

Gulf of Mexico Fisheries: Overview of Data Availability and Management Options



Annual Catch Limits and Accountability Measures not yet Established

* The Gulf Council is currently developing annual catch limits and accountability measures for:

- 50 Stocks
 - 4: Overfished
 - 9: Overfished and overfishing
 - 5: Neither overfished or overfishing
 - 32: Stock status unknown
 - Generally data poor
 - Many only have landings history

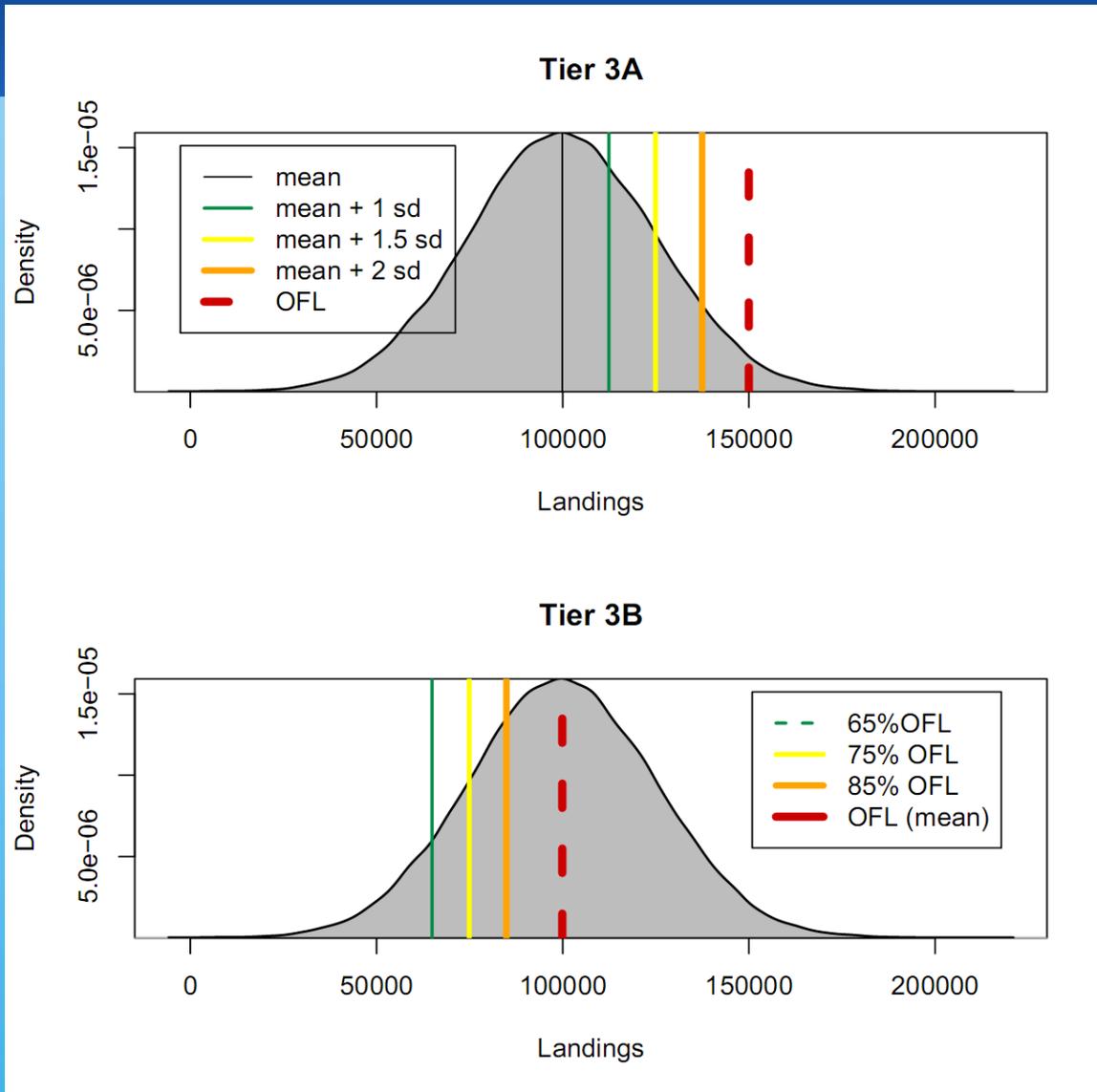


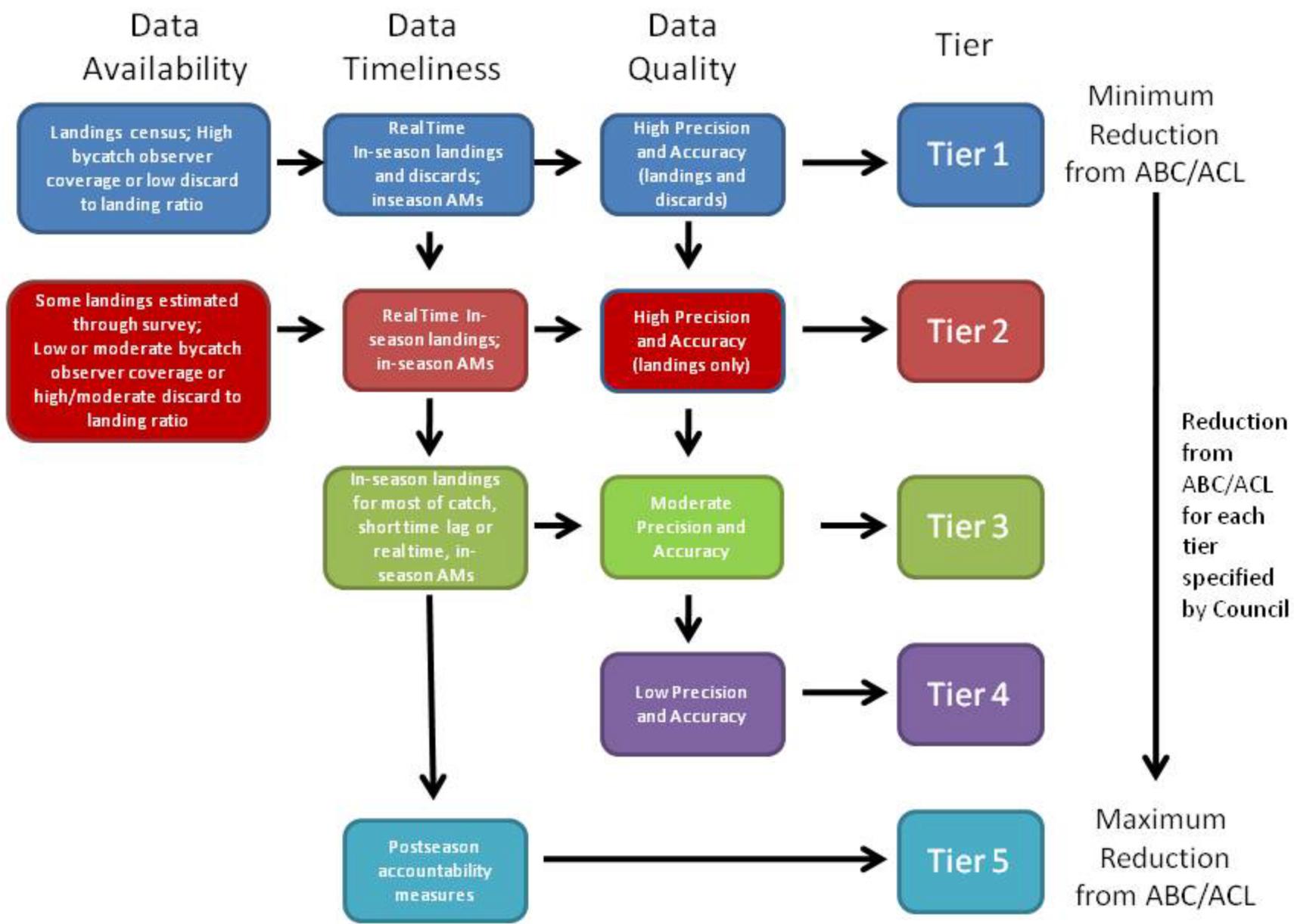
Generic Amendment for ACLs and AMs

* Actions under consideration:

- Transfer management of selected stocks to other agencies
- Species groupings
- Set acceptable biological catch control rules
- Set annual catch limit and annual catch target control rules
- Initial specification of annual catch limits
- Set accountability measures

Tier 3 ABC Control Rule





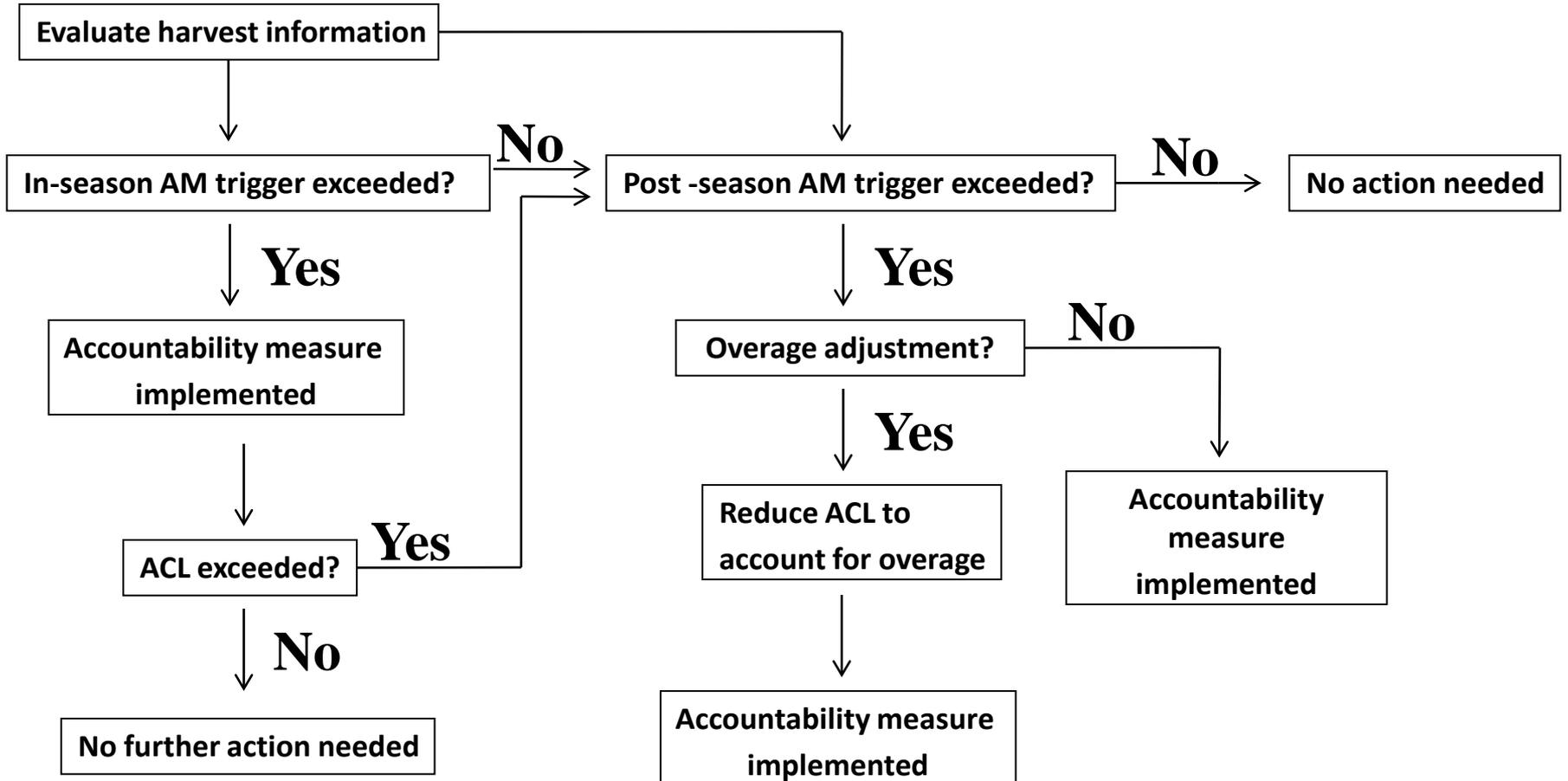
Alternative Tiered Buffers Under Consideration

a: 0% - 35%	b: 0% - 25%	c: 0% - 15%
Tier 1 – 0% buffer	0% buffer	0% buffer
Tier 2 – 5% buffer	3.6% buffer	2.1% buffer
Tier 3 – 15% buffer	10.7% buffer	6.4% buffer
Tier 4 – 25% buffer	17.9% buffer	10.7% buffer
Tier 5 – 35% buffer	25% buffer	15% buffer

Factors affecting buffer selection

- Timeliness
- Quality
- Availability

Accountability Measures



Accountability Measures

Species	In-season	Post-season
Greater amberjack	If projected to exceed ACL, close fishery	If exceed ACL, shorten the next season to recover from overage
Gray triggerfish		If 3-year average landings exceed ACL, reduce season length in next year
Gag		If 3-year average landings exceed ACL, reduce season length in next year so as to not exceed annual catch target
Red grouper		If 3-year average landings exceed ACL, reduce season length in next year so as to not exceed annual catch target
Red snapper	If projected to exceed ACL, close fishery	Limit the season length to that needed to harvest the quota

Conclusions

- At least 18 stocks or stock complexes require ACLs
- Harvest not allocated for most
- Variety of accountability measures being considered
 - Post-season only
 - In-season based on projected landings
- Moving forward
 - Estimate effort to develop CPUE indices
 - Consider smoothing to reduce spurious single-year effects of landings

Questions