

SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE



SSC Meeting Overview

September 9, 2015

1:00 – 3:00 pm

MEETING VIA WEBINAR

VERSION
Briefing Book
August 26, 2015

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DOCUMENTS

Attachment 1. Prior Blueline Tilefish Projections

Attachment 2. June 3, 2015 SSC Report

Attachment 3. SAFMC Projection Request Memo June 2015

Attachment 4. Scientific concerns regarding SSC projection scenarios*

Attachment 5. Revised projections August 2015

Attachment 6. SERO Request, further projection details August 2015

Attachment 7. SAFMC Request, corrected projection landings August 2015

Attachment 8. Revisions and landings update August 2015*

Attachment 9. ABC Alternatives Discussion Document

* Indicates documents not available for the initial briefing book distribution.

WEBINAR ACCESS

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

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5009119157959079938>

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, September 2, 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. Prior Blueline Tilefish Projections

Attachment 2. June 3, 2015 SSC Report

Attachment 3. SAFMC Projection Request Memo June 2015

Attachment 4. Scientific concerns regarding SSC projection scenarios*

Attachment 5. Revised projections August 2015

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Attachment 9. ABC Alternatives Discussion Document

3.2. Overview

At a webinar held June 3, 2015, the SSC reviewed a suite of projections for the Blueline Tilefish stock (Attachment 1). The SSC concluded that the projections were not Best Scientific Information Available and therefore not adequate to support fishing level recommendations (Attachment 2). As a result, the SSC requested revised projections reflecting observed landings and using the standard projection approaches used previously. Alternative exploratory projection approaches were also identified by the

SSC to address uncertainties with productivity and spatial patterns. The Council requested that the SEFSC prepare the projections suggested by the SSC (Attachment 3), and was informed that the additional scenarios requested by the SSC would not be provided, due to a determination that they lacked sufficient scientific support (Attachment 4). Although this document is cited in the projection results (Attachment 5), as of the completion of this overview, the Council has not received approval from the Center to distribute the memo.

The SEFSC's response to the Council's request, addressed to the Regional Administrator on August 12, 2015 (Attachment 5), included results for the standard projection approach incorporating observed landings through 2015. Requests for additional information and further revisions to the projections were submitted to the SEFSC soon after receipt of the initial projections: SERO requested further projection outputs to provide more information on stock size and status (Attachment 6) and the Council requested revisions to landings used in the projections for 2012-2015 (Attachment 7). The results of these requests will be combined, if received separately, into a single document for this SSC review (as Attachment 8) and provided to the SSC once the information is received. As of completion of this document on August 25, the additional analyses were not available.

To facilitate discussion during this webinar, Council staff prepared a document proposing various alternatives for fishing level recommendations, in particular ABC, to address the direction given by the SSC at the earlier webinar and the analyses provided by the SEFSC (Attachment 9).

3.3. Action

- Review the most recent Blueline Tilefish stock projections of August 2015.
 - Determine whether the information provided addresses the SSCs request.
 - Identify uncertainties in the projections and discuss their impact on projection results and fishing level recommendations and management.
 - Determine whether projection assumptions (e.g., recruitment, fishing mortality, interim year landings) are met, and comment on the consequences of this determination for fishing level recommendations and management.

- Determine whether available 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, for 2016 and 2017. (The next assessment of Blueline Tilefish is scheduled for review by the SSC in April 2017.)

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 this opportunity to review its recommendations and consensus statements recorded during the meeting.

The final SSC report should be provided to the Council by 9 am on Tuesday, September 15, 2015 for distribution to the Council for its September 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 the SSC chair at the Snapper Grouper Committee meeting on September 15, 2015.

7. ADJOURN