Draft Terms of Reference

South Atlantic Snowy Grouper

Update Assessment Workshop

(as modified by SSC 12-6-09)

1. Update the SEDAR 4 (SAR 1) assessment of South Atlantic snowy grouper with data through 2009.

2. Document any changes or corrections made to input datasets, all additional data added for the update, and any modifications applied to the additional data.

3. Document any changes in assessment methodology incorporated in the update as well as revisions to the SEDAR 4 benchmark assessment.

4. Estimate and provide complete tables of stock parameters, including but not necessarily limited to the following:

* Population abundance at age
* Population biomass reported in metric tons
* Spawning stock biomass reported in metric tons
* Fishery selectivity at age and size
* Fishing mortality at age
* Yield
* Stock–recruitment relationship

5. Update measures of uncertainty and provide representative measures of precision for stock parameter estimates. Determine and document in what way the peculiar life history patterns of this species add to uncertainty in stock parameter estimates.

6. Update estimates of stock status and SFA parameters and provide declarations of stock status relative to SFA criteria and the actions implemented through Amendment 15A. Provide the following quantities estimated by the updated statistical catch-at-age model:

Status Criteria: FMSY, MSY, FOY = 75%FMSY, MSST = .75(SSBMSY).

Estimate the amount of improvement in SSB since the last assessment and since the rebuilding plan went into effect.

7. Project future stock conditions (biomass, abundance, and exploitation) and develop an updated rebuilding schedule for use by the SSC in setting ABC. The rebuilding time period is 34 years beginning in 2006 using a fixed landings strategy.

Is the recovery on track, and what is the probability of stock recovery in 2040 at the current fixed TAC (102,960 pounds)? In which year does the recovery reach 40% SPR?

Provide a table of recover probabilities in 2040 for a range of fixed TACs.

Update the fixed rebuilding TAC: Are changes in the TAC warranted?

Caveats:

– Any management changes should be assumed to take effect 1/1/2012.

– Exploitation during the period between the terminal year of the assessment (2009) and the effective date of management action should reflect recent management changes implemented in amendment 15A.

8. Review the research recommendations from SEDAR 4 (SAR 1) pertaining to snowy grouper, note any which have been completed, and make any necessary additions or clarifications. Focus on those items which will improve future assessment efforts. Consider and discuss how data and sampling issues contribute to assessment uncertainty. .

9. Develop a stock assessment update workshop report to fully document the input data, methods, and results of the stock assessment update. The report shall be provided to the SAFMC no later than November 1, 2010.