

Skate Specifications FY2018-2019

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Skate PDT Chair**

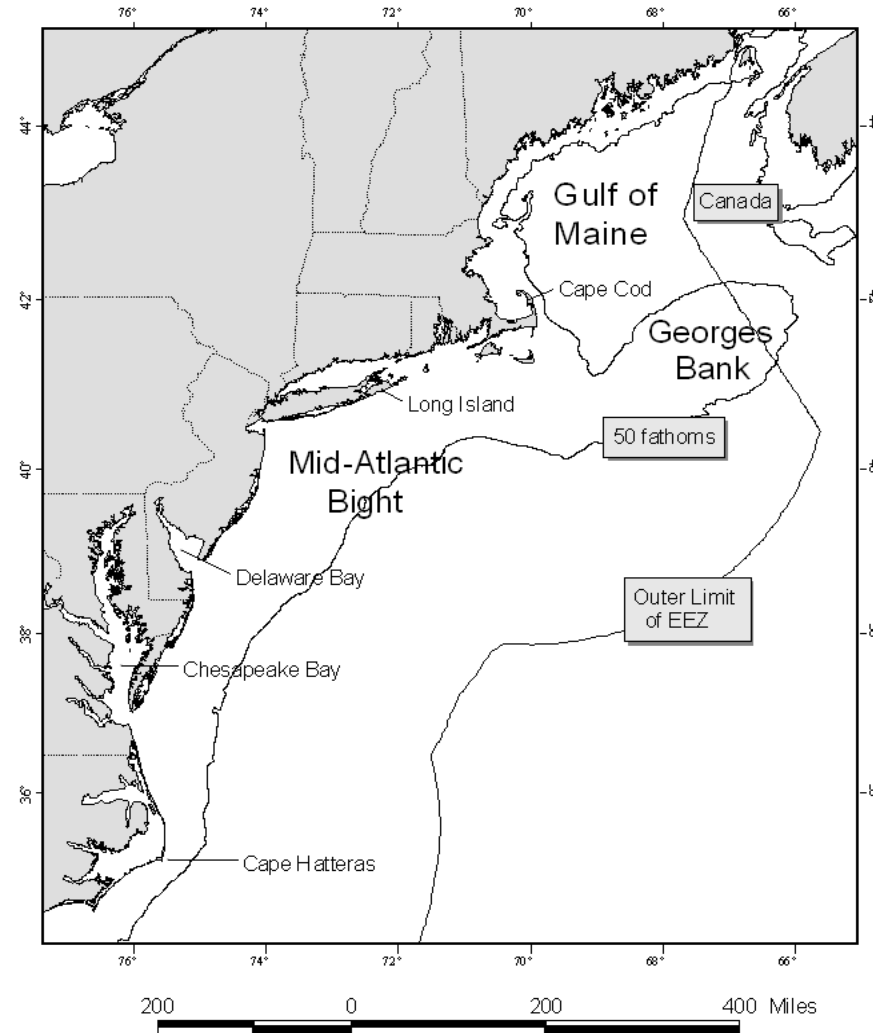
**SSC Meeting
August 8, 2017**



New England
Fishery Management Council

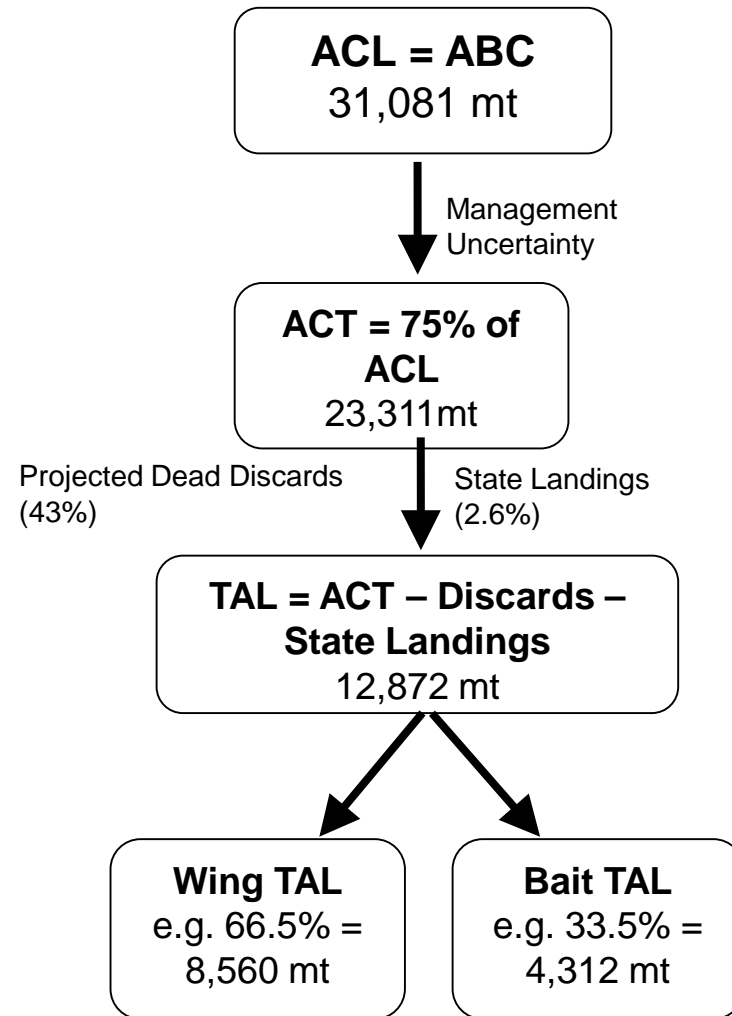
Northeast Skate Complex

- ▶ **Seven Species**
 - ▶ Barndoor
 - ▶ Clearnose
 - ▶ Little
 - ▶ Rosette
 - ▶ Smooth
 - ▶ Thorny
 - ▶ Winter
- ▶ Distributions range from Gulf of Maine to Florida



Specifications – Key components

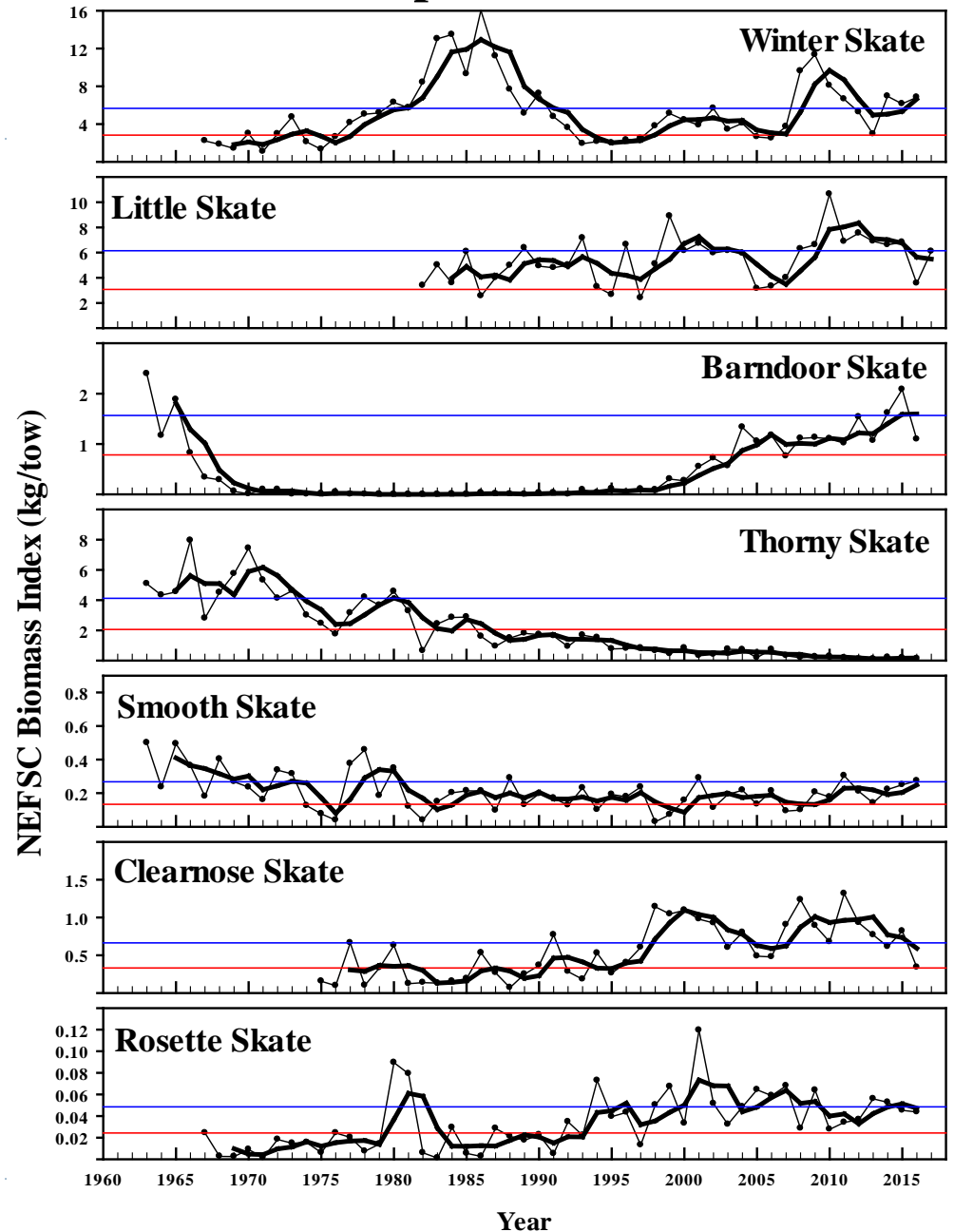
- ▶ Survey indices
- ▶ Discards
- ▶ Catch/biomass medians



Survey Indices

- ▶ Updated Survey Indices
 - ▶ Increased indices for 2 of 7 species on 2015/16
 - ▶ Overfishing not occurring
 - ▶ Overfished: thorny
- ▶ Discard mortality rate estimate
 - ▶ Sulikowski et al. under review

Skate Complex Biomass Indices



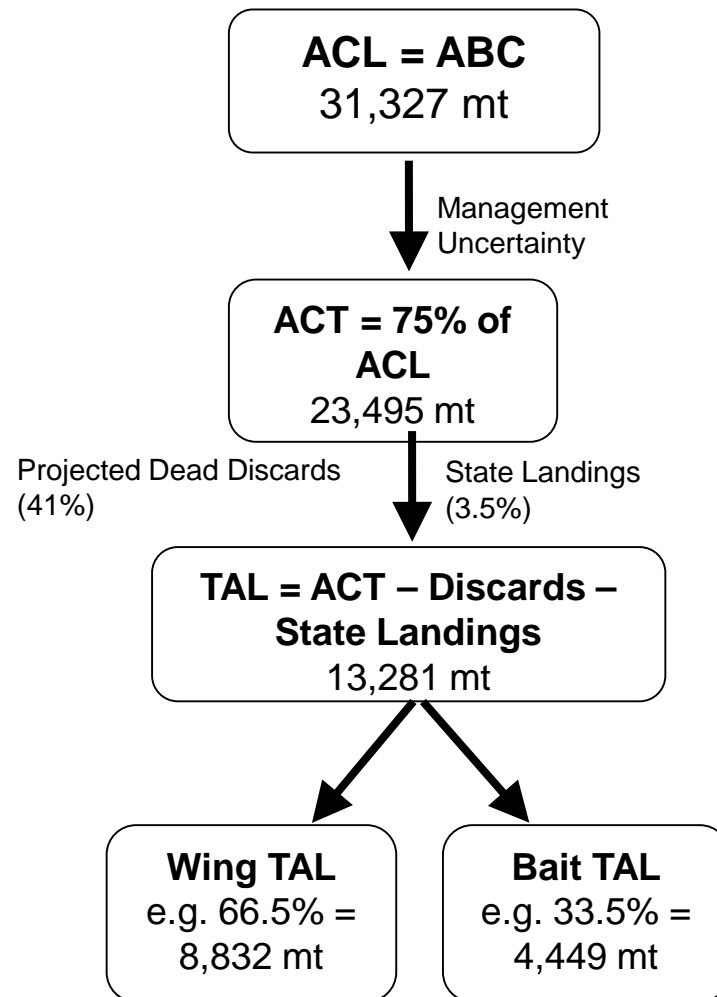
Sink Gillnet Discard Study

- ▶ Tows
 - ▶ 28 trips
 - ▶ Soak time duration: 2-5 days up to 14 days
- ▶ 72 – 285 hour holding period
- ▶ Discard mortality
 - ▶ Sex specific final estimates
 - ▶ Female = 11%
 - ▶ Male = 17%
 - ▶ Average = 14%



Amendment 3: Control Rule

- ▶ Uses the median catch/biomass ratio as an estimate of exploitation rate applied to the three-year moving average of fall survey stratified mean kg/tow (spring survey for little skate).



Comparison of specifications

	PDT recommendation including sink gillnet discard estimate	Status Quo discard mortality rate estimates	FY 2015-17 specifications
ABC	31,327	31,913	31,081 mt
ACT	23,495	23,935	23,311 mt
TAL	13,762	13,914	12,926 mt
Federal TAL	13,281	13,427	12,872 mt
Wing TAL	8,832	8,929	8,560 mt
Bait TAL	4,449	4,498	4,312 mt



Catch

	2014		2015	
Management Specification	Specification Amount	Catch/Landings (mt)	Specification Amount	Catch/Landings
ABC/ACL	35,479	28,032	35,479	28,111
ACT	26,609	28,032	26,609	28,111
Assumed Discards + State Landings	16,385	11,781	16,385	11,781
TAL (Bait + Wing)	23,365	15,104	23,365	14,452
TAL Bait	5,489	4,499	5,489	5,541
TAL Wings	10,896	10,605	10,896	8,911



Timeline

- ▶ August 2017 – SSC approval of ABC
- ▶ August – Sept 2017 - PDT/Committee develop measures
- ▶ Sept 2017/Dec 2017 – final vote by Council
- ▶ May 2018 - Implementation



Questions? Suggestions?

