

March 2011 Monthly Council Call/Webinar Agenda

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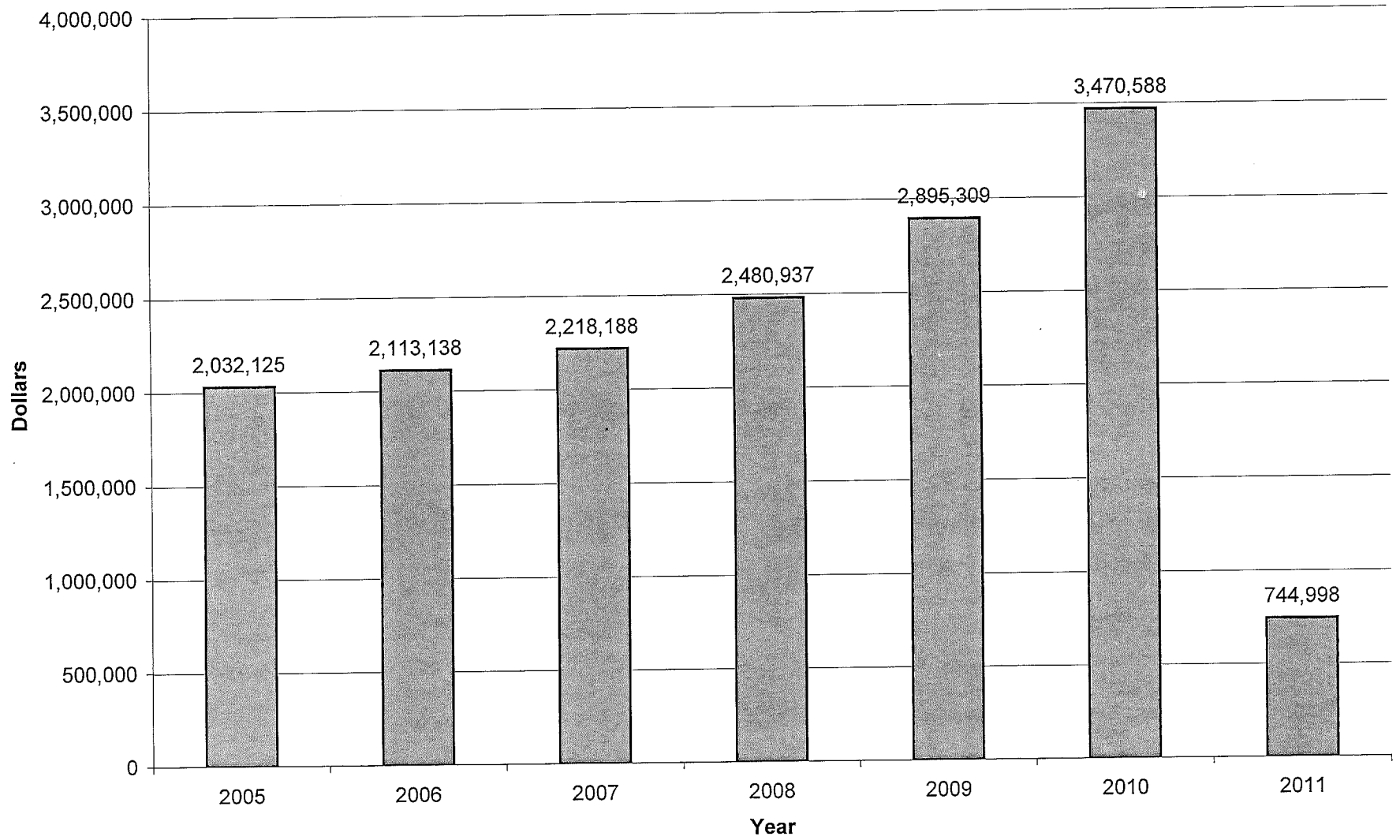
Dial In #: 877-648-8577, pass code 299855.

NMFS HQ attendees will meet in conference room 14836.

March 23, 2011 at 2 PM

1. Introduction of Allocation Review and George Lapointe – Sam Rauch
2. Budget Update – Gary Reisner
3. FR Notice regarding E.O. 13563 – Sam Rauch with Caroline Park
4. Agenda topics and other information for May CCC meeting – Bob Mahood
5. National CMSP Workshop – Sam Rauch beginning at 3 p.m.

2005-2011 Operating Award



**Process for 2012 Specifications
Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish (SMB)**

1) Informational Document (“Info Doc”) to SMB AP & SSC Socio-Econ SubCom



2) Webinar to introduce Info Doc to AP (April 4)



3) AP meeting to review the Info Doc and create “AP Fishery Performance Report” (April 14-15)



4) Staff develops ABC Recommendations Memo for Monitoring Committee (MC)



5) MC webinar to review staff ABC recommendations (April 25)



6) Briefing package sent to SSC – will contain Info Doc plus “AP Report” plus staff (and/or MC) ABC recommendations (May 3)



7) Pre-decisional webinar with SSC and MC – mid-May



8) SSC Meeting (May 25-26)



9) MC meets (webinar) to consider additional management issues and ACT recommendations

Briefing Book Mailout

10) Council Meeting and Recommendations

Acronyms

AP = Advisory Panel
MC=Monitoring Committee
SSC=Scientific and Statistical Committee
ACT=Annual Catch Targets

**Process for 2012 Specifications
Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass, and Bluefish**

**1) SDWG Web-based Call: Review Assessment
Information (SSC Invited to Participate)**



**2) Finalized Data
Provided to Staff**



**3) Staff Develops
Recommendations Memo**



Memo sent to SSC and MC

4) In-Person Public Meeting

**Day 1: SSC Meeting to
Recommend ABC
(Monitoring Committee
Present to Answer Questions)**

**Day 2: MC Meeting to
Recommend ACTs**



**5) SSC and MC Reports
Finalized**



**6) Industry Advisors
Meeting (call)**

Briefing Book Mailout

Acronyms

SDWG=Southern Demersal Working Group
MC=Monitoring Committee
SSC=Scientific and Statistical Committee
ACT=Annual Catch Targets

**7) Council and ASMFC Board
Meeting and Recommendations**

S&E SSC Subcom. and SMB AP Joint Meeting on AP Fishery Performance Reports
March 8, 2011 - Baltimore, MD

S&E = Social & Economics
SSC = Scientific and Statistical Committee
SMB = Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish
AP = Advisory Panel

Attendees

Rick Robins (MAFMC Chair)	Doug Lipton (SSC)
Lee Anderson (MAFMC Vice-Chair)	Drew Kitts (NMFS NEFSC Social Science Branch)
John Boreman (MAFMC's SSC Chair)	Matt Macpherson (NMFS NEFSC Social Science Branch)
Geir Monsen (SMB AP)	Jason Didden (MAFMC Staff)
Jeff Reichle (SMB AP)	Rich Seagraves (MAFMC Staff)
Jeff Kaelin (SMB AP)	Pam Lyons-Gromen (NCMC)
Lars Axelsson (SMB AP)	Kristen Cevoli (Pew)
Vito Calomo (SMB AP)	Josh Stoll (NMFS)
Bonnie McCay (SSC; Chair of SSC's S&E SubCom)	Josie Calomo
Mark Holliday (NMFS, SSC)	
David Tomberlin (NMFS, SSC)	

Summary

Robins and Seagraves first introduced project. Basic idea is that in some cases the SSC does not have much else besides catch data when setting ABCs and that some form of structured input from the AP about potential factors that have influenced catch over time could be useful for the SSC's ABC decision-making process. This summary attempts to capture the key informational and decisional points from the meeting.

Proposed Process:

- Staff provides "AP Informational Document" to AP summarizing stock status and recent fishery performance from a data point of view (Around March 15)
- Staff summarizes "AP Informational Document" for AP in webinar (Around April 1)
- AP and SSC's S&E SubCom meet for AP to provide input on recent catches and create "AP Fishery Performance Report" (April 14-15)
- AP Report incorporated as a separate section of "SSC Informational Document" (the "AP Fishery Performance Report" section) that goes to SSC as part of briefing package for ABC-setting process (May 3)

Staff then presented a suite of data elements that could be included into the "AP Informational Document" and participants made a variety of suggestions. Given time constraints during this specifications process, not all of the data elements suggested at the March 8 meeting will be able to be incorporated this year. Staff will include as many as

possible and triage as necessary - the list will likely evolve in future years. The following is a list of the goals for data elements as discussed during the March 8 meeting. Some common themes included:

- going back in time as far as practicable would be useful
 - including percentages for tables such as landings by state would be useful
 - displaying information in figures and maps as well as tables would be useful
 - need to be very specific about what information being displayed
-
- Summary of most recent stock assessment.
 - NEFSC trawl indices, updated and historical as practicable (UHP)
 - NEAMAP data UHP
 - Catch/Landings UHP (U.S. and Canada)
 - Include Joint-Venture (JV) Data
 - US revenue, price (Nominal and Inflation Adjusted) UHP
 - Summary of previous year's Canadian fishery if available
 - Length-Frequency Distributions UHP (survey/fishery)
 - Landings by state by year UHP
 - Landings by month by year UHP
 - Landings by gear by year UHP
 - Port dependence as allowable based on data confidentiality issues
 - Dealer dependence as allowable based on data confidentiality issues
 - Permits/Year UHP (Clarify "Uncanceled Permit Criteria")
 - Utilized permits/year with various thresholds (10,000; 100,000; 1,000,000 per year)
 - Landings by permit category UHP
 - VTR Catch by STAT Area (w/GIS Graphics if possible)
 - World Production, Prices, Export/Import Data (<http://www.piers.com/>)
 - Trip characterization by primary and secondary participants
 - Landings species mixes by primary and secondary participants (weight value)
 - CPUE
 - VTR Trip information over time (mesh, crew, trip duration)
 - Recreational catch information
 - Polish research vessel reports could be interesting to examine (Emory Anderson)

After reviewing these data elements, the AP will provide information on factors that could influence recent catch including:

- Consumer preference, price
- Change in market opportunities and potential alternatives
- Resource availability issues (spatial/temporal)
- Management induced effort shifts
- Changes in fishing practices (fishing areas, gears, methods, techniques, technologies, etc.)
- Changes in economics of production (fuel, LPUE, affordability)
- Regulatory factors affecting catch

- Other externalities (bycatch of prohibited or protected species limiting fishing effort)
- Changes in gear/size/yield selectivity
- Weather patterns/environmental meta-data
- Review potential new factors

The AP would come to agreement on a final set of consensus points during the meeting on April 14-15.

Other Issues:

AP members brought up numerous US-Canadian issues that are management challenges in the mackerel fishery and wondered if input on these issues could be integrated for management purposes besides just quota setting - Could be a separate section of the AP Report that summarizes AP's view of current/upcoming management challenges.

Along the same lines, there could be a section of the AP Report that provides input on research/assessment needs. Environmental/oceanographic data would be good to provide as practicable - maybe next year.

May need additional AP representation - specifically recreational interest and smaller vessel and/or gillnet - Staff will review process for soliciting additional advisors and advise Council/ SMB Committee leadership. Question also arose that may also need some broader review of AP's input - general sense was that no provision exists for such broader review and the AP is purposefully designed for Council to get such input. It was also decided that both the SSC S&E and the AP would pick leads for each species.

Lyons-Gromen Question1: Will specs this year utilize ACL/ACT/AM framework and will the AP Fishery Performance Report inform just ABC process or whole specs process? JDidden: Probably ACL/ACT/AM framework and NERO and MAFMC staff are working on that process. It is likely that the AP Fishery Performance Report will generally inform the whole process in the sense that it will be available to the SMB Monitoring Committee and the Council prior to the June Council meeting. The AP Fishery Performance Report will be part of the SSC Informational Document that will be an expansion of the Staff Quota Paper provided in previous years (e.g.: http://www.mafmc.org/meeting_materials/SSC/2010-05/Quota%20Papers%20and%20TORs/SMB%20Quota%20Paper_2011%20Specs_4_19_10.pdf).

Lyons-Gromen Comment1: "SAFE" Reports require an ecosystem evaluation - should be included in a SAFE document.

The document this year at least will not be a "SAFE" Report. As currently is the case, the specs EA will satisfy the needs for a SAFE report but the informational document proposed herein may become a SAFE report in the future.

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
Development of Ecosystem Goals, Objectives, and Policies

The Ecosystems Subcommittee (ESC) of the SSC was created to "advise the Council on ecosystems management and ecological issues related to the Council's Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) and management programs". The objectives of the ESC are articulated in the TORS developed for them by the Council as follows:

Provide scientific advice or information to:

1. support and inform the development of the Council's ecosystem level goals, objectives and policies.
2. address and incorporate ecosystem structure and function in Council FMPs and quota specification process to ensure ecological sustainability.
3. anticipate or respond to shifting ecological conditions (climate change and other externalities).
4. summarize existing programs (US and worldwide) that have incorporated ecosystem-based management principles.
5. describe ecosystem principles to evolve into regional-based ecosystem based FMP.

The TORS developed by the Council include both short and long term issues related to EBFM. For the long term, the Council has expressed its desire to move in the direction of EBFM but has yet to articulate specific goals and objectives. The development of EBFM goals and objectives may be difficult because they depend on what is technically feasible given current information.

Recommendation: Council should establish draft EBFM goals and objectives (these goals and objectives can be modified through an iterative process with the ESC).

The Council should consider development of an EBFM goals and objectives at its April meeting. The Council's Executive Committee will manage the development of the EBFM goals and objectives and oversee subsequent Council activities and interactions with the ESC related to EBFM.

In addition to developing a long term strategic plan for EBFM, the Executive Committee should develop a list of short term issues for the ESC to address. For example, the Executive Committee could task the ESC with developing scientific advice specific to the forage issue currently being discussed by the Atlantic Mackerel, Squid and Butterfish Committee. Additional topics for the ESC to consider could be developed sequentially so the ESC can provide the necessary scientific advice to inform the development of the Council's long range approach to EBFM.

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council)

Ecosystems Subcommittee (ESC) of the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC)

Terms of Reference

Organization

The Ecosystems Subcommittee of the SSC will be appointed by the Chairman of the SSC.

Function

The Subcommittee will advise the Council on ecosystems management and ecological issues related to the Council's Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) and management programs.

Objectives

1. Work with the Council (especially the Council's Ecosystems and Ocean Planning Committee) to provide the Council with scientific advice to support and inform the development of the Council's ecosystem level goals, objectives, and policies.
2. Identify and describe scientific advice that the Council could use to address and incorporate ecosystem structure and function in its fishery management plans (FMPs) and quota specification process to ensure that the Council's management practices effectively account for ecological sustainability.
3. Describe scientific information that the Council could consider to anticipate or respond to shifts in ecological conditions (e.g. climate change and other externalities) or processes in its management programs.
4. Summarize what other countries and regions are doing to incorporate ecosystem-based fishery management principles in their management plans and programs.
5. Describe how ecosystems principles could be used by the Council in the long term to evolve its single-species and multi-species FMPs into a regional ecosystem-based fishery management plan.

a. **Objectives and Duties.** When requested by the Council, through the Council Chair or the Executive Director, Advisory Panels shall:

(1) advise the Council on the assessments and specifications contained in each fishery management plan for each fishery within the Council's geographical area of concern, with particular regard to: (1) the capacity and the extent to which the fishing vessels (commercial and recreational) of the United States will harvest the resources considered in fishery management plans, (2) the effect of such fishery management plans on local economies and social structures, (3) potential conflicts between user groups of a given fishery resource, (4) the capacity and the extent to which United States fish processors will process that portion of an optimum yield harvested by United States fishing vessels, and (5) enforcement problems peculiar to each fishery with emphasis on the expected need for enforcement resources;

(2) advise and/or prepare comments for the Council on (1) fishery management plans or amendments thereto during preparation of such plans or amendments by the Council, and on (2) fishery management plans prepared by the Secretary and transmitted to the Council for review;

(3) advise the Council on current trends and developments in fishery matters; and

(4) perform such other necessary and appropriate advisory duties as may be required by the Council to carry out its functions under the Act.

Advisory Panel members shall attend Council meetings and public hearings on fishery management plans and amendments thereto as authorized by the Council Chair.

b. Members

(1) Advisory Panel members shall be nominated for membership by the fishing community (vessel owners or operators, dealers, processors, associations, clubs, or themselves), be recommended by the appropriate Council committee, and be appointed by the Council Chair. Advisory panel members shall be appointed by the Chairman for a period of two years, and may be reappointed at the pleasure of the Chairman. Vacancy appointments shall be for the remainder of the unexpired term of the vacancy.

(2) Advisory Panels shall be composed of persons who are either actually engaged in the harvesting or processing of, or are knowledgeable and interested in the conservation and management of, the fisheries to be managed. Advisory Panels shall also reflect expertise and interest from the standpoint of geographical distribution, industry and other user groups, and the economic and social groups encompassed in the Council's geographical area of concern.

(3) Advisory Panel members shall be notified of meetings at least 10 days in advance of each meeting. Advisory Panel members who cannot attend a scheduled meeting shall advise the Executive Director.

c. Administrative Provisions. The Council shall pay the actual expenses of the members of the Advisory Panels, in accordance with controlling law, while engaged in the performance of Council business.

3. The Council shall establish and maintain a fishing industry advisory committee which shall provide information and recommendations on, and assist in the development of, fishery management plans and amendments to such plans. Appointments to this committee shall be made in such a manner as to provide fair representation to commercial and recreational fishing interests, and to conservation and environmental organizations in the geographic areas of authority of the Council. The Committee or subcommittees of the Committee shall meet at the call of the Council Chair.

E. WORKING GROUPS. Fishery management planning and development of FMPs may be performed by various types of working groups, under the direction of the Council. For example, the Council may