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**FISHERIES**

**Agenda Item H.4.a**  
**Supplemental NMFS Presentation 1**  
**March 2020**

# **NATIONAL STANDARD 1 GUIDELINES AND REQUIREMENTS FOR ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES**

**Agenda Item H.4.a**  
**NMFS Presentation 1**  
**March 2020**  
**Karen Palmigiano**

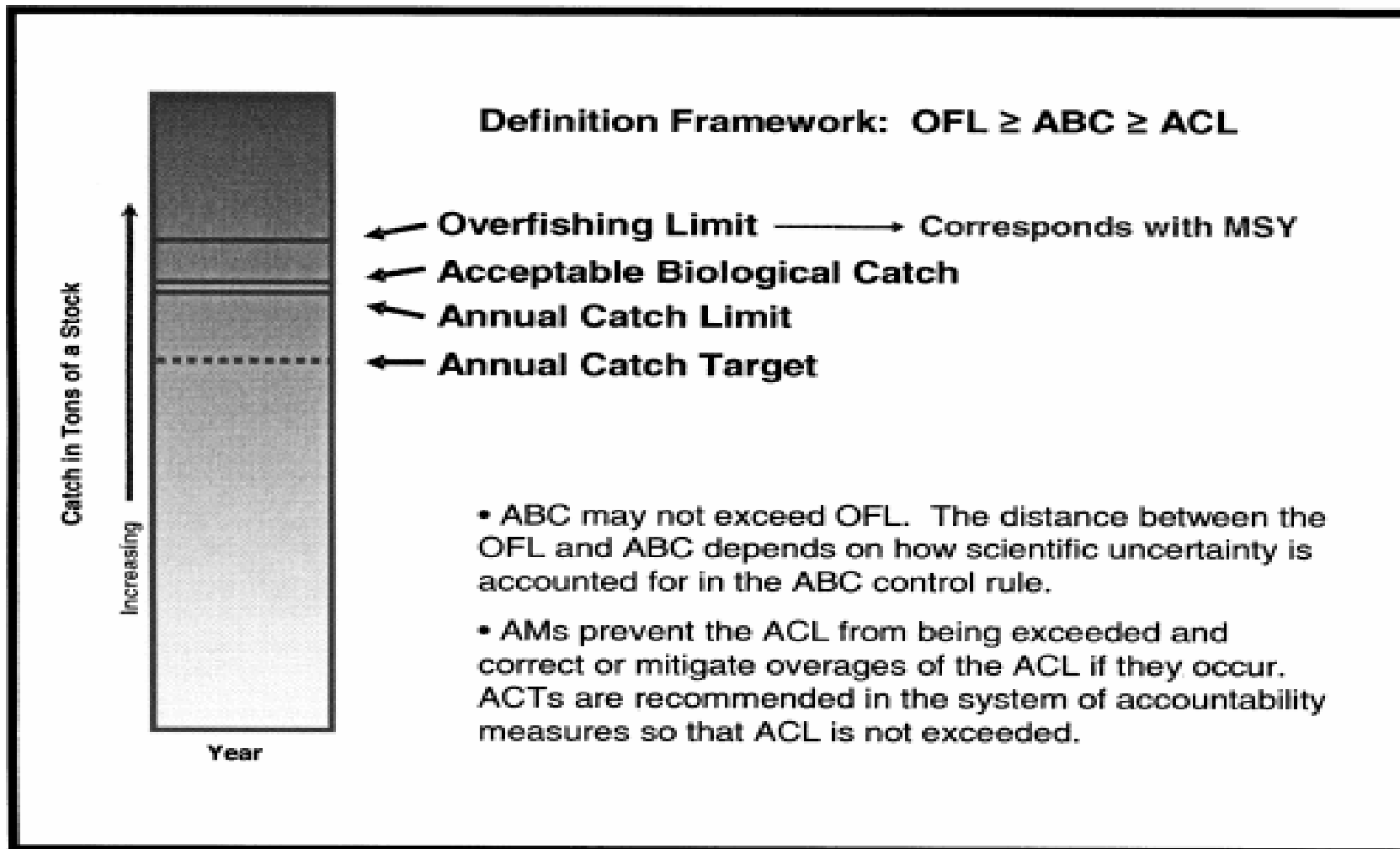
# Background

The MSRA required FMPs to...

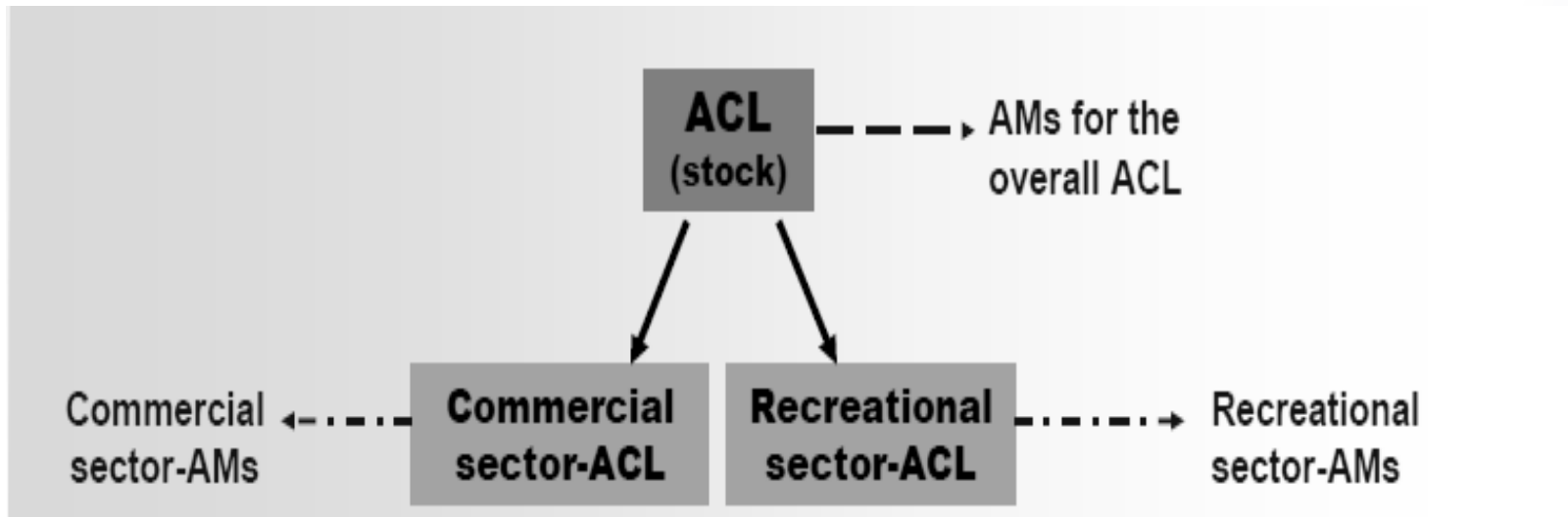
“establish a mechanism for specifying annual catch limits in the plan (including a multiyear plan), implementing regulations, or annual specifications, at a level such that overfishing does not occur in the fishery, including measures to ensure accountability.”



# Background



# Background



An **ACL** is a limit on the total catch of a stock or stock complex.

Councils may, but are not required to, divide an ACL into **sector-ACLs** to meet a wide variety of management objectives, including management uncertainty

**AMs** are management controls that help ensure accountability by preventing the ACL from being exceeded and correcting or mitigating overages of the ACL if they occur

# Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery AMs

The Council has a diverse, flexible and largely effective system of AMs in place for most Pacific coast groundfish stocks and stock complexes.

Trip Limits

Season Structures

Structure of MS C/P coops

Bycatch Reduction Areas

Seasonal Closures

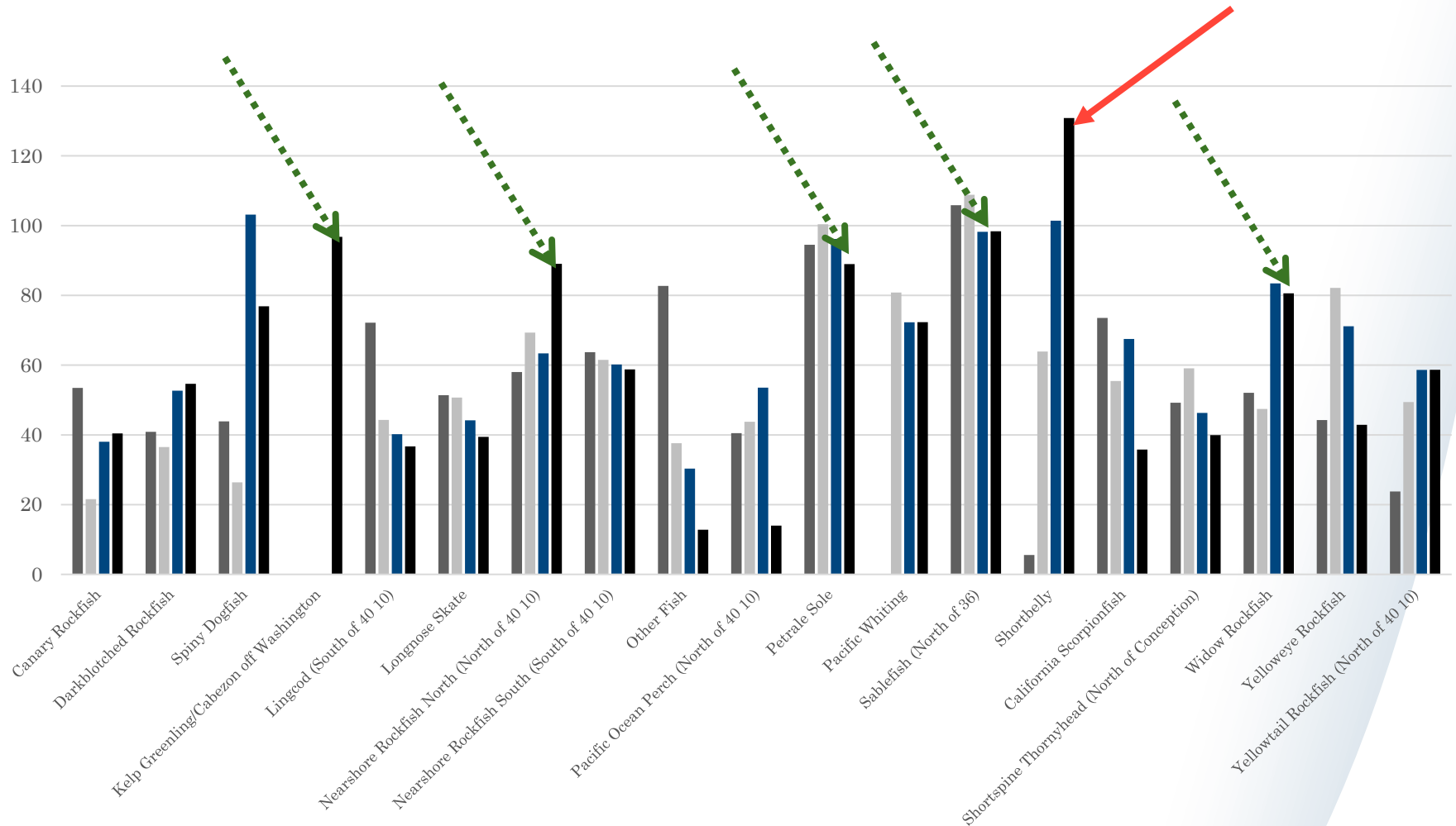
Bag Limits

NMFS closure authority for MS/CP/IFQ

Annual Catch Targets



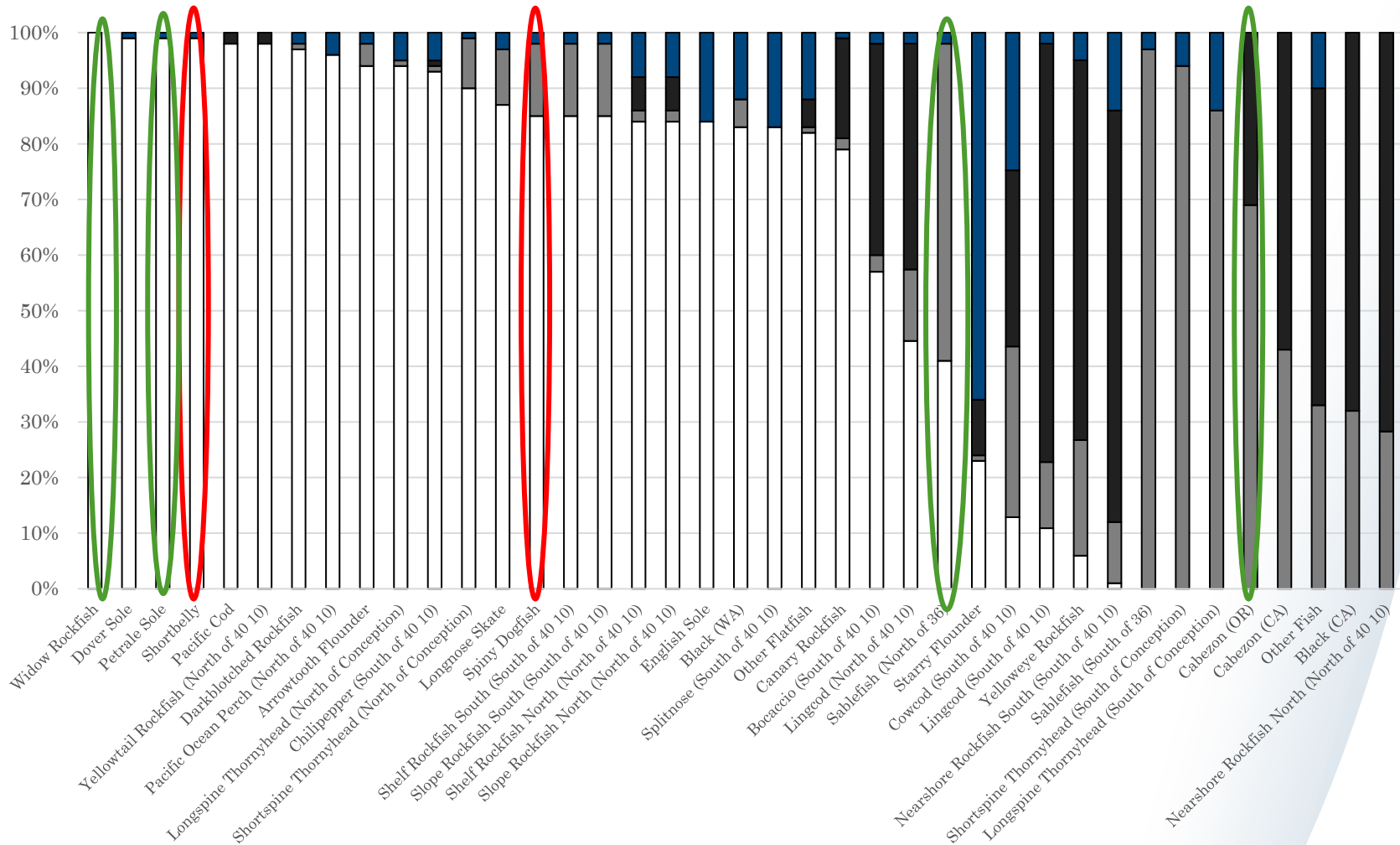
# Overview of Pacific Coast Groundfish Stocks



**2016=dark gray, 2017=light gray, 2018=blue, and 2019=black**  
**(Source: PacFin Groundfish Scorecard)**



# Overview of Pacific Coast Groundfish Stocks



**Trawl=white, Non-trawl (LEFG and OA)=gray, Recreational=black, and Other (IOA, pink shrimp, halibut, and research)=blue**



# Recommendations

- ❑ Evaluate the tradeoff of the flexibility in the existing AM system against the time required to develop custom AM responses for each situation. There may be sector or fishery-wide catch limits for which the Council can develop automatic response.
- ❑ Evaluate AMs when changing allocation structures. For example, switching the at-sea sector allocations to set-asides means the automatic closure authority for allocation is no longer necessary. However, the Council may need to develop a policy for shifting back to allocation management if set-aside catch consistently contributes to ACL overages.



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# Recommendations

- ❑ Evaluate existing ambiguous AMs (e.g., NMFS closure authority for shorebased IFQ/MS/CP sectors in sections 660.140, 660.150, 660.160) and give clear direction to NMFS for when these authorities should be used for different stocks.
- ❑ Consider whether there are additional AMs beyond the list of existing tools that may allow the Council to respond to catch limit overages.
- ❑ For the 2021-22 harvest specifications, shortbelly rockfish is the only stock for which NMFS would recommend the Council consider developing automatic AMs in the second year of the cycle (2022) to address any overages of the ACL that may occur in the first year of the cycle (2021).



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