



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Melvin Bell, Chair | Carolyn N. Belcher, Ph.D., Vice Chair
John Carmichael, Executive Director

Scientific and Statistical Committee

April 26-28, 2022
Town and Country Inn
Charleston, SC 29401

AGENDA - REVISED

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 26th

1:30 pm – 5:00 pm

1. **Introductions** (0.25 hrs)
 - *Approval of Revised Agenda*
 - *Approval of Minutes from February meeting*
2. **Public Comment**
3. **Catch Level Projections Workgroup** (2.5 hrs)
 - *Presentation: Dr. Amy Schueller, SEFSC*
 - *Public Comment*
 - *Actions: Review, discuss, and provide feedback on the final report from the SSC Workgroup findings on recruitment assumptions and forecasting used in catch level projections. Adopt workgroup recommendations (possibly with modification) as best practices for the SSC.*
4. **Goliath Grouper ABC review plan** (1 hr)
 - *Presentation: Dr. Judd Curtis, SAFMC Staff*
 - *Public Comment*
 - *Actions: Provide the SSC with an overview of the approach to reconsider the current ABC=0 for Goliath Grouper in the South Atlantic.*

Wednesday, April 27th

8:00 am – 12:00 pm

5. ~~Interim Analysis Strategy (Postponed)~~

- ~~• Presentation: Dr. Nikolai Klibansky and Dr. Cassidy Peterson, SEFSC~~
- ~~• Public Comment~~
- ~~• Actions: Review, discuss, and provide feedback on the interim analysis strategy developed by the SEFSC.~~

6. Release Mortality Reduction Framework (2.0 hrs)

- Presentation: Dr. Mike Schmidtke, SAFMC Staff
- Public Comment
- Actions: Discuss and provide feedback on potential quantitative actions to reduce release mortality that could be considered in revising ABCs for red snapper and other snapper-grouper species.

7. South Atlantic Red Snapper Count Overview (1.0 hr)

- Presentation: Dr. Will Patterson, University of Florida
- Public Comment
- Actions: Present methods for the South Atlantic Red Snapper Population Estimation project to the SSC for discussion and feedback.

Lunch Break: 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

1:30 pm – 5:00 pm

8. SEFSC 2021 Deepwater Longline Survey Results (0.5 hrs)

- Presentation: Dr. Todd Kellison, SEFSC
- Public Comment
- Actions: Observe and provide feedback on the updated indices from the 2021 SEFSC deep-water longline survey

9. Blueline Tilefish Operational Assessment Terms of Reference (0.5 hrs)

- Presentation: Kathleen Howington, SEDAR Staff
- Public Comment
- Actions: Review and provide comments on the draft SEDAR Operational Assessment for Blueline Tilefish Terms of Reference

10. Scopes of Work for 2025 Operational Assessments (1.0 hrs)

- Presentation: Dr. Chip Collier, SAFMC Staff
- Public Comment
- Actions: Review and provide comments on the scopes of work for upcoming Operational Assessments in 2025.

11. SEP Meeting Summary (0.5 hrs)

- *Presentation: Dr. Scott Crosson, SEP Chair*
- *Public Comment*
- *Actions: Provide the SSC with a summary of the discussions of select topics from the SEP meeting.*

Thursday, April 28th

8:00 am – 12:00 pm

12. Southeast Reef Fish Survey (SERFS) Update (0.5 hrs)

- *Presentation: Dr. Tracey Smart, SCDNR*
- *Public Comment*
- *Actions: Provide feedback on the updated indices from the SERFS fishery-independent survey.*

13. Fishery Management Plan Amendment Update (0.25 hrs)

- *Presentation: Myra Brouwer and Dr. Judd Curtis, SAFMC Staff*
- *Public Comment*
- *Actions: Provide an update of the active fishery management plan amendments.*

14. Other Business (0.5 hrs)

- *SEDAR78: Spanish Mackerel Operational Assessment review schedule*
- *Yellowtail Snapper interim analysis review schedule*
- *SEDAR79: Mutton Snapper benchmark assessment schedule update*
- *EwE Operating Model and MSE Update*
- *National SSC meeting participation*

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 10:00am, April 28, 2022.

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)