

Gulf of Mexico Council

Update Assessment Report Guidelines for Scientific and Statistical Committee

1. Introduction

1.1 Complete Document List

1.2 Overview

1.2.1 Identify assessment(s) to be reviewed

1.2.2 Identify data to be used to review fish stock(s)

Ex: 2011 SEDAR 9 Update Assessment for Gray Triggerfish presented by Dr. Steve Saul, NOAA SEFSC

1.2.3 Provide summary of current management of stock(s) to be reviewed

Include stock status prior to the assessment being reviewed (overfishing/overfished?), current fisheries management practices being employed (size/catch limits, OFL, ABC), and any information regarding rebuilding plans currently in effect (if applicable)

1.2.4 Provide a table with the biological reference points from the previous stock assessment

2. Assessment Review

2.1 Identify any problems encountered with assessing each fish stock

2.1.1 Summarize actions taken to address any problems encountered

2.1.2 Detail additional model runs, sensitivity analyses, and any other analyses requested prior to the completion of the review. Provide rationale for additional actions

2.2 Provide a table with the updated biological reference points

2.3 State whether the SSC accepts the update assessment as the best scientific information available

2.3.1 Discuss the degree to which the assessment accounts for scientific uncertainty, and describe any sources of scientific uncertainty

- 2.3.2 State whether the yield projections are appropriate, including initial and final years. Indicate whether yield streams include discards. If a rebuilding plan is in effect, provide rationale if yield streams are not accepted until the end of the rebuilding plan
- 2.3.3 Determine if the assessment is appropriate for use in setting OFL and ABC and, if so, state those values and how they are determined
- 2.3.4 Discuss the development and utilization of probability distribution functions (PDFs)
- 2.4 Offer research recommendations to be incorporated prior to any future stock assessments
- 2.5 Recommend the time interval for the next stock assessment, and whether that assessment should be a benchmark, standard, or update assessment

3. Special Comments