



Ecosystem Approach to Fishery Management Update

Ecosystems Subcommittee Report
September 26, 2012

Developing an Operational Guide to EAFM

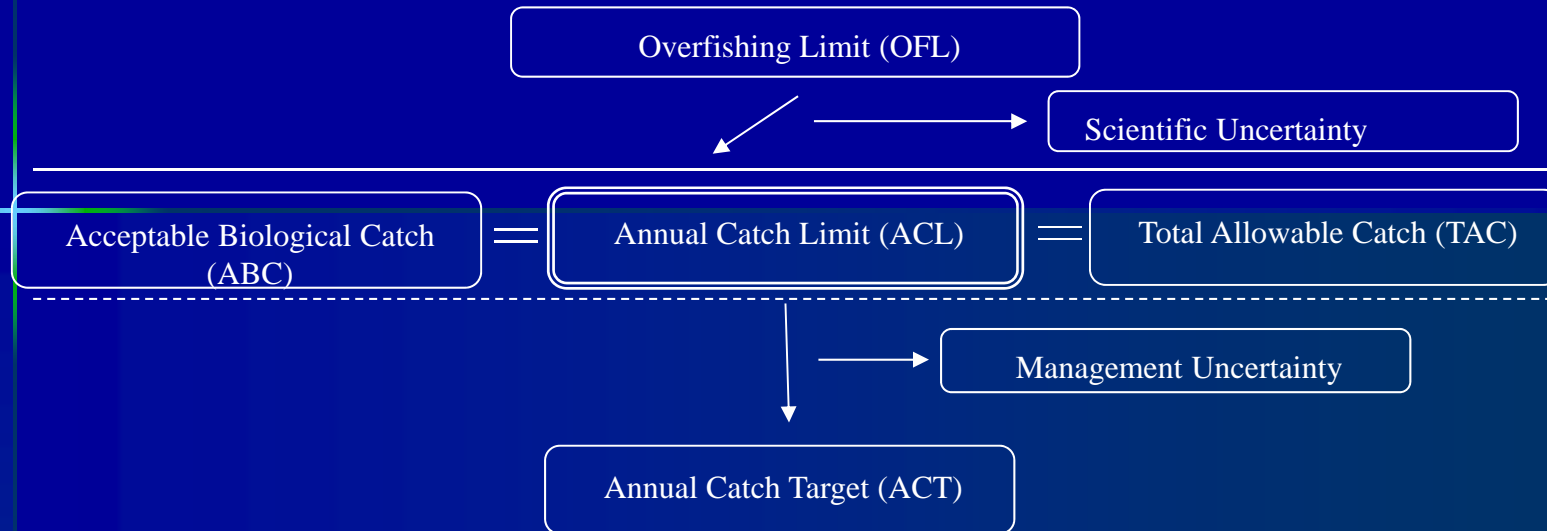
- Concerns have been raised that EAFM guidance document will end up being another tome
- Desire is to create a document that is manageable in size, readable & useful
- Need an operational guide
- Staff suggesting two pronged approach: operational guide supported by source document

EAFM Next Steps

ABC/OY Control Rule FW

- Identify key factors which should be evaluated relative to ecosystem considerations
- Examples: forage issues, predator/prey and/or competitive species interactions accounted for in assessment; external drivers considered (climate change or other physicochemical factors), MMPA/ESA issues, gear impacts on EFH, **social and economic issues**, system level OY considerations.....
- Determine how and at what step in the Council decision making process each factor should be incorporated

Atlantic Surfclam Flowchart



ABC/OY Control Rule Framework

- Met with Ecosystem Subcommittee at September 2012 SSC meeting to discuss operational framework for incorporation of ecosystem considerations into MAFMC management – where and how should each consideration be incorporated in the process?
- Determine elements of a source document/scope of background information necessary to inform the ABC/OY decision framework

ESC/SSC Discussion at Sept 28 2012 Meeting

- Developed Ecosystem considerations matrix (see handout); first cut at binning of each consideration
- Council should develop a source document that addresses all ecosystem considerations in a comprehensive yet concise manner
- Recognized that there are a number of issues that are of high priority and can be addressed in the short to medium term; initially focus on those issues in a more comprehensive manner

ESC/SSC Discussion at Sept 28 2012 Meeting

- Defining scope of ecosystem management will be a challenge (Chesapeake Bay experience discussed)
- Starting point is current single species approach; need to transition to ecosystem based one
- Council and SSC will need to engage in risk analysis to help determine order in which ecosystem issues are addressed
- Focus on important areas where immediate or mid-term progress is feasible /achievable

EAFM Next steps

- Working group be formed drawing on expertise from SSC, NEFSC, NERO, Staff, other
- Develop background material necessary to assist Council in formulation of ecosystem policy and management approaches in an operational guide which addresses issues identified in matrix (TOC)
- Council host series of workshops in 2013 which focus on high priority topics/issues

Ecosystem Workshop Issues

- Forage/LTL species consideration and management
- Species interactions (competition/predation) and their effects on sustainable harvest policy and ecosystem structure and dynamics
- Incorporation of social and economic considerations/analyses in OY determination
- Effects of systematic changes in oceanographic conditions on abundance and distribution of fish stocks- ramifications for existing management
- Habitat conservation and management

Ecosystem Workshop

Purpose

- Bring together technical experts, managers and stakeholders to evaluate science and policy aspects of each issue
- Develop recommendations for best practices to be incorporated into Council's EAFM operational guide

EAFM Guidance Document Schedule

- Nov- WG Formed
- Feb- Workshop 1 (Forage and species interactions)
- April – Workshop 2 (Habitat and Climate Drivers)
- June - Workshop 3 (Social and Economic dimensions and risk analysis)

EAFM Guidance Document Schedule

- August – Council reviews Draft EAFM Guidance Document
- September- WG Revises document
- October- Council approves final document
- December - Council initiates any required actions to begin implementation of EAFM policy