

REPORT ON THE ATLANTIS MODEL REVIEW

Dr. Isaac Kaplan and colleagues at National Marine Fisheries Service Northwest Fisheries Science Center Ecosystem Science Program have developed a specific application of the Atlantis ecosystem model platform, the California Current Atlantis Model (CCAM). Until recently, the CCAM has been used only in a research context to evaluate the effects of fishing, among other phenomena, on ecosystem dynamics. Its first use in a management context was to evaluate the long-term effects of setting groundfish harvest specifications, based on the current policy framework, as part of the Environmental Impact Statement prepared for 2015-2016 groundfish harvest specifications and management measures.

Recognizing the potential ongoing use of the Atlantis CCAM to support Council management decision-making, the NWFSC organized a Methodology Review Panel, which met June 30-July 2, 2014, to evaluate its future use in this context. The Review Panel included researchers from NMFS Science Centers, members of the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee Ecosystem Subcommittee, and outside experts contracted through the Center for Independent Experts. The Review Panel prepared a report containing a discussion of the technical merits of the Atlantis CCAM and recommendations for its use in support of Council management decision-making (Attachment 1).

Dr. Kaplan will present an overview of the Atlantis CCAM.

Council Action:

Consider Use of the Atlantis Model for Fishery Impact Evaluation and Provide Additional Guidance as Necessary.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item H.1.a, Attachment 1: Atlantis Model for the California Current; Report of the Methodology Review Panel Meeting.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Consider Use of the Atlantis Model for Fishery Impact Evaluation and Provide Additional Guidance as Necessary

Kit Dahl