

Scientific Coordination Subcommittee Conference Call – August 7, 2014

Conference line: 1-888-4823560

Access code: 5228220

In attendance: John Boreman (MAFMC), Rich Seagraves (MAFMC), John Carmichael (SAFMC), Steven Atran (GMFMC), Jake Kritzer (NEFMC), Chris Kellogg (NEFMC), Richard Appeldoorn (CFMC), Graciela Garcia-Moliner (CFMC), Kate Quigley (CFMC), Pat Livingston (NPFMC), Rick Methot (NMFS), Chuck Daxboeck (WPFMC), Asuka Ishizaki (WPFMC), Marlowe Sabater (WPFMC)
[anyone missed please add]

Draft Conference Call Minutes

1. Welcome and introductions

Marlowe Sabater started with a roll-call of participating SCS members. Chuck Daxboeck opened the meeting at 9:09 am welcoming everyone to the first conference call of the SCS. The regular conference call of the SCS will be every first Thursday of the month at 9 am (HST).

2. Report on meeting dates

Marlowe Sabater reported on the results of the Doodle Poll for the National SSC-V (NSSC-V). Six out of the 8 Councils participated on the poll. Representatives from the remaining Council confirmed their availability via the teleconference. The meeting dates for the NSSC-V will be on February 23-25, 2014. All council participants are available for the three-day meeting.

3. Report on funding availability

Rick Methot explained that the funding source previously used for NSSC 1-4 is now being used for SSC stipends, and identification of the funding source for the upcoming NSSC-V is still pending. Methot is actively working to identify the funding source in a timely manner so that the funds can be transferred to WPRFMC before the end of this fiscal year. However, some critical deadlines had been missed and meeting the end of the fiscal year deadline is becoming very challenging. Securing the funding is Methot's top priority.

When asked about the anticipated funding amount, Methot indicated that the current target is \$100K based on previous NSSC workshops. Rich Seagraves indicated that the fourth NSSC was funded at \$150K to accommodate more participants from each SSC as well as invited speakers. Sabater and Ishizaki asked Methot to target \$150K for NSSC-V to ensure adequate funding for sufficient number of participants and invited speakers given the higher costs associated with hosting meetings in Hawaii.

4. Terms of reference for the SCS

Rick Methot and Rich Seagraves provided an overview of the creation of the Scientific Coordination Subcommittee (SCS). Several NSSC workshops had been held and there were questions about how does the technical report, products, information and advice generated by these workshop used to provide guidance on national and regional level issues. The initial plan was to establish the National SSC as an independent science body. This was initially approved or

endorsed by NMFS but was criticized by the lawyers (NMFS?). As a compromise, the National SSC became a subcommittee of the CCC (called the SCS) that will provide guidance and scientific advice directly to the CCC. The terms of reference of the SCS is embedded in the TOR of the CCC. By being a subcommittee of the CCC, the SCS is subject to the same rules as the CCC. Being a subcommittee of the CCC, the advice provided by the NSSC will be taken by the CCC and be acted upon in a form of an CCC recommendation. Would the individual regional SSC be forced to follow the recommendations of the NSSC? NSSC recommendations are considered guidance and it is up to the individual SSCs and Councils if they would take that guidance and apply it for management. Given the diversity of issues and inherent differences between regions, the proscriptive guidance would apply on a case by case basis.

The CCC will provide the SCS with theme/issue that the NSSC will tackle and provide guidance. Therefore, the SCS cannot deviate from the specified theme assigned by the CCC when developing the agenda and workshop products.

5. Development of the agenda

a. Determining the issues

Data poor and model resistant stocks – there are still numerous stocks for which ad-hoc methods are used when specifying ABCs; Jim Berkson is compiling a list of stocks that are using average catch as proxy for ABCs; there are stocks that catch data may be available but is resistant to modeling due to lack of additional parameter or the data or stock itself does not meet the model assumptions

Some of the stocks are even data resistant – these are stocks that are known to be caught in the fishery but data is not available or not sufficient for analysis;

In other regions, their “data-poor” situation is not at the same level as in other regions. Other regions are pushing the envelope and are developing ecosystem models and more complex stock assessments;

NMFS developed a stock assessment prioritization tool that will contribute to the determination of whether a stock is data-moderate or data-poor. A prototype application should be available prior to the NSSC-V. Methot could present on this and the NSSC would be a suitable venue to discuss the utility of this tool.

b. Brainstorming on the agenda items based on CCC theme and goals

There were discussions during the CCC regarding allocation issues but was not officially tasked to the NSSC. There was some interest in discussing the topic. However, this would be somewhat a conflict because the SSC is forbidden to offer policy advice to the council. The SSC could simply focus on the socio-economic information. The current theme is a compromise that everyone can live with.

The themes for the first three NSSC workshops were focused on the development of the control rules in ABC specification given the number of stocks and the available data for each one. NSSC-IV was focused on ecosystem and economic consideration in the ABC specification sources of uncertainty in the ABC determination.

NSSC-V can focus on incorporation of uncertainties from impacts of climate change, variabilities in ecosystem conditions and changes in climate in the specification of ABCs.

There have been significant strides in addressing data-poor situations with the development of numerous analytical methods as well as evaluation of these data-poor approaches (Caruthers et al. 2014; Rosenberg et al. 2014). Jim Berkson is compiling a national list of stocks that are using data poor methods. This was presented at the ICES-World Conference on Stock Assessment Methods.

A more relevant topic under the current theme is a performance evaluation of the established ABCs. Andre Punt is involved in a series of management strategy evaluation (MSEs). The main question is how well do various methods work in the ABC specification. There were several papers at the AFS pertaining to this topic. It has been several years since the first set of ABCs were established. The question is, “are we doing it right?” The specification process is not always perfect. Any ABC control rules will always produce a biological catch level.

Additional topics under the theme will be brainstormed or vetted to the MAFMC, NEFMC, CFMC’s upcoming SSC meetings.

6. Workshop mechanics

Previous NSSC workshops required each regional SSC to present on the status of their respective ABC specification. A similar session could be conducted at NSSC-V with a different scope of topics.

Breakout sessions are being used to simultaneously address pre-determined questions from multiple topics. This enables participants to address multiple questions in a limited period. The limits of this approach is when participants interested in both topics are restricted to the group to which they are assigned. There are limited exchanges between the 2 breakout groups.

The SCS members are requested to provide comments on the previous workshop mechanics particularly the utility of the breakout session.

Plenary sessions are designed to report out results and summaries from the breakout sessions. The plenary session also serves as opportunity for guest speakers to present. Expert speakers were invited to present the most recent research on specialized topics. These speakers are also resources for the breakout groups and could provide technical advice for the participants.

7. List of potential participants and speakers – TBD

8. Report on preliminary logistics coordination

Ishizaki reported that WPRFMC will identify the venue given that the dates are now set. The first NSSC was held at the Council office conference room, but outside venues are being considered to accommodate the larger group and breakout group sessions.

9. Action items for Council staff to address

- a. WPFMC staff to send budget breakdown to Rick Methot;
- b. WPFMC staff to send an email to SCS members regarding comments on the previous workshop format;
- c. All staff POC will add agenda item in the upcoming SSC meetings to brainstorm on the NSSC-V theme and report back to SCS on discussion point

10. Next meeting date

The next meeting date is September 4, 2014 at 9:00 am.

Caruthers TR, Punt AE, Walters CJ, MacCall A, McAllister MK, Dick EJ, Cope J. 2014. Evaluating methods in setting catch limits in data-limited fisheries. *Fisheries Research* 153:48-68

Rosenberg AA, Fogarty MJ, Cooper AB, Dickey-Collas M, Fulton EA, Gutiérrez NL, Hyde KJW, Kleisner KM, Kristiansen T, Longo C, Minte-Vera C, Minto C, Mosqueira I, Chato Osio G, Ovando D, Selig ER, Thorson JT, Ye Y. 2014. Developing new approaches to global stock status assessment and fishery production potential of the seas. *FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Circular No. 1086*. Rome, FAO. 175 pp.