AFSC Assessment Update

NPFMC Groundfish Plan Team Meeting
September, 2023

Government shutdown concerns

- October 1 is new fiscal year
  - Budget or Continuing Resolution must be passed
  - Shutdown may occur with little warning on 9/30
- AFSC response
  - 2013 shutdown lasted 16 days
    - Confusion and chaos on assessment preparation
  - A 2023 shutdown response has been developed
    - Phased approach to what assessment products can be provided
      - Full - Update - Abbreviated - Harvest Proj. - last year’s specs

Government shutdown contingencies (business days)

- < 5 days. All assessments should be completed as planned
- 6 – 10 days
  - Evaluate the ability of full assessments to be completed, alternatively produce an update assessment
- 11– 20 days
  - Full assessments, at a minimum, will produce an update assessment
  - Update assessments, at a minimum, will provide an evaluation of the recommended base model from the last assessment and 2024 harvest recommendations
  - Both will produce only executive summaries
- > 20 days. Recommend the NPFMC use previously published 2024 specifications to make management recommendations or ???
  - NPFMC may choose to reschedule meetings/specs?

Stock Assessment Definitions and Guidelines - Why

- Revisit 2017 Prioritization
  - Improve efficiency
  - Streamline work
  - Communicate AFSC products
- Redefine Assessments
  - Clarify the range of assessment products
  - Incorporate update assessments
- Update Guidelines
  - Incorporate new definitions
  - Been a “few” years since last updated
  - Provide best practices/guidance for how to evaluate results

Stock Assessment Types - Five categories

- Operational full assessment
- Operational update assessment
- Harvest projection
- Catch report
- Research assessment

Stock Assessment Types - Full and Update

- Operational full assessment
  - Formerly known as “full” or “benchmark”
  - Least restricted
  - Considers all data, new model configurations, new modeling platform
  - Full in-depth review required

- Operational update assessment
  - Formerly also known as a “full”
  - Introduced to help improve efficiency and reduce workload
  - Maintains model structure of previous full assessment, incorporates new data, minimal changes
  - Reduced review requirements

Stock Assessment Definitions

Stock Assessment Types - Harvest projection and catch report

- Harvest projection
  - Formerly known as “partial”
  - Executive summary
  - Runs projection model, reports new catches, catch/biomass or REMA model

- Catch report
  - Formerly known as a “n/a”
  - Introduced to show off year assessments are still thought about and accounted for
  - Reports recent catch, ABC, OFL
  - Compile and include in PT SAFE report

1.B. Assessment of walleye pollock in the Bogoslof Island Region

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Alaska Fisheries Science Center
National Marine Fisheries Service

Summary of results

The most recent full assessment for this stock was in 202x and can be found at [INSERT LINK]. Catch data are current through November X, 2023. [NOTE: In accordance with the approved schedule, no assessment was conducted for this stock this year, however, a full stock assessment will be conducted in 202X. Until then, the values generated from the previous stock assessment (below) will be rolled over for 202X specifications]

Area	Year	OFL	ABC	TAC*	Catch
Bogoslof	2021	113,479	85,109	250	8
	2022	113,479	85,109	250	256
	2023	115,146	86,360	n/a	n/a
	2024	115,146	86,360	n/a	n/a
	2025	115,146	86,360	n/a	n/a

As specified in the 202X assessment, the ABC and OFL levels using Tier 5 values and applying the random-effects model:

Quantity	As estimated or specified last year for: 2022	2023	As estimated or recommended this year for: 2023	2024
M (natural mortality rate)	0.3	0.3	0.313	0.313
Tier	5	5	5	5
Biomass (t)	378,262	378,262	367,880	367,880
F_{OFL}	0.300	0.300	0.313	0.313
$maxF_{ABC}$	0.225	0.225	0.23475	0.23475
F_{ABC}	0.225	0.225	0.23475	0.23475
OFL (t)	113,479	113,479	115,146	115,146
maxABC (t)	85,109	85,109	86,360	86,360
ABC (t)	85,109	85,109	86,360	86,360
Status	As determined *this* year for: 2020	2021	As determined *this* year for: 2021	2022

AFSC Assessment Update

Tier 4/5 assessment schedule

Note that for the Tiers 4/5 2-year and 4-year cycles the SSC requested full or update model runs of the REMA model during year 2 for the 2-year cycle and during year 3 for the 4-year cycle. This results in the 2-year assessments being conducted annually, and the 4-year assessments being conducted bi-annually as the analytical workload for these assessments is essentially the same for either a full or an update stock assessment (both require REMA model runs). This does not fulfill the aims of the 2023 Council stock prioritization activities, and AFSC will request that the SSC revisit this request and recommend that catch reports be provided as an alternative.

	1-year cycle		2-year cycle			4-year cycle		
Year	Tiers 1-3	Tiers 4-6	Tiers 1-3	Tiers 4-5	Tier 6	Tiers 1-3	Tiers 4-5	Tier 6
1	full/update	full/update	full/update	full/update	Full/update	full/update	full	full/update
2	full/update	full/update	harv proj	catch rep	catch rep	harv proj	catch rep	catch rep
3	full/update	full/update	full/update	full/update	full/update	harv proj	catch rep	catch rep
4	full/update	full/update	Harv proj	catch rep	catch rep	harv proj	catch rep	catch rep

harv proj – harvest projection
catch rep – catch report

Stock Assessment Guidelines - Update!

- Incorporate recent additions
  - Risk tables
  - Working Papers/Appendices
  - Links to model code
- Improve Products
  - Model evaluation and results section
  - Standardize output
- Incorporate New definitions
  - Operational Update Assessment

Stock Assessment Guidelines - Operational Update Assessment

- For this fall - 2023
  - New category
- Objectives
  - Streamline author and reviewer responsibilities
  - Reference last full assessment sections that are static
  - Provide model evaluation and reporting of results
  - Enable more efficient review
  - Keep it under 500 pages!!!!!
- Guidelines are in development
  - We don’t have a perfect example and not everything fits in round hole
  - Let’s work through it together this fall
  - Refine and provide examples for 2024