

Council policy on spatial management

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Joint Groundfish Plan Team meeting

9/19/2022

2014: Spatial Management Policy adopted by Council

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.

Proposed timeline for addressing SMP

| Month | Action |
|---|---|
| September/October (year 1) | Notification of strong stock structure concern. SSC indicates to Council that it has 11 months to develop suite of tools and management and economic implications of the application of these tools to the stock/complex in question. |
| March/April (year 1) | Suite of proposed management tools compiled. One of these would be separate ABCs and/or OFLs per recommendations listed earlier. |
| March/April-August (year 1) | Evaluation of suite of management tools for consideration of management and economic implications. Note that this does not necessarily mean a comprehensive analysis; this could simply be an informed listing of the likely implications of each tool. |
| September/October (year 2) | Team/SSC/Council review of suite of tools and selection of approach for use in the coming harvest year (assuming that the approach does not require rulemaking). |
| 2 years later: September/October (year 4) | Update on result of application of tool. If deemed insufficient to address issue, consideration of additional measures (e.g., area split). |
| Continuing forward annually in September/October | If management tool successful over 2 year time frame, continued annual update on progress. Consideration of performance criteria for continued need for tool. |

Spatial issues in BSAI and GOA rockfish

BSAI

Addressing catch issues in BS/RE complex since 2005

Workshop convened to address Council policy and Step 2 in 2016

Status quo MSSC retained since 2015

GOA

- Moving DSR out of other rockfish complex
- Create GOA-wide DSR complex
- Request by Council to move to Step 2 of policy by updating 2017 paper to ID management implications and economic impacts
 - 2017 paper already 'Step 2'

Request by
Council

Discussion paper to address the issues and to what extent the Spatial Management Policy is working to address concerns

Need additional direction on whether to continue to hold workshops, write discussion papers or how else to address Council's policy if/when Steps 2 through 4 are employed but result in no change to specifications