

Scientific and Statistical Committees
Scope of Work
November 18, 2021
Hybrid (Webinar & In-Person)

Agenda Item IV: Evaluation of SEDAR 70 Projections for Gulf Greater Amberjack

Action: Presentation, discussions and recommendations

Committee input and next steps: Dr. Katie Siegfried from the NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC) will review projections for Gulf of Mexico greater amberjack based on the projection settings specified by the SSC at its September 2021 meeting. These projections will include runs specific to the sector allocation scenarios requested by the Council for consideration in Draft Amendment 54, which will examine sector allocations and catch limits for greater amberjack. The SSC should evaluate the methods and results from the individual projection runs, ask questions, and make modifications as appropriate. If the methods for the sector allocation scenarios are sound, the SSC should consider recommending them as appropriate for consideration by the Council.

Agenda Item V: Evaluation of SEDAR 72 Projections for Gulf Gag Grouper

Action: Presentation, discussion, and recommendations

Committee input and next steps: Dr. Lisa Ailloud from the SEFSC will review projections for Gulf of Mexico gag grouper based on the projection settings specified by the SSC at its September 2021 meeting. These projections will include red tide spatial coverage and severity estimation through the Ecospace model, with red tide data through mid-October 2021. The SSC should evaluate the methods and results from the individual projection scenarios, ask questions, and make modifications as appropriate. These scenarios will feature combinations of the current (F_{MAX}) and proposed ($F_{30\%SPR}$) proxies for maximum sustainable yield, with varying estimates of red tide severity (low, medium, high). The SSC should consider the data and methods presented, propose modifications as appropriate, and make commensurate recommendations to the Council. The SSC should also consider the Council's motion from its October 2021 meeting:

“Update the SEDAR 72 Gulf of Mexico Gag base assessment model (combined sexes) using data from the Florida State Reef Fish Survey (SRFS) for the private recreational sector in place of the same data collected by MRIP-FES. All other data inputs should remain the same. Generate all customary and appropriate model diagnostics used to evaluate model performance. Update model parameter estimates and their variances, model uncertainties, management benchmarks and stock status estimates.”

Agenda Item VI: Review of SEDAR 68: Gulf of Mexico Scamp Research Track Assessment

Action: Presentations, discussion, and recommendations

Committee input and next steps: Dr. Skyler Sagarese will present the model, results, and diagnostics for the SEDAR 68 research track stock assessment of Gulf of Mexico scamp. This assessment type does not yield management advice, and is used to create the model framework necessary to evaluate the stock in the future. The SSC will determine whether the SEDAR 68 base model requires any further modification, and whether it is appropriate for use in the subsequent operational assessment for scamp which begins in January 2022. The SSC will also review the data collected by the Council’s Something’s Fishy tool for Gulf scamp. Lastly, the SSC will review the Stock Assessment Executive Summary, and provide any feedback to SEFSC staff.

Agenda Item VII: Terms of Reference for Gulf of Mexico Scamp Operational Assessment

Action: Discussion and recommendations

Committee input and next steps: Mr. Ryan Rindone (Council Staff) will review the SEDAR 68: Gulf of Mexico Scamp operational assessment (OA) terms of reference with the SSC. The SEDAR 68 OA will be conducted in 2022, using data through 2020. This OA immediately follows the SEDAR 68 research track assessment of scamp, and is intended to update all data streams with the most current data available, with the purpose of generating management advice for Council consideration. The SSC should evaluate the terms of reference and provide recommendations as appropriate.

Agenda Item VIII: 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 IX: 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.