

Summary from Industry

AD-HOC BAIRDI COMMITTEE
AND ALASKA BEAING SEA CABBELS

OBJECTIVES

In addition to conservation goals, industry objectives (in priority order) for revising the harvest policy:

1. Robust harvesting of exploitable males (mature males 5" and up), and
2. Increasing fishery stability by reducing or eliminating the likelihood of season closures.

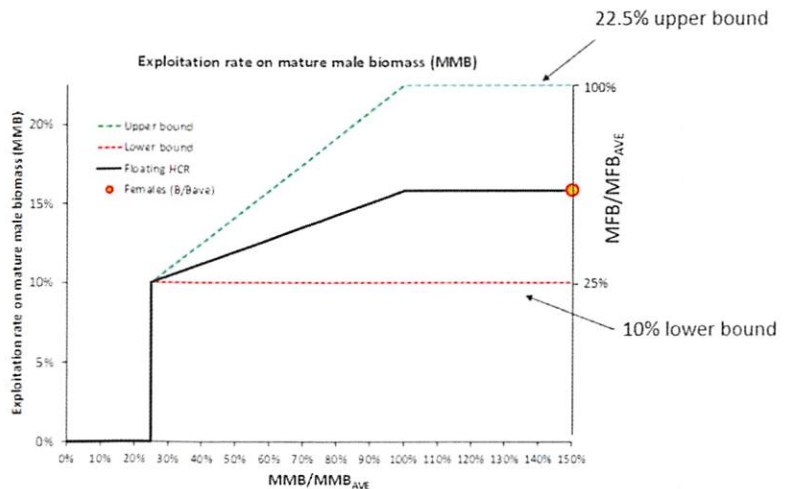
AGREEMENT

General alignment around a new harvest strategy called the "female dimmer" that considers female biomass along with male biomass in setting the exploitation rate on males.

Strikes a balance between allowing more aggressive harvest on the bairdi stock when the biology suggests it is appropriate to do so, while keeping conservation measures in place to ensure enough breeding males remain in the water to renew the stock.

MSE analysis narrowed the discussion to 3 female dimmer variations for a new harvest strategy:

Female dimmer variant: HCR4_3

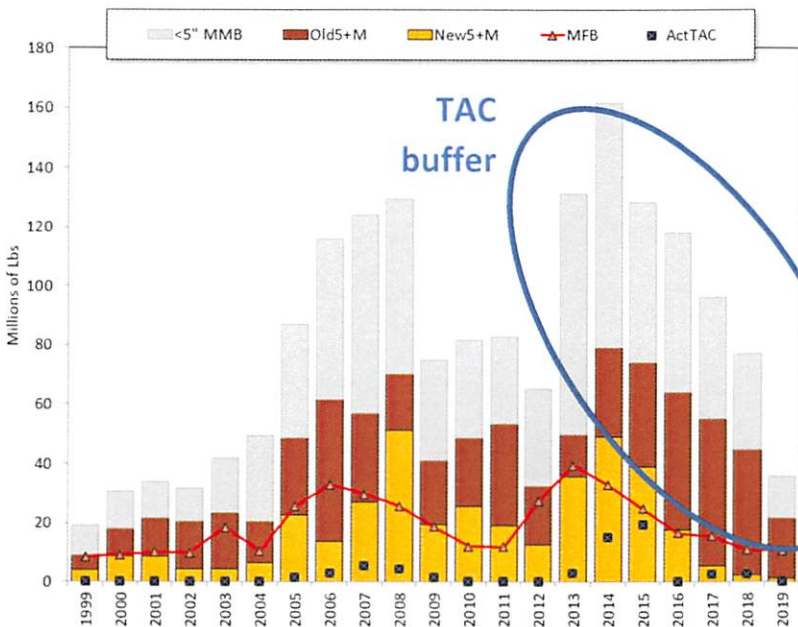


ADFG prefers a/b

Ad-Hoc Cmte & ABC prefer b/c

with c as 1st choice

- a. lower bound of 5% and an upper bound of 20%, with a cap of 50% of exploitable legal males (ELM) (HCR4_1)
- b. lower bound of 10% and upper bound of 20%, with 50% ELM cap (HCR4_2)
- c. lower bound of 10% and upper bound of 22.5%, with 50% ELM cap (HCR4_3)



Why is 10-22.5% with 50% cap the best choice?

Meets stated objectives (as do all 3 female dimmer options)

Does not risk exceeding overfishing level, very low risk of exceeding ABC (which is ok anyway)

Several conservation buffers in place

TAC buffer – most mature males are left on the grounds to reproduce -- at least 50% of 5" and larger mature males are not harvested (yellow/brown bars), and ALL mature males <5" not harvested (grey bars)

Federal buffer – ABC is set at 20% of OFL as a buffer for scientific uncertainty (covers all sizes and sexes, population level)

Gear selectivity of trawl likely underestimates abundance/biomass, especially for females

Bairdi Harvest Strategy Revision - Proposal 261
Summary from Industry

Importance of 50% ELM cap

Among all of the bairdi harvest strategy options, industry believes maintaining the 50% ELM cap is the top priority, and should not be lowered.

It is an important conservation buffer that leaves at least half of the 5" males on the grounds to reproduce plus all of the mature males under 5". This cap is very conservative.

Lower bound of 10% versus 5%

MSE risk evaluation shows that a 10% floor is warranted and not overly aggressive

Provides a little more TAC, which could be worth \$5-8 million to industry

Provides lower variability in TAC than 5%

In times when mature male biomass trends upward and mature female biomass declines (like in 2016/17), the application of a lower floor on exploitation could have unnecessary foregone harvest of available males when they are clean shell.

Upper bound of 22.5% versus 20%

Provides a little more TAC

The MSE analysis shows the difference in risk for an upper bound of 20% versus 22.5% is minimal, as both are greater than 80% likely to be below acceptable biological catch (ABC), and greater than 90% likely to be below overfishing levels (OFL).