

# **SSC Reports**

## **September 2023 SAFMC Meeting**

**SSC\_Apr2023\_REPORT\_FINAL**  
**SSC\_Jul2023\_REPORT\_FINAL**  
**SSC\_Sep2023\_REPORT\_DRAFT**

Report of SSC Meetings  
April, July, and September, 2023

**SSC Report To The  
Habitat & EBM Committee  
September 2023 SAFMC Meeting  
SSC\_Apr2023\_REPORT\_FINAL**

Report of SSC Meeting  
April 19-21, 2023

# SSC Review of Deepwater Coral Distribution Model

- Previously reviewed by SSC in October 2019
  - Recommendation: further development
- **Review and discuss the methodology, uncertainties, and assumptions associated with the distribution model to describe habitat probability.**
- *The distribution model of deep-sea corals is deemed adequate to describe probability of occurrence.*
- *The use of occupancy models is likely an improvement over the previous models used.*

# SSC Review of Deepwater Coral Distribution Model

- **Determine whether this analysis is consistent with BSIA and is appropriate for use in managing fisheries resources.**
- *The SSC deems this analysis consistent with BSIA and appropriate for use in management.*

**SSC Report To The  
Snapper Grouper Committee  
September 2023 SAFMC Meeting  
SSC\_Jul2023\_REPORT\_FINAL**

Report of SSC Meeting  
July 27, 2023

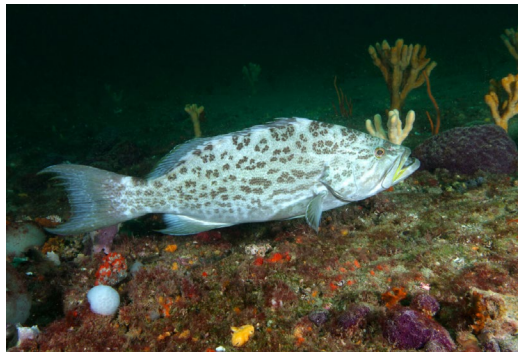
# Atlantic Scamp/Yellowmouth (SG Regulatory Amendment 55)

- **Reminder: catch table provided at June 2023 meeting without OFL levels.**
- Review additional requested rebuilding projections and timelines.
- Review presentation regarding nonstationarity, OFL, and rebuilding schedules.
- Make OFL recommendations to complete catch table.



# Atlantic Scamp/Yellowmouth (SG Regulatory Amendment 55)

- *Per the SSC's catch level projections workgroup report, OFL should be based on long-term recruitment, and ABC should be based on short-term recent recruitment. The SSC supports the recommendations of this report for setting OFL for Scamp/Yellowmouth.*
- *As proposed in the workgroup report,  $T_{min}$  and  $T_{max}$  would also be based on the long-term  $R$  scenario.*
- *This is consistent with the SSC's prior conclusion of no regime shift. The Klaer et al (2015) paper was used to assess if regime shift had occurred during assessment review -> no regime shift*



# Atlantic Scamp/Yellowmouth (SG Regulatory Amendment 55)

- *Using different recruitment levels for OFL and ABC creates additional buffer between these two benchmarks than from  $P^*$  approach alone.*
  - *This approach for setting OFL and ABC values was discussed as part of workgroup review and was accepted by the SSC.*
  - *Because of the uncertainty in recruitment and its influence on the rebuilding schedule, the SSC requests an updated operational stock assessment by 2029 (at the termination of the ABC recommendations).*





# SSC Catch Level Recommendations for Scamp

Criteria		Deterministic	Probabilistic	
Overfished evaluation (SSB/MSST)		0.36	0.38	
Overfishing evaluation (F/F <sub>MSY proxy</sub> )		0.91	0.81	
MFMT (F <sub>MSY proxy</sub> )		0.28	0.30	
SSB <sub>MSY</sub> (metric tons)		1068.80	1068.19	
MSST (metric tons)		801.60	801.14	
MSY (1000 lbs.)		372.28	381.39	
Y at 75% F <sub>MSY</sub> (1000 lbs.)		344.83	353.68	
ABC Control Rule Adjustment		20%		
P-Star		30%		
SSC recommended P <sub>Rebuild</sub>		70%		
M		0.155		
Generation Time		~ 10 years		
OFL RECOMMENDATIONS				
Year	Total Removals (lbs ww)	Discard (lbs ww)	Total Removals (number)	Discard (number)
2025	97,000		17,000	
2026	119,000		22,000	
2027	171,000		32,000	
2028	227,000		42,000	
2029	270,000		49,000	
ABC RECOMMENDATIONS				
Year	Total Removals (lbs ww)	Discard (lbs ww)	Total Removals (number)	Discard (number)
2025	71,000		12,000	
2026	76,000		12,000	
2027	79,000		13,000	
2028	82,000		13,000	
2029	84,000		14,000	

\*Note: Total Removals = Landings plus dead discards

**SSC Report To The  
Snapper Grouper Committee  
September 2023 SAFMC Meeting  
SSC\_Jul2023\_REPORT\_FINAL**

Report of SSC Meeting  
July 27, 2023

# SSC Review of SEDAR 76 Projections– Black Sea Bass

- Review requested changes for projections for SEDAR 76 and provide guidance on:
  - Years to calculate current F
  - Fitting to landings and discards
  - Methods to calculate  $F_{0.1}$
  - MSY proxy
  - How to address changing reference points if landings and discards are separated.



# SSC Review of SEDAR 76 Projections– Black Sea Bass

- *The additional guidance requested by the SEFSC requires more in-depth discussion/review*
- *Given the implications of the many decisions requested for this assessment and future assessments, the SSC recommended a technical workgroup to evaluate approaches to handle harvest and dead discards when selecting proxies, associated reference points, and impacts of these decisions on catch projections.*



# SSC Review of SEDAR 76 Projections– Black Sea Bass

## • Timeline

- *Initial meeting: 3 hr webinar sometime during the next 2 wks*
- *Analysts conduct projections*
- *Preliminary assessment report to full SSC in October*
- *Follow-up meeting (if necessary): November*
- *Final black sea bass stock assessment review by full SSC: Jan/Feb 2024*
- *Workgroup members: SEFSC analysts, SSC members, SAFMC staff*



**SSC Report To The  
Snapper Grouper Committee  
September 2023 SAFMC Meeting  
SSC\_Sep2023\_REPORT\_DRAFT**

Report of SSC Meeting  
September 7, 2023

# SSC Review of Red Grouper Spatial Assessment Options

**The SSC was asked to consider including spatial structure in the operational assessment of red grouper**

- *The SSC is open to alternative data treatment and/or modeling approaches to incorporate spatial structure in the red grouper stock assessment if warranted by the available data. This would also address previous CIE and SSC comments from the previous assessment.*
- *The SSC recognizes the data challenges involved with utilizing the two-area modeling approach (e.g. fishery-independent index for southern region)*

# SSC Review of Red Grouper Spatial Assessment Options

- *The SSC recommends a Benchmark Assessment because of multiple considerations that exceed the operational assessment framework.*
- *These considerations include the spatial structure aspect of the model and that recruitment might be coming from Gulf of Mexico.*



# SSC Review of Red Grouper Spatial Assessment Options

- *Given that Red Grouper is in a rebuilding plan, there will be a substantial length of time between the last assessment and next recommended benchmark results.*
  - *Some interim information may be available to serve as a health check but how this information is used may be dependent upon new modeling structure.*

# SSC Review of Red Grouper Spatial Assessment Options

**What additional oversight procedures (e.g., TWGs, revised TORs) are required?**

- *For the Benchmark assessment, new TORs will be developed and participants appointed.*