

**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 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 plus age/size group delineations in the assessment model (similar to SAW/SARC 58 for the northern stock) given the paucity of data collection on older individuals and previous issues with the model being sensitive to the selection of the multinomial likelihood function (if not done for 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:
  - Data collected from expanded SCDNR SBLL survey, new cooperative SADLS survey, and SCDNR CRP pilot study (abundance, life history, etc). Examine spatial differences.
  - Evidence for hermaphroditism in the South Atlantic (specifically the interpretation and applicability of analyses conducted in Gulf of Mexico by Lombardi-Carlson (2012)).
  - Evidence for age or size dependence of spawning frequency and spawning season duration.
  - Genetic evidence of connectivity between northern and southern stocks (McDowell, VIMS).
  - Evidence for potential northward range shift.

**Suggested Topical Working Group Process:**

Webinar(s) held early during the assessment process.

**PROPOSED SCHEDULE:**

- 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 November 1, 2021. **\*\*Note:** The SSC requested final review of the SoWs at their meeting following the assessment review which occurred in the April 2021.
- SEFSC provides feedback to Cooperators via memo no later than February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022
- 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>, 2022
- Terms of Reference to SSC in October 2022 and SAFMC in December 2022
- Data scoping March to June 2024
- Topical Working Group March to June 2024
- Assessment reviewed by SSC in October 2024 and to SAFMC in December 2024