

NOAA FISHERIES SEFSC

SEFSC Update Report

SAFMC June, 2015 Bonnie J. Ponwith, Ph.D.

Stock Assessment Plus-up

- Preparations to conduct update assessment for golden tilefish are underway.
- Assessment results slated to be presented to SAFMC SSC in April, 2016



Stock Assessment - continued

- Gulf of Mexico Large Marine Ecosystem Program
 - Proposal to be submitted in November and decisions make around February
 - Proposal includes collaboration on a transboundary stock assessment – candidate stocks are king mackerel or Spanish mackerel
 - If funded, able to include Mexican landings data and biological samples to conduct the first comprehensive stock assessment.



Saltonstall-Kennedy

- SA Projects:
- Cooperative Bottom Long Line Survey to Augment Fisheries Independent Reef Fish Data Collection in the Deepwater Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic United States
- Estimating discard mortality and number of dead discarded dolphinfish (<u>Coryphaena hippurus</u>) in the U.S. South Atlantic recreational fishery
- An Economic & Social Analysis of North Carolina Commercial Fisheries: Wild Harvest Fisheries of the Atlantic Ocean, Estuarine Fisheries from Core Sound to the SC State Line, and Shellfish Aquaculture



Saltonstall-Kennedy SA-relevant Projects

Assessing the differential and combined effects of capture depth vs.
thermal change on the condition and post-release mortality of
managed reef fish including Red Snapper in the northern Gulf of
Mexico



Blueline Tilefish Data

- Fishery-independent data collection via contracted commercial longline vessels carrying biologists will begin this fall
- MAFMC and the SEFSC provided funding for a genetic study using tissues from this data collection.
 - determine stock structure across core of the Atlantic range to augment the work conducted by MARMAP.
 - working through ASMFC for vessel participation



Management Strategy Evaluation

- A National Action from last year's stock assessment peer review was to invest in Management Strategy Evaluations (MSE) to strengthen decision making
- Recruiting new (MSE) position for the SEFSC
- Acquired resources to extend an academic sabbatical from six months to a full year
- Project will a design an approach for conducting simulation evaluations of fisheries management systems (observing, data processing, assessment modeling, and management decision making) for the US South Atlantic region, using Red Porgy as the example stock



Data Methods Workshop

- Stock Assessment Peer Review endorsed notion of making framework decisions on data handling to streamline assessments and assessment reports
- SEDAR Best Practices Workshop completed and implementation of recommendations underway
 - Document data best practices once and site that in the assessment rather that revisiting the decision for each assessment
 - More extensive documentation required only if a decision is made to depart from that practice
 - Streamlines assessments themselves and the reports



Protected Species Peer Review

- Five-year cycle of nationally synchronized reviews
 - MSRA Data Collection Programs (2013)
 - MSRA Stock Assessments (2014)
 - Protected Species Science (2015)
 - 24 August Miami, FL
 - Ecosystem and Climate Science (2016)
 - Economics and Social Science (2017)
 - Strategic Plan Review and Update (2018)
- Greatly appreciated Chip Collier's attendance on behalf of the SAFMC



