

SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE



SSC Meeting Overview

January 27, 2014

Meeting Via Webinar

**VERSION
Briefing Book**

PURPOSE

Topics to address during this meeting:

- Wreckfish Assessment Peer Review Process

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Documents:

- Attachment 1. SAFMC Peer Review Policy
- Attachment 2. Wreckfish Assessment Proposal
- Attachment 3. Wreckfish Proposal Review
- Attachment 4. Wreckfish Assessment Workshop Report
- Attachment 5. Draft Review TORs

*** Indicates documents not available for the first Briefing Book.**

SAFMC PUBLIC COMMENT PROCESS

Written comment:

Written comment on SSC agenda topics is to be distributed to the Committee through the Council office, similar to all other Council briefing materials. Written comment to be considered by the SSC shall be provided to the Council office no later than one week prior to an SSC meeting. For this meeting, the deadline for submission of written comment is 12:00 pm Monday, January 20, 2014.

SAFMC
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Suite 201
North Charleston, SC 29405

Verbal comment:

Two opportunities for comment on agenda items will be provided during SSC meetings. The first will be at the beginning of the meeting, and the second near the conclusion, when the SSC reviews its recommendations. Those wishing to comment should indicate such in the manner requested by the Chair, which may be through a show of hands or a written list if the number of interested parties is extensive, who will then recognize individuals to come forward and provide comment. All comments are part of the record of the meeting.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Documents

Agenda

1.2. Action

Introductions

Review and Approve Agenda

Approve Minutes

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

The public will be provided two opportunities to comment on SSC agenda items during this meeting. The first at the start of the meeting, and the final will be provided at the end during the review of recommendations. Those wishing to make comment should indicate their desire to do so to the Committee Chair.

3. WRECKFISH ASSESSMENT REVIEW APPROACH

3.1. Documents

Attachment 1. SAFMC Peer Review Policy

Attachment 2. Wreckfish Assessment Proposal

Attachment 3. Wreckfish Proposal Review

Attachment 4. Wreckfish Assessment Workshop Report

Attachment 5. Draft Review TORs

3.2. Overview

An assessment of the South Atlantic Wreckfish resource is in preparation by Dr. Douglas Butterworth and colleagues. The SSC became aware of this effort in October 2012 when preliminary results were presented. To ensure a rigorous process and equal treatment of all assessments, regardless of preparing entity or submitter, the South Atlantic Council approved a peer review process which has provided guidance to subsequent wreckfish assessment efforts (Attachment 1).

Dr. Butterworth submitted a proposal for the assessment, in accordance with the peer review guidelines of the Council (Attachment 2). The SSC reviewed the proposal during a webinar meeting held September 3, 2013 (Attachment 3). The Council supported the submitter's request to develop model alternatives through a workshop, resulting in an *ad hoc* group of SSC members meeting with the assessment preparers November 12 - 14, 2013, in Charleston, SC for a wreckfish Assessment Workshop. This group provided guidance to the assessment preparers as detailed in Attachment 4, including a schedule of events for completing the assessment for consideration by the SSC in April, 2014.

This meeting is being held to address details of the Peer Review of the Wreckfish Assessment. The SSC is asked to recommend Peer Review Terms of Reference, Peer Reviewers, and possible dates for a peer review workshop to be held via Webinar.

The Council will consider the SSC recommendations when it meets March 3-7, 2014. The Council was briefed at its December 2013 on the timing of events necessary to complete this review for consideration by the SSC in April, and is aware that some planning activities may begin prior to final Council approval. Council leadership will be informed of the outcome of this meeting as soon as the report is provided by the SSC Chair.

Summary Schedule of Events

(leading to Council consideration of Wreckfish fishing level recommendations in June 2014):

- 1) SSC webinar meeting in late January/early February (This Meeting)
Recommend TORs, Reviewers, Review date
- 2) Council Approves TORs and schedule, appoints reviewers: March 2014
- 3) Review held week of March 17 – 21, 2014
- 4) SSC review and fishing level recommendations: April 2014.
- 5) Council considers fishing level recommendations: June 2014.

3.3. Action

1) Peer Review Terms of Reference

The SSC is provided draft Terms of Reference based on those used for SEDAR Benchmark Assessment Peer Reviews (Attachment 5). These may be approved as is, or modified as desired by the SSC.

2) Peer Review Approach

Council Peer Review Guidelines allow in-person or electronic meetings for peer reviews. The assessment workshop group recommended a webinar review of this assessment. The Council supported the webinar approach, based on reduced costs and added flexibility to accommodate the tight scheduling necessary to meet the April SSC meeting.

The SSC is asked to recommend a peer review approach.

3) Peer Review Panel

Council Peer Review Guidelines state that Peer Reviews should be conducted by a panel appointed by the Council, similar to the approach used for SEDAR workshops, with the Panel chaired by an SSC representative. Guidelines further state that reviewers may include SSC members, State and Federal agency scientists, university researchers, or other experts as deemed appropriate and qualified.

The SSC is asked to recommend Peer Reviewers and a Review Panel Chair. Peer Reviewers must be independent, and therefore those who participated in the Assessment Workshop are ineligible. Assessment Workshop participants were Anne Lange, Marcel Reichert, George Sedberry, and Doug Vaughan.

Dr. Marcel Reichert has expressed interest in chairing the Review. As the chair fills a facilitation and organizing role, rather than a technical review role, Peer Review Chairs are not under the stringent independence requirements of the Reviewers.

4) Peer Review Timing

Timing for the Peer Review was discussed during the Assessment workshop and December Council Meeting. The Week of March 17 - 21 is recommended for the review. This week follows the March SAFMC meeting, when final approval will be requested for the TORs and Reviewers, while still allowing time for completion of the Peer Review Workshop Report in time to meet SSC document distribution guidelines.

SSC RECOMMENDATIONS:

4. OTHER BUSINESS

5. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS REVIEW, PUBLIC COMMENT

The public is provided an additional opportunity to comment on SSC recommendations and agenda items.

The Committee is provided an opportunity to review its report and final recommendations.

The Final SSC report should be provided to the Council by 9 am on Tuesday, November 12, 2013, for inclusion in the first briefing book.

6. NEXT MEETINGS

6.1. SAFMC SSC MEETINGS

April 2014

SSC Assessment Planning Workshop, 1pm 4/28 - 12pm 4/29

SSC Meeting: 1 pm 4/29 - 3 pm 5/1

Crowne Plaza, Tanger Blvd., North Charleston SC

October 2014

SSC ABC Control Rule Workshop, 1pm 10/27 - 12pm 10/28

SSC Meeting: 1 pm 10/28 - 3 pm 10/30

Crowne Plaza, Tanger Blvd., North Charleston SC

6.2. Social and Economic Panel

April 2014

SEP Meeting, 1 - 5 pm on 4/28

6.3. SAFMC MEETINGS

2014 Council Meetings

March 3- 7, Savannah GA

June 9 - 13, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL

September 15 - 19, Charleston SC

December 1 - 5, New Bern, NC

7. ADJOURN