

SAFMC SSC – Bag and Size Limit Analysis Working Group
Brief report of the Working Group webinar held on 7/3/2018.

Working Group members: Marcel Reichert (WG Chair), George Sedberry, Carolyn Belcher, Rob Ahrens, Eric Johnson, Scott Crosson, and Laura Lee (currently a non-SSC member, not in attendance).

Mike Errigo went through the updated methodology and analysis.

- The headboat data was not included in the presented analysis because of confidentiality of the data. However, it will be included in the final over-all analysis.
- Data used were from the previous stock assessment (2012), but Mike will provide an update using the most recent assessment results. The working group noted that due to the upcoming expected changes in MRIP, this analysis will need to be updated again, but Mike had already anticipated that.
- Mike's report did not yet include an uncertainty analysis, but this will be available soon. The uncertainty analysis will include MCB runs for abundance and the probability of a fish being below the size limit, which makes up the descending limb of the discard selectivity, being resampled from a normal distribution. Since the approach is pretty standard, the working group did not find it necessary to have another webinar to specifically discuss the uncertainty analysis. Review can be done during full SSC review of the method.
- Rob Ahrens commented that if the size limit is changed, the exploitation rate is likely to change, and there will be a change in the proportion of individuals hitting the bag limit. If needed, there is a way to estimate this change, and changes could be included in the analysis. The committee agreed that this may be something to look into in the future.
- The working group agreed with Mike's findings that, due to the large size limit, increasing the bag limit alone does not increase the number of landed fish significantly as there is little potential for individuals to reach the bag.
- Mike explored using this method for other species and found that this can be used to explore bag and size limits in a similar way in those species. The Working Group agreed that this method may have a broader applicability increasing the utility of it for management analyses.

The WG complimented Mike for his work on this analysis and thanked him for the presented overview.

Working group recommendation:

The working group agreed that the presented method is appropriate and considered it BSIA. Furthermore, the working group deemed the method appropriate for short term management advice. The working group recommends that the method be reviewed by the full SSC. Once the numbers are updated, the Working Group and full SSC should further review the outcome of the analyses.

Next steps:

Include uncertainty analysis.

Complete analysis with update data (most recent assessment and later the update MRIP)

Potentially expand analysis to include possible changes in exploitation rate.

Review of methodology, WG report and recommendations by the full SSC.