



# SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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

## Scientific and Statistical Committee

October 22-24, 2024

Hotel Indigo Mount Pleasant  
250 Jonnie Dodds Blvd.  
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

## 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, October 22<sup>nd</sup>

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#### 8:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

##### 1. Introductions

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes from August Meeting

##### 2. Public Comment

##### 3. ABC-CR and Stock Risk Ratings (2 hrs)

- Presentation: SAFMC Staff
- Public Comment
- Actions: *Receive refresher on the new South Atlantic ABC Control Rule. Update stock risk ratings for Tilefish, Blueline Tilefish, Mutton Snapper, Yellowtail Snapper, and Red Snapper.*

##### 4. SEDAR Process Update and Key Stocks (1.5 hrs)

- Presentation: Julie Neer, SEDAR Staff; and SAFMC Staff
- Public Comment

- Actions: *Review proposed changes to the SEDAR process. Discuss which information is critical to help guide decisions on key stocks.*

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

**1:30 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.**

**5. SPR Proxies in South Atlantic Stock Assessments (1 hr)**

- Presentation: Erik Williams, SEFSC
- Public Comment
- Actions: *Review presentation on SPR proxies for the South Atlantic. Provide scientific justification for use of recommended SPR proxies in stock assessments. Discuss other approaches to develop sustainable fisheries with high proportion of recreational catch.*

**6. Black Sea Bass Projections (2.5 hrs)**

- Presentation: SAFMC Staff and Matt Vincent, SEFSC
- Public Comment
- Actions: *Receive presentation on recent history of Black Sea Bass SSC and Council decisions. Discuss alternative approach to allocation of landings and discards by sector. Review recent requested projection scenarios and make catch level recommendations.*

**Wednesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>**

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**8:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.**

**7. SEDAR 89: South Atlantic Tilefish Assessment Review (2.5 hrs)**

- Presentation: Matt Vincent, SEFSC
- Public Comment
- Actions: *Review SEDAR 89: South Atlantic Tilefish stock assessment model and discuss data inputs, modeling approach, and scientific uncertainties. Review projections and make catch level recommendations or recommend alternate projection scenarios.*

**8. South Atlantic For-Hire Reporting Modifications (1 hr)**

- Presentation: John Hadley, SAFMC Staff
- Public Comment
- Actions: *Review proposed modifications to the South Atlantic For-Hire Reporting Program and discuss what data or other information would be useful for the SSC to review to provide management advice.*

*(Lunch Break: 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm)*

**1:30 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.**

**9. Snapper Grouper Management Strategy Evaluation (3 hrs)**

- Presentation: Adrian Hordyk, Blue Matter Science
- Public Comment
- Actions: *Review the final model of the Snapper-Grouper Management Strategy Evaluation. Discuss the data inputs and uncertainties with the operating model, management options, performance metrics, results, and future iterations of the MSE process.*

**10. Mutton and Yellowtail Snapper SSC Review (½ hr)**

- Presentation: SAFMC Staff
- Public Comment
- Actions: *Review approach, process, and timeline for the joint review of Mutton Snapper and Yellowtail Snapper stock assessments and enlist SSC members for the sub-group review.*

**Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup>**

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**8:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.**

**11. Scientific Coordination Subcommittee Meeting Report (1 hr)**

- Presentation: Judd Curtis, SAFMC Staff
- Public Comment
- Actions: *Receive report on the Scientific Coordination Subcommittee 8<sup>th</sup> annual meeting and discuss South Atlantic regional actionable items and process for implementation.*

**12. SEFSC Precision Threshold Workgroup (½ hr)**

- Presentation: Vivian Matter, SEFSC
- Public Comment
- Actions: *Receive update on the SEFSC's Precision Threshold Workgroup tasked with exploring alternative estimation methods for highly imprecise estimate scenarios impacting assessments.*

**13. SSC Workgroups and SEDAR Panels (½ hr)**

- Presentation: Judd Curtis, SAFMC Staff
- Public Comment

- *Actions: Receive updates on any recent workgroup and SEDAR panel business. Form planning sub-group for joint review of the upcoming Blueline Tilefish stock assessment with the Mid-Atlantic region.*

#### **14. Other Business**

- *Review of Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) Reports*

#### **15. Public Comment**

#### **16. Consensus Statement and Recommendations Review**

#### **17. 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., October 24<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))