
ACLS, AM, APPORTIONMENT, SPATIAL MANAGEMENT POLICY



ANNUAL CATCH LIMITS (ACLS)

- **OFL:** catch level that corresponds to the stock's maximum sustainable yield
 - Catch > OFL = overfishing
- For 2020, the **SSC set the OFL statewide to represent the overall area of the stock boundary.**
 - No biological reasoning indicating further stock structure separation is needed
- **ABC:** Buffer downward from OFL to account for scientific uncertainty.
 - **maxABC prescribed by our GF Tier system control rules**
- **ACL = ABC (at spatial scale of OFL)**
 - **2019:** catch exceeded the combined GOA and BSAI ABC(ACL). Alaska-wide ACL/ABC was exceeded by 1,487 mt or 10 percent of the Alaska-wide ACL/ABC and the Alaska-wide catch was 50% less than the Alaska-wide OFL.
 - The 2019 area and gear allocations with catch over the respective TAC allocations were non-CDQ Bering Sea trawl gear (1,764 mt), Western GOA trawl gear (4 mt), Central GOA fixed gear (181 mt), Central GOA trawl gear (924 mt), West Yakutat district fixed gear (94 mt), and Southeast Outside district fixed gear (140 mt). The catch for all other area and gear allocation were under their respective allocations of the TAC.
 - **2020 Sablefish ACL = Area-wide ABC (BSAI +GOA)**

ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES (AM)

- NS1 guidelines: accountability measures (AM) should prevent exceedances of ACLs and correct or mitigate overages of the ACL if they occur.
- BSAI and GOA FMPs reference the following components as AMs
 - Observer coverage
 - Catch accounting
 - In-season management authority
 - Harvest specifications

ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES (AM)

December 2019: Council noted (clarified in February 2020 as AMs): in response to concerns regarding the ABC (and therefore ACL) overage in both GOA and BSAI (clarified in February 2020 as AMs):

1. TAC in AI set < ABC (normally TAC = ABC)
2. The trawl fleet cautioned to avoid incidental catches of sablefish in 2020 with a scheduled potential action to follow by Council 2020 on sablefish discards
3. The Council acknowledged that the SSC set the OFL statewide to represent the overall area of the stock boundary. As the ACL is assessed at the level of the overall stock (and thus the spatial area over which the OFL is specified) it is highly unlikely than an overage of the overall Areawide ABC (ACL) would occur in 2020.
4. The sablefish stock biomass is increasing and the overage in 2019 is unlikely to represent a conservation concern requiring additional actions by the Council outside of those already taken during the December specifications process.

NPFMC SPATIAL MANAGEMENT POLICY

- 1) As soon as preliminary scientific information indicates that further stock structure separation or other spatial management measures may be considered, the stock assessment authors, plan teams (groundfish, crab, scallop), and SSC should advise the Council of their findings and any associated conservation concerns.
- 2) With input from the agency, the public, and its advisory bodies, the Council (and NMFS) should identify the economic, social, and management implications and potential options for management response to these findings and identify the suite of tools that could be used to achieve conservation and management goals. In the case of crab and scallop management, ADF&G needs to be part of this process.
- 3) To the extent practicable, further refinement of stock structure or other spatial conservation concerns and potential management responses should be discussed through the process described in recommendations 1 and 2 above.
- 4) Based on the best information available provided through this process, the SSC should continue to recommend OFLs and ABCs that prevent overfishing of stocks.

NPFMC SPATIAL MANAGEMENT POLICY

- 1) **As soon as preliminary scientific information indicates that further stock structure separation or other spatial management measures may be considered**, the stock assessment authors, plan teams (groundfish, crab, scallop), and SSC should advise the Council of their findings and any associated conservation concerns.

For Plan Team discussion after the apportionment presentation:

- Given lack of stock structure separation leading to single OFL are there spatial catch and conservation concerns?
- If so, are these related to additional research priorities?
- Or, are there conservation concerns that the Teams wish to raise to the SSC as it relates to the Spatial Management Policy (Step 1)?