



New England Fishery Management Council

# **Role of the New England SSC in Regional Peer Review**

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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 ( $F_{40\%MSP}$ ,  $75\%F_{MSY}$  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 ( $U_{\text{max}} \times 2010 B_{\text{exp}}$ )
  - Calculation of ABC ( $U_{\text{ABC}} \times 2010 B_{\text{exp}}$ )
  - 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