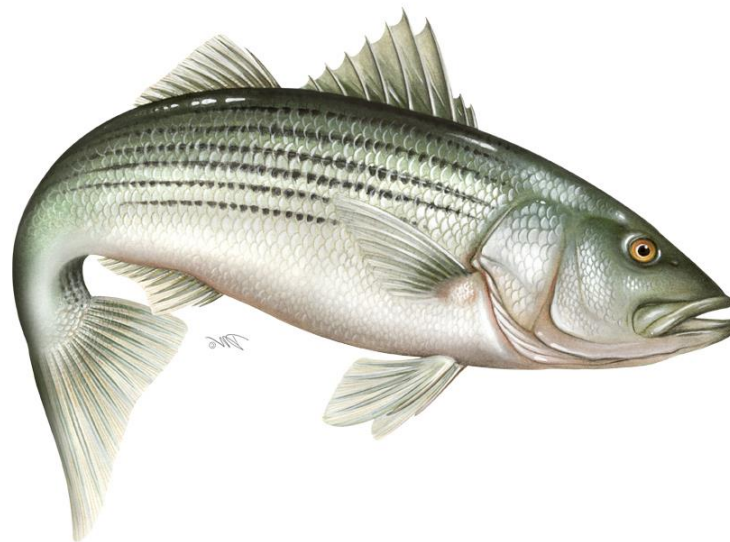




Atlantic Striped Bass Board Guidance Workgroup



March 2, 2018

Background



- 2018 benchmark underway
 - TOR#5 is to “update or redefine BRPs...”
- Concerns from Board members that the current BRPs are too conservative and are restricting fishing unnecessarily
 - Raises questions about whether the objectives and acceptable risk levels of the FMP have changed since implementation of Amendment 6 (2003).
 - E.g., preserving biomass versus allowing fishing
- Determining the best balance between these two parameters is a Board-level decision.



Background



- October 2017, TC and SAS requested guidance from Board regarding the FMP objectives and the types of reference points to pursue in the 2018 benchmark
- November 2017, Board decided to establish a work group of Board, AP, and SAS members to develop guidance recommendations for the Board to consider



Benchmark Timeline



Sept 2017	Data Workshop
Today	Board Guidance to SAS regarding BRP development
May 15-17, 2018	Assessment/Modeling Workshop I
August 2018	Modeling Workshop II
September 2018	SAS to approve stock status determination
October 2018	TC to review assessment findings & approve report
66 th SAW/SARC Nov 27-30, 2018	External Peer Review
February 2019	Board to review assessment findings and consider management response

Board Guidance Work Group



- Board Guidance Work Group (WG) membership:

Board

Ritchie White (NH)

John McMurray (NY)

John Clark (DE)

Mike Luisi (MD)

Michelle Duval (NC)

Advisory Panel

Peter Whelan (NH)

Patrick Paquette (MA)

Arnold Leo (NY)

Lou Bassano (NJ)

Dave Sikorski (MD)

SAS

Ed Hale (SAS Chair)

Nicole Lengyel (TC Chair)

Alexei Sharov (MD)

Katie Drew (ASMFC)



Survey Development



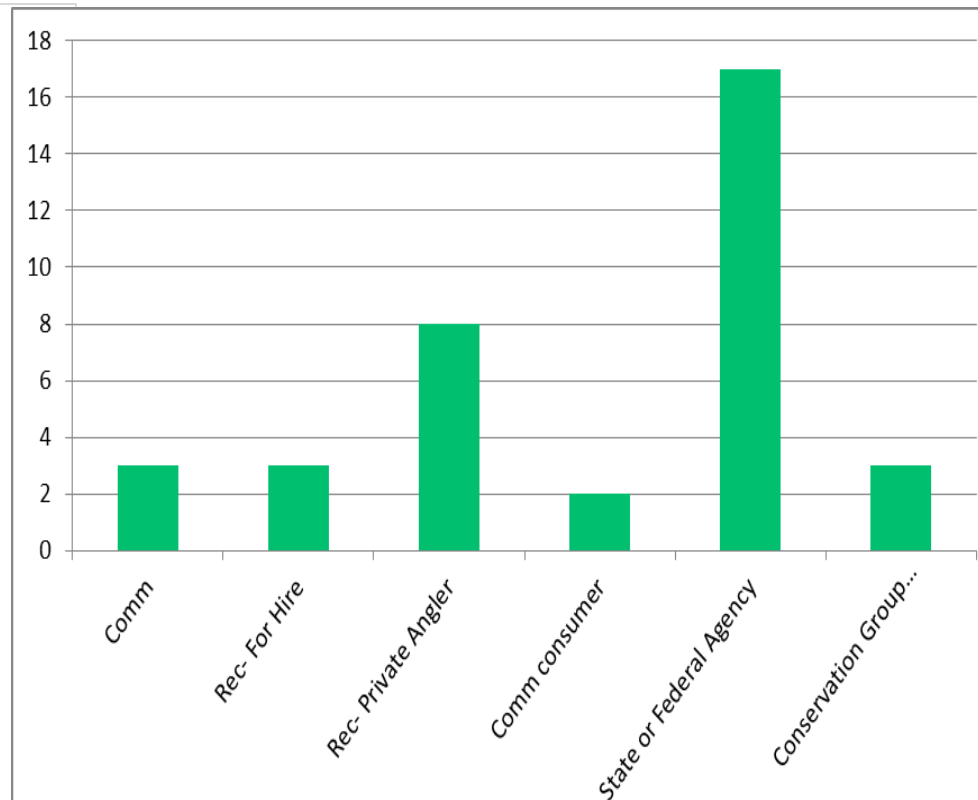
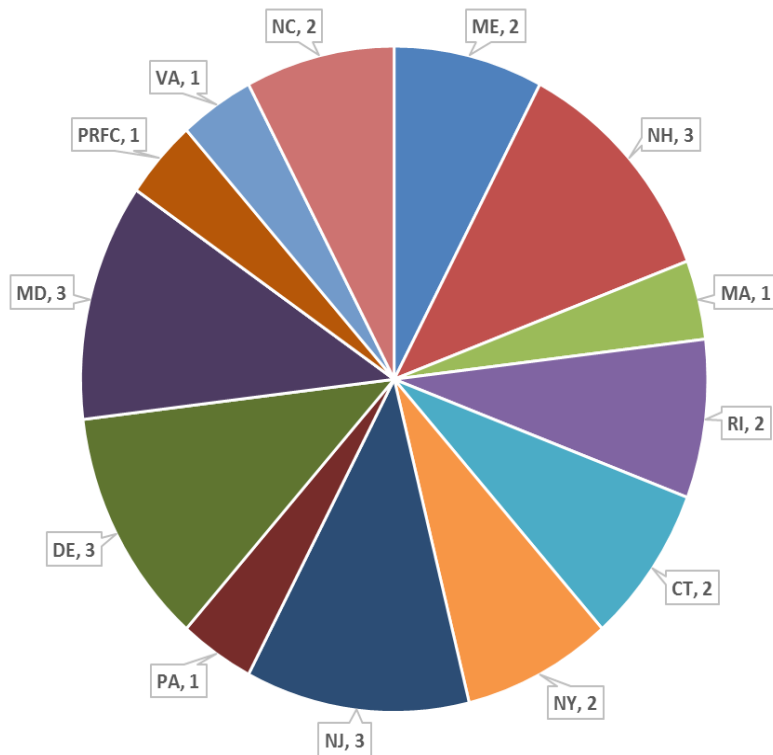
- WG developed a survey to solicit input from Board and AP members to facilitate the development of guidance recommendations
- Survey asked questions regarding what members value most from the striped bass resource and fishery, and regarding overall satisfaction with the state of the stock and management under Amendment 6.
- The results of the survey were used to develop the BRP guidance recommendations
 - See meeting materials



Respondent Demographics



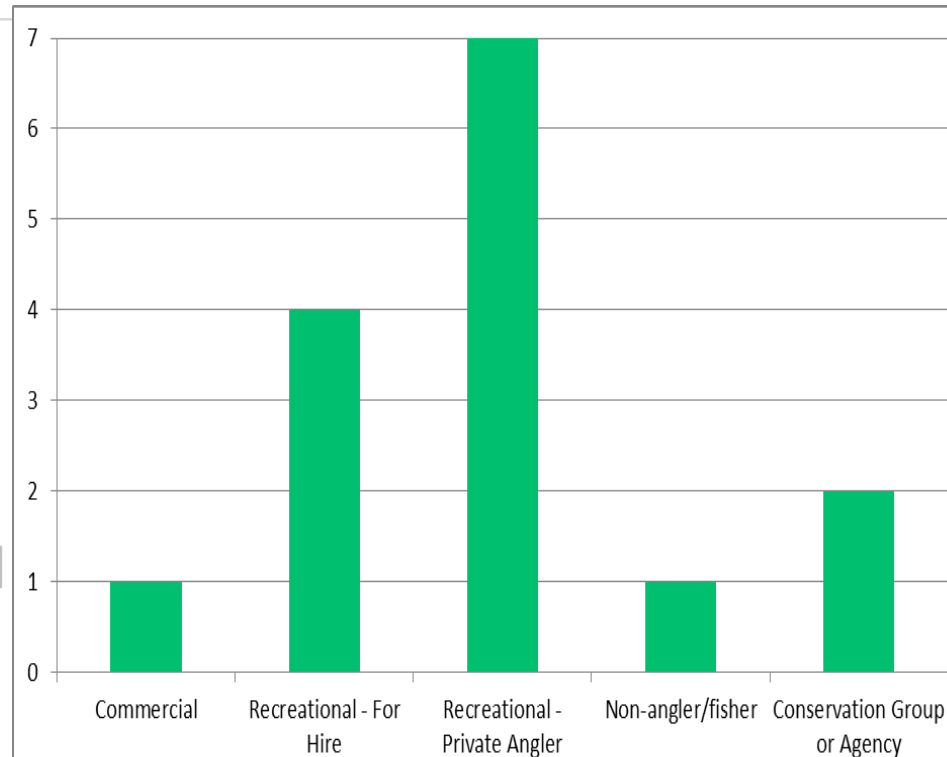
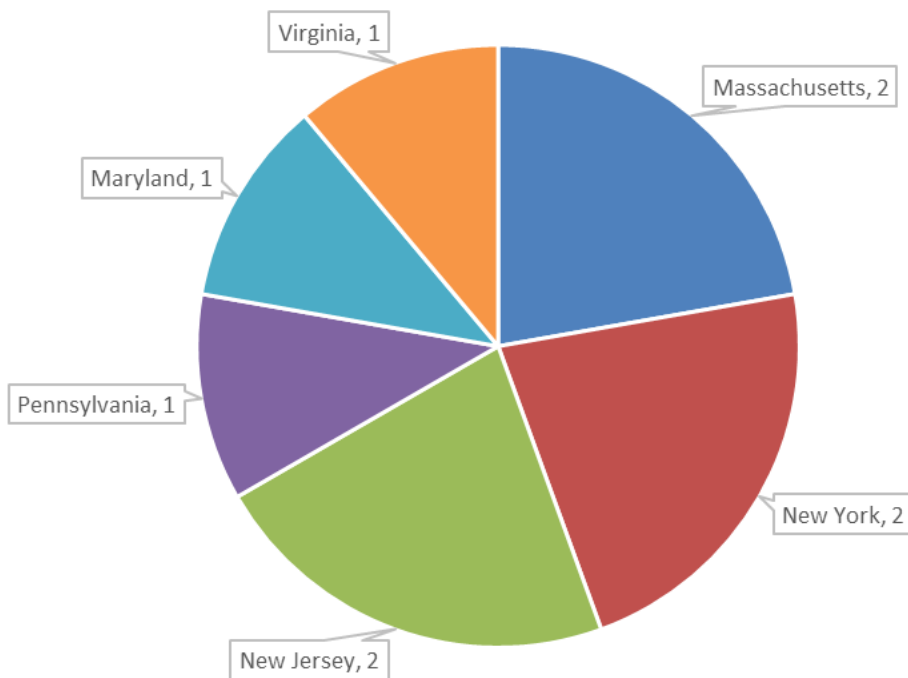
- Board Respondent Demographics:
 - 27 board members, DC not represented
 - All sectors represented, mostly Admin. Commissioners



Respondent Demographics



- AP Respondent Demographics:
 - 9 AP members
 - All sectors represented, but mostly recreational
 - All major fishing areas represented

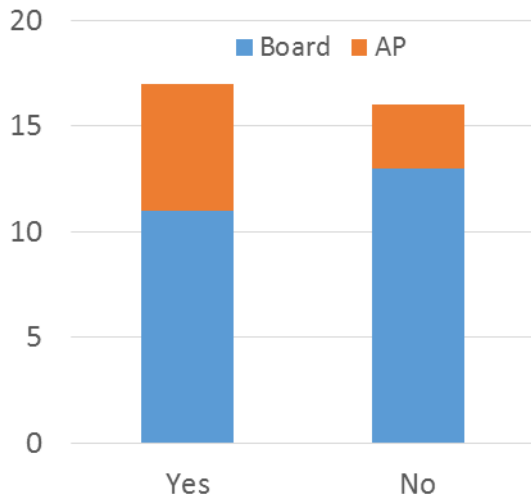


Survey Results

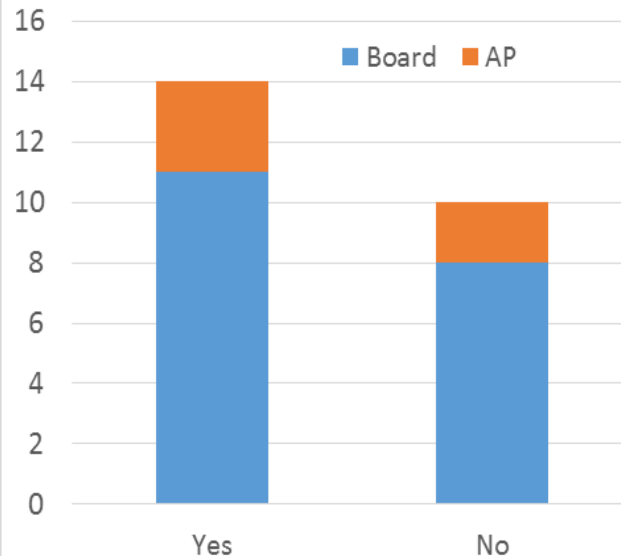


- In general, the survey was unable to identify an overwhelming majority regarding overall satisfaction with management of striped bass under Amendment 6, management triggers, or with the current reference points

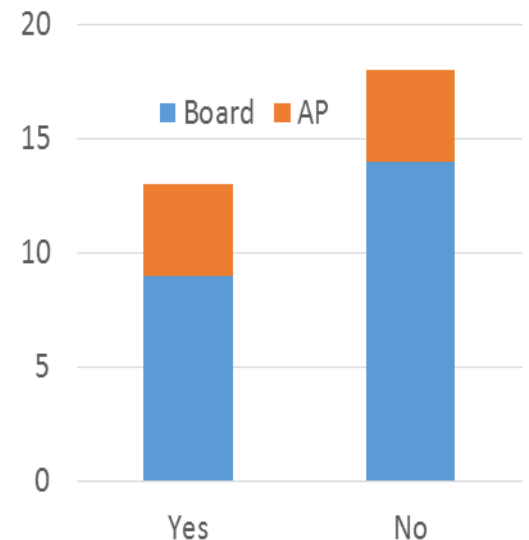
Are you satisfied with the state of the stock and management under Amendment 6?



Are you satisfied with the current management triggers?



Are you satisfied with the current striped bass reference points?



Survey Results, cont.



- Respondents that are not satisfied with the current reference points felt:
 - SSB target is too conservative and/or unachievable under current conditions
 - the development of stock-specific reference points is very important
- Survey results indicated an interest in revisiting pre-Add IV reference points
 - Add IV implemented a new set of F reference points designed to achieve the respective SSB reference point over the long term.
- There didn't appear to be a strong preference for the type of reference point (e.g., empirical versus model-based) as long as they met the management objectives.

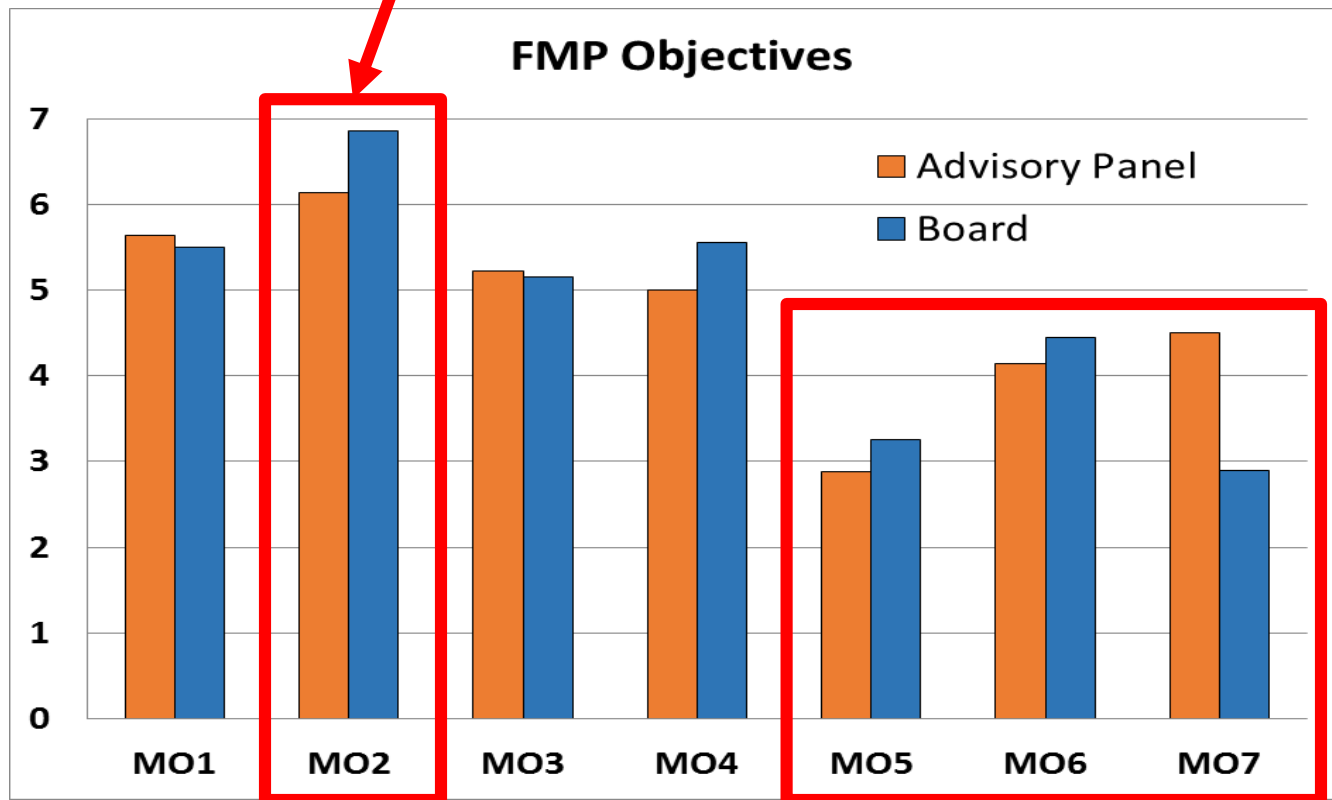


Survey Results, cont.



“Manage F to maintain an age structure that provides adequate spawning potential to sustain long term abundance of striped bass populations.”

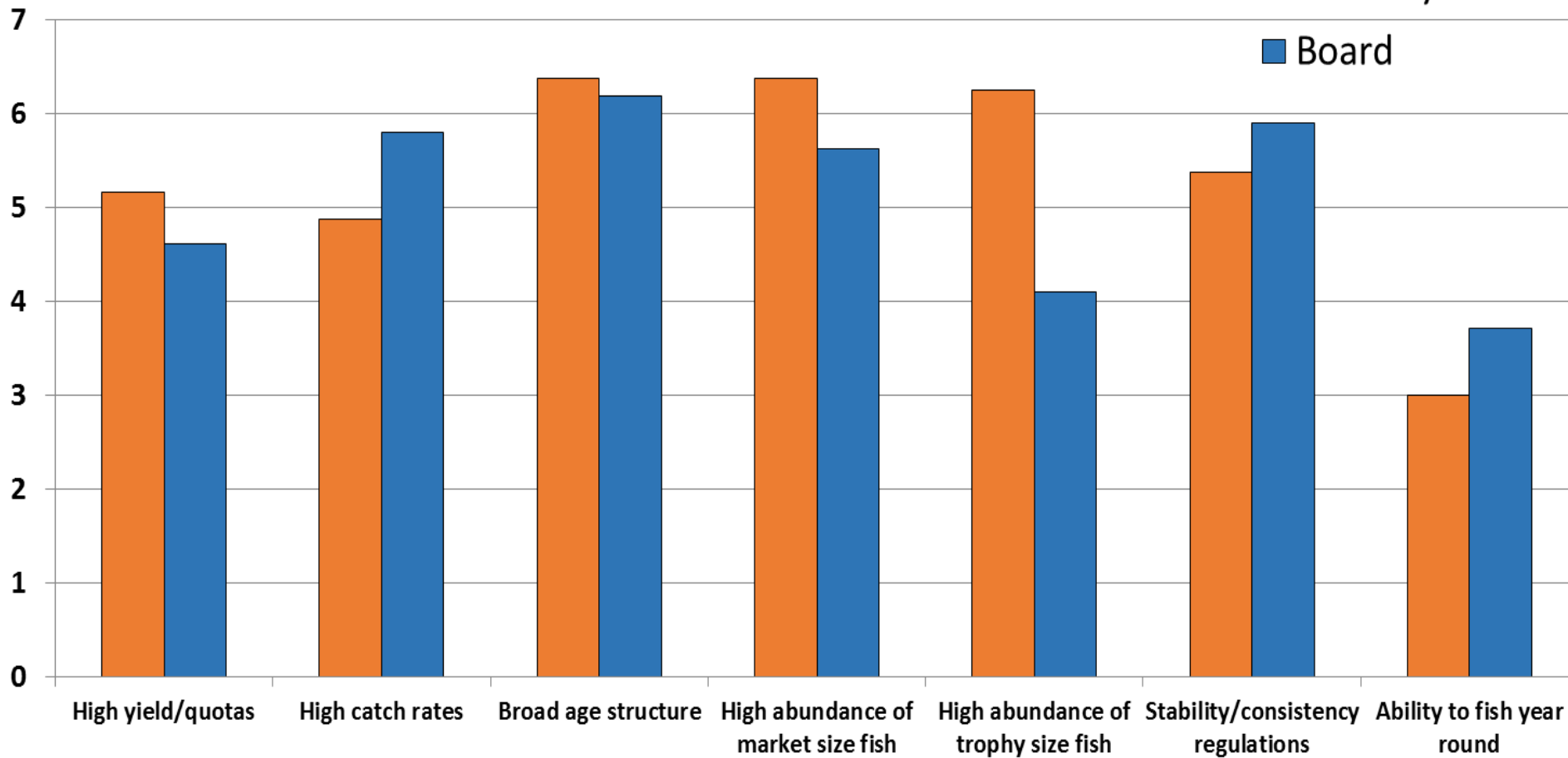
-most important objective



Survey Results, cont.



Factors of Quality and Viable Fishery



Survey Results, cont.



- Caveats
 - Low samples size
 - Unequal representation of different fishing sectors and user group (e.g., commercial sector)



WG Recommendations



- The WG recommends the SAS develop a range of F and SSB reference points:
 - Revisiting current target and threshold definitions
 - Revisiting the pre-Addendum IV approach based on historic SSB and/or F levels during a period when the stock was considered in “good condition”
 - the SAS should continue to strive for development of stock-specific reference points where possible.
 - The SAS would also clarify the various implications of different reference point values.
- This will allow the Board to explore the tradeoffs of different management objectives and different characteristics of a quality fishery





Questions?

