

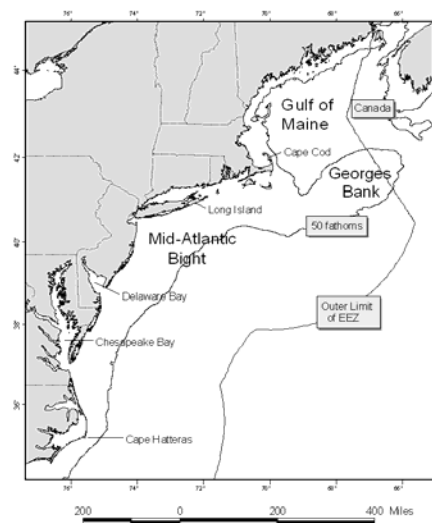
SKATES - #6

Skate Specifications 2014 - 2015

SSC Meeting November 15, 2013

Northeast Skate Complex

- ▶ **Seven Species**
 - ▶ Barndoor
 - ▶ Clearnose
 - ▶ Little
 - ▶ Rosette
 - ▶ Smooth
 - ▶ Thorny
 - ▶ Winter
- ▶ **Distributions range from Gulf of Maine to Florida**
- ▶ **Differences in size**



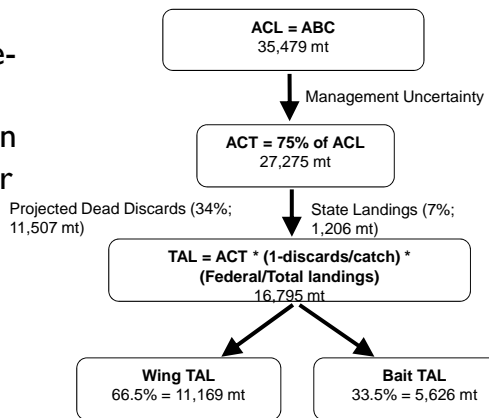
Biological Reference Points

- ▶ B_{MSY} proxy – 75th percentile of the mean weight per tow of the respective survey time series
- ▶ $B_{threshold}$ – one half of the B_{MSY} proxy
- ▶ Overfishing– current three year average falls below the previous three year average by a critical percentage
- ▶ Overfished– if B_{MSY} proxy falls to less than one half of the 75th percentile of the mean weight per tow of the reference survey series for that species.



Amendment 3: Control Rule

- ▶ Uses the median catch/biomass ratio as an estimate of exploitation rate applied to the three-year moving average of fall survey stratified mean kg/tow (spring survey for little skate).



MSY

- ▶ MSY = catch resulting from the application of the catch/biomass medians to the target skate biomass levels

Species	Revised Catch/Biomass (Recommended)	FY 2012 – 2013 Catch/Biomass Medians
Barndoor	2.64	2.94
Clearnose	3.98	5.91
Little	2.14	2.38
Rosette	2.57	3.62
Smooth	2.80	2.39
Thorny	1.27	2.30
Winter	1.83	2.26
MSY	36,414 mt	46,192 mt



Specifications

- ▶ PDT Recommends
 - ▶ Using updated survey indices
 - ▶ Final discard mortality rate estimates
 - ▶ Status quo methods
 - ▶ Benchmark



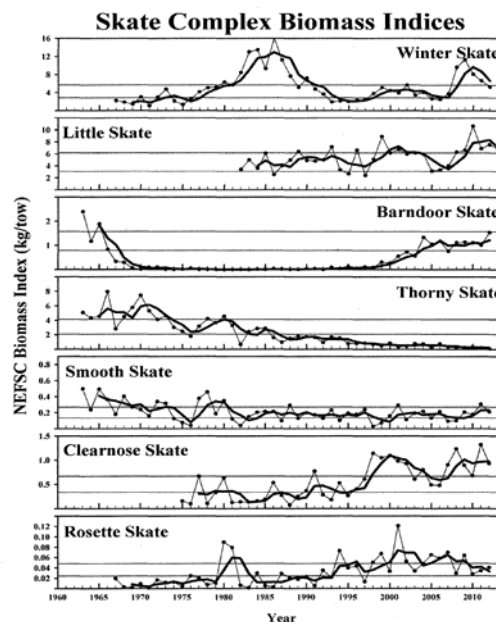
Catch

Management Specification	2011		2012	
	Specification Amount	Catch/Landings (mt)	Specification Amount	Catch/Landings (mt)
ABC/ACL	50,435	32,187	50,435	28,203
ACT	37,826	32,187	37,826	28,203
Assumed Discards + State Landings	16,265	16,265	14,461	12,586
TAL (Bait + Wing)	21,561	15,922	23,365	15,617
TAL Bait	7,223	4,132	7,827	5,504
TAL Wings	14,338	11,790	15,538	10,113



New Data

- ▶ Updated Survey Indices
 - ▶ Decreased indices for 5 of 7 species
 - ▶ Overfishing occurring: thorny and winter
 - ▶ Overfished: thorny
- ▶ Prohibited Species effectiveness
- ▶ Final discard mortality rate estimates
 - ▶ Mandelman et al. 2013



Prohibited Species Effectiveness

- ▶ Increased from assumed 90% to 98%

- ▶ Port sampling data
 - ▶ Fewer prohibited species in landings
 - ▶ Increased compliance

- ▶ Impact – fewer assumed prohibited species in the landings



Discard Study

- ▶ Tow times
 - ▶ Control: 15-20 min
 - ▶ Moderate: 90 – 120 min
 - ▶ Extended: 180 – 240 min
- ▶ At vessel mortality <1%
- ▶ Overall mortality = 19%
 - ▶ Winter = 9%
 - ▶ Little = 22%
 - ▶ Thorny = 23%
 - ▶ Smooth = 60%



Application to Gillnet Gear

- ▶ Committee motion
- ▶ PDT found no evidence to support applying otter trawl rates to gillnet gear
- ▶ SSC report – June 2011 reviewed discard mortality studies and maintained 50% for all other gear types
- ▶ PDT – supports maintaining 50% for gillnet gear until future research is available



Impacts of Updates

- ▶ Reduction in the ABC from decreased survey indices
- ▶ Decrease in historic dead discards allows an increase in the proportion of total catch allocated to the TAL



Specifications

	Specs FY 2014 – 15 (PDT recommendation)	Specs FY 2012-2013
ABC	35,479 mt	50,435 mt
ACT	27,275 mt	37,826 mt
TAL	18,001 mt	21,561 mt
Wing TAL	11,169 mt	14,338 mt
Bait TAL	5,626 mt	7,223 mt



Timeline

- ▶ Fall 2013 – SSC approval of ABC
- ▶ Jan 2014 – final vote by Council
- ▶ May 2014 - Implementation



