

Scientific and Statistical Committees
Scope of Work
January 9, 2020
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 September 17-18 meeting and the October 29, 2019 webinar of the Standing, Socioeconomic, Mackerel, and Reef Fish SSCs.

Agenda Item IV: Selection of SSC representative for the January 27-30, 2020 Council meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana

Action: Select SSC representative

Committee input and next steps: The Committees will select a member to attend the January 2020 Council meeting. The representative will attend the meeting, provide a summary presentation, answer questions and provide insight into the SSC deliberations.

Agenda item V: Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Expansion

Action: Discussion and recommendations

Committee input and next steps: Ms. Dieveney will present the Committees with a summary of the changes proposed in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS) Restoration Blueprint. The Committee should review the supporting data and background documents provided, especially the justification for the proposed changes within the Council's jurisdiction (i.e., boundary expansion to encompass the Dry Tortugas region, the proposed Tortugas Corridor, the inclusion of Pulley Ridge).

Agenda Item VI: September 2019 Coral SSC Recommendations

Action: Information

Committee input and next steps: The Coral SSC was convened during a special joint Coral and Shrimp Advisory Panels meeting. A meeting summary has been provided as background material. The recommendations have already been presented to the Council. The Council has funded a research project for Kemp's Ridley sea turtles to work towards completing an

assessment on the species, as recommended by the Coral SSC. Further, the Council has directed staff to begin work on potential areas to be included in Coral Amendment 10.

Agenda item VII: Update of SEDAR 49: Lane Snapper with MRIP-FES Data including OFL and ABC Recommendations

Action: Discussion and recommendations

Committee input and next steps: The Committees will review a presentation of the model, results, and projections for the Itarget model and projections for Gulf lane snapper, which will include adjustments to accommodate the transition from the Coastal Household Telephone Survey to the Fishing Effort Survey for recreational data. 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, can 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.

Agenda item VIII: SEDAR 61: Gulf Red Grouper Projections with MRIP-FES Revised Allocations and Projections

Action: Discussion and recommendations

Committee input and next steps: The Committees will review a presentation of the allocations and resultant projections for Gulf red grouper, which will use the as-dated Southeast Fisheries Science Center Annual Catch Limit dataset, which includes the FES-adjusted MRIP data. The Committees will evaluate the materials and determine values for the OFL and ABC for the three allocation scenarios. The Committees should consider both annual and constant catch yields for each scenario.

An interim analysis for Gulf red grouper will also be discussed, and is for the Committees' edification only. This analysis can be used in conjunction with the SEDAR 61 stock assessment to further understand the effects of the 2017/2018 red tide event on the west coast of Florida.

Agenda Item IX: National Marine Fisheries Service Standardized Economic Reports for Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish and Mackerel Fisheries

Action: Discussion and recommendations

Committee Input and Next Steps: The Committee will be briefed by a NOAA/SEFSC staff economist about a new system of reporting economic results for Gulf reef fish and mackerel fisheries. The new report series is based on long established, ongoing economic surveys, linked to the commercial logbook system. The systematic processing, analysis, and presentation of data

(in Technical Memorandums) are new, and the Committee is being asked to evaluate the methods and results presentation and establish these reports as best scientific information (BSIA) for economic results going forward.

Agenda Item X: Discussion of Joint Gulf and South Atlantic SSC Meeting in May 2020

Action: Information

Committee Input and Next Steps: Council staff will brief the SSC on the logistics for the May meeting, which will be a combined meeting between the Gulf and South Atlantic SSCs to review the stock assessments of southeastern U.S. yellowtail snapper and Gulf migratory group cobia.

Agenda Item XI: 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.