Draft Terms of Reference

South Atlantic Black Sea Bass

Update Assessment Workshop

(as modified by SSC 12-6-09)

 1. Update the SEDAR-02 assessment of South Atlantic black sea bass with data through 2009 and with reference to the 2005 assessment update.

 2. Document any changes or corrections made to input datasets, all additional data added for the update, and any modifications applied to the additional data.

 3. Document and include rationale for any changes in assessment methodology incorporated in this update.

 4. Estimate and provide complete tables of stock parameters, including but not necessarily limited to the following:

* Population abundance at age
* Population biomass reported in pounds
* Spawning stock biomass reported in pounds
* Fishery selectivity at age and size
* Fishing mortality at age
* Yield
* Stock–recruitment relationship

 5. Update measures of uncertainty and provide representative measures of precision for stock parameter estimates. Determine and document in what way the peculiar life history patterns of this species add to uncertainty in stock parameter estimates. 6. Update estimates of stock status and SFA parameters and provide declarations of stock status relative to SFA criteria. The following quantities are to be provided as required for Amendment 15A to the snapper-grouper FMP:

* MSY (pounds, to the pound)
* MFMT = *F*MSY
* FOY and OY based on: 75% of *F*MSY; (pounds to the pound)
* MSST, based on *(*1−*M)*SSBMSY, (pounds to the pound). (Preferred is 75%.)
* Bcurrent/MSST and Fcurrent/MFMT

 7. Evaluate future stock status and rebuilding progress using the following criteria:

* Evaluate progress toward stock rebuilding and the target 10 year rebuilding period ending in 2016.
* Evaluate whether changes in the TAC (currently 847,000 pounds whole weight) are warranted within the constraints of the rebuilding target. Determine the maximum constant landings that will allow the stock to rebuild by 2016 and estimate the associated fishing mortality rate.
* Estimate the date of stock rebuilding and the resultant exploitation rate, based on maintaining the current TAC.
* Provide a probability analysis for the status quo and updated rebuilding schedules.

Caveats:

– Any management changes should be assumed to take effect 1/1/2012

– Exploitation during the period between the terminal year of the assessment (2009) and 1/1/2012 should be assumed equal to the average of the last 3 years estimated in the assessment (2007-2009).

 8. Review the research recommendations from the previous assessment and update, note any which have been completed, and make any necessary additions or clarifications. Consider and discuss how data and sampling issues contribute to assessment uncertainty.

 9. Develop a stock assessment workshop report in SEDAR format to fully document the input data, methods, and results of the stock assessment update. The report shall be provided to the SAFMC no later than *November 1, 201*0.