

Recreational Management Reform: A Harvest Control Rule Approach

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Presentation Outline

- Background
 - Current Fishery Data and Management
- Harvest Control Rule Approach
 - Submitted as part of Rec/comm allocation amendment
 - MAFMC/ASMFC Amendment
 - HCR needs further development and acknowledge MSA challenges
- Next Steps and Questions



Recreational vs. Commercial Fishing



Recreational vs. Commercial Data



Recreational vs. Commercial Management

Pound Based Quotas for Both

■ Rec Management:

- Each state sets measures predicted to collectively achieve RHL
- Analysis of catch level against RHL
- Accounting problems because of uncertainty and time lag

■ Comm Management:

- Quota set
- Commercial measures control landings
- Once landings are reached fishery closed
- Data system minimizes accounting problems



In Comes New Effort Mail Survey

- Rec catch estimates generally higher all the way back to 1981
- Model generally interprets increased catch with higher ABCs
- Example: Summer Flounder 2019

	Previous	Revised	Difference (%)
Acceptable Biological Catch	15.41	25.03	+62
Commercial Quota*	6.67	10.98	+65
Recreational Harvest Limit	5.15	7.69	+49

- Recreational measures stayed the same Commercial sector saw a 62% increase in allowed landings.
- Wait, if our RHL increased how come our measures stayed the same?
 - “You’re already catching it”



Harvest Control Rule Approach

- If we can't manage the uncertainty of MRIP, can we tweak the management system to account for that uncertainty?
- Similar to the envelop of uncertainty approach
- Premise of HCR: access can be defined for the recreational sector as a combination of
 - size limits
 - bag limits
 - seasons
- Relatable to commercial allocation in pounds because access can be more or less restrictive based on stock condition

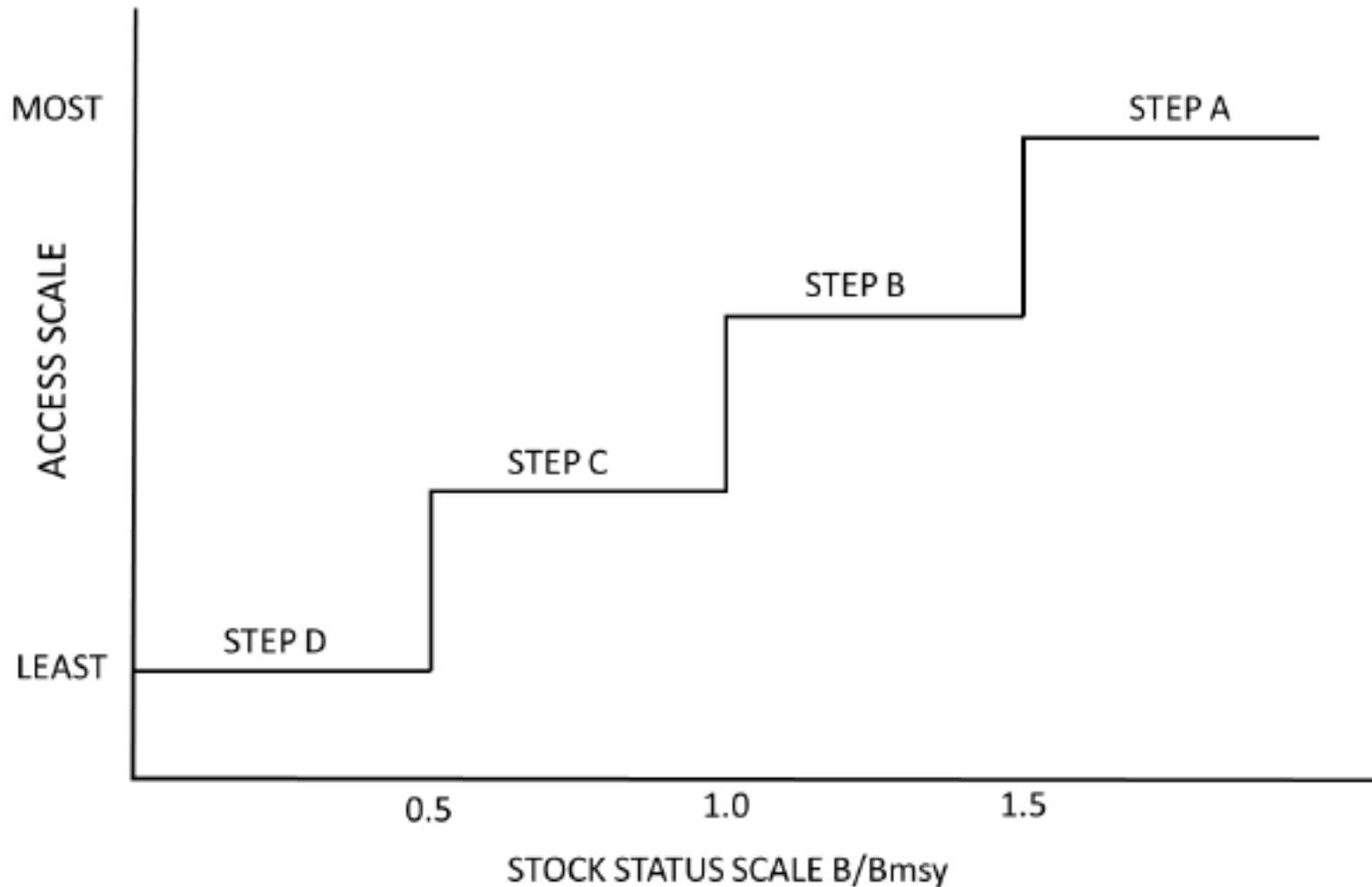


Harvest Control Rule: The endpoints

Stock Condition	Recreational	Commercial
Healthy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Least restrictive measures• maximizes access and participation• Allows for growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Highest quota• market and landing capacity is met• Asymptotic market price• Allows for growth
Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Most restrictive measures• Lowest access & participation• Loss of infrastructure• Loss of for-hire business because “not worth it to pay to go fishing”	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lowest quota• Loss of markets no supply• Not enough pounds to justify trips• Loss of shore side processing



Harvest control Rule Concept



HCR Analysis Phase

- Pull management history
- Pull recreational removals data
- Match that management and removals history to stock status in each step
- Analyze the range of alternatives
- Demonstrate HCR through at least 2- 3 year cycles



What about accountability?

- Management measures would move stepwise with stock condition
- Possibility to be proactive, if assessment or indices indicate stock condition is in continuous decline (e.g., 3 years) then move to lower step
- Review Timeline
- Besides triggering review as part of accountability, fixed review timeframe (e.g., every 5 years).



HCR Summary and Next Steps

- HCR in need of further development
- Stakeholder involvement critical
- HCR adjusts access (management measures) to stock condition just like an ACL does
- Approach brings more stability to fishery and management
- Submitted as part of scoping on Recreational/Commercial allocation amendment
- Has since been moved to Rec Management Reform

