
Overview of SCS8 findings and opportunity for input on SCS9 themes

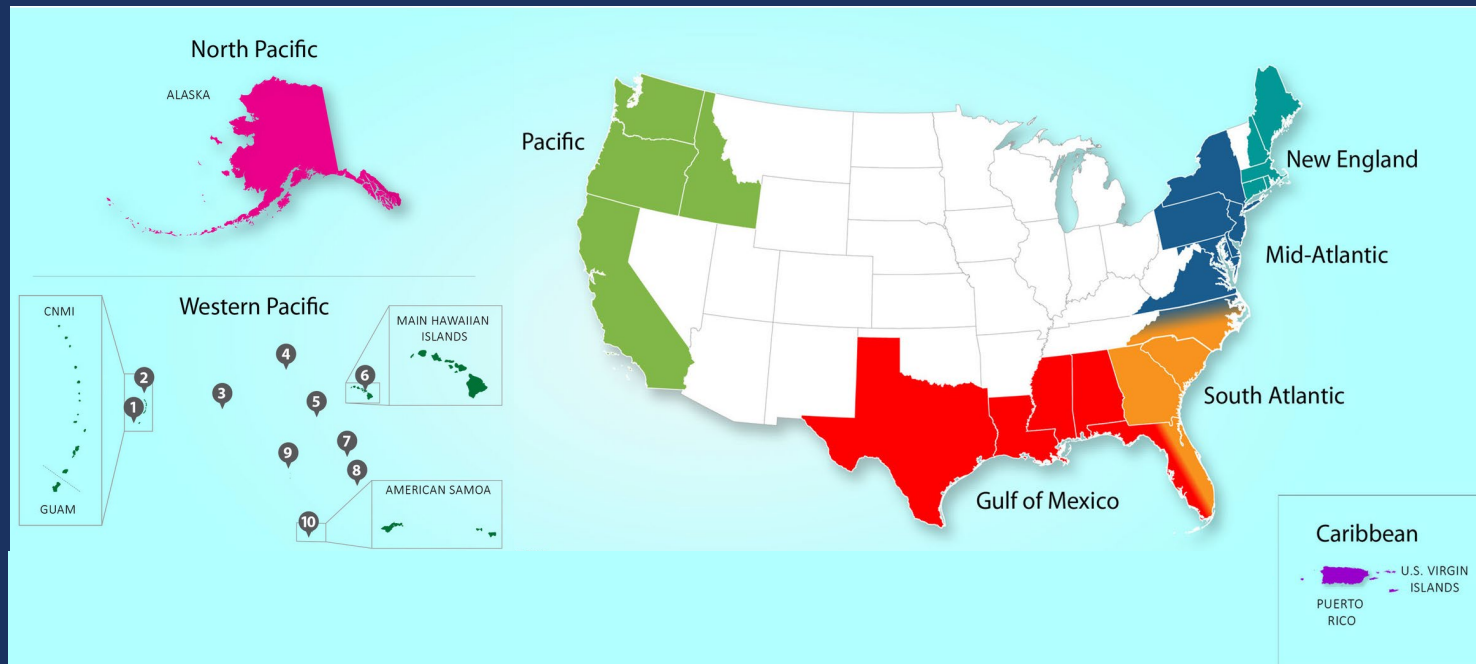
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Goals of SCS Meetings

Primary purpose of Scientific Coordination Subcommittee (SCS) meetings is to provide coordination across Fishery Management Council Scientific and Statistical Committees (SSCs) in addressing scientific issues of national importance.



Previous SCS meetings and topics

Year	Host	Focus
2008	WPFMC	Developing Best Practices for SSCs
2009	CFMC	Establishing a Basis for Annual Catch Limits
2010	SAFMC	ABC Control Rule Implementation and Peer Review Procedures
2011	MAFMC	Ecosystem and Social Science Considerations in U.S. Fishery Management
2015	WPFMC	Providing Scientific Advice in the Face of Uncertainty
2018	PFMC	The Use of Management strategy evaluation to Inform Decisions Made by the Regional Fishery Management Councils
2022	NPFMC	Adapting Fisheries Management to a Changing Ecosystem
2024	NEFMC	Applying Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) Control Rules in a Changing Environment



SCS8 Workshop Theme:

Applying ABC Control Rules in a Changing Environment

Goal: Provide actionable guidance on how to best support Councils in the management of fisheries, specifically the application of ABC control rules, in a changing environment.

3 sub-themes:

1. Advances in ecosystem science and assessment to inform ABC control rules in a dynamic environment
2. Application of social science to achieve management goals under dynamic conditions
3. Adaptation of reference points, control rules, and rebuilding plans in a changing environment

Sub-theme 1: Advances in ecosystem science and assessment to inform ABC control rules in a dynamic environment

Challenges	Recommendations
Data limitations	Basic research: funding and planning to address data limitations.
Regional differences	Consistent availability: identify differences in data and information available by region; commit to making resources available across the nation.
Stock assessment performance	Analytical advances: integrate climate impacts into stock assessments and in the definition of reference points.
Capacity limitations	Expand collaborations: Expand data collection and collaboration with partners, integrate local ecological knowledge.
Ad hoc uptake	Strategic guidance: Define opportunities and provide guidance for on-ramping ecosystem information into the decision-making process.



Sub-theme 2: Application of social science to achieve management goals under dynamic conditions

Challenges	Recommendations
Data Limitations	Address information gaps: identify and fill data gaps; address constraint of data confidentiality issues.
Regional differences	Engage and formalize use of social science: Respond to public testimony, foster relationships and trust; use LEK, cooperative research and industry input.
Capacity limitations	More coordination: Focus the available staff resources; define how SSCs can contribute; use cooperative research.
Ad hoc uptake	Strategic guidance: Define on-ramps for social science; consider alignment of scales of data, timing of science and decisions, and roles; adapt decision making process to incorporate social science.



Sub-theme 3: Adaptation of reference points, control rules, and rebuilding plans in a changing environment

Challenges	Recommendations
Data limits	Consistent availability: funding and planning is needed to address data limitations and the need for more mechanistic studies.
Inertia in science and management process	Analytical advances: integrate climate impacts into assessment and biological reference points, adapt risk tables and policies to incorporate climate risk.
ABC control rule performance	Performance evaluation: simulation testing robustness in a changing environment with management strategy evaluation or retrospective analyses.
System rigidity	Proactive actions: need address challenges and barriers to adaptation; examine where regulatory actions are required to allow future flexibility (e.g., phase-in, carryover); build flexibility into FMPs.



SSC plans stemming from SCS8 and CCTF final report

- HCR workshop June 2025
 - NPFMC SCS8 priority -> previously noted by Plan Teams 2023-2024
 - Council motion October 2024
 - Recommendation by CCTF in final report
 - Council motion for Climate Work Plan December 2025
- Socio-economic considerations in TAC-setting
 - December 2023 SSC request, document posted to December 2024 agenda, highlighted in NPFMC SCS8 report
 - October 2024 Council motion
 - June 2025 SSC (T) to discuss opportunities to improve the communication and use of available economic and social information in the management process



SCS9

- To be hosted by Gulf Council in 2026
- SCS Steering Committee developing themes for consideration.
 - Next meeting April 24, 2025 to discuss and choose themes (overarching and possible sub-themes)
 - NPFMC input on themes between now and April 24
 - Ideally propose 2 themes for consideration by Steering Committee
 - Draft themes put forward by Gulf Council posted to eAgenda

