

## PHASED-IN APPROACH TO CHANGING HARVEST LIMITS – SCOPING

In June, the Council began scoping new approaches for phasing in new harvest limits and harvest control rules (HCRs) to mitigate short-term negative economic impacts when new analyses indicate significant reductions in catch limits. Such new approaches include a three-year phase-in of new acceptable biological catches (ABCs) as allowed in the National Standard 1 (NS1) guidelines and the potential of basing interim ABCs over a limited period on overfishing probabilities (P\*s) larger than the current maximum of 0.45 (see [Agenda Item D.5.a, NMFS Report 1, June 2019](#)).

The Council decided in June to continue scoping these new HCRs for groundfish at this meeting. They requested comment on the criteria for implementing these new HCRs, a time limit for the duration of the phase-in period (or frequency of their use), the types of analyses needed to assess the risk of overfishing, and the preferred timing of a Groundfish Fishery Management Plan amendment process that synchronizes with the 2021-22 biennial specifications decision-making process. The Council further requested a list of candidate stocks for these alternative HCRs to be reported under the 2021-22 biennial specifications agenda item (Agenda Item H.8).

Agenda Item H.7, Attachment 1 provides a working draft of new NS1 guidelines for evaluating and implementing carry-over and phase-in provisions within ABC control rules. The draft NS1 guidelines reveal the current thinking on how best to phase-in new HCRs from the technical experts who developed the draft. The National Marine Fisheries Service is requesting comment on these draft provisions.

The Council will receive comments on this proposed action from its advisors, including the Scientific and Statistical Committee and interested public. The Council should continue scoping and refining a phased-in approach to changing HCRs and develop a purpose and need statement for the proposed action once those comments are received.

### **Council Action:**

- 1. Continue scoping actions and refining a phased-in approach to changing harvest control rules.**
- 2. Develop a purpose and need statement for the proposed action.**

### **Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item H.7, Attachment 1: Draft National Standard 1 Technical Guidance for Designing, Evaluating, and Implementing Carry-over and Phase-in Provisions within ABC Control Rules.

Agenda Order:

- H.7 Phased-In Approach to Changing Harvest Limits – Scoping John DeVore
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
  - b. Public Comment
  - c. **Council Action:** Continue Scoping Actions and Refining a Phased-In Approach to Changing Harvest Control Rules, Including Developing a Purpose and Need Statement for the Proposed Action

PFMC  
08/19/19