

FINAL
SUMMARY REPORT
SEDAR COMMITTEE MEETING
SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
Ponte Vedra, FL
June 12, 2017

1. Appointments

During closed session the Committee made appointments for the Vermilion Snapper assessment.

2. SEDAR Projects Update

The Committee moved into open session for the remainder of the agenda. The project schedule and Terms of Reference for Vermilion Snapper were approved without modification. Concerns were raised with the difficulties assessing Gray Triggerfish, leading the Committee to request that the SEFSC provide an evaluation of assessment impediments, and comparison with the situation in the Gulf where Gray Triggerfish have been assessed, for review by the SSC in October. The SSC will be asked to recommend ways of addressing Gray Triggerfish assessment issues.

3. Assessment Process and Schedule

The Committee provided the following comments on the SEDAR research track approach:

- Provide details on the process for review by the SAFMC SSC via webinar in late August 2017, so SSC comments can be considered at the September SAFMC meeting.
- SEFSC should consult with the NEFSC regarding their experiences and challenges implementing a research track approach.
- Concerns with the research track include timing and its ability to increase productivity.
- The process description should address how the research track fits with the existing process, the role of the SSC and other partners, and how it will improve the scientific guidance needed to support management.

The Committee supported including a subset of the SSC membership in the joint workshop with the Gulf Council, and having the SAFMC provide administrative lead. The primary goal of the workshop is to improve estimates for ACL tracking. Care was advised in developing TORs to prevent this becoming an ongoing research project. Attention should be devoted to determining which methods already developed by MRIP can be applied to Southeast stocks. The Committee supported allowing the workshop organizing committee to develop workshop Terms of Reference consistent with the guidance provided at this and earlier meetings.

The Committee reviewed the upcoming assessment schedule and provided the following guidance:

- SEFSC is requested to provide the Tilefish revision, addressing model fitting procedures, to the SSC for review in October 2017.

- Supported advancing the Black Sea Bass terminal year to 2016 and delaying SSC review until April 2018.
- Accepted the scheduling of Cobia as proposed at the May 2017 Steering Committee meeting.
- Assess Tilefish in 2019 in place of Spanish Mackerel.

4. NMFS Stock Assessment Improvement Plan

The Committee recommended appending the SEFSC evaluation of the ageing backlog (attachment 3d) to the SAIP comments. Members were advised to provide further comments to staff prior to Friday and the Council session.

MOTIONS

MOTION #1: Move to appoint Luiz Barbieri, Anne Lange, George Sedberry, Wally Bublely to the Vermilion Snapper assessment panel.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION #2: Move to appoint Scott Buff, Mark Marhefka, Wayne Mershon, and Paul Nelson as observers to the Vermilion Snapper assessment panel.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION #3: Move to appoint Mark Brown as the council representative to the vermilion Snapper assessment panel.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION #4: Move to approve the Vermilion Snapper assessment schedule.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION #5: Move to approve the Vermilion Snapper assessment Terms of Reference.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION #6: Move to advance the terminal year of Black Sea Bass to 2016.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION #7: Move to remove Red Snapper from the MRIP revision assessments list.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION #8: Move to replace the 2019 assessment of Spanish Mackerel with golden Tilefish.
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Note: Council staff drafts the timing and task motion based on Committee action. If points require clarification, they will be added to the draft motion. The Committee should review this wording carefully to be sure it accurately reflects their intent prior to making the motion

TIMING AND TASKS

MOTION #9: Move to:

- 1) Convene an SSC meeting via webinar in late August 2017 to review the research track process details.
- 2) Request that the SEFSC provide an evaluation of prior assessment efforts for Gray Triggerfish, including comparison with the successful Gulf assessment, for review by the SSC in October 2017.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL