

**Scope of Work
Standing, Shrimp, Mackerel, and Reef Fish SSC Meeting
August 2, 2018
Tampa, Florida**

Synopses of the agenda action items are as follows.

I) Introductions and Adoption of Agenda

Changes to the agenda or additions under 'Other Business' should be made at this time.

II) Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the May 31-June 1, 2018 meeting of the Standing and Reef Fish SSC should be reviewed, and any needed corrections noted.

III) Selection of SSC Representative at August 2018 Council Meeting

The SSC should select a representative to attend the August 20-23, 2018 Council meeting in Corpus Christi, Texas. The SSC representative will present the SSC's comments and recommendations from the current meeting on items reviewed to the appropriate Council committees.

IV) Overview of SEDAR Process

Dr. Neer (SEDAR) will summarize recent changes to the SEDAR process. This presentation is for information purposes only and no action is required of the SSCs.

Standing and Mackerel SSC Session

V) Modifications to Gulf of Mexico Migratory Group Cobia Size and Possession Limits

Size-and possession-limit analyses for Gulf Cobia will be presented for SSC review and comment. Changes to these limits are being considered in response to public comment describing decreased abundance of cobia Gulf-wide. The SSC will also review CMP Framework Amendment 7, which considers increasing the size limit and decreasing the possession limit for Gulf migratory group cobia.

Standing, Reef Fish, and Shrimp SSC Session

VI) Update on Council Request Regarding Shrimp Effort Threshold Reduction in the Area Monitored for Juvenile Red Snapper Bycatch

In Joint Reef Fish Amendment 27/Shrimp Amendment 14, the effort for shrimp was constrained to a 74 % reduction based on the benchmark years of 2001-2003 in the area monitored for juvenile red snapper bycatch (10 to 30- fathom area in the Gulf [Statistical

Subzones 10-21)). This effort reduction threshold was reduced to 67% in 2011, as outlined in the amendment. However, the amendment also allows for a further reduction of the effort threshold to 60% by 2032. To date, the shrimp fishery has never exceeded the effort threshold in the area monitored for juvenile red snapper bycatch. As the red snapper stock is rebuilding, and is no longer considered overfished, the Council asked the SEFSC to evaluate a reduction in the threshold in one percent increments from 67% to 60%. The SSC is asked to evaluate the analysis and provide the Council with recommendations on the threshold.

Standing and Reef Fish SSC Session

VII) Review of Procedure for Red Grouper Interim Analysis

The SEFSC will provide a review process for the red grouper Interim Analysis. Red grouper will be the first stock that we have completed an interim analysis. The SSC should review the SEFSC outline for conducting this process and provide any feedback before the full Interim Analysis is completed for the October SSC meeting.

VIII) Council Staff Proposed Modifications to the SEDAR Process

The SSC will review proposed changes to the SEDAR process developed by Council staff, through conversations with individuals with extensive experience participating in the SEDAR process. Some of these proposed changes are reflected in the new research and operational track approach proffered by the SEFSC.

IX) Determine Need for a Red Snapper Research Track Assessment in 2020, Followed by an Operational Assessment in 2021

The SSC should review the proposed 2020 and 2021 stock assessment schedules. The SSC should consider and provide feedback to the Council regarding the timing and need for a red snapper research track assessment in 2020, followed by an operational assessment in 2021 to receive management advice. The SEFSC has indicated that an operational assessment always follows a research track. However, based on the current schedule and staff resources, the SEFSC has indicated that the red snapper stock assessment takes up two slots and exceeds the data processing weeks needed with the other three Operational Assessments for gag, greater amberjack, and scamp. Additionally, the SSC should also provide feedback on the proposed 2021 stock assessment schedule.

X) Selection of Workgroup Appointees for SEDAR 64 – Yellowtail Snapper Benchmark Assessment

SEDAR staff have developed draft terms of reference and project schedule for the SEDAR 64 yellowtail snapper benchmark assessment. The SSC is asked to review the TORs, recommend any changes if needed, and vote on whether to approve them. In addition, SEDAR is seeking volunteers to participate in the data, assessment, and review work groups.

XI) Specify the TORs for the 2020 Operational Assessments for Gag and Greater Amberjack

The purpose of the TOR is to aid the SEFSC in planning and scheduling the assessments with SEDAR staff and Council staff. The TORs for gag and greater amberjack will be the first TORs developed for Operational Assessments. The SSC should review the DRAFT terms of reference (TOR) for the operational assessments of gag and greater amberjack. If there are additional items that could be considered they should be identified and added. If there are items that may not be practical for an Operational Assessment they should be discussed and possibly removed.

XII) Review of Gray Snapper Global SPR Analysis

The data used to inform the gray snapper assessment did not identify a stock-recruitment relationship and therefore requires use of a maximum sustainable yield (MSY) proxy as the basis of management advice. The SEFSC applied a method to examine a range of potential MSY proxy values for gray snapper to estimate the spawning stock biomass that is functionally equivalent to the spawning stock biomass at MSY. The SSC should review the results of the simulation analysis and provide a recommendation of an SPR value that supports the MSY proxy.

XIII) Draft Reef Fish Amendment 48/Red Drum Amendment 5

Staff will review a revised draft amendment to set or revise MSY proxies, minimum stock size threshold, maximum fishing mortality threshold, and optimum yield for reef fish and red drum. The purpose is to establish status determination criteria and optimum yield for all reef fish and red drum to be consistent with the National Standard 1 guidelines. Revisions have been made to Action 1 (MSY proxies) based on comments made at the previous SSC meeting. The SSC is not asked to select preferred alternatives but to comment on the range of actions and alternatives from a scientific perspective. Staff will also present a reference sheet under development to help the Council members and public better understand the technical concepts in the amendment. The SSC may comment on ways to improve the reference sheet.

XIV) Tentative 2018 SSC Meeting Dates

Staff will review the tentative schedule of SSC meetings in 2019. SSC meetings are generally scheduled 3 weeks in advance of each Council meeting. They can be rescheduled if necessary due to conflicts or availability of review materials. SSC members should let staff know if they have any conflicts with the proposed dates.

XV) Other Business

- a. SEDAR 62 Gulf Gray Triggerfish Project Schedule: Dr. Neer will provide an update on the revised SEDAR 62 Gulf Gray Triggerfish Schedule. This update is for informational purposes only, and no action is required.
- b. SEDAR 61 Gulf Red Grouper Project Schedule: Dr. Neer will provide an update on the revised SEDAR 61 Gulf Red Grouper Project Schedule. This update is for

informational purposes only, and no action is required.