

Public Reporting

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council



Public Comment Form

Meeting

Sept. 2023 SSC Meeting

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold meetings of its Science and Statistical Committee on September 7th from 1 to 5 p.m. Public comment will be solicited at the beginning and at the end of the meeting. Those wishing to comment should indicate such in the manner requested by the Chair, who will then recognize individuals to provide comments.

Submit Date	Submitted By	Location	Affiliation	Comment
8/30/2023	First Name: James Last Name: Hull Email: Hullsseafood@aol.com	City: Ormond Beach State: Florida	Commercial, Wholesale/Dealer /Retail	<p>Comment on Black Sea Bass Workgroup.</p> <p>SSC members</p> <p>The Results of the latest SEDAR stock assessment for Black Sea Bass show the disappearance of population and the complete recruitment failure of BSB. I have fished for BSB off NE Florida for 50 years. I agree this is correct, there are very few adult BSB alive off NE Fl. This did not happen overnight but has occurred over the past several years. When trying to understand what caused this BSB fisheries failure you must look at the Red Snapper population off NE Fl. The adult Red Snapper population has never been greater than it currently is and the egg production is enormous with successful recruitment into an ever growing and expanding population. However BSB in the same habitat have been crowded out and their Larvae have been eaten just as they become competent by Juvenile Red Snapper. Now with no adults there is no BSB egg production in the area and even larvae from distant areas have no chance for local recruitment because of Predation at the competent stage.</p> <p>My statement and opinion are based on my lifetime of commercial fishing and your own fisheries independent data.</p> <p>Now I ask your BSB workgroup what can we do to bring the BSB population back to NE FL.?</p> <p>I am willing to help in any way possible with information and location of historical BSB recruitment habitat off Ponce Inlet FL. And the use of my vessels to sample and collect data.</p> <p>Jimmy Hull Ponce Inlet FL.</p>