

Consistency Between Management Structures and Data Availability and Quality



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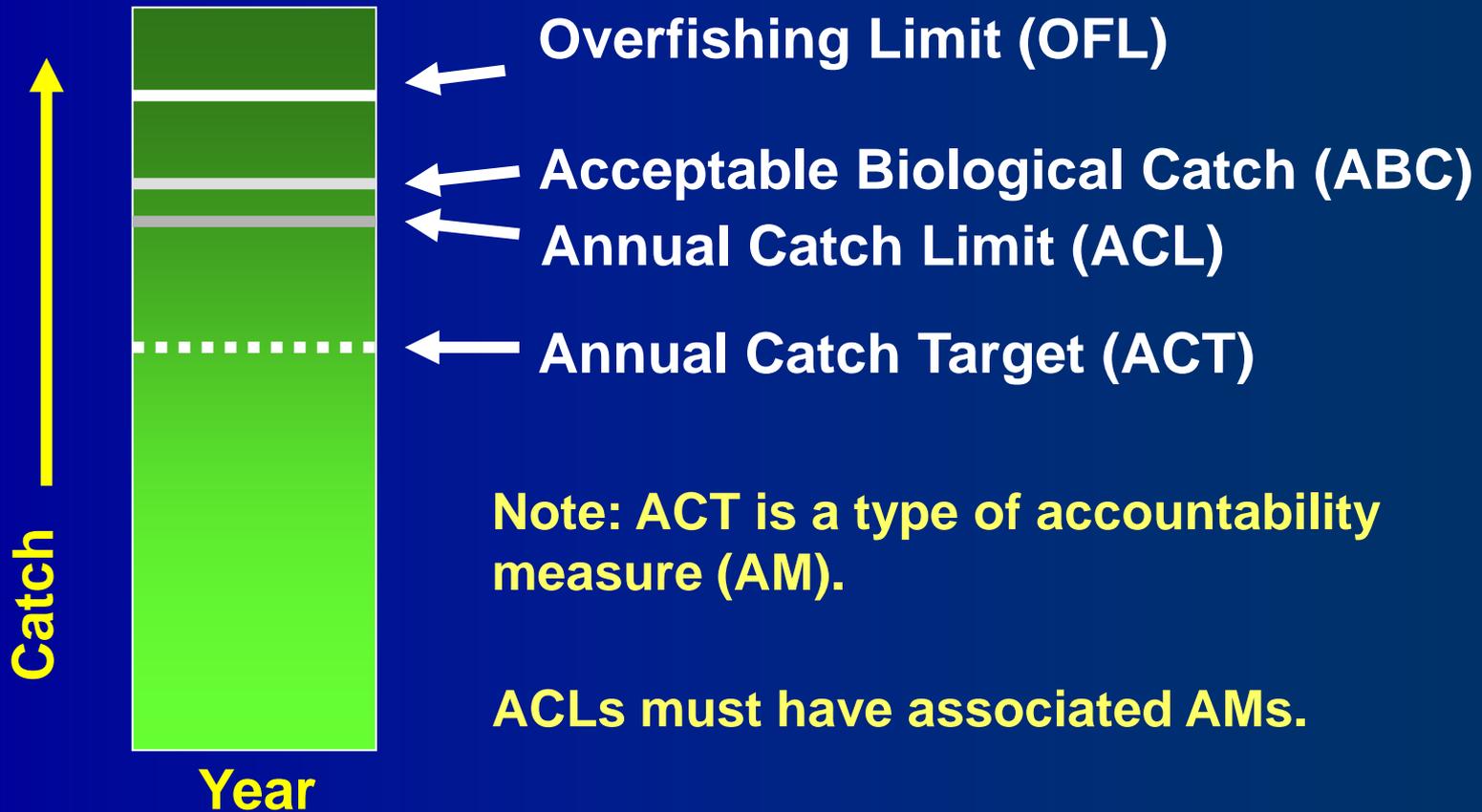
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

Talk Overview

- What has the Mid-Atlantic Council recommended for recreational ACLs and AMs?
- What recreational data factors were considered by the Council?
- Where are the mismatches in our current management infrastructure (not just limited to ACLs and AMs)?
- Final thoughts.



A-B-C: Is it easy as 1-2-3?

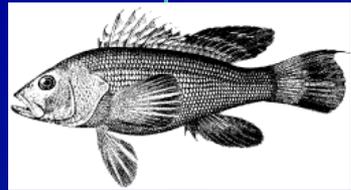


It's Complicated.....

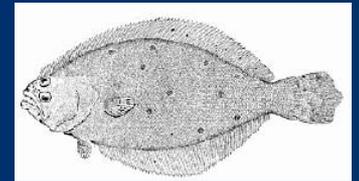
- Both the Council and Commission manage these 4 species under two different laws
- The ACLs developed include catch from all areas in mgmt. unit (self-reported area not used)
- Decisions for these species done under joint meetings/joint rules



Sector-Specific Accountability



ABC = ACL



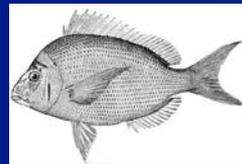
XX%

XX%

Rec. ACL

Comm. ACL

Reduced by X%
mgmt. uncertainty



Reduced by Y%
mgmt. uncertainty



Rec. ACT

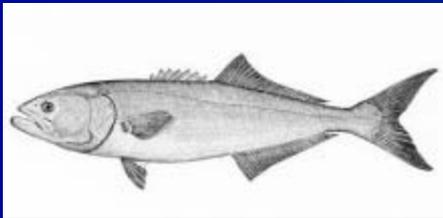
Comm. ACT



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Combined Accountability

$$ABC = ACL$$



Recreational to
commercial transfer
prevented separation of
accountability and
uncertainty

Reduced by X%
mgmt. uncertainty

Rec. ACT

Comm. ACT



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This means that...

- Addressing management uncertainty for summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass is sector-specific (rec. versus comm. sector)
- Allow for data quality issues and fishery control to be considered for each fishing sector



This also means that....

- Recreational fishery is accountable if the Rec-ACL is exceeded
- There are consequences for exceeding the ACL
 - Not as rigid as commercial sector (i.e., comm. landings overage deducted irrespective of whether ACL is exceeded)
 - Not based on single year data comparisons



Smoothing the Data Variability

- Avg. ACL compared to prior 3-year avg. landings; if exceeded, overage is deducted from next year ACL
- Mitigates overage and/or maintains integrity of allocations between fishing sectors over time
- Management uncertainty is accounted for by reducing from the ACL to the ACT



Importance of Data Availability/Quality

- The magnitude of difference between the recreational ACL and ACT will be driven by:
 - Lack of sufficient information about the catch (i.e., data precision and accuracy)
 - Lack of management precision (i.e., ability to control catch)
- Intended to be an adaptive process; improving those factors will allow for less buffer between ACL and ACT



Council Accountability

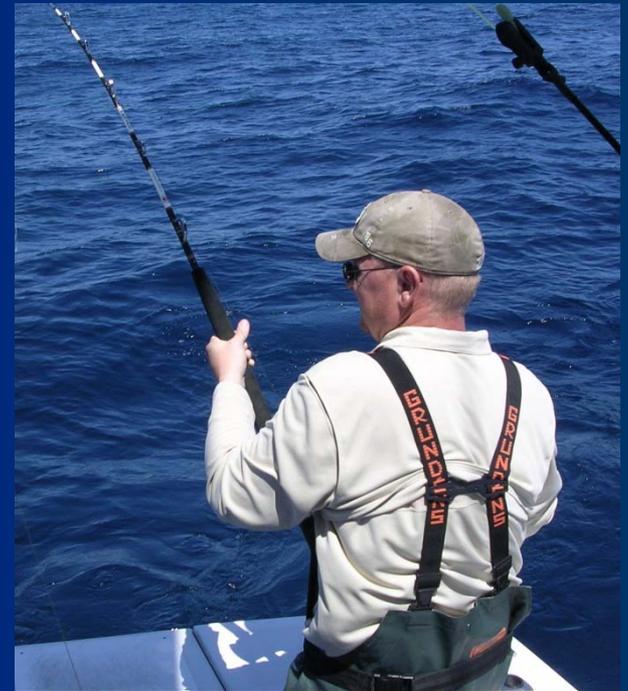


- Proactive AM: Use of ACTs
- Proactive AM: General inseason closure authority for the NMFS
 - If observed landings exceed the landings limit; Council was concerned about instability in projected data
 - Closure linked to more reliable and estimable component of rec catch; regulations regulate "retention" of fish (landed fish)
- Reactive AM: If the avg. ACL is exceeded, deduction from next year.



Council Considerations for Inseason Closure Authority

- Data timeliness: 45 day lag time, frequency 2 months
 - Highly seasonal fisheries
 - Significant landings start at the end of wave 3
 - Waves 4 and 5 are peak
 - Wave 4 data available in October; that's late in the season!



Can management entities respond quickly enough?

- Giving authority to NMFS means no lag time for emergency action
- Some states can react quickly inseason by proclamation; others take up to 4 months
- Inability to respond quickly limits the effectiveness of inseason closure



Are there other usable proxies?

- Development team considered other data options as proxies
- Catch rates, effort, anything that might be used faster; couldn't find right fit



Resolution Of Management Measure Application

- Black sea bass - coastwide (state-waters and EEZ)
- Scup - coastwide (EEZ), regional (state-waters)
- Summer flounder (state-by-state; some sub-state sub-regions)
- Bluefish - coastwide (state-waters and EEZ)



More Data Issues



- State level data
 - reduced intercept lengths on which to craft regulations
 - exacerbated by increased intercept costs and higher minimum size/lower possession limit regulations
- Difficult to estimate demand for trips for upcoming fishing years (socioeconomic factors, weather)
- Angler behavior is fluid and can trade-off between species (this is influenced by changes in regulations)



Final thoughts



- More timely data and more frequent data would help, but....
 - Can management entities move fast enough?
 - Are we prepared to address data at greater frequency?
 - Tradeoffs between cost of increased timeliness and frequency and realized benefits?
- To reduce management uncertainty, we need to consider more factors, such as angler behavior and trip demand

