

SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE



SSC Meeting Report

August 1, 2012

**Crowne Plaza
North Charleston, SC**

PURPOSE

This meeting was convened to:

- Review Shrimp Amendment 9

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Documents:

Attachment 1. SEDAR project schedule

Attachment 2. Shrimp Amendment 9

Attachment 3. Regional Operating Agreement.

1. Introduction

1.1. Documents

Agenda
Minutes of the April 2012 meeting

1.2. Action

Introductions
Review and Approve Agenda
Approve Minutes

The SSC meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm, as scheduled. The agenda was adopted without change and the minutes of the April 2012 meeting were adopted without further comment or changes. Member introductions were made. The Chair reviewed the agenda and outlined the general format of the meeting.

2. Public Comment

At its July 2012 meeting the Council directed that dedicated opportunities be provided for public comment at future SSC meetings. Those wishing to make comment should indicate their desire to do so to the Committee Chair.

Accordingly, at this point in the meeting the Chair opened the floor for the first opportunity for public comment. No public comments were provided.

3. SEDAR Activities Update

3.1. Documents

Attachment 1. SEDAR project schedule

3.2. Overview

The Council will make appointments for SEDAR 32, South Atlantic blueline tilefish and gray triggerfish, at its September meeting. The Committee is asked to identify SSC participants for the workshops.

Tentative Schedule:

Data Workshop, February 11-15, 2013, Charleston
Assessment Workshop: held via webinars May-July
Review Workshop: August 26-29, 2013

SSC RECOMMENDATION:

SEDAR 32 Participants:

- Data Workshop: Marcel Reichert, Carolyn Belcher, Chip Collier, George Sedberry.
- Review Workshop: Steve Cadrin, Churchill Grimes.

Regarding the SEDAR schedule, the SSC discussed the fact that it is likely that MARMAP will not be able to provide updated fishery independent (MARMAP/SEAMAP/SEFIS) black sea bass age data if the update is moved to 2013. Changing the schedule will likely cause problems with data timeliness and accuracy, especially with the funding cuts MARMAP has been faced with.

4. Shrimp Amendment 9

4.1. Documents

Attachment 2. Shrimp Amendment 9

4.2. Presentation

Shrimp Amendment 9 summary: Anna Martin

4.3. Action

- Review and comment on the Amendment

SSC RECOMMENDATION:

The SSC reviewed and discussed the three main actions proposed in the Shrimp Amendment 9 document and provided the following comments:

Action 1. Specify criteria that triggers states' ability to request a concurrent closure of the overwintering white shrimp stock in the adjacent EEZ during severe winter weather.

SSC comments: The SSC felt it difficult to provide advice on the minimum temperature thresholds proposed in Alternatives 2-4 without further information on mortality associated with each of the temperature values proposed. Some committee members felt that more complete data and analyses are needed before the SSC can properly review this action. In particular, members identified the need for more information on the relationship between shrimp mortality rates and water temperature. It was also suggested that it might be more useful to look at monthly instead of annual CPUE data since there is a lot of seasonal variability in water temperatures and cold weather events would most likely happen in the winter. Concerns were also raised regarding the source and location of temperature measurements that would be used to determine if the threshold were met. The SSC requests these data and analysis be provided for review at the Oct SSC meeting.

Action 2. Modify the process for a state to request a concurrent closure of the overwintering white shrimp stock in the adjacent EEZ during severe winter weather.

SSC comments: The SSC has no specific advice or comments given the administrative nature of this action.

Action 3. Revise the overfished status determination criteria (B_{MSY} proxy) for the pink shrimp stock.

SSC comments: If there are no immediate consequences for leaving the *status quo* in place the SSC recommends that the Council wait to see the analytical results of the new Stock Synthesis 3 (SS3) assessment model that has been used for shrimp in the Gulf. Besides providing a more detailed description of shrimp population dynamics, SS3 allows more explicit integration of environmental parameters into the analysis. The committee suggests we take this opportunity to also evaluate biological reference points for the other shrimp species. A presentation on application of Stock Synthesis to shrimp stocks and consideration of assessment possibilities for Atlantic shrimp stocks is planned for the October 2013 SSC meeting.

Note: need to check to make sure we are not confusing B_{MSY} with MSST (Minimum Stock Size Threshold) throughout the Shrimp Amendment 9 document.

In summary, the Committee felt that if there is no critical timetable to be met the Council should wait until the SSC evaluates new assessment possibilities for shrimp before proceeding with approval of Amendment 9 to the Shrimp FMP. This would also allow evaluation of more complete data and analyses needed to complete scientific advice on alternatives associated with Action 1.

5. Information and Updates

5.1. Documents

Attachment 3. Regional Operating Agreement.

5.2. FMP REPORTS

Staff contact: Gregg Waugh

- 5.2.1. Coastal Migratory Pelagic - Kari MacLauchlin
- 5.2.2. Snapper Grouper - Myra Brouwer
- 5.2.3. Golden Crab - Brian Chevront

5.3. SAFMC Meetings

2012

September 10-14, 2012: Charleston, South Carolina

December 3-7, 2012: Wilmington, North Carolina

2013

March 4-8, 2013: St. Simons Island, GA

June 10-14, 2013: Stuart, FL

September 16-20, 2013: Charleston, SC

December 2-6, 2013: Wilmington, NC

6. Other Business

No other business was brought up for discussion at this meeting.

7. Report and Recommendations Review, Public Comment

The public was provided an additional opportunity to comment on SSC recommendations and agenda items. No public input or comments were provided.

The Final SSC report should be provided to the Council by August 20, 2012 for inclusion in the Council's Briefing Book to be finalized August 21 at 9 a.m.

8. Next SSC Meetings

Socio-Economic Sub-Group

October 22, 2012 from 1-5 p.m. in Charleston, SC

Expected Topics:

- Boyle's Law
- Allocations and Technical memo
- Mackerel bag limit analyses
- SG Amendment 22 transferability aspects of tags

SSC

October 23, (9 a.m.) - October 25, (3 p.m.), 2012, Charleston SC

Expected Topics

- Review updates of vermilion snapper & red porgy
- Review benchmark of yellowtail snapper
- Final Review, CEBA-3
- Final Review, Mackerel Amendment 19 and Mackerel Amendment 20
- Review Snapper-Grouper Amendment 22
- Review ABC/ACL update Regulatory Action
- Final Review, Joint Dealer Amendment

- Provide ABC recommendations as necessary
- Recommend a P-star for black sea bass
- Consider shrimp assessment approaches
- Develop criteria for determining primary and secondary stocks, and scoring metrics to prioritize stocks for future research prioritization plans. Develop scoring metrics to prioritize stocks.
- Receive report on the April 2012 FishSmart workshop on discard mortality
- Review SEFSC analytical plans for red snapper and recommend TORs
- Review SEFSC analytical plans for black sea bass and recommend TORs
- Review 2012 SAFE report
- Recommend TORs for 2013 benchmark assessments (blueline tilefish, gray triggerfish, hogfish, king mackerel)

2013

Proposed SSC meeting dates in 2013:

April 9-11, 2013

October 22-24, 2013

Meeting adjourned