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Interim 3LNO American Plaice Conservation Plan and Rebuilding Strategy

1. The objective of this Conservation Plan and Rebuilding Strategy is to achieve and to maintain the 3LNO Am. plaice SSB at or above Bmsy. It may reasonably be expected that Blim will be reached within the period 2011-2017.
2. The following reference points apply:
 - (a) Limit reference point for spawning stock biomass (Blim) - 50,000t
 - (b) On an interim basis and in the absence of risk analysis, Bbuf - 100,000t
 - (c) Limit reference point for fishing mortality (Flim which is \leq Fmsy) - 0.4
 - (d) Target reference point for spawning stock biomass Bmsy - 175,000t
3. A directed fishery should only occur when SSB is above Blim and with a TAC set at a fishing mortality rate of < 0.15 that provides for an SSB trajectory for the subsequent 3-year period to remain positive.
4. Subject to paragraph 3, harvest control rules follow:
 - (a) When SSB is below Blim (50,000t), no directed fishing and by-catch should be restricted to unavoidable by-catch in fisheries directing for other species
 - (b) When SSB is between Blim and Bbuf (50,000 – 100,000t), TAC levels should be set at a level to allow for continued recovery and growth with low probability of declining below Blim, with F not to exceed < 0.15 .
 - (c) When SSB is above Bbuf (100,000t), TAC levels should be set to allow for continued growth, subject to natural fluctuations that may be expected to occur, with F not to exceed 0.2 (F0.1)
 - (d) When SSB is above Bmsy (175,000t), TAC levels may be set at $F < \frac{3}{4}$ Fmsy
5. To provide stability, TACs should be set at levels that achieve an agreed positive SSB trajectory over the subsequent 3 year period, consistent with the objective outlined in Paragraph 1.
 - (a) Annual TAC's should promote positive change or mitigate declines in SSB when it is below Bmsy.
 - (b) If the SSB is above Bbuf, TAC should utilize a risk neutral (50% or better probability) approach to projections and utilize a more risk adverse approach to decline if the SSB is below the Bbuf.

This interim plan will be reviewed and updated by the Working Group of Fishery Managers and Scientists on Conservation Plans and Rebuilding Strategies.