

Risk Policy Concept – Factor and Use Matrix for Input and Recommendations (March 2026)

Factor	Goal of Factor <i>Intent of the Factor –</i>	Current Focus for Scoring <i>Data/Focus of initial factor</i>	Topics for Discussion: <i>Input and Guidance from Working Group</i>
Biomass/Stock Status	Risk: Productivity As SSB/SSBMSY increases, risk tolerance increases. Risk Tolerance: ↑ ↓	Considers SSB relative to SSB targets, and direction of stock trends (5-years) when stock status is unknown.	Data updates: New product. Can be applied within scoring guidance, or within ABC CRs. Consider trade-offs. May be an opportunity to incorporate recent data in scoring. Statistical approaches for determining trends.
Recruitment	Risk: Future Productivity As recruitment increases, risk tolerance increases. Risk Tolerance: ↑ ↓	Considers recruitment over the last five years.	New quantile approach instructions developed. Utility of Data Updates unclear for this factor, exploring using age-length keys and surveys if data not available.
Climate Vulnerability	Risk: Associated with climate change As climate vulnerability increases, risk tolerance decreases. Risk Tolerance: ↓	Considers climate vulnerability of the stock/species and expected directional effect of climate change from Hare et al (2016).	Stock Level Scoring: Scoring done at stock level. Hare et al guidance applies at the species level. Consider ways/data for PDT to score at stock level. NEFMC asking CVA 2.0 scoring at stock level.
Recreational Fishery Characterization	Risk: Socioeconomic health of the recreational fishery. As socioeconomic stress increases, risk tolerance increases Risk Tolerance: ↑	Considers recreational fleet diversity from SOE report, trends in target and secondary target species of the last 5 years, level of percent standard error (PSE) in total catch estimates, and changes in recreational regulations.	Five Questions: Proposed changes to the questions and data streams after further review. 1. Rec Fleet diversity – input to focus on utilization, similar to commercial question #1. 2. Angler trip – 3. PSE Value – Consider alternatives. 4. Consistency in rec regulations. 5. AP input – Add a question about current fishing year.
Commercial Fishery Characterization	Risk: Socioeconomic health of the commercial fishery. As socioeconomic stress increases, risk tolerance increases Risk Tolerance: ↑	Considers concentration of revenue across ports, market value, possible warning signs, fishery specific questions and ‘choke’ stock concept.	Five Questions: Proposed changes to the questions and data streams after further review. 1. Quota Usage – Focus on commercial landings. 2. Fishing Community – Primary and secondary ports are not consistently defined. Propose regional, global approach. 3. Value – Consider baseline, trend calculation. 4. Constraints – Expand scope to management measures and specification. 5. AP-Input

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Risk Policy Application by SSC – DRAFT - IDEAS FOR DISCUSSION		
The way the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) interacts with the Risk Policy (and Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) Control Rules) is still being developed, and several key decisions remain open. The RPWG will be seeking input from its SSC members on how the SSC could interact with the Risk Policy when it is being applied quantitatively. Ideas will be brought to the full SSC on March 30, 2026. The following straw person is intended to support a discussion at the RPWG on March 9, 2026. Each row represents a potential way for the SSC to interact with the Risk Policy when it is being used in a quantitative way to develop catch advice. How the Risk Policy interacts with ABC CR is a key question that is still being addressed.		
SSC Interaction with Risk Policy – CONCEPTS ONLY	Description	Discussion
Strict Application	Z-Scores (scores and weights) are used with ABC CRs to develop catch advice. SSC confirms Risk Policy process was followed and ABC CR applied correctly.	In this scenario, the SSC has a limited role in the application of the Risk Policy. To account for this, can consider including flexibility in ABC CR for setting catch advice versus building in ways to modify Risk Policy outputs (Z-score and corresponding values on Y axis).
Adjustments to Scores	SSC would have ability to adjust factor specific scores (e.g. +/-1 for Climate Vulnerability of Southern Red Hake), which would be carried through to produce alternate to ABC recommendation when Risk Policy used with ABC CR.	In practice, use of an adjustment would be a disagreement with PDT interpretation of data for the factor.
Adjustments to Probability of Success (Y-axis), unconstrained	This is the output when a Z-score is plotted on the risk curve. The value ranges from 50-100, and in a quantitative approach is used in conjunction with an ABC CR to develop catch advice. The SSC would consider the probability of success output, and could modify it (up/down). Depending on how the Risk Policy works with an ABC CR, this may be a way to adjust ABC outputs from the Risk Policy and ABC CR.	Focuses on changing the probability of success after the Z-score is applied. More flexibility than adjusting factor level scores.
Adjustments to Probability of Success with “Risk Zones”	Similar to the previous straw person, though in this scenario “Risk Zones” for High, transition, Low Risk Tolerance could be used to constrain how much adjustment could be made.	Option to allow but constrain flexibility. Movement would be confined to the “zone” that the initial Z-score lands in along the Risk Policy curve.
Advisory ABC	Under this approach, the ABC developed using the Risk Policy (as applied with ABC Control Rules) would provide the starting point for SSC advice.	Most flexible of straw person concepts, can lack predictability and repeatability, can weaken the role of the Risk Policy and ABC CRs.