

**Standing, Reef Fish, Shrimp, Mackerel,  
Spiny Lobster, Red Drum, Ecosystem, and  
Socioeconomic SSC Summary  
Webinar Meeting  
June 29, 2020**

The webinar meeting of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council's (Council) Standing, Reef Fish, Shrimp, Mackerel, Spiny Lobster, Red Drum, Ecosystem, and Socioeconomic Scientific and Statistical Committees (SSC) was convened at 10:00 a.m. on June 29, 2020. The agenda for this webinar was approved after adding one item under Other Business to discuss the upcoming Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) state-federal red snapper calibration workshop on July 13th. The meeting summary and verbatim minutes from the June 1, 2020, meeting were approved. [Verbatim minutes from past SSC meetings can be reviewed here.](#)

*Procedural Guidance for Changing Assessed Stock Status from Known to Unknown*

Ms. Regina Spallone of National Marine Fisheries Service presented an overview of National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Procedure 01-101-11: Procedural Guidance for Changing Assessed Stock Status from Known to Unknown (hereafter, "the draft"). She stated that the process considers four components (a, b, c1-c3, d) and aims to promote consistent and transparent decisions by NMFS.

An SSC member asked about the strategic and operational effects of changing the status of a stock from known (e.g., not overfished) to unknown. Ms. Spallone stated that regardless of stock status, the Council must remain in compliance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and operational impacts of this guidance may be minimal.

*Draft Comment Letter*

The Gulf of Mexico (Gulf) Fishery Management Council (Council) was notified on May 28, 2020, of a request for comment on the draft that are due by July 1, 2020. The Council was unable to comment on this draft during its June 2020 Council meeting; however, the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and Council Staff have reviewed the draft and offer the following comments.

Council staff reviewed a draft letter in response to the request for comments. Staff summarized the components of the letter and the SSC discussed each section. The SSC noted that the description of the purpose of the continuity model (i.e., fall back model) is incorrect in the Procedural Guidance, as this model is a diagnostic tool that could be used for management advice if appropriate rather than a fall back model as described in the draft. In the paragraph describing Scenario C, the SSC stated that SEDAR 62 gray triggerfish stock assessment was aborted due to irreconcilable "issues" rather than "data errors". One SSC member asked how the SEDAR 62 gray triggerfish stock assessment status would be classified due to irreconcilable data issues. Council staff stated their understanding was the previous status would remain on the books, unless the landings exceeded the overfishing limit on an annual basis. The draft letter was revised to reflect these edits. The SSC discussed Scenario D of the Procedural Guidance which addresses the

situations where the SDC from a stock assessment differ from the SDC specified in the FMP. Ms. Spallone indicated the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council has set up its FMPs to accommodate changes in SDC as part of the assessment process and she indicated that it may be possible to establish a similar protocol in the Gulf. Staff noted that this procedure would change the current protocol and could reduce the authority of the Council to determine appropriate SDC for a stock. The SSC was satisfied with the draft language in this portion of the document and made no other modifications to the letter.

### *Other Business*

Council staff informed the SSC about the upcoming red snapper MRIP state-federal calibration workshop that will be coordinated by the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission as a virtual meeting on July 13, 2020. Council staff asked if SSC members were willing participate in this meeting on behalf of the Council and lead the discussion of this item at the July 21-23 SSC meeting. Four SSC members agreed to serve: Kai Lorenzen, Luiz Barbieri, Sean Powers, and Paul Sammarco.

**The meeting was adjourned at 11:38 am on June 29, 2020.**

**Participants** (*all via webinar*)

Standing SSC

Joe Powers, Chair  
Kai Lorenzen, Vice Chair  
Lee Anderson  
Luiz Barbieri  
David Chagaris  
Benny Gallaway  
Bob Gill  
Doug Gregory  
Walter Keithly  
Robert Leaf  
Camp Matens  
Jim Nance  
Sean Powers  
Ken Roberts  
Steven Scyphers

Reef Fish SSC

Jason Adriance

Judson Curtis

John Mareska

Mackerel SSC

Jason Adriance  
Kari Maclaughlin Buck  
John Mareska

Spiny Lobster SSC

Thomas Shirley

Red Drum SSC

Michael Allen  
Judson Curtis

Ecosystem SSC

Cameron Ainsworth  
Mandy Karnauskas  
Paul Sammarco

Socioeconomic SSC

Jack Isaacs  
Kari Maclaughlin Buck  
Andrew Ropicki

Council Staff

John Froeschke  
Carrie Simmons  
Bernie Roy

Presenters

Regina Spallone, NMFS

Council Member

Tom Frazer

Others

John Walter, SEFSC