ADDRESSING UNCERTAINTIES IN STOCK ASSESSMENT IN A VARIABLE ENVIRONMENT

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SUBTHEME: Evaluating existing ABC control rules: issues, challenges and solutions

BIO

Eric Schwaab is the Senior Vice President and Chief Conservation Officer at the National Aquarium, where he provides leadership and management to grow the Aquarium's national conservation impact. Prior to joining the Aquarium, Eric served in several leadership positions at NOAA. Appointed as Assistant Administrator for Fisheries in 2010, Eric directed the National Marine Fisheries Service, the federal agency responsible for science, management and conservation of federal fisheries, marine mammals, sea turtles and other protected resources within the United States, subsequently serving as the US Department of Commerce acting Assistant Secretary for Conservation and Management.

Prior to his work with NOAA, Eric served as Deputy Secretary of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. During an earlier period at Maryland DNR, Eric served as Director of Maryland's Fisheries Service; Director of the Forest, Wildlife & Heritage Service; Director of the Forest Service; and Chief of Resource Management for Maryland Forest & Park Service. Eric has also served as Resource Director for the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, coordinating conservation work on behalf of fish and wildlife agencies across North America.

Eric holds an undergraduate degree in Biology from McDaniel College and a master's degree in Environmental Planning from Towson University.

ABSTRACT

This presentation will draw from *Addressing Uncertainty in Fisheries Science and Management* (2014, aqua.org/fisheries), a recently completed project undertaken to advance best practices for addressing the impact of science and management uncertainty on fisheries management systems. The project engaged a panel of experts and the work was facilitated through the examination of a series of case studies and identification of findings, recommendations and best practices. The project used structured approaches to assess how uncertainty is evaluated, reduced, and managed for in fisheries science and management. The Panel focused on science and management approaches separately, but also probed the implications of work that takes place at the interface of these two fields. The Panel and the report included particular focus on challenges of managing fisheries in

the context of environmental change. The Panel identified opportunities to expand and better integrate oceanographic and ecosystem science into single species stock assessments, and better anticipate and prepare for environmental shifts. The Panel also identified best practices ranging from the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council's Ecosystem Considerations Report to greater use of Management Strategy Evaluation as potential responses.