



NOAA
FISHERIES

National Stock Assessment Methods Workshops & Scientific Conferences

Office of Science & Technology
Stock Assessment Science Program Review
September 9-12, 2014 – Silver Spring, MD

Richard D. Methot, Ph.D.
NOAA Senior Scientist for Stock Assessments
National Marine Fisheries Service

Outline

- Objectives
- Workshops organized by NMFS
 - National Stock Assessment Workshops
 - Other methods workshops
- External conferences and workshops
 - Science conferences, methods workshops, fishery management conferences
- Strengths, challenges, solutions

Workshop & Conference Objectives

Focus on a specific assessment topic

- Understand *state-of-the-science*
- Develop general guidance and good practices
- Identify knowledge gaps and research needs

Bring together assessment scientists

- Facilitate communication across regions (and sometimes disciplines)
- Create networking, collaboration, and professional development opportunities

NSAWs – National Stock Assessment Workshops

#	Title	Where	When
11	Characterizing Uncertainty to Improve Acceptable Biological Catches (ABCs) (joint with the National Habitat Assessment Workshop)	SEFSC, St. Petersburg, FL	17-20 May 2010
10	Improving Integrated Surveys and Stock Assessments (joint with the National Economic and Social Science Workshop)	AFSC, Port Townsend, WA	6-8 May 2008
9	Quantifying Scientific Advice for Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management	PIFSC, San Francisco CA	18-20 April 2006
8	Quantifying Scientific Advice for Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management	NEFSC, Newport, RI	2-4 March 2004
7	(Re)building Sustainable Fisheries and Ecosystems	SWFSC, Santa Cruz, CA	11-13 December 2001
6	Incorporating Ecosystem Considerations into Stock Assessments and Management Advice	NWFSC, Seattle WA	28-30 March 2000
5	Precautionary Approach Under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act	SEFSC, Key Largo FL	24-26 February 1998
4	Spatial Patterns	AFSC, Seattle WA	10-12 August 1994
3	Bycatch and Discard Mortality	NEFSC, Woods Hole MA	20-22 July 1993
2	Defining Overfishing -- Defining Stock Rebuilding	SWFSC, La Jolla CA	31 March - 2 April 1992
1	Determination of Allowable Biological Catches	SEFSC, Miami FL	19-22 March 1991

Next NSAW

- Five years is too long; travel costs and caps were impediment
- Planning to start soon for NSAW in 2015
 - Natural follow-up to program review and SAIP
- Issues:
 - Workshop? Business Meeting? Symposium?
 - Internal Only? Invited Guests? Open Session at National Conference?
 - Size?

NMFS Supported Methods Workshops

Assessment Methods Working Group

- Estimating Natural Mortality in Stock Assessment Applications (2009)
- Selectivity Workshop (2013) as a RFP project

Advanced Sampling Technologies Workshops

- Numerous technology workshops in AST presentation

Support External Workshops

- SEDAR methods; ICES Working Groups

Other Methods Workshops

ICES and other RFMO Working Groups

- Vigorous national participation, sometimes as chairs/organizers, and some from S&T

S&T support some participation by regional scientists in regional & international workshops

- SEDAR, a4a, ECOKNOWS, Climate Workshops, etc.
- Limited funding provided. Information sharing facilitated.

Science-Management Interface

- National Science and Statistical Committee (SSC) Workshops; participation and facilitation

Conferences

ICES World Conference on Stock Assessment Methods (Boston, 2013)



- ST supported coordination and staff participation
- Included simulation testing of models (some are used in NMFS assessments)
- Used NOAA Fisheries Toolbox for simulations

S&T participation in scientific and fishery management conferences



- AFS Annual Meeting – vigorous S&T role
- ICES ASC; World Fisheries Congress; Gulf & Caribbean; AK Wakefield Symposium; Western Groundfish Conf.; etc.



Program Strengths

- Methods discussions engage scientists and advance science (workshop advice has improved operations)
- Provide opportunities for networking and professional development
- ST communication and support for NMFS scientists attendance

Program Challenges

- NSAWs: large travel commitment and cost to get 80+ (caps, group travel, international travel)
- Best mix of meeting formats/goals: Workshop? Guidance Development? Internal Symposium? Conference Session?
- Time available for assessment scientists to engage in planning and participation
- Methods WG low activity level
- Getting regional scientists to think nationally

Solutions

- Re-regularize NSAW process
- Develop deliberate portfolio of workshop formats and implement strategically
- Monthly national Assessment Communication Forum to keep up with happenings and opportunities
- Rotational assignments to facilitate individual growth and national perspective

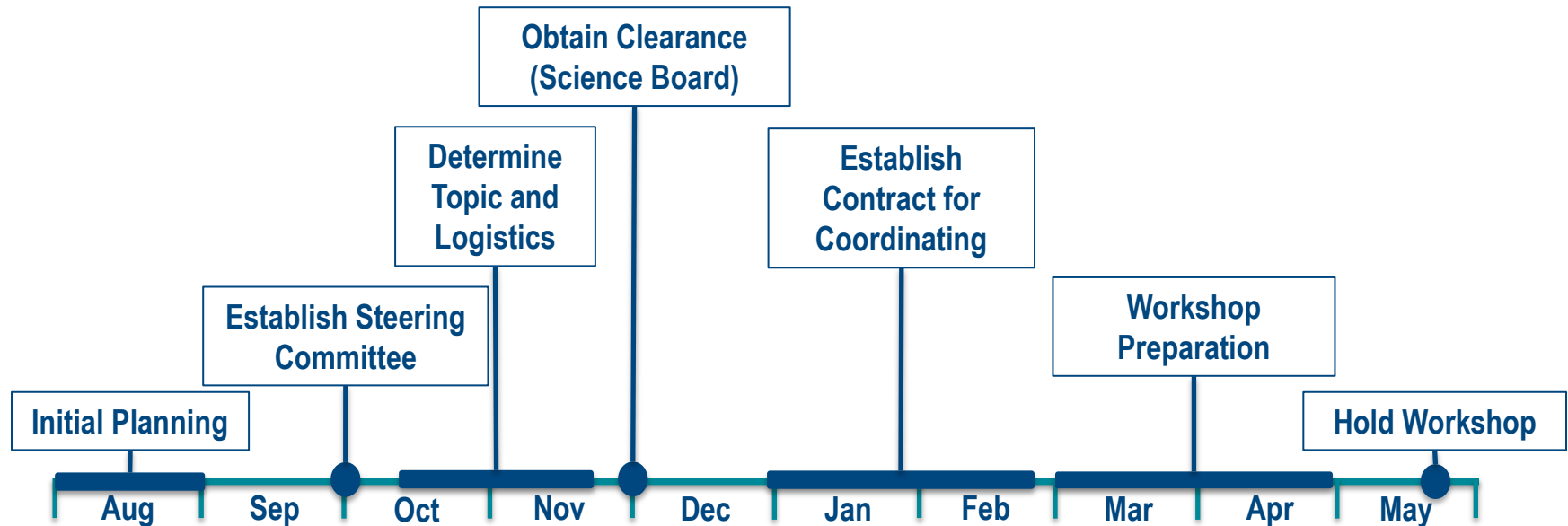


Thank You!



NSAWs – National Stock Assessment Workshops

Process: coordinated by ST



Follow-up

- Prepare proceedings
- Disseminate accordingly (website, working groups, leadership)