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Risk Policy Overview

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What is risk?

A measure of the probability and severity of adverse effects.

(Lowrance, 1976)



HERE LIES A PSEUDO-SCIENTIST

What adverse effects?

- Probability of overfishing
- Probability of a stock being overfished

Control Rules

- NSG 1 Guidance: “A control rule is a *policy* for establishing a limit or target fishing level ...and is established by fishery managers in consultation with fisheries scientists.” (emphasis added)



Example CR Approaches

- P^* : “Risk defined as the probability of overfishing in any year...” (Shertzer et al 2008)
- Tiered approaches: mortality target based on the quality or uncertainty in the stock assessment

Risk Policy Development

- Workshop, 2013:
 - Start simple
 - Adapt risk policy and control rules over time
 - Balance consistency and flexibility
- ABC Control Rule/Risk Policy Work Group
 - Umbrella guidance for specifying ABCs and ACLs for all Council-managed species
 - Address scientific and management uncertainty
 - Risk policy , not just a control rule policy

Policy

Recognizing that all fishery management is based on uncertain information and that all implementation is imperfect, it is the policy of the New England Fishery Management Council (Council) to weigh the risk of overfishing relative to the greatest expected overall net benefits to the Nation.

Strategic Approaches

- The probability of outcomes that have a long-term negative impact on ecosystem function should be low.
- The cumulative effects of addressing risk at all levels of the fishery management process will be taken into account.
- Harvest control rules and management procedures will consider stability in the face of uncertain information and inherent variability in ecosystems.
- Implementation of the policy will be analysis-based.

Next Steps

- Identify work group members
 - Original RPWG mix of Council members, SSC members, staff, GARFO, and NEFSC
- Develop tasking for WG

Questions?