



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Southeast Fisheries Science Center
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F/SEC2: TJ

February 24, 2010

Mr. Robert Mahood
Executive Director
South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201
North Charleston, SC 29405

Dear Mr. Mahood,

This letter provides an update on the status of your requests to the Southeast Fisheries Science Center with respect to the two letters sent on January 28, 2010:

- (1) **Letter Request dated 1/28/10, RE: Request for updated Atlantic king mackerel projections** (due March 15).

SEFSC is currently working on item (1) and would provide the reports by the deadline.

- (2) **Letter Request date 1/28/10, RE: Data request in support of SSC ABC recommendations** (due March 1).

a. Annual landings in pounds for the MRFSS, ALS, SE Headboat, and Logbook data sources.

As requested, the annual landings in pounds for SE Headboat fishery and the recreational component through August 2009 [data for waves 5 and 6 (September-October and November-December) are not yet available] would be provided by March 1. ALS landings would be provided by March 5. Currently, we do not use the logbook data to estimate annual landings.

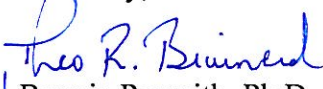
b. Annual mean length and weight for the MRFSS, SE Headboat, and TIP. This data set would be provided early in June 2010.

c. Depletion-adjusted average catch based on the MacCall approach (MacCall, A.D. 2009. Depletion-corrected average catch: a simple formula for estimating sustainable yields in data-poor situations. ICES Journal of Marine Science, 66:2267-2271). Given the current SEDAR workload, this request cannot be completed within the time frame. The SEFSC recommends that the SSC proceeds with using average catch for computing ABC levels.

- d. Representative measures of annual effort for the MRFSS and SE Headboat sources and annual effort by predominant gear types (hook and line, pot, trawl) for the ALS and Logbook sources. The SSC requests HB effort reported as angler-days and that data providers be given latitude to consider appropriate effort measures for other data sources that will provide an indication of trends in effective effort over time. The SEFSC would provide commercial and recreational effort tabulations (from 1993-2008) by the March 1, 2010 deadline.
- e. Annual discards in pounds for all managed stocks for the MRFSS, ALS, SE Headboat, and Logbook data sources. The SEFSC would provide discard estimates for SEDAR assessed and non-SEDAR species by May 15, 2010. For SEDAR species SEFSC will update the estimates using the most recent SEDAR approaches (note: parameter values will not be recalculated); for non-SEDAR species SEFSC will develop a generic approach which will be used if there were sufficient data for a species. It should be noted that discard estimates for SEDAR and non-SEDAR species will be subject to change if SEFSC developed revised methods and acquired new data sets.
- f. Time series of relative status indicators (F/F_{msy} and B/B_{msy}) for South Atlantic stocks assessed through SEDAR. The SEFSC would provide the requested information by the March 1, 2010 deadline.

Please contact Dr. Tom Jamir at (305) 361-4260 or email tom.jamir@noaa.gov if you have any questions or clarifications.

Sincerely,


Bonnie Ponwith, Ph.D.
Science Director

Cc: SAFMC – Greg Waugh
SAFMC – John Carmichael
SAFMC – Carolyn Belcher
SAFMC – Luiz Barbieri
F/SER – Roy Crabtree
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