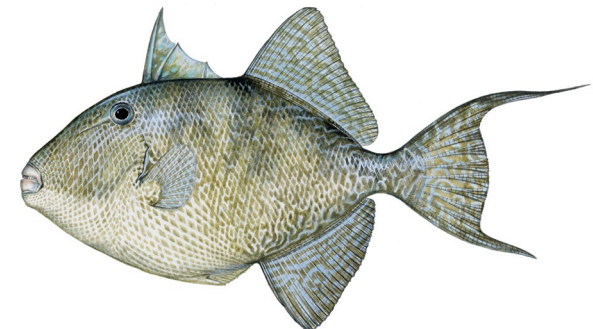
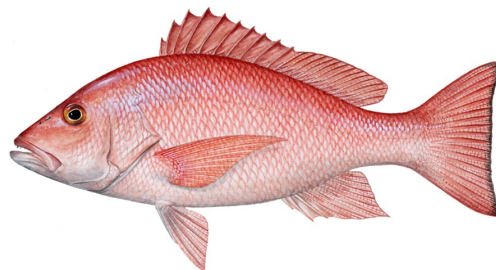
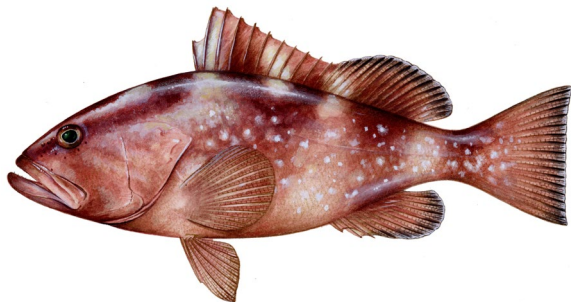




Tab E, No. 7

Mechanisms and Options for Automating Catch Advice from Interim Analyses



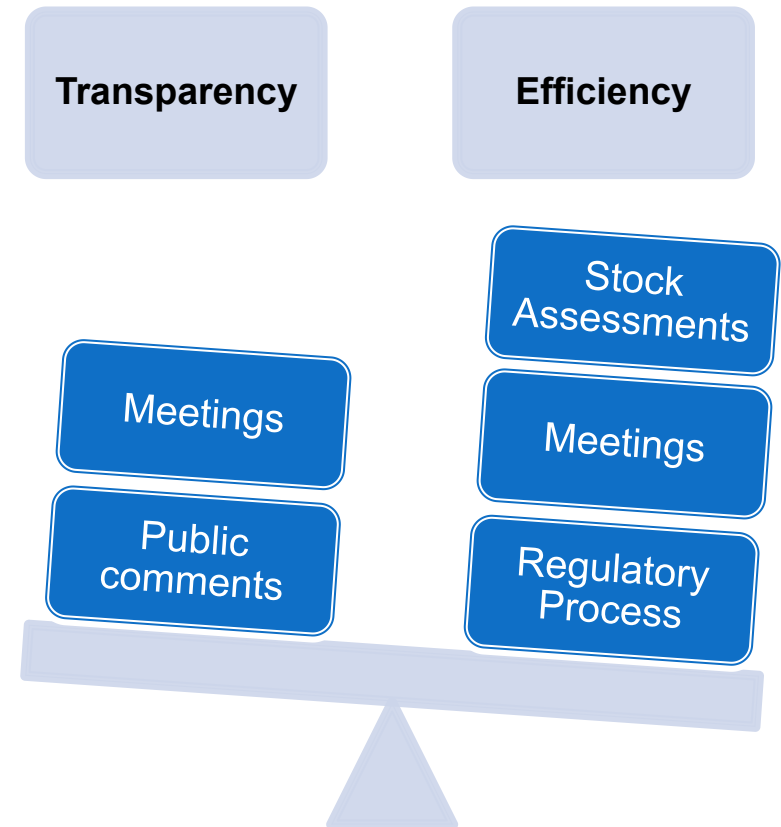
Outline

- Background – Management Considerations
 - Current and Ongoing Requests for Interim Analysis
 - Example of the Current Process
- What are Regional Management Councils doing?
- Mechanisms for Automating Catch Advice Proposed
- Potential Regulatory Impacts
- Next Steps



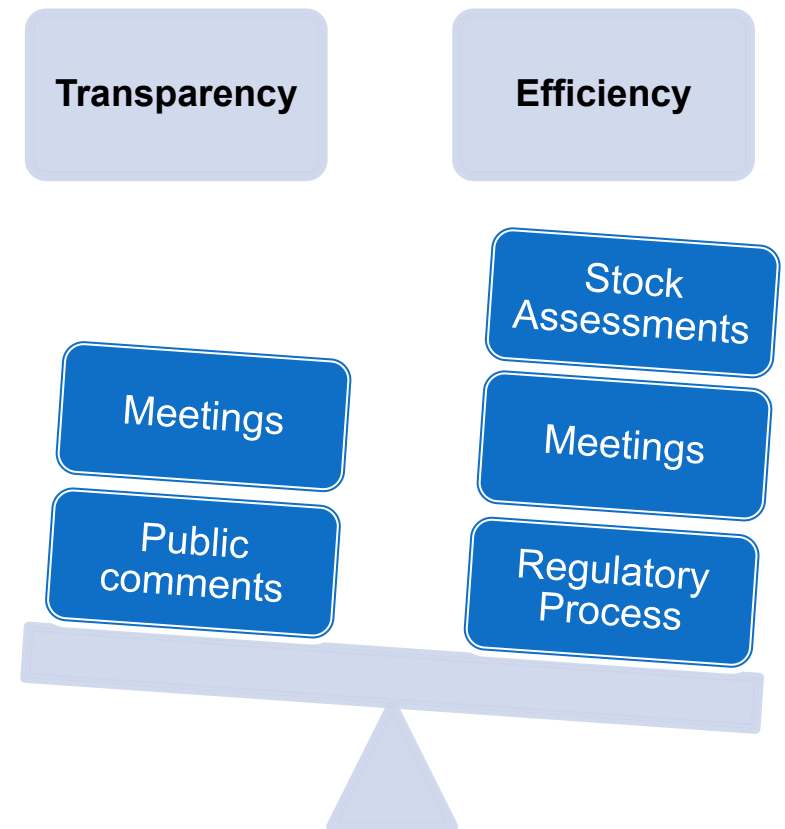
Background – Management Considerations

- Science Center has developed an **Interim Analysis tool** –
 - Can provide updates on health and catch advice for multiple species that meet necessary criteria
- Can allow managers to assess health and consider modifications to catch advice between stock assessments



Background – Management Considerations

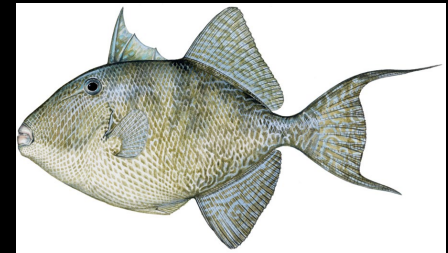
- Currently takes 6-8 months for amendment development + another 6-8 months for NEPA review and implementation
- New options could reduce time between completed science and implemented management actions



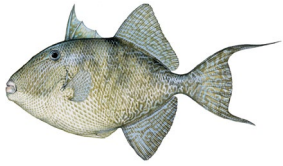
January	
February	Council Requests SEFSC Conduct Interim Analysis
March	
April	
2020 May	
June	
July	
August	
September	Completed Interim ABC Analysis to SSC
October	Council Requests Action
November	
December	
January	Final Action on Gray Triggerfish Framework Action
February	
March	
April	
May	
2021 June	Final Rule Becomes Effective for Framework Action
July	
August	
September	
October	
November	
December	

Gulf Example:

Gray Triggerfish



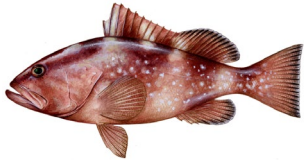
Council - Interim ABC Analysis Requests Completed or Outstanding



Gray triggerfish



Red snapper



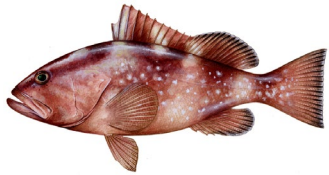
Standing request for red grouper –
start of every year



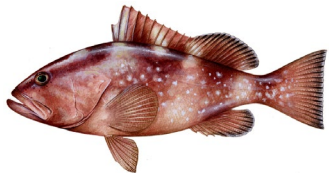
Standing request for gag grouper –
waiting for decisions from Council



Interim Analysis → Management



- 57.3% decrease in ABC = total ACL for red grouper using Interim Analysis produced by Science Center

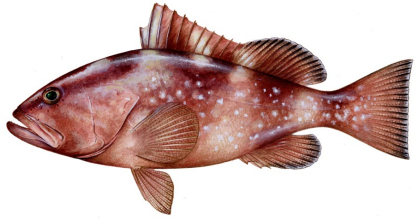


- Council elected to be more conservative and use the combined landings from 2017

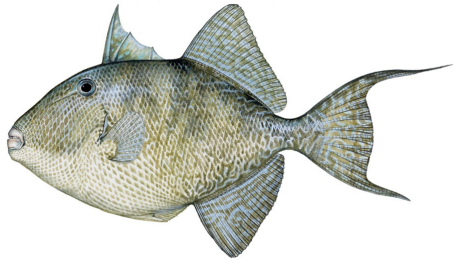
61.5% decrease in ABC = total ACL
(*implemented October 2019*)



Interim Analysis → Management



- 16.4% increase in ABC = total ACL
(Implemented August 2022)



- 49.7% increase in ABC = total ACL
(Implemented July 2021)

Interim Analysis → Management

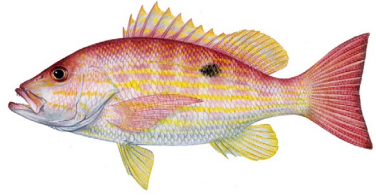


- 2% increase in ABC = total ACL
(*to be implemented*)

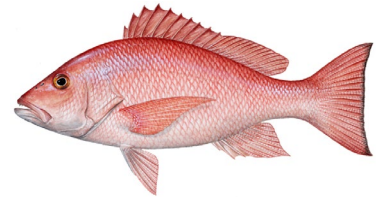


- 5.9% increase in ABC = total ACL
(*Final Action in August 2022*)

Other Framework Actions for Reef Fish in Last 5 Years



- Lane snapper 92% increase in ABC
= total ACL



- Red snapper 9.9% increase in ABC
= total ACL

What are other RMCs doing?

- Mid-Atlantic Council:
 - NMFS regulatory catch level discretion for dogfish, monkfish – bounds when the Council recommends different catch level advice
 - Developing recreational harvest limits, using a percent change approach from the current stock benchmarks

<https://www.mafmc.org/newsfeed/2022/mafmc-amp-asmfc-take-first-step-toward-recreational-management-reform-for-bluefish-summer-flounder-scup-and-black-sea-bass>

- New England Council – regulatory language in a few fishery management plans that allows the RA to deviate from Council's catch recommendation without any limits for species such as Atlantic herring

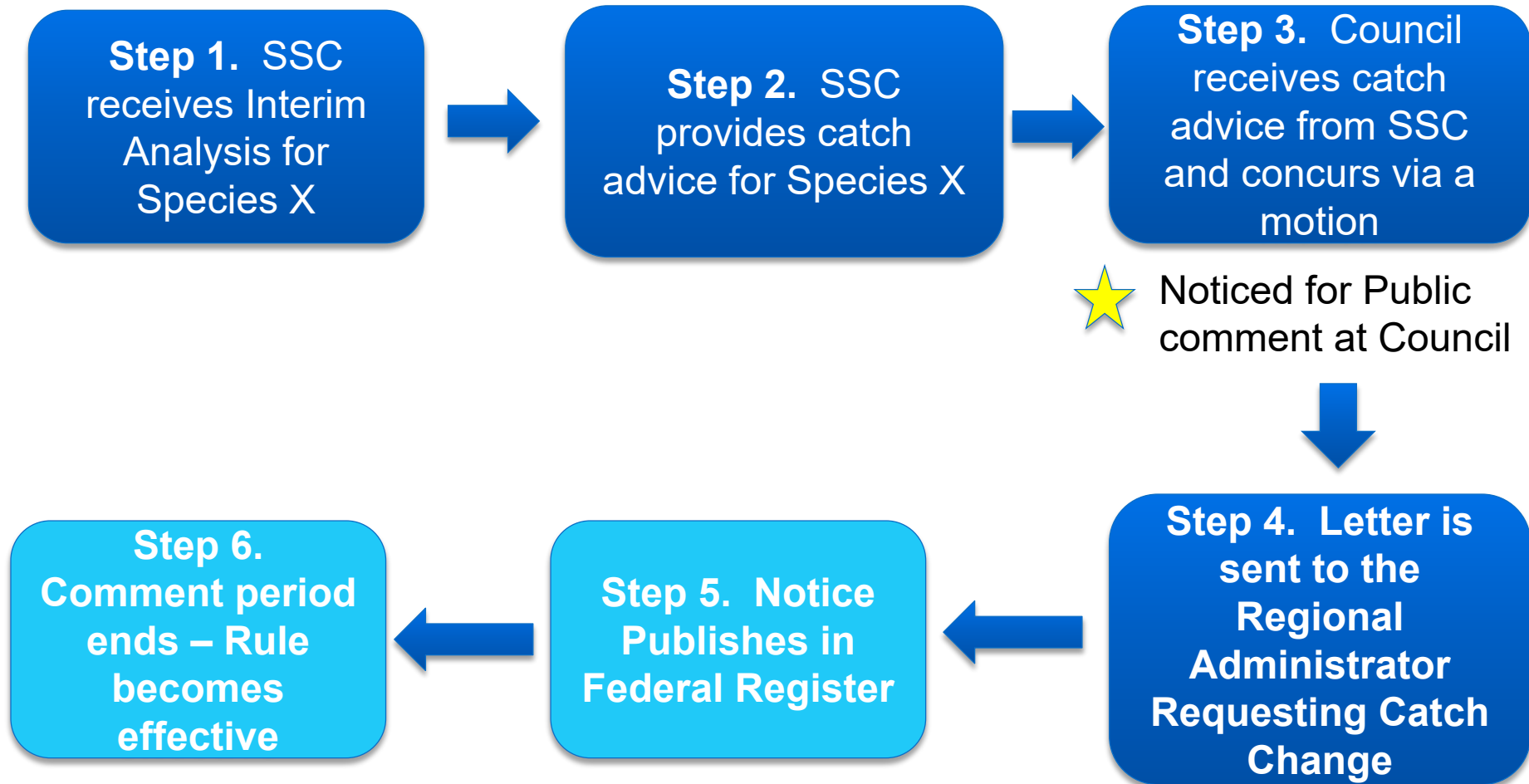


Mechanism for Automating Catch Changes - Proposed

- Consider modifying various FMP Framework Procedures such as the **Closed Framework**
 1. Consistent with existing requirements in the FMP and implementing regulations, the Regional Administrator is authorized to conduct the following framework actions through appropriate notification in the Federal Register:
 - **Adjust sector-specific or stock ACLs** for a species, sub-species, or species group by **25-30%** below or **25-30%** above the current total ACL



Mechanism for Automating Catch Changes – Proposed continued



Potential Regulatory Impacts

- Review the last 5 years of Reef Fish actions that modified total ACLs: 7 documents
- 4 framework actions would have met the total ACL = ABC criteria percentage



Next Steps

- Some utility in further consideration based on preliminary review of Reef Fish actions
- Best scenario for quick changes to catch advice between assessments, short time period, non-significant for NEPA
- Considerations:
 - Tradeoffs for efficiency vs. transparency, deliberation vs. time
 - Stock status
 - Time limits on the catch advice (1-year or 2 only?)
 - Units of comparison (i.e., MRFSS, MRIP, and state surveys)

Questions?

