

RISK ASSESSMENT CATEGORIES AND LEVELS

Likelihood levels

1. Remote - Never heard of but not impossible in situation and time frame. (<5% probability)
2. Unlikely - May occur here, but only in exceptional circumstances. (5 - 30%)
3. Possible - Clear evidence to suggest this is possible in this situation. (30- 50%)
4. Likely - It is likely, but not certain, to occur here. (50-90%)
5. High Likely -It is almost certain to occur here (>90%)

Consequence levels

Stocks (target and non-target)

0. No measurable decline
1. Measurable but minor levels of depletion to stocks.
2. Maximum acceptable level of depletion of stock.
3. Level of depletion unacceptable but still not affecting recruitment levels of stock
4. Level of depletion of fish stocks are already (or will definitely) affect future recruitment potential/levels of stock.
5. Permanent or widespread and long term depletion of stock, close to extinction levels.

Habitat

0. No measurable change.
1. Measurable impacts to habitats but still not considered to impact on habitat dynamics or system
2. Maximum acceptable level of impact to habitat with no long term impacts on region wide habitat dynamics
3. Above acceptable level of loss/impact with region wide dynamics or related systems may begin to be impacted
4. Level of habitat loss clearly generating region wide effects on dynamics and related systems
5. Total region wide loss of habitat and associated systems

Ecosystems

0. No measurable change.
1. Measurable but minor change in the environment or ecosystem structure but no measurable change to function
2. Maximum acceptable level of change in the environment/ecosystem structure with no material change in function.
3. Ecosystem function altered to an unacceptable level with some function or major components now missing &/or new species are prevalent.
4. Long term, significant impact with an extreme change to both ecosystem structure and function. Different dynamics now occur with different species/groups now the major targets of capture or surveys.
5. Permanent or widespread long term damage to the environment. Total collapse or complete shift of ecosystem processes.