



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 14-16, 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, April 14th

1:30 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

1. Introductions

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes from October 2025 Meeting

2. Public Comment

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

- Presentation: Dr. Judd Curtis, SAFMC Staff
- Public Comment
- Actions: *Receive updates on recent Fishery Management Plan Amendments and Council activities. No committee action needed.*

4. SEDAR Activity and Assessment Updates (15 min)

- Presentation: Dr. Judd Curtis, SAFMC Staff
- Public Comment

- Actions: *Receive updates on recent SEDAR activities and new infographics, and other assessment products in development. No committee action needed.*

5. Resilient Fisheries Project: Ecosystem Information Review (1 hr)

- Presentation: Dr. Sarah Gaichas
- Public Comment
- Actions: *Review the draft report on Ecosystem Information and provide feedback on pathways for integrating ecosystem and ocean indicators into the assessment and management process.*

6. Dolphin Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) Operating Model Review (1.5 hrs)

- Presentation: Dr. Cassidy Peterson, SEFSC and Dr. Tom Carruthers, Blue Matter Science
- Public Comment
- Actions: *Evaluate the modeling parameters and associated uncertainties for the Dolphin Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) model. Make recommendations to the review panel on specific model components to evaluate, as needed. Recruit SSC members for the review panel.*

Wednesday, April 15th

8:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

7. NMFS Framework for Narrowing Scope of Management and Science (1.5 hrs)

- Presentation: SEFSC Staff
- Public Comment
- Actions: TBD

8. Wreckfish Stock Assessment Preliminary Model Review (2 hrs)

- Presentation: Dr. Jeremy Collie, URI
- Public Comment
- Actions: *Review the preliminary stock assessment model for Wreckfish that will serve as the operating model for the Adaptive Implementable Management (AIM) procedure. Evaluate data inputs, modeling parameters, uncertainties, and provide feedback for model development.*

(Lunch Break: 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm)

1:30 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

9. South Atlantic Red Snapper Research Program (3 hrs)

- Presentation: Dr. Will Patterson, UF and Dr. Dave Portnoy, TAMU-CC

- Public Comment
- Actions: *Receive presentation on the South Atlantic Red Snapper Research Project and summary of results from the CIE review workshop. Provide feedback on the plan for integration of project components into the SEDAR 90 stock assessment process.*

10. Terms of Reference for Upcoming Assessments (30 min)

- Presentation: Dr. Judd Curtis, SAFMC Staff
- Public Comment
- Actions: *Review the terms of reference for the upcoming Black Sea Bass and Vermilion Snapper stock assessments and make recommendations to Council.*

Thursday, April 16th

8:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

11. SERFS 2025 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 2025.*

12. SEP Meeting Preliminary Summary

- Presentation: Dr. Jennifer Sweeney-Tookes, SEP Chair
- Public Comment
- Actions: *Receive preliminary meeting summary of Social and Economic Panel agenda topics.*

13. SSC Workgroups and SECAD Panels (15 min)

- Presentation: Dr. Judd Curtis, SAFMC Staff
- Public Comment
- Actions: *Receive updates on recent SSC workgroup and SECAD (SEDAR, Catch Advice, and Data) committee business and review appointments to panels.*

14. Other Business

15. Public Comment

16. Consensus Statement and Recommendations Review

17. Elections

18. 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 16th.

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)