



## New England Fishery Management Council

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Eric Reid, *Chair* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

**To:** Tom Nies, Executive Director  
**From:** Scientific and Statistical Committee  
**Date:** ???

**Subject:** Terms of Reference for ??? ABC recommendations for fishing years ???.

The SSC met on ??? in person (or via webinar) to address the following term of reference (TOR):

1. Review the information provided by the ??? Plan Development Team (PDT) and considering the Council's Risk Policy Statement, recommend an acceptable biological catch (ABC) for ??? for fishing years ??? consistent with the ABC control rule for ???.
2. List all TORs

To address these TORs, the SSC considered the following information:

1. List materials provided at the meeting

### **SSC members in attendance**

List who was there and who was not there.

### ***TOR 1: (repeat TOR in Italics)***

The SSC reviewed the PDT memo as well as the assessment update.... [include text about the control rule used and why]

### **The SSC concludes that OFL for ???**

The **SSC recommends an ABC of ??? for FY ???**. This is consistent with the PDT recommendation ...

### ***Rationale including significant sources of uncertainty***

Include relevant discussion from the meeting  
Identify significant sources of uncertainty  
Reference assessment, PDT work, Risk Policy, etc.

### ***Additional comments***

Include input not directly related to ABC but important to track (research recommendations, public comments, management performance, etc.

***TOR 2: (repeat TOR in Italics)***

The SSC reviewed ...

The **SSC recommends**??? . This is consistent with ???, based on ???.

***Rationale including significant sources of uncertainty***

Include relevant discussion from the meeting

Identify significant sources of uncertainty

Reference relevant information that supports this recommendation

***Additional comments***

Include input not directly related to TOR but important to track (research recommendations, public comments, management performance, etc.

**ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS (If applicable)**

The SSC had ??? other agenda items that they discussed during the meeting. These items did not have specific TORs associated with them.

[include reference to other agenda items to preserve record of that taking place at this meeting – usually items under Other Business or other SSC business]

**SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1. The SSC recommends that OFL for ??? is ???**
- 2. The SSC recommends that the ABC for fishing years ??? be ???.**

Consider inserting a table if there are multiple values to recommend (OFL and ABC values)

- 3. The SSC requests ... [if anything came up] Any specific research recommendations?**
- 4. The SSC continues to encourage ... [if applicable]**

## **Elements that need to be in every final SSC Report**

- The SSC report should clarify if their recommendations is based on outcomes of an assessment and/or PDT work. If it is not, that should be expressed and an explanation of why not should be included.
- Best scientific information available (BSAI) is ultimately made by the Secretary of Commerce. If the SSC uses that language the report needs to be clear it is their opinion only since that determination is ultimately made by the Secretary of Commerce.
- If OFL is unknown, the SSC may need to explain why it thinks an ABC will prevent overfishing.
- Clear recommendation on OFL and ABC, including an explanation of how the ABC control rule was applied. If the SSC deviates from the ABC control rule, it needs to explain why.
- A statement on whether the ABC will prevent overfishing is needed.
- Identification of uncertainties that influenced the SSC decision.

## **Elements that need to be some reports, depending on the situation**

- Whether the ABC will contribute to rebuilding if the stock is overfished. This could have several forms and the SSC should be clear which is meant. This is prompted by some previous SSC reports that said “the stock will not rebuild at  $F=0$ ”, when what the SSC meant is it will not achieve its rebuilding target by the end of the rebuilding period at  $F=0$ .
- It will contribute to rebuilding on time under the current rebuilding plan.
- It will contribute to rebuilding but rebuilding is not expected to be accomplished on time.
- It is not expected to increase stock size during the period of the recommended ABCs, i.e. usually next three years.
- A summary of any significant differences of opinion expressed by SSC members during the meeting and how they were resolved. This is not meant to include every different viewpoint that might be casually mentioned, but ones that led to detailed discussions. Recent examples include the long debates over what part of the groundfish control rule to use for GOM cod.
- SSC recommendations for future assessments/ABCs etc. This could include research suggestions, but may also include guidance on information it wants to see next time, etc.
- And of course, the SSC may want to add general comments they think are relevant for assessing and setting ABCs for the stock in the future.