
D5 Report on Subarea Apportionments

Presentation to the SSC

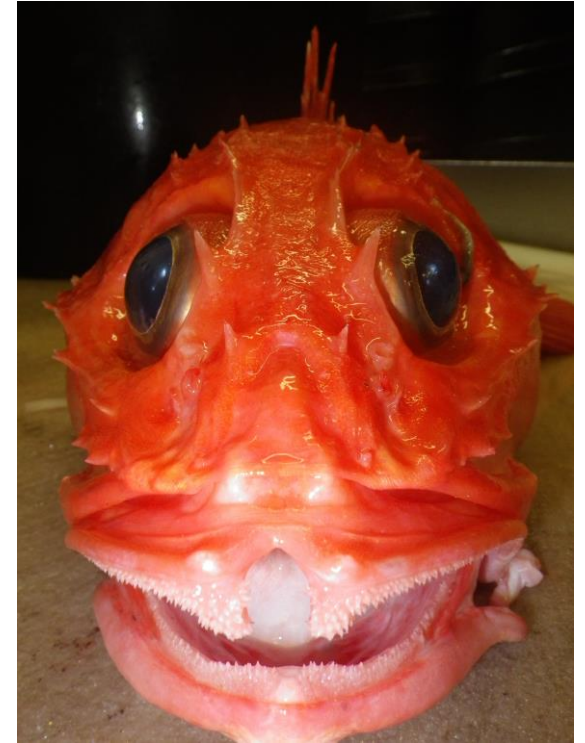
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December 2024

- Council requested communication between SSC leadership, Council leadership, and staff on possible approaches for subarea apportionments of ABC within the groundfish harvest specifications process
- Consider:
 - the intended purpose of subarea apportionments of ABC
 - the role of Council advisory bodies in recommending those apportionments
 - the application of the spatial management policy (SMP), and
 - timing within the process.



A Tale of Two ABCs (but NOT!)

ABC

- = ACL
- Set at spatial extent of the stock or stock complex (same as OFL)
- FMPs document process, including application of the ABC control rule.

Subarea apportionments of ABC ("subarea ABCs")

- No requirements for specification of subarea apportionments of ABC
- Not true ABCs; Exceedances do not trigger accountability measures
- FMPs do not detail a process for apportionment of ABC across subareas
 - *"TACs are apportioned by regulatory area, and may be further apportioned by districts"*
- Functionally act as max TACs for Council



“SUBAREA ABCs”: New acronym (TBD)

- Avoid subarea apportionments falling under “ABC” when not the true ABC

Ideas:



- Subarea **E**stimated **A**pportionments (**SEA**)
- **B**iologically **A**ccountable Subarea Apportionments (**BASA**)

Stock/ Assemblage	Area	2024			
		OFL	ABC	TAC	Catch ²
RE/BS complex	W		197	197	46
	C		315	315	90
	E		525	525	80
	Total	1,555	1,037	1,037	216



Intended Purpose of Subarea Apportionments (?)

- Based on distribution of biomass (catch for Tier 6) according to BSIA
- Extra layer of precautionary management for some stocks
- Starting point from which AP/Council recommends TACs at or below
- Allocative reasons (historically and currently) for some stocks

“Council supports the SSC (and Plan Teams) continuing to recommend apportionments of ABC using the best biological and methodological information available, while socioeconomic information will continue to be incorporated into TAC decisions at the AP and Council.”

Dec 2024

Subarea Apportionments of ABC: Two scenarios which occur

■ Clear scientific recommendation:

- Specific conservation issue/biological concern (beyond general precaution) that necessitates specified subarea apportionment.
 - E.g., GOA roughey/blackspotted rockfish

■ The “grey area”:

- No specific conservation issue/biological concern (beyond general precaution) that necessitates the specified subarea apportionment.
 - E.g, GOA shortraker rockfish

→ What happens when a subarea apportionment recommended by the SSC (based on BSIA) results in a potentially constraining TAC (fishery impacts)?

Potential Methods for the Future?

- Method A) Fewer stocks with subarea apportionments of ABC
- Method B) Flexibility added
- Method C) Reserves

Regardless of method, need clear statement on intent/purpose of subarea apportionments of ABC.



Method A) Fewer stocks with subarea apportionments of ABC

- Assessment authors/PT/SSC: Recommend only “true” ABCs (and **no subarea apportionments**) for more stocks
 - Likely only those stocks in the “grey area”?
 - Other stocks?
- SSC can/should continue to provide additional BSIA to inform TAC discussions
- Simplifies portions of the harvest specifications process



Method B) Flexibility added

- Assessment authors/PT/SSC: Continue to recommend “true” ABCs and subarea apportionments

Clear scientific recommendation/conservation concern:

- Apportionments are considered maximums for TACs (current process). Flexibility added = 0%

Grey area stocks:

- SSC provides apportionments as in current process.
- Identified amount of flexibility is added. (e.g., 10, 20%)
- Output functions as a “max TAC” for AP/Council
- Subarea TACs must still \leq ABC



Method B) Flexibility added

Questions Remaining

- To which stocks would added flexibility apply and why?
- How to determine % flexibility?
- Need intent of apportionments explicitly stated
- Limited flexibility → could still constrain fisheries but if no clear scientific recommendation for subarea apportionments....need rationale



Method C) Reserves

Reserve for some “choke” species

- Could be structured similarly to current reserves
 - May be reapportioned to the groundfish fisheries at any time and in any amount by the Regional Administrator.
- More complex/longer term option
 - likely requires regulatory changes to the CGOA Rockfish Program and FMP amendment.



Dec 2024 Council Clarification: Role of Advisory Bodies

“Council supports the SSC (and Plan Teams) continuing to recommend apportionments of ABC using the best biological and methodological information available, while socioeconomic information will continue to be incorporated into TAC decisions at the AP and Council.”

Dec 2024

Interpretation: The PT/SSC would **not** consider socio-economic considerations in recommendations on subarea apportionments. (Same as current guidance for ‘true’ ABC).

- PT/SSC would not consider impacts of low apportionments on resulting TACs
- PT/SSC would not consider potential to constrain fisheries



Example→ A subarea apportionment recommended by the SSC (based on BSIA) results in a potentially constraining TAC (fishery impacts)

“Council supports the SSC (and Plan Teams) continuing to recommend apportionments of ABC using the best biological and methodological information available, while socioeconomic information will continue to be incorporated into TAC decisions at the AP and Council”

What about the Spatial Management Policy (SMP)?

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 and reasonable timeframes to address the concern.

Does it apply?
If so, what is next?



Example: GOA Shortraker rockfish: p39 Dec 2023 SSC Report





Potential Next Steps / Questions (SSC)

- Preference or reactions to methods?
 - Reasons SSC would/ would not support each method
 - If Method B (flexibility added), remaining questions
 - Other methods that were not included in report?
- Preferences, reactions to new acronym?
- Additional questions the SSC may have that are not captured in report?