Recreational Reform Initiative

Joint Council and Board Meeting
June 16, 2020
Objective

- Review progress to date.
- Determine next steps.
Progress to Date

- Joint Steering Committee formed March 2019.
- Draft initiative outline.
  - Goal/vision.
  - 5 priority objectives.
- Monitoring Committee review.
  - Generally supportive of continued development of all objectives (+1).
- Not currently associated with a mgmt. action.
Initiative Goal/Vision

- **Stability** in rec. mgmt. measures (bag/size/season)
- **Flexibility** in the mgmt. process
- **Accessibility** aligned with availability/stock status*
1: Better incorporate MRIP uncertainty into mgmt. (1/3)

- Adopt a standardized process for **IDing and smoothing outliers** - for both high and low outliers.

- Monitoring Committee feedback:
  - Very beneficial.
  - Could increase likelihood of using smoothed estimates in multiple parts of mgmt. process.
  - Multiple potentially appropriate approaches.
  - Need to consider appropriate level of examination (state/wave/mode).
1: Better incorporate MRIP uncertainty into mgmt. (2/3)

- Use an "envelope of uncertainty" approach for determining if changes to measures are needed.
  - Define a range above and below the projected harvest estimate (e.g., based on PSE). If RHL falls within that range, no changes would be made to measures.

- Monitoring Committee feedback:
  - Support continued development.
  - Need to further discussion on how to define the envelope.
1: Better incorporate MRIP uncertainty into mgmt. (3/3)

- Evaluate the **pros and cons of using preliminary current year data**.

- Monitoring Committee feedback:
  - Differences between preliminary and final may not be as great as they once were – should evaluate.
  - Final data more appropriate for multi-year measures. Preliminary current year data may be appropriate for annual adjustments to measures.
2: Develop guidelines for maintaining status quo measures

- Develop a **process for considering harvest and multiple stock status metrics** (biomass, fishing mortality, recruitment) **when determining if measures should remain unchanged.**

- Monitoring Committee supports continued development.
  - Management measures changes in response to stock assessment updates vs. harvest estimates.
3: Develop a process for setting multi-year measures (1/2)

- **Set measures for 2 years at a time** with a commitment to making no changes in the interim year.

- Don’t react to new data that would otherwise allow for liberalizations or require restrictions in the interim year.

- Further consideration needed on how to meet MSA requirement for annual ACL evaluation.
3: Develop a process for setting multi-year measures (2/2)

Monitoring Committee feedback

- Very supportive of this approach.
- Could bring together multiple objectives: use final MRIP estimates, consider timing of recommendation, react to stock assessments, stability in measures.
- Would work best with a strong commitment to no changes at state or federal level (no CE).
- Would help with evaluation of effectiveness of measures.
- Potential for compounding overages and underages – a conservation risk and benefit.
- Consider socioeconomic pros and cons.
4: Improvements to process used to make changes to state and federal mgmt. measures (1/2)

- Not discussed in detail by Steering Committee.
- Could include considerations related to:
  - State by state vs. regional measures
  - Conservation equivalency process (state and federal)
  - Guidelines for using MRIP data at granular levels
  - Considerations for using data other than MRIP
4: Improvements to process used to make changes to state and federal mgmt. measures (2/2)

Monitoring Committee feedback

- Guidelines on how to best use MRIP data could be beneficial, but may be challenging to standardize across states.
- Need additional analysis to better understand potential limitations/challenges of this approach.
5: Timing of federal waters measures recommendation

- Federal waters measures currently recommended in December. Could the recommendation be made in October or August?

- Monitoring Committee feedback:
  - Supportive of continued consideration.
  - Recent timelines have posed challenges for robust technical review.
  - May not allow for use of preliminary current year data.
Consider more explicitly tying changes in mgmt. measures to stock assessment.

- E.g., only make changes after stock assessment updates.
Items removed from com/rec amendment

- Harvest control rule proposed through scoping
- Recreational accountability
- Recreational catch accounting
Discussion

- Next steps
- MAFMC staff recommendation: initiate a framework/addendum
1) Better incorporate MRIP uncertainty into mgmt. process
   • Process to ID and smooth outliers
   • Envelope of uncertainty
   • Use of preliminary current year data
2) Develop guidelines for maintaining status quo measures
3) Develop process for setting multi-year rec. measures
4) Improvements to process used to make changes to measures
5) Possibility of recommending measures earlier in the year
6) Change measures only after assessment update (MC recommendation)?
7) Harvest control rule?
8) Recreational accountability?
9) Recreational catch accounting?