

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON
SWORDFISH MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING PLAN HARDCAPS

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) reviewed the presentation titled ‘Analysis to Compare the Operation of the Drift Gillnet Fishery under Hard Caps Alternatives’ given by Dr. Stephen Stohs. The presentation described responses to concerns raised by the SSC at the March and June 2015 SSC meetings. The responses satisfied SSC concerns with the exception that documentation of the bootstrapping methods was not publicly available at the time the SSC discussed the issue. Methods documentation should be publicly available in advance of the meeting to facilitate public input into the SSC discussion.

The SSC endorses the bootstrap analysis (Agenda Item G.2.a, Supplemental NMFS Report 5) for use in evaluating hard cap alternative and notes the following considerations and assumptions regarding the analysis. The method used to account for incomplete observer coverage, including the rounding of fractional results, is an important consideration. The bootstrap analysis accounted for incomplete observer coverage by expanding observed interactions based on the level of observer coverage and rounding up the fractional result to calculate total interactions. Alternative 5 (as defined in Agenda Item G.2.a, NMFS Report 1, page 10) accounts for incomplete observer coverage by adjusting the cap level for observer coverage and rounding up the fractional result to calculate observable cap level. These approaches used to account for incomplete observer coverage are not equivalent. Furthermore, the bootstrap analysis assumes that fleet behaviors affecting interaction rate, fleet costs, and ex vessel price will be the same in the future as in the re-sampled period. As a result, estimated profits should be interpreted as relative measures of profit under different hard cap alternatives rather than absolute projections.

PFMC
09/12/15