Scientific and Statistical Committees
Scope of Work
March 11, 2020
Webinar

Agenda Item II: Approval of SSC Minutes

Action: Review, modify (if necessary), and approve minutes

Committee input and next steps: The SSC will review, modify if necessary, and approve the minutes from the January 9, 2020, meeting of the Standing, Socioeconomic, Mackerel, and Reef Fish SSCs.

Agenda Item IV: Selection of SSC representative for the March 30 – April 2, 2020 Council meeting in Gulf Shores, Alabama

Action: Select SSC representative

Committee input and next steps: The SSC will select a member to participate in the March 2020 Council meeting via webinar on Monday, March 30. The representative will provide a summary presentation, answer questions and provide insight into the SSC deliberations.

Agenda item V: Review of Gulf of Mexico Shrimp Species

Action: Discussion and recommendations

Committee input and next steps: NMFS staff will present stock assessments for brown, pink, and white shrimp. The SSC should determine if the assessments constitute the best scientific information available. NMFS staff will provide the SSC with the updated fishery effort and landings data for penaeid shrimp. The SSC should discuss the trends and provide any comments or feedback to the Council. NMFS staff will present a preliminary 2019 Royal Red index, relating landings to MSY. The SSC should discuss this index and provide feedback to the Council.

Agenda Item VI: Scope of Work – Gulf of Mexico Yellowedge Grouper Operational Assessment

Action: Discussion and recommendations

Committee input and next steps: The SSC will review the scope of work for the Gulf yellowedge grouper operational assessment, which will be conducted by the Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC), and is currently scheduled to begin in 2022. The last stock assessment

on Gulf yellowedge grouper was a benchmark assessment in 2011 (SEDAR 22) which used data through 2009, and found that the stock was not overfished and was not experiencing overfishing. 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.

Agenda item VII: Scope of Work – Gulf of Mexico Migratory Group Spanish Mackerel Operational Assessment

Action: Discussion and recommendations

Committee input and next steps: The SSC will review the scope of work for the Gulf migratory group Spanish mackerel operational assessment, which will be conducted by the SEFSC, and is currently scheduled to begin in 2022. The last stock assessment on Gulf migratory group Spanish mackerel was a benchmark assessment (SEDAR 28) which used data through 2011, and found that the stock was not overfished and was not experiencing overfishing. 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.

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

Action: Discussion and recommendations

Committee input and next steps: The SSC will review a presentation of the projections from the Itarget model for Gulf lane snapper, which will exclude dead discards. The SSC will evaluate the materials determine whether the projections are 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 SSC should consider both annual and constant catch yields.

Agenda Item IX: Discussion of Council action on Reef Fish Amendment 48 / Red Drum Amendment 5: Status Determination Criteria

Action: Discussion and recommendations

Committee Input and Next Steps: The SSC will be briefed by Council staff about Council actions taken on Reef Fish Amendment 48 / Red Drum Amendment 5: Status Determination Criteria, and provide guidance t the Council as appropriate.

Agenda Item X: 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.