

SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE POLICY

(Revised September 2006)

Objectives and Duties

When requested by the council through the Executive Director

1. The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) shall provide expert scientific and technical advice to the Council on the development of fishery management policy, on establishing the goals and objectives of fishery management plans (FMP) or amendments, and on the preparation of such plans or amendments.
2. When requested by the Council, the SSC, through its Biological and/or Socioeconomic Subcommittees, shall supply the Council with a critical review of the scientific information necessary to make management decisions, such as stock assessments and reviews (e.g., SEDAR), reports on stock status, socioeconomic impacts of management measures, sustainability of fishing practices, and habitat and ecosystem status. Such information may include a recommendation on ABC, where appropriate, based on the best scientific information available.
3. The SSC shall assist the Council in the development, collection, and evaluation of such statistical, biological, economic, social, and other scientific information as is relevant to the Council's development and amendment of any FMP.
4. The SSC shall assist the Council in determining what statistical, biological, economic, social or other scientific information is needed for the development of a FMP or amendment that meets the requirements of the Act; and shall advise the Council as to the best way of obtaining this information, including identifying entities with ongoing research programs that may be able to develop the needed information.
5. The SSC shall advise the Council on preparing comments on any FMP or amendments prepared by the Secretary or Secretary's delegate or other Councils which are transmitted to the Council pursuant to the Act.
6. The SSC shall comment on, if requested by the Council, any proposed regulations which the Council deems necessary to implement any FMP or any amendment to a FMP which is prepared by the Council.
7. The SSC shall assist the Council in establishing criteria for judging plan effectiveness.
8. The SSC shall submit to the Council such reports as the Committee deems appropriate and such reports as are requested by the Council.
9. The SSC shall perform such other necessary and appropriate duties as may be requested by the Council to carry out its functions under the Act.

Membership Composition

1. The SSC of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council shall be appointed by, and serve at the pleasure of, the Council.
2. The SSC shall be composed of experts in the biological, statistical, economic, social, and other relevant disciplines from the Federal, State and private scientific communities and whatever other source the Council deems appropriate.
3. The SSC shall elect a chairman and vice chairman from among its members to serve terms of 2 years or until a successor is elected. SSC members that are employed by NMFS cannot serve as chairman or vice-chairman of the SSC.
4. The Biological and Socioeconomic Subcommittees of the SSC shall elect a chairperson and vice chairperson from among its members to serve terms of 2 years or until a successor is elected. NMFS employees may serve as chairman or vice chairman of the subcommittees.

Terms of Members

Members shall be appointed for indefinite terms by the Council.

Termination of Membership

A SSC member will be replaced at the Council's discretion if:

1. They transfer employment or move to a different location.
2. They are absent from two consecutive meetings without giving adequate notification or reason to the Council Executive Director.
3. They appear unable or unwilling to fulfill their obligations as an SSC member.
4. Their area of expertise is no longer required; or
5. The Council determines they should be removed for just cause (e.g., violation of marine resource law and felony conviction, etc.; these examples are not all inclusive).

Appointment/Replacement of Members

When vacancies occur on the SSC due to resignation or Council action removing a member:

1. The Executive Director shall announce the vacancy(s) through the news media, Council mailing lists, NOAA Fisheries mailings and other such means deemed appropriate to solicit qualified nominees. Interested persons will be requested to provide a resume and other supporting material relative to their qualifications and area of expertise.

2. The Scientific and Statistical Selection Committee will review the qualifications of the nominees and make recommendations for appointments to the SSC to the Council. The Scientific and Statistical Selection Committee may consult with SSC members prior to making recommendations to the Council.

Administrative Provisions

1. The SSC meetings shall be scheduled by the Executive Director, with the approval of the Council Chairperson, as often as necessary to fulfill the Committee's responsibilities, within time and budgetary constraints.
2. The SSC shall report to the Council through the Executive Director.
3. The Council Executive Director shall provide such staff and other support as the Council considers necessary for SSC activities, within budgetary limitations.
4. Members of the SSC shall serve without compensation. They may be paid their actual expenses for travel incurred in the performance of their duties for the SSC in accordance with Council policy.
5. The SSC shall follow the Council's procedures covering confidentiality of data.
6. The Council's plan development format outlines the interactions and consulting procedures between the Council and the SSC.