

**Scope of Work  
Standing and Reef Fish SSC Meeting  
May 31 – June 1, 2018  
Tampa, Florida**

Synopses of the agenda action items are as follows.

**I) Introductions and Adoption of Agenda**

Any changes to the agenda or additions under Other Business should be made at this time

**II) Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the March 26-27, 2018 meeting of the Standing, Coral, Socioeconomic, and Reef Fish SSC should be reviewed, and any needed corrections noted.

**III) Selection of SSC representative at June 2018 Council meeting**

The SSC should select a representative to attend the June 18-21, 2018 Council meeting in Key West, Florida. The SSC representative will present the SSC's comments and recommendations from the current meeting on items reviewed to the appropriate Council committees.

**Standing and Reef Fish SSC Session**

**IV) SEDAR 37 Update (FWC hogfish assessment)**

Florida FWC staff will present an update to the 2013 SEDAR 37 assessment of hogfish in the south Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico. In 2017 Reef Fish Amendment 43 established a separate hogfish stock for the Gulf of Mexico consisting of hogfish in all waters of the Gulf of Mexico north of a line extending west from 25° 09' north latitude (south of Cape Sable) in the Gulf of Mexico. This update therefore only applies to the hogfish stock in the west Florida shelf (from the panhandle of Florida south to Cape Sable, FL). The SSC should determine if the update assessment is the best scientific information available and if it is suitable for management. If so, the SSC should recommend OFL, and may recommend an ABC.

**V) SEDAR 51 (gray snapper benchmark assessment)**

SEFSC staff will present the SEDAR 51 gray snapper benchmark assessment. This is the first assessment of gray snapper in the Gulf of Mexico. The SSC should determine if the benchmark assessment is the best scientific information available and if it is suitable for management. If so, the SSC should recommend OFL, and may recommend an ABC.

**VI) SEDAR 52 (red snapper standard assessment)**

SEFSC staff will present the SEDAR 52 red snapper standard assessment. Previously, a red snapper benchmark assessment was conducted in 2013 (SEDAR 31) and an update assessment was conducted in 2014. The SSC should determine if the standard assessment is the best

scientific information available and if it is suitable for management. If so, the SSC should recommend OFL, and may recommend an ABC.

**VII) Discussion of Best Scientific Information Available**

NOAA Fisheries is developing a “Framework for Determining that Stock Status Determinations and Harvest Specifications are Based on the Best Scientific Information Available” in order to clarify the process for determining best scientific information available under National Standard 2. Staff will present an overview of National Standard 2 as revised in 2013. Staff will then review a white paper containing a draft framework and will review discussions held during the February 2018 Council Coordinating Committee meeting. The SSC is asked to comment on the draft framework and to provide any recommendations, which will be presented to NOAA Fisheries for consideration when revising the draft framework.

**VIII) SEDAR 64 (yellowtail snapper benchmark assessment TOR and schedule)**

SEDAR staff has developed draft terms of reference and project schedule for the SEDAR 64 yellowtail snapper benchmark assessment. The SSC is asked to review the TORs, recommend any changes if needed, and vote on whether to approve them. In addition, SEDAR is seeking volunteers to participate in the data, assessment, and review work groups.

**IX) Public Hearing Draft Reef Fish Amendment 48/Red Drum Amendment 5**

Staff will review a public hearing draft amendment to set or revise MSY proxies, minimum stock size threshold, maximum fishing mortality threshold, and optimum yield for reef fish and red drum. The purpose is to establish status determination criteria and optimum yield for all reef fish and red drum to be consistent with the National Standard 1 guidelines. The SSC is not asked to select preferred alternatives but to comment on the range of actions and alternatives from a scientific perspective. Staff will also present a reference sheet being developed to help the Council members and public better understand the technical concepts in the amendment. The SSC may comment on ways to improve the reference sheet.

**X) Tentative 2018 SSC Meeting Dates**

Staff will review the tentative schedule of SSC meetings in 2018. SSC meetings are generally scheduled 3 weeks in advance of each Council meeting. They can be rescheduled if necessary due to conflicts or availability of review materials. SSC members should let staff know if they have any conflicts with the proposed dates.

**XI) Other Business**

If the SSC has any other issues to discuss that are not on the agenda, they can be discussed here.