

ACL Workshop Wrap-up

General

- Is there low fruit/silver bullet/ something easy to change that will improve ACL production? No.
- Can economists keep up with assessment scientists in terms of nerding out and getting in the weeds? Yes.
- Great to see use of the Species Information System to provide information for presentations here

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General

- Measure of uncertainty and stated precaution level work together to create a buffer. Uncertainty is hard to measure.
- Increased uncertainty will lead to decreased ACLs. With fewer DAS, ACLs likely to come down.
- We need to use best practices to improve ACL production in each Region, while recognizing Regional differences.

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Data Needs

- All regions are in need of more data; how do we prioritize these needs
- It is helpful to see the different types of abundance surveys considered. We can use a wide range of government, chartered and industry-cooperative surveys
- We need more data on important processes, like natural mortality and degree of compensation in spawner-recruitment relationships

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Catch Monitoring

- Improve timeliness – with a big emphasis on electronic data collection
- Improve quality through validation experiments, and better statistical methods for filling in the gaps
- Access through one-stop shops
- Improved forecasting of expected catch

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Data-Limited

- We should identify which stocks have enough data today for a data-limited assessment?
- Which stocks must use catch-only approaches for immediate management recommendations.
- Research on the potential effectiveness of alternative management approaches (such as significant network of MPAs) could open the door to consideration of these approaches in the future.

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Cooperative Research

- Conducted through variety of Coop Res competitive grants and contracts
- Collectively, they represent a diverse and important contribution to research
- Given future Federal budget projections—cooperative research likely to become more important

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Uncertainty

- Technical models have developed the right capabilities
- Need to use them in trade-off analyses; what amount of catch opportunity is foregone in short-term to achieve a degree of overfishing prevention
- Need better communication tools for Councils and general public

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Social-Economic

- There is a need for a risk analysis framework with a socio-economic component
- Tools to accomplish this are beginning to be developed
- Ultimately, this could lead to an estimate of OY based on socio-economic methods
- Even though examination of socio-economic factors will be easiest to start with single-stock models, we need to broaden to a fishery-wide examination of optimum yield

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Ecosystem

- Continue work to bring ecosystem, habitat and environment research directly into ACL context
- Mesh this with IEAs
- Look at habitat usage by each life stage as a way to help focus our studies on critical stages that affect our fishery management advice
- Forage species. Can this be handled by multi-species stock assessments? Or is this an extra ecosystem consideration?

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Review & Tempo

- Need to use best practices approach from Region to Region
- Need to adjust throughput to meet management needs of each Region
- Trade-offs between quality, timeliness, and transparency
- Focus on level 4 assessments may be too ambitious, but some of our assessment methods allow continuum from level 3 to 4

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- So – how do we prioritize within and among topics?
- How do we communicate our successes and things yet to be accomplished?
- How do we manage requirements of revised MSA in the face of declining budgets?