Butterfish

June 2021
Butterfish Specifications

ABC is projected to increase from 11,993 metric tons (MT) in 2021 to 17,854 MT in 2022 (P* projection)

Review, can change if warranted
**Butterfish Specifications**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specification</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2022</th>
<th>Rationale Summary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OFL</td>
<td>22,053</td>
<td>24,341</td>
<td>From projections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. ABC</td>
<td>11,993</td>
<td>17,854</td>
<td>From SSC, scientific uncertainty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. ACT Buffer %</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>for management uncertainty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. ACT Buffer</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>893</td>
<td>a times b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. ACT (a-c)</td>
<td>11,393</td>
<td>16,961</td>
<td>a-c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. Assumed discards in directed fishing (7.6%)</td>
<td>522</td>
<td>945</td>
<td>from observer data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. Assumed other discards</td>
<td>637</td>
<td>637</td>
<td>from cap performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g. Non-longfin discards</td>
<td>1,159</td>
<td>1,582</td>
<td>e+f</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h. Butterfish Cap (longfin discards)</td>
<td>3,884</td>
<td>3,884</td>
<td>set by Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i. Total discard set-aside</td>
<td>5,043</td>
<td>5,466</td>
<td>g+h</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>j. Landings or &quot;Domestic Annual Harvest&quot; (DAH)</td>
<td>6,350</td>
<td>11,495</td>
<td>d-i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>k. Close primary directed at this amount, i.e. with</td>
<td>5,350</td>
<td>10,495</td>
<td>j-1000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Butterfish Biomass to 2019

Results: SSB
Butterfish F to 2019

Results: F

- SAW 58
- 2017 model update
- 2020 model update run 1
- 2020 model update run 2
- 2020 model update final
Butterfish Recruitment to 2019

Results: recruitment

- SAW 58
- 2017 model update
- 2020 model update run 1
- 2020 model update run 2
- 2020 model update final

Year:
- 1990
- 1995
- 2000
- 2005
- 2010
- 2015
- 2020

Age 0 Recruits (billions): 0, 5, 10, 15
Butterfish Landings (MT, left and solid blue line) and Ex-Vessel Revenues (2020 dollars, right and dashed orange line) 1996-2020
2020 butterfish demand was mostly status quo outside of Covid

There’s still limited interest in this fishery

Dogfish abundance has been an issue for the directed fishery
Butterfish

• Several items of concern
  • Biomass has been declining for some time and recruitment has been down since 1999.
  • Stock biomass has remained above Bmsy due to low fishing mortality.
  • Following a 2/3 reduction in ABC between 2020 and 2021 the stock biomass is projected to increase in 2022.
  • Projections were based on the most recent 10 years of recruitment estimates reflecting a period of lower productivity.
• But, SSC concluded that a quota reduction was not necessary for 2022.
  • The projected total removals for 2020 are likely to be biased high suggesting a slightly lower F than used in the projections.
  • Industry members reported almost no chance that the quota in 2021 would be attained due to a weakened export market for butterfish and low domestic demand.
  • Results of the RTA for Butterfish will be available in 2021 for use by the SSC in 2022.
• SSC urged that trends in abundance should be followed closely, but did not find any compelling evidence to reject the previously approved ABC of 17,854 mt for 2022.
Staff/Monitoring Committee
Recommendations

- Specification changes do not appear warranted at this time.
Mesh Requirement - Executive Order on Seafood Competitiveness

Some AP concern in past that 3” mesh requirement to retain more than 5,000 pounds of butterfish could cause reg. discards

Does not appear to be substantial at this time based on observed longfin trips.
  - Higher catches infrequent, vast majority of discards market-driven

Can continue to monitor…recommends no changes.
Butterfish

- Questions?

- (No action needed)