



Overview of SSC Reorganization and Application Process for June 2024 – 2027

May 8, 2024



Background of Process 2021-2024

- 2021-2024 Council consistently convened Standing SSC (15 members) & 3 Special SSCs for all meetings (Total = 24 members)
 - Ecosystem (3 members)
 - Reef Fish (3 members)
 - Socioeconomic (3 members)
- When needed convened Special Coral, Shrimp, and Red Drum. The Council didn't populate Special Mackerel or Spiny Lobster SSC in 2021



Adopted Changes to Council SOPPs

The Council discussed proposed changes to the SOPPs in consideration of a more interdisciplinary Standing SSC. The proposal integrated the reef fish, ecosystem, and social and economic disciplines into the Standing SSC.

Modified Standing SSC Makeup

Area of Expertise	Number of members
Stock assessment or quantitative biologists / ecologists	8
Economist	Up to 4
Anthropologist/social scientist	Up to 4
Other scientist	5

Total membership up to 21

Special SSCs

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coral • Shrimp • Red drum • Mackerel • Spiny lobster 	<p>Not to exceed 3 members, none of which can be a member of the standing SSC or other SSC. When convened with the standing SSC, members of the combined committee will vote as a whole committee.</p>
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Adopted Changes to Council SOPPs

2.7.3 Ecosystem Technical Committee

The Ecosystem Technical Committee consists of no more than twelve people. Membership includes three staff from NMFS, one of which is from the Atlantic HMS division, **five** members (with economic, social, or biological/ecological expertise) from the SSC, and up to four other stakeholder representatives. Members are appointed jointly by the Executive Director and Council Chair.



Role of the SSC Members

- The Council has established a Standing SSC and Special SSCs for individual management plans or areas of expertise to provide expert scientific and technical advice to the Council. The SSC shall review and comment on the scientific adequacy of such statistical, biological, economic, social, and other scientific information as is relevant to the Council's development and amendment of any fishery management plan.
- Link to Council SOPPs: https://gulfcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/Gulf-Council-SOPPs_February-2024.pdf



Appointment Terms and Meetings

- SSC has 3-year term limits

Anticipate SSC meeting schedule and participation

- Plan for ~five Standing SSC meetings per year
 - One meeting could be virtual
 - Meetings last 2-3 days
- Expect Special SSC's to only be convened 1-2 times, annually
- In-person meeting attendance is expected and appreciated
- Requests in advance to participate virtually should be clearly articulated to Mr. Rindone



SEDAR Stock Assessment Meetings

- Participation and engagement in stock assessment meetings via the Southeast Data Assessment and Review process is vital.
 - Materials can vary in volume by assessment.
- Data and Review Workshops are in-person; assessment webinars are typically virtual.
 - If you volunteer, we need you to participate.
 - If you can no longer participate, staff (Mr. Rindone) should be notified immediately.



SEDAR Participation Examples:

If you volunteer for a Data Workshop:

- Expect about 3 webinars (about 2 hours each)
- Expect a 3- to 4-day in-person meeting

If you volunteer for a Assessment Process:

- Expect about 5-6 webinars (about 2-3 hours each)

If you volunteer for a Review Workshop:

- Expect maybe one preliminary webinar (about 1 hour)
- Expect a 3-day in-person meeting



Live Demonstration of Application

- Walk through revised SSC application form:
- Application period May 9-31, 2024



Questions and Feedback

