



# SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Trish Murphey, Chair | Jessica McCawley, Vice Chair  
John Carmichael, Executive Director

## Scientific and Statistical Committee

October 21-23, 2025

Town & Country Inn  
2008 Savannah Highway  
Charleston, SC 29407

### AGENDA - REVISED

Other than the starting and ending time of the meeting, times indicated on the agenda are approximate, and the order of business may be adjusted as necessary to accommodate the completion of agenda items. Interested parties should be aware that discussions may start earlier or later than indicated. Periodic breaks will be taken during each morning and afternoon session at the discretion of the Chair.

### Tuesday, October 21

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#### 8:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

#### 1. Introductions

- Introduction of New Committee Members
- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes from May 2025 Meeting

#### 2. Public Comment

#### 3. Council FMP Amendment and SEFSC Updates (0.5 hrs)

- Presentation: Dr. Judd Curtis, SAFMC Staff; ~~Dr. Erik Williams, SEFSC~~
- Public Comment
- Actions: *Receive updates on recent Fishery Management Plan Amendments and Council actions. Receive an update from the Southeast Fishery Science Center (SEFSC) on stock assessment capacity changes.*

**4. SEDAR Process Modifications (1.5 hrs)**

- Presentation: SEDAR Staff
- Public Comment
- Actions: *Receive an update on the modifications to the SEDAR process and new role for SSC members during the assessment phase of the process.*

**5. SSC Workgroups and SEDAR Panels (0.5 hrs)**

- Presentation: Dr. Judd Curtis, SAFMC Staff
- Public Comment
- Actions: *Receive updates on any recent workgroup and SEDAR panel business. Populate forthcoming workgroups and SEDAR panels.*

**6. Terms of Reference for 2026-2027 Assessments (1 hr)**

- Presentation: Dr. Judd Curtis, SAFMC Staff
- Public Comment
- Actions: *Review Terms of Reference for 2026-2027 King Mackerel, Spanish Mackerel, Red Grouper, and Snowy Grouper assessments and make recommendations to Council.*

***(Lunch Break: 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm)***

**1:30 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.**

**7. SEDAR 89 (Revised): Golden Tilefish (2 hrs)**

- Presentation: ~~Dr. Matt Vincent, SEFSC~~ Dr. Chip Collier, SAFMC Staff
- Public Comment
- Actions: *Review the revised SEDAR 89: Golden Tilefish stock assessment and identify any changes in the data, modeling parameters, and their associated uncertainties. Make catch level recommendations for the Council.*

**8. MRIP-FES Revised Survey Results and Calibration Methods (1 hr)**

- Presentation: Dr. Katherine Papacostas, NOAA-OST (Recorded Presentation)
- Public Comment
- Actions: *Receive update on the revised methods for MRIP-FES estimates and timeline for calibrations for upcoming stock assessments.*

## **Wednesday, October 22**

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### **8:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.**

#### **9. ~~Dolphinfish MSE Operating Model Final Review (2 hrs)~~**

- ~~• Presentation: Dr. Cassidy Peterson, SEFSC; Tom Carruthers, Blue Matter Science~~
- ~~• Public Comment~~
- ~~• Actions: Review the operating model for Dolphinfish that will be used to inform the management strategy evaluation. Discuss data inputs, modeling parameters, and uncertainties.~~

#### **10. MSY Proxies in South Atlantic Stock Assessments (0.5 hrs)**

- Presentation: ~~Dr. Erik Williams, SEFSC~~ and Dr. Judd Curtis, SAFMC Staff
- Public Comment
- Actions: *Receive SEFSC presentation on MSY proxies for the South Atlantic. Review Draft Workplan and Schedule for the MSY proxies joint workgroup.*

***(Lunch Break: 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm)***

### **1:30 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.**

#### **11. Black Sea Bass Genetics and Stock Structure (1 hr)**

- Presentation: Rich Harrington, SCDNR
- Public Comment
- Actions: *Review the report on Black Sea Bass genetics and stock structure. Evaluate conclusions and implications for next stock assessment.*

#### **12. Wreckfish Management Procedure Update (1.5 hrs)**

- Presentation: Dr. Jeremy Collie, and Dr. Josh Nowlis, Lynker
- Public Comment
- Actions: *Review the data sources/inputs and preliminary modeling approaches for the stock assessment and operating model for Wreckfish that will be used to inform management procedures. Evaluate data inputs, modeling parameters, and uncertainties.*

#### **13. Snapper Grouper Management Strategy Evaluation Update (1 hr)**

- Presentation: Dr. Chip Collier, SAFMC; Dr. Adrian Hordyk, Blue Matter Science
- Public Comment
- Actions: *Review the data sources/inputs and preliminary modeling approaches for the management strategy evaluation operating model for Snapper Grouper that will be used to inform management procedures. Provide feedback on data inputs, modeling parameters, and uncertainties.*

## **Thursday, October 23**

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### **8:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.**

#### **14. Review of Additional Model Runs, Sensitivities, and Catch Levels (1 hr)**

- Presentation: TBD
- Public Comment
- Actions: *Review additional requested model runs, sensitivities, or projections and make operating model or catch level recommendations to Council (if necessary).*

#### **15. SSC Workgroups and SEDAR Panels (1 hr)**

- Presentation: Dr. Judd Curtis, SAFMC Staff
- Public Comment
- Actions: *Receive updates on any recent workgroup and SEDAR panel business. Populate forthcoming workgroups and SEDAR panels.*

#### **16. Other Business**

#### **17. Public Comment**

#### **18. Consensus Statement and Recommendations Review**

#### **19. Next Meetings**

### **Public Comment Process**

Written comment: Written comment on SSC agenda topics is provided to the Committee through an online form, similar to all other Council briefing materials. Written comment can be submitted at [this link](#). For this meeting, the deadline for submission of written comment is 10:00 a.m., October 23rd.

Verbal comment: Two opportunities for comment on agenda items will be provided at set times during SSC meetings. The first will be at the beginning of the meeting, and the second near the conclusion. Those wishing to comment should indicate such in the manner requested by the Chair, who will then recognize individuals to provide comment.

An opportunity for comment on specific agenda items will also be provided as each item comes up for discussion. This opportunity for comment will happen after all the initial presentations are given and before the SSC starts the discussion of the agenda topic. As before, those wishing to comment should indicate such in the manner requested by the Chair, who will then recognize individuals to provide comment. All comments are part of the record of the meeting.

**Staff Lead:** Judd Curtis ([judd.curtis@safmc.net](mailto:judd.curtis@safmc.net))