

# Tilefish



White Paper for Discussion  
Council Meeting – December 10, 2014  
Baltimore, MD

# Issues for Discussion

- Council Motion (Montauk, 2014)
  - Move to initiate a Framework to refine the flowchart for tilefish catch and landings limits, in order to deduct discards after the ACT is divided between the IFQ and incidental categories as this would allow for commercial sector specific discard adjustments
  - Evaluate the recreational possession limit accounting process for tilefish onboard charter and party vessels (for-hire) to accommodate multiday trips
- Additional issue (IVR) reporting requirement

# First Issue for Discussion

- Evaluate the recreational possession limit accounting process for tilefish onboard charter and party vessels (for-hire) to accommodate multiday trips
  - In other words, assess the impacts of an 8-fish per angler per day possession limit

# History of the Management System

- Original FMP (implemented Nov. 1 2001)
  - Stock rebuilding strategy
  - Commercial quota divided into the commercial full-time, part-time, and incidental fisheries
  - No recreational allocation
- Amendment 1 (implemented Nov. 1 2009)
  - IFQ system
  - Continuation of the stock rebuilding strategy
  - EFH/HAPC/Gear restricted areas
  - Recreational possession limit, P/C reporting / permitting requirements. No recreational allocation

# Recreational Landings – A synopsis

- A small recreational fishery briefly occurred in the mid 1970s (~100,000 pounds)
- Catches low for the last 30 years – NMFS recreational statistics



# Table 1. Recreational tilefish data from the NMFS recreational statistics databases, 1982-2013.

| Year | no. of fish measured | Landed no. A and B1 |         | Released no. B2 private |
|------|----------------------|---------------------|---------|-------------------------|
|      |                      | party/charter       | private |                         |
| 1982 | 0                    | 0                   | 984     | 0                       |
| 1983 | 0                    | 0                   | 0       | 0                       |
| 1984 | 0                    | 0                   | 0       | 0                       |
| 1985 | 0                    | 0                   | 0       | 0                       |
| 1986 | 0                    | 0                   | 0       | 0                       |
| 1987 | 0                    | 0                   | 0       | 0                       |
| 1988 | 0                    | 0                   | 0       | 0                       |
| 1989 | 0                    | 0                   | 0       | 0                       |
| 1990 | 0                    | 0                   | 0       | 0                       |
| 1991 | 0                    | 0                   | 0       | 0                       |
| 1992 | 0                    | 0                   | 0       | 0                       |
| 1993 | 0                    | 0                   | 0       | 0                       |
| 1994 | 0                    | 608                 | 0       | 0                       |
| 1995 | 0                    | 0                   | 0       | 0                       |
| 1996 | 0                    | 6,842               | 0       | 0                       |
| 1997 | 0                    | 0                   | 0       | 0                       |
| 1998 | 0                    | 0                   | 0       | 0                       |
| 1999 | 0                    | 0                   | 0       | 0                       |
| 2000 | 0                    | 0                   | 0       | 0                       |
| 2001 | 0                    | 148                 | 0       | 0                       |
| 2002 | 0                    | 0                   | 20,068  | 1,338                   |
| 2003 | 18                   | 721                 | 0       | 0                       |
| 2004 | 3                    | 62                  | 0       | 0                       |
| 2005 | 0                    | 0                   | 0       | 0                       |
| 2006 | 0                    | 541                 | 0       | 0                       |
| 2007 | 2                    | 1,329               | 0       | 0                       |
| 2008 | 0                    | 0                   | 0       | 0                       |
| 2009 | 0                    | 177                 | 0       | 0                       |
| 2010 | 3                    | 2,812               | 27,514  | 0                       |
| 2011 | 0                    | 0                   | 0       | 0                       |
| 2012 | 0                    | 0                   | 0       | 0                       |
| 2013 | 0                    | 262,216             | 0       | 0                       |



**Table 2. # of TF kept by P/C anglers, # of anglers, mean effort, # headboats, and # of trips from ME-VA, 1996-2013, VTR data.**

| Year | Number of Tilefish Kept | Number of Anglers | Mean Effort* | Number of Head-boats | Number of Trips |
|------|-------------------------|-------------------|--------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1996 | 81                      | 56                | 1.4          | 1                    | 2               |
| 1997 | 400                     | 53                | 7.5          | 2                    | 3               |
| 1998 | 243                     | 30                | 8.1          | 5                    | 5               |
| 1999 | 91                      | 203               | 0.4          | 3                    | 6               |
| 2000 | 147                     | 302               | 0.5          | 4                    | 13              |
| 2001 | 172                     | 248               | 0.7          | 6                    | 12              |
| 2002 | 774                     | 858               | 0.9          | 7                    | 34              |
| 2003 | 991                     | 614               | 1.6          | 11                   | 24              |
| 2004 | 737                     | 629               | 1.2          | 8                    | 32              |
| 2005 | 498                     | 564               | 0.9          | 12                   | 33              |
| 2006 | 477                     | 387               | 1.2          | 11                   | 25              |
| 2007 | 1,077                   | 883               | 1.2          | 17                   | 51              |
| 2008 | 1,110                   | 832               | 1.3          | 18                   | 53              |
| 2009 | 1,451                   | 1,076             | 1.3          | 21                   | 55              |
| 2010 | 1,866                   | 934               | 2.0          | 21                   | 57              |
| 2011 | 2,938                   | 875               | 3.4          | 21                   | 55              |
| 2012 | 6,424                   | 2,298             | 2.8          | 22                   | 115             |
| 2013 | 13,120                  | 4,162             | 3.2          | 25                   | 222             |
| All  | 32,587                  | 15,004            | 2.2          | 215                  | 797             |

**Table 3. # of tilefish kept by P/C anglers, # of anglers, mean effort, # of headboats, and # of trips from ME-VA by 1-day and multiday trips, 1996-2013, VTR data.**

| Year | 1-Day Trips             |   |                 |   |                   |   |             | Multiday Trips                         |   |                 |  |                   |   |             |
|------|-------------------------|---|-----------------|---|-------------------|---|-------------|--|---|-----------------|--|-------------------|---|-------------|
|      | Number of Tilefish Kept | Number of Tilefish Kept as a Percent of the Total | Number of Trips | Number of Trips as a Percent of Total Trips | Number of Anglers | Number of Anglers as a Percent of the Total | Mean Effort | Number of Tilefish Kept Multiday Trips | Number of Tilefish Kept as a Percent of the Total | Number of Trips | Multiday Trips as a Percent of Total Trips | Number of Anglers | Number of Anglers as a Percent of the Total | Mean Effort |
| 1996 | 0                       | 0.0   | 0               | 0.0   | 0                 | 0.0   | <           | 81                                     | 100.0   | 2               | 100.0                                      | 56                | 100.0                                       | 1.4         |
| 1997 | 0                       | 0.0   | 0               | 0.0   | 0                 | 0.0   | <           | 400                                    | 100.0   | 3               | 100.0                                      | 53                | 100.0                                       | 7.5         |
| 1998 | 0                       | 0.0   | 0               | 0.0   | 0                 | 0.0   | <           | 243                                    | 100.0   | 5               | 100.0                                      | 30                | 100.0                                       | 8.1         |
| 1999 | 2                       | 2.2   | 1               | 16.7  | 77                | 37.9  | <0.1        | 89                                     | 97.8  | 5               | 83.3                                       | 126               | 62.1  | 0.7         |
| 2000 | 3                       | 2.0   | 1               | 7.7   | 26                | 8.6   | 0.1         | 144                                    | 98.0  | 12              | 92.3                                       | 276               | 91.4  | 0.5         |
| 2001 | 0                       | 0.0   | 0               | 0.0   | 0                 | 0.0   | <           | 172                                    | 100.0   | 12              | 100.0                                      | 248               | 100.0                                       | 0.7         |
| 2002 | 211                     | 27.3  | 4               | 11.8  | 111               | 12.9  | 1.9         | 563                                    | 72.7  | 30              | 88.2                                       | 747               | 87.1  | 0.8         |
| 2003 | 866                     | 87.4  | 10              | 41.7  | 368               | 59.9  | 2.4         | 125                                    | 12.6  | 14              | 58.3                                       | 246               | 40.1  | 0.5         |
| 2004 | 341                     | 46.3  | 8               | 25.0  | 82                | 13.0  | 4.2         | 396                                    | 53.7  | 24              | 75.0                                       | 547               | 87.0  | 0.7         |
| 2005 | 313                     | 62.9  | 13              | 39.4  | 142               | 25.2  | 2.2         | 185                                    | 37.1  | 20              | 60.6                                       | 422               | 74.8  | 0.4         |
| 2006 | 150                     | 31.4  | 12              | 48.0  | 114               | 29.5  | 1.3         | 327                                    | 68.6  | 13              | 52.0                                       | 273               | 70.5  | 1.2         |
| 2007 | 174                     | 16.2  | 13              | 25.5  | 145               | 16.4  | 1.2         | 903                                    | 83.8  | 38              | 74.5                                       | 738               | 83.6  | 1.2         |
| 2008 | 263                     | 23.9  | 22              | 41.5  | 220               | 26.4  | 1.2         | 837                                    | 76.1  | 31              | 58.5                                       | 612               | 73.6  | 1.4         |
| 2009 | 315                     | 21.7  | 29              | 52.7  | 602               | 55.9  | 0.5         | 1,136                                  | 78.3  | 26              | 47.3                                       | 474               | 44.1  | 2.4         |
| 2010 | 225                     | 12.1  | 17              | 29.8  | 335               | 35.9  | 0.7         | 1,641                                  | 87.9  | 40              | 70.2                                       | 599               | 64.1  | 2.7         |
| 2011 | 453                     | 15.4  | 19              | 34.5  | 262               | 29.9  | 1.7         | 2,485                                  | 84.6  | 36              | 65.5                                       | 613               | 70.1  | 4.1         |
| 2012 | 3,979                   | 61.9  | 59              | 51.3  | 1,158             | 50.4  | 3.4         | 2,445                                  | 38.1  | 56              | 48.7                                       | 1,140             | 49.6  | 2.1         |
| 2013 | 6,132                   | 46.7  | 122             | 55.0  | 2,490             | 59.8  | 2.5         | 6,988                                  | 53.3  | 100             | 45.0                                       | 1,672             | 40.2  | 4.2         |
| All  | 13,427                  | 41.2  | 330             | 41.4  | 6,132             | 40.9  | 2.2         | 19,160                                 | 58.8  | 467             | 58.6                                       | 8,872             | 59.1  | 2.2         |

# Table 4. Number of tilefish caught by party/charter vessels by state, 1996 through 2013.

| Year | ME | NH | MA  | RI  | CT | NY    | NJ     | DE  | MD  | VA  | All    |
|------|----|----|-----|-----|----|-------|--------|-----|-----|-----|--------|
| 1996 | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0   | 0  | 81    | 0      | 0   | 0   | 0   | 81     |
| 1997 | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0   | 0  | 400   | 0      | 0   | 0   | 0   | 400    |
| 1998 | 0  | 0  | 0   | 102 | 0  | 141   | 0      | 0   | 0   | 0   | 243    |
| 1999 | 0  | 0  | 0   | 1   | 0  | 88    | 0      | 0   | 2   | 0   | 91     |
| 2000 | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0   | 0  | 108   | 39     | 0   | 0   | 0   | 147    |
| 2001 | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0   | 0  | 122   | 51     | 0   | 0   | 0   | 173    |
| 2002 | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0   | 0  | 401   | 373    | 0   | 0   | 0   | 774    |
| 2003 | 0  | 0  | 0   | 3   | 0  | 86    | 902    | 0   | 0   | 0   | 991    |
| 2004 | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0   | 0  | 12    | 628    | 0   | 0   | 104 | 744    |
| 2005 | 0  | 0  | 0   | 72  | 0  | 82    | 318    | 14  | 0   | 16  | 502    |
| 2006 | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0   | 0  | 265   | 65     | 2   | 133 | 12  | 477    |
| 2007 | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0   | 0  | 447   | 459    | 88  | 5   | 80  | 1,079  |
| 2008 | 0  | 0  | 0   | 3   | 0  | 488   | 545    | 22  | 32  | 10  | 1,100  |
| 2009 | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0   | 0  | 720   | 675    | 18  | 7   | 31  | 1,451  |
| 2010 | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0   | 0  | 595   | 1,194  | 19  | 23  | 48  | 1,879  |
| 2011 | 0  | 0  | 496 | 0   | 0  | 720   | 1,654  | 60  | 5   | 14  | 2,949  |
| 2012 | 0  | 0  | 0   | 1   | 0  | 1,116 | 5,146  | 42  | 23  | 98  | 6,426  |
| 2013 | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0   | 0  | 3,800 | 9,136  | 78  | 24  | 82  | 13,120 |
| All  | 0  | 0  | 496 | 182 | 0  | 9,672 | 21,185 | 343 | 254 | 495 | 32,627 |

# Recent recreational landings compared to the commercial allocation

**Table 5. Total pounds of tilefish kept by party/charter boats given hypothetical average weight of fish landed by fishing year, 2011-2013.**

| Fishing Year | Number of Tilefish Kept | Average Weight Per Fish | Total Pounds of Tilefish Kept by Headboats | TAL          | Recreational landings as a percent of the TAL |
|--------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--|--------------|---|
| 2011         | 2,935                   | 7 lb                    | 20,545                                     | 1,995,000 lb | 1.0%  |
|              | 2,935                   | 10 lb                   | 29,350                                     |              | 1.5%  |
|              | 2,935                   | 15 lb                   | 44,025                                     |              | 2.2%  |
| 2012         | 5,153                   | 7 lb                    | 36,071                                     |              | 1.8%  |
|              | 5,153                   | 10 lb                   | 51,530                                     |              | 2.6%  |
|              | 5,153                   | 15 lb                   | 77,295                                     |              | 3.9%  |
| 2013         | 14,151                  | 7 lb                    | 99,057                                     |              | 5.0%  |
|              | 14,151                  | 10 lb                   | 141,510                                    |              | 7.1%  |
|              | 14,151                  | 15 lb                   | 212,265                                    |              | 10.6%   |

# Analysis of landings - multiday trips

- A change from 8-fish possession limit per angler per trip to 8-fish possession limit per angler per day would only affect anglers that participate in multiday trips
- Approximately 43% more tilefish were kept by vessels on multiday trips than in 1-day trips
- However, the mean effort for the last 5 years (2009-2013) on multiday trips have ranged from 2.4 to 4.2 fish per angler

# Analysis of landings - multiday trips...

- As such, it is possible that if effort were to stay at the current level, an increase in the possession limit on multiday trips (8-fish possession limit per angler per day) may not increase tilefish recreational landings
- However, if an 8-fish possession limit per angler per day is successfully implemented as a marketing tool and/or the effort in the tilefish recreational fishery continues to increase as it has done in the past few years we could potentially see a further increase in tilefish recreational landings

# Recent reports on angler interest on tilefish trips— A synopsis

- FPRs & Fishing Repots show an increased recreational interest in the last three years
- Approximately 10 headboats have been actively engaged in the tilefish fishery in the Mid-Atlantic canyons in recent years
- It is estimated that approximately 4 of these boats conducted direct tilefish fishing trips, while the other 6 boats may have caught tilefish while fishing for tuna/swordfish or fishing for assorted deep water species

# Table 6. Tilefish recreational management measures by state, 2014

| State <sup>14</sup> | Minimum Size (inches) | Possession Limit       | Open Season     | Special Comments   |
|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------|--|
| ME-DE               | None                  |                        |                 |  |
| Maryland            | None                  | Daily – 7 in aggregate | Open Year Round | Regulation pertains to “tilefish species”  |
| Virginia            | None                  | 7 per person           | Open Year Round | <p>“Tilefish” means any of the following: Blueline tilefish, <i>Caulolatilus microps</i>; Golden tilefish, <i>Lopholatilus chamaeleonticeps</i>; Sand tilefish, <i>Malacanthus plumieri</i>.</p> <p>Regulations implemented to provide for the conservation of tilefish and to reduce the potential for overfishing by establishing limits on the harvest and landing of these fish.</p> |

# Implications for management

- Recreational catches have not been incorporated in the tilefish stock assessments as a reliable time series of recreational catches is not available
- Prior assessments have concluded that the recreational removals are likely a minor component of the catch



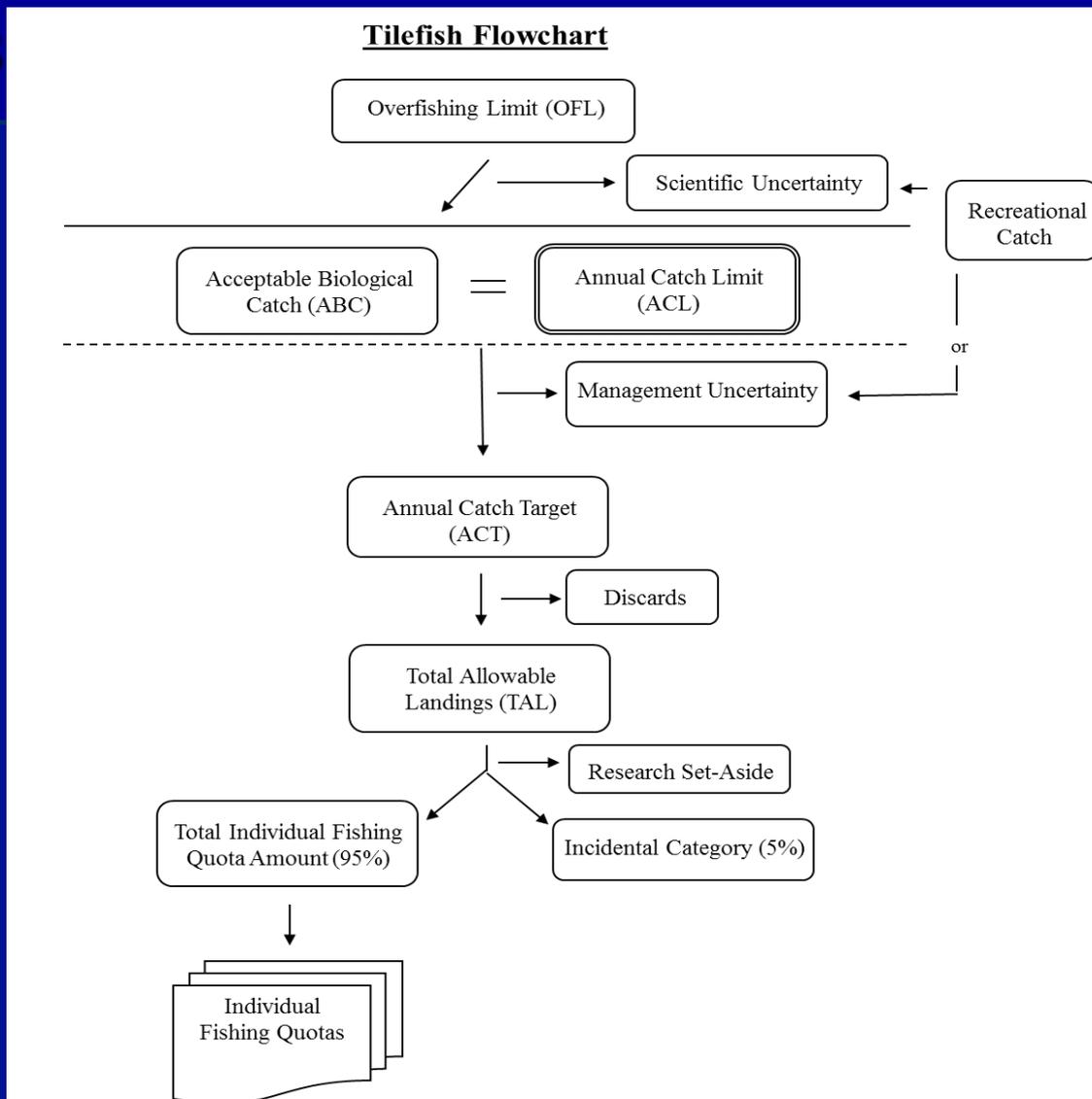
# Implications for management ...

- Recreational landings above 5% of the TAL may no longer be considered an insignificant component of the catch and mortality; and could increase the uncertainty in the stock assessment if this increase source of mortality is not monitored and accurately accounted for in the catch
- If recreational tilefish landings are increasing, the Council may consider an allocation of the tilefish annual catch limit (ACL) to the recreational fishery – Require the development of an Amendment

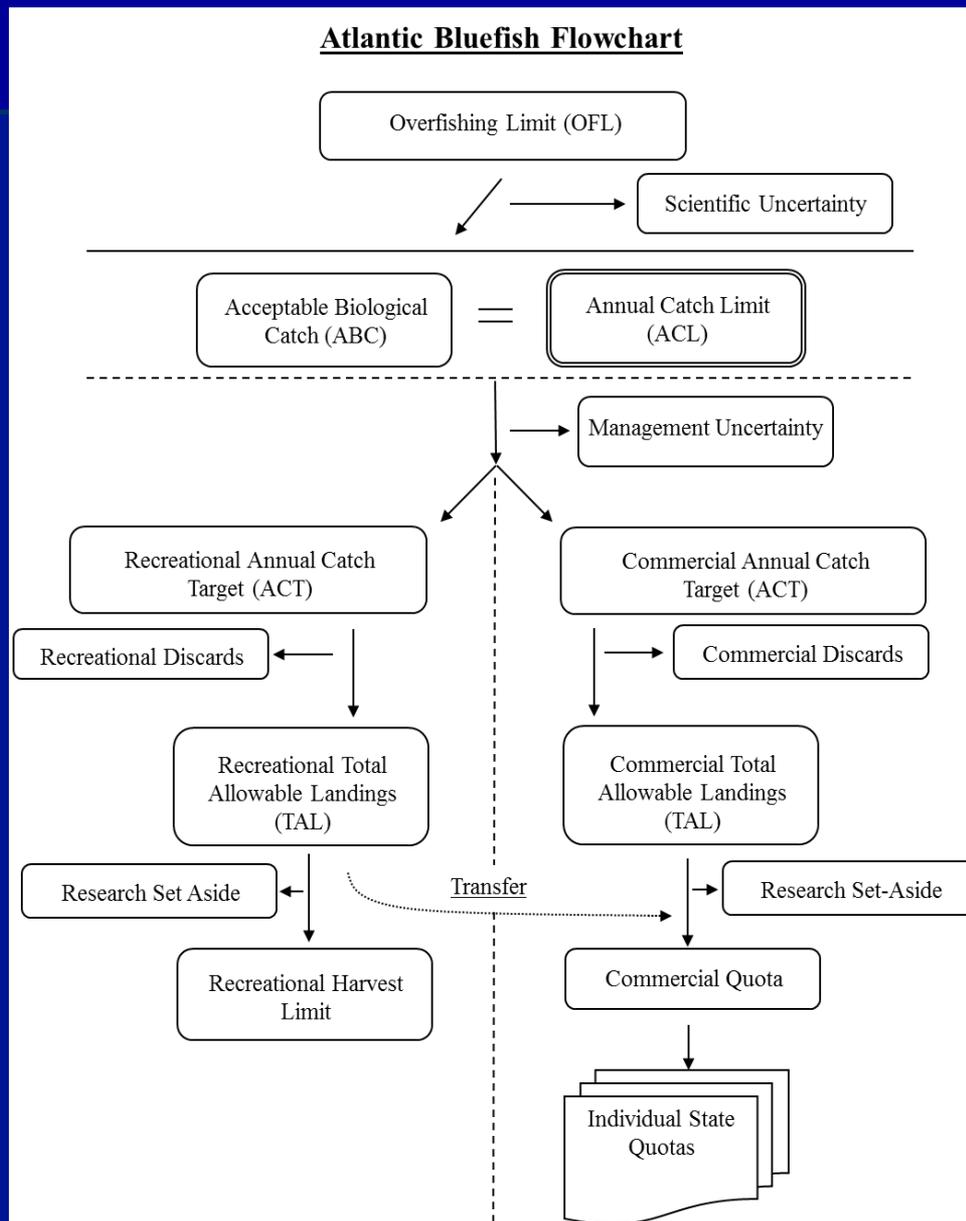
# Second Issue for Discussion

- Move to initiate a Framework to refine the flowchart for tilefish catch and landings limits, in order to deduct discards after the ACT is divided between the IFQ and incidental categories as this would allow for commercial sector specific discard adjustments

# Refine the flowchart for tilefish catch and landings



# Refine the flowchart for tilefish catch and landings



# Implications for management

- A change to the current flowchart for tilefish catch and landings limits would allow for discard levels to be deducted from the specific sector of the fishery producing them
- Given recent performance of the tilefish incidental category, it is not expected that a direct adjustment to the incidental category quota to account for discards in that sector of the fishery would increase regulatory discards in that fishery if it continues to perform as it has done in recent years
- Require the development of a Framework

# Third Issue for Discussion

- Interactive Voice Response (IVR) requirements
  - The IVR requirements were first implemented when the FMP was initiated in 2001 as a way to track quota landings in the fishery in a timely fashion. Permitted vessels were required must submit a tilefish catch report within 24 hour time period after returning to port
  - A1; IFQ allocation permit must submit a tilefish catch report by using the IVR phone line system within 48 hours after returning to port and offloading

# IVR requirements

- With the implementation of electronic dealer reporting in 2004 and improved VTR reporting processing by the agency, the information provided by fishermen using the IVR system has become redundant
- Dealer reporting is currently used to monitor tilefish quota landings



# Implications for management

- The elimination of the tilefish IVR reporting system would
  - Reduce the reporting requirement burden for the industry
  - Reduce the burden requirement for the agency to maintain the IVR system for this fishery
- Require the development of a Framework

# Questions?

