Draft Terms of Reference

South Atlantic Red Snapper

Update Assessment Workshop

(as modified by SSC 12-6-09)

1. Update the SEDAR 15 assessment of South Atlantic red snapper with data through 2009. Prepare a continuity scenario and consider additional sensitivity runs to address assessment concerns raised since the benchmark.

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.

Special Considerations:

* Review and evaluate recent (2009) increased otolith collections
* Comment on trends in recreational harvest and discards during the years 2007 – 2009.
* Review the justification from the SEDAR 15 AW for deviation from the SEDAR 15 DW recommendations regarding inclusion of pre-MRFSS recreational data. Review these data sources and comment on the appropriateness of their inclusion in the update.
* Perform a rigorous review of discard mortality rates applied in the baseline assessment and of the estimates derived therefrom. Consider whether alternative values should be explored through sensitivity runs. Provide rational for selection of alternative values. Identify any new information pertinent to discards. Assure all benchmark and newly identified reference materials are available via the SEDAR website.
* Convene topical work groups, to meet through webinar, to address the previous 2 bullets concerning historical data and discard mortality rates.

3. Document any changes in assessment methodology incorporated in the update as well as revisions to the SEDAR 15 benchmark assessment that may have occurred following the SEDAR 15 Review.

Special Considerations:

* Review sensitivity analyses conducted following the SEDAR 15 Review and consider whether changes from baseline assumptions are warranted. Fully document any such changes that may be proposed.
* Review the selectivity patterns applied in the baseline assessment and the post-review sensitivities of alternative selectivity patterns and determine the most appropriate selectivity patterns to be applied to data for years following the benchmark terminal year (2006).

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.

6. Update estimates of stock status and SFA parameters and provide declarations of stock status relative to SFA criteria. Provide the following quantities:

* MFMT = (F40%SPR)
* B40%SPR and SSB40%SPR in pounds and metric tons
* MSST at (1-M\*F40%SPR) in pounds and metric tons
* MSY in pounds and metric tons
* Discards at F40%SPR in thousands of fish, pounds, and metric tons
* FMSY
* Status Evaluations: F2009 / F40% and SSB2009 / SSBF40%

In addition to the preferred MSY-related benchmarks, update SEDAR 15 alternative proxies (Fmax, F30%, along with their associated yields)

7. Project future stock conditions (biomass, abundance, and exploitation) and update the stock rebuilding schedules in accordance with recent rebuilding options proposed in Snapper-Grouper Amendment 17A. Additional details will be provided as the amendment progresses. Conduct probability analyses and stochastic projections to determine probabilities of rebuilding. Provide rebuilding schedules that report the probability of recovery occurring within the chosen rebuilding period to support the SSC developing ABC recommendations.

Caveats:

– An interim closure of the red snapper fishery is under consideration and should be accounted for in the projections if implemented.

- Any management changes should be assumed to take effect 1/1/2011.

– Exploitation during the period between the terminal year of the assessment (2009) and the effective date of management action should be derived after consideration of recent and proposed management actions.

– Projection criteria during interim years should be based on the suite of alternatives put forth in Amendment 17A. Staff will consult the amendment and develop a list of scenarios for evaluation.

8. Review the research recommendations from SEDAR 15 SAR 1, note any which have been completed, and make any necessary additions or clarifications. Focus on those items which will improve future assessment efforts. 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, 2010.