

Scientific and Statistical Committees Scope of Work

Agenda Item II: Approval of SSC Minutes

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

SSC input: The SSC will review, modify if necessary, and approve the minutes from the October 2-3, 2018 Standing, Socioeconomic, and Reef Fish SSC meeting.

Agenda Item IIIa: Review and Approval of Gulf King Mackerel Update Assessment Terms of Reference

Action: Review, modify (if necessary), and approve TORs via a motion

SSC input: The SSC will review, modify if necessary, and approve the terms of reference for the update assessment of the SEDAR 38 stock assessment on the Gulf of Mexico migratory group of king mackerel. The assessment is being conducted as an update assessment, as opposed to a larger analytical effort, since no new data sets for Gulf king mackerel are available, and no change in the modeling environment is anticipated. The current model inputs will be updated to include additional years of data since the last assessment.

Agenda Item IIIb: Review and Approval of Gulf Cobia Update Assessment Terms of Reference

Action: Review, modify (if necessary), and approve TORs via a motion

SSC input: The SSC will review, modify if necessary, and approve the terms of reference for the update assessment of the SEDAR 28 stock assessment on the Gulf of Mexico migratory group of cobia. The assessment is being conducted as an update assessment, as opposed to a larger analytical effort, since no new data sets for Gulf cobia are available, and no change in the modeling environment is anticipated. The current model inputs will be updated to include additional years of data since the last assessment.

Agenda Item IIIc: Review and Approval of Gulf Vermilion Snapper Standard Assessment Terms of Reference, Project Schedule, and Workshop Panelists

Action: Review, modify (if necessary), and approve TORs and project schedule via a motion; select volunteers for panelist positions

SSC input: The SSC will review, modify if necessary, and approve the terms of reference and project schedule for the SEDAR 67 standard assessment of Gulf of Mexico vermilion snapper.

The assessment is being conducted as a standard assessment to allow for the incorporation of any new data sets, to account for changes in how shrimp fleet discard mortality is modeled, and for other changes as proposed. No change in the modeling environment is anticipated. The SSC will also select four volunteers for panelist positions for the in-person workshop component of the stock assessment process.

Agenda Item IIIId: Volunteers for Panelist Positions for SEDAR 68 – Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Scamp Research Track Assessment

Action: Volunteer for panelist positions for the Stock ID Workshop and the in-person Data Workshop

SSC input: SSC members will select volunteers to participate in the webinar-based stock identification process for Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic scamp. Webinars will be held to discuss the data available for determining the stock structure of the scamp population(s) in the Gulf of Mexico and the South Atlantic Council’s jurisdictions. The effort will review the current management approach, which currently separates scamp into Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic stocks that are separated at the Councils’ jurisdictional boundary near the Dry Tortugas. The webinars will be held in the spring and early summer of 2019.

The SSC will also identify volunteers to participate in the in-person Data Workshop for Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic scamp. The Data Workshop will be held from October 29 – November 1, 2019 in Miami, Florida. Four spots are available for panelists from the Gulf Council’s SSC.

Agenda Item IV: Discussion of the SEDAR Stock Assessment Schedule for 2021+

Action: Recommendations to the Council via a motion

SSC input: The SSC will review, modify if necessary, and recommend to the Council which species should be assessed by SEDAR for 2021 and subsequent years, as appropriate. The SSC should also consider the type of assessment that is most appropriate for each species (operational or research track).

Agenda Item V: Other Business

Action: Discussion

SSC Input: 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.