

DRAFT workplan for Joint MSY workgroup

Objective of Workgroup

Develop Best Practices Guidance document with associated decision matrix to recommend a standardized approach to development of MSY proxy (i.e. SPR) values for completed and upcoming stock assessments for the Southeast region.

Joint SA and Gulf SSC Meeting Notes and Consensus Statement – February 2025

SSCs Consensus: The Gulf and South Atlantic SSCs see a clear need to collectively address the required precision to estimate steepness (and thus estimate MSY) for management advice, as well as a discussion of SPR proxy values given a range of life history values among fish species (e.g., longevity, age at maturity, growth characteristics, vulnerability to environmental perturbations). The SSCs by consensus think that a follow up joint meeting to address these topics is essential to the consistent application of an agreed decision-making paradigm for present and future stock assessments.

Workgroup Composition

The working group in coordination with support staff and other identified subject matter experts are tasked with determining the background materials needed for each meeting to make informed recommendations and progress on draft deliverables. The length and breadth of the meetings will be closely coordinated with Council staff leads for logistics. The proposed workgroup composition is:

- 3 SSC members from each Council (6)
- SEFSC staff (1)
- Florida Analyst (1)
- Gulf Council staff – Ryan (1)
- SA Council staff – Judd (1)
- SSC member or subject matter expert from outside the Southeast region (1)

Workgroup Meetings

Two or three half-day webinar meetings with potentially one in-person meeting. Meetings will consist of working group and subject matter experts only. When the working group produces a draft guidance document each SSC will receive the draft final guidance document for any final updates.

- Meeting #1: Gather feedback from SSC members about the types of analyses they would like to see to inform the guidance document and decision matrix.
- Meeting #2: Present analyses and discuss best path forward for guidance.
- Meeting #3: Finalize guidance document advice (potential in-person meeting).
- Report to South Atlantic and Gulf SSCs. Any final updates are considered and provided to each respective Council's SSC.

Potential Timeline

- Kick-off meeting before end of 2025
- Webinar meeting every ~2 months starting in 2026 (2-3 meetings as needed)
- Potential in-person meeting next summer/early fall.
- Final deliverables to be reviewed by South Atlantic and Gulf SSCs at Fall 2026 meetings.