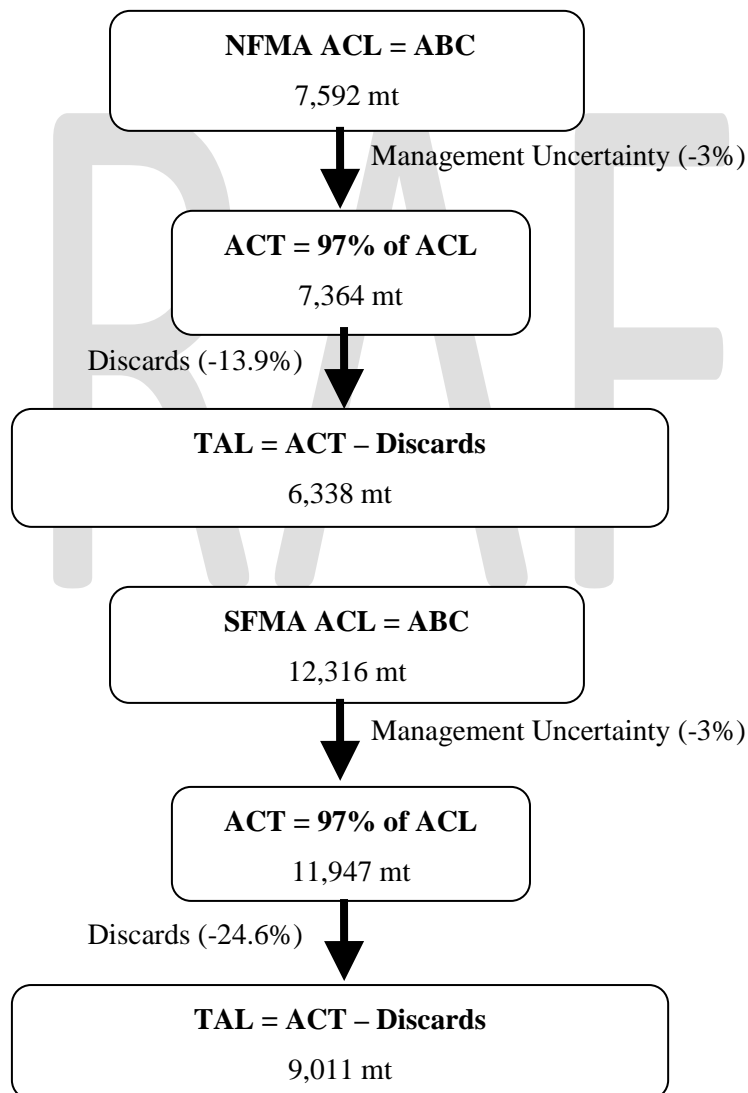


## 1.0 ALTERNATIVES UNDER CONSIDERATION

### 1.1 ACTION 1 - SPECIFICATIONS

#### 1.1.1 Alternative 1 - No Action

Under Alternative 1 (No Action), this option would maintain the specifications (ABC, ACT, and TAL) for both the NFMA and SFMA as set in Framework 10 (NEFMC, 2017). This option would not take into account the updated discard rate information from the 2019 operational assessment. The OFL would be maintained as 17,805 mt and 23,204 mt for the NFMA and SFMA, respectively, and the ABC, ACT and TAL calculated as in FW12:

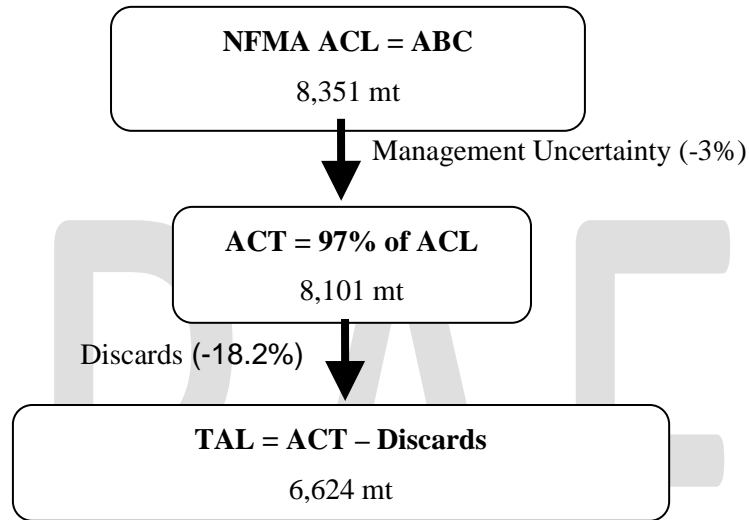


**Rationale:** The 2019 operational assessment provided a plan for setting catch advice. The status quo TAL would continue to use the 2007 Data Poor Working Group Assessment discard estimates that do not

include updates in data and estimation methodology. The discard rate is calculated as the ratio of discards to catch, and under status quo, the years used to calculate the discard rate would be 2004-2006.

### 1.1.2 Alternative 2 - Revised Specifications and Updated Discard Rate for the Northern Fishery Management Area

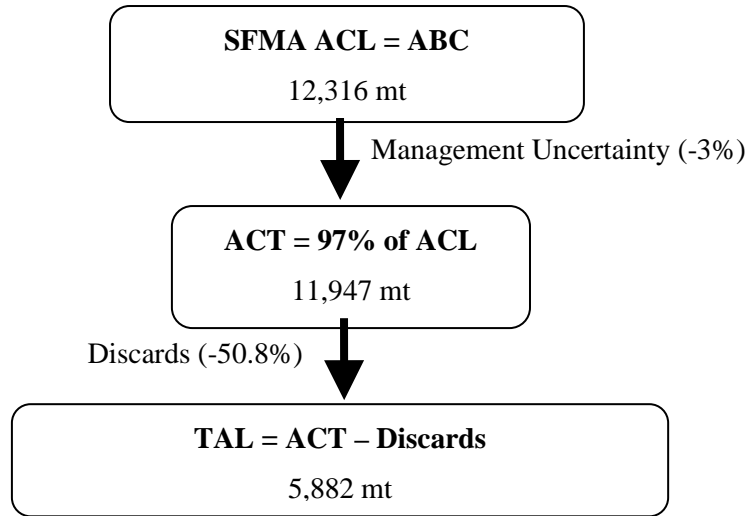
Under Alternative 2, this option would incorporate the results of the 2019 operational assessment. This would increase the ABC by 10% and incorporate the updated discard rate based on the 2019 operational assessment.



**Rationale:** The discard rate is calculated from the ratio between the same 3 years of discards and catch. Under Alternative 2, the years used to calculate the discard rate were 2016-2018.

### 1.1.3 Alternative 3 - Revised Specifications and Updated Discard Rate for the Southern Fishery Management Area

Under Alternative 3, this option would maintain the specifications (ACL and ACT) for the SFMA as set in Framework 8 (NEFMC, 2014) but would update the discard rate based on the 2019 operational assessment.



**Rationale:** The discard rate is calculated from the ratio between the same 3 years of discards and catch. Under Alternative 2, the years used to calculate the discard rate were 2016-2018.

DRAFT