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Interim ABC Analysis – Discussion on Timing and Use for Management

Presentation Overview

- Interim ABC Analysis
  - Candidate species
  - Management Strategy Evaluation
- Timing of Request to Implementation in Management
  - Gulf Example: Red Grouper
- Improve Timing or Automate Process
- Current Requests
- Future Considerations

Interim ABC Analysis

- A quantitative method of adjusting catch advice
- Occurs between SEDAR stock assessments
- Requires an accepted stock assessment
- Uses a defensible **fishery-independent** index

Gulf species that can be considered

Must have been assessed and at least 1 defensible survey or CPUE index

Red Snapper	BLL, Video
Vermilion Snapper	Video, Trawl
Gray Snapper	Video, Diver
Red Grouper	BLL, Video
Gag Grouper	Video
Scamp	Video
Yellowedge Grouper	BLL
Greater Amberjack	Video
Gray Trigger	Video
King Mackerel	Larval, Fishery CPUE?
Yellowtail Snapper	Diver, Video?

Red Grouper Interim Analysis completed in 2018

Source: Slide from Dr. Porch's Oct 2019 Presentation to the Gulf Council

Management Strategy Evaluations (MSE)

Useful for refining the Interim Analysis procedure

- How long between full stock assessments
- How much to buffer the ABC given various types of uncertainty in the index (or when combining multiple indices)
- How best to adjust the interim ABC advice to balance competing objectives (requires stakeholder workshops)

- MSE evaluations may be revisited periodically to address specific questions, but not every time an interim analysis is conducted

2018	March	
	April	
	May	Council Requests SEFSC Conduct Interim Analysis
	June	
	July	
	August	Interim Analysis Process Laid Out for SSC
	September	
	October	Completed Interim Analysis to SSC and Council Requested Action
	November	
	December	Emergency Rule Published to Withhold RG IFQ allocation
2019	January	
	February	
	March	Emergency Proposed Rule Publishes
	April	Final Action on Red Grouper Framework Action
	May	Emergency Final Rule Publishes
	June	
	July	
	August	
	September	
	October	Final Rule Becomes Effective for Framework Action
	November	

Gulf Example:

Red Grouper

Example: Red Grouper Framework Action

Council 2018-2019

Process

- Took 1-year via Framework Action
- Took 7- months to implement Emergency Rule
- Due to Emergency Rule request to reduce ACLs, NMFS was able to withhold IFQ allocation before Jan 2019

Improve Timing or Automate the Process?

Potential Council Approaches

- Modify Framework Procedure
  - Use Closed Framework to change ABCs and/or ACLs after the SSC reviews a stock assessment and the Council concurs with recommendations
- Automate the ABC Control Rule (NEFMC exploring)
  - Use existing ABC Control Rule and ACL/ACT Control Rule for modifying catch limits
- Continue with Framework Action Approach
  - Streamline where possible

Current Interim ABC Analysis Requests

SSC reviewed gray triggerfish and recommended an ABC change at its Sept 14, 2020

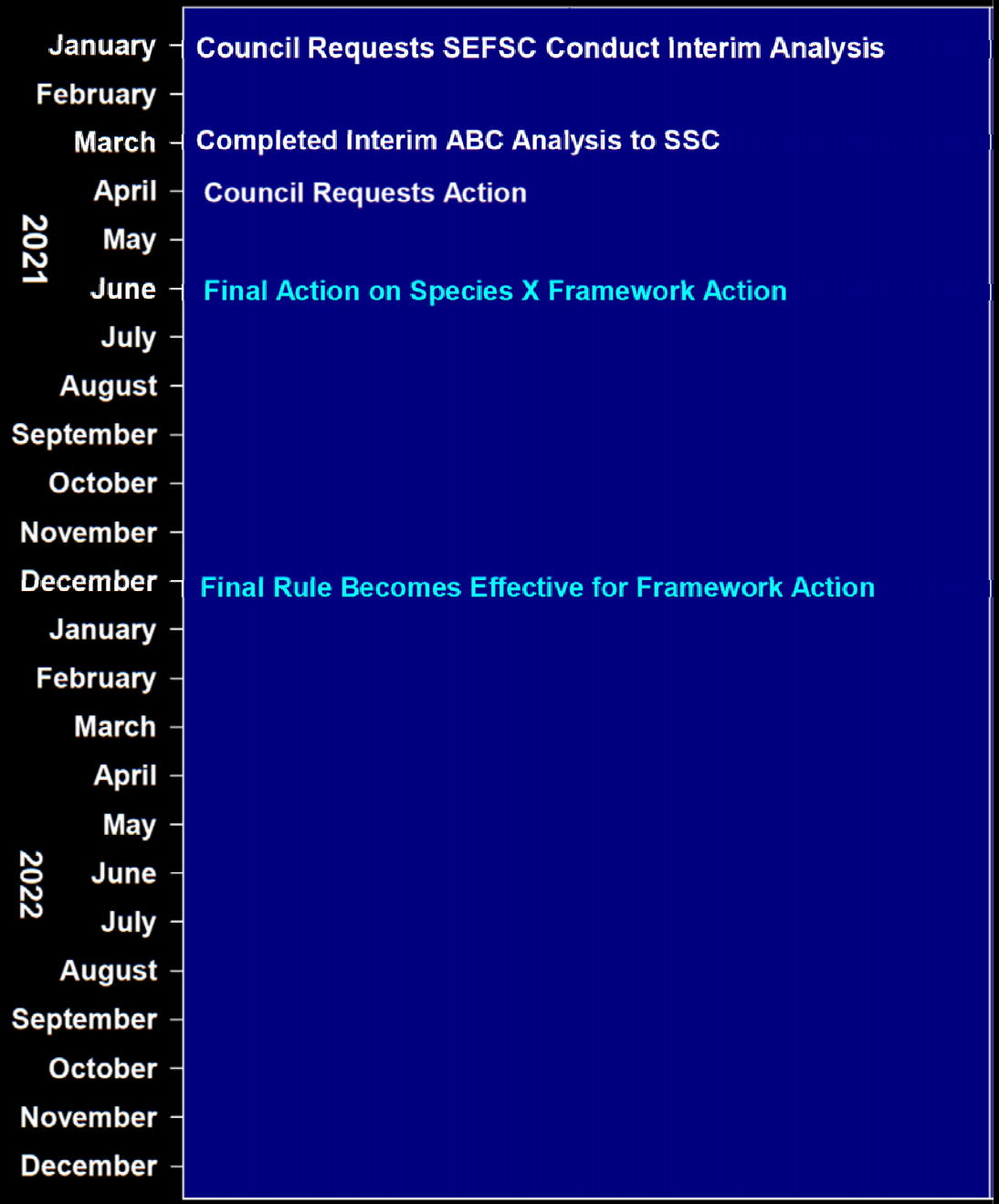
Red snapper anticipated to be available Spring 2021

Standing request for red grouper – start of every year

2020	January	
	February	Council Requests SEFSC Conduct Interim Analysis
	March	
	April	
	May	
	June	
	July	
	August	
	September	Completed Interim ABC Analysis to SSC
	October	Council Requests Action
	November	
	December	
2021	January	Final Action on Gray Triggerfish Framework Action
	February	
	March	
	April	
	May	
	June	Final Rule Becomes Effective for Framework Action
	July	
	August	
	September	
	October	
	November	
	December	

Gulf Example:

Gray Triggerfish



Proposed Timeline for Future Interim ABC Analysis Requests

Future Considerations

Management Changes Triggered

- Interim analysis has the potential to provide managers flexibility to respond to recent trends that were not considered in the last stock assessment
- Science Center indicated it is possible to modify the OFL proportionally to the ABC when increases in catch are recommended by the SSC
- Ideal time to request interim ABC analysis for most species appears to be January but there are limited resources

Future Considerations

- Due to fishing year: greater amberjack and king mackerel may need different timing

- Ideal scenario for Council to consider interim analysis requests:
  - Identify high priority stocks to apply this tool toward
  - Stagger (every other year) requests based on intent/need to modify catch levels versus assessing stock health

Questions?