

## South Atlantic Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation Reports

Council staff have started to develop Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) Reports. These reports are required through National Standard 2 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The report should contain the best scientific information available on the condition of the stock, essential fish habitat, marine ecosystems, and fishery. These reports can serve as regular updates to the SSC and Council to aid in discussing the condition of the stock and potential need for adjusting current management measures.

Previous attempts at developing SAFE reports for the South Atlantic Region failed due to the limited staff time available to compile all the information. The current plan is to develop time scaled down SAFE Reports for each fishery management plan (FMP) in the region. The reports will be expanded overtime as datasets are learned, code is developed to analyze the data, and new information becomes available. The objective is to provide the SSC and Council with the SAFE Reports every two years for each FMP. Two draft reports have been developed for a subset of species in the [Snapper Grouper FMP](#) (overfished and/or overfishing species) and the [Dolphin Wahoo FMP](#). These represent two different scenarios, species with stock assessments and data-limited species.

The SSC is asked to provide feedback on information that is crucial for a SAFE report and information that would be good to include. The current report includes:

- Species Description
- Stock Status Criteria and Fishing Level Recommendation
  - Stock assessment and projections when available
  - Status evaluation metrics by species
- Recent Management Actions
- Fishery and Population Trends
  - Landings and discards aggregated and by sector
  - Fishery-independent data when available (index of abundance)
- Economic Trends
  - Number of directed trips for the recreational sector
  - Ex-vessel value for the commercial sector
- Social Trends
  - Information on closures
  - Fishery Performance Report developed by advisory panel
- Additional Information
  - Fishery Performance Report (when available)
  - Fishery Overview (when available))
  - Recent Amendments
  - Essential Fish Habitat

What other information is needed for the SAFE Report?

What other information would be useful to include in the SAFE Report?