Species:
Black Sea Bass

Model and Additional Data Years:

- Prior Assessment: SEDAR 76 Black Sea Bass Operational Assessment
- Prior Terminal Year: 2021
- Data providers should provide all available final data sufficient for use in the stock assessment through the year prior to the assessment start date. Data providers may decide to include preliminary or partial data that could be used in the stock assessment models or projection analyses. Data inclusion for the stock assessment models and projection analyses will be determined by the lead analyst based on quantity and quality of the most recent data.
- Apply the current BAM configuration.

Requested Data Updates (Please be as specific as possible):

- Review any new and updated information to determine if it warrants consideration for modifying existing assumptions to:
    - Life history and natural mortality.
    - Stock productivity and steepness.
    - Discard mortality including higher resolution by depth.
- Does the SSC think a Data Workshop will be needed or will Topical Working Groups for specific topics be sufficient?
- Other?

Potential Modifications to previously approved assessment (Please be as specific as possible):

- Incorporate length composition from the SERFS video survey, as feasible.
- Incorporate catch level working group recommendations.
- Consider new methods for estimating natural mortality including a subset of Then et al. 2015, Hammel and Cope 2022, or other research. Consider direct estimation methods such as telemetry or conventional tagging approaches if available.
- Explore disconnect between high estimated recreational landings despite low abundance of older age classes (high selectivity for ages 6+ is generating high F's).
- Calculate different F metrics (other than apical F) to evaluate the status of the stock (to address shifts in the age of apical F towards the end of the assessment time series).
- Consider sensitivity analyses to address SSC concerns with selectivity differences between Chevron traps and cameras used to create the CVID index.
- The SSC noted there were no fishery dependent indices in the latter part of the time series because of management measures that likely affected catchability. Recommend an analysis to compare abundance index trends in fishery dependent and fishery independent data sources during all time periods to verify changes in catchability due to management.
- Investigate the potential for a range shift in the black sea bass population, and the potential causes, such as climate change.
- Other?

Is a Topical Working Group Needed?

- Low recruitment: The Center has recommended a SEDAR Procedural Workshop (PW) be conducted in 2024 or 2025 to examine the potential sources of recent recruitment declines in several reef fish species in the South Atlantic, including: black sea bass, gag, scamp, and red porgy. Results of this procedural workshop should be incorporated into the next black sea bass assessment through a topical working group.
- Other?

Suggested Topical Working Group Process:

Webinar or In-person?

POTENTIAL SCHEDULE:

- Cooperators use their process to develop SoWs
- SSC reviews SoWs at April meeting, then SAFMC reviews in September, 2024
- Initial Cooperator-approved SoWs submitted to SEFSC by November 1, 2024
- SEFSC provides feedback to Cooperators via memo no later than February 1, 2025
- Cooperators/Technical review bodies review feedback and negotiate final SoWs with SEFSC
- Final SoWs provided to SEDAR Program Manager by May 1, 2025
- Terms of Reference to SSC in October 2025 and SAFMC in March 2026