



# SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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

## Scientific and Statistical Committee

April 15-17, 2025

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, April 15<sup>th</sup>**

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#### **1:30 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.**

##### **1. Introductions**

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes from October 2024 Meeting
- Revisions to October 2024 Report
- Updates from SERO and SEFSC

##### **2. Public Comment**

##### **3. SEDAR 92: Atlantic Blueline Tilefish Southern Region Model (2 hrs)**

- Presentation: Dr. Nikolai Klibansky, SEFSC
- Public Comment
- Actions: *Review the SEDAR 92: Atlantic Blueline Tilefish stock assessment model for the southern region, and discuss data inputs, modeling approach, and scientific uncertainties. Review projections and make catch level recommendations to Council or recommend alternate projection scenarios.*

**4. SMILE Methods and Data Products Update (1 hr)**

- Presentation: Dr. Jen Loch, REEF
- Public Comment
- Actions: *Receive an update on the development of the “Size Matters: Innovative Length Estimates (SMILE)” project and provide recommendations to project team on how to integrate these data into stock assessments.*

**5. SEFSC Precision Threshold Workgroup Update (0.25 hr)**

- Presentation: Dr. Vivian Matter and Dr. Erik Williams, SEFSC
- Public Comment
- Actions: *Receive an update on the SEFSC Precision Threshold Workgroup.*

**Wednesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>**

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**8:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.**

**6. SEDAR 76U: Black Sea Bass Stock Assessment Update (2.5 hrs)**

- Presentation: Dr. Matt Vincent, SEFSC
- Public Comment
- Actions: *Review SEDAR 76 Update: Black Sea Bass stock assessment model and discuss updated data inputs, modeling approach, and scientific uncertainties. Review projections and make catch level recommendations to Council.*

**7. SERFS 2024 Trends Report (1 hr)**

- Presentation: Dr. Tracey Smart, SC-DNR
- Public Comment
- Actions: *Receive update on the Southeast Reef Fish Survey (SERFS) trends report through 2024.*

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

**1:30 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.**

**8. Ecospace Module for Reef Fish Ecopath with Ecosim Model (1.5 hrs)**

- Presentation: Dr. Dave Chagaris, UF; Lauren Gentry, FWCC-FWRI
- Public Comment
- Actions: *Receive an update on the Ecospace module for the South Atlantic Reef Fish Ecopath with Ecosim Model.*

**9. Dolphin Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) Update (1 hr)**

- Presentation: Dr. Cassidy Peterson, SEFSC
- Public Comment
- Actions: *Receive an update on the Dolphin Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) project.*

**10. SEDAR Process Update (1 hr)**

- Presentation: Dr. Shannon Cass-Calay, SEFSC; Dr. Julie Neer, SEDAR Staff
- Public Comment
- Actions: *Receive an update on the changes to the SEDAR process and new role for SSC members during the assessment phase of the process.*

**Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup>**

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**8:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.**

**11. SEDAR 92, 76U: Additional Projections and Catch Levels (1 hr)**

- Presentation: Dr. Nikolai Klibansky and Dr. Matt Vincent, SEFSC
- Public Comment
- Actions: *Review additional requested projections (if necessary) and make catch level recommendations to Council.*

**12. Research and Monitoring Plan Review (1 hr)**

- Presentation: Dr. Chip Collier, SAFMC Staff
- Public Comment
- Actions: *Review the proposed South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Research and Monitoring Plan for 2025-2029.*

**13. Fishery Management Plan Amendment Updates (0.25 hrs)**

- Presentation: Dr. Judd Curtis, SAFMC Staff
- Public Comment
- Actions: *Receive updates on recent Fishery Management Plan Amendments including SG Amendment 59, and Coral Amendment 11, and others as needed.*

**14. SEP Meeting Report (0.25 hrs)**

- Presentation: Dr. Jennifer Sweeney-Tookes, SEP Chair
- Public Comment
- Actions: *Receive update on select agenda topics discussed and recommendations made at the Social and Economic Panel meeting earlier this week.*

**15. SSC Workgroups and SEDAR Panels (0.25 hrs)**

- Presentation: Dr. Marcel Reichert, SSC Chair; Dr. Judd Curtis, SAFMC Staff
- Public Comment
- Actions: *Receive updates on any recent workgroup and SEDAR panel business including the Joint SSC review of the Mutton and Yellowtail Snapper stock assessments, and the Blueline Tilefish Sub-Panel review process.*

**16. Scientific Coordination Subcommittee (0.25 hrs)**

- Presentation: Dr. Judd Curtis, SAFMC Staff
- Public Comment
- Actions: *Planning is underway for the 9<sup>th</sup> annual meeting (SCS9). The planning team is soliciting ideas for a general meeting theme and sub-theme topic areas. The SSC should discuss and provide any ideas to pass onto the planning team.*

**17. Other Business**

**18. Public Comment**

**19. Consensus Statement and Recommendations Review**

**20. 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., April 17<sup>th</sup>.

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](mailto:judd.curtis@safmc.net))