

SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE



SSC Meeting Overview

April 29 - May 1, 2014

**Crowne Plaza
North Charleston, SC**

**VERSION
Briefing Book**

PURPOSE

Topics to address during this meeting:

- SEDAR planning and update
- SAFMC Assessment Priorities
- Assessments of gag grouper, snowy grouper and wreckfish
- Projections of blueline tilefish
- Annual research priorities
- Oculina closed area evaluation
- Annual fishery independent sampling update
- Current FMP Amendments

CONTENTS

1.	INTRODUCTION	6
2.	PUBLIC COMMENT	6
3.	SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SCIENCES PANEL REPORT	6
4.	GENERIC ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES/DOLPHIN ALLOCATION	6
5.	DOLPHIN WAHOO A7/SNAPPER GROUPE A33	7
6.	ASSESSMENT PLANNING WORKSHOP REPORT	8
7.	SEDAR ACTIVITIES	8
8.	WRECKFISH ASSESSMENT REVIEW	10
9.	REVIEW OF SAFMC PEER REVIEW PROCESS	11
10.	GAG GROUPE ASSESSMENT REVIEW	12
11.	SNOWY GROUPE ASSESSMENT REVIEW	13
12.	BLUELINE TILEFISH PROJECTIONS REVIEW	15
13.	ANNUAL RESEARCH PRIORITIES	17
14.	UPDATE ON MRIP PROGRAM CHANGES	17
15.	COASTAL MIGRATORY PELAGIC AMENDMENT 24	17
16.	SNAPPER-GROUPER AMENDMENT 29	18
17.	OCULINA CLOSED AREA EVALUATION	19
20.	COUNCIL WORKPLAN UPDATE	22
21.	OTHER BUSINESS	22
22.	REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS REVIEW, PUBLIC COMMENT	22
23.	NEXT MEETINGS	23
24.	CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR ELECTIONS	23
25.	ADJOURN	23

Documents:

- Attachment 1. Minutes of the October 2014 meeting
- Attachment 2. SEP Agenda
- Attachment 3. Draft AM/Accountability Amendment
- Attachment 4. Draft DW-A7/SG-A33
- Attachment 5. Assessment Planning Workshop Overview
- Attachment 6. SEDAR Assessment List
- Attachment 7. 2014 SEDAR Projects Summary
- Attachment 8. 2015 SEDAR Projects Summary
- Attachment 9. Black grouper update TORs
- Attachment 10. Blueline tilefish schedule options, SEFSC
- Attachment 11. Procedures Workshop 7: SA Shrimp Data
- *Attachment 12. Wreckfish benchmark assessment report
- Attachment 13. Wreckfish Peer Review report
- Attachment 14. Wreckfish Proposal and AW background
- Attachment 15. SAFMC peer review process
- Attachment 16. SEDAR 10 Summary, South Atlantic Gag
- *Attachment 17. Update report for gag grouper
- Attachment 18. SAFMC ABC Control Rule
- Attachment 19. SEDAR 36 SAR, snowy grouper
- Attachment 20. Blueline P* Projections December 2013
- Attachment 21. SAFMC Memo update and projection options December 2013
- Attachment 22. SAFMC Memo, Emergency Rule, December 2013
- Attachment 23. SEFSC Reply, January 2014
- Attachment 24. SAFMC Memo, further projections, February 2014
- *Attachment 25. Blueline Tilefish Projections
- Attachment 26. Draft 2014 Research Priorities
- Attachment 27. CMP amendment 24 draft
- *Attachment 28. Snapper-Grouper Amendment 29 Draft
- *Attachment 29. Oculina evaluation report
- *Attachment 30. SERFS Monitoring Report
- Attachment 31. NS2 Rule
- Attachment 32. SAFMC Work Plan, March 2014
- Attachment 33. SAFMC Amendments Overview, March 2014

*** Indicates documents not available for the first Briefing Book.**

TABLES:

Table 1. Assessment Projects for the South Atlantic, 2014-2016.	10
Table 5. wreckfish recommendations	11
Table 2. gag grouper recommendations	13
Table 3. snowy grouper recommendations	14
Table 4. blueline tilefish recommendations	16

SAFMC PUBLIC COMMENT PROCESS

Written comment:

Written comment on SSC agenda topics is to be distributed to the Committee through the Council office, similar to all other Council briefing materials. Written comment to be considered by the SSC shall be provided to the Council office no later than one week prior to an SSC meeting. For this meeting, the deadline for submission of written comment is 12:00 pm Tuesday, April 22, 2014.

SAFMC
4055 Faber Place Drive
Suite 201
North Charleston, SC 29405

Verbal comment:

Two opportunities for comment on agenda items will be provided during SSC meetings. The first will be at the beginning of the meeting, and the second near the conclusion, when the SSC reviews its recommendations. Those wishing to comment should indicate such in the manner requested by the Chair, which may be through a show of hands or a written list if the number of interested parties is extensive, who will then recognize individuals to come forward and provide comment. All comments are part of the record of the meeting.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Documents

Agenda

Attachment 1. Minutes of the October 2014 meeting

1.2. Action

Introductions

Review and Approve Agenda

Approve Minutes

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

The public will be provided two opportunities to comment on SSC agenda items during this meeting. The first at the start of the meeting, and the final will be provided at the end during the review of recommendations. Those wishing to make comment should indicate their desire to do so to the Committee Chair.

3. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SCIENCES PANEL REPORT

3.1. Documents

Attachment 2. SEP Agenda

3.2. Overview

The SEP will meet prior to this SSC meeting. A general report will be given on the meeting, while specific recommendations will be discussed under the appropriate SSC agenda item.

3.3. Action

- None required

SSC RECOMMENDATION:

4. GENERIC ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES/DOLPHIN ALLOCATION

4.1. Documents

Attachment 3. Draft AM/Accountability Amendment

4.2. Presentation

Overview: Brian Chevront
SEP Comments: John Whitehead

4.3. Overview

The Generic Accountability Measures and Dolphin Allocation Amendment considers changes in accountability measures for golden crab and snapper grouper species to determine when ACL overages need to be paid back and to bring consistency to accountability measures. The amendment also considers making changes in regards to how dolphin are allocated between commercial and recreational sectors. A scoping webinar was held in February 2014 and the Council reviewed the amendment at their March 2014 meeting. The Council approved the Purpose and Need and revised the range of alternatives. The Council also clarified that payback of an ACL overage would apply only to the amount above the total ACL, not the sector ACL. The amendment will continue to be developed for the Council to review at their June 2014 meeting with the intent of approving for public hearings in August 2014.

4.4. Action

- No specific actions required.

5. DOLPHIN WAHOO A7/SNAPPER GROUPE A33

5.1. Documents

Attachment 4. Draft DW-A7/SG-A33

5.2. Presentation

Overview: Brian Chevront
SEP Comments: John Whitehead

5.3. Overview

At the September 2013 meeting the Council directed staff to develop an action that consider options related to bringing dolphin and wahoo fillets into the U.S. EEZ from The Bahamas similar to what is currently allowed for snapper grouper species. At the December 2013 meeting the Council began to consider modifying how fishermen may bring snapper grouper fillets back from The Bahamas. Currently, fishermen are allowed to bring back up to 60 lbs of snapper grouper fillets. However, there is no way to identify what species those fillets came from.

At the March 2014 Council meeting, the Council received input on the proposed actions and alternatives from the Law Enforcement Advisory Panel and the Law Enforcement Committee, Dolphin Wahoo Committee, and Snapper Grouper Committee. The Council made revisions to the Purpose and Need and revised actions and alternatives. The

Council will review the amendment at their June 2014 meeting with the intent to approve it for public hearings in August 2014.

5.4. Action

-

6. ASSESSMENT PLANNING WORKSHOP REPORT

6.1. Documents

Attachment 5. Assessment Planning Workshop Overview

6.2. Presentation

Workshop Summary: Luiz Barbieri

6.3. Overview

The SSC will hold a workshop devoted to assessment planning and prioritization prior to this SSC meeting, as requested when this topic was first discussed in October 2013. Recommendations from the workshop will be discussed by the SSC. In addition to scheduling and priorities, the workshop is expected to consider strategies for dealing with the many unassessed stocks managed by the South Atlantic.

6.4. Action

- Recommend assessment priorities
- Recommend a long-term scheduling strategy.

7. SEDAR ACTIVITIES

7.1. Documents

Attachment 6. SEDAR Assessment List

Attachment 7. 2014 SEDAR Projects Summary

Attachment 8. 2015 SEDAR Projects Summary

Attachment 9. Black grouper update TORs

Attachment 10. Blueline tilefish schedule options, SEFSC

Attachment 11. Procedures Workshop 7: SA Shrimp Data

7.2. Overview

The Committee is provided project overviews for the 2014 SEDAR assessments and updates on various SEDAR items currently underway.

1) Review of 2015 Schedule

A preliminary schedule for 2015 workshops was developed by SEDAR staff in conjunction with principle analytical teams and data providers. It is provided for SSC review, and any comments will be considered by the Steering Committee in May. The purpose of this review is to consider any major schedule or terminal data availability impediments. Detailed project schedules will be prepared and approved by the appropriate cooperators once this framework is finalized by the Steering Committee in May 2014.

2) Black grouper TORS

FL FWCC will conduct an update of the black grouper assessment. This stock was last assessed in 2009, through SEDAR 19. TORS are based on the SEDAR update framework.

3) Next Blueline tilefish assessment

The Council requested an update of blueline tilefish as soon as possible, based on some unexpected results in the projections based on the P* recommendations of the SSC from October 2013. The projections will be discussed during a later agenda topic; this item pertains to the schedule alternative recommended by the SEFSC. The Council requested an update based on Alternative 1, with blueline replacing vermilion snapper and beginning in the second half of 2015.

4) Shrimp Data Procedures workshop

A SEDAR procedures workshop devoted to identifying shrimp data and its application to stock assessment and bycatch estimation will be held July 22 - 24 in Charleston SC.

5) SEFIS Video Index Working Group

During discussion of the Southeast Fishery Independent Survey in October 2013, the SSC recommended convening a workgroup to consider approaches to developing indices from the new video data in preparation for detailed consideration during SEDAR data workshops where these indices will be considered for assessment input. SSC representatives on the work group are Luiz Barbieri and Jeff Buckel. The group will meet May 20 - 22 at the SEFSC Beaufort lab.

6) Gray Triggerfish Ageing

Age interpretation discrepancies identified during SEDAR 32 led to a halt in assessment efforts for gray triggerfish. An age workshop was held recently to investigate age interpretation difficulties and develop a way to move forward to provide age data for the rescheduled benchmark during SEDAR 41.

Table 1. Assessment Projects for the South Atlantic, 2014-2016.

SEDAR #	Stocks	Type	Terminal Data	Assessment Complete
NA	Wreckfish	Benchmark	2010	April 2014
U	Gag	Update	2012	April 2014
U	Mutton snapper	Update	2012	June 2014
37	Hogfish	Benchmark	2013	June 2014
38	King mackerel	Benchmark	2012	September 2014
U	Red grouper	Update	2013	April 2015
U	Black grouper	Update	2013	May 2015
41	Red snapper & Gray triggerfish	Benchmark	2013	August 2015
U	Blueline tilefish	Update/STD	2014	April 2016
U	Tilefish	Update	2014	April 2016
B	Scamp & Gray snapper	Benchmark	2015	April 2016
U	Yellowtail Snapper	Update	2014	May 2016

7.3. Action

- Review 2015 SEDAR Project Schedule
- Approve black grouper update TORs
- Recommend assessment type for blueline tilefish

SSC RECOMMENDATIONS:

8. WRECKFISH ASSESSMENT REVIEW

8.1. Documents

Attachment 12. Wreckfish benchmark assessment report

Attachment 13. Wreckfish Peer Review report

Attachment 14. Wreckfish Proposal and AW background

8.2. Overview

An assessment of wreckfish was recently completed and reviewed through the SAFMC peer review process. The SSC is asked to review the assessment and provide fishing level recommendations.

8.3. Presentation

Assessment Overview: Doug Butterworth (via webinar)

8.4. Action

- Review wreckfish benchmark assessment and consider whether it represents Best Scientific Information Available.
- Identify and discuss assessment uncertainties
- Provide fishing level recommendations

SSC RECOMMENDATION:

Table 2. wreckfish recommendations

Criteria		Deterministic		Probabilistic
Overfished evaluation				
Overfishing evaluation				
MFMT				
SSBmsy (unit)				
MSST (unit)				
MSY (1000 lb)				
Y at 75% Fmsy (1000 lb)				
ABC Control Rule Adjustment				
P-Star				
OFL (1000 lb)				
ABC RECOMMENDATIONS				
Year	Landed LBS	Discard LBS	Landed Number	Discard Number

9. REVIEW OF SAFMC PEER REVIEW PROCESS

9.1. Documents

Attachment 15. SAFMC peer review process

9.2. Overview

The SSC is asked to review the recently approved SAFMC peer review process and its initial application to the wreckfish assessment.

The process as applied to wreckfish consisted of several components:

- 1) Proposal submission (August 2013)

- 2) SSC Proposal review (September 2013, webinar)
- 3) Preparer requested assessment workshop (November 2013)
Supported by SSC and Council, but not required by the Peer Review process
- 4) SSC approval of review approach and TORs, reviewers identified (January 2014, webinar)
- 5) Council approval of approach, TORs, reviewer appointments (March 2014)
- 6) Peer Review (March 2014, webinar)
- 7) SSC report review and recommendations (April 2014)

9.3. Action

- recommend modifications and clarifications to the process

SSC RECOMMENDATION:

10. GAG GROUPEE ASSESSMENT REVIEW

10.1. Documents

- Attachment 16. SEDAR 10 Summary, South Atlantic Gag
- Attachment 17. Update report for gag grouper
- Attachment 18. SAFMC ABC Control Rule

10.2. Overview

An update of the SEDAR 10 assessment of gag grouper will be provided for review. The SSC is asked to apply the ABC control rule and provide fishing level recommendations.

Gag grouper was last assessed in 2006 by SEDAR 10. The stock was overfishing and approaching overfished. The assessment summary from SEDAR 10 is provided for reference.

When reviewed during initial ABC control rule development, gag was assigned a P* of 30%.

10.3. Presentation

Assessment Overview: SEFSC

10.4. Action

- Review gag grouper assessment update and consider if it represents Best Scientific Information Available.
- Identify and discuss assessment uncertainties
- Provide fishing level recommendations
- Provide guidance on the next assessment type and timing

SSC RECOMMENDATION:

Table 3. gag grouper recommendations

Criteria		Deterministic		Probabilistic
Overfished evaluation				
Overfishing evaluation				
MFMT				
SSBmsy (unit)				
MSST (unit)				
MSY (1000 lb)				
Y at 75% Fmsy (1000 lb)				
ABC Control Rule Adjustment				
P-Star				
OFL (1000 lb)				
ABC RECOMMENDATIONS				
Year	Landed LBS	Discard LBS	Landed Number	Discard Number

11. SNOWY GROUPEE ASSESSMENT REVIEW**11.1. Documents**

Attachment 19. SEDAR 36 SAR, snowy grouper

11.2. Overview

The Committee is asked to review the snowy grouper standard assessment prepared through SEDAR 36 and provide fishing level recommendations. The SSC declined to review this assessment when provided in October 2013 due to the lack of an overview presentation.

Snowy grouper was last assessed in SEDAR 4, and was determined to be overfished and experiencing overfishing. This led to the Council developing a rebuilding plan in Amendment 15A. Rebuilding began in 2006 and ends in 2039. Commercial accountability measures specified in Amendment 17B include in-season closure ability and payback of overages. The recreational season will be reduced if the average landings over the prior 2 years exceeds the recreational ACL.

During initial reviews of assessed stocks, the SSC calculated a P* of 30% for snowy grouper, and a probability of rebuild of 70%. However, since rebuilding of snowy grouper began prior to existence of the P* approach, the rebuilding plan is based on a 50% chance of reaching SSBmsy by the end of the rebuilding period. This is the first assessment of snowy grouper under both the Reauthorized MSA and the P* methodology, thus the Council may consider revising the rebuilding approach but is not obligated to do so. One alternative the Council is considering is basing rebuilding on a fixed exploitation strategy, with F-rebuild set at 75% Fmsy. In some recent examples, such as red grouper, this approach proved adequately conservative.

11.3. Presentation

Assessment Overview: SEFSC

11.4. Action

- Consider whether the assessment represents Best Scientific Information Available.
- Identify and discuss assessment uncertainties
- Consider the Council alternative to modify the rebuilding strategy to an approach based on fixed exploitation at 75% Fmsy.
- Provide fishing level recommendations
- Provide guidance on the next assessment - type and timing.

SSC RECOMMENDATION:

Table 4. snowy grouper recommendations

Criteria		Deterministic		Probabilistic
Overfished evaluation				
Overfishing evaluation				
MFMT				
SSBmsy (unit)				
MSST (unit)				
MSY (1000 lb)				
Y at 75% Fmsy (1000 lb)				
ABC Control Rule Adjustment				
P-Star				
OFL (1000 lb)				
ABC RECOMMENDATIONS				
Year	Landed LBS	Discard LBS	Landed Number	Discard Number

12. BLUELINE TILEFISH PROJECTIONS REVIEW

12.1. Documents

- Attachment 20. Blueline P* Projections December 2013
- Attachment 21. SAFMC Memo update and projection options December 2013
- Attachment 22. SAFMC Memo, Emergency Rule, December 2013
- Attachment 23. SEFSC Reply, January 2014
- Attachment 24. SAFMC Memo, further projections, February 2014
- Attachment 25. Blueline Tilefish Projections

12.2. Overview

Projections of blueline tilefish, based on recommendations of the review panel and the SSC P* values, were not available when the SEDAR 32 benchmark was reviewed in October 2013.

Projections provided to the Council in December 2013, including updated 2012 landings and P* recommendations of the SSC, indicated extremely high fishing mortality values for 2014. The Council directed that the projections should be reviewed by the SSC, while recommending an emergency action to reduce the ACL to a level consistent with the equilibrium yield at 75% Fmsy. At that time the Council also requested that the SEFSC evaluate options for a timely update of the blueline assessment and consideration of factors that could explain the extremely high mortality projections.

The Emergency Rule will allow the Council to quickly reduce landings while actions are developed to end overfishing. Although the Council and agency have 2 years to develop and implement regulations to end overfishing, the emergency rule can only last for a total of 360 days (two 180 day periods). Therefore, once the emergency rule ends the ABC and ACL will revert to the current levels, which are much higher than the MSY values estimated from the assessment, unless the Council has other actions in place within 360 days.

In February 2014 the Council learned that the least disruptive option for an update would be for blueline to replace the 2015 update of vermilion snapper, leading to a request by the Council to prepare further projections that maintained the 75% Fmsy equilibrium landings until the update can be completed and reviewed by the SSC.

The SSC is asked to review these latest projections and provide a fishing level recommendation to the Council. The Council requests that, given the uncertainty exhibited in the various projections provided so far, the SSC consider the interim recommendation of setting ABC at the equilibrium yield expected from fishing at 75%

Fmsy until an assessment update can be prepared and the current uncertainty in terminal fishing mortality rates is better understood.

12.3.Presentation

Updated projections: SEFSC

12.4.Action

- Review blue-line projections
- Identify and discuss uncertainties
- Provide fishing level recommendations
- Consider the feasibility and discuss the risks associated with establishing ABC at the equilibrium yield at 75% Fmsy until the expedited update is complete (scheduled for SSC consideration in April 2016)

SSC RECOMMENDATION:

Table 5. blue-line tilefish recommendations

Criteria		Deterministic		Probabilistic
Overfished evaluation				
Overfishing evaluation				
MFMT				
SSBmsy (unit)				
MSST (unit)				
MSY (1000 lb)				
Y at 75% Fmsy (1000 lb)				
ABC Control Rule Adjustment				
P-Star				
OFL (1000 lb)				
ABC RECOMMENDATIONS				
Year	Landed LBS	Discard LBS	Landed Number	Discard Number

13. ANNUAL RESEARCH PRIORITIES

13.1. Documents

Attachment 26. Draft 2014 Research Priorities

13.2. Overview

The SSC is asked to review the annual SAFMC research prioritization plan

13.3. Action

- provide comments on research priorities

SSC RECOMMENDATION:

14. UPDATE ON MRIP PROGRAM CHANGES

14.1. Documents

None

14.2. Overview

The SSC will receive an update on recent changes to the MRIP program.

14.3. Presentation

MRIP changes: Dave VanVorhees, MRIP

14.4. Action

None required

SSC RECOMMENDATION:

15. COASTAL MIGRATORY PELAGIC AMENDMENT 24

15.1. Documents

Attachment 27. CMP amendment 24 draft

15.2.Overview

Staff Contact: Kari MacLauchlin

The Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Councils are considering ways to increase the opportunity for the total ACL to be reached for Gulf migratory group king mackerel and Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel. In multiple fishing seasons over the past ten years in both the Gulf migratory group king mackerel fishery and the Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel fishery, the commercial sector has exceeded the commercial ACL while the recreational sector has landed increasingly lower proportions of the recreational ACL. Scoping meetings were held in January 2014, and the Council has directed staff to prepare an options paper for the June 2014 meeting.

15.3.Presentation

Overview: Kari MacLauchlin, SAFMC

15.4. Action

- Review and provide input on options

16. SNAPPER-GROUPER AMENDMENT 29

16.1.Documents

Attachment 28. Snapper-Grouper Amendment 29 Draft

16.2.Overview

Staff Contact: Myra Brouwer

The purpose of Amendment 29 is to update the South Atlantic Council's ABC control rule to incorporate methodology for determining the ABC of "Only Reliable Catch Species" (ORCS); adjust ABCs for the affected species; and establish management measures for gray triggerfish in federal waters of the South Atlantic region.

Proposed actions include: (1) update the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's (South Atlantic Council) acceptable biological catch (ABC) control rule to incorporate methodology for determining the ABC of "Only Reliable Catch Species" (ORCS); (2) adjust ABCs for the affected unassessed species; and (3) establish management measures for gray triggerfish in federal waters of the South Atlantic region.

16.3.Presentation

Overview: Myra Brouwer, SAFMC

16.4. Action

- Provide fishing level recommendations for white grunt ABC given that the SSC assigned a different risk of overexploitation to the “north” and “south” portions of the South Atlantic stock whereas management at this time remains based on a single stock.
- The Council approved using a risk tolerance scalar of 0.70 for white grunt and requested the SSC provide guidance on whether two separate ACLs are needed for this species.
- Provide comments/recommendations on other actions in the amendment as appropriate.

17. OCULINA CLOSED AREA EVALUATION

17.1. Documents

Attachment 29. Oculina evaluation report

17.2. Overview

Staff Contact: Gregg Waugh

Snapper Grouper Amendment 13A (2003) removed the sunset clause for the Oculina Experimental Closed Area and implemented a timeline for assessing the snapper grouper regulations in this area. Fishing for or possession of snapper grouper is prohibited in or from the Experimental Closed Area, and the regulations were set to expire in 2004 prior to implementation of Amendment 13A. Amendment 13A also required development of an Evaluation Plan to include research and monitoring, enforcement, and outreach goals for this area, and required a ten year re-evaluation of the Oculina Experimental Closed Area.

Oculina Evaluation Plan (March 22, 2005) established an evaluation team and deliverables/timing. The Evaluation team will meet as necessary. This team will have representatives from the following groups who are knowledgeable of the *Oculina* Experimental Closed Area:

- Law Enforcement
- Research scientists
- Commercial fishermen
- Recreational fishermen
- Outreach experts
- Non-governmental Organizations
- Council staff

A report, written by the team, will be presented to all relevant Advisory Panels (Habitat, Coral, Snapper Grouper, Information and Education, Law Enforcement, and Marine Protected Areas Advisory Panels) and the Council’s Scientific and Statistical Committee. Those groups will be asked to forward their recommendation to the Council.

Timing

The Evaluation Team will deliver its first report to the Council by the **March 2007** Council meeting in order for the Council to make its determination on whether or not it is necessary to change the size and configuration of the Closed Area. The Team will submit its second report by **March 2014** in order for the Council to re-evaluate all regulations within *Oculina* Experimental Closed Area.

Oculina Evaluation Team to prepare OECA Evaluation Report in 2014. This report is a follow-up to the first Oculina Evaluation Team Report completed in June 2007. The 2014 report is to provide an update on accomplishments addressing the following components as specified in Final Evaluation Plan for OECA to allow the Council to reevaluate all regulations within the Oculina Experimental Closed Area:

- a. Outreach
- b. Research/Assessment
- c. Law Enforcement

17.3. Presentation

Overview of Draft Report: Gregg Waugh, SAFMC

17.4. Action

- Provide comments on the draft report, particularly considering the research and assessment components

18. FISHERY INDEPENDENT REEF FISH SAMPLING**18.1. Documents**

Attachment 30. SERFS Monitoring Report

18.2. Presentation

Overview: Marcel Reichert, SC DNR

18.3. Overview

The Committee will be provided an update and summary presentation on efforts to monitor reef fish populations in the South Atlantic. Fishery independent monitoring of reef fish in the South Atlantic is provided by two programs, MARMAP and SEFIS. MARMAP has been conducted by SC DNR since 1990. In 2010 monitoring was expanded with additional funding by the SEFSC through the addition of the SEFIS, Southeast Fishery Independent Survey. Collectively the two programs are now known as "SERFS", the Southeast Reef Fish Survey.

18.4. Action

Review and comment as necessary

19. PROJECT UPDATES

19.1. Documents

Attachment 31. NS2 Rule

19.2. Presentation

NONE

19.3. Overview

The Committee will receive updates on various ongoing projects.

1) SAFMC Fishery Dependent Sampling Workshop

In discussing fishery dependent sampling targets during the October 2013 meeting, the SSC requested a presentation on sampling programs for this meeting. During that time the Council was having similar discussions on sampling programs and targets, leading to a recommendation to convene a workshop devoted to comprehensive fishery dependent sampling. After some follow-up with Center staff and further consideration by the Council, it was recommended in March 2014 that the workshop focus on identifying and inventorying fishery dependent data collection programs throughout the South Atlantic. This effort will consider federal, state, and university programs. The Council will consider workshop objectives, timing, and participants in June 2014. SSC guidance on these topics is requested here.

2) National Standard 2 Revisions

A final rule implementing NS2 revisions was published in the Federal Register in July 2013. NMFS is in the process of reviewing regional peer review programs (e.g., SEDAR and SARC) and determining their compliance with the latest NS2 guidelines.

3). ABC Control Rule Workshop

The SSC requested a workshop in October 2014, prior to the SSC meeting, to consider revisions to the ABC control rule. The workshop will consider how the current rule has performed and how continuing advances in assessments, particularly methods for data limited stocks, can best be incorporated. A subcommittee was formed in October 2013 to develop a timeline and topic suggestions. Members include Steve Cadrin, Luiz Barbieri, and Marcel Reichert. The SSC is asked to consider TORs and briefing materials for the workshop.

19.4. Action

- Discuss objectives, timing and participants for a South Atlantic fishery dependent sampling workshop
- Discuss TORs and briefing materials for the ABC control rule workshop.

20. COUNCIL WORKPLAN UPDATE

20.1. Documents

Attachment 32. SAFMC Work Plan, March 2014

Attachment 33. SAFMC Amendments Overview, March 2014

20.2. Overview

The Committee is provided these documents at each meeting to stay informed of Council activities. Regular detailed reviews of each amendment are no longer requested of the SSC as amendments are developed, instead the Committee is asked to comment on specific technical items that may arise. However, members are welcome to review any ongoing amendments and to provide comments and suggestions directly to staff. Current versions of each amendment are included in the Council Briefing Books distributed to SSC members. Questions or comments about specific items should be addressed to the staff assigned to each FMP, as summarized below.

- Coastal Migratory Pelagic - Kari MacLauchlin
- Corals - Gregg Waugh
- Fishery Ecosystem Plan - Roger Pugliese
- Snapper Grouper - Myra Brouwer
- Snapper Grouper Regulatory Amendment 17 (MPAs) - Gregg Waugh
- Spiny Lobster - Kari MacLauchlin
- Golden Crab - Brian Chevront
- Dolphin-Wahoo - Brian Chevront

21. OTHER BUSINESS

22. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS REVIEW, PUBLIC COMMENT

The public is provided an additional opportunity to comment on SSC recommendations and agenda items.

The Committee is provided an opportunity to review its report and final recommendations.

The Final SSC report should be provided to the Council by 9 am on Tuesday, May 20, 2014 for inclusion in the first briefing book for the June 9 - 13 Council meeting.

23. NEXT MEETINGS

23.1.SAFMC SSC MEETINGS

2014 Dates

October 28 - 30, 2014; Crowne Plaza, North Charleston
ABC Control Rule Workshop: October 27 - 28

2015 TENTATIVE Dates

April 28 - 30.
October 20 - 22.

23.2.SAFMC Meetings

2014 Council Meetings

June 9 - 13, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL
September 15 - 19, Charleston SC
December 1 - 5, New Bern, NC

24. CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR ELECTIONS

25. ADJOURN