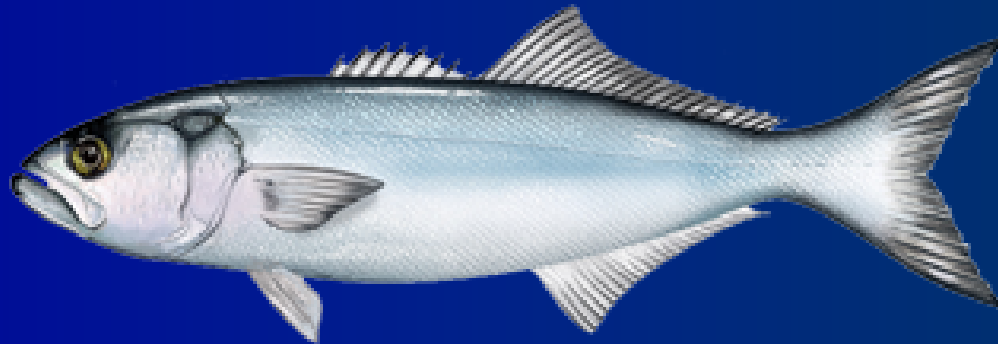




# **Bluefish Allocation Amendment**



**Scientific and Statistical Committee  
Meeting**

**July 23, 2020**

# Amendment Purpose

- Consider potential modifications to the FMP Goals and Objectives, allocations of catch or landings between all sectors, and initiation of a rebuilding plan for bluefish.
  - Changes to MRIP estimates
  - Allocations based on data from 1981-1989
- Ten Amendment issues

# Issue 1: Proposed FMP Goals and Objectives

**Goal 1.** Conserve the bluefish resource through stakeholder engagement to maintain sustainable recreational fishing and commercial harvest.

- **Objective 1.1.** Achieve and maintain a sustainable spawning stock biomass and rate of fishing mortality.
- **Objective 1.2.** Promote practices that reduce discard mortality within the recreational and commercial fishery.
- **Objective 1.3.** Maintain effective coordination between the National Marine Fisheries Service, Council, Commission, and member states to support the development and implementation of management measures.
  - **Strategy 2.1.** Promote compliance and effective enforcement of regulations.
  - **Strategy 2.2.** Promote science, monitoring, and data collection that support and enhance effective ecosystem-based management of the bluefish resource.

**Goal 2.** Provide fair and equitable access to the fishery across user groups throughout the management unit.

- **Objective 2.1.** Ensure the implementation of management measures provides fair and equitable access to the resource across to all groups along the coast.
- **Objective 2.2.** Consider the economic and social needs and priorities of all groups that access the bluefish resource in the development of new management measures.
- **Objective 2.3.** Maintain effective coordination with stakeholder groups to ensure optimization of economic and social benefits.



# Issue 2: Sector Allocation Alternatives

Alternative	Allocations based on catch data, MRIP Discards	Recreational Allocation	Commercial Allocation
Status quo	1981-1989 (Landings-based)	83%	17%
2.02	5 year (2014-2018)	89%	11%
2.03	10 year (2009-2018)	89%	11%
2.04	20 year (1999-2018)	87%	13%
2.05	Full Time Series (1981-2018)	86%	14%

Alternative	Allocations based on landings data	Recreational Allocation	Commercial Allocation
2.10	5 year (2014-2018)	86%	14%
2.11	10 year (2009-2018)	86%	14%
2.12	20 year (1999-2018)	84%	16%
2.13	Full Time Series (1981-2018)	84%	16%

- Phase-in
  - For comm. sector over 3-5 years or same time as rebuilding
- Trigger
  - Not appropriate during rebuilding, but add the provision to the FMP

# Issue 3: Commercial Allocations to the States

Landings-Based Allocation Alternatives						
	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.6
State	Status quo (1981-1989)	5 year (2014-2018)	10 year (2009-2018)	20 year (1999-2018)	Time Series (1981-2018)	1/2 '81-'89 1/2 '09-'18
<b>ME</b>	0.67%	0.00%	0.01%	0.01%	0.43%	0.49%
<b>NH</b>	0.41%	0.03%	0.12%	0.17%	0.65%	0.33%
<b>MA</b>	6.71%	10.64%	10.16%	7.53%	7.18%	7.66%
<b>RI</b>	6.80%	11.81%	9.64%	8.00%	7.96%	7.59%
<b>CT</b>	1.26%	1.18%	1.00%	0.73%	1.12%	1.19%
<b>NY</b>	10.37%	20.31%	19.94%	19.44%	14.76%	13.01%
<b>NJ</b>	14.79%	11.23%	13.94%	15.23%	15.57%	14.57%
<b>DE</b>	1.88%	0.58%	0.40%	0.39%	1.09%	1.47%
<b>MD</b>	3.00%	1.50%	1.84%	1.54%	2.10%	2.68%
<b>VA</b>	11.86%	4.62%	5.85%	6.92%	8.79%	10.26%
<b>NC</b>	32.01%	32.06%	32.38%	36.94%	33.52%	32.13%
<b>SC</b>	0.10%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.02%	0.03%
<b>GA</b>	0.10%	0.00%	0.00%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%
<b>FL</b>	10.04%	6.07%	4.75%	3.10%	6.91%	8.59%
<b>Total</b>	100.00%	100.01%	100.03%	100.02%	100.10%	100.00%

# Issue 3: Commercial Allocations to the States

## ■ Phase-in

- For comm. sector over 3-5 years or same time as rebuilding

## ■ Trigger

- May not be appropriate during rebuilding
- Triggers could work very well for the commercial allocations to the states

## ■ Minimum Default Allocations

- Same approach Amendment 3 for Atlantic menhaden.
- The FMAT recommends an allocation closer to the *de minimis* level of 0.1%.

# Issue 4: Regional Commercial Allocations

## ■ Florida Proposal

- Regional based allocations (New England: ME-CT, Mid-Atlantic: NY-VA, South Atlantic: NC-FL).
- Commercial trip limits (with harvest triggers) and/or adjusted quotas to ensure all states have access to the resource.

Alternative	Time Series	New England (ME-CT)	Mid-Atlantic (NY-VA)	South Atlantic (NC-FL)
4.1	Status quo: 1981-1989	15.86%	42.00%	42.13%
4.2	2014-2018	23.66%	38.23%	38.13%
4.3	2009-2018	20.93%	41.97%	37.13%
4.4	1999-2018	16.44%	43.53%	40.05%
4.5	1981-2018	17.34%	42.31%	40.45%
4.6	½ '81-'89 -½ '09-'18	17.25%	41.99%	40.75%

# Issue 5: Rebuilding Plan

Alternative	Rebuilding Plan	Duration	*Adjustment to Council Risk Policy
5.1	Status Quo	N/A	N/A
5.2	Constant Harvest	4 years	No
5.3	Constant Fishing Mortality	10 years	Yes
5.4	Constant Fishing Mortality	7 years	Yes
5.5	Constant Harvest (Highest Catch)	10 years	Yes
5.6	P* (Council Risk Policy)	5 years	N/A

\*Adjustment to the Council Risk Policy will be done through development of the Environmental Assessment and adds minimal work.

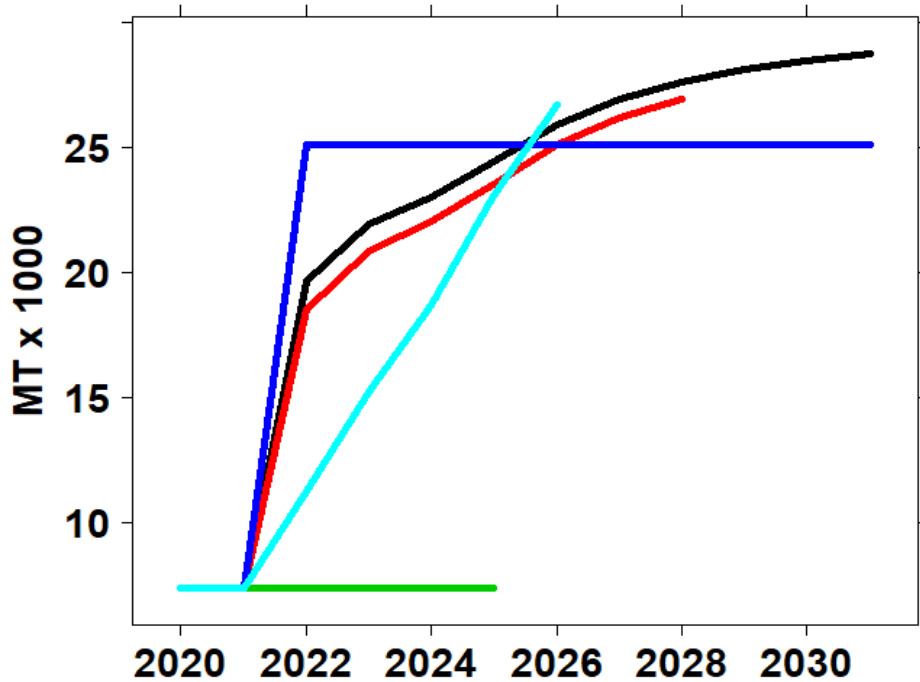




# Issue 5: Rebuilding Plan

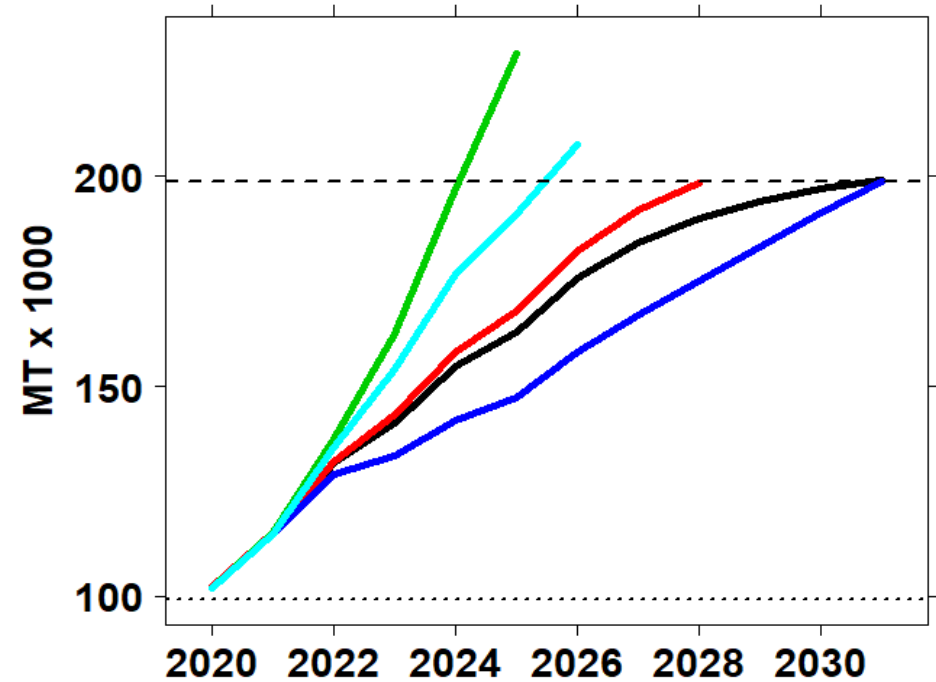
## Catch

constF10yrs ——— constHarvHigh ———  
constF7yrs ——— Pstar ———  
constHarv ———



## SSB

constF10yrs ——— constHarvHigh ———  
constF7yrs ——— Pstar ———  
constHarv ———



# Issue 6: For-Hire Sector Separation

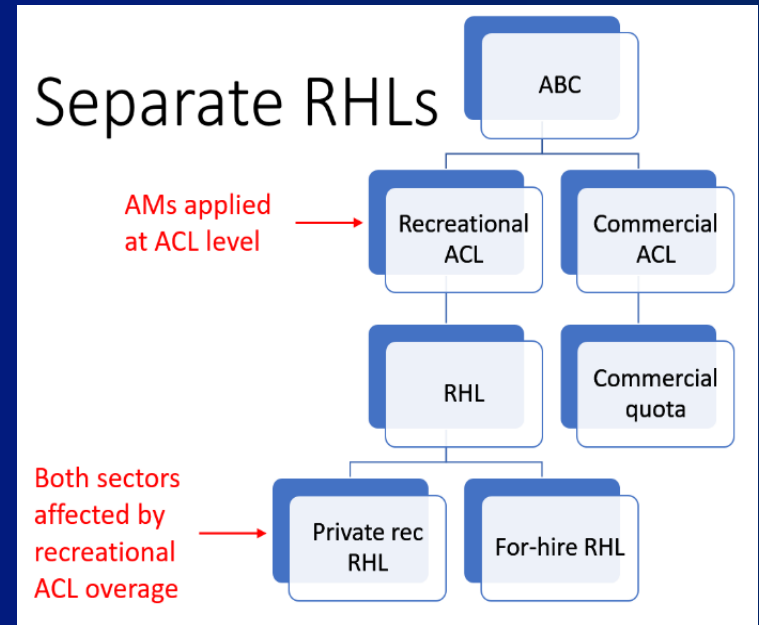
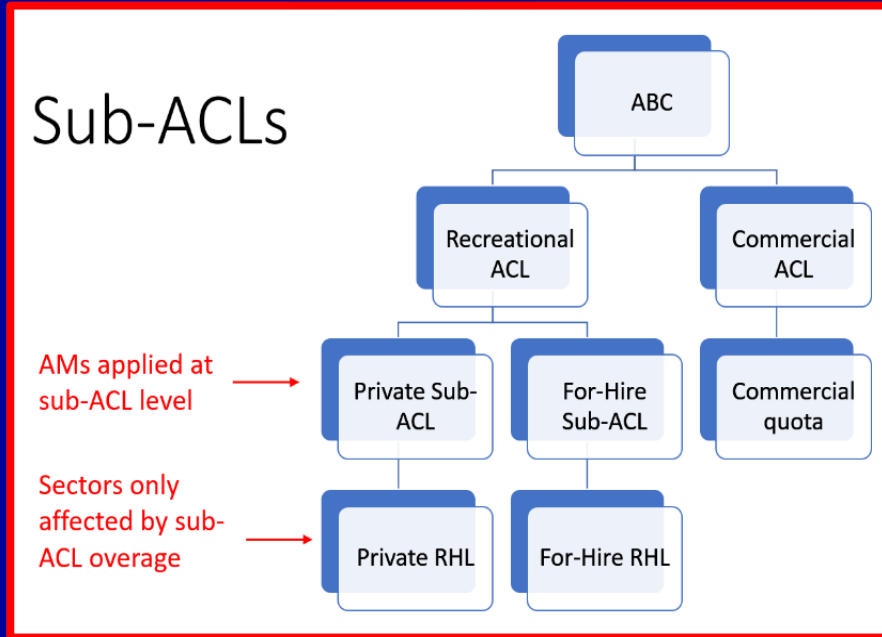
## ■ Potential implications:

- For-hire measures (bag limit, min size, season) will be closely tied to the size of the fleet.
- If VTRs are used for monitoring, all vessels may be required to submit eVTRs
- If MRIP is used for monitoring, PSEs may be an issue

Alternative	Landings-Based	For-Hire Allocation	Private/Shore Allocation
<b>6.2.02</b>	5 year (2014-2018)	7%	93%
<b>6.2.03</b>	10 year (2009-2018)	9%	91%
<b>6.2.04</b>	20 year (1999-2018)	12%	88%

Alternative	Catch-Based, Modified GARFO Discards	For-Hire Allocation	Private/Shore Allocation
<b>6.2.05</b>	5 year (2014-2018)	6%	94%
<b>6.2.06</b>	10 year (2009-2018)	8%	92%
<b>6.2.07</b>	20 year (1999-2018)	10%	90%

# Issue 6: For-Hire Sector Separation



- FMAT Recommendation: Sub-ACLs

# Issue 7: Sector Transfers

- Status quo
  - If the recreational fishery is not projected to land the RHL, the commercial quota could be set up to 10.5 million lbs.
- Transfer catch or landings
- Transfer cap
  - Use a percentage (10-25) of recent year's ABCs or TALs
- Bi-directionality
- Prohibit transfers during rebuilding?

# Issue 7: Sector Transfers (recreational sector separation)

- Option 1: Prohibited
- Option 2: Tri-directional transfers
- Option 3: Transfers between commercial sector and combined recreational ACL

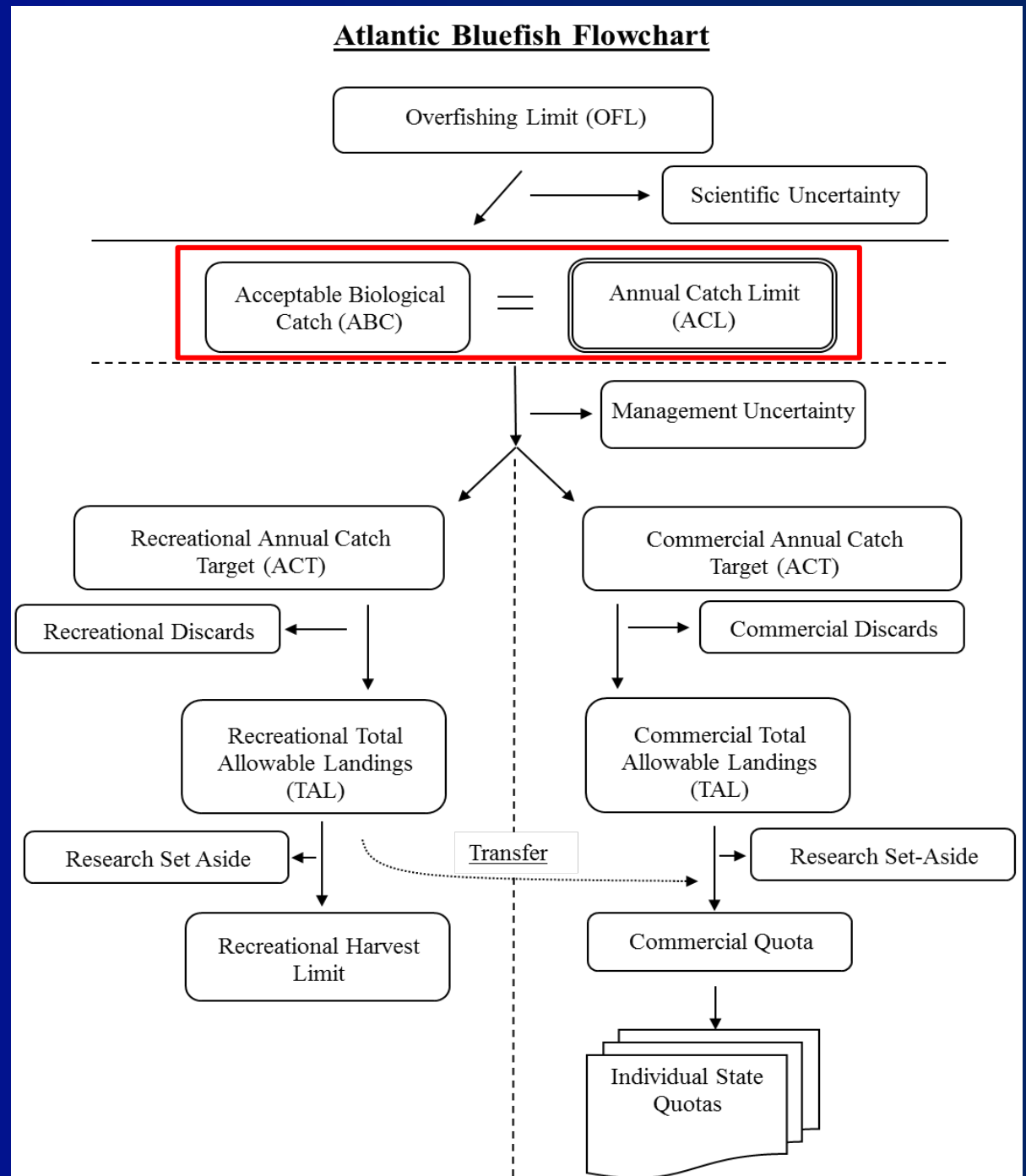
# Issue 8: Commercial State-to-State Transfers

- Status quo
  - States submit letters to NMFS and other states to request and approve quota transfers
- Refereed Approach
  - Attempts to ensure all states have fair access to quota transfers
  - States project their own landings
  - Complicates the transfer process

# Issue 9: Other Issues

## Sector Specific Management Uncertainty

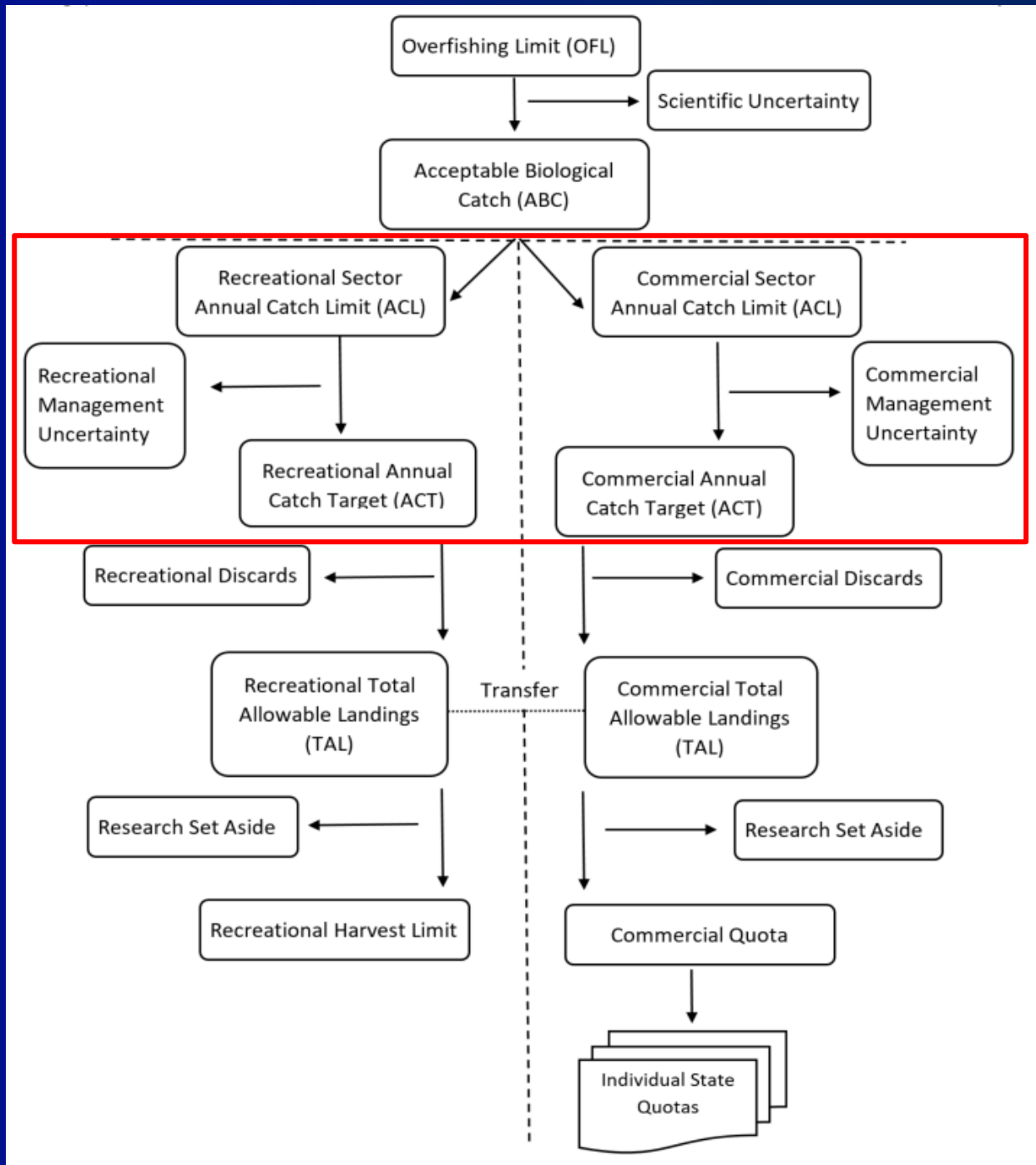
### Status Quo



# Issue 9: Other Issues

## Sector Specific Management Uncertainty

## Post-Sector Split





# Issue 10: Other Issues – *de minimis*

- During scoping, Georgia DNR proposed a *de minimis* provision
- To qualify for *de minimis* status:
  - 3yr avg (commercial + recreational landings) < 1% coast wide landings
- *De minimis* status would relieve a state from having to adopt fishery regulations



# Next Steps. Questions?

- July 2020: Revise draft alternatives with the FMAT based on Council/Board input
- August 2020: Presentation of revised draft alternatives at the joint meeting
- December 2020: Approve alternatives for input into a public hearing document
  
- September 2021: Formal submission to NOAA Fisheries

