

SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE



SSC Meeting Overview

June 3, 2015

1:00 – 3:00 pm

MEETING VIA WEBINAR

**VERSION
Briefing Book**

CONTENTS

1.	INTRODUCTION	4
2.	PUBLIC COMMENT	4
3.	BLUELINE TILEFISH STOCK PROJECTIONS	4
4.	OTHER BUSINESS.....	5
5.	PUBLIC COMMENT	5
6.	REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS REVIEW	6
7.	ADJOURN.....	6

DOCUMENTS

- Attachment 1. Projections 1, November 25, 2013
- Attachment 2. Projections 2, April 7, 2014
- Attachment 3. Projections 3, April 28, 2014
- Attachment 4. Interpolated projection results, May 2014
- Attachment 5. Updated length comps for MRIP and NC H&L

WEBINAR ACCESS

Registration required to access the webinar is available through this link:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1634019781014553345>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

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 Wednesday, May 27, 2015.

SAFMC
4055 Faber Place Drive
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

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. BLUELINE TILEFISH STOCK PROJECTIONS

3.1. Documents

Attachment 1. Projections 1, November 25, 2013

Attachment 2. Projections 2, April 7, 2014

Attachment 3. Projections 3, April 28, 2014

Attachment 4. Interpolated projection results, May 2014

Attachment 5. Updated length comps for MRIP and NC H&L

3.2. Overview

The Council has requested that the SSC review the projections for blueline tilefish and determine whether they are still useful for management. Numerous concerns have been raised over several years regarding the stock projections. These include: the appropriateness of the assumed recruitment levels since the terminal year, the potential impacts of the deepwater closure occurring during the terminal year of 2011, landings consistently exceeding assumed and projected levels since the assessment was conducted, and the possibility of continued changes in the timing and range of the directed fishery. At the December, 2013 meeting the SAFMC requested an updated assessment be conducted as soon as possible in order to address projection and other assessment concerns. Those concerns have only increased since then.

In January of 2014, the Science Center provided several options for getting blueline tilefish updated in a timely manner. The Council's preferred option was to replace a planned assessment of vermilion snapper in 2015 with blueline tilefish, using 2014 as the terminal year of data. However, the blueline assessment was then pushed back to 2016, with 2015 as the likely terminal year of data, when SEDAR 41 was delayed due to issues with the historical headboat landings. Other options considered were to swap out one of the SEDAR 41 stocks with blueline tilefish or to replace the 2014 gag update with blueline tilefish; the gag update has also since been delayed due to the issue with the historical headboat landings. At this time, the next blueline assessment is scheduled for delivery to the Council in January 2017 using a 2015 terminal data year.

3.3. Action

- Review blueline tilefish stock projections
- Identify uncertainties and discuss their impact on projection results and fishing level recommendations and management.
- Determine whether projection assumptions such as interim year landings are met, and comment on the consequences of this determination for fishing level recommendations and management.
- Determine whether existing projections represent Best Scientific Information Available, and whether they are adequate to support fishing level recommendations for both the current and future years.
- Provide guidance for revised projections, if necessary.
- Provide revised Fishing Level Recommendations, including ABC and OFL, if appropriate.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

6. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS REVIEW

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, June 9, 2015 for distribution to the Council for its June meeting. Recognizing the short turn around required, the Council requests that, if the final report cannot be provided, SSC recommendations addressing the TORs be provided by 3 pm on June 9, 2015 so that they may be reported during the Snapper-Grouper Committee meeting along with other SSC recommendations from the April 2015 SSC meeting.

7. ADJOURN