



REPORT OCTOBER 2025 SSC MEETING



**October
2025
Meeting
Report**

THE SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Scientific and Statistical Committee





SNAPPER GROUPEL MSE



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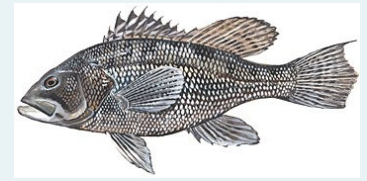
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Snapper Grouper MSE



SSC recommendations

Are there any concerns with using outputs from past SEDAR assessments or the rapid conditioning model (for unassessed species) to parameterize the MSE?

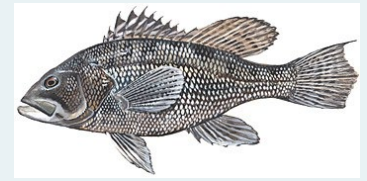
- Use of most recent SEDAR assessment outputs is appropriate.

Are there specific diagnostics or validation steps the SSC would like to see applied to ensure model credibility and consistency across species?

- A sensitivity analysis comparing outputs from operating models based on SEDAR assessments and Rapid Conditioning Model (few SEDAR species).
- A “data workshop” for 5-6 species will be held to obtain data inputs to configure the Rapid Conditioning Models.
- SSC noted concerns about data used for unassessed species.



Snapper Grouper MSE



Aggregate bag limit – SSC recommendations

- Explore two scenarios (“envelope” approach) likely provide bounds if a multi-species bag limit is implemented, recognizing that what would actually occur is probably somewhere in between.
- Investigate compliance rate of zero regarding bag limit.
- Use angler response and behavior information from Florida EFP studies to compare quantitative model runs and modeling outputs.



WRECKFISH MSE



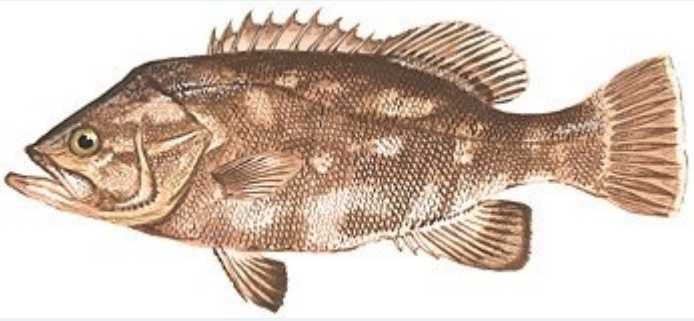
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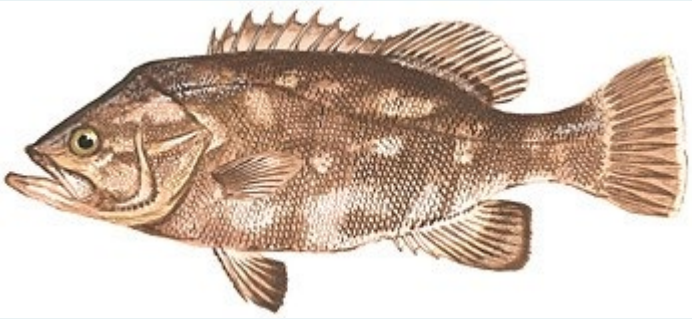
Wreckfish MSE



- Length composition data shows relatively narrow distribution of older fish: Recruitment is likely from immigration from outside US fished area.
- Age and length composition data is limited.
- Consider DBSRA, and water temperature as co-variate
- SSC recommends reaching out to previous assessment analysts.



Wreckfish MSE



- Effort and CPUE:
 - Fishery dependent index is critical.
 - Are management actions accounted for in index development?
 - Explore variation and trends in # lines, hooks per line, hours fished.
 - Are there other effort metrics useful?
 - Explore changes in catchability over time.
- Include information from logbooks in stakeholder engagement phase.





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TILEFISH

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Tilefish



SEDAR 89 revision

- SSC appreciated corrections made to commercial landings and further investigation of F_{init} .
- SSC supports change made to F_{init} .
- SSC considers revised assessment consistent with BSIA.
- Assessment provides reliable, quantitative estimate of current stock status given uncertainties discussed in initial review and October meeting.



Tilefish



SSC reiterated some uncertainties and recommendations discussed during initial review, incl.:

- *Choice of direct estimate of MSY in stock-recruit relationship*
Poor fit of B-H spawner-recruit curve, limited data at low spawning stock size, significant uncertainty in steepness profiling.
- *Dome-shaped selectivity and selectivity block change in 2020.*
- *Consider exploring new fishery-dependent index (commercial longline index) using years since major changes in fishery.*
- *Monitoring stock using SADLS data, monitor landings (actual landings vs. projected landings from assessment, and is ACL met?) as health check until next assessment.*



Tilefish



Projections

- The provided projections are likely reliable, assuming uncertainties and assumptions used in projections are appropriate (note uncertainties in SSC review).
- Concern about terminal year of 2022 =>
Increasing projection uncertainty with time.
- Next assessment scheduled for 2029. May be too long between assessments given large uncertainties in assessment and projections.



Tilefish

Fishing level recommendations

No change in P* of 30%.

Year	Observed Landings (lbs, gw)	Observed Landings (number)	Projected OFL recomm. (lbs, gw)	Projected OFL recomm. (number)	Projected ABC recomm. (lbs, gw)	Projected ABC recomm. (number)
2023	368,000	53,000	-----	-----	-----	-----
2024	376,000	55,000	-----	-----	-----	-----
2025	389,000	58,000	-----	-----	-----	-----
2026	-----	-----	546,000	81,000	459,000	68,000
2027	-----	-----	540,000	80,000	465,000	69,000



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Other Agenda Items

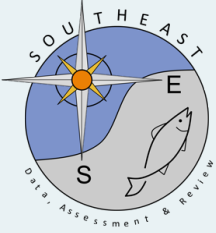


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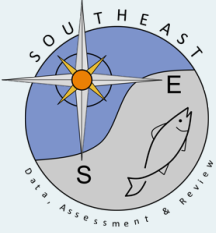


SEDAR



SSC recommendations - Process

- Expanded input during model development welcomed, but some concern about SSC workload.
- Hold a “*kick-off*” meeting with ATT, fishery stakeholders, and other experts before assessment development begins to help identify useful data and assessment approaches.
- ATT should be updated/consulted during process. Stakeholder representation needs to be sincere to ensure buy-in and avoid further erosion of public trust. One or two follow-up meetings should be held to inform stakeholders of progress and provide opportunity for feedback.
- Developing separate TOR templates for SEFSC and SEDAR assessments.
If TORs are established prior to stakeholder engagement, valuable industry / insider knowledge may be lost. APs can offer this info, but other information may be available outside AP.



SEDAR



SSC recommendations - Process

- Review process after some time (~5 years?). SSC intends to internally review efficacy of “check-in”, realized workload, etc. after a couple years.
- Council staff to provide brief update of ongoing assessments during quarterly SSC meetings.
- Receive at least one brief “*check-in*” for every assessment before final model review.
- Consider holding 1-2 additional short SSC meetings (webinars) to allow for a more iterative process in assessment development and review.
- Need for flexibility during SSC review phase for potential model changes as opposed to a single, final review. Throughput may decrease if this requires official revision request.
- Ensure consistent nomenclature (develop table) of different groups, stages, meetings, etc., and ensure consistent expectations and roles of participants at each stage.



Remaining topics

- Update on amendments.
- TORs for King and Spanish Mackerel, and Snowy Grouper.
- Dolphin fish MSE (not discussed)
- Revised MRIP/FES.
- Black Sea Bass genetics.
- MSY proxy Work Group.
- SSC Working Groups.



THANK YOU

