90% (same as bait fishery)



Wing possession limit alternative estimates 15,538 mt TAL; 90% TAL trigger

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Wing possession limit alternative	Status quo 82.3% of TAL	Scenario 3.a 100% of TAL	Scenario 3.b 85% of TAL
Season 1 limit	2,600 lbs.	3,848 lbs.	2,775 lbs.
Season 2 limit	4,100 lbs.	6,068 lbs.	4,376 lbs.
Trigger date	NA	3/26	NA
% of TAL @ 500 lbs.	NA	92.9%	NA
% of TAL @ 1,250 lbs.	NA	94.6%	NA
% of TAL no action	82.3%	100%	85%

Sensitivity analysis +10% LPD

15,538 mt TAL; 90% TAL trigger

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Wing possession limit alternative	Status quo 82.3% of TAL	Scenario 3.a 100% of TAL	Scenario 3.b 85% of TAL
Season 1 limit	2,600 lbs.	3,848 lbs.	2,775 lbs.
Season 2 limit	4,100 lbs.	6,068 lbs.	4,376 lbs.
Trigger date	4/28	2/27	4/17
% of TAL @ 500 lbs.	90.2%	95.8%	91.2%
% of TAL @ 1,250 lbs.	90.3%	99.1%	91.9%
% of TAL no action	90.5%	110%	93.5%

Sensitivity analysis +25% LPD

15,538 mt TAL; 90% TAL trigger

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Wing possession limit alternative	Status quo 82.3% of TAL	Scenario 3.a 100% of TAL	Scenario 3.b 85% of TAL
Season 1 limit	2,600 lbs.	3,848 lbs.	2,775 lbs.
Season 2 limit	4,100 lbs.	6,068 lbs.	4,376 lbs.
Trigger date	3/18	1/24	3/8
% of TAL @ 500 lbs.	94.5%	100.1%	95.5%
% of TAL @ 1,250 lbs.	97.1%	106.0%	98.7%
% of TAL no action	102.9%	125%	106.2%

Skate bait fishery specifications

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- **No change to seasonal quota allocations**
- **No change to TAL trigger**
- **Continue to monitor dealer reported landings with disposition code**
- **Vessels may land carcasses for bait (and wings) without counting against bait TAL**
- Increase bait possession limit from 20,000 to 25,000 lbs.

Other specifications

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- Status quo for skate limits on a Category B DAS
- Continue to monitor discards on a calendar year basis
- Prohibit barndoor skate retention until rebuilding schedule can be assessed
- Make specification adjustments to overfishing definition

