

Data Workshop Background for NEFMC Executive Committee Discussion on Nov 8, 2017

At the September 26-28 Council meeting, the Council passed the following motion from Mr. Stockwell on behalf of the Groundfish Committee:

to request that the Executive Committee discuss convening a working group to identify and/or improve methods for using monitoring data in stock assessments to estimate stock biomass.

A data workshop that would address the issue of how to improve accuracy and precision of monitoring data was discussed at the June Council meeting and later at Groundfish Committee meeting in September. The following is an excerpt from the Groundfish Committee Meeting Summary.

One Committee member asked to clarify what the reason was for recommitting the industry workshop idea back to the Committee. Staff explained that this was due to what the Council felt was a timing/workload issue, and also because the Council wanted the Committee to think about whether this is the workshop that people are interested in, or whether they would want some variation of it, or not at all. Another Committee member asked whether this would focus on a general understanding of accuracy and precision, or whether it would be specific to accuracy and precision of catch data. Staff clarified that the understanding is this could be both. One Committee member said he does not rank this as a priority for the near future, at least not as a workshop organized by the Council, since it will take up staff time and resources, but said it does bring up a valuable point of what this means in terms of accuracy and precision of monitoring and whether this will improve assessments. He suggested discussing this with the NEFSC director to understand how to address this issue. Another Committee member disagreed and said this workshop is timely given A23, and said that a lot of assumptions are made about what is wrong with the current monitoring program and what benefits could come from changes to it, and that this discussion should occur early on to help focus the amendment, especially since industry will be paying for monitoring. Ms. Heil said input from the NEFSC director would be helpful to frame the workshop, but there is still the issue of staff time and resources, and suggested recommending the Executive Committee take this up for consideration.

Earlier Background

The original motion that was referred back to the Committee was this one made at the June Council meeting:

Ms. Etrie moved and Mr. Terry Alexander seconded:
to develop/hold a workshop that improves managers and industry reps understanding of the distinction between accuracy and precision. Additionally, this workshop should be used to identify or develop methods for using monitoring data in stock assessments that can clearly illustrate how ASM data could have the capacity to rescale a stock biomass.

The first motion offered at the Committee in September was:

Motion #6: Etrie/Bellavance

To recommend to the Council to request that the Executive Committee discuss convening a working group to identify and/or develop methods for using monitoring data in stock assessments that can clearly illustrate how monitoring (e.g., ASM, EM) data could have the capacity to rescale a stock biomass.

Which was amended to read like this (this is what passed the Council):

Motion #6a to amend Motion #6: McKenzie/Griffin

To recommend to the Council to request that the Executive Committee discuss convening a working group to identify and/or improve methods for using monitoring data in stock assessments to estimate stock biomass.