# Scientific and Statistical Committees
## Action Guide
## September 17-18, 2019
## Tampa, FL – Council Office

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**Agenda Item III:** 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 July 17-18, 2019 Standing, Socioeconomic, Mackerel, and Reef Fish SSC meeting.

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**Agenda Item IV:** Selection of SSC representative for the October 21-24, 2019 Council meeting in Galveston, Texas

**Action:** Select SSC representative

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

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**Agenda Item V:** Stock Assessment Review: SEDAR 61 – Gulf of Mexico Red Grouper

**Action:** Discussion and recommendations

**Committee input and next steps:** The Committees will review presentations of the model, results, and projections for the SEDAR 61 stock assessment of Gulf red grouper, recommending any modifications as appropriate. The Committees will evaluate the materials and determine whether the assessment represents the best scientific information available, and inform the Council of the stock status of Gulf red grouper based on status determination criteria. The Committees will also determine whether the assessment is suitable for management advice and, if suitable, will recommend values for the overfishing limit (OFL) and acceptable biological catch (ABC) using the Council's ABC Control Rule. The Committees should consider both annual and constant catch yields.

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**Agenda item VI:** Draft Format of Stock Assessment Executive Summary

**Action:** Discussion and recommendations

**Committee input and next steps:** The Committee will review the draft Stock Assessment Executive Summary for Gulf red grouper, and will provide recommendations on modifications

as appropriate. This summary is intended to serve as an easy-to-digest method of communicating the data, methods and results of the stock assessment for the vast majority of interested readers. SEFSC and Council staff will make continual modifications to the summary with successive assessments until a general format is established.

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**Agenda item VII:** Update of Itarget Model and Projections for Gulf Lane Snapper including OFL and ABC Recommendations

**Action:** Discussion and recommendations

**Committee input and next steps:** The Committees will review presentations of the model, results, and projections for the Itarget model and projections for Gulf lane snapper, recommending any modifications as appropriate. The Committees will evaluate the materials and determine whether the assessment represents the best scientific information available. The Committees will also determine whether the assessment is suitable for management advice and, if suitable, will recommend values for the OFL and ABC using the Council's ABC Control Rule. The Committees should consider both annual and constant catch yields.

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**Agenda item VIII:** Discussion of Variability in Yield Projections from Stock Assessments

**Action:** Discussion and recommendations

**Committee input and next steps:** Dr. Michael Drexler (Ocean Conservancy) will provide a presentation that sets the stage for discussion of 'spikes' in OFL-ABC yields seen in stock assessment projections. The Committee will familiarize themselves with this issue, and provide any recommendations as appropriate.

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**Agenda Item IX:** Review of SEFSC Key Stocks Analysis and Interim Analyses

**Action:** Education and information

**Committee Input and Next Steps:** SEFSC staff will review preliminary work to identify which managed stocks with accepted stock assessments may have candidate representative indices of abundance for use in interim analyses. The ultimate goal of this work is to conduct simulations of candidate representative indices for the applicable species to test an index's viability at representing abundance for that species. The SEFSC will continue this work and update the Committees as progress is made.

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**Agenda Item X:** Review of South Atlantic Council SSC Recommendations for MRIP APAIS/FES Survey Methods

**Action:** Discussion and recommendations

**Committee Input and Next Steps:** Dr. Luiz Barbieri will review discussions and SAFMC SSC recommendations from that SSC's MRIP APAIS/FES Survey Methods workshop, held in Charleston on August 19-21, 2019. Several presentations were given during this workshop, and are provided as background material. This workshop aimed to review and describe the sources of disparity between the old Coastal Household Telephone Survey and the new Fishing Effort Survey (FES) estimates of recreational effort for SAFMC managed stocks, considering the impacts of the effort survey change and SEFSC post-processing. The workshop also sought to establish approaches for the use of FES estimates for unassessed species. Dr. Barbieri will discuss the findings of the SAFMC SSC, and the Committees will provide any recommendations as appropriate.

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**Agenda Item XI:** Review White Paper on SEDAR Best Practices for use of Recreational Survey Data

**Action:** Discussion and recommendations

**Committee Input and Next Steps:** SEFSC staff will provide an overview of the recently released white paper from the Office of Science and Technology, Southeast Fisheries Science Center, and Southeast Regional Office on the Recommended Use of the Current Gulf of Mexico Surveys of Marine Recreational Fishing in Stock Assessments. This white paper was written to detail the recommended path forward for the consideration and treatment of Gulf state fishery survey data and the APAIS- and FES-adjusted MRIP survey data. The Committees should review the white paper, discuss its findings, and offer topical recommendations to the Council.

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**Agenda Item XII:** Discussion of Council Research and Monitoring Priorities for 2020 – 2024

**Action:** Discussion and recommendations

**Committee input and next steps:** The Committees will review the proposed Council Research and Monitoring Priorities for 2020 – 2024, and recommend changes as appropriate. These priorities are updated every five years, approved by the Council, and help to inform funding priorities for continuing and proposed research and monitoring efforts as they relate to managed species in the Gulf. Species-specific priorities will be archived and monitored by SEDAR, and have been removed from this draft. Further, work to explore shark and dolphin deterrents under the Ecosystem Considerations section has been added at the behest of the Council. The Council will review and finalize these priorities at its October meeting in Galveston, Texas.

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**Agenda Item XIII:** Update to Revisions of Status Determination Criteria Amendment

**Action:** Discussion and recommendations

**Committee Input and Next Steps:** Staff will review revised actions and alternatives to establish or modify status determination criteria for several reef fish stocks and red drum for which these criteria have not previously been established. The Committees should provide guidance or recommendations about the proposed management actions and the range of alternatives for Council consideration.

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**Agenda Item XIV:** Discussion of the Gulf SEDAR Assessment Schedule

**Action:** Discussion and recommendations

**Committee Input and Next Steps:** The Committees will review the proposed SEDAR stock assessment schedule for 2021 and subsequent years, and provide recommendations to the Council about any changes to the proposed schedule. The next meeting of the SEDAR Steering Committee will be in the fall of 2019.

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**Agenda Item XV:** Scope of Work: Gray Snapper Operational Assessment

**Action:** Discussion and recommendations

**Committee Input and Next Steps:** The Committees will review the scope of work for the proposed Gray Snapper operational assessment, currently scheduled to begin in 2021. The last stock assessment on Gray Snapper was SEDAR 51, which found that the stock was experiencing overfishing as of 2015 based on MFMT = $F_{30\%SPR}$, and that the overfished status of the stock was dependent on the status determination criteria used as a proxy for MSY. The Scope of Work is structured similar to assessment terms of reference for ease of inputting desired assessment tasks; however, the SSC will still need to review formalized terms of reference at a later date before they are approved. The SSC will serve as the formal review body for this assessment.

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**Agenda Item XVI:** Terms of Reference and Participants: SEDAR 70: Gulf of Mexico Greater Amberjack

**Action:** Discussion and recommendations, solicitation for volunteers

**Committee Input and Next Steps:** The Committees will review the terms of reference for the SEDAR 70 Operational Assessment of Gulf greater amberjack, currently scheduled to begin in 2021. The terminal year of data for the assessment will be 2018. This assessment will be conducted primarily via webinars. The last stock assessment on greater amberjack was the 2016 update of the SEDAR 33 benchmark assessment, which found that the stock was experiencing overfishing as of 2015, and was overfished based on an $F_{MSY}$ proxy of $F_{30\%SPR}$. The terms of reference are generated from the scope of work, which the SSC approved at its May 2019 webinar. Up to four members of the Committee should volunteer for the assessment process webinars. The SSC will serve as the formal review body for this assessment.

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**Agenda Item XVII:** Terms of Reference and Participants: SEDAR 72: Gulf of Mexico Gag

**Action:** Discussion and recommendations, solicitation for volunteers

**Committee Input and Next Steps:** The Committees will review the terms of reference for the SEDAR 72 Operational Assessment of Gulf gag, currently scheduled to begin in 2021. The terminal year of data for the assessment will be 2019. A combined data and assessment workshop is tentatively scheduled to be held in Miami in February 2021. The last stock assessment on gag was the 2016 update of the SEDAR 33 benchmark assessment, which found that the stock was not experiencing overfishing as of 2015, and was not overfished based on an $F_{MSY}$ proxy of $F_{Max}$. The terms of reference are generated from the scope of work, which the SSC approved at its May 2019 webinar. Up to four members of the Committee should volunteer for the in-person workshop. The SSC will serve as the formal review body for this assessment.

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**Agenda Item XVIII:** Discussion of Allocation Review

**Action:** Discussion and recommendations

**Committee Input and Next Steps:** Staff will present the allocation review triggers selected by the Council and summarize the procedures and potential review criteria identified by the Allocation Review Workgroup. The Committees should discuss the criteria and procedures suggested by the workgroup and, if warranted, recommend modifications to the procedures and additional allocation review criteria.

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**Agenda Item XIX:** Review of Draft Technical Memo: "National Standard 1 Technical Guidance for Designing, Evaluating, and Implementing Carry-over and Phase-in Provisions within ABC Control Rules"

**Action:** Discussion and recommendations

**Committee Input and Next Steps:** The Committees will review of the draft technical memo titled "National Standard 1 Technical Guidance for Designing, Evaluating, and Implementing Carry-over and Phase-in Provisions within ABC Control Rules". When finalized, this draft technical memo is meant to support the implementation of carryover and phase-in provisions, help Councils and NOAA understand what factors to consider when deciding whether or not to implement carryover and phase-in, and provide examples of how these tools have been used in the past. This draft technical memo is part of a series of products being developed by the NS1 Working Group to support decision-making on key management issues related to the guidelines. NOAA is seeking feedback from the draft technical memo by October 18, 2019 to aid productive discussion and finalization of the document at the November 2019 CCC meeting.

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**Agenda Item XX:** 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.