



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

Alaska Fisheries
Science Center

Joint Groundfish Plan Team meeting report

Grant Thompson (BSAI chair)

Diana Stram (BSAI coordinator)

Jim Ianelli and Chris Lunsford (GOA co-chairs)

Jim Armstrong (GOA coordinator)

December 3, 2018

Meeting overview and agenda

- Overview
 - Dates: November 13
 - Place: AFSC Seattle lab
 - Participation: 26 Team members present, plus numerous AFSC and AKRO staff and members of the public
- Agenda (action items in red)
 - Administrative
 - ABC below maxABC
 - Sablefish (will be presented as part of GOA Team report)
 - Economic SAFE report (will be presented in February)

We will miss you, Diana and Jim!



ABC below maxABC (1 of 3)

- The Teams received a presentation from Martin Dorn on the trial risk matrix for developing a more transparent and consistent approach for cases where ABC is recommended to be set below the maximum permissible value
- He noted the five cases where this was applied (EBS pollock, BSAI Atka mackerel, sablefish, GOA pollock, and GOA Pacific cod), four of which resulted in the authors making recommendations for selecting ABC below the maximum permissible level under the FMP
- Due to time limitations, the Teams were unable to conclude discussions on this topic and agreed to try to summarize discussions with each of these assessments as they arose during their presentations
- The Teams found that the use of the risk matrix was helpful in summarizing the concerns and issues that are present in every assessment, although there was a wide range of methods used in assigning the amount of reduction

ABC below maxABC (2 of 3)

- The Teams found that implementation of the risk matrix approach was hampered by challenges associated with how to translate an overall score for the risk matrix into a percent reduction in ABC, and it was not clear that any of the assessments that included the risk matrix ended up recommending an ABC that was different from what would have been recommended without having completed the risk matrix
- A downside to the case-by-case approach is that authors' recommended reductions are almost entirely unrelated to the level of concern

Stock	Level	Reduction
GOA Pacific cod	4	14%
GOA pollock	2	15%
EBS pollock	2	30%
Sablefish	4	45%

ABC below maxABC (3 of 3)

- The Teams also discussed whether it was appropriate to use the historical distribution of ABC reductions as a guideline for current recommendations as the GOA pollock assessment did, but no consensus was reached
- For the next cycle, the Teams recommended that the risk matrix be used whenever there is a recommendation to reduce the ABC from the maximum permissible ABC
- The Teams proposed that we continue to evaluate this table during 2019, and request further guidance from the SSC regarding the mapping of “concern” levels into ABC reductions