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# SPATIAL MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION

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NPFMC



# NPFMC SPATIAL MANAGEMENT POLICY

- 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.

## SPATIAL POLICY STEPS 2 AND 3

- Intent of spatial management steps 2 and 3 is to involve more than stock assessment authors in evaluating tools to managing catch-related issues that may be a conservation concern, but information is insufficient to determine to what extent
- Not enough time at PT meetings to necessarily brainstorm tools to address these issues
- Step 2 is intended to bring in additional staff to discussion: NMFS management, economist, stakeholders to address additional tools and implications of application
- How we address step 2 is open-ended

# JOINT PLAN TEAM RECOMMENDATIONS

- General discussion of Council led workshop occurred under sablefish with respect to addressing both apportionment and whether or not (or how to evaluate) catch concerns with recent overages of the sub-area ABCs.
  - F rates by area and apportionment range
  - Socio-economic implications including those raised at the June SSC meeting
- Following BSAI BS/RE discussion the concept of a workshop was broadened to include recurring issues with catch exceeding the MSSC annually for BS/RE
  - Noting that this is the only stock for which the spatial management policy has been invoked leading to a workshop in 2016 and codifying the MSSC.
  - Concerns by PT members that this has not been an adequate tool for managing this stock and some consideration should be given to evaluating the efficacy of a spatial management measure invoked in response to the Council's policy and clarify general questions regarding application of the policy

# From Joint Plan Team Report

## *Team discussion*

### **Potential workshop focus questions** (relative to implementing the Spatial Management Policy)

- 1) What are the criteria for assessing whether a spatial management tool has been effective?
- 2) What are the specific criteria for when the Policy should be applied (either for the first time for a stock, or follow-up applications)?
- 3) Are there criteria for balancing conservation concerns (i.e., stock biomass and productivity) vs socio-economic concerns, and do these vary between target and bycatch stocks?