

Sustainable Fisheries Committee: Action Guide and Next Steps for Tab E

Agenda Item IV: NOAA Update on Aquaculture Opportunity Areas

Timeline Status: Presentation and Discussion

Council input and next steps: During the September 2020 Council meeting, Dr. Beck-Stimpert and Dr. Riley (NMFS Office of Aquaculture) gave a presentation on the aquaculture aspects of Executive Order 13921 and discussed aquaculture opportunity areas. Drs. Beck-Stimpert and Riley will update the Committee on progress made to date and will provide a follow-up on aquaculture opportunity areas. The Committee may ask questions and discuss the material presented.

Agenda Item V: Treatment of Dead Discards by the SEFSC in Stock Assessments

Timeline Status: Presentation and Discussion

Council input and next steps: The Committee will receive a presentation on the procedures used by the Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC) to incorporate dead discard data in stock assessments, including an explanation of the methods by which these removals are accounted for and some discussion of the uncertainty inherent in the estimates of these removals. Observed dead discards often account for only a small portion of total removals. However, unobserved but self-reported discards, after considering a discard mortality rate, can account for a considerable amount of additional mortality. Where possible, the SEFSC tries to use scientific studies to determine the discard mortality rate to apply in stock assessments; elsewhere, anecdotal input from fishermen or data from surrogate species or fleets maybe used.

The Committee should review the information presented, ask questions, and make any recommendations to the Council as appropriate. At a subsequent Council meeting, the SEFSC and the NOAA Office of Science and Technology will explore a demonstration of the effects of changes in the estimates of dead discards on the terminal year biomass of a stock, and a characterization of how the migration from the Coastal Household Telephone Survey to the Fishing Effort Survey has affected the estimation and magnitude of dead discards.

Agenda Item VI: Final Action Amendment Reef Fish 48/Red Drum 5: Status Determination Criteria and Optimum Yield for Reef Fish and Red Drum

Timeline Status: Final Action

Council Input and Next Steps: The Committee will review the preferred alternatives selected for each action and a summary of public comments received at the November 17th public hearing. The Committee may discuss any public input offered and if the Committee agrees that

the proposed regulations are necessary and appropriate, it may recommend that the Council approve and submit the proposed regulations to the Secretary of Commerce for implementation.

Agenda Item VII: Other Business

Timeline Status: Potential Additional items

Council Input and Next Steps: Additional items may be brought up for discussion by the Committee, time permitting. If the Committee wishes to pursue action, then action can be scheduled at a future Council meeting.
