



## Summary of Data-Limited Fisheries Assessment Workshop

On August 9-10, we brought together leading experts on data-limited fisheries assessment to help Seafood Watch improve our guidance for scoring data-limited fisheries in the Seafood Watch criteria by incorporating recent science-based tools for data-limited fisheries management. Participants and their affiliations are listed below, and included scientific staff from NGOs and universities. The data-limited assessment workshop discussions focused on how to address uncertainty, utilize novel tools such as FishPath (developed by The Nature Conservancy), Data-Limited Methods ToolKit (developed by Natural Resources Defense Council and University of British Columbia) and FISHE (developed by Environmental Defense Fund), and work in partnership with other organizations such as Marine Stewardship Council and FairTrade USA to better develop consistent guidance for data-limited fisheries.

Participants agree that there is no silver bullet or one-size-fits-all data-limited assessment method, as the correct choice of method is fishery- and context-dependent. All methods (e.g. FishPath, FishE) involve a lot of direct, hands-on work with fishery. We discussed the potential to try to create better guidance by “fishery type” using a quantitative, simulation-based method that would tell us, for a given fishery type, what the likelihood is that a certain indicator means that true  $B > B_{msy}$ ,  $F > F_{msy}$ . This matrix of likelihoods could be used to create guidance for what performance indicators and reference points are needed to achieve certain SFW scores for abundance and fishing mortality. The MSC is working with DLMTTool on a project with very similar goals, and will be involved in our discussions on this project.

There is general agreement that a Productivity-Susceptibility Analysis (PSA), which we currently use in our assessments in the absence of other data, is the best approach out there when no other data are available. However, our PSA approach needs revision because it does not incorporate fishery-specific indicators that address the management in place.

Another finding was that there is a continued need for expert involvement throughout the process, e.g.: doing data-limited assessments, reviewing third-party data-limited assessments, and ensuring that fisheries are using the guidance about data-limited assessment and management appropriately. This requires specialized experience and capacity is limited. Thus capacity building may be an important part of our strategy.

We created five working groups to continue the progress made in the workshop, focusing on the following topics: 1) improving and testing PSA methods; 2) developing a table of proxy reference points that can be used in data-limited situations and the relevant assumptions and caveats; 3) using



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quantitative methods to test how these reference points compare to standard MSY-based reference points; 4) increasing capacity by recruiting and training scientists who can perform and review data-limited stock assessments; and 5) discussing potential in-country collaborations around our work with data-limited fisheries in Southeast Asia. Working group discussions and projects will continue into 2018 and feed into our standard review process.

## Participant List

Name	Affiliation
Invited Experts	
Ashley Apel	FairTrade USA
Loo Botsford	University of California Davis
Marjolaine Caillat	San Francisco State University
Rod Fujita	Environmental Defense Fund
Matt Gummery	Marine Stewardship Council
Adrian Hordyk	University of British Columbia
Katie Longo	Marine Stewardship Council
Ivan Martinez Tovar	Ocean Outcomes
Jono Wilson	The Nature Conservancy
Seafood Watch Staff	
Jennifer Dianto Kemmerly	Monterey Bay Aquarium
Wendy Norden	Monterey Bay Aquarium
Santi Roberts	Monterey Bay Aquarium
Robin Pelc	Monterey Bay Aquarium
Sam Wilding	Monterey Bay Aquarium
Sara McDonald	Monterey Bay Aquarium
Conservation & Science Staff	
Kyle Van Houtan	Monterey Bay Aquarium
Tyler Gagne	Monterey Bay Aquarium
Andre Boustany	Monterey Bay Aquarium