

Risk Policy

Working Group

(Formerly ABC CR Working Group)

Report and Recommendations

Lori Steele, NEFMC Staff

NEFMC Meeting, November 2013

Risk Policy Working Group

Develop a work plan for how the Council may proceed in developing a risk policy so that ABC control rules can incorporate the Council's risk tolerance

- WG recommendations for Council consideration during 2014 priority-setting
- Focus on bigger picture/process
- Consider findings from March 2013 Risk Policy Workshop

RP WG Focus: Process

Focus recommendations on how the Council can implement a risk policy and possibly modify ABC CRs across all NE Council FMPs

- Types of Actions/Process, Timelines, Rulemaking/Legal Issues
- Role of Council, Committees, APs, PDTs, SSC, and public participation
- Don't get into the weeds

Process: Option 1 (No Action)

Council does not develop risk policy during 2014

- No changes to current process for ABC-setting
- Lack of consistency/clarity may continue
- Does not violate the law
- May be addressed by the Council at a future time

Process: Option 2 (RP)

Council develops RP and includes in Council Operations Handbook

- No changes to current process for setting ABCs, but SSC would utilize the RP as guidance for developing ABC recs
- Most time-efficient process for developing RP
- No direct linkage to ABC CRs in FMPs; may result in inconsistent application of RP
- Council could consider more direct linkage to ABC CRs at a future time

Process: Option 3 (Omnibus)

Council develops risk policy and ABC CRs across all FMPs through omnibus amendment

- Most comprehensive, most public participation
- Greatest analytical requirements and technical/staff support needs, longest timeline

(Supported by minority of RP WG)

Process: Option 4 (Stepwise)

Council develops/adopts RP in Operations Handbook; framework action to link to specs process; “field test” RP through one round of specs, which includes feedback from SSC

- Diagnostic/field test time would allow for application of RP by SSC; species-specific consideration and feedback by the SSC when recommending ABC
- May require strategy for additional public participation/input

(Supported by majority of RP WG)

Risk Policy: Goals/Objectives

1. Provide clear guidance to SSC for specifying risk-based ABC levels
2. Provide structure for accounting for risk that can be understood, interpreted, and applied
3. Improve consistency and clarity in process for setting ABC
 - A. Clearly ID/articulate risk tolerance
 - B. Respond to different levels of info/stock condition
 - C. Improve analysis and reduce subjectivity
 - D. Start simple and be adaptable
 - E. Focus initially on biology but include flexibility for socio-economics and ecosystem metrics

RPW: Important Considerations

- Unclear whether general “umbrella” RP would be developed, versus species-specific RPs; Council may need to address this issue during early development of RP
- RP should include metrics to evaluate performance
- Analysis associated with application of RP to ABC CRs may be extensive
- Consideration of Management Strategy Evaluation