

Closures Options Model Fact Sheet

Why are closures sometimes needed?

Closures are sometimes needed and are implemented when it appears that more fish will be landed than is allowed under the Annual Catch Limit (ACL) for a particular species and island/island group. The last year of available landings data is usually used to decide if a closure is needed.

What is the purpose of this model and how is it useful to me?

The Closures Options Model was created to help fishermen and Council members explore options for closure of a particular fishery, when necessary. Without recommendation of a specific closure period, a closure will occur at the end of the year. This tool helps fishermen and Council members find a closure date other than the end of the year.

How does the model work?

The model calculates how long a closure must be if it was started at any day during the year. The model uses the most recent year of data used and assumes that the coming year will be similar to that year.

How can I use the model?

The model shows options for closure start dates that will result the least amount of revenue lost as well as the least number of days. You can use this information to help decide when you would prefer for a closure to occur if NMFS determines that a closure needs to occur.

The model also allows for individuals to type in a potential closure start date. The model then provides the number of days a closure would be needed to remain within the ACL, the end date of the closure and how many pounds and revenue that would remove. This can help fishermen choose a closure period and make a recommendation to the Council in order to avoid an end of year closure. In this way, fishermen can help the Council choose a shorter closure with less impact.