



Recommended Practices and Factors to Consider When Reviewing and Making Allocation Decisions

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GMFMC



Guidance Documents

- NMFS Procedure 01-119 – Fisheries Allocation Review Policy
- NMFS Procedure 01-119-01 – Criteria for Initiating Fishery Allocation Reviews
- NMFS Procedure 01-119-02 – Recommended Practices and Factors to Consider When Reviewing and Making Allocation Decisions
- GMFMC Allocation Policy
- GMFMC Allocation Review Policy
- GMFMC Allocation Review Guidelines



Recommended Practices When Reviewing and Making Allocation Decisions

- Evaluate and update Council FMP objectives
 - Update and ensure objectives are measurable to help clarify decisions involving tradeoffs (e.g, conflicting goals)
- Identify user needs
 - Identify needs of each sector early in process
- Minimize speculative behavior
 - Utilize control date
- Plan for future conditions
 - Pre-arranged management response



Factors to Consider When Reviewing and Making Allocation Decisions

- Ecological factors
 - What are impacts to target species, other fisheries, non-target species, bycatch and bycatch mortality, habitat, and ecological communities?
- Economic factors
 - Can economic efficiency be improved? What are the economic impacts?
- Social factors
 - Is allocation fair and equitable? Are there disproportionate effects on certain groups? What is the importance of fishery resources to fishing communities? Are there other social impacts?
- Indicators of Performance and Change
 - Status of the fishery, trends in catch/landings, distributional changes in species, quality of information for each sector



Process Challenges and Recommended Improvements

- Allocation process can be complex and contentious
- There is confusion regarding why existing allocations need to be reviewed based on new MRIP data
- Council typically relies on time-series of landings for modifying allocation
- Council should clearly state objectives when initiating reallocation
- Many factors (as just described) need to be discussed and considered when modifying allocation
- Amendment/NEPA document include discussion of these factors, but Council needs to build a record for the decision
- Recommend Council fully discuss the criteria/factors included in an allocation review and consider the analyses provided in the amendment, before selecting a preferred
- Each allocation decision can be unique based on review of factors and record built



Discussion