

Mid-Atlantic Input on SEDAR Benchmark Assessment for Atlantic Blueline Tilefish

SSC and Council TOR Comments

1. Regardless of the outcome of the stock identification analysis, separate fishing level recommendations (OFL/ABCs) should be provided for the areas north and south of the Virginia/North Carolina border (i.e., the TORs should request a spatially-explicit model for the 2 management areas.)
2. If the assessment working group determines that the data north of North Carolina are inadequate to support an analytic assessment of the population in the Mid-Atlantic, then the assessment should be truncated at the VA/NC border.
3. Because the data available for a new Blueline Tilefish assessment may be limited, the TORs should include a provision that includes evaluation of data limited methods to provide ABC recommendations.
4. Ecosystem considerations should be incorporated into TORs to inform development of biological reference points.
5. The issue of climate change may be very important relative to this species, a TOR or some consideration of the impact of environmental factors on BLT abundance and distribution should be added, especially as it relates to potential range shifts.

Assessment Participants

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