SSC Report

Oct 22-24, 2013 Meeting
Crowne Plaza
North Charleston, SC

OCT 2013 SSC MEETING AGENDA

- SEDAR Activities

- Stock Assessment Recommendations

- Spanish Mackerel Assessment Projections

- SEFIS Update

- ACCSP Biological Sampling Target Process

- Assessment Reviews:
    - Mutton Snapper update
    - SEDAR 32 (Blueline Tilefish)
    - SEDAR 36 (Snowy Grouper)

- Data Poor Assessment Approaches

- ABC Control Rule PSA components

- Review Regulatory Amendments and Actions

- Council Workplan Update

- ~~SEDAR Activities~~

- Stock Assessment Recommendations

- ~~Spanish Mackerel Assessment Projections~~ *(Thursday AM)*

- SEFIS Update

- ~~ACCSP Biological Sampling Target Process~~

- Assessment Reviews:
  - ~~Mutton Snapper update~~
  - SEDAR 32 (Blueline Tilefish)
  - ~~SEDAR 36 (Snowy Grouper)~~

- Data Poor Assessment Approaches

- ABC Control Rule PSA components

- ~~Review Regulatory Amendments and Actions~~

- ~~Council Workplan Update~~

- Stock Assessment Recommendations

- SEFIS Update

- Assessment Reviews: SEDAR 32 (Blueline Tilefish)

- Data Poor Assessment Approaches

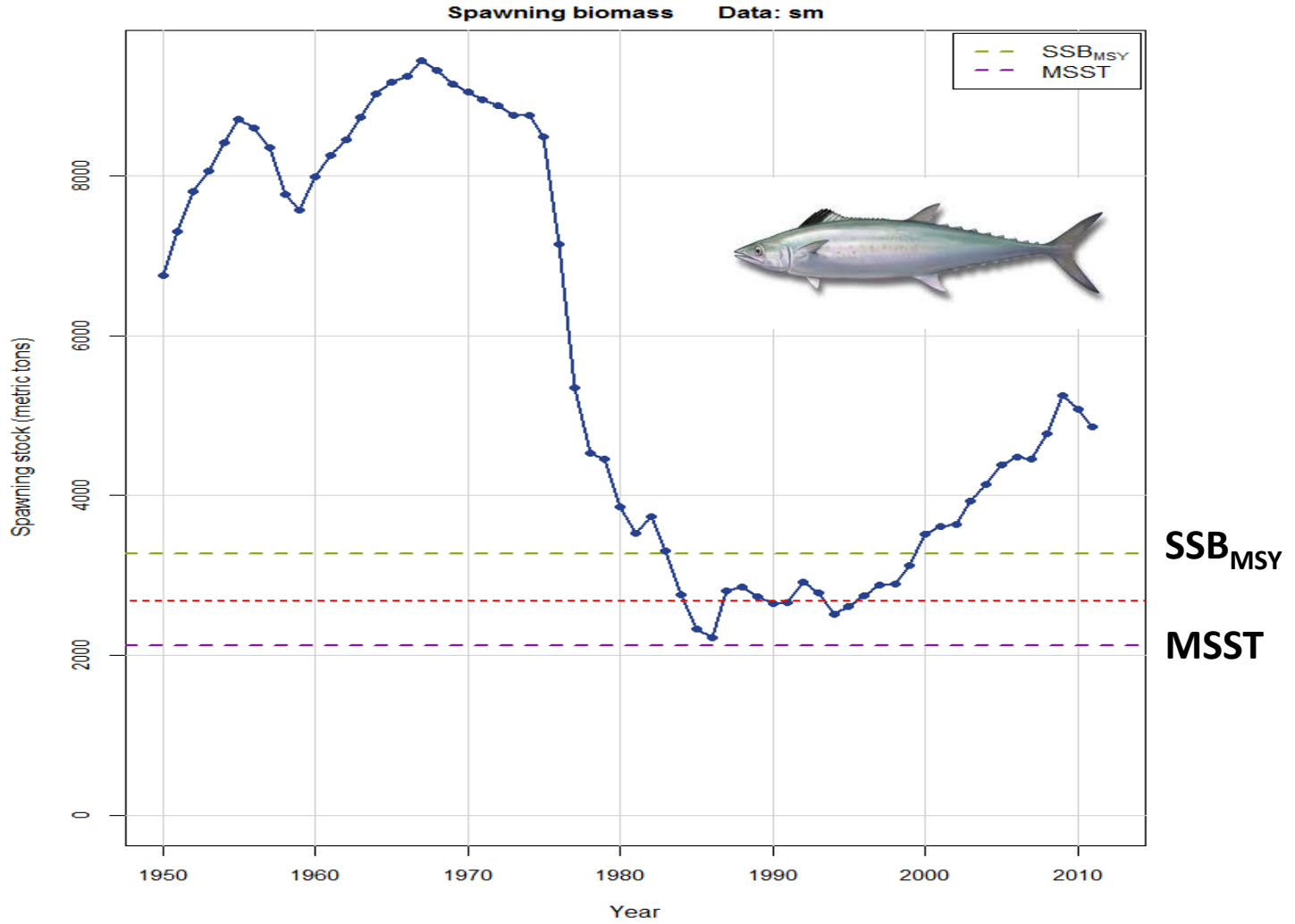- ABC Control Rule PSA components

Stock Assessment Recommendations

- **Guidance on the basis for MSST**:

  – SSC reviewed a thorough SEFSC document discussing pros and cons of various approaches:

    $$MSST = (1\text{-}M)\ SSB_{MSY}$$

    $$MSST = 75\%\ SSB_{MSY}$$

Biomass Status (MSST)

Spawning biomass   Data: sm

SSB$_{MSY}$

MSST

Stock Assessment Recommendations

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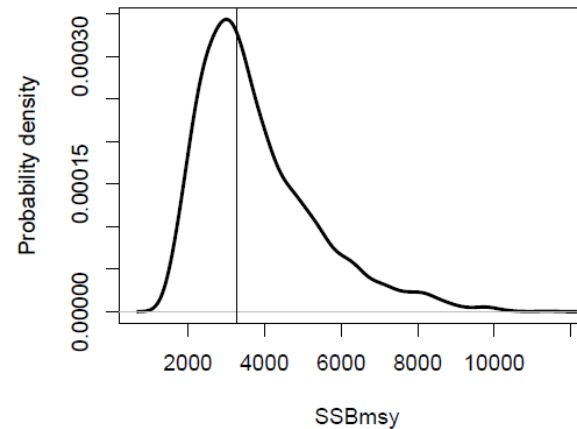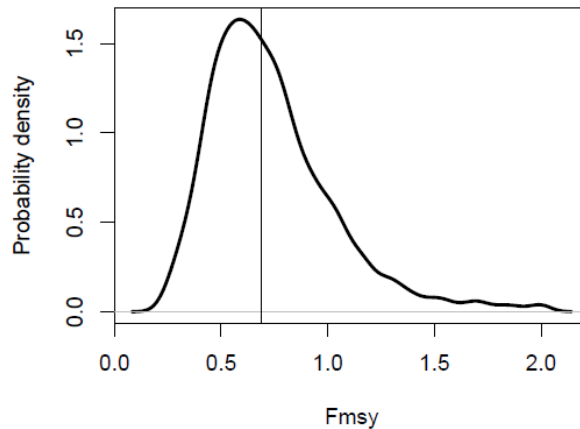
    $$\text{MSST} = \text{(1-M) SSB}_{MSY}$$

    $$\text{MSST} = 75\% \text{ SSB}_{MSY}$$

  - Council had indicated an interest in adopting MSST=75%SSB$_{MSY}$
  - SSC expressed no concern with the use of this approach

Stock Assessment Recommendations

- **Deterministic vs. probabilistic fishing level recommendations**:
  - SSC had no concerns with the use of both approaches for presenting stock assessment results

Criteria	Deterministic	Probabilistic
Overfished evaluation	No (SSB/MSST=2.29)	87% MCB runs above SSBmsy
Overfishing evaluation	No (F/Fmsy=0.526)	89% MCB runs below Fmsy

SEFIS Update

- SSC requested that a workshop be held in the next 6 months to review methods for developing abundance indices from the SERFS video monitoring.

- Include SEFSC staff, SEDAR staff, SSC members as well as scientists involved in the Gulf of Mexico video survey.

- Ideally, ready for SEDAR 41 red snapper assessment.

Blueline Tilefish Assessment Review

- Part of SEDAR 32 benchmark assessment

- <u>Exploitation status</u>: overfishing is occurring (F_{CUR}/F_{MSY} = 2.37)

- <u>Biomass status</u>:

  - if MSST = 75%SSB_{MSY} **stock not overfished** (SSB_{2011}/MSST=1.09)

  - if MSST = (1-M)SSB_{MSY} **stock overfished** (SSB_{2011}/MSST=0.83)

- Steepness parameter not estimated (fixed at 0.84)

- Application of ABC control rule $\rightarrow$ P* = 30%

- **Catch level recommendations (OFL and ABC)**:

  - Projections provided by SEFSC according to SSC recommendations (P* = 50% for OFL; P* = 30% for ABC)

  - High level of uncertainty

  - Request that projections be reviewed by the SSC before new catch levels are adopted by the Council

Performance of Data-Poor Approaches

- Group of international-level fishery scientists conducted a study evaluating data-poor methods of setting catch limits.

- <u>Take homes messages</u>:

  - Maximum catch rules (*e.g.*, max. catch scalars, 3rd high. catch, etc.) lead to high probabilities of overfishing and low yields, particularly for stock levels below B$_{MSY}$

  - ORCS WG Rule generally outperforms avg. catch rules, and may provide adequate short- to medium-term approaches, allowing additional data collection for use of other methods.

  - Simulating a data-limited management system reveals that it may be difficult to manage stocks substantially below B$_{MSY}$

ABC Control Rule PSA components

- SSC noted that an evaluation of the performance of the ABC control rule (P*) would be extremely helpful in assessing how the method has worked.

- SSC recommends that a subcommittee be established to evaluate:

  - Use of PSA (*keep, remove, modify?*)

  - Revamping of the scoring system to be more Tier specific, allowing more refinement of the dimensions used to provide the adjustment in ABC for each tier.

  - Weighting of each of the factors within control rule dimensions.

  - Any other issues that might be deemed relevant for evaluation and improvement of the ABC control rule.

Questions?