

Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) Omnibus FW

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Purpose/Need 1

- Current risk policy makes it difficult for SSC to set level ABCs when year to year projections are available

Purpose/Need 2

- Several species' plans have adopted "automatic" incorporation of new accepted/approved biological status determination criteria but some have not.

Alternative 2

- This alternative would simply make it consistent with the Council's risk policy for the SSC to specify constant multi-year ABCs if the average of the probabilities of overfishing equal the appropriate goal

Alternative 2

- Example – Butterfish
- SSC – Biomass above B_{msy} , typical stock so 40% probability of overfishing.

Alternative 2

- ABCs

2015	2016	2017
33,278	31,412	30,922

An average could lead to 2017 having more than 40% probability of overfishing.

Alternative 2

- ...specify constant multi-year ABCs if:
 - the average of the probabilities of overfishing equal the appropriate goal

Alternative 2

- Something like this would be OK:

2015	2016	2017		
31,864	31,978	31,935		
0.380	0.405	0.415	.4 or 40%	
			Average	

- Doesn't change core risk policy approach

Alternative 3

- The biological status determination criteria for each of the species managed under the fishery management plans would be automatically based upon the best scientific information consistent with National Standards 1 and 2

Alternative 3

- This action would institute the above procedure for bluefish, tilefish, mackerel, longfin squid, *Illex* squid, and butterfish.

Impacts

- Minimal and administrative
- Benefits related to quota stability without going to lowest of SSC's recommendations.