



Accountability Measures

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Accountability measures (AMs) are management controls used to prevent annual catch limits (ACLs) [see figures 1 and 2] from being reached or to lessen the impact of an ACL overage and compensate for the overfishing. Although accountability measures only apply to federally regulated waters, it is the combined landing reports of both federal and territorial/commonwealth waters that managers use to determine if ACLs are being reached or have been exceeded.

Accountability Measures: Management strategies used

Accountability measures are grouped in two categories: in-season and post-season. Examples of in-season AMs: are quota closure, trip or bag limit changes, gear restrictions, individual fishing quotas or catch shares. Examples of post-season AMs are: seasonal closures, reduction to trip or bag limits, or shortening of the fishing season.

There can be a significant delay between the time it takes for managers to analyze landing reports and determine whether AMs are necessary and need to be implemented. For the US Caribbean, the delay is approximately one to two years. Once triggered, AMs remain effective until additional data becomes available and managers are able to re-evaluate the status of the fishery.

Annual Catch Limit

An annual catch limit (ACL) is a yearly harvest limit of a fish specie or group of fish species. It is a management strategy used to either help rebuild a fishery or prevent a fishery from undergoing overfishing. If the annual catch limit is exceeded accountability measures (AMs) are triggered.

Figure 1

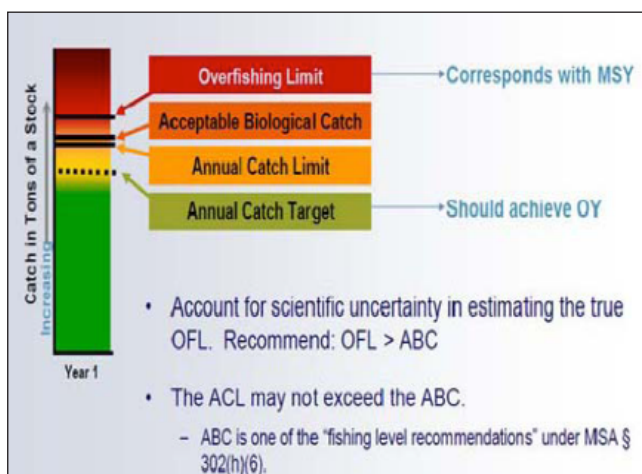


Figure 2

For more information on ACLs, AMs and the Caribbean Fisheries Management Council you may call:

The Caribbean Fishery Management Council
(787) 766- 5926

Fish and Wildlife Bureau
Department of Natural and Environmental Resources, PR
(787)999-2200 ext. 2613

The Division of Fish and Wildlife
Department of Planning and Natural Resources, USVI
(340) 775-6762

Or go to:
<http://www.caribbeanfmc.com>
<http://www.drna.gobierno.pr>
[http://www.dpnr.gov.vi/](http://www.dpnr.gov.vi)