Scientific and Statistical Committees
Scope of Work
July 21-23, 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 June 29, 2020 webinar meeting of the Standing, Socioeconomic, Reef Fish, Mackerel, Ecosystem, and Red Drum SSCs, and the July 8-9, 2020, Gulf SSC MRIP Workshop.

Agenda Item IV: Selection of SSC representative for the August 24-27, 2020 Gulf Council Meeting, to be held via webinar

Action: Select SSC representative

Committee input and next steps: The SSC will select a member to participate in the August 2020 Council meeting. The representative will provide a summary to the Council's Reef Fish Committee, answer questions and provide insight into the SSC deliberations from the SSC's webinar meetings on June 29, 2020, and July 8-9, 2020.

Agenda item V: Review of SEDAR 64 – Southeastern US Yellowtail Snapper Stock Assessment

Action: Discussion and recommendations

Committee input and next steps: The Committees will review presentations of the model, results, and projections for the SEDAR 64 stock assessment of southeastern U.S. yellowtail snapper from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), recommending any modifications as appropriate. This review will be conducted jointly with members of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's SSC. The Committees will determine whether the assessment represents the best scientific information available, and inform the Council of the stock status of southeastern U.S. yellowtail snapper based on status determination criteria. The Committees will also determine whether the assessment is suitable for management advice and, if suitable, will recommend values for the overfishing limit (OFL) and acceptable biological catch (ABC) using the Council's ABC Control Rule. The Committees should consider both annual and constant catch yields. Lastly, the Committees will review the Stock Assessment Executive Summary, and provide any feedback to FWC staff.

Agenda item VI: Review of SEDAR 28 Update – Gulf of Mexico Migratory Group Cobia Stock Assessment

Action: Discussion and recommendations

Committee input and next steps: The Committees will review presentations of the model, results, and projections for the SEDAR 28 Update stock assessment of the Gulf of Mexico (Gulf) migratory group of cobia from the Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC), recommending any modifications as appropriate. The Committees will determine whether the assessment represents the best scientific information available, and inform the Council of the stock status of Gulf cobia based on status determination criteria. The Committees will also determine whether the assessment is suitable for management advice and, if suitable, will recommend values for the overfishing limit (OFL) and acceptable biological catch (ABC) using the Council's ABC Control Rule. The Committees should consider both annual and constant catch yields. Lastly, the Committees will review the Stock Assessment Executive Summary, and provide any feedback to SEFSC staff.

Agenda item VII: Review of July 13, 2020, MRIP Private Recreational Red Snapper Data Calibrations Workshop

Action: Information

Committee input and next steps: The MRIP Private Recreational Red Snapper Data Calibrations Workshop has been moved to August 5, 2020. The Committees will review this item during a special webinar meeting on August 11-12, 2020.

Agenda item VIII: Continuation of Item VII: Review of July 13, 2020, MRIP Private Recreational Red Snapper Data Calibrations Workshop

Action: Information

Committee input and next steps: The MRIP Private Recreational Red Snapper Data Calibrations Workshop has been moved to August 5, 2020. The Committees will review this item during a special webinar meeting on August 11-12, 2020.

Agenda item IX: IFQ Capacity and Technical Efficiency Study

Action: Discussion and recommendations

Committee input and next steps: Drs. Juan Agar and Christopher Parmeter will present a study on fleet capacity dynamics in the Gulf of Mexico red snapper and grouper-tilefish individual fishing quota (IFQ) fisheries. The presentation is expected to discuss the data,

methodology, and main findings of the study. Committee members should review and discuss the study presented and offer recommendations as appropriate.

Agenda item X: Update on Operational Assessment Process

Action: Information and recommendations

Committee input and next steps: Dr. Julie Neer will brief the Committees on changes to the SEFSC's intent for the way in which SEDAR operational assessments will be conducted, based on the information provided to the SEDAR Steering Committee by the SEFSC during the Steering Committee's May 2020 webinar. The Committees should consider the changes to the process and provide feedback to SEDAR and the Council as appropriate.

Agenda item XI: Review of Proposed Timelines and Stock Identification Process for SEDAR 74: Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper

Action: Information and Request for Volunteers

Committee input and next steps: Mr. Rindone will review the proposed timelines for the SEDAR 74 research track assessment for Gulf red snapper, and will solicit volunteers for the Stock Identification portion of the research track process. In this portion, the spatial connectivity, movement, genetics, life history, and landings history are considered for determining the stock structure of the species being assessed. The Committee can provide feedback where necessary, and volunteer to participate in the Stock ID portion of the assessment if they have data or relevant expertise to contribute.

Agenda item XII: Review of Shrimp Stock Assessment Terms of Reference

Action: Information and recommendations

Committee input and next steps: Mr. Rindone will review the proposed terms of reference (TORs) for the upcoming stock assessments of Gulf penaeid shrimp (brown, white, and pink shrimp). These TORs are being proposed by the SEFSC to address modeling issues found in the most recent shrimp assessments, in order to complete necessary model changes to better assess the status of the stocks. The Committee should consider the TORs and recommend changes as appropriate.

Agenda item XIII: Request for a Volunteer: Technical Chair for SEDAR 68: Gulf and South Atlantic Scamp Assessment Workshop

Action: Request for a Volunteer to serve as Technical Chair

Committee input and next steps: Mr. Rindone and Dr. Neer will review the assessment process for SEDAR 68: Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Scamp, and will solicit the Committees for a volunteer to be the Technical Chair for the assessment process. This Technical Chair will be expected to participate in the webinars and calls scheduled to complete the body of work for creating the base models for the assessment, leading discussions of panel members, and other efforts as necessary during the assessment process. Committee members may volunteer to serve as the Technical Chair, with the Council making the final determination if more than one Committee member volunteers.

Agenda Item XIV: 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. Public comment will also be heard by the SSC.