



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, North Charleston SC 29405

Call: (843) 571-4366 | Toll-Free: (866) SAFMC-10 | Fax: (843) 769-4520 | Connect: www.safmc.net

Jessica McCawley, Chair | Kerry Marhefka, Vice Chair
John Carmichael, Executive Director

Scientific and Statistical Committee

October 20-22, 2026

Town & Country Inn
2008 Savannah Highway
Charleston, SC 29407

AGENDA

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 20th

1:30 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

1. Introductions

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes from August 2026 Meeting

2. Public Comment

3. Fishery Management Plan Amendment and Council Activity Updates (15 min)

- Presentation: SAFMC Staff
- Public Comment
- Actions: *Receive updates on recent Fishery Management Plan Amendments and Council activities.*

4. SEDAR Assessment and Workgroups Updates (15 min)

- Presentation: Dr. Judd Curtis, SAFMC Staff

- Public Comment
- Actions: *Receive updates on recent SEDAR activities and SSC workgroup progress. Review stock risk ratings and solicit volunteers for SEDAR panels for Red Grouper.*

5. Dolphin Management Strategy Evaluation Review (3 hrs)

- Presentation: Dr. Cassidy Peterson, SEFSC and Dr. Tom Carruthers, Blue Matter Science
- Public Comment
- Actions: *Evaluate the final operating model and associated uncertainties for the Dolphin Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE).*

Wednesday, October 21st

8:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

6. SEDAR 94: Florida Hogfish Stock Assessment Model Review (3.5 hours)

- Presentation: Dr. Chris Swanson, FWC-FWRI/USF
- Public Comment
- Actions: *Review the Florida Hogfish (FLK/EFL) stock assessment model and discuss data inputs, modeling approach, sensitivity runs, and scientific uncertainties. Review projections and make catch level recommendations to Council or recommend alternate projection scenarios.*

(Lunch Break: 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm)

1:30 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

7. Resilient Fisheries Project: Spatial Distribution Modeling (1.5 hrs)

- Presentation: Dr. Jie Cao, NCSU; Seungyeon Jade Hong, UNC
- Public Comment
- Actions: *Review preliminary spatial distribution models and provide feedback on model development including data inputs and uncertainties.*

8. Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology (2 hrs)

- Presentation: Dr. Chip Collier, SAFMC Staff
- Public Comment
- Actions: *Review the Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM) for the South Atlantic and provide feedback and recommendations.*

Thursday, October 22nd

8:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

9. SEDAR 94: Florida Hogfish Catch Level Projections (1 hr)

- Presentation: Dr. Chris Swanson, FWC-FWRI/USF
- Public Comment
- Actions: *Provide catch level recommendations using projection scenarios and discuss uncertainties.*

10. MRIP-FES Revised Estimate and Calibration Update (1 hr)

- Presentation: Dr. John Foster, NOAA-OST
- Public Comment
- Actions: *Update on the MRIP-FES revised recreational catch estimates and next steps for South Atlantic stock assessments.*

11. RAPID Data Collection Update (15 min)

- Presentation: Dr. Luiz Barbieri, FL-FWCC
- Public Comment
- Actions: *Update on the Recreational Angler Partnership Improvement Directive (RAPID) for modernizing recreational fisheries data collection.*

12. SEFSC-OST Precision Threshold Workgroup Update (15 min)

- Presentation: Dr. Erik Williams, SEFSC
- Public Comment
- Actions: *Update on the SEFSC Precision Threshold Workgroup.*

13. Other Business

14. Public Comment

15. Consensus Statement and Recommendations Review

16. 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 22nd.

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 come 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)