

Scientific and Statistical Committee
Scope of Work
October 4, 2023
Webinar

Agenda Item III: Review of Marine Recreational Information Program Fishing Effort Survey Pilot Study and Next Steps

Action: Presentation, discussion, and recommendations

Committee input and next steps: Dr. Evan Howell from the NOAA Office of Science and Technology (OST) will present the recent findings of the Marine Recreational Information Program's pilot study into the Fishing Effort Survey (FES). The pilot study discovered the presence of telescoping bias in FES, whereby the order of questions regarding the frequency with which a respondent went fishing within prescribed time periods resulted in an overestimation of overall fishing effort, and thus landings. This overestimation, generalized across regions and species, was estimated to be approximately 39% for the private vessel mode and 32% for the shore mode. Dr. Howell will detail the follow-up pilot study to be conducted in 2024 and the anticipated peer-review process to evaluate the 2024 study, and the next steps planned by NOAA OST. The SSC should review the information presented and make recommendations to the Council as appropriate.

Agenda Item IV: Update on SEDAR 81 Sensitivity Runs with Respect to the MRIP-FES Pilot Study

Action: Presentation, discussion, and recommendations

Committee input and next steps: Dr. Katie Siegfried (Southeast Fisheries Science Center [SEFSC]) will present the expected effects of the overestimation of landings identified in the FES pilot study on Gulf migratory group Spanish mackerel using the SEDAR 81 base model. This demonstration is intended to investigate and evaluate the effects of the overestimation on factors such as stock status and catch projections. The SSC should evaluate the information presented and make recommendations to the Council as appropriate.

Agenda Item V: Public Comment

Action: Information

Committee input and next steps: Members of the public will be able to address the SSC directly with respect to the topics discussed during this meeting, and other matters, as time allows.

Agenda Item VI: Other Business

Action: Discussion

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