

Proposal for 8th National Workshop, Scientific Coordination Subcommittee

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Council Coordination Committee

May 24, 2023



Proposed Theme

Applying ABC control rules in a changing environment

Rationale:

- A core function of Scientific and Statistical Committees is to recommend catch limits consistent with the Magnuson-Stevens Act and the acceptable biological catch (ABC) control rules of management plans.
- Council regions contend with environmental change, scientific uncertainty, and data-limitations, though to varying extents.
- Difficult to reliably achieve management goals (e.g., prevent overfishing, stock rebuilding) through using existing ABC control rules.
- Calls for continued dialogue on how to adapt the “tools in the toolbox.”

Proposed Theme

Applying ABC control rules in a changing environment

SCS8 to explore:

- How to adapt given climate, productivity, recruitment dynamics.
- Use of alternate reference points or indicators in the absence of analytical assessments.
- Stock status determination criteria and rebuilding plans for stocks facing directional changes in productivity and/or distribution.
- Importantly, how SSCs can better use their social science expertise and social and economic information in setting catch recommendations and to understand:
 - The potential for achieving management goals.
 - How fisheries and communities can adapt to dynamic conditions.

Theme development

- SCS held first planning meeting May 1, 2023.
- In advance, received theme ideas from 7 SSCs.
- SSC members and/or staff attended, representing 7 Councils.
- Ideas were sorted and grouped to find common ground.
- SCS reached consensus on proposed theme.
 - Broad interest to all Councils.
 - Good follow-up to SCS7 on adapting to a changing ecosystem.
 - Aim to develop actionable guidance on how to best support Councils managing fisheries in ever-changing systems.
- After meeting, entire SCS drafted theme proposal.

Workshop coordination

- Workshop to be coordinated by NEFMC.
 - Dr. Lisa Kerr, SSC Chair, serving as SCS Chair.
 - Dr. Rachel Feeney, SSC staff coordinator.
 - Ms. Joan O’Leary, Executive Assistant.
- SCS to meet every 4-6 weeks to develop goals and objectives, sub-themes, agenda, keynote speaker(s), presenters, discussion topics, etc.
- Workshop to be held in New England, tentatively late August or early September 2024.

*Questions or comments?
Does the CCC approve of this theme?*