

OFL CV Discussion Outline

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

Statistical and Scientific Committee

March 13, 2018

Baltimore, MD

Previous Decisions

- Completed
 - Agreed on 3 objectives: Prudent, Transparent, Supportable
 - Agreed on 8 criteria
 - Agreed on a general framework (ie Table) with Low, Med, High CV
- Incomplete
 - Apply approach to one or more species
 - Consider input from NEFSC
 - Establish “levels” of CV for Low, Medium, High

Recommendations (via NEFSC, OFL Subcomm)

- Quantify the basis for the CV levels used as cut points, i.e., document the basis for the current 60% and 100% levels used in MAFMC assessments.
 - Support from MSE work by John Wiedenmann
- Include “Data Quality” as a factor in the estimation of an appropriate OFL CV. This would be the first factor considered, resulting in a total of 9 criteria
- Include an option for a OFL-CV level to be specified by the SSC. This addresses options where the assessment may provide information sufficient for a fully supported estimate. Alternatively, the SSC could decide to increase the CV above a prescribed maximum level.
- Consider two examples for summer flounder (prepared by Paul Rago) and black sea bass (prepared by Gary Shepherd).

Add “Data Quality” as a factor

- Types and quality of available data are primary determinants of the utility of any assessment model.
- Important fishery-independent data considerations include survey design, coverage and efficiency of survey gear.
- Consider accuracy and precision of landings and discards
- Availability of age data for surveys and removals
- Information on natural mortality
- Stock structure
 - Biological \leftrightarrow Operational
 - (Genetic—ecosystem—management needs)

Add: Assessment Accuracy under different fishing pressures

- High degree of contrast in landings and surveys with apparent response in indices to changes in removals.
- Moderate contrast in surveys and catches. “One-way” trips.
- Relatively little change in surveys or catches over time. Low precision of estimates.

Decisions for SSC

- Are the 9 proposed criteria acceptable?
- What are appropriate levels of X, Y and Z%? 60, 100 and 150%?
- Is a “wild card” CV level option desirable? Is this this degree of freedom liberating or debilitating to the efficacy of SSC decisions?