

SSC Summary and Recommendations

May 2024 Webinar

Sustainable Fisheries Committee

June 2024

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SEFSC Progress Report MRIP-FES Steering Team

- SEFSC independent investigation using desk management strategy evaluation (MSE)
- Purpose to explore catch limit modifications in Gulf
- Examined impact of recreational landings data accuracy, adjustments
- Assumptions:
 - No sector allocations
 - Single fishing fleet
 - Landings known without error

SEFSC Progress Report MRIP-FES Steering Team

- SSC Primary Concern:
 - Assumptions not valid for most Gulf stocks
- Recommendations:
 - Address assumptions to be realistic for management
 - Explore non-linear relationships between spawning stock biomass and index of relative abundance
- Next Steps:
 - Continued development, workshops for gathering stakeholder input

Assessing Equity in the Distribution of Fisheries Management Benefits: Data and Information Availability

- National Academies of Sciences study
 - Purpose: determine primary benefit distribution in fisheries management
 - Focus: distributional and holistic equity approaches
 - Study is part of two-step process
 - Expectation for equity evaluation in specific fisheries
- Access to decision-making bodies is crucial

Assessing Equity in the Distribution of Fisheries Management Benefits: Data and Information Availability

- Study Recommendations:
 - Implement contextual, participatory equity approach
 - Expand equity work through data summaries and dashboards
 - Develop guidance documents for equity definitions and measurement
 - Assess social science capacity needs for equitable management
 - Commit to regular collection and analysis of social and economic data
 - Develop indicators for fishing engagement, dependence, and reliance
 - Address data limitations hindering equity goals
 - Use indicators to evaluate benefit distribution at community level

Assessing Equity in the Distribution of Fisheries Management Benefits: Data and Information Availability

- SSC Motion:

The Gulf SSC recommends that NOAA Fisheries request the National Academies of Sciences to follow up on “Assessing Equity in the Distribution of Fisheries Management Benefits” with a second Consensus Study Report that, as noted in the current report, “would build on this contribution by evaluating equity in select, illustrative fisheries using the information available.”

Motion carried with no opposition.

Equity and Environmental Justice Regional Plan

- Overview:

- Integrates National EEJ Strategy
- Emphasizes equitable benefit distribution and community engagement
- Addresses action items
- Council to update research and monitoring priorities, update EEJ-related items
- SSC discussed:
 - Managing community expectations
 - Feasibility concerns
 - Potential extension of Sea Grant programs, universities
 - Involvement in EEJ focus groups
 - Use of external contractors to fulfill plan goals

SEDAR Changes and Alternative Assessment Methods for Gulf Stocks

- SEDAR Process Changes: *full implementation planned for 2026*
 - Research track gone
 - Proposed eliminating assessment nomenclature
 - Focus on key stocks for scheduling
 - Council identified these in April 2024
 - Strive for efficiency gains
 - Use models paired to data available for a species/complex
 - Leave some room for emergencies
 - Continued data automation work
 - Age data and shrimp bycatch remain time-consuming
 - Working with Council reps on SEDAR Steering Committee on process changes