

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

Agenda Item IV: Scientific & Statistical Committee (SSC) Recommendations from May 2024 Meeting

Timeline Status: Informational Presentation

Council input and next steps: Dr. Jim Nance (Chair, Scientific and Statistical Committee [SSC]) will provide a summary of discussions and recommendations from the SSC’s May 7 – 8, 2024, meeting via webinar. The SSC reviewed and approved terms of reference for the upcoming SEDAR 98 assessment of red snapper; an independent management strategy evaluation exercise by the Southeast Fisheries Science Center; evaluated a study by the National Academies of Sciences on equity in fisheries management benefits; evaluated the NMFS southeastern U.S. region equity and environmental justice plan; discussed modifications to the SEDAR process and alternative assessment methods for Gulf stocks; reviewed the Council’s planned restructuring for the SSC; and, heard public comment on both days. The Committee should review the information presented, ask questions, and make recommendations as appropriate.

Agenda Item V: May 2024 SEDAR Steering Committee Meeting Report

Timeline Status: Informational Presentation

Council input and next steps: Council staff will summarize the proceedings from a SEDAR Steering Committee webinar held May 30th. The SEDAR cooperators decided it would be useful to hold this meeting as a check after the March 2024 SEDAR Steering Committee in Charleston, SC. The March 2024 SEDAR Steering Committee report and Gulf Council’s letter to the Southeast Fisheries Science Center on “key stocks” and next steps is provided as background information. The SEDAR Steering Committee is currently working through a restructuring of the stock assessment process in the southeastern U.S. to improve timeliness and throughput, issues involving recreational data and its use in stock assessments, meeting coordination, and other issues. The Committee should consider the information presented, ask questions, and make recommendations as appropriate.

Agenda Item VI: 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.