

# Skate Specifications 2014 – 2015 & Timeline

Council Meeting September 26, 2013

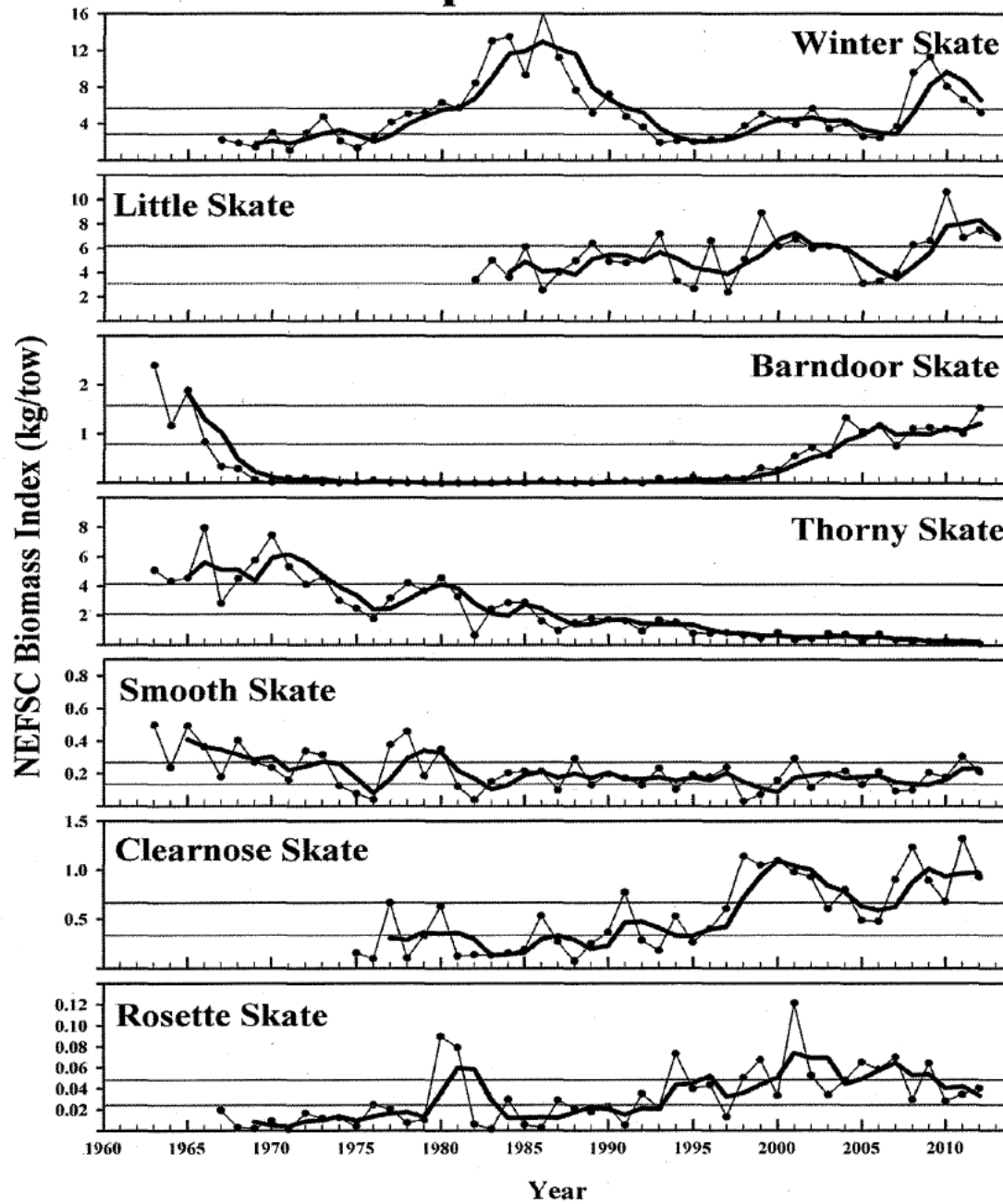
# Stock Status

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- ▶ Updated Survey Indices
  - ▶ Decreased indices for 5 of 7 species
  - ▶ Overfishing occurring: thorny and winter
  - ▶ Overfished: thorny

Survey	Barn-door	Clearnose	Little	Rosette	Smooth	Thorny	Winter
2010	1.10	0.68	10.63	0.028	0.18	0.28	8.09
2011	1.02	1.32	6.88	0.034	0.30	0.18	6.65
2012	1.54	0.93	7.54	0.040	0.21	0.08	5.29
2013			6.9				
2010-12 3-yr average	1.22	0.97	8.35	0.033	0.23	0.18	6.68
2011-13 3-yr average			7.11				

# Skate Complex Biomass Indices



# Catch

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	<b>2011</b>		<b>2012</b>	
Management Specification	Specification Amount	Catch/Landings (mt)	Specification Amount	Catch/Landings
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

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# Specifications

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- ▶ PDT beginning work on specs
- ▶ Recommends
  - ▶ Using updated survey indices
  - ▶ Final discard mortality rate estimates
  - ▶ Status quo methods – catch/biomass medians
  - ▶ Benchmark



# Discard Study – Mandelman et al. 2013

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- ▶ At vessel mortality <1%
- ▶ Overall mortality = 19%
  - ▶ Winter = 9%
  - ▶ Little = 22%
  - ▶ Thorny = 23%
  - ▶ Smooth = 60%



# SSC

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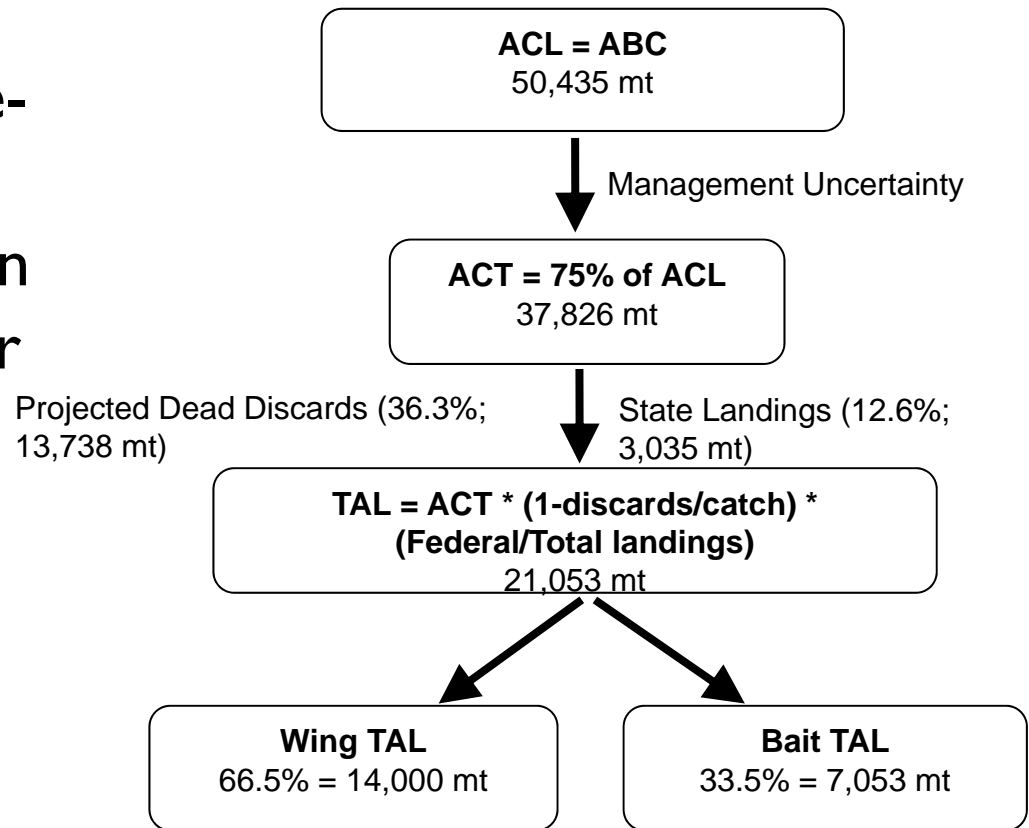
- ▶ **Approved updating the discard mortality rate estimates**
  - ▶ Updating the catch history
  - ▶ Updating catch/biomass medians
  
- ▶ **Reiterated June 2011 recommendation**
  - ▶ The strategy for managing skates should be reconsidered, particularly consideration of a control rule tailored to different stock conditions, status determination and development of ABCs for individual species and/or area-specific stock complexes, and development of MSY reference points or suitable proxies.



# Amendment 3: Control Rule

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- ▶ 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).





# Impacts of Updates

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- ▶ Reduction in the ABC from decreased survey indices
- ▶ Impacts of final discard mortality rate estimates unknown



# Trip Limits

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- ▶ **Items to be considered**
  - ▶ Overfishing status of winter skate
  - ▶ Potential reduction in ABC
  
- ▶ **AP and Committee**
  - ▶ Trip limits should be set to allow fishing year round



# VTR Codes

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- ▶ **Remove unclassified codes**
  - ▶ Improve reporting
- ▶ **Unclassified codes in regs**
  - ▶ Requires Council action to remove them



# Timeline

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

