

SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE



SSC Meeting Overview

May 3-5, 2016

Town & Country Inn

Charleston, SC

**VERSION
Briefing Book**

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- Attachment 4. SEDAR 50 Project Schedule
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*** Indicates documents not available for the first Briefing Book. These will be distributed as they become available.**

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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 26, 2016. Submit written comments to:

SAFMC – SSC Comments
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 2015 meeting

Attachment 2. Minutes of the March 2016 webinar 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. 2014-2015 LANDINGS AND ACLS

3.1. Documents

None.

3.2. Presentation

Landings and ACLs: Mike Larkin, SERO, via Webinar

3.3. Overview

The SSC will be provided an update on 2015 landings, catch limits, and application of accountability measures.

3.4. Action

- Review and comment, with attention toward any ABC recommendation updates.
 - Emphasis should be placed on Level 4 and 5 stocks which have concerning landings trends as compared to their ABC values.
- Consider assessment schedule and research plan implications

4. SOUTHEAST REEFISH SURVEY UPDATE

4.1. Documents

Attachment 3. SERFS Report*

4.2. Presentation

SERFS Sampling Update: Joey Ballenger, SC DNR

4.3. Overview

The Committee will receive an update on SERFS sampling efforts and results through 2015.

4.1. Action

- No specific actions required.

5. SEDAR ACTIVITIES

5.1. Documents

Attachment 4. SEDAR 50 Project Schedule

Attachment 5a. Draft SEDAR 50 ToRs

Attachment 5b. MAFMC SEDAR 50 Feedback

Attachment 6. Draft Red Grouper ToRs

5.2. Overview

The SEDAR Steering Committee will meet May 9, 2016 via webinar, to review progress on the assessment prioritization plan and comments from the SSCs, review SSC comments on the research track process proposal, and review the project schedule.

The data best practices standing group was formed and will hold its first meeting via webinar April 13.

Planning is underway for the blueline tilefish benchmark, SEDAR 50. This assessment will be a joint assessment with the NEFSC and MAFMC, with SEDAR and SAFMC / SEFSC having lead. A stock ID workshop will be held June 28-30 in Raleigh, NC. The data workshop is planned for October 24-28, 2016 in Charleston, SC, the assessment workshop is planned to be a series of webinars spanning from February 6, 2017 to April 3, 2017, and the review workshop is planned for May 23-25, 2017 in Atlantic Beach or Raleigh, NC. The SSC will be asked to review the ToRs and identify participants.

Red grouper is scheduled for an update in late 2016, but will be considered as a standard. The SSC will be provided current ToRs, asked to consider making it a standard and revising ToRs accordingly, and asked to identify participants.

Table 1. SAFMC SEDAR Projects May 2016

Plan Year	SEDAR #	Stocks	Approach	Terminal Data	Assessment Complete	Lead Agency
2015	41	Red Snapper & Gray Triggerfish	Benchmark	2014	April 2016	SEFSC
	U	Tilefish	Update	2014	April 2016	SEFSC
2016	47	Goliath Grouper	Benchmark	2014	Jun 2016	FL FWCC
	48	Black Grouper	Standard	2014	TBD ¹	FL FWCC
	U	Red grouper	Update	2015	Jan 2017	SEFSC
2017	50	Blueline Tilefish	Benchmark	2015	June 2017	SEFSC
	U	Vermilion	Update	2016	April 2018	SEFSC
	R	MRIP Revisions, TBD	Revision	2016	June 2018	SEFSC
2018	B	Yellowtail Snapper	Benchmark	2016	Spring 2019	FL FWCC
	S	Scamp, Gulf + SA	Benchmark	2016	Mid-2019	SEFSC

1. FL FWCC requested that the black grouper assessment be postponed to April 2017. This request will be reviewed by the Steering Committee in May 2016

5.3. Action

- Determine whether the ToRs for SEDAR 50, Blueline Tilefish are sufficient as written or if modifications are recommended.
- Identify SSC representation for SEDAR 50, Blueline Tilefish.
- Consider the Red Grouper update for a standard and review/revise the ToRs accordingly.
- Identify participants for the Red Grouper assessment.

6. UPDATE ON MID-ATLANTIC SSC MEETING CONCERNING SETTING AN ABC FOR BLUELINE TILEFISH

6.1. Documents

Attachment 7. Blueline Tilefish Working Group Report
Attachment 8. MAFMC SSC March Meeting Report

6.2. Overview

The Committee will be given an overview of what was discussed at the MAFMC SSC's March meeting in regards to setting an ABC for the portion of the Blueline Tilefish stock within the Mid-Atlantic region.

6.3. Action

- No specific actions required.

7. REVIEW OF NEW BAG AND SIZE LIMIT ANALYSIS METHODOLOGY

7.1. Documents

Attachment 9. BSB Bag Limit Analysis report

7.2. Presentation

Method Overview: Dr. Mike Errigo, SAFMC Staff

7.3. Overview

At their September 2015 meeting, the South Atlantic Council asked staff to put together Regulatory Amendment 25, which included options for increasing the bag limit for Black Sea Bass. The method that has been used for this type of analysis simply assumed that all trips that met the current bag limit will meet any of the new bag limit alternatives. A modification was made that restricted the increase so that for those trips that met the bag limit, they would continue to meet the new bag limit alternatives until they reached the total number of discards for the species in question on that trip.

The current method inherently assumes that all discards on trips that met the bag limit are above the legal limit and were discarded because of reaching the bag limit. An analysis of all the trips that encountered Black Sea Bass showed that most of the Black Sea Bass encountered by recreational anglers (over 92%) were discarded and almost 99% of trips did not reach the bag limit. These data suggest that most of the Black Sea Bass encountered were discarded because they were below the minimum legal size.

The proposed method uses estimated numbers at age and the discard selectivity for fish both above and below the minimum size limit (either in place or proposed) to estimate the proportion of discarded fish that are above the minimum size limit. The idea is to use estimated numbers at age from the years where the analysis is to be applied. For the current example using Black Sea Bass, estimates of numbers at age were not available for 2013 and 2014, so 2012 was used as a proxy. However, in the future, assessments will have the estimated numbers at age for each year of the projections as a standard output. Then, when the bag limit is increased, only that proportion of the discards that are greater than the minimum size can be added to the catch. The analysis can be performed for changing size limits as well (specifically decreasing a size limit). When a size limit is decreased, this analysis can estimate the proportion of fish in the discards that are above the new proposed size limit that can be added to the catch.

7.4. Action

- Discuss the uncertainties associated with this analysis.
- Determine whether this analysis is the Best Scientific Information Available and is appropriate for use in managing fisheries resources.

8. SOUTH ATLANTIC FOR-HIRE REPORTING AMENDMENT

8.1. Documents

Attachment 10. South Atlantic For-Hire Reporting Amendment Document

8.2. Presentation

South Atlantic For-Hire Reporting Amendment Document: John Carmichael, SAMFC

8.3. Overview

This amendment addresses reporting in the for-hire segment, including actions for mandatory, trip level reporting in the charter segment, modification of the timing of reporting in the headboat segment, and location reporting requirements for the charter segment.

The for-hire reporting amendment was taken to public hearing January 25-February 5, 2016. The SAFMC considered revisions of actions in response to public comment and IPT review during their March 2016 meeting. During this meeting, the SAFMC made a motion to specify the core data elements to be collected in the proposed logbook program within the amendment. The Committee is asked to comment on the core data elements to be specified in this amendment for inclusion in the for-hire logbook program.

The Council has chosen preferreds for this amendment at their March 2016 meeting. This may be the SSC's final opportunity to review this amendment before the Council votes on final approval at either their September 2016 or December 2016 meeting. The SSC is given the opportunity to review the document and provide comments.

8.4. Action

- Comment on what should be included in the core data elements.
 - Emphasis should be given to data that can be used for both assessments and management advice.
- Review and provide comments on other actions as necessary.

9. SNAPPER GROUPER AMENDMENT 41

9.1. Documents

Attachment 11. Amendment 41 (Mutton) Summary Document

9.2. Presentation

Amendment 41 Document: Myra Brouwer, SAMFC

9.3. Overview

The Council is considering the following actions in Amendment 41:

- Specifying MSY and MSST for Mutton Snapper.
- Set ABCs, ACLs, and ACTs for Mutton Snapper.
- Designating a spawning season with possibly different management measures.
- Modifying commercial trip limit and size limit.
- Modifying recreational bag limit and size limit.

Currently, there are preliminary statistics and analyses available for the recreational and commercial bag/trip limits, size limits, and season alternatives. The Committee is asked to review what analyses are available and comment on their utility and appropriateness.

9.4. Action

- Review the available analyses and comment on their use in this amendment, as appropriate. Are they Best Scientific Information Available and useful for making management decisions?
- Comment on any analyses still lacking in this amendment.

10. UPDATE ON PROPOSED RESEARCH/OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT TRACKS

10.1. Documents

Attachment 12. SEDAR Stock Assessment Categories

10.2. Presentation

Dr. Erik Williams, SEFSC

10.3. Overview

An update will be given to the Committee on where the Science Center and SEDAR are in terms of implementing the new proposed Research and Operational Tracks, as well as what exactly these tracks would entail.

The operational stock assessment category is primarily to provide management advice, using tested modeling frameworks and previously utilized data sources. These assessments are similar to updates and standards. The research stock assessment category should be applied in cases where a new model, hypothesis, or question needs to be answered about a stock/population. It is not intended to provide management advice, but rather set the stage (prototype approach) for operational modeling. Research assessments are most similar to the current benchmark assessments, but do not result in management advice.

10.4. Action

- Comment on and provide feedback for the proposed Research and Operational Tracks.

11. RED SNAPPER ASSESSMENT REVIEW

11.1. Documents

Attachment 13a. SEDAR 41 SAR, Red Snapper

Attachment 13b. SEDAR 41 Supplemental Projections

11.2. Presentation

Assessment Overview: Dr. Kate Siegfried, SEFSC

11.3. Overview

The Committee is asked to review the Red Snapper Benchmark assessment prepared through SEDAR 41 and provide fishing level recommendations.

Red Snapper was assessed in SEDAR 15, and was determined to be overfished and experiencing overfishing. This led to the Council developing a rebuilding plan in Amendment 17A. Rebuilding began in 2010 and ends in 2044. Amendment 17A implemented a closure of the Red Snapper fishery and proposed a large closed area off the South Atlantic to reduce discard mortality of Red Snapper. A subsequent good year class was identified in SEDAR 24 that eliminated the need for the large closure, but left the fishery closure in place.

During initial reviews of assessed stocks, the SSC calculated a P^* of 30% for Red Snapper, and a probability of rebuild of 70%. However, since rebuilding of Red Snapper began prior to the existence of the P^* approach, the rebuilding plan is based on a 50% chance of reaching SSB_{MSY} by the end of the rebuilding period. This is the first assessment of Red Snapper under the P^* methodology, thus the Council may consider revising the rebuilding approach but is not obligated to do so.

11.4. 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 and discuss assessment uncertainties
 - Are key uncertainties identified, and if not, indicate additional uncertainties.
 - Are risks and consequences of uncertainties identified and evaluated?
 - Are methods of addressing uncertainty consistent with SSC expectations?
 - List and comment on the effects of those uncertainties 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.
- Provide advice on monitoring the stock until the next assessment
 - What indicators/metrics should the council monitor/SSC evaluate to keep tabs on the stock until the next assessment?
 - Is there a recommended trigger level for these metrics?
- Provide research recommendations and guidance on the next assessment
 - Review the included research recommendations, and indicate those which are 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.

SSC RECOMMENDATION:

Table 2. Red Snapper 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				
M				
OFL RECOMMENDATIONS				
Year	Landed LBS	Discard LBS	Landed Number	Discard Number

ABC RECOMMENDATIONS				
Year	Landed LBS	Discard LBS	Landed Number	Discard Number

12. GRAY TRIGGERFISH ASSESSMENT REVIEW

12.1. Documents

Attachment 14. SEDAR 41 SAR, Gray Triggerfish

12.2. Presentation

Assessment Overview: Dr. Luiz Barbieri, FL FWC

12.3. Overview

The Committee is asked to review the Gray Triggerfish assessment prepared through SEDAR 41. This is the first assessment prepared of this stock, so there are no existing recommendations to consider. The Review Workshop was held in April 2016.

An ABC recommendation of 672,565 pounds, provided in April 2011, was based on the third highest landings observed from 1999 to 2008. This was the Committee's default rule for fisheries that did not show any concerning trends in landings. However, the Committee did note that the stock may be recovering from an excessive peak in landings. Given the impending assessment, the SSC felt the risk to the resource was minimal.

12.4. 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 and discuss assessment uncertainties
 - Are key uncertainties identified, and if not, indicate additional uncertainties.
 - Are risks and consequences of uncertainties identified and evaluated?
 - Are methods of addressing uncertainty consistent with SSC expectations?
 - List and comment on the effects of those uncertainties 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.
- Provide advice on monitoring the stock until the next assessment
 - What indicators/metrics should the council monitor/SSC evaluate to keep tabs on the stock until the next assessment?
 - Is there a recommended trigger level for these metrics?
- Provide research recommendations and guidance on the next assessment
 - Review the included research recommendations, and indicate those which are 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.

SSC RECOMMENDATION:

Table 3. Gray Triggerfish 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					
M					
OFL RECOMMENDATIONS					
Year	Landed LBS	Discard LBS	Year	Landed LBS	

ABC RECOMMENDATIONS				
Year	Landed LBS	Discard LBS	Year	Landed LBS

13. GOLDEN TILEFISH UPDATE ASSESSMENT REVIEW

13.1. Documents

Attachment 15. Golden Tilefish Update Assessment Report

13.2. Presentation

Assessment Overview: Dr. Genny Nesslage, SEFSC Consultant

13.3. Overview

An update of the SEDAR 25 assessment of Golden Tilefish is provided for review. The SSC is asked to review the assessment, discuss the uncertainties, apply the ABC control rule and provide fishing level recommendations.

Golden Tilefish was last assessed in 2011 by SEDAR 25. The stock was not overfishing and not overfished. When SEDAR 25 was reviewed by the SSC during the November 2011 meeting, Golden Tilefish was assigned a P* of 35%.

13.4. 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 and discuss assessment uncertainties
 - Are key uncertainties identified, and if not, indicate additional uncertainties.
 - Are risks and consequences of uncertainties identified and evaluated?
 - Are methods of addressing uncertainty consistent with SSC expectations?
 - List and comment on the effects of those uncertainties 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.
- Provide advice on monitoring the stock until the next assessment
 - What indicators/metrics should the council monitor/SSC evaluate to keep tabs on the stock until the next assessment?
 - Is there a recommended trigger level for these metrics?
- Provide research recommendations and guidance on the next assessment
 - Review the included research recommendations, and indicate those which are 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.

SSC RECOMMENDATION:

Table 4. Golden 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				
M				
OFL RECOMMENDATIONS				
Year	Landed LBS	Discard LBS	Year	Landed LBS

ABC RECOMMENDATIONS				
Year	Landed LBS	Discard LBS	Year	Landed LBS

14. NMFS ASSESSMENT PRIORITIZATION

14.1. Documents

Attachment 16. Prioritizing Fish Stock Assessments

Attachment 17. Stock Assessment Prioritization SAFMC

Attachment 18. Stock Prioritization - SAFMC Stocks

14.2. Presentation

Prioritization Tool and Initial Application to South Atlantic Stocks: Dr. Erik Williams, SEFSC

14.3. Overview

A document recently published by NMFS (Attachment xx) describes a national framework for prioritization of stock assessments. Although fish stock assessment prioritization will take place under the guidance of this national framework, the process will be implemented on a regional level, coordinating with existing regional processes and planning bodies. For South Atlantic fish stocks, the prioritization process described under the national framework considers many of the same criteria as the existing process used to determine annual assessment priorities.

Stock assessment prioritization includes first-time assessments for previously unassessed stocks, updating existing assessments using established methods/data, and upgrading assessments to use new types of data/methods. All stocks managed under Federal Fishery Management Plans, as well as additional stocks that may be assessed using NMFS Science Center resources, are included in assessment prioritization. For stocks that have been previously assessed, the prioritization approach sets targets for assessment completeness (level) and frequency and then determines priorities relative to meeting those targets. For stocks that have only been previously assessed with data-poor methods, the system provides an opportunity to periodically examine: (1) fishery importance, (2) ecosystem importance, (3) biological vulnerability to overfishing, (4) preliminary information on fishery impact level (stock status) and (5) data availability to determine which of the stocks, if any, are both sufficiently at risk to warrant an assessment and have sufficient data to conduct a fuller assessment.

The prioritization process includes five steps conducted at the regional level and updated as needed:

1. Determine which stocks should be included, and how to best organize stocks into groups for prioritization (e.g. by FMP).
2. Collect information for stocks to develop scores for 14 prioritization factors in the five themes mentioned above. Information may be extracted from available databases or through workshops with regional experts, and scores should be updated periodically to support development of the priority ranks described in Step 5.
3. Identify the current and Target Assessment Level describing the data completeness and model complexity required for each stock; initially this could be as simple as determining which previously unassessed stocks are in need of a first-time assessment.
4. Develop Target Assessment Frequencies based on a subset of the information collected in Step 2 to establish how often each stock needs to receive an updated assessment to maintain sufficient timeliness for status determinations and annual catch limit advice; re-examine as situations change.
5. Use factor scores developed in Step 2 and a region-specific factor weighting scheme to calculate prioritization ranks for each stock. These ranks serve as the starting position from which regional managers subsequently determine the final set of stocks to be assessed, after accounting for additional considerations. Ranks will be updated each year or as needed to prioritize stocks for near-term assessment.

Each factor included in this assessment-prioritization process is assigned a region-specific relative weight, intended to reflect each factor's relative importance within the region and maintain consistency across species. Factor weights will be the same for all stocks within an FMP and will be developed by regional NMFS and Fishery Management Council leaders (prototype weights will be provided, initially). This flexibility will allow the South Atlantic to tailor the contribution of each factor to the overall score, so as to reflect regional importance of each factor. The weighted sum of the relative factors scores are then ranked and used to guide decisions on assessment planning for the upcoming assessment cycle.

14.4. Action

- Review application of the prioritization tool and comment on its use in the South Atlantic to prioritize stock assessments.
- Provide recommendations on how to obtain the necessary expert advice to apply the tool.
- Provide recommendations for revisions or modifications to the draft application.
- Discuss and provide recommendations on initial inputs, particularly those requiring expert advice, including:
 - Value for 'time since terminal year' for unassessed stocks
 - Scoring range for factors (0-2 vs 1-5 vs 1-10)

- Default values for unknown factors

15. SPINY LOBSTER REVIEW

15.1. Documents

Attachment 19. March 28 Spiny Lobster Review Panel report
Attachment 20. Spiny Lobster Landings Presentation

15.2. Presentation

Spiny Lobster Review Panel Meeting Overview: Dr. Kari MacLauchlin,
SAFMC Staff

15.3. Overview

On March 28, 2016, the Spiny Lobster Review Panel convened via webinar. The Review Panel is comprised of staff from the Gulf Council, South Atlantic Council, SERO, and FWC/FWRI, in addition to representatives from the Gulf Spiny Lobster Advisory Panel (AP), South Atlantic Spiny Lobster AP, and the South Atlantic SSC. The Review Panel is part of the accountability measure for spiny lobster, which stipulates that if landings exceed the annual catch target (ACT), a panel will be convened to review landings and make management recommendations to the Councils. Spiny lobster landings in 2014-15 were 7,032,422 lbs, which exceed the ACT of 6.59 mp. The Review Panel was also convened the previous year in response to 2013-14 landings, which were at 7,956,947 lbs and exceeded the ACT, annual catch limit and the overfishing level, but the 2015 Review Panel did not recommend changing the method for calculating the ACL and ACT, or any recommendations for management measures. The 2015 Review Panel did recommend that the Councils request an exemption from the ACL/AM requirement for spiny lobster, but this request was declined by NMFS.

The 2016 Review Panel reviewed landings and other factors that may affect spiny lobster catch, and provided recommendations to the Councils. The report with the recommendations is in preparation, but the Review Panel will be making the following recommendations to the Councils.

- Calculate the ACL based on the landings from 1991 through the most recent landings (2015-2016).
- Examine setting the annual catch limit based on a rolling average.
- Examine setting the ACL trigger based on landings and the landings to effort index.

Note that the recommendations are from motions, which were not unanimously approved.

Additionally, the South Atlantic and Gulf Spiny Lobster Advisory Panels will meet jointly on April 25, 2016. The AP recommendations will also be provided to the SSC for discussion.

For additional information, please follow this link, which will take you to the Spiny Lobster Review Panel briefing book from their March 28, 2016 meeting:

http://gulfcouncil.org/council_meetings/Panel%20and%20Committee%20Meetings/Spiny%20Lobster%20Review%20Panel%20March%202016%20Index.php

15.4. Action

- Discuss and make recommendations as necessary.
 - Specifically, the Councils will be interested in the SSC's input on potential changes to calculation of the ACL and on specific management measures to address landings exceeding the ACT and ACL in recent years.

16. CITIZEN SCIENCE UPDATE

16.1. Documents

Attachment 21. Draft Citizen Science Blueprint

16.2. Presentation

Citizen Science Program Update: John Carmichael, SAFMC Staff

16.3. Overview

The Council expressed interest in a Citizen Science program to address the many outstanding data needs and take advantage of repeated offers by constituents to contribute to data collection efforts. An organizing committee of Council members, staff and interested parties was assembled to address the challenge of starting such a program. As a first major step, to judge interest and obtain broad feedback on a possible citizen science program, a workshop was held January 19-22, 2016 in Charleston, SC. Following the workshop, and relying heavily upon the discussion and recommendations provided, the Organizing Committee developed a program blueprint.

16.4. Action

- None.

17. REVIEW OF HOGFISH DECISION TOOLS

17.1. Documents

Attachment 22. SG37 Hogfish Decision Tool Description*

Attachment 23. Methods for Commercial Sector Economic Effects Est

Attachment 24. SA SG37 Hogfish Florida Recreational Decision Tool*

Attachment 25. SA SG37 Hogfish GA-NC Recreational Decision Tool*

Attachment 26. SG37 Commercial Hogfish Econ Effects and Season

17.2. Presentation

Method Overview: Dr. Nick Farmer and David Records, SERO Staff

17.3. Overview

In response to the outcome of the SEDAR-37 (2014) assessment, the Council began development of Amendment 37 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region (SG-37). SG-37 proposes different ABCs, annual catch limits (ACLs), annual catch targets, minimum size limits, trip limits, and bag limits for the FLK/EFL and GA-NC hogfish stocks. Recreational and commercial decision tools were developed to simulate the impacts of various combinations of proposed management measures to support SG-37.

The decision tools for FLK/EFL and GA-NC hogfish were implemented in Microsoft Excel using drop-down menus to obtain user inputs regarding desired management measures. Excel was chosen because it is widely available for constituent use. Impacts of management measures were simulated using programs written in SAS (SAS Institute, Cary, NC). The recreational decision tools evaluate seasonal closures, size limits, and bag limits. The commercial decision tool fit a SARIMA model to daily catch rates by month to predict catches in the future under different management measures. This decision tool evaluates seasonal closures, size limits, and trip limits.

17.4. Action

- Discuss the uncertainties associated with these decision tools.
 - Are the data sets appropriate for the types of analyses being conducted? Should data sets/methods from SEDAR be considered?
 - Are the time periods for each of the data series appropriate?
 - What are the potential trade-offs between timely data (most recent information) and complete time series (consistent time series across years and fisheries)?
 - Is the procedure for estimating daily catch rates from Wave-level data appropriate and consistent with how the data are collected? (Ex. Given month and kind of day are both collected for each trip.)
 - Do these decision tools appropriately account for the overlap in reductions estimated for implementation of multiple management measures?
 - Are all assumptions made appropriate and consistent with standard practices?
 - Are the models used appropriate for the available data and the analyses being conducted?
- Determine whether these tools use the Best Scientific Information Available and are appropriate for use in managing South Atlantic fisheries.

18. SNAPPER GROUPE AMENDMENT 37

18.1. Documents

Attachment 27. Amendment 37 (Hogfish) Summary Document

18.2. Presentation

Amendment 37 Overview: Myra Brouwer, SAFMC Staff

18.3. Overview

The Council is considering the following actions in Amendment 37:

- Designate 2 stocks for Hogfish in the South Atlantic.
 - Florida Keys/East Florida Stock (FLK/EFL)
 - Georgia to North Carolina Stock (GA-NC)
- Set ABCs and ACLs for both stocks of Hogfish.
- Implement a rebuilding plan for the FLK/EFL stock.
- Implementing/modifying commercial trip limit and size limit for both stocks.
- Implementing/modifying recreational bag limit and size limit for both stocks.
- Implementing a recreational season for the FLK/EFL stock.
- Adopting Accountability Measures for both stocks.

The SSC is asked to review and provide guidance on the analyses in Amendment 37, as appropriate, and based on any recommendations on the Decision Tools.

18.4. Action

- Review the actions and alternatives concerning size limits, bag limits, trip limits, and recreational season for the FLK/EFL stock.
 - Discuss recommendations in the context of the recently reviewed decision tools: are any of the results from the decision tool analyses likely to change significantly based on recommendations? If so, where are the most likely places where changes may occur?

19. SNAPPER GROUPE AMENDMENT 43

19.1. Documents

Attachment 28. Synopsis of Red Snapper Data

19.2. Presentation

Red Snapper Amendment Overview: Chip Collier, SAFMC Staff

19.3. Overview

The SAFMC was provided a synopsis of Red Snapper data to help inform their discussions on potential Red Snapper management measures for inclusion in Amendment 43. The data included commercial and recreational landings, seasonality of harvest, size distribution of Red Snapper catch, and distribution of bag/trip sizes.

This amendment hasn't been scoped yet, since the Council was waiting to see the results of SEDAR 41. The Committee has the opportunity for the discussion of data and science to consider as management actions are developed.

19.4. Action

- Discuss data to analyze and science to review when developing management actions for SG Amendment 43 in light of the SEDAR 41 assessment.
- Being that discard mortality is the largest contributor to fishing mortality for Red Snapper, discuss ways of reducing both total discards and discard mortality for this fishery.

20. ABC CONTROL RULE REVISION GROUP REPORT

20.1. Documents

Attachment 29. P-star Scoring Summary
Attachment 30. P-star Values
Attachment 31. SA Stock Info
Attachment 32. SEDAR Status Plots
Attachment 33. Landings vs ABC
Attachment 34. MAFMC Fishery Performance Report
Attachment 35. NEFSC Fishery Performance Report

20.2. Presentation

Overview and Update: Steve Cadrin, SAFMC SSC

20.3. Overview

At their April 2015 meeting, the SSC discussed the results of the ABC Control Rule Workshop held in October 2014. There were difficulties producing results from that workshop, so the SSC decided to convene a sub-committee to develop a draft proposal to bring to the entire SSC for review.

20.4. Action

- Consider and comment on the ABC Control Rule revisions presented by the sub-committee.
- Provide recommendations on control rule revisions, if appropriate and necessary.
 - Consider removing Stock Status from the ABC Control Rule since NMFS, not the SSC, determines status.
- Provide guidance on next steps to be taken in considering revisions to the control rule.

21. SOCIO-ECONOMIC PANEL REPORT

21.1. Documents

Attachment 36. SEP Agenda

21.2. 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. Any additional items from the SEP report not previously covered under other agenda items will be discussed here.

22. COUNCIL WORKPLAN UPDATE

22.1. Documents

Attachment 37. SAFMC Work Plan, April 2016

Attachment 38. SAFMC Amendments Overview, April 2016

22.2. 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 – Chip Collier
- Fishery Ecosystem Plan - Roger Pugliese
- Snapper Grouper - Myra Brouwer
- Snapper Grouper Amendment 36 (Spawning SMZs) - Gregg Waugh
- Snapper Grouper Amendment 43 (Red Snapper) – Chip Collier

- Spiny Lobster - Kari MacLauchlin
- Golden Crab - Brian Chevront
- Dolphin-Wahoo - Brian Chevront
- South Atlantic For-Hire Reporting Amendment – John Carmichael

22.3. Action

- No specific actions required

23. CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR ELECTIONS

24. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

25. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS REVIEW

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

The Final SSC report will be provided to the Council by 9 am on Tuesday, May 24, 2016 for inclusion in the first briefing book for the June Council meeting.

26. NEXT MEETINGS

26.1. SAFMC SSC MEETINGS

2016 Meeting Dates (Tentative)

October 18 – 20 in Charleston, SC

26.2. SAFMC Meetings

2016 Council Meetings

June 13 - 17, 2016 in Cocoa Beach, FL

September 12-16, 2016 in North Myrtle Beach, SC

December 5-9, 2016 in Atlantic Beach, NC

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