



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

SERO

SAFE Reports

December 2021 SAFMC meeting

Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation

The purpose of this presentation is to

- Describe SAFE Reports
- Discuss recent conversations between SERO and SAFMC staff concerning possible ways to produce periodic reports

What is a SAFE Report?

- **Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation Report**

A public document that summarizes, on a periodic basis, the best scientific information available concerning the past, present, and possible future condition of the stocks, EFH, marine ecosystems, and fisheries being managed under Federal regulation.

§ 600.315 National Standard 2 - Scientific Information.

What information is in a SAFE Report?

- Status Determination Criteria
- OFL, ABC
- Landings, bycatch
- Information on EFH
- Stock status
- Whether approaching overfishing or overfished status
- Pertinent economic, social, community, ecological information for assessing the success and impacts of management measures

Who develops the SAFE Report?

The Secretary has the responsibility to ensure that SAFE reports are prepared and updated or supplemented as necessary whenever new information is available to inform management decisions such as status determination criteria (SDC), overfishing level (OFL), optimum yield, or ABC values.

The approach to produce SAFE Reports vary by region.

	Who produces?	Annual?	Format?	All FMPs?
North Pacific	Assessment authors at Science Center lead, Assessment Plan Team (Council body) reviews and contributes	Yes, some biennial and triennial	Word/PDF	Yes
Pacific	Council staff lead (AP and NMFS contribute content)	Yes, some biennial	Word/PDF	Yes
Western Pacific	Team (Council, SC, RO) with full time contractor	Yes	Word/PDF	Yes
Greater Atlantic	Council staff	Yes	Word/PDF	No
HMS	HMS Staff with data points from NEFSC and SEFSC	Yes	Word/PDF	Yes

SAFE Reports have been developed in the past.

The image displays three overlapping covers of South Atlantic Snapper Grouper SAFE Reports. The leftmost cover is the 2005 report, titled "STOCK ASSESSMENT AND FISHERY EVALUATION REPORT FOR THE SNAPPER GROUPEY FISHERY OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC NOVEMBER 18, 2005". It features a detailed illustration of a snapper grouper fish, credited to Duane Raver, and the scientific name *Gag, Mycteroperca microlepis*. The NOAA logo and links to the NOAA Home Page and South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Home Page are at the bottom. The middle cover is the 2012 report, titled "SAFE REPORT" dated "October 12, 2012", with the number "1" at the bottom. The rightmost cover is the 2013 report, titled "South Atlantic Snapper Grouper SAFE REPORT 2013", featuring a photograph of a snapper grouper fish and the number "1" at the bottom.

Challenges

- 67 species managed in the region
- Information is always changing (landings, stock assessments)
- Much of the information is found in other documents/websites
- Workload

Discussions so far

- Staff time and effort to produce SAFE Reports will likely affect other projects.
- Programs to auto populate information or link to other documents/websites may help.
- Some information may be found elsewhere in other documents or websites.
- Should SAFE be added to Council's work plan?
- Next steps...staffs will look into further and develop a document similar to GARFO document.