

Sustainable Fisheries Committee: Action Guide and Next Steps for Tab E

Agenda Item IV: Alternative Allocation Approaches

Timeline Status: Presentation and discussion

Council input and next steps: Dr. David Carter (Southeast Fisheries Science Center [SEFSC]) will present allocation methods routinely used in the Gulf and review alternative allocation methods. Allocation approaches considered include catch-based allocation, equal distribution, auctions, inter-sector trading, and negotiation. Dr. Carter will highlight the pros and cons of each allocation method presented. The Committee should discuss the allocation methods presented, ask questions, and consider the methods presented during its future allocation deliberations.

Agenda Item V: SSC Report on Allocation Approaches Presentation

Timeline Status: Presentation and discussion

Council input and next steps: Dr. Jim Nance (Scientific and Statistical Committee [SSC] Chair) will summarize the September 2022 SSC discussions relative to Dr. Carter's (SEFSC) presentation on allocation approaches. The SSC's discussions emphasized the importance of understanding the objectives of a particular reallocation to evaluate whether the approach considered would be likely to achieve the specified objectives, and commented on inherent trade-offs in allocations changes. The Committee should review the information presented and consider it in its continued allocation discussions.

Agenda Item VI: Allocation Overview Discussion

Timeline Status: Presentation and discussion

Council input and next steps: Mr. Andy Strelcheck (Southeast Regional Office [SERO]) will provide an overview of allocation issues in the Gulf of Mexico and discuss NMFS Fisheries Allocation Review Policy (NMFS Policy Directive 01-119) and the associated procedural directive addressing criteria for initiating allocation reviews (NMFS Procedural Directive 01-119-01). The Committee should discuss the material presented and ask questions. The Committee should consider the information presented in subsequent allocation deliberations.

Agenda Item VII: SSC Recommendations on ABC Control Rule

Timeline Status: Presentation and discussion

Council input and next steps: Dr. Nance will review the SEFSC’s presentation on alternative approaches to the current Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) Control Rule, used by the SSC for determining the scientific uncertainty between the overfishing limit (OFL) and the ABC. The SSC has been discussing revisions to the ABC Control Rule since May 2021, and is considering alternatives using the Ralston et al. (2011) approach, the Restrepo et al. (1998) approach, and the Privitera-Johnson and Punt (2020) modification of the Ralston approach. The current ABC Control Rule has been in place since 2011; however, SSC members have regularly expressed a desire to revisit the control rule. This stems from the propensity for the buffer determined by the P* approach generally resulting in a difference between the OFL and ABC that is not representative of the uncertainty in the stock assessment. While the P* approach adjusts the ABC relative to the OFL based on the risk of overfishing, the approaches being considered by the SSC will more directly and explicitly account for scientific uncertainty in the yield projections. The Committee should review the information presented and make recommendations as appropriate, understanding that this work by the SSC and SEFSC is ongoing.

Agenda Item VI: Other Business

Timeline Status: Potential Additional items

Council Input and Next Steps: Additional items may be brought up for discussion by the Committee, time permitting. If the Committee wishes to pursue action, then action can be scheduled at a future Council meeting.
