

SSC Review

Conversion of State Survey Estimates of Red Snapper Catch Estimates to CHTS and FES Units

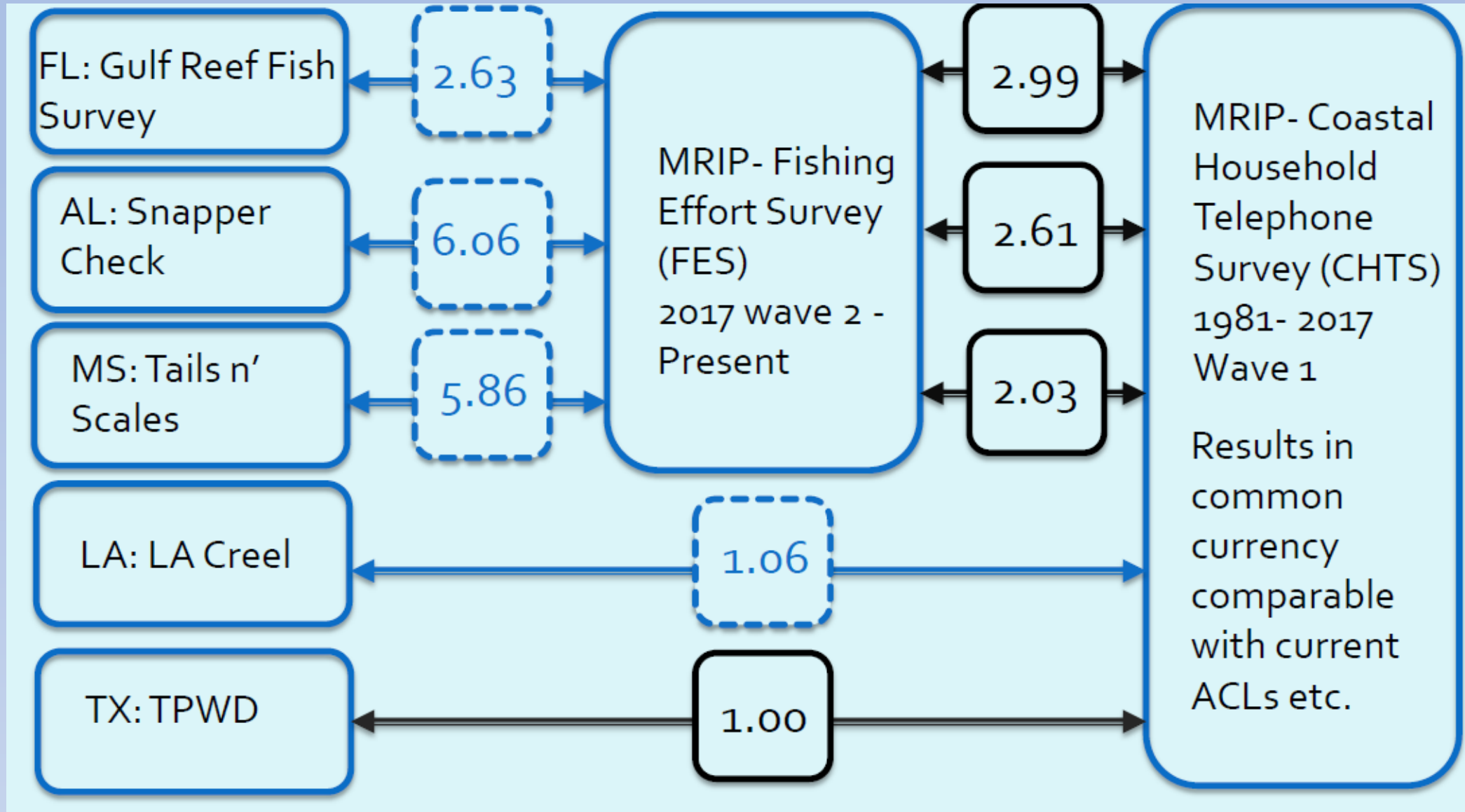
- Red snapper harvest limits (e.g., ACLs) were established using MRIP-CHTS data for the private recreational component for red snapper
- States have transitioned to state-specific data collection programs to monitor red snapper harvest
- Estimates from the state programs are not directly comparable to MRIP-CHTS harvest limits

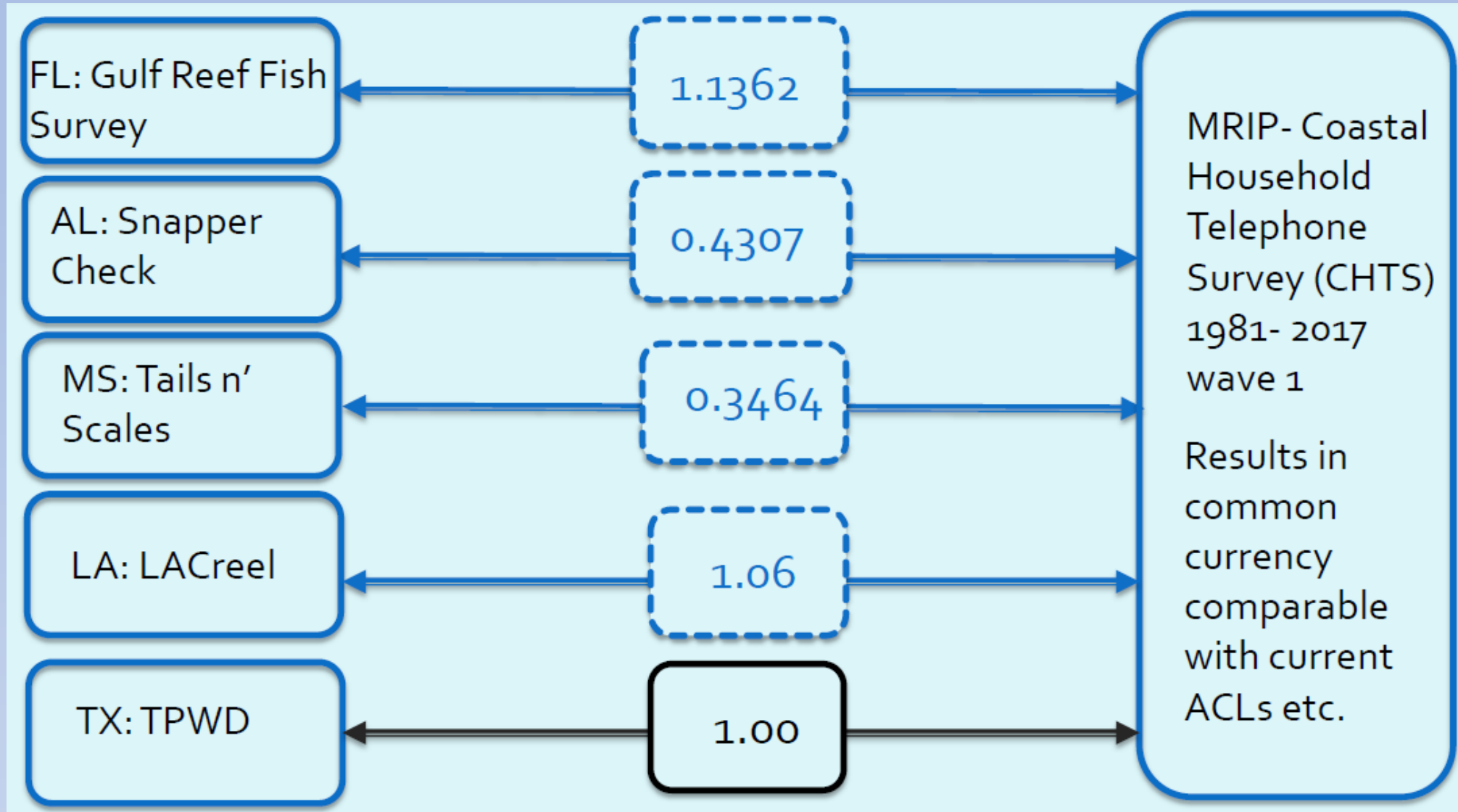
SSC Review

Conversion of State Survey Estimates

Follow-on to Aug 5 Workshop

- To clarify for all parties involved the processes and methodologies employed to establish calibration ratios that allow state-collected survey data (i.e., data collected by Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, and Mississippi) to be converted to red snapper recreational catch information that is consistent with and comparable to annual catch limits that were developed and established using the most recent red snapper stock assessment and CHTS-derived data.
- To identify a process, or key elements of a process, going forward that will enable the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council to make informed management decisions based on the best available information and science.





SSC Review Conversion of State Survey Estimates

The SSC reviewed the methodology of the individual State surveys and the methods to obtain conversion ratios.

The results of the Aug 5 workshop were reviewed, including the comments of the outside consultants at that workshop.

The SSC suggested some modifications to the number of years used in computing the ratios in order to maintain consistency

Leading to

Motion: The SSC considers the methods proposed to generate conversion ratios between Gulf state surveys and MRIP data as appropriate for quota monitoring of the red snapper state specific ACLs. Specifically, these methods consist of:

FL – GRFS to CHTS ratio of 1.0602 (2015-2017)

AL- Snapper Check to CHTS ratio of 0.4875 (CHTS data for 2018-2019)

MS – Tails n Scales to CHTS ratio of 0.3840 (2015-2017)

LA – LA Creel to CHTS ratio of 1.06 (2015)

Motion carries with 1 abstention

The SSC noted that the FES catches are higher than previous, but that relative trends are similar. What this means for the stock assessment is that the results will likely scale biomass up, but also indicate that the stock is more productive than previously estimated (higher ABC/OFL). Then when these are converted to back CHTS units, it is expected to be similar to the existing ABC/OFL

However, allocations between sectors and states have been based on previous perceptions of relative catches between those sectors. It is unclear how the new catches will be addressed in allocation decisions

Currently, the ratios shown here are formed from an acceptable method to convert from one metric to another, but the SSC has not determined a “true” estimate

The survey results show that there are significant differences between state surveys and CHTS, especially for small coastline states. Ultimately, the differences must be reconciled in order to establish a consistent time series for both assessment and management.

To that end the SSC is supportive of the efforts of the Transition Team and others to resolve this issue

SSC Review

Conversion of State Survey Estimates

Questions?