

# **Agenda Item D.5 Phased in Approaches to Changing Catch Limits—Scoping**

## **Scope the Potential Benefits of Phased-In Changes to Catch Limits**

DRAFT-NOT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PURPOSES

(Culver/Lincoln) I move that the Council take the following actions for groundfish stocks:

1. Further explore Approaches 4 (case-by-case phase-in), 5 (phase-in), and 6 (adjust maximum P\*) as described in Agenda Item D.5.a, NMFS Report 1, as alternative approaches to the default acceptable biological catch (ABC) control rule for groundfish stocks
2. Consider using criteria to determine which groundfish stocks are eligible for deviation from the default ABC control rule. Suggested criteria could include:
  - a. Stock status (depletion) – consider whether to have different approaches for healthy stocks (e.g., stocks with depletion levels  $\geq$  B40), precautionary zone (e.g., rockfish stocks between B25 and B40), and overfished, and/or for stocks with a status trend that has continually declined over time
  - b. Stock category – consider whether to have different eligibility for Category 1 and Category 2 stocks
  - c. Stock complexes – consider whether and how to apply alternative approaches to stocks managed as part of a complex
  - d. Attainment – consider whether to have a minimum average level of attainment of annual catch limits
3. Consider placing a limit on the frequency of using alternative approaches, such as:
  - a. Deviation from the default ABC control rule cannot apply to a specific stock for two consecutive biennial cycles (i.e., full application of the default ABC control rule would occur in year 3)
4. Consider the following additional process steps:
  - a. Re-run the 10-year projections based on the most recent stock assessment for stocks with proposed alternative approaches to assess the risk of overfishing and evaluate the effect on stock status
  - b. Require sufficient time for deviations from the default ABC control rule be evaluated relative to Council criteria, risk of overfishing, and 10-year effect on stock status
  - c. Provide specificity on the calculation method (e.g., sigma and P\* calculation) and values (e.g., if sigma phase-in used on combination with maximum P\* of 0.45, what the sigma values are) used for review and approval by the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) prior to Council final adoption
5. For the 2021-2022 biennial cycle, include the following steps in the Council process:
  - a. September 2019 – Council consider approving items 1-4 for public review and identify a preliminary list of stocks to apply alternative approaches to
  - b. November 2019 – Council select a preliminary preferred alternative (PPA) for items 1-4 and list of stocks
  - c. April 2020 – Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) provide ABC recommendations for the stocks identified in the PPA, and Council select final preferred alternative (FPA) for items 1-4 and list of stocks

6. Direct the SSC to review, discuss, and provide recommendations on items 1-5 at the September 2019 meeting

Motion carried. Ms. Yaremko abstained.

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