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Office of
Sustainable
Fisheries

Annual Catch Limits *and* Accountability Measures

Presentation to the
Regional Fishery Management Council Training
October 2016
Silver Spring, MD



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Objectives

- Incorporate stock assessment information into setting ACLs
- Demonstrate skills in a test fishery



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- Requirements
- Reference Points
- Performance
- Wrap-up and group exercise

Road Map



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Why do we have ACLs?

- National Standard 1
 - Requires that U.S. fisheries management:
 - Prevent overfishing
 - Achieve optimum yield
- 2007 MSA Reauthorization
 - Introduced annual catch limits (ACLs) and accountability measures (AMs)



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Stocks with ACLs

- ACLs for “each of its managed fisheries”
 - FMPs vary in their inclusiveness of stocks
 - Both target and non-target stocks





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Exceptions to ACLs

- Under MSA
 - Species with annual life cycles, unless subject to overfishing
 - Stocks managed under an international agreement to which the U.S. is party



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Flexibility

- Under Guidelines
 - Circumstances don't fit standard approaches
 - Flexibility for alternative approaches
 - Documented rationale



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Accountability Measures (AMs)

- Management Controls
 - Prevent ACLs – including sector ACLS – from being exceeded
 - Correct or mitigate overages of the ACL, if they occur
- Address and minimized both frequency and magnitude of overage
- Correct the problems that caused overage in as short a time as possible



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Accountability Measures (AMs)

- Inseason AMs
 - Used whenever possible
 - Includes inseason monitoring and management measures
 - Correct or mitigate overages, if they occur
- “Post-Season” AM
 - Address operational factors



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Question:

Accountability measures must deduct ACL overages in the following year.

1. True
2. False



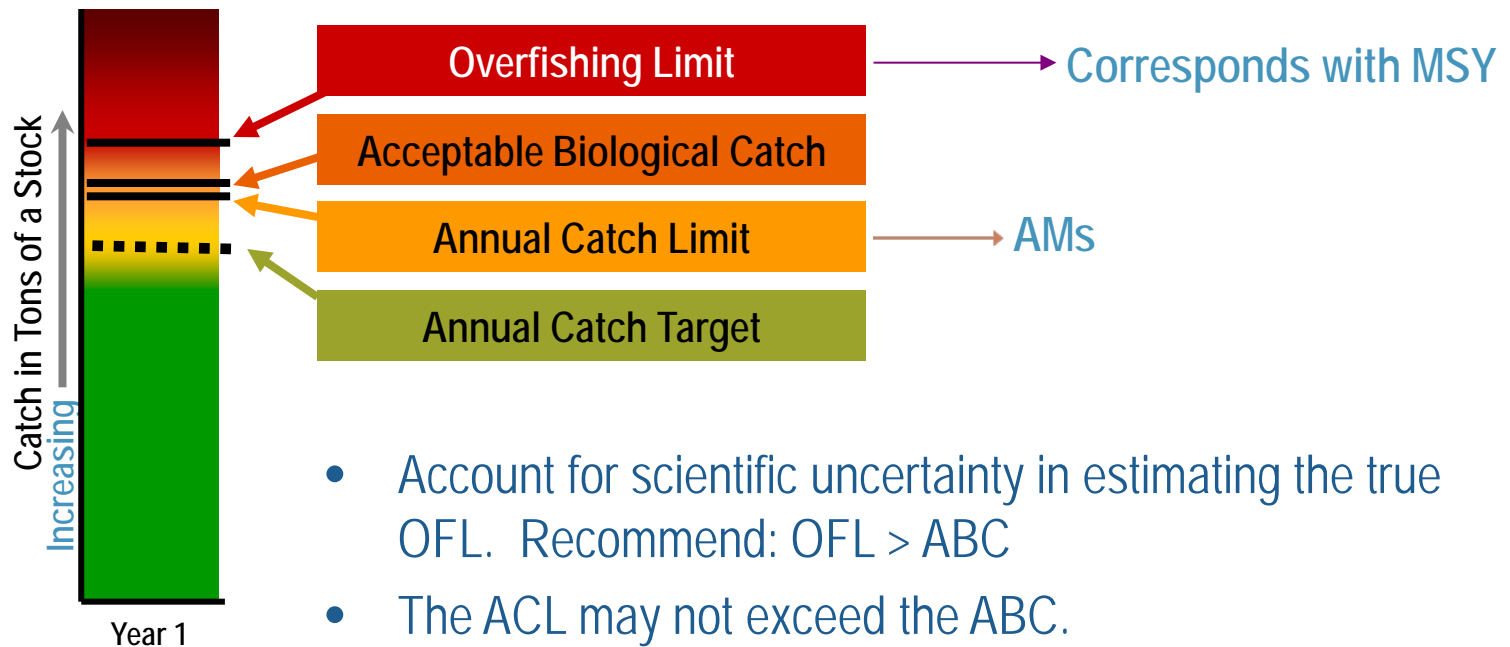
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Know Your Reference Points

$$OFL \geq ABC \geq ACL \geq ACT$$



- Account for scientific uncertainty in estimating the true OFL. Recommend: $OFL > ABC$
- The ACL may not exceed the ABC.
- Account for management uncertainty in controlling the actual catch to the target. For example: $ACL > ACT$



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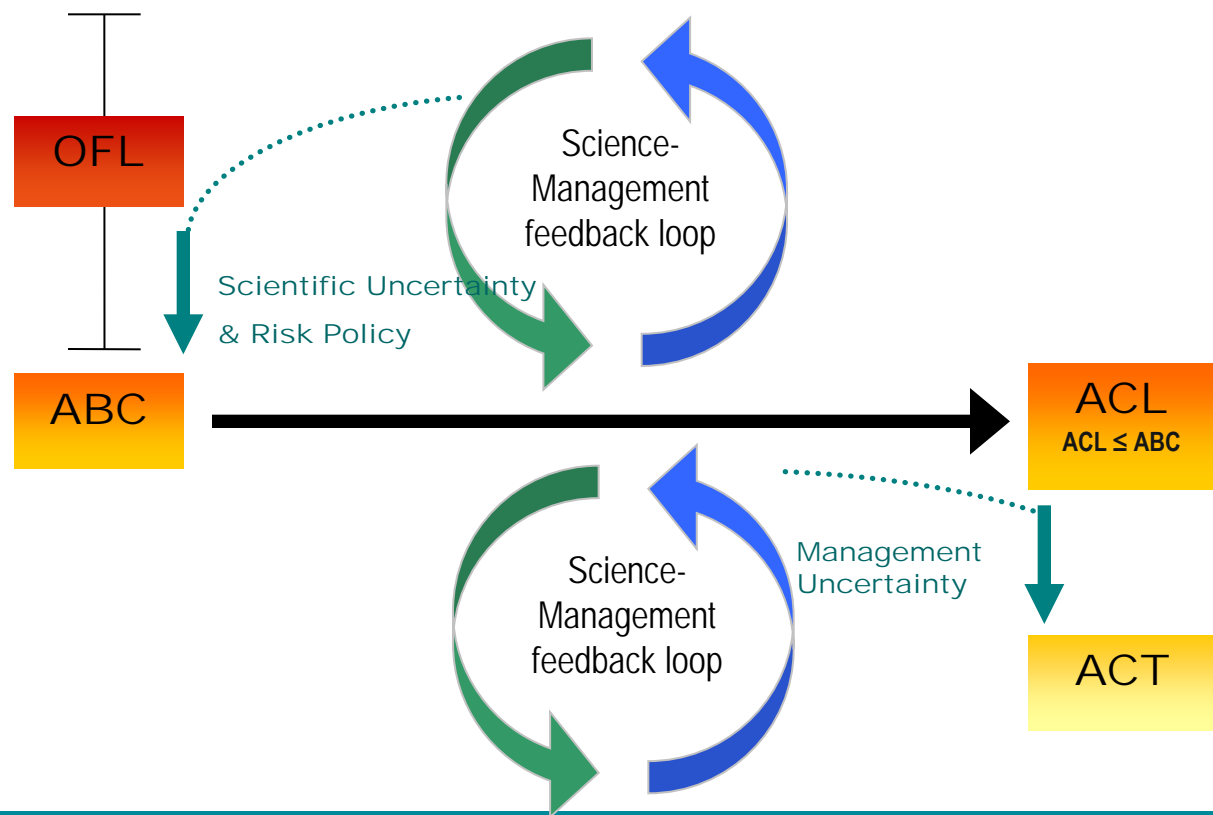


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Roles in Setting ACLs

SSC Role

Council Role



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Assessing the risk of overfishing

- ACL set *"such that overfishing does not occur"*
- Managers establish a policy, in consultation with the SSC, to use in specification of ABC such that there is an acceptably low risk that overfishing will occur
- ABC control rule
 - *Scientific uncertainty & risk policy*



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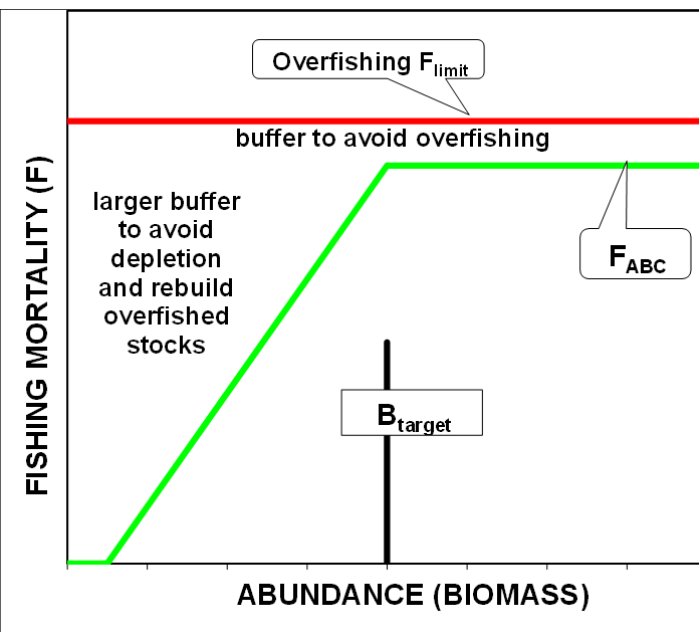


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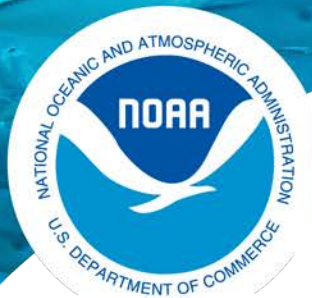
ABC Control Rule

Scientific Uncertainty and Risk Policy

- Captures how catch responds to abundance
 - Constant Fishing Mortality
 - Constant Catch
 - Fishing Mortality – B-based



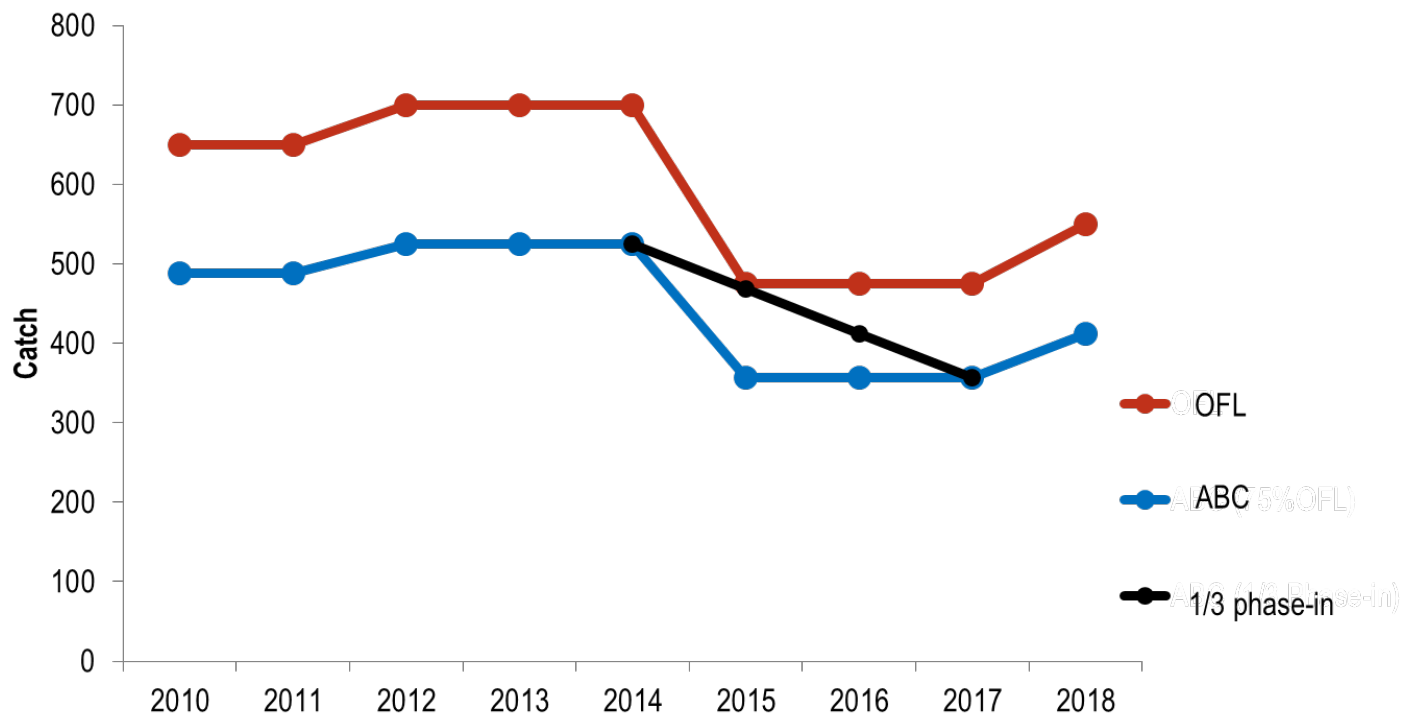
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Phasing in ABC Control Rule

Must prevent overfishing



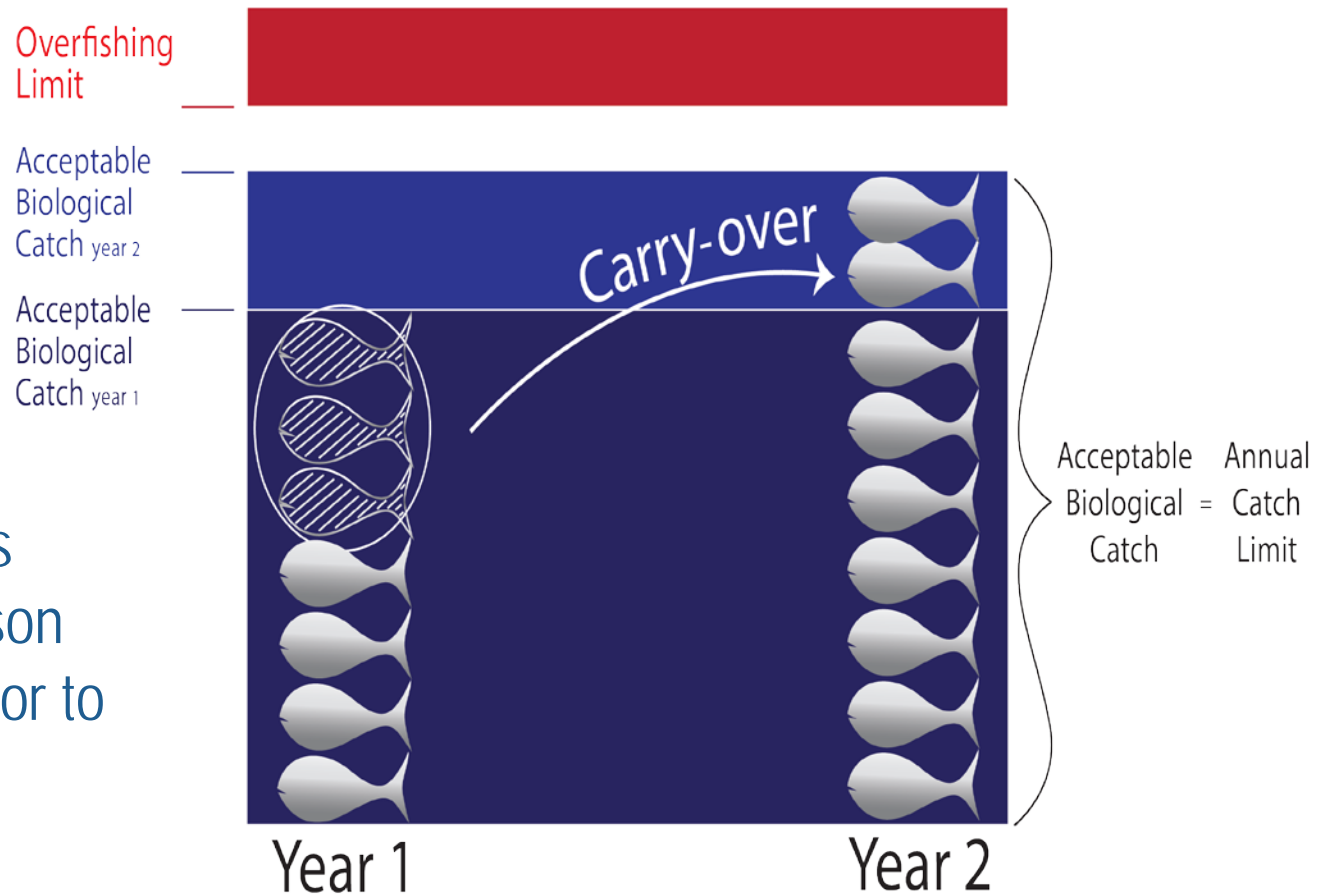
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Consider the stock's
condition & the reason
for the underage prior to
carrying-over

Carry-over of Unused ACL



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Management Uncertainty

- Management precision and setting appropriate catch levels
- Example: ACT control rule
 - *Management uncertainty*

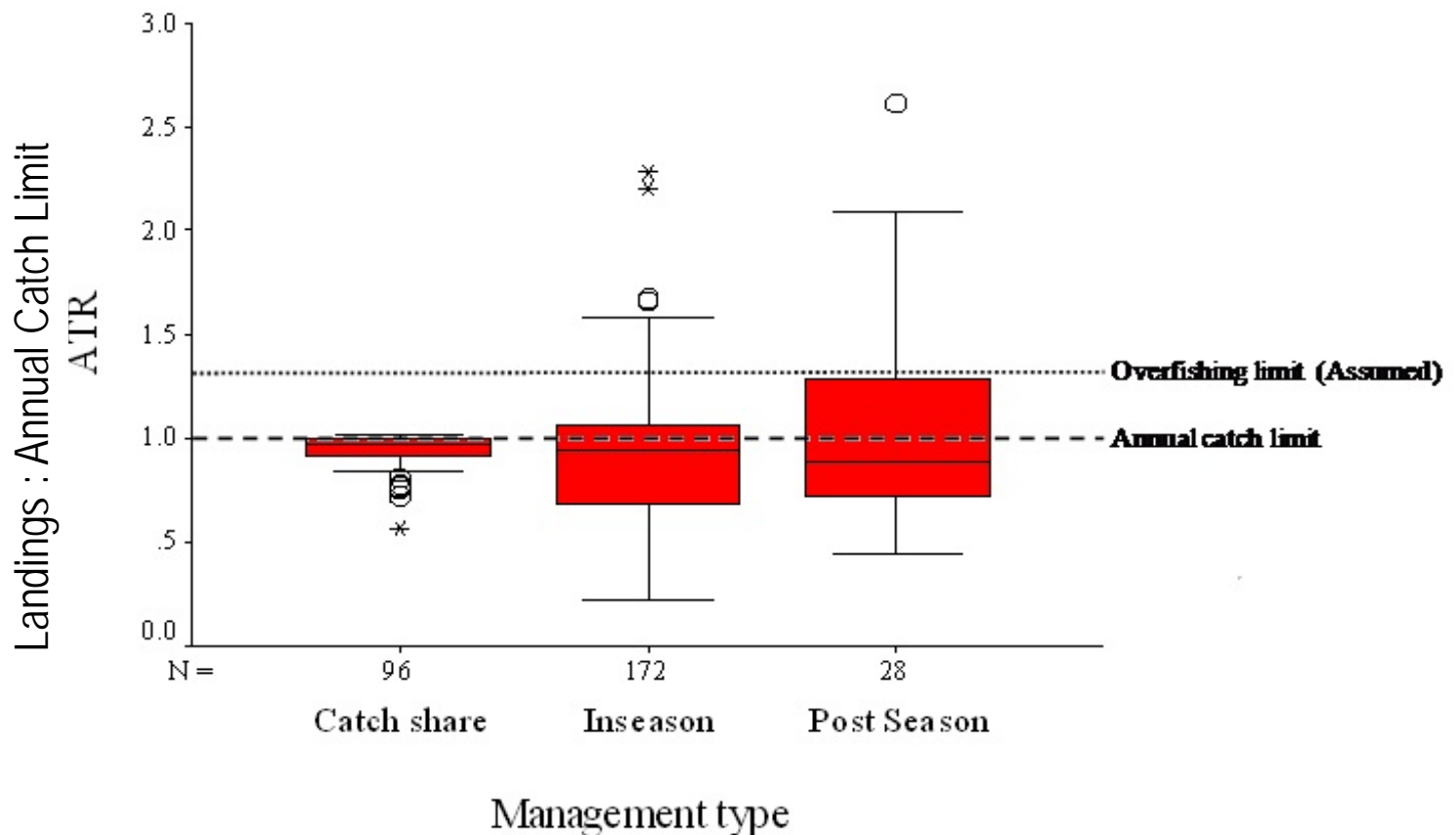


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Management Uncertainty – By Management Type



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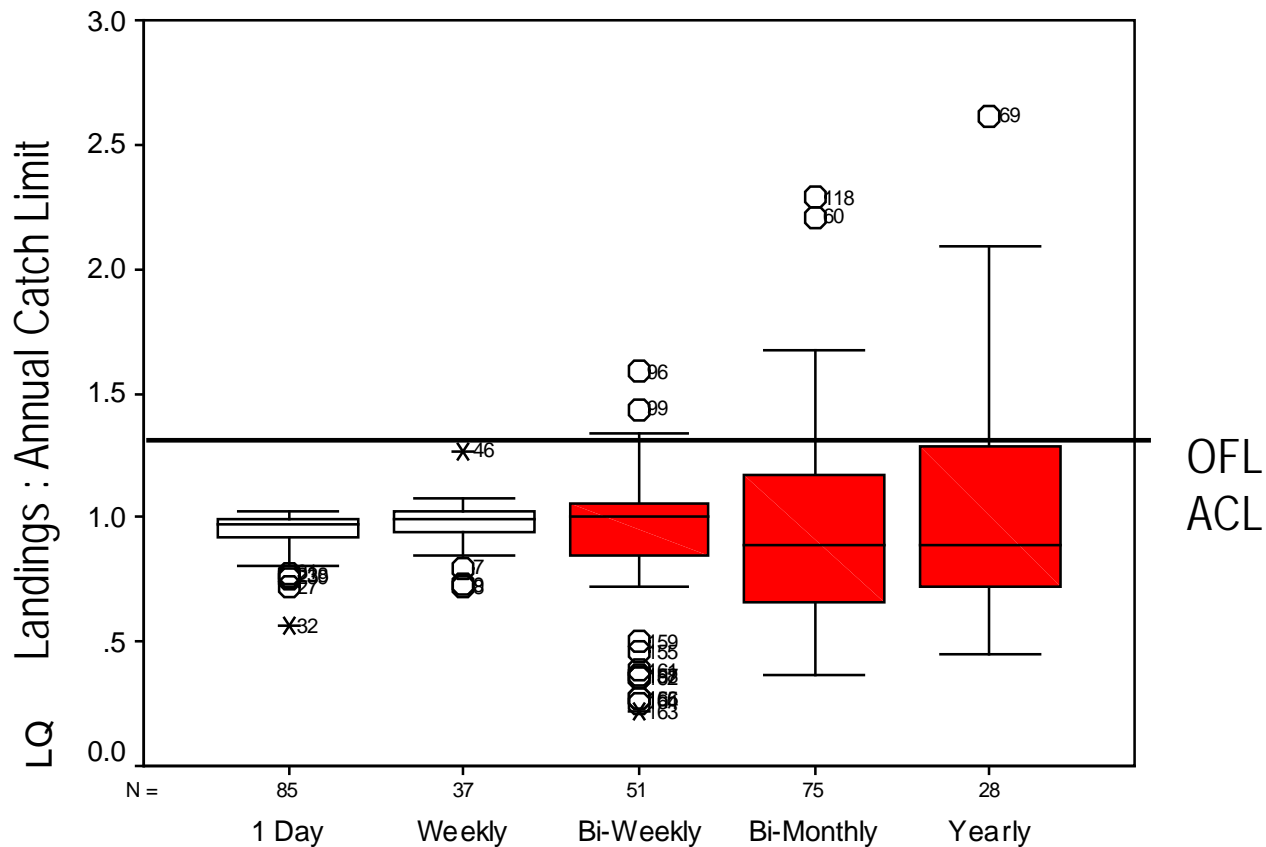


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Management Uncertainty – By Management Type



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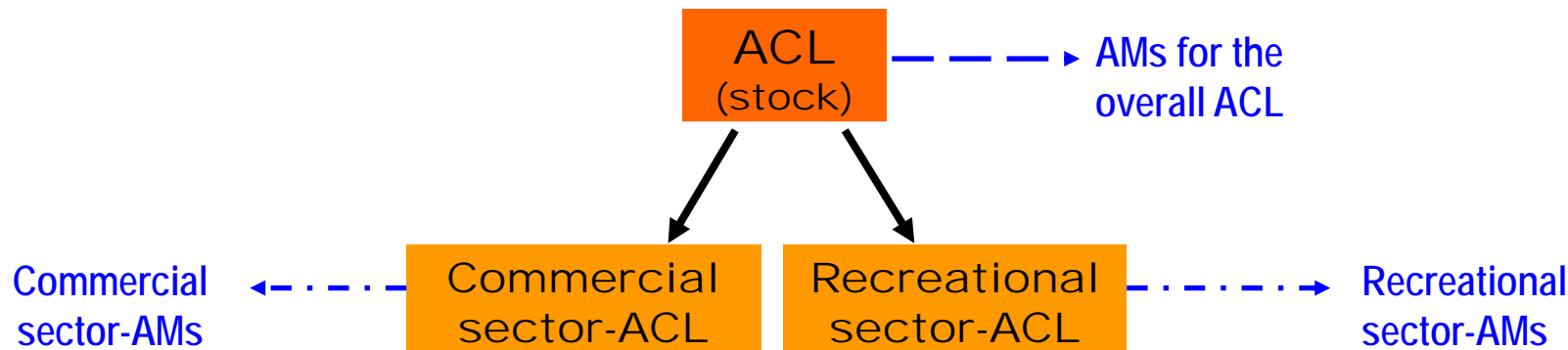
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Allocations - Sectors

- Optional - sub-divide a stock's ACL into "sector-ACLs".
 - Sum must not exceed overall ACL
 - AMs for the overall ACL
 - Sector-AMs for each sector-ACL
 - Fair and equitable.



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Question:
Which of these is NOT a source of management uncertainty?

1. Management program type.
2. Estimated discard mortality.
3. Reporting frequency.



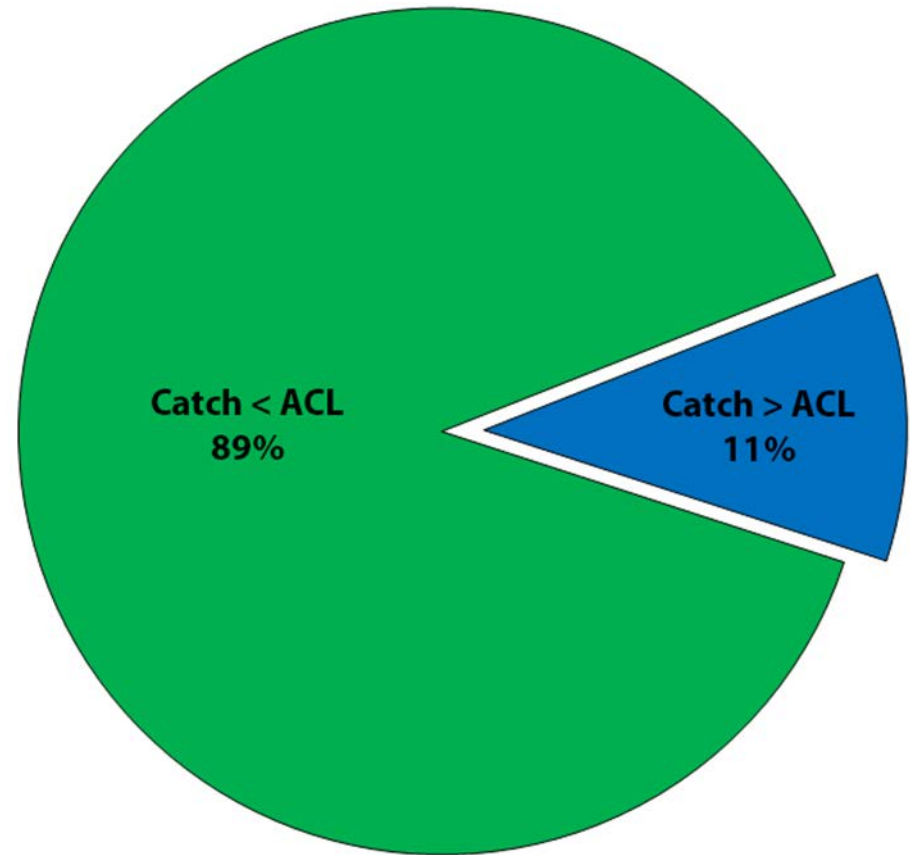
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Tracking ACL Progress

- Reporting to NOAA
(*ongoing*)
 - % of ACLs not exceeded nationally
 - Report quarterly



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Performance Standards

- Because of uncertainty, there is always a chance that overfishing could occur.
- To prevent chronic overfishing:
 - The system of ACLs and AMs should be re-evaluated and modified if the ACL is exceeded *more than 1 in 4 years*.
 - A higher performance standard could be used if a stock is particularly vulnerable to the effects of overfishing.



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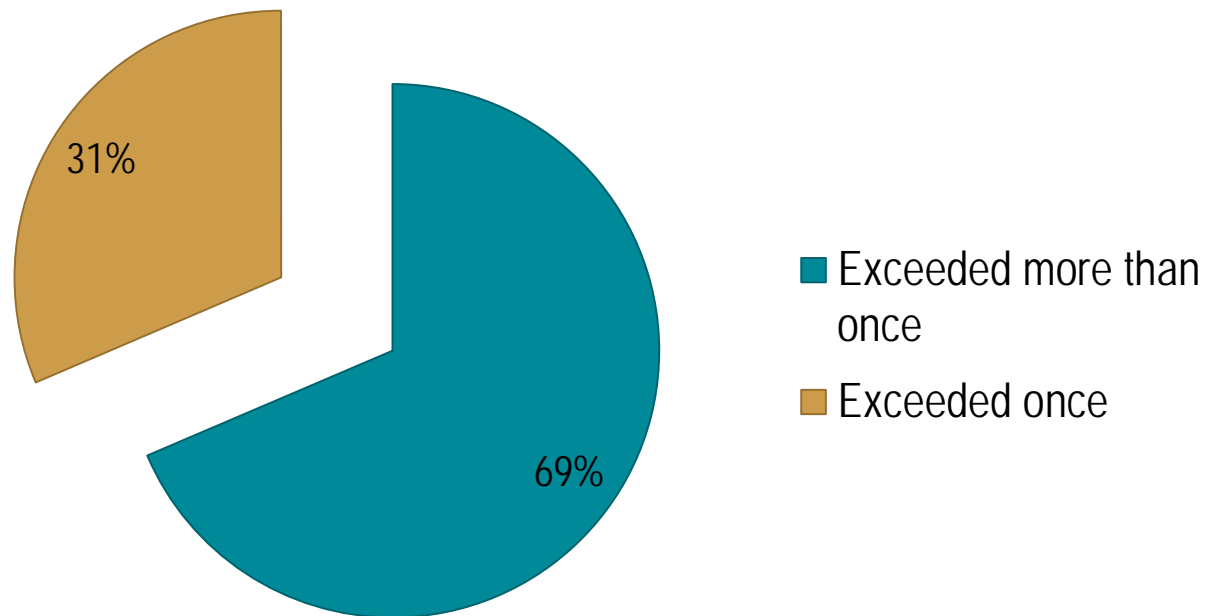


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Performance Standards

Through 2015

N = 35



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Question:
Performance standards are intended to keep overfishing from becoming a chronic condition.

- True
- False



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Summary

MSA requires:

- ACLs and AMs to end or prevent overfishing,
- ACLs may not exceed recommendations of SSC
- ACLs and AMs in all managed fisheries, with 2 exceptions.



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Summary

- ACLs and AMs for all stocks/stock complexes, unless exempted.
- Clearly account for scientific and management uncertainty.
- AMs prevent ACL overages, where possible, and address overages, if they occur.
- ABC Control Rules account for scientific uncertainty and incorporate the Council's risk policy
- Performance standards: address assumptions in ACL setting to prevent chronic overfishing



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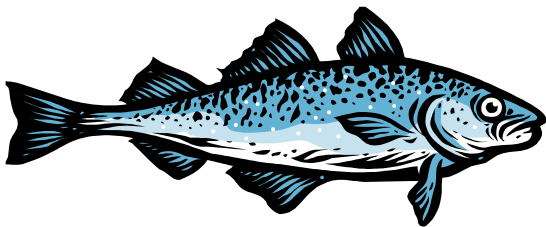


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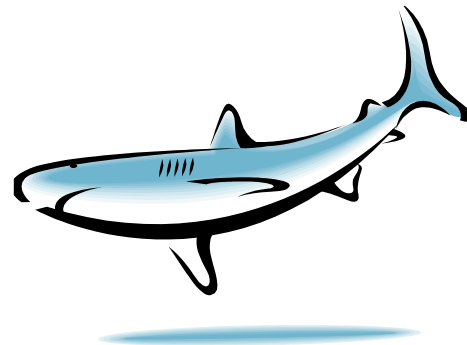
Group Exercise

Given the data – set an ACL

Scenario 1 – Yellow-eye cod
Data Rich



Scenario 2 – Shadow shark
Data Poor



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