

**Scientific and Statistical Committees
Action Guide
March 13-14, 2019
Tampa, FL – Council Office**

Agenda Item II: Approval of SSC Minutes

Action: Review, modify (if necessary), and approve minutes

Committee input and next steps: The Committee will review, modify if necessary, and approve the minutes from the January 9, 2019 Standing, Socioeconomic, Mackerel, and Reef Fish SSC webinar.

Agenda Item III: Selection of SSC representative for the April 1-4, 2019 Council meeting in Biloxi, Mississippi

Action: Select SSC representative

Committee input and next steps: The Committees will select a member to attend the April 2019 Council meeting. The representative will attend the meeting, provide a summary presentation, answer questions and provide insight into the SSC deliberations.

Agenda Item IV: Review of SSC Operating Procedures

Action: Discussion and recommendation via a motion

Committee input and next steps: The Committees will review a white paper outlining proposed operating procedures and best practices for how the SSCs conduct business.

Agenda item V: Review of SEDAR Stock Assessment Executive Summary Components

Action: Discussion and recommendations

Committee input and next steps: The SSC will review the proposed list of items to be included in a stock assessment executive summary, which will preface each stock assessment report. The goal is to ensure that the most critical information, and most frequently asked questions, are provided and answered in a concise and easily digestible format. Once this format is agreed upon this list should be used consistently across assessments. Further, this summary is expected to be of great use to staff preparing amendments to fishery management plans, Council members, and the general public.

Agenda item VI: Updated Gray Snapper Projections at $F_{26\%SPR}$

Action: Discussion and recommendation via a motion

Committee input and next steps: The data used to inform the gray snapper assessment (SEDAR 51) did not identify a stock-recruitment relationship and therefore requires use of an MSY proxy as the basis of management advice. For this assessment, the MSY proxy recommended by the SSC was $F_{30\%SPR}$, which reflected the uncertainty in the assessment acknowledged by the SSC. At its August 2018 meeting the SSC reviewed a global SPR analysis of $F_{23\%SPR}$ to $F_{40\%SPR}$ for gray snapper, which showed that at proxies of $F_{26\%SPR}$ or higher, overfishing was occurring in 2015 (the terminal year for SEDAR 52). However, when fishing at a constant F_{SPR} , overfishing was projected to end by 2020. At proxies of $F_{25\%SPR}$ or higher, the stock was overfished in 2015, but no longer by 2019. If $MSST = 0.5 * SSB_{MSY \text{ proxy}}$, the stock is not overfished under any SPR proxy. In the absence of a consensus for a specific recommendation, all SSC members agreed that the proxy should not be any lower than $F_{30\%SPR}$.

At its January 2019 meeting, the Council reviewed Amendment 51 and added an alternative to set MSY at the $F_{26\%SPR}$ proxy for gray snapper. The Council also added an alternative to define MGMT equal to $F_{26\%SPR}$, based on advice received from SERO/SEFSC, and on the global SPR analysis the SSC reviewed in August 2018. Due to these additional alternatives, the Council requested projections of OFL and ABC at $F_{26\%SPR}$. The SEFSC staff will present the SSC with updated projections for gray snapper at $F_{26\%SPR}$. The SSC should review yield streams based on the $F_{26\%SPR}$ proxy and provide updated OFL and ABC recommendations for gray snapper.

Agenda item VII: Review of Gulf Sector Allocations

Action: Discussion and recommendation via a motion

Committee input and next steps: Staff will present fishery allocations in the Gulf of Mexico. The information provided includes fishery allocations, the basis for the allocations, and the amendments that established the allocations and their year of implementation.

Agenda Item VIII: Review of FMP Objectives

Action: Education and information

Committee Input and Next Steps: Council staff will review the Gulf Council's FMP objectives for reef fish, coastal migratory pelagics, shrimp, spiny lobster, coral, and red drum. The SSC should discuss the objectives and provide any comments.

Agenda Item IX: Review of Generic ACL Carryover Amendment

Action: Discussion and recommendations

Committee input and next steps: The Committees will review the Generic ACL Carryover Amendment, which is scheduled for final action at the April 2019 Council meeting. This amendment is designed to allow for carrying over unharvested quota from one fishing season to the next under certain conditions, for applicable species only. The SEFSC conducted carry over simulations for king mackerel and red snapper that are provided as background information in the meeting materials. Staff will review the actions and alternatives, and will brief the Committees on the next steps for the amendment pending final action in April. The SSC should provide any feedback on the Council's proposed list of species to which the carryover would apply with respect to the ABC Control Rule. If appropriate, the SSC should recommend the use of the carryover provision for the eligible species.

Agenda Item X: Update on NOAA RESTORE Activities

Action: Education and information

Committee Input and Next Steps: The NOAA RESTORE science program promotes scientific research and observation of long-term sustainability of the ecosystem in the Gulf of Mexico. Dr. David Chagaris will present an update of the program's ongoing activities, which include an investigation of ecosystem modeling approaches to improve fisheries management.

Agenda Item XI: Revision of ABC Control Rule

Action: Discussion and recommendation via a motion

Committee Input and Next Steps: Dr. Joe Powers will lead a discussion of the current ABC Control Rule, and of the ways in which the Rule could be modified for improvement. The current Rule, and the P* and M* worksheets, are provided for reference. These tools were designed to adjust the ABC relative to the OFL by accounting for known metrics from the stock assessment, and consideration of those which were unknown or poorly understood. They provide a quantitative method for establishing scientific uncertainty in the difference between the ABC and the OFL.

Agenda Item XII: Selection of SSC Volunteers for SEDAR 68: Scamp Data Workshop

Action: Solicit volunteers

Committee Input and Next Steps: The Committees will volunteer members to participate in the Scamp Assessment Development Team (four members), and in the Data Workshop (four additional members) for the SEDAR 68 stock assessment of scamp. The Scamp Assessment Development Team will follow the assessment from start to finish, while the involvement of the

members of the Data Workshop Panel will be constrained to that workshop (currently scheduled for winter of 2019).

Agenda Item XIII: Stock Status Review of Gulf of Mexico Shrimp Species

Action: Discussion

Committee Input and Next Steps: NMFS staff will provide the SSC with the updated stock assessments for penaeid shrimp. The SSC should discuss the assessments and provide any comments or feedback.

Agenda Item XIV: Review of Red Snapper Management Strategy Evaluation Tool

Action: Education and information

Committee Input and Next Steps: Dr. Yuying Zhang will present a draft decision-support tool based on a management strategy evaluation framework for the Gulf of Mexico red snapper fishery. The tool will help quantify the risks and trade-offs among the various alternative long-term management strategies and potential short-term regulations that might be used for the rebuilding and sustainable management of the Gulf of Mexico red snapper resource. The Committee should review the materials presented and provide feedback as necessary to improve the tool for use in fishery management.

Agenda Item XV: Other Business

Action: Discussion

Committee Input and Next Steps: Additional items may be brought up for discussion by Committee members, time permitting. If the committee wishes to pursue action, then action can be scheduled at a future SSC meeting.