D3 Abundance Based Management of Halibut PSC limits
February 9, 2019

Council Motion

The Council directs staff to analyze the performance of the alternatives, options, and elements used to specify the five stakeholder scenarios in addition to scenarios developed by staff to display a reasonable range of the effects of the alternatives. Sector-specific scenarios should be expanded to the gear level (trawl or non-trawl) and sector-level apportionments should be proportional to the status quo.

The Council recommends the following revisions and clarifications to the alternatives; additions are in bold/underline and deletions are in strikethrough.

Apportionment:

The analysis should clearly demonstrate the effects of the alternatives on the resulting allocations to the Amendment 80, BSAI trawl limited access, non-trawl, and CDQ sectors. Allow the CDQ PSC cap to vary with abundance in the same manner as the trawl sector.

Indices:

Base the indices on the timeframe 1998 – 2018 and standardize the primary index to the most recent year.
    Option 1: standardize secondary index to the most recent year.
    Option 2: do not standardize the primary index and use the average index value of the previous two years.

Alternatives:

    Alternative 1: No action

    Alternative 2: Single index used to set trawl and/or non-trawl halibut PSC limit.
        Option 1: NMFS EBS bottom trawl survey index.
        Option 2: IPHC Area 4 setline survey index.

    Alternative 3: Primary and secondary indices are used to set trawl and/or non-trawl PSC limit.
        Option 1: Primary index is EBS trawl survey, secondary index is Area 4 setline survey.
        Option 2: Primary index is Area 4 setline survey, secondary index is EBS trawl survey.

    The secondary index modifies the PSC limit after the primary index is applied when the secondary index is in a "high state" or a "low state" (as defined by Element 4 breakpoint options). The extent to which the secondary index influences the PSC limit above or below these breakpoints is determined by selection of options under Element 5.

    ~~For each alternative above, the PSC limit will be proportional to the primary index in a 1:1 fashion (e.g., when the index goes up 10%, the PSC limit goes up 10%) prior to modifications by the secondary index and prior to the application of Elements 2 and 3 (floors and ceilings).~~
    ~~Alternative 4:~~ ~~Use two indices (EBS trawl survey and Area 4 setline survey) to set the non-trawl PSC limit in the form of a look-up table. Both indices should be standardized to the mean (1998 – 2018).~~

    ~~Options for dimensions of the look-up table: a) 3x3, b) 5x5, c) 7x 7, d) 10x10~~

The following elements and options are exclusive to Alternatives 2 – **3** 4.

> ***Element 1 – Starting point for PSC limit *(must be selected)***
> Option 1. 2016 PSC limit (3,515 mt)
> Option 2. 2016 use (2,354 mt)
> **Option 3. 2017 use (1,958 mt)**
>
> ***Element 2 – Maximum PSC limit (ceiling) (must be selected)***
> Option 1. 2016 PSC limit (3,515 mt)
> Option 2. 2015 PSC limit (4,426 mt)
>
> ***Element 3 – Minimum PSC limit (floor) (must be selected)***
> Option 1. 2016 use (2,354 mt)
> Option 2. ½ of 2016 PSC limit (1,758 mt)
> Option 3. ½ of 2016 PSC use (1,177 mt)
> **Option 4. 1,000 mt**
>
> ***Element 4 – Breakpoint for secondary index (Alternative 3 only)***
> Option 1. Index is 25% below or above average
> Option 2. Index is above or below average
>
> ***Element 5 – Magnitude of the response for <u>the primary or</u> secondary index (~~Alternative 3 only~~ optional)*** *Up to 2 options may be chosen*
> Option 1. Up faster than 1:1
> Option 2. Up slower than 1:1
> Option 3. Down faster than 1:1
> Option 4. Down slower than 1:1
>
> ***Element 6: PSC limit responsiveness to abundance changes. (optional)***
> This option would limit the annual rate of change of PSC limits. This element could be applied to limit the amount of change of the PSC limit on an annual basis.
> Option 1: PSC limit varies no more than 5% per year
> Option 2: PSC limit varies no more than 15% per year
> Option 3: PSC limit varies no more than 25% per year
>> Suboption: This element could be applied to limit the amount of change between the current PSC limits and the implementation of this action.
>
> ***Element 7: Breakpoints.***
> **Specify breakpoints in a lookup table with a maximum of 12 breakpoints defined in each dimension, resulting in a maximum 11X11 lookup table. Each index may be standardized using one of the following options:**
> **Option 1: standardize to the average of 1998-2018**
> **Option 2: standardize to the current year**

Additional comments:
Council recommends that the SSC review the proposed (staff and stakeholder) scenarios to provide guidance if additional scenarios should be included in the analysis.