

Black Sea Bass Workgroup Meeting 1

10/2/23

Attendance:

- SSC – Kai Lorenzen, Jie Cao, Steve Turner, Dustin Addis, Jeff Buckel
- SEFSC – Matthew Vincent, Erik Williams
- SAFMC – Judd Curtis, Chip Collier, Mike Schmidtke

SPR

- Other metrics for calculating SPR (F40%) – potential options:
 - Eggs
 - **F40% Mature Biomass (recommended option)**
 - Eggs*Male Wgt
 - Egg*Male N
 - Mature N
 - Female*Male
- Options for F reference point
 - First question: use landings only or total removals (landings + discards)
 - Decision: use total removals (landings + discards), narrows down to next question of type of reference point. The group discussed the following and recommended F40%SPR given precedent from previous assessments and that $F_{0.1}$ is only looking at yield per recruit. Total $F_{0.1}$ or:
 - **F40%SPR (recommended option)**; best to use SPR-based reference point)

ABC-CR and P*

- April SSC meeting report → $P^* = 32.5\%$
- With assessment updates:
 - Tier 3: Stock status change from 4 (Both overfished and overfishing) to 3 (Either overfished or overfishing) → $P^* = 32.5\% + 2.5\% = 35.0\%$
 - Based on Council's updated ABC control rule, Tier 4: Productivity, susceptibility, risk change from 2 (Medium risk) to 3 (High risk) -5.0% → $P^* = 30.0\%$
- **Recommendation:** Use P^* of 30% and 35% in projections

Review of fitting Landings/Discards

- Fit to all catch and discards using selectivity from assessment
- Use the F for 2022 (this F is estimated by the model based on 2022 catch data but does not use other 2022 data (e.g. no FI index for 2022))
- **Recommendation:** For 2023-2024, use the $F_{current}$ from the assessment (i.e., 2019-2021)
 - Caution necessary because of spike in F(2022) for rec fishery
- **Alternate run recommendation:** Adjust F current to use F(2020-2022) to use more recent data. Drawback is that this differs from the F current used to estimate benchmarks.

Scenarios for projecting Landings and Discards based on management action

- Focus on F-based projections (as opposed to catch based projections)
- Past approach has been to assume total effort reduction for both landings and discards
 - Management actions rarely follow this assumption, need better assumption

- Assumption of no reduction in effort, it will transfer from landings to discards (better approach)
- Assume a 0 landings scenario
 - o Discard fishery selectivity and F would be unchanged
 - o Place bounds on the F scenarios?
- Additional scenarios in future where F landings/discards selectivities vary by fishery sector (general rec, headboat, charter, commercial, pot)
- **Decision:** use 1st order approx: keep discards at current discard F and adjust landings F based on specified management scenario

Prelim Projections

- $F=0$ w recent average R: stock does not recover (because of recent low R)
- F (per year) in 2022 is much higher than observed for any year in time series. Is this estimate realistic? SERFS index for 2021-2022 remains about the same.
- Management start year in 2025; interim years to include 2022-2023.