Scope of Work
Standing, Coral, Socioeconomic, and Reef Fish SSC Meeting
January 9-11, 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 8, 2012 Coral SSC meeting and October 31, 2017 Standing and Reef Fish SSC webinar should be reviewed, and any needed corrections noted. This is a final review and acceptance of the meeting summaries.

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

The SSC should select a representative to attend the January 29 – February 1, 2018 Council meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana. The SSC representative will present the SSC's comments and recommendations from both the current meeting and the October 31 webinar on items reviewed to the appropriate Council committees.

Standing and Coral SSC Session

IV) **Southeast Deep-sea Coral Initiative in the Gulf of Mexico**

The SSC will be provided with a comprehensive summary of the findings of the Southeast Deep-sea coral Initiative work. Dr. Wagner will present results from the 2017 expedition, and will provide the SSC with anticipated future work in the Gulf of Mexico. The SSC may make recommendations based on previous or future work of the program, and may recommend to the Council how this information could be incorporated in the future.

V) **Review of the Public Hearing Draft of Coral Amendment 9**

Staff will provide the SSC with the public hearing draft of Coral Amendment 9. Staff will also update the SSC on potential future amendments to the Coral FMP. The SSC is requested to make recommendations on the Coral Amendment 9 document, if necessary, and on approaches for analysis in the next Coral Amendment.

VI) **Review of the Management Strategy Evaluation Developed for the Coral Reef Conservation Program Grant**

Staff will give a presentation detailing work that has been completed on a management strategy evaluation being used to explore alternative methods of designating coral Habitat Areas of Particular Concern. Staff has developed a decision support tool using MARXAN that considers various options to achieve conservation goals while minimizing costs (economic or other). The MARXAN model considers both ecological and human use variables as inputs and can be used to

inform policy making. Although this presentation is primary informational, the SSC is asked for any recommendations or feedback that could make this method useful to management in the future

Standing and Socioeconomic SSC Session

VII) **Grouper and Tilefish 5-year IFQ Review**

Akbar Marvasti (SEFSC) will give a presentation on safety at sea, and Larry Peruso (SEFSC) will give a presentation on the stakeholder surveys. The SSC may comment on the study and surveys presented.

Standing and Reef Fish SSC Session

VIII) **Review of Draft Status Determination Criteria/Optimum Yield Options Paper**

Staff will review an options paper for setting (or revising) the MSY proxies, MSST, MFMT, and OY definitions for reef fish and red drum. The SSC is asked to advise on the best approach to implementing these definitions, and possible future steps toward achieving scientifically based results. The SSC is specifically asked for guidance on how to relate the relative risk of various MSY proxy alternatives, and on possible ways to incorporate relevant economic, social, and ecological factors into the setting of OY.

IX) **SEDAR Activities**

The SSC will be asked to review and approve the terms of reference and project schedule for the SEDAR 62 gray triggerfish update assessment. Volunteers will be solicited to serve on the assessment workshop group.

X) **Spawning Aggregations in the Gulf of Mexico**

Dr. Brad Erisman (University of Texas) and Dr. William Heyman (LGL Ecological Associates) are nearing completion of a RESTORE Act Science Program project on spawning aggregations in the Gulf of Mexico. A synthesis of some of the project results will be made available on the GCOOS website but can be viewed as a near-final draft at http://koba.tamu.edu/restore/. In additions, Dr. Erisman and Dr. Heyman will share results from the SK-funded project Prediction and Verification of Snapper-Grouper Spawning Aggregation Sites on the Offshore Banks of the Northwestern Gulf of Mexico that was implemented through the Gulf and South Atlantic Fisheries Foundation. These presentations are for information only, but will likely be useful as the Council transitions to an ecosystem-based fishery management system.

XI) **Evaluating Robustness of Harvest Control Rules to Future Red Tide Events**

Dr. Bill Harford (University of Miami) will review his research on evaluating robustness of harvest control rules to future red tide events. This presentation is informational only, but may be useful to the SSC when considering how to incorporate risk into harvest control rules (ABC control rules) and biological reference points.

XII) **Further Development of a Stock Assessment Prioritization Spreadsheet.**

Dr. Shannon Calay (SEFSC) will review the stock assessment prioritization for Gulf stocks. The stock prioritization exercise will be a further development of a spreadsheet begun at the March SSC meeting. Before the spreadsheet is final, the SSC and Council need to provide input on the weighting factors, and the Southeast Fisheries Science Center should agree that the data is final.

XIII) **Analysis Related to Draft Generic Amendment – Carry-over Provision and Framework Modifications**

SEFSC staff will review analyses of simulating the effect of carrying over unused ACL for red snapper and king mackerel. Staff will the review the draft generic amendment and will be asked to comment on the scientific basis for the alternatives.

XIV) **Analysis of Red Grouper Indices of Abundance**

During the October Council meeting, there was discussion about reports from fishermen that red grouper in recent years do not appear to be as abundant as in the past. The fishermen have suggested that some interim action may be needed before completion of the next stock assessment. There is a red grouper standard SEDAR assessment scheduled to begin the second half of 2018. However, Council members have asked if a review of the red grouper indices of abundance can be brought to the SSC for review at their January 9-11, 2018 meeting. The primary purpose is to determine if the Council should consider an interim action.

XV) **Discussion of an ABC Control Rule for Data-Limited Stocks**

With the use of methods from the DLMToolkit to establish OFL/ABC catch levels for data-limited stocks in SEDAR 49, alternative methods now exist tor tier 3 of the ABC control rule for evaluating data-limited stocks. This is intended to be a preliminary discussion for what features should go into the data-limited portion of a revised ABC control rule.

XVI) **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. The 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 propose dates.

XVII) **Other Business**

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