

# **SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

## **SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE**



**SSC Meeting Overview**

**October 28 - 30, 2014**

**Crowne Plaza**

**North Charleston, SC**

**VERSION  
Briefing Book**

## PURPOSE

Topics to address during this meeting:

- SEDAR planning and update
- SAFMC Assessment Priorities
- Reports on the MRIP Calibration Workshop, 2015 National SSC workshop, and ABC Control Rule Workshop
- Assessments of mutton snapper, hogfish and King mackerel
- Snapper-Grouper RA 16, black sea bass protected resources interactions
- Bag limit analyses, including application to gag grouper
- Progress on current FMP Amendments

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## Documents:

- Attachment 1. Minutes of the April 2014 meeting
- Attachment 2. SEDAR schedule
- Attachment 3. FWC project proposals\*
- Attachment 4. SEDAR Steering Committee Documents
- Attachment 5. Draft MRIP Calibration Workshop Report\*
- Attachment 6. National SSC Draft Agenda
- Attachment 7. Hogfish Assessment
- Attachment 8. Mutton Snapper Assessment\*
- Attachment 9. King Mackerel Assessment
- Attachment 10. Regulatory Amendment 16 Draft
- Attachment 11. Interaction analysis\*
- Attachment 12. Bag Limit Analysis for gag grouper
- Attachment 13. Bag limit Analysis for blueline tilefish
- Attachment 14. SAFMC Work Plan, September 2014
- Attachment 15. SAFMC Amendments Overview, September 2014

**\* 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, October 21, 2014.

SAFMC  
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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 April 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. SEDAR ACTIVITIES**

### 3.1. Documents

Attachment 2. SEDAR schedule

Attachment 3. FWC project proposals\*

Attachment 4. SEDAR Steering Committee Documents

### 3.2. Overview

The SEDAR Steering Committee met recently, October 6-7 in Charleston. They discussed the assessment schedule, changes in the assessment workshop process and reviewed the SEDAR operating policies (SOPP) in detail. Since the meeting report is not completed as of the Briefing Book deadline, Attachment 4 includes several of the briefing documents from the Steering Committee meeting.

- The Steering Committee agreed to a change in the assessment process that reduced the webinars to 3, scheduled to address specific model development milestones. Assessment analysts may consult with other appointed participants as necessary to develop products for each milestone
- A SEDAR procedures workshop will be held in 2015 to develop best practices for data. An SSC representative is desired to serve on the organizing committee.

SEDAR 41, South Atlantic red snapper and gray triggerfish, will be delayed approximately one year while the SEFSC addresses concerns that data from the early years are unreliable due to misreporting by participants.

The red grouper, golden tilefish blueline tilefish update process assessments for 2015 are also delayed, due to staff turnover and the headboat data issues.

FL FWCC will conduct the next assessments of black grouper, yellowtail snapper and Goliath grouper. All are being considered for transition to the Stock Synthesis package. The SSC will receive a report from FWCC on the process and decisions necessary for the change in model package, and is asked to consider whether the change can be accommodated using the standard process, or whether a benchmark is required. The Steering Committee has authorized Council SSCs, as the peer review body for standard assessment and the group charged with making fishing level recommendations based on assessments, to determine when the changes proposed for a standard process are excessive and therefore a benchmark process should be applied.

Table 1. SAFMC Assessment Project Schedule

SEDAR #	Stocks	Type	Terminal Data	Assessment Complete
U	Mutton snapper	Update	2012	Oct 2014
37	Hogfish	Benchmark	2013	Oct 2014
38	King mackerel	Benchmark	2012	September 2014
41	Red snapper & Gray triggerfish	Benchmark	2014	April 2016
U	Red grouper	Update	2014	April 2016
U	Blueline tilefish	Update	2015	Jan 2017
S/B	Black grouper	TBD	2014	TBD
Future Priorities				
U	Tilefish (maybe in 2016)	Update	2015	TBD
B	Scamp & Gray snapper 2017	Benchmark		
U	Vermilion, GAJ 2017	Update		
S/B	Yellowtail Snapper 2017	S/B	2016	Mid-2018

### 3.3. Action

- Review black grouper, Goliath grouper, yellowtail snapper proposals and TORs, recommend whether these assessments are conducted through the standard or benchmark process
- Review SAFMC assessment priorities

## **SSC RECOMMENDATION:**

## **4. MRIP CALIBRATION WORKSHOP**

### 4.1. Documents

Attachment 5. Draft MRIP Calibration Workshop Report\*

#### 4.2. Overview

MRIP Calibration Workshop II was held September 8 – 10, 2014, to address changes in the APAIS component. Several calibration approaches were recommended to be evaluated in the next few months.

#### 4.3. Action

- No specific actions required.

### **5. 2015 NATIONAL SSC WORKSHOP**

#### 5.1. Documents

Attachment 6. National SSC Draft Agenda

#### 5.2. Overview

The next national meeting of Council SSC representatives will be held February 23 – 25 in Honolulu. The workshop theme is “Providing ABC specifications in the face of uncertainty: from data to climate and ecosystems”. Discussion topics include evaluating current ABC control rules, setting ABCs in data limited situations, and incorporating ecological, environmental, and climate change considerations into stock assessments.

Although a budget is not yet final and plans are still underway, since the next meeting of this Committee will occur after the National Workshop, a list of candidates should be developed at this meeting.

#### 5.3. Action

- Provide comment on the agenda and topics
- Identify candidate SSC representatives

### **6. ABC CONTROL RULE WORKSHOP REPORT**

#### 6.1. Documents

#### 6.2. Overview

The SSC will hold a workshop devoted to the ABC Control Rule prior to this SSC meeting. Recommendations from the workshop will be discussed by the SSC, and control rule revisions considered.

#### 6.3. Action

- Review workshop recommendations
- Recommend control rule revisions

## 7. HOGFISH ASSESSMENT REVIEW

### 7.1. Documents

Attachment 7. Hogfish Assessment

### 7.2. Overview

An assessment of hogfish was recently completed by the FL FWCC. The SSC is asked to review the assessment and provide fishing level recommendations.

### 7.3. Presentation

Assessment Overview: Mike Murphy, FL FWCC

### 7.4. Action

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

## SSC RECOMMENDATION:

Table 2. Hogfish recommendations

Criteria		Deterministic		Probabilistic
Overfished evaluation				
Overfishing evaluation				
MFMT				
SSB <sub>msy</sub> (unit)				
MSST (unit)				
MSY (1000 lb)				
Y at 75% F <sub>msy</sub> (1000 lb)				
ABC Control Rule Adjustment				
P-Star				
OFL (1000 lb)				
ABC RECOMMENDATIONS				
Year	Landed LBS	Discard LBS	Landed Number	Discard Number



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## 8. MUTTON SNAPPER ASSESSMENT REVIEW

### 8.1. Documents

Attachment 8. Mutton Snapper Assessment\*

### 8.2. Overview

An assessment of mutton snapper was recently completed by the FL FWCC. The SSC is asked to review the assessment and provide fishing level recommendations.

### 8.3. Presentation

Assessment Overview: Joe O’Hop, FL FWCC

### 8.4. Action

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

## SSC RECOMMENDATION:

Table 3. Mutton 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				
OFL (1000 lb)				
ABC RECOMMENDATIONS				
Year	Landed LBS	Discard LBS	Landed Number	Discard Number


## 9. KING MACKEREL ASSESSMENT REVIEW

### 9.1. Documents

Attachment 9. King Mackerel Assessment

### 9.2. Overview

An assessment of King Mackerel was recently completed through SEDAR 38. The SSC is asked to review the assessment and provide fishing level recommendations.

### 9.3. Presentation

Assessment Overview: John Walter, SEFSC  
 Review Panel Perspective: Jim Berkson, Review Panel Chair

### 9.4. Action

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

## SSC RECOMMENDATION:

Table 4. King Mackerel 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


## 10. SNAPPER GROUPEL REGULATORY AMENDMENT 16

### 10.1. Documents

Attachment 10. Regulatory Amendment 16 Draft

Attachment 11. Interaction analysis\*

### 10.2. Overview

Regulatory Amendment 16 includes one action to address the prohibition on the use of black sea bass pots that was implemented through Regulatory Amendment 19 and became effective on October 23, 2013. Scoping meetings were held in January 2014 and the Council reviewed alternatives at the March 2014 meeting and provided guidance on changes and additional alternatives to include. The Council will review the analyses for this amendment at their December 2014 meeting. Public hearings will be held in January 2015, and the amendment will most likely be approved for submission to the Secretary of Commerce at the Council's June 2015 meeting. The SSC is asked to provide technical review of the analyses prepared by Southeast Regional Office staff.

### 10.3. Presentation

Analysis of interactions: Nick Farmer, SERO

### 10.4. Action

- Review interactions analysis approach
- Recommend whether methods represent BSIA

### **SSC RECOMMENDATION:**

## 11. BAG LIMIT ANALYSIS

### 11.1. Documents

Attachment 12. Bag Limit Analysis for gag grouper

Attachment 13. Bag limit Analysis for blueline tilefish

### 11.2. Overview

At their June 2014 meeting, the Council approved development of Regulatory Amendment 22 to address adjustments to the ABC, ACLs, and OY for gag and wreckfish

based on results of the stock assessment for those two species. The amendment also includes an action to modify the bag limit for gag. The Council reviewed the amendment at their September meeting and approved it for public hearings, which will be held via webinar in November 2014. The Council will review public hearing comments at their December 2014 meeting and approve the amendment for Secretarial review. The SSC is asked to provide technical review of the bag limit analyses.

The SSC is also provided this opportunity to review bag limit methods in general, and provide recommendations on the adequacy of the approaches used. This request is made for two reasons. First, in trying to streamline SSC operations several years ago the Council agreed that it was not necessary for the SSC to review each and every amendment in its entirety, as had been the practice to that point. Instead SSC review efforts are directed to specific technical analysis of management actions. Bag limits are a clear example of such analyses. Second, during an earlier review of a black sea bass bag limit analysis, conducted in March 2011, the SSC decline to review the method in general due to delayed receipt of the analytical report. During that review the SSC explicitly stated that a consensus position was not developed, and provided broad comments on the application. Allowing the SSC to review current bag limit methods and explicitly stating that they are adequate and based on BSAI principles will streamline review of future analyses applying those methods to particular stocks. Bag limit analyses for gag and blueline tilefish are provide to support this discussion. These represent a range of bag limit change options, with gag addressing an increase and blueline tilefish a decrease.

### 11.3.Presentation

Bag limit analysis methods and gag grouper application: Nick Farmer, SEFSC

### 11.4.Action

- Review and provide guidance on general approach to evaluating bag limits.
  - Is the approach BSIA?
  - Are methods and results reported adequately?
  - What role should the SSC play in reviewing application of similar methods to specific stocks in the future?
- Review gag analysis and provide BSIA recommendations

## **SSC RECOMMENDATION:**

## **12. COUNCIL WORKPLAN UPDATE**

### 12.1.Documents

Attachment 14. SAFMC Work Plan, September 2014

Attachment 15. SAFMC Amendments Overview, September 2014

### 12.2.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

### 12.3. Action

- Comment on Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7/SG Amendment 33 Action 5, addressing the counting of fillets toward possession limits.

## **13. OTHER BUSINESS**

## **14. 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, November 18, 2014 for inclusion in the first briefing book for the December Council meeting.

## **15. NEXT MEETINGS**

### **15.1. SAFMC SSC MEETINGS**

#### 2015 Proposed Dates

April 28 - 30.

October 20 - 22.

### **15.2. SAFMC Meetings**

#### 2014 Council Meetings

December 1 - 5, New Bern, NC

## **16. ADJOURN**