



D4 SSC Workshop Report on Risk Table Advice

June 2021 Council Meeting

Action Memo

Council Staff: Sara Cleaver
Other Presenters: Dr. Sherri Dressel (SSC Co-Chair)
Action Required: Review SSC workshop report, SSC recommendations, Council action as necessary

BACKGROUND

In February 2021, the SSC convened a [workshop](#)¹ to provide feedback to stock assessment authors and Plan Teams, and to determine the SSC's plan to assess risk table performance after they had been presented for groundfish stocks.

The Council originally outlined its purposes for the risk tables in December 2019, as an opportunity to increase transparency and consistency for incorporate uncertainty into the harvest specifications process from factors that are not already addressed in the stock assessment. It was intended that the risk tables would evolve over time, and the primary goals of this SSC workshop were to: 1) Evaluate how the risk table process is working; 2) Address consistency issues with the risk tables as identified by the Groundfish Plan Teams, assessment authors, and SSC; and 3) Provide guidance for moving forward through an open discussion between stock assessment authors, Plan Teams and SSC members. The Council has asked to review SSC advice on the risk table before it is applied for Council action.

The workshop objectives were to:

1. Assess the progress and value of species-specific risk tables for all stocks
2. Evaluate risk table consistency among species and highlight challenges
3. Define "risk" and "uncertainty"
4. Compare ABC and OFL buffers for scientific uncertainty with ABC reductions due to the risk table
5. Discuss future options

The workshop included two plenary sessions and breakout sessions providing open discussion between stock assessment authors, Plan Teams and SSC members. The SSC prepared a summary of the workshop which is attached to the Council eAgenda. At the June meeting, the SSC intends to use the workshop report as a basis to provide guidance to the Groundfish Plan Teams on the development and use of risk tables in the fall assessment cycle. The Council will receive a short summary of the report and SSC discussions from the SSC co-Chair during this agenda item. It is anticipated that the Plan Teams will then review the SSC and Council guidance at their September meeting, provide any additional input, and that the guidance for using risk tables in 2021 assessments will be finalized in October.

¹ Link to SSC meeting eAgenda with workshop materials: <https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/1852>