

# Skate Framework Adjustment 6

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# Committee tasking

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- ▶ Analyze modifying the uncertainty buffer
- ▶ Analyze potential for intermediate possession limits
  
- ▶ Pending
  - ▶ Prepare an amendment to consider limited access in the skate fishery



# Uncertainty Buffer

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- ▶ Covers both management and scientific uncertainty
- ▶ Analyzed 10 – 20%
  - ▶ 4 alternatives
    - ▶ Option 1: No Action
    - ▶ Option 2: 20% buffer
    - ▶ Option 3: 15% buffer
    - ▶ Option 4: 10% buffer



Issue	Starting point (2003 – 2009)	Improvements	Impacts on Uncertainty
-Fishery dependent data	-Landings reported largely as unclassified	-Unclassified reporting reduced in VTR codes; Outreach to aid in identifying skate species	Positive impact
-Observer data	-Somewhat unreliable in terms of ID -Variance/coverage	-Improved identification data  -Improved since 2008	-Positive impact
Discard estimation - Overall observed discards overlaid with survey - Discard mortality rate estimates	-Observed total discards are speciated with survey data  -Assumed 50% across gear types	-No change  -Improvements for some species and gear types: Trawl: little, smooth, thorny, winter Dredge: little, winter Gillnet: winter	-No change but contributes to uncertainty  -Improvement in species specific info with positive impact
Stock assessment	Data-poor  Relationship between catch and survey biomass	Data-poor	- No improvements in available models/methodology but recent issues with survey vessel reliability, and therefore coverage (& different vessel Pisces), may introduce uncertainty



<b>Catch accounting</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>FW2 – Fishing vessels and dealers no longer allowed to report “unclassified” skates. The number of “Unclassified skates” have been reduced in VTR data, but still exist.</b></li> <li>- <b>Annual monitoring reports</b></li> </ul>	<b>Neutral</b>
<b>Management controls</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- FW4 allows in season closure of bait fishery once TAL reached</li> <li>- 500 lb incidental limit in wing fishery once trigger has been reached</li> <li>- Open permit fishery can contribute to unexpected increases in effort</li> <li>- Seasonal management for wing fishery introduced by FW3</li> <li>- Fishery specific trigger points for implementing adjustments to possession limits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Most points positive for uncertainty</li> <li>- Open permit fishery makes it uncertain how much effort will be experienced in any one year adding uncertainty</li> </ul>
<b>OFL</b>	None	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Scientific uncertainty</li> <li>- Should be accounted for in buffer since no buffer between ABC and OFL exists</li> </ul>

# Impacts

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- ▶ **Biological**
  - ▶ Reducing the buffer could result in low negative impacts
- ▶ **Protected Resources**
  - ▶ Could result in low negative to negative impacts
- ▶ **Essential Fish Habitat**
  - ▶ Low negative impacts



## Impacts – more info in other presentation

Buffer between ACL and ACT	Percent TAL achieved	Lb landed	Season 1 (May 1 – August 31) incidental limit implemented	Season 2 (September 1 – April 30) incidental limit implemented
25% buffer	91.7	7,787,658	17-Aug	2-Feb
20% buffer	90.1	8,166,524	27-Aug	23-Feb
10% buffer	86	8,764,425	NA	21-Apr



# Intermediate Possession Limit

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- ▶ **Separate presentation**
  - ▶ Looked at cutting seasonal possession limits in half
  - ▶ Feedback from enforcement was not in favor of potential for 6 possession limits in any one year
  - ▶ PDT would need more time to analyze this if this is moved forward

