

**Draft Statement of Work and Updated Timing 2023****Species:**

Tilefish

**Model and Additional Data Years:**

- Prior Assessment: South Atlantic Tilefish SEDAR 66
- Prior Terminal Year: 2018
- OA Terminal Year: 2022, adding 4 years of new data.
- Apply the current BAM configuration.

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

- Include any new and updated information on life history, discard mortality, and steepness.
- Explore the use of life history data generated by SCDNR Vertical Longline (SBLL) survey because of recent expansion of effort and spatial area.
- Explore the use of life history data generated by the new South Atlantic Deepwater Longline Survey (SADLS) and previous pilot study data.
- Review methods used to generate the commercial longline CPUE index (if not done for the 2021 update assessment).

**Requested Model Modification to previously approved assessment (Please be as specific as possible):**

- Explore alternate max age similar to SAW/SARC 58 for the northern stock given paucity of data collection on older individuals and previous issues with the model being sensitive to the selection of a multinomial likelihood function (if not done for the 2021 update assessment).

**Is a Topical Working Group Needed?** Yes**If Yes, Topical Working Group Topics:**

- Topic 1: Life history - review and explore the potential utility and incorporation of new life history information, including:
  1. Data collected from expanded SCDNR SBLL survey, new cooperative SADLS survey, and SCDNR CRP pilot study (abundance, life history, etc.). Examine spatial differences.
  2. Evidence for hermaphroditism in the South Atlantic (specifically the interpretation and applicability of analyses conducted in the Gulf of Mexico by Lombardi-Carlson (2012)).
  3. Evidence for age or size dependence of spawning frequency and spawning season duration.
  4. Genetic evidence of connectivity between northern and southern stocks (McDowell, VIMS).
  5. Evidence for potential northward range shift.

**\*\*NOTE: If this TWG reviews the evidence for hermaphroditism in the South Atlantic and suggests appropriate modifications be made to the assessment model, this would be a major change to model structure and should be addressed via a Research Track assessment.\*\***

**Suggested Topical Working Group Process:**

Webinar(s) held early during the assessment process.

**Draft Statement of Work and Updated Timing 2023****APPROVED TIMING:**

- Assessment Species are approved at Spring SEDAR Steering Committee Meeting (ex. May 2020)
- Cooperators use their process to develop SoWs
- Initial Cooperator-approved SoWs submitted to SEFSC by October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020. **\*\*NOTE: The SSC has requested final review of the SOWs at April 2021 meeting after reviewing the 2021 update assessment.\*\***
- SEFSC provides feedback to Cooperators via memo no later than February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021
- Cooperators/Technical review bodies review feedback and negotiate final SoWs with SEFSC
- Final SoWs provided to SEDAR Program Manager by May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021