

SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE



SSC Meeting Overview

January 11-12, 2021

Meeting via Webinar

**VERSION
FINAL
December 18, 2020**

CONTENTS

- 1. INTRODUCTION4
- 2. PUBLIC COMMENT4
- 3. SEDAR 36 SNOWY GROUPER UPDATE ASSESSMENT REVIEW4
- 4. UPDATE ON DATA WORKSHOP DECISIONS IN THE SEDAR 73 RED
SNAPPER ASSESSMENT6
- 5. APPROVE SCHEDULE AND MAKE APPOINTMENTS FOR THE
UPCOMING MUTTON SNAPPER ASSESSMENT7
- 6. OTHER BUSINESS7
- 7. PUBLIC COMMENT7
- 8. CONSENSUS STATEMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS REVIEW7

TABLES

- Table 1. Snowy Grouper Recommendations 6

Documents:

- Attachment 1. SEDAR 36U Assessment Report
- Attachment 2. SEDAR 36U Assessment Presentation*
- Attachment 3. SEDAR 73 Progress Report*
- Attachment 4. S79 Participants Memo

*** Indicates documents not available for the Briefing Book. These will be distributed as they become available.**

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 Monday, January 4, 2021. Submit written comments to:

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

Or via the wufoo form on the meeting page found here:

<https://safmc.net/safmc-meetings/scientific-and-statistical-committee-meetings/>

Verbal comment:

Two opportunities for comment on agenda items will be provided at set times during SSC meetings. The first will be at the beginning of the meeting, and the second near the conclusion. Those wishing to comment should indicate such in the manner requested by the Chair, who will then recognize individuals to provide comment.

An opportunity for comment on specific agenda items will also be provided as each item comes up for discussion. Comments will be taken after all the initial presentations are given and before the SSC starts the discussion of the agenda topic. As before, those wishing to comment should indicate such in the manner requested by the Chair, who will then recognize individuals to provide comment. All comments are part of the record of the meeting.

Meeting Format:

This meeting will be held as a series of webinars from January 11-12. There will be a single link for the entire meeting, which is available on the Council's website at <https://safmc.net/safmc-meetings/scientific-and-statistical-committee-meetings/>.

Monday, January 11, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Documents

Agenda

1.2. Action

- Introductions
- Review and Approve Agenda

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

The public will be provided an opportunity to comment on SSC agenda items as they are being discussed during the meeting. Comments will be taken after any initial presentations are given on a particular topic, but before the SSC begins their discussion of the topic. There will also be an opportunity for comment at the start and end of the meeting. Those wishing to make comment should indicate their desire to do so to the Committee Chair.

3. SEDAR 36 SNOWY GROUPER UPDATE ASSESSMENT REVIEW

3.1. Documents

Attachment 1. SEDAR 36U Assessment Report

Attachment 2. SEDAR 36U Assessment Presentation*

3.2. Presentation

SEDAR 36U Assessment Overview: Dr. Rob Cheshire and Dr. Katie Siegfried, SEFSC

3.3. Overview

The Committee is asked to review the Snowy Grouper Update assessment prepared through SEDAR 36U and provide fishing level recommendations (Attachment 1). Snowy Grouper was last assessed in 2013 during SEDAR 36, where the stock was found to have been overfished but not undergoing overfishing. The major reason for performing an Update assessment was due to the fact that there were no new indices or major data sources for this species.

3.4. Public Comment

3.5. Action

- Review assessment
 - Does the assessment address the ToRs to the SSCs satisfaction?
 - Does the assessment represent Best Scientific Information Available?

- Does the assessment provide an adequate basis for determining stock status and supporting fishing level recommendations?
- Identify, summarize, and discuss assessment uncertainties
 - Review, summarize, and discuss the factors of this assessment that affect the reliability of estimates of stock status and fishing level recommendations.
 - Describe the risks and consequences of the assessment uncertainties with regard to status and fishing level recommendations.
 - Are methods of addressing uncertainty consistent with SSC expectations and the available information?
 - List (in order of the greatest contribution to risk and overall assessment uncertainty) and comment on the effects of those assessment factors that most contribute to risk and impact status determinations and future yield predictions.
- Provide fishing level recommendations
 - Apply the ABC control rule and complete the fishing level recommendations table.
 - Comment on any difficulties encountered in applying the Control Rule, including any required information that is not available.
 - Is adequate rebuilding progress being made? Comment on reasons why progress differs from projections.
- Provide advice on monitoring the stock until the next assessment
 - What indicators or metrics should the Council request to help inform the rebuilding progress prior to the next assessment?
 - Is there a recommended trigger level for these metrics? Triggers should be used for an indication of improvement. If no improvement is being made the Council may want to consider additional management actions.
- Provide research recommendations and guidance on the next assessment
 - Review the included research recommendations and indicate those most likely to reduce risk and uncertainty in the next assessment.
 - Provide any additional research recommendations the SSC believes will improve future stock assessments.
 - Provide guidance on the next assessment, addressing its timing and type.

Table 1. Snowy Grouper Recommendations

Criteria	Deterministic		Probabilistic	
Overfished evaluation (SSB/SSB _{MSY})				
Overfishing evaluation				
MFMT (F _{MSY})				
SSB _{MSY} (Units)				
MSST (Units)				
MSY (1000 lbs.)				
Y at 75% F _{MSY} (1000 lbs.)				
ABC Control Rule Adjustment				
P-Star				
M				
OFL RECOMMENDATIONS				
Year	Landed LBS	Discard LBS	Landed Number	Discard Number
ABC RECOMMENDATIONS				
Year	Landed LBS	Discard LBS	Landed Number	Discard Number

Tuesday, January 12, 9:00 a.m. – noon

4. UPDATE ON DATA WORKSHOP DECISIONS IN THE SEDAR 73 RED SNAPPER ASSESSMENT

4.1. Documents

Attachment 3. SEDAR 73 Progress Report*

4.2. Presentation

SEDAR 73 Progress Report: Dr. Kyle Shertzer, SEFSC

4.3. Overview

The SSC will be given a final report on the progress of the selectivity workshop conducted ahead of the SEDAR 73 Red Snapper Operational Assessment. This workshop was tasked with evaluating the selectivity of trap, hook and line, and camera gear in relation to one another and in terms of their selectivity patterns. This selectivity workshop is just one new piece of information

being considered for the SEDAR 73 assessment. The SSC will also be updated on the data decisions made during the SEDAR 73 (South Atlantic Red Snapper) data workshop.

4.4. Public Comment

4.5. Action

- Provide feedback and guidance to the modeling team on any decisions regarding new data sources or other model updates as appropriate.
- Consider formation of a workgroup to develop the P* value for Red Snapper.

5. MAKE APPOINTMENTS FOR THE UPCOMING MUTTON SNAPPER ASSESSMENT

5.1. Documents

Attachment 4. S79 Participants Memo

5.2. Overview

SSC members are asked to indicate their interest in participating in the various stages of the SEDAR 79 mutton snapper assessment.

5.3. Public Comment

5.4. Action

- Review the Mutton Snapper assessment schedule.
- Appoint participants to the Mutton Snapper assessment.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

8. CONSENSUS STATEMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS REVIEW

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

The Final SSC report will be provided to the Council by close of business on Friday, February 12, 2020 (approximately 4 weeks from the end of the meeting) for inclusion in the briefing book for the March Council meeting.

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