



NOAA
FISHERIES

Probability of Overfishing: A Council Decision for the ABC Control Rule



ABC Control Rule Refresher

- An agreed procedure, codified in the FMP, for setting the ABC for a stock or stock complex as a function of the scientific uncertainty.
- Each Council must establish an ABC control rule based on scientific advice from its SSC.
- The SSC must recommend the ABC to the Council. An SSC may recommend an ABC that differs from the result of the ABC control rule, but must explain why.
- Can involve complex drivers based on measured stock biomass, measured uncertainty, forecasts of environmental effects, etc.
- Can be tiered to accommodate different levels of scientific uncertainty (e.g. data-rich -> data limited -> catch only).



ABC Control Rule

- The determination of ABC should be based, when possible, on the probability that a catch equal to the stock's ABC would result in overfishing (P^*). The probability of overfishing cannot exceed 50% and should be a lower value.

