



Illex Squid

June 2021

Illex

Two topics:

Specifications

Control date considerations

Illex Specifications

ABC = 30,000 MT for 2021

- Need to set for 2022; and
- can modify 2021 if appropriate.

Current ABC: SSC's May 2020 review of Council's quota workgroup products.

New EA, range is 20,000 - 40,000 MT

- Allows more flexibility

Illex now....

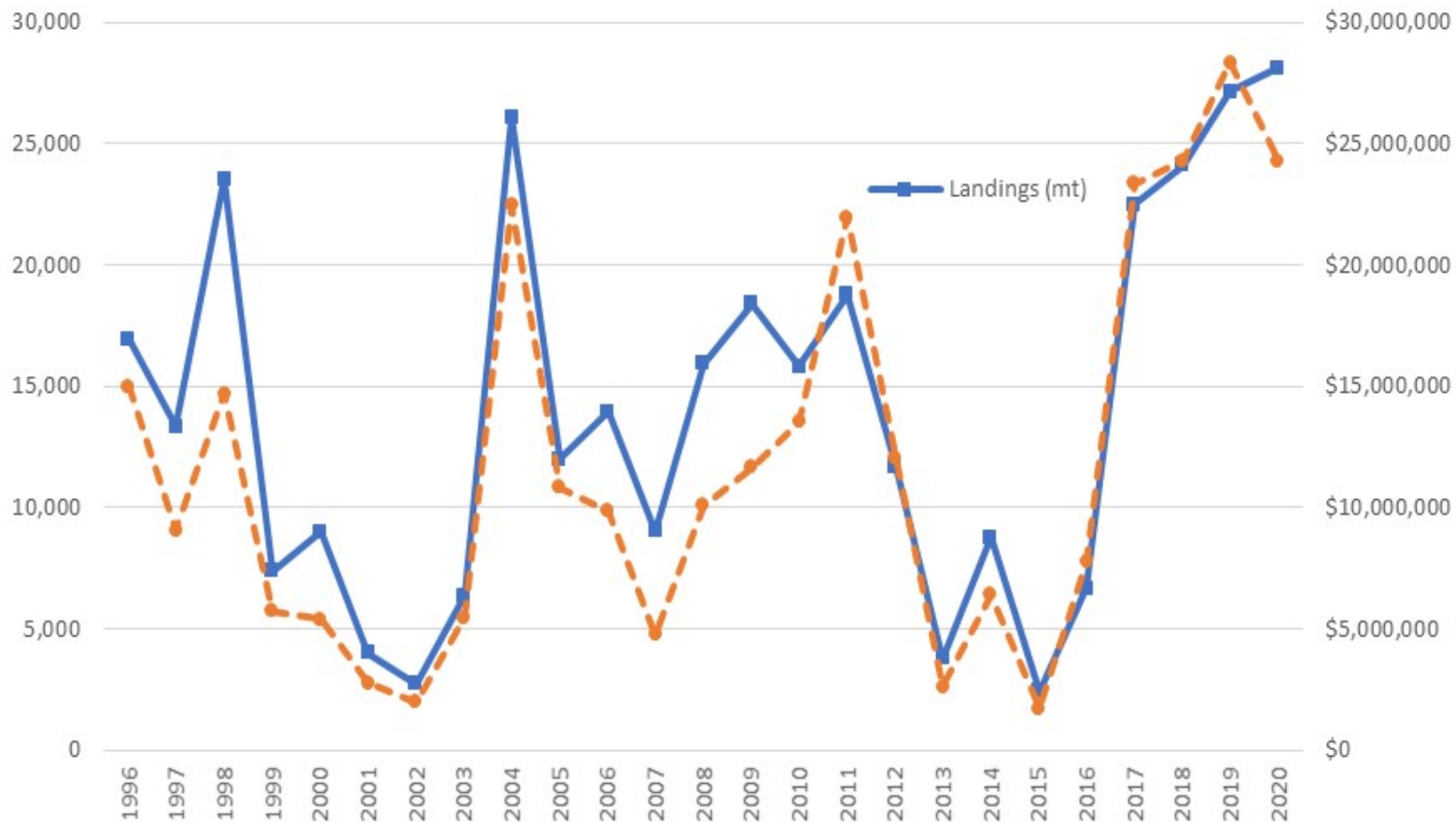
Research Track Assessment is ongoing...

Some refining of some of last year's analyses...

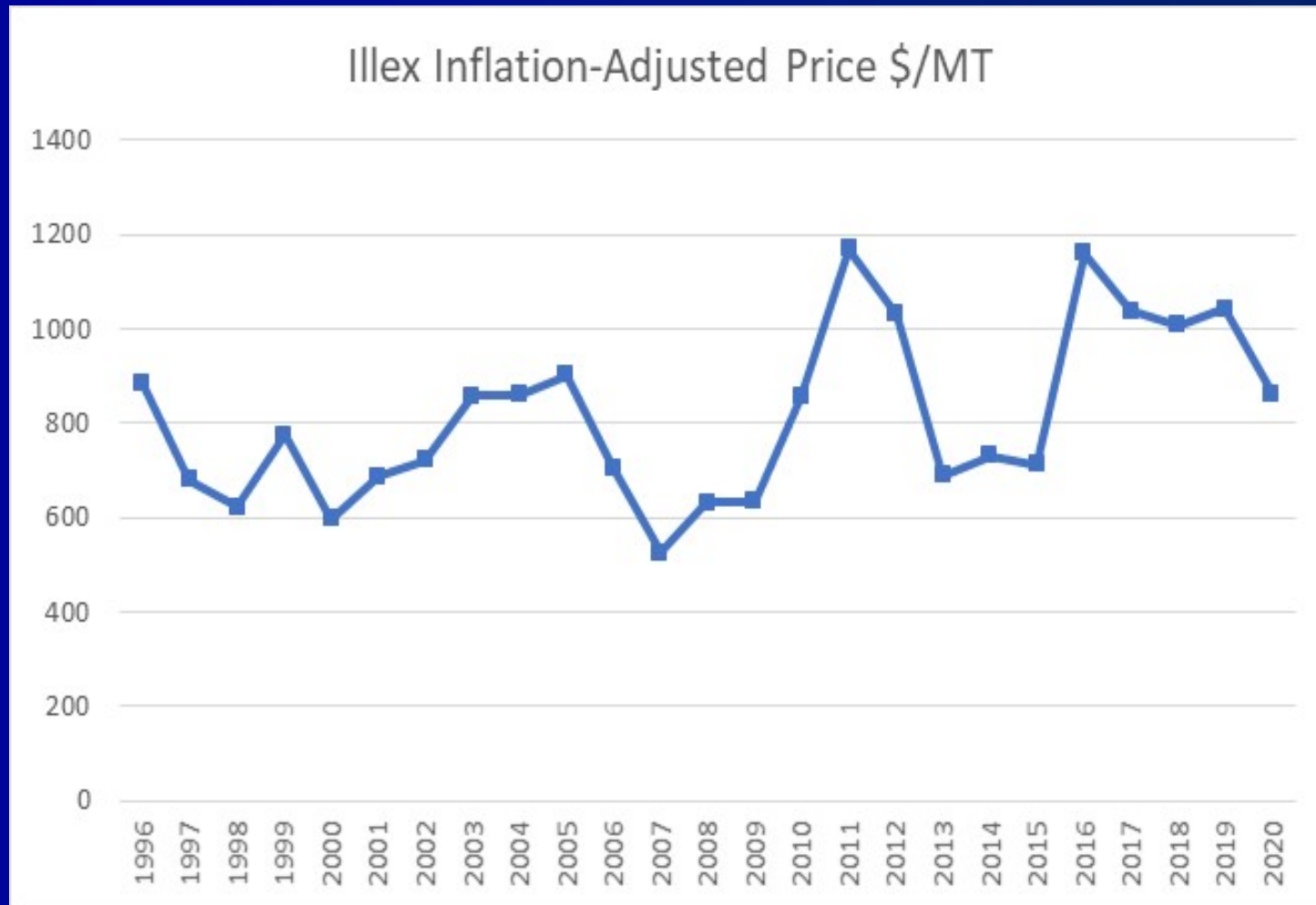
Info Doc and FPR... (no 2020 survey)

From Fishery Info Doc

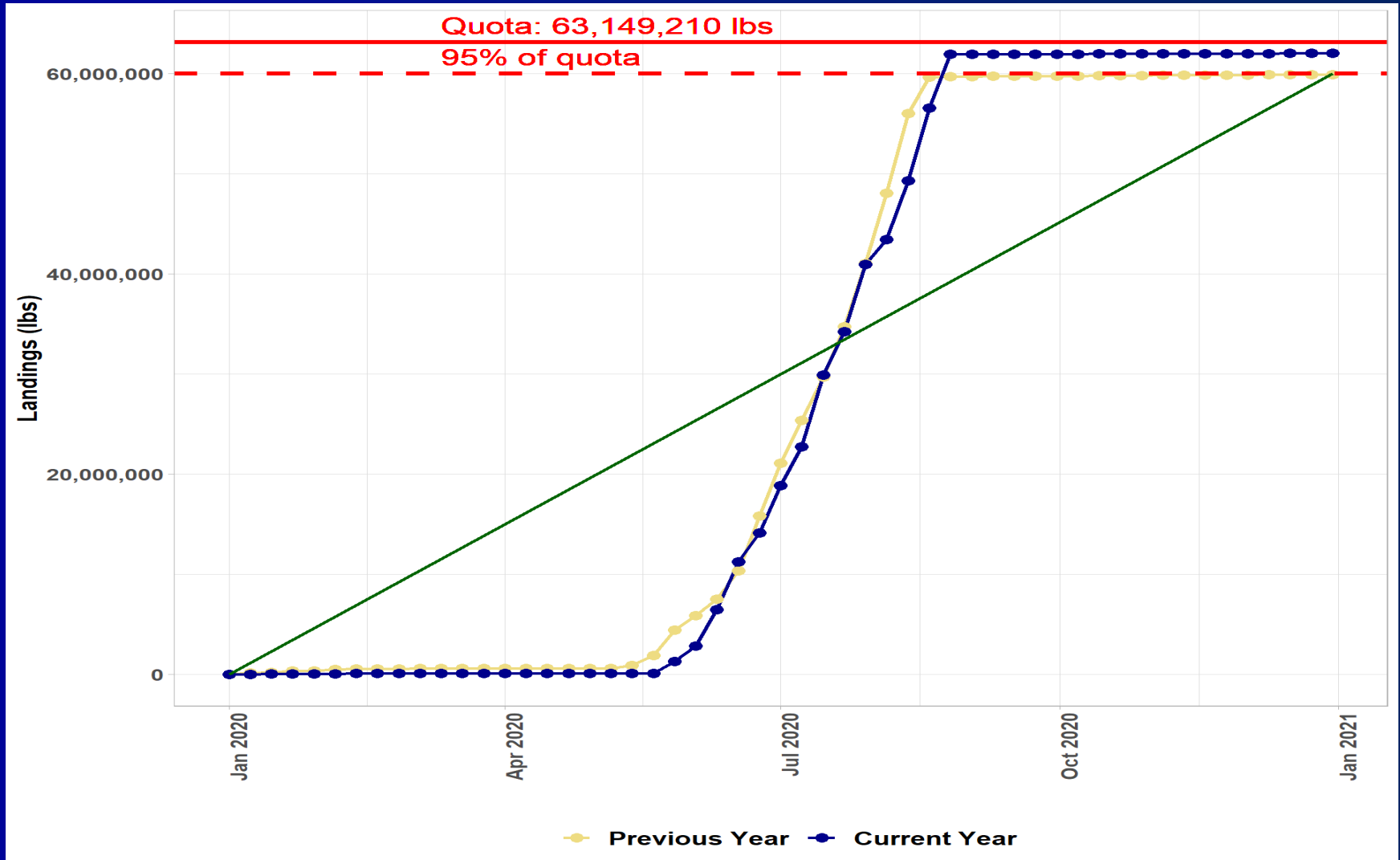
Illex Landings (MT, left and solid blue line) and Ex-Vessel Revenues (2020 dollars, right and dashed orange line) 1996-2020



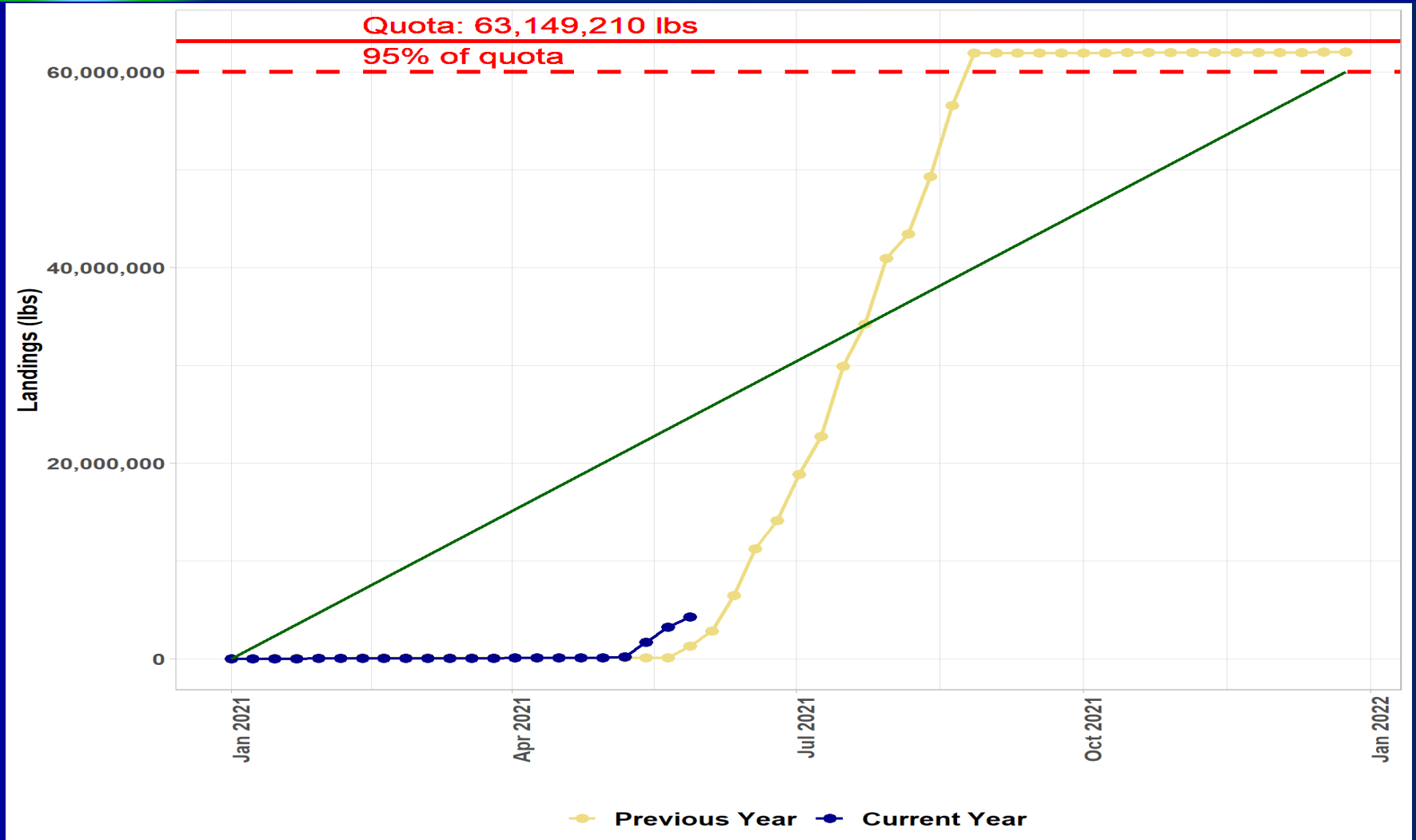
From Fishery Info Doc



From Fishery Info Doc 2019/20



Fishery Monitoring 2020/21



Illex - FPR

- Not much different from last year. Industry anticipating the assessment results and rulemaking for *Illex* permit action (neither effecting 2021).
- World supply/demand, local availability, costs (fuel), regulations.
- Early shutdowns mean our picture of *Illex* sizes and potential productivity is incomplete.

SSC Recommendations...

Illex Squid—Terms of Reference for ABC (#1)

1_ Review the appropriateness of the staff recommendation to modify the Illex squid ABC from 30,000 MT to 33,000 MT for the 2021 fishing season and an ABC of 33,000 MT for the 2022 fishing season. If the staff recommendation of 33,000 MT is inappropriate, specify an alternative ABC for 2021, if needed, and for 2022 and provide any supporting information used to make this determination.

- *There is no OFL or F_{MSY} proxy available for Illex squid but SSC reviewed and accepted an ad hoc approach to developing an ABC recommendation*
- *Based on evidence presented, including patterns that suggest an increase in abundance, low levels of exploitation, and catches that have been constrained by existing ABCs for the last four years, the SSC continues to believe that the Illex stock is at a high level of abundance and experiencing a low exploitation rate.*
- *Under its risk policy, the Council accepts a higher risk of overfishing when a stock is at a high level of abundance (i.e., $B/B_{MSY} > 1$).*
 - *While awaiting results of Research Track Assessment, Council staff recommended an incremental approach to establishing an ABC (33,000) that recognizes the high likelihood that Illex squid are at a high level of abundance and experiencing a low rate of exploitation.*
 - *Analyses indicated that an ABC of this level is likely not to be in conflict with the Council's risk policy.*
- ***The SSC recommends an ABC of 33,000 MT for 2021 and 2022 pending acceptance of results from the Research Track Assessment that is currently underway and may be available early in 2022.***

Illex Squid—Terms of Reference for ABC (#2)

2_ If appropriate, specify any metrics the SSC could examine in late 2021 or 2022 to determine if any 2022 ABC modification might be appropriate;

- *In the short term, the SSC will consider:*
 - *Pattern and distribution of landings during the upcoming fishing season, and*
 - *Pattern and distribution of catches (if available) during the upcoming surveys.*
- *The SSC recommends further analyses including a wider range of ABC specifications be explored in the future. The SSC notes its discussions were constrained during the meeting because only analyses of a single ABC value were made available.*
- *The SSC notes it was not possible to evaluate whether ABCs higher than 33,000 MT were similarly compliant with the Council risk policy. Additional analyses that evaluate other possible ABCs may set the foundation for a continued incremental approach to increasing ABC.*
- *The SSC recommends including the approaches explored in the Research Track Assessment so that it receives more complete peer review. Currently, results are available for only two levels of ABC (30,000 MT and 33,000 MT), and these preclude an assessment of how risk changes as ABC varies.*

Illex Squid—Terms of Reference for ABC (#3, #5)

3_The most significant sources of scientific uncertainty associated with determination of the ABC;

- *The SSC notes the following important sources of scientific uncertainty:*
 - *The extent, distribution and magnitude of the Illex stock remains poorly defined.*
 - *The lack of biomass and exploitation rate estimates for this species.*
 - *The extent to which catch is driven by variation in availability to the fishery as opposed to variation in underlying abundance remains largely unknown.*
 - *Whether a 40% escapement B_{MSY} proxy is appropriate as a foundation for management of Illex is uncertain.*
 - *The level, extent and inter-annual variability in immigration into, emigration from and recruitment to the stock are poorly described.*
 - *Despite progress from the analyses presented, the relative catchability between fishing fleets and the survey remains poorly quantified.*

5_ A conclusion that the recommendations provided by the SSC are based on scientific information the SSC believes meets the applicable National Standard guidelines for best scientific information available.

- *The SSC certifies the recommendations are based on the best scientific information available.*

Staff/Monitoring Committee Recommendations

- Use new ABC with updated discard data (minimal change) – 4.61% vs 4.52% previously...

Staff/Monitoring Committee Recommendations

- The recommended *Illex* specifications for 2022 would be ABC = 33,000 MT and IOY = DAH = DAP = 31,478.7 mt.
- A letter to that effect from the Council addressed to the currently-open (June 10) MSB specifications proposed rule would expedite implementation.

Illex Specifications

- Questions?
- Motion?

(Closure trip limit issue next, separate)

Staff/Monitoring Committee Recommendations

- Closure Trip Limit - Executive Order on Seafood Competitiveness
- Some AP concern in past that post-closure 10,000-pound trip limit could cause discards
- Does not appear to be substantial at this time based on observed longfin trips.
 - Higher catches relatively infrequent, 75% of discards market-driven
- Can continue to monitor...recommends no changes.

Illex

- Trip Limit Questions?
- Motion?

Control Date

- There's some uncertainty regarding the final outcomes of the ongoing *Illex* Research Track Assessment and the *Illex* Permit Amendment

Control Date

- An additional control date could proactively increase the flexibility of the Council for considering capacity-related management measures once the outcomes of the assessment and amendment are finalized and alert fishery participants that additional measures to address capacity might be considered pending those outcomes.

Illex

- Control Date Questions?
- Motion?