




UNITED STATE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Southeast Fisheries Science Center
75 Virginia Beach Drive
Miami, Florida 33149 U.S.A.

February 17, 2009

MEMORANDUM TO: Bob Mahood, Executive Director
South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council

FROM: Bonnie Ponwith, Director 
Southeast Fisheries Science Center

SUBJECT: SAFMC/SSC Analytical and Data Requests

In your memorandum dated January 8, 2008, the Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC) was requested to provide (1) updated landings and discard information for golden tilefish, (2) updated projections of golden tilefish, (3) standardized indices, age and length composition data, and landings and discard information for red and black grouper, and (4) updates on NOAA Fisheries working groups addressing revised National Standards and guidelines for implementing the MSRA.

During our phone conversation on January 20, 2009, it was agreed that items (2) and (3) would not be completed at this time. Item (3) will be addressed in full during the upcoming SEDAR 19 process, scheduled to start in June, 2009. It was decided that item (2) above be modified to include uncertainty computations from the stock assessment in place of updated projections.

Below we have addressed items (1), (2) *modified*, and (4).

For item (1) we queried the accumulated landings system (ALS) (Table 1), commercial logbook records, the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS) data (Table 2), and the Southeast Region Headboat Survey (SRHS) data (Table 2). Commercial logbooks were used for obtaining commercial sector discard estimates only. As it turns out there are only two reported trips from 2002-2008 with tilefish discards, and this amounts to only two fish being discarded on each trip occurring in 2007 and 2008. Therefore, for practical purposes, commercial discards can be assumed to be negligible or near zero.

Table 1. Commercial landings (pounds) for golden tilefish from the U.S. South Atlantic for years 2002-2008.

Year	Commercial Handline (lbs)	Commercial Longline (lbs)	Total Commercial (lbs)
2002	145,390	245,677	391,067
2003	72,537	169,932	242,469
2004	34,164	251,632	285,796
2005	48,292	255,211	303,503
2006	32,442	403,667	436,109
2007	59,109	272,629	331,738
2008	37,605*	288,697*	326,302*

*GA complete to may 2008

*NC complete to June 2008

*FL complete to August 2008

*SC Complete to December 2007

Table 2. Recreational landings and discards (numbers) for golden tilefish from the U.S. South Atlantic for years 2002-2008. Charter (using the new method) and private boat estimates are from the MRFSS (A+B1), as are discard (B2) estimates. Headboat estimates are from the SRHS.

Year	Charter Boat Landings (num)	Charter Boat Discards (num)	Private Boat Landings (num)	Private Boat Discards (num)	Headboat Landings (num)	Headboat Discards (num)	Total
2002	2,515	0	.	.	0	0	2,515
2003	8,892	0	0	2,088	0	0	10,980
2004	10,441	0	1,939	0	0	0	12,380
2005	55,188	0	15,116	1,036	0	0	71,340
2006	10,063	0	2,659	0	0	0	12,722
2007	1,222	0	943	0	0	0	2,165
2008	0*	0*	0*	0*	NA	NA	NA

*Preliminary data for 2008 through wave 5 shows no tilefish.

For modified item (2), we have computed the probability density distribution of maximum sustainable yield (MSY). The distribution of MSY of tilefish was computed using results from the SEDAR 4 benchmark assessment. That assessment used a Monte Carlo/bootstrap approach to quantify uncertainty in key parameters and output, such as MSY (Figure 1). Quantiles of MSY estimates are in Table 1. Proposed catch targets could be compared to the values shown below to determine the probability of exceeding MSY (i.e. overfishing).

Figure 1. Probability distribution of maximum sustainable yield (MSY) from the SEDAR 4 benchmark assessment for tilefish.

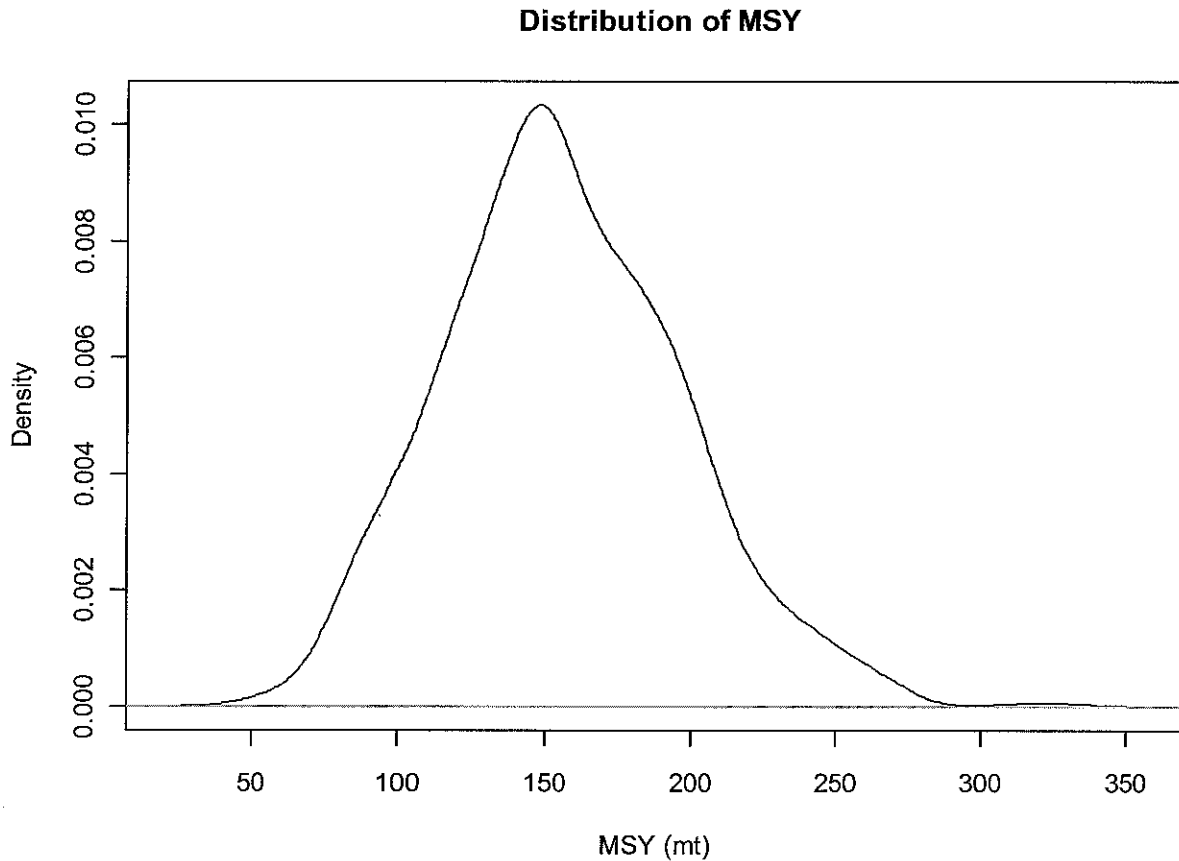


Table 3. Quantiles of MSY (in metric tons and 1000 pounds) estimates.

Quantile	MSY (mt)	MSY (1000 lbs)
0%	47.5	104.7
5%	91.5	201.8
10%	104.9	231.3
15%	114.7	253.0
20%	121.7	268.2
25%	128.3	282.9
30%	134.5	296.5
35%	139.4	307.3
40%	144.7	319.1
45%	149.1	328.7
50%	152.6	336.4
55%	158.3	348.9
60%	163.7	360.9
65%	170.5	375.9
70%	176.9	390.1
75%	182.9	403.2
80%	190.8	420.6
85%	198.4	437.4
90%	209.0	460.7
95%	229.2	505.3
100%	329.1	725.5

To address item (4), the final NS1 guidelines have been published in the Federal Register. The NS2 guidelines recently closed the advanced notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPR), and the NS2 working group will be meeting in Miami on February 17-20, 2009 to begin drafting the NS2 guidelines.