

**SEDAR 68: Gulf of Mexico Scamp
Assessment Webinar I – Summary
December 14, 2020, 2:30 PM – 4:00 PM**

Data Updates

The SEFSC reviewed the data available to date for Gulf of Mexico (Gulf) scamp. Sample size issues are prevalent in some data, in that some years have few samples available. A sexes combined growth curve has been proposed, and natural mortality will be externally estimated using the Lorenzen method, with M input as a fixed vector specific to age. 50% of females are thought to be sexually mature at 363.7 mm FL, or 3.41 years old. Batch fecundity estimates were unavailable, and the analysts have recommended using a sexes-combined estimate of spawning stock biomass, acknowledging that the sex ratio is not 1:1. The youngest male was only three years old, and the smallest only 221 mm FL. The 50% probability of fish having transitioned from female to male was 555.6 mm FL, or 10.8 years old. This hermaphroditism requires a two-gender model, which Stock Synthesis is capable of performing (see SEDAR 33).

Commercial data in the Gulf for species managed under individual fishing quotas (IFQs), like scamp, are thought to be known with great certainty; however, landings that predate the IFQ program may harbor greater uncertainty. As a proxy, the analysts have proposed using methods similar to SEDAR 61 (red grouper) for scamp.

Model Runs

Planned Analyses

- Build full base model
- Include post-2006 commercial CPUE
- Incorporate discards
- Jitter analyses, likelihood profiling
- Test recruitment variance, risk analysis of 2015 recruitment
- Sensitivities
 - Drop all CPUE indices
 - Time block for shrimp bycatch
 - Increase age-0 natural mortality
 - Account for oil rig removals over time
- Projections
 - OFL ($F_{SPR30\%}$; $MSST = 50\%$ of F_{MSY})
 - FOY (75% F_{MSY})
 - Constant Catch
 - 2018: use preliminary landings
 - 2019: use preliminary landings; else, use previous three-year mean
 - 2020: use previous three-year mean

Assessment Webinar II will be on January 23, 2021 at 10 AM
The completed Assessment Report is due to the Council on March 20, 2021

Participants

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