



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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David Cupka, Chairman
Ben Hartig, Vice Chairman

Robert K. Mahood, Executive Director
Gregg Waugh, Deputy Executive Director

May 3, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: Bonnie Ponwith

FROM: David Cupka **DC**

SUBJECT: Data Request – Black Sea Bass projections with 2011 data

At their November 2011 meeting, the SSC reviewed the stock assessments for black sea bass and golden tilefish conducted through SEDAR 25 with data through 2010. While the SSC endorsed the black sea bass assessment as appropriate for use in management, they recommended that the projections be re-run once the observed 2011 data were available:

The SSC recommends using rebuilding projections that reflect the actual 2011 catch, since the values is an influential uncertainty in the ABC. If the actual catch is not available for inclusion in the projections, the SSC supports the use of the 150% of 2011 landings run, based on the current estimates of 2011 landings and the projected overages.

Amendment 18A (recently approved) includes an action to change the rebuilding strategy for this stock based on the 2011 assessment. However, at the time the amendment was submitted for approval, the Council did not have projection tables that included recreational and commercial catches through 2011. Hence the Council's preferred rebuilding strategy alternative was based on projected catches assuming a 150% overage in 2011.

The Council requests that the SEFSC provide updated projection results for $F_{rebuild}$ that include actual 2011 recreational and commercial landings as recommended by the SSC. These results should be provided to the Council office by Friday, June 1, 2012 so that the Council may discuss possible adjustments to the black sea bass rebuilding strategy at their June 2012 meeting.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. If you have any questions, please contact Bob.

cc: Roy Crabtree
David Cupka
Ben Hartig
Bob Mahood
Gregg Waugh
John Carmichael
Myra Brouwer
Brian Chevront