

Scientific and Statistical Committees
Scope of Work
March 30 – April 2, 2021
Webinar

REVIEW OF GREAT RED SNAPPER COUNT PROJECT

Agenda Item I: Terms of Reference

Action: Information Only

Committee input and next steps: The SSC and independent consultants will review the terms of reference (TORs) for the review of the Great Red Snapper Count (GRSC). These terms of reference are designed to guide the review and keep it focused on the evaluation of the project.

Agenda Item II: Review of the Great Red Snapper Count

Action: Presentations, discussions, and recommendations

Committee input and next steps: The SSC and independent consultants will review the GRSC. The project report, supporting documentation, and independent consultants' initial findings have been provided in advance as background material to assist in the review. The principal investigators for the GRSC will provide presentations detailing various aspects of the GRSC that are germane to the review TORs. The portion of the GRSC pertaining to tagging activities will be briefly reviewed; while this important portion of the study collected a great deal of data, its review is outside the TORs, and it is presented here for information only. The SSC and independent consultants will evaluate the information presented, and the background materials provided in advance, and make recommendations with respect to the GRSC relative to the TORs.

SSC MEETING: REVIEW OF RED SNAPPER CATCH ANALYSES

Agenda Item III: Selection of SSC representative for the April 12-15, 2021 Gulf Council Meeting, to be held via webinar

Action: Select SSC representative

Committee input and next steps: The SSC will select a member to participate in the April 2021 Council meeting. The representative will provide a summary to Council Committees, answer questions and provide insight into the SSC deliberations from this SSC webinar meeting.

Agenda Item IV: Review of GRSC-informed Catch Analysis

Action: Presentations, discussions, and recommendations

Committee input and next steps: The SSC will review the catch analysis for red snapper developed by the Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC). This catch analysis uses data from the estimate of absolute abundance generated by the GRSC, and other data as necessary, to generate updated recommendations for the Gulf of Mexico (Gulf) red snapper overfishing limit (OFL) and acceptable biological catch (ABC). The SSC should evaluate the catch analysis, and recommend any modifications as appropriate.

Agenda Item V: Review of the Red Snapper Interim Analysis (NMFS Bottom Longline)

Action: Presentations and discussions, and recommendations

Committee input and next steps: The SSC will review the interim analysis for red snapper developed by the SEFSC. This interim analysis uses the NMFS Bottom Longline survey as its representative index of relative abundance to generate updated OFL and ABC for Gulf red snapper. The SSC should evaluate the interim analysis, and recommend any modifications as appropriate.

Agenda Items IV/V: Discussion: GRSC-informed Catch Analysis and Red Snapper Interim Analysis

Action: Discussions and recommendations

Committee input and next steps: The SSC will determine whether the GRSC-informed catch analysis, or the red snapper interim analysis using the NMFS Bottom Longline index, represents the best scientific information available, and whether such is suitable for management advice. If suitable, the SSC will recommend values for the OFL and ABC using the Council's ABC Control Rule or other method.

Agenda Item VI: 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 webinar meeting, and other matters, as time allows.

Agenda Item VII: 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, then action can be scheduled at a future SSC meeting.