



New England Fishery Management Council

Role of the New England SSC in Regional Peer Review

Control rule
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NE SSC Role in Peer Review

- Contributions to official peer review processes:
 - Input to generic and specific terms of reference
 - SSC member chairs the Stock Assessment Review Committee
 - SSC member participate in the Transboundary Resources Assessment Committee
 - SSC members involved in Northeast ACL Working Group to develop an operational approach to supporting ACL requirements
- Provide technical review of information that is not a product of the official peer review process.
 - Ecosystem-based fishery management
 - Habitat plan
 - Socioeconomic analyses
 - Management actions for FMP specifications....

Multispecies Groundfish

- Information from SARC (e.g., pollock):
 - Stock status (overfishing? overfished?)
 - Example projections ($F_{40\%MSY}$, $75\%F_{MSY}$ proxy, $F_{status quo}$)
 - Description and quantification of **uncertainties**
- Information from Plan Development Team:
 - F-based projections (alternative 2010 catch assumptions)
 - Catch-based projections (more sensitive to scale uncertainties)
 - Probability analyses ($P_{F>F40\%}$)
 - Alternative risks requested by Council
 - Scenario analyses (selectivity assumptions)



Sea Scallop



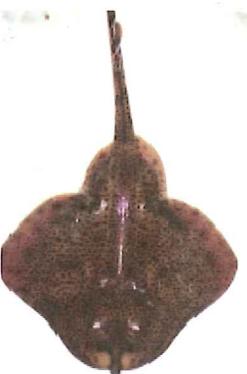
- Information from SARC:
 - Stock status (*overfishing?* *overfished?*)
 - Example projections with spatially varying F
 - Description and quantification of uncertainties
- Information from Plan Development Team:
 - Updated assessment with 2010 catch and survey data
 - Updated projection with spatially varying F
 - Updated risk analysis



Monkfish

- Information from SARC:
 - Stock status (*overfishing? overfished?*)
 - Example projections ($F_{\text{status quo}}$)
 - Description of uncertainties
- Information from Plan Development Team:
 - Calculation of OFL ($U_{\max} \times 2010 B_{\text{exp}}$)
 - Calculation of ABC ($U_{ABC} \times 2010 B_{\text{exp}}$)
 - Stochastic projections and probability analyses

Skates



- Information from Data Poor Stocks Working Group (2008):
 - Stock status (overfishing? overfished?)
 - Description of quantification of uncertainties
- Information from Plan Development Team:
 - Evaluations of alternative ABC methods
 - Updated fishery and survey data
 - ABC calculations

Atlantic Herring



- Information from Data Poor Stocks Working Group (2008):
 - Unknown Stock status (overfishing? overfished?)
 - Description of quantification of uncertainties
- Information from Plan Development Team:
 - Evaluations of alternative ABC methods
 - Updated fishery and survey data
 - ABC calculations

Deep-Sea Red Crab

- Information from Data Poor Stocks Working Group (2008):
 - Stock status (overfishing?)
 - Description of uncertainties



- Information from Plan Development Team:

- Evaluations of alternative ABC methods
 - ABC calculations

Habitat



- Habitat Plan Development Team
 - Created analytical tools (e.g. Swept-Area Seabed Impact) to evaluate habitat impacts of fishery
- SSC (with invited experts)
 - reviewed methods for evaluating alteration of habitat by fishing gear at several stages over last 2 years
- More formal peer review of habitat methodology is being considered.

Gulf of Maine Winter Flounder

- Information from Groundfish Assessment Review Meeting (2008):
 - No accepted assessment
 - Unknown status
 - Description of and quantification of uncertainties
- Information from Plan Development Team:
 - Updated fishery and survey data
 - Revised assessment method (area-swept survey estimates) and candidate ABCs
 - Scheduled for SSC review in November
 - Benchmark assessment scheduled for spring 2011



Conclusions

- Primary information needed by the NE SSC is provided by the official peer review:
 - Stock status
 - Projections (provisional OFL)
 - Uncertainties
- The supplemental information provided by Plan Development Teams varies among FMPs and management actions:
 - Updated projections
 - Updated assessments
 - New assessment or reference point methods
- Workload and timeliness preclude formal peer review of all information needed for management.

Peer Review Issues

- Inconsistent decisions among peer review panels:
 - retrospective patterns?
 - data-poor stocks?
 - problematic assessments?
 - model error?
- ‘External’ reviewers
 - not accountable for implications of decisions
 - lack comprehensive understanding of new OFL-ABC-ACL-ACT system
- Need for formal peer reviews beyond stock assessments
 - Socioeconomics
 - Habitat
 - ecosystems