

SSC Draft Report

June 2019

C4 – Crab Partial Deliveries

- The **SSC appreciates** the authors' excellent analysis and presentation.
- The **SSC recommends the document be released for public review** after a couple minor modifications are made.
- The **SSC noted** that the option to Alternative 2 does not completely fulfill its intended purpose: without an additional restriction on adding crab to a partially filled tank containing crab from a previous trip, there is still potential for intermixing crab from different trips.

C5 – Sculpins to Ecosystem Component Initial Review

- The SSC *finds* that the EA/RIR document is adequate to allow the Council to understand the fishery and policy impacts of the alternatives.
- The SSC *recommends* the items listed below be addressed prior to release of this item for public review.
 - 1. Provide a summary of the sculpin discard mortality literature to better inform the assessment of potential increases in discards under the Alt 2 MRA options.
 - 2. Provide a table comparing historic annual sculpin catch relative to the MRAs to better inform the discussion of Alt 2 MRA options. For example, is a 2% MRA likely to be constraining, would different MRA values be appropriate in the BSAI and the GOA?

C5 – Sculpins to Ecosystem Component (continued)

- 3. Provide an analysis of the projected impact of increasing the sculpins MRA for arrowtooth and Kamchatka flounder from 3% to 20% under Alt 2 Opt 3. Though likely minor given harvest levels of these species, this increase in MRA is not currently explicitly considered.
- 4. Summarize the available spatial fishery and survey data on sculpin catch by species to better inform the analysis of local stock structure and the potential for species-specific fishery impacts. Understanding disaggregated distribution and stock structure is critical to evaluating the appropriate level of conservation concern for species in the complex now and in the future regardless of their classification. Including this assessment for sculpins will bring the document into alignment with the analysis provided when Squids were moved into the ecosystem component species category.
- 5. Outline the contents of the report to be provided every four years under Alt 2. This document should contain the basic components of the Sculpin SAFE Report including survey and catch trends by species, and size composition information.

C5 – Sculpins to Ecosystem Component (continued)

- 6. Provide a table summarizing sculpin species size ranges.
- 7. Revise the following economic, social, and community impact-related statements in the document:
 - Please note whether or not subsistence harvest and use of sculpins also show up in ADF&G subsistence data.
 - Clarify why adverse effects on participants in the fisheries and fishing communities are not anticipated.

D2 – Pacific Cod Allocation Review

- The SSC commends the analysts' dashboard approach to showing metrics for each fishery
- The SSC finds that this document fulfills the requirements of the periodic Pacific cod allocation review.
 - It provides the information necessary to characterize how each fleet uses Pacific cod to advance the objectives of A85 and the broader FMP.
 - It is sufficient to draw a conclusion about whether this review should trigger any allocative adjustments *that would not otherwise arise through the normal Council action and amendment process.*

D2 – Pacific Cod Allocation Review

- The SSC **recommends** the following adjustments to the dashboard
 - Provide greater sense of each fleet's contribution to total catch
 - Develop new measure of joint catch, for fleets like A80 that primarily catch cod while targeting other species
 - Report calls in each port before and after targeted BSAI Pacific cod trips to show activity by community, while managing confidentiality
 - Use stacked area plots to show changes in the composition of vessel ownership cities over time

D6 – Bering Sea FEP Team Report

- The **SSC recommends** that the **Council endorse** the proposed Action Modules on examining the potential Impacts of Climate Change on the ecosystem of the eastern Bering Sea and the development of protocols for the incorporation of LK, TK, and, Subsistence in the Council process.
 - The **SSC suggests** that the **Council might develop Purpose and Needs Statements** for both Action Modules.
 - Revise description of deliverables of climate change module to reflect emphasis on strategic rather than tactical management
 - Clarify terms of reference for SSPT and FEP with respect to the LK and TK action modules to avoid duplication of effort.

D6 – Bering Sea FEP Team Report

- Clarify that the development of ESPs and ESRs will continue to be done by assessment authors and ESR authors, with review by the SSC, CPT and GPT. Further, clarify that the authors, CPT and GPT, and SSC will be the leads for evaluation of proposed tactical use of ecosystem information in stock assessments, status determinations, and risk tables.
- The **SSC recommends** that the Council investigate legal and ethical issues surrounding the collection and use of data that include human subjects. Many institutions have very strict rules that require an Institutional Research Board review and vet data involving human subjects.
- The **SSC supports** efforts to develop “success” metrics that can be used to evaluate the performance of NPFMC management relative to ecosystem objectives.

D7 – Social Science Planning Team Report

- The SSC **supports** the SSPT's approach of focusing on data and methodological gaps at programmatic and strategic levels.
 - SSPT should remain aware of its mandate to push the frontiers of social science methodology
 - But first a systematic data foundation must be constructed
 - Consider whether and when frontier methods are best suited to Council needs and resources.
- The SSC **encourages** the following identified activities
 - Focus on data gaps identified by Council, SSC in past
 - Review how Forest Service uses qualitative data
 - Educate Council bodies on qualitative data vs. anecdotes
 - Coordinate strategic revisions to EDRs

D7 – Social Science Planning Team Rpt (continued)

- The SSC **recommends:**
 - A data gap analysis emphasize gaps around questions the Council has framed for past analysis
 - Consider how the Council bodies usually use the scientific information presented to them (i.e., understand tradeoffs)
 - Education of Council bodies on standards and practices surrounding unfamiliar methods
 - Maintaining an awareness that, like natural science, social sciences are evolving methods and practices
- The SSC **supports:**
 - EDR technical workshop convened by SSPT
 - Coordination with FEP Team's LK/TK/Subsistence Task Force as instance of broader effort to integrate qualitative data

D9 – NPRB Research Tracking Update

- Dr. Matt Baker provided the SSC with a report on NPRB's research program and its priorities and how they try to respond to the needs of a wide variety of agencies.
- NPRB's mandate is to support both research focused on fisheries management issues and on the marine ecosystem that supports fisheries
- During the presentation and ensuing discussion several issues were raised:
 - It would aid the SSC in setting Research Priorities if we knew the status of items on previous priority lists (funded, completed, publications or impact)
 - NPRB funding of management-focused research is highly valued by managers, industry, and others, as the NPRB is seen as a neutral player.
 - The Council's list of Research Priorities is valued by NPRB and influences decisions about the allocation of funding resources.
 - It was **suggested that the Council might provide two lists**, one focused on management and the other on ecosystem and other science issues

7th National SSC Workshop (SCS7)

- Council Coordination Committee approved NPFMC's proposal to host
- Proposed themes for the meeting:
 - How to incorporate ecosystem indicators into the stock assessment process?
 - Management of interacting species in consideration of ecosystem-based fishery management (EBFM)
 - How to assess and manage species exhibiting distributional change
- Meeting is open to the public and attendance by government employees, academics, students and other interested participants