



NOAA
FISHERIES

SEFSC-OST Precision Threshold Workgroup

Update for the
South Atlantic SSC Meeting
April 15-17, 2025

SEFSC and OST joint workgroup

- Convened to propose standardized approaches to handle highly imprecise estimates for stock assessments and fisheries management
- [Previous SSC update](#) summarized work through October 2024
- January 27, 2025 workgroup meeting
 - Prepared Terms of Reference for review of methodology
 - Requesting reviewers
 - CIE reviewer(s)
 - MRIP survey statistical consultant
 - Academic stock assessment scientist
- March 24, 2025 workgroup meeting
 - Pursuing virtual review, most likely to occur in FY25Q4
 - Documentation of workgroup's analysis and findings- nearly complete



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- Proposed simple moving average wave-level catch rate estimation method
 - Currently the catch rate is calculated using data from the current year and 2-month wave
 - Alternate method calculates catch rate using data from the same 2-month wave over a range of years
 - Alternate catch rate would still be multiplied by the effort from the current year and 2-month wave to estimate total catch
- Benefits of proposed method
 - Can be rapidly adopted and implemented by a broad cross-section of data users
 - Provides gains in precision
 - Provides a consistent framework across regions, species, and fishing modes
 - Assures fishing activity trend information remains intact



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- Once peer reviewed, this will be a tool data users can use as warranted to improve some highly imprecise estimates.
- Not a silver bullet approach that is suitable or will work for all cases. In some instances, the estimate still may not reach a PSE of under 50.
- Next steps contingent on available resources
 - Finalize documentation
 - Establish review panel

