

Snapper Grouper Management Strategy Evaluation

Advisory Panel Discussion Document

October 2022

The SAFMC is working with Blue Matter Sciences to develop a holistic approach to manage the recreational sector for the snapper grouper fishery called a management strategy evaluation. Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) is internationally recognized as best practice for evaluating the performance of alternative management approaches and identifying the mode of management that is most likely to meet the various management objectives of a fishery.

The MSE process is designed to support evidence-based decision-making in the face of uncertainty on the status and dynamics of a fishery system. It was developed in response to a common situation where there were conflicting interpretations of a stock assessment process, and there was no clear path for making an informed and transparent management decision.

In short, the MSE process involves building a range of models which span the key uncertainties in the fishery system, and using computer simulations to evaluate the performance of alternative management methods against established management objectives.

Stakeholder participation is a fundamental component of the MSE process. Discussions with stakeholders are used to establish the three main areas of the MSE process 1) Uncertainties in the Fishery System, 2) Feasible Management Options, and 3) Objectives for Evaluating Performance.

AP Discussion:

The questions listed below are intended to prepare participants for the discussions that will be held at the Snapper-Grouper Advisory Panel Meeting:

1. Uncertainties in the Fishery System:

- What are the most important uncertainties in the fishery system?
- What are the main data sources that can be used to evaluate the state of the fishery?

- What are the primary concerns with the data sources?

2. Feasible Management Options:

- What management actions do you consider good options for this fishery?
- What are the key challenges in implementing new management approaches?

3. Objectives for Evaluating Performance:

- How would you define good management outcomes for this fishery?
- What are the main indicators of successful management?
- What are the main indicators of poor outcomes for the fishery?

Additional materials can be found at the project homepage: <https://safmc-mse.netlify.app/>