

*Science, Service, Stewardship*



# Data Timeliness: Impacts on Uncertainty and Reporting Annual Catch Limits

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## MSA and National Standard 1 Guidelines

Fishery management plans shall “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.”

MSA 303(a)(15)

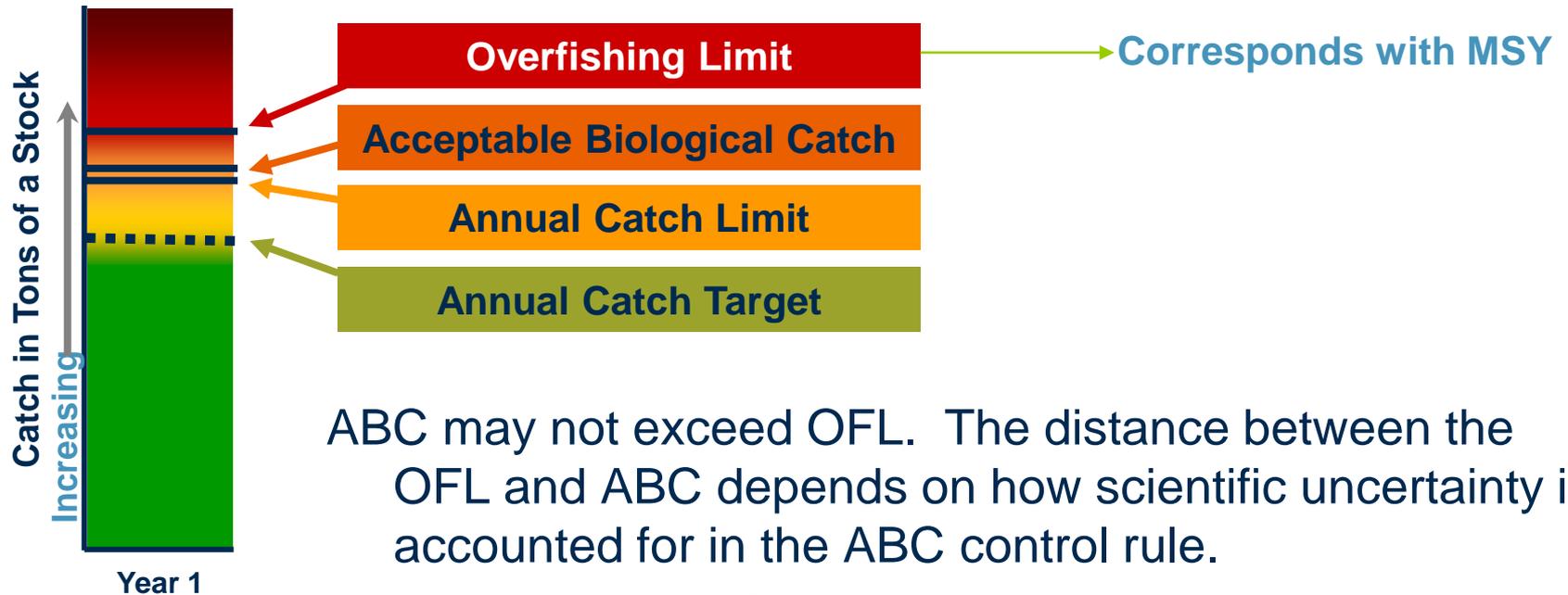
ACLs “may not exceed the fishing level recommendations of its scientific and statistical committee”

MSA 302(h)(6)

National Standard 1 (NS1) guidelines were revised to include guidance on these new requirements



## Annual Catch Limit Framework



ABC may not exceed OFL. The distance between the OFL and ABC depends on how scientific uncertainty is accounted for in the ABC control rule.

AMs prevent the ACL from being exceeded and correct or mitigate overages of the ACL if they occur. ACTs are recommended in the system of accountability measures so that ACL is not exceeded.



## Sector ACLs - Optional

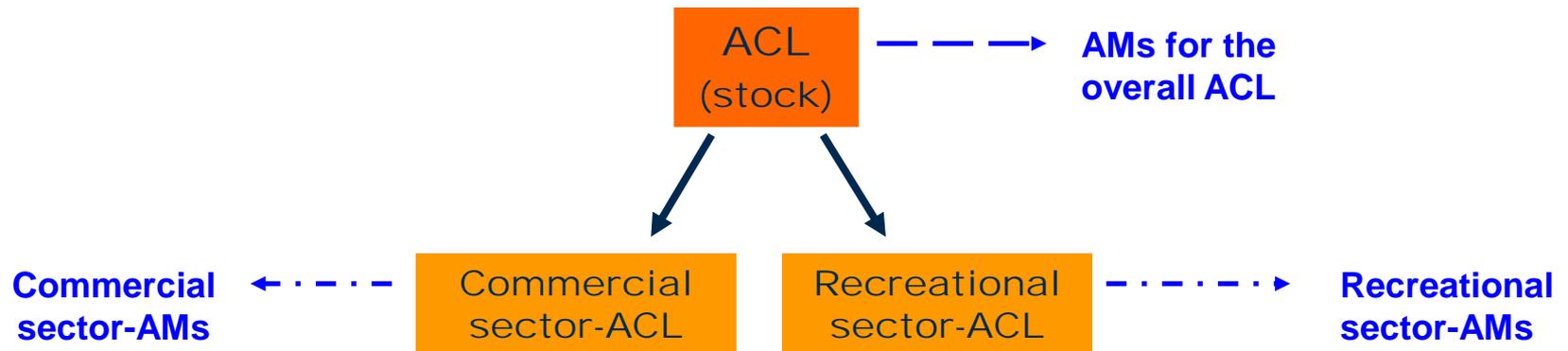
**Optional** to sub-divide a stock's ACL into "sector-ACLs".

If the management measures for different sectors differ in the degree of management uncertainty, then sector ACLs may be necessary so that appropriate AMs can be developed for each sector.

The sum of sector-ACLs must not exceed the overall ACL.

For each sector-ACL, "sector-AMs" should be established.

AMs at the stock level may be necessary.

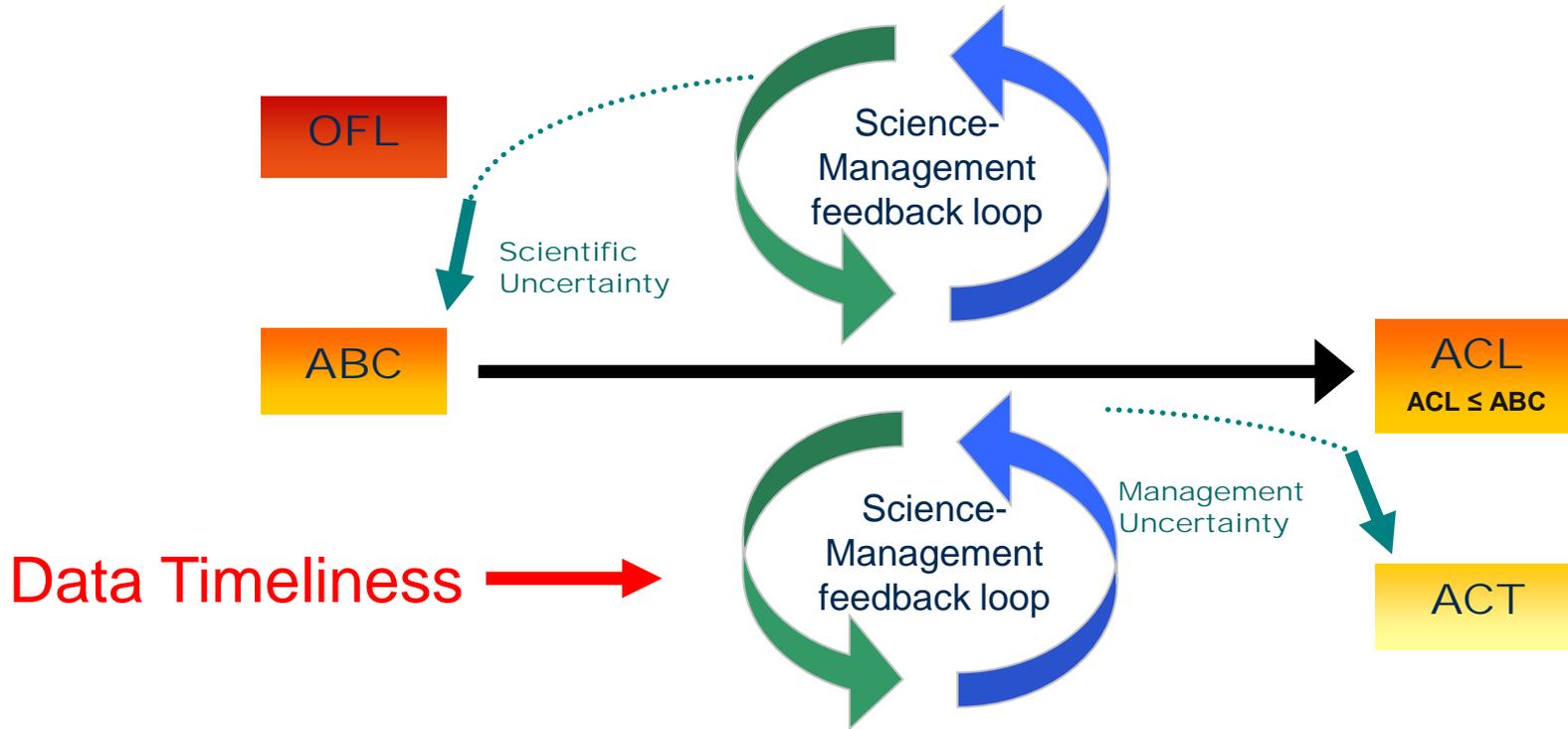




# Sources of Uncertainty

## SSC Role

## Council Role





## Chief Sources of Management Uncertainty

Management uncertainty is the difference between what you plan to catch and what you actually catch. Sources include:

- Inadequate, incomplete catch data--results from misreporting, under reporting or late reporting of catches
- Catch data that are not available to managers in time to affect decision making
- Method and/or quality of fishery data used to forecast catch results in poor estimate of actual catch



## Accountability Measures (AMs)

AMs are management controls to prevent ACLs from being exceeded and to mitigate for overages if they occur.

### Inseason AMs

- “Whenever possible, FMPs should include inseason monitoring and management measures to prevent catch from exceeding ACLs.”
- **Increased wave frequency/turnaround**

### Postseason AMs

- “On an annual basis, the Council must determine as soon as possible after the fishing year if an ACL was exceeded.”
- **How soon can the final catch numbers become available?**



## ACL Reporting

## Yearly Report to Council

## Status of US Fisheries Report to Congress

MSA 304(e)(1)

