



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Southeast Fisheries Science Center
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February 1, 2022

MEMORANDUM FOR: John Carmichael
Executive Director
South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council

FROM: John F. Walter, III
Deputy Director, Science and Council Services
NOAA Southeast Fisheries Science Center

SUBJECT: SEFSC Response to 2024 SEDAR Draft Statements of Work

The Center has reviewed the proposed statement of work (SOW) for the 2024 SEDAR assessment of tilefish (attached below). The Center agrees that this SOW is acceptable as written.

Thanks,

John F. Walter, III
Deputy Director, Science and Council Services
NOAA Southeast Fisheries Science Center

CC: Julie Neer, Clay Porch, Shannon Cass-Calay, Erik Williams

Species:

Tilefish

Model and Additional Data Years:

- Prior Assessment: South Atlantic Tilefish SEDAR 66
- Prior Terminal Year: 2018
- OA Terminal Year: 2022, adding 4 years of new data.
- Apply the current BAM configuration.

Requested Data Updates (Please be as specific as possible):

- Include any new and updated information on life history, discard mortality, and steepness.
- Explore the use of life history generated by SCDNR Vertical Longline (SBLL) survey because of recent expansion of effort and spatial area.
- Explore the use of life history data generated by the new South Atlantic Deepwater Longline Survey (SADLS) and previous pilot study data.
- Review methods used to generate the commercial longline CPUE index (if not done for the 2021 update assessment).

Requested Model Modification to previously approved assessment (Please be as specific as possible):

- Explore alternate plus age/size group delineations in the assessment model (similar to SAW/SARC 58 for the northern stock) given the paucity of data collection on older individuals and previous issues with the model being sensitive to the selection of the multinomial likelihood function (if not done for 2021 update assessment).

Is a Topical Working Group Needed? Yes**If Yes, Topical Working Group Topics:**

- Topic 1: Life history – review and explore the potential utility and incorporation of new life history information, including:
 - Data collected from expanded SCDNR SBLL survey, new cooperative SADLS survey, and SCDNR CRP pilot study (abundance, life history, etc). Examine spatial differences.
 - Evidence for hermaphroditism in the South Atlantic (specifically the interpretation and applicability of analyses conducted in Gulf of Mexico by Lombardi-Carlson (2012)).
 - Evidence for age or size dependence of spawning frequency and spawning season duration.
 - Genetic evidence of connectivity between northern and southern stocks (McDowell, VIMS).
 - Evidence for potential northward range shift.

Suggested Topical Working Group Process:

Webinar(s) held early during the assessment process.



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February 1, 2022

MEMORANDUM FOR: Miguel A. Rolón
Executive Director
Caribbean Fishery Management Council

FROM: John F. Walter, III
Deputy Director, Science and Council Services
NOAA Southeast Fisheries Science Center

SUBJECT: Caribbean FY24 stock assessment SOW

The Center has reviewed the proposed statement of work (SOW) for the 2024 SEDAR assessment of Caribbean Spiny Lobster, *Panulirus argus*, all islands (attached below). The Center agrees that this SOW is acceptable as written.

Thanks,

John F. Walter, III
Deputy Director, Science and Council Services
NOAA Southeast Fisheries Science Center

CC: Clay Porch, Shannon Cass-Calay, Kevin McCarthy

Caribbean 2024 stock assessments

Species: Caribbean Spiny Lobster *Panulirus argus*, all islands

Model and Additional Data Years:

- Prior Assessment: Caribbean Spiny Lobster SEDAR 57
- Prior Terminal Year: 2016
- OA Terminal Year: 2022, adding 6 years of new data.
- Apply the current SS3 configuration, with updates as noted below.

Requested Data Updates (Please be as specific as possible):

- Include any new and updated information on life history and selectivity.
- Explore the use of life history (age and growth) generated by Matthews and Butler.
- Explore the use of environmental data (e.g., effects of environmental conditions on lobster abundance/landings; CARICOOS, SEAMAP-C).
- Review methods used to generate the commercial CPUE indices.
- Explore the inclusion of economic and social information to inform catchability, selectivity, and targeting.

Potential Model Modification to previously approved assessment (Please be as specific as possible):

- Explore inclusion of age information, as appropriate (data dependent). Explore inclusion of environmental covariates in the assessment model (data dependent; e.g., reproduction, recruitment, growth, natural mortality, and distribution). Explore the inclusion of commercial (CCL) indices of abundance. Explore the inclusion of economic and social information to inform catchability, selectivity, and targeting. Use results of selectivity studies to better inform the functional shape/model parameters of the selectivity function.

Is a Topical Working Group Needed? Yes

If Yes, Topical Working Group Topics:

- Topic 1: Life history
 - Review and explore the potential utility and incorporation of new life history information
 - E.g., Matthews and Butler age and growth information (SEAMAP-Caribbean)
- Topic 2: Indices and Selectivity; Socio-economic and environmental
 - Explore potential ecosystem indicators
 - Explore changes in catchability, selectivity, and retention due to socio-economic factors
- Topic 3: Fishery/stakeholders (recommend in person meetings, one for each island)
 - Report out of recommendations of topics 1 and 2
 - Stakeholder response to targeted questions that could inform model inputs

Suggested Topical Working Group Process:

Two meetings of each TWG to be noticed in the Federal Register: 1) scoping webinar held early during the assessment process; 2) final webinar with recommendations. Additional working meetings (not noticed) as required to complete the work.



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February 1, 2022

MEMORANDUM FOR: Carrie Simmons
Executive Director
Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council

FROM: John F. Walter, III
Deputy Director, Science and Council Services
NOAA Southeast Fisheries Science Center

SUBJECT: SEFSC Response to 2024 SEDAR Draft Statements of Work

The Center has reviewed the proposed statements of work (SOW) for the 2024 SEDAR stock assessments of Gulf of Mexico Cobia, Red Grouper and Vermilion Snapper. We have made a number of comments and recommended revisions on the attached SOWs.

Gulf of Mexico Cobia, Vermilion Snapper and Red Grouper

The three SOWs request that the Center document changes in MRIP data, both pre- and post-recalibration, in terms of the magnitude of changes to catch and effort. The Center conducted these analyses during the most recent assessments of these stock, which were already transitioned to FES. The Center also provided a stepwise table showing the effect of integrating the FES estimates into the assessment models. There is no longer a need to include this evaluation in the SOW of TORs for operational assessments of Cobia, Vermilion Snapper or Red Grouper.

Gulf of Mexico Cobia:

This assessment is limited by sparse data and a lack of fisheries independent indices. Lacking new scientific information that would require a reevaluation of model structure and parameterization, the Center recommends a strict operational assessment for this stock.

The SOW requests that the Center describe any annual differences in the magnitude of landings from the previous assessment greater than 10%. We agree to identify these differences if they occur. It may not be possible to fully explain the differences without an investment of time and effort beyond the scope of the OA project schedule.

The SOW requests that the Center incorporate social and economic information into the stock assessment considerations, as practicable. While we agree that incorporating social and economic information more comprehensively into the assessment and/or management process, this is beyond the scope of an operational assessment. Unless a specific driver can be identified, and a mechanism established to link that driver to a

stock assessment parameter, the Center requests that this element be removed from the SOW. It is certainly a topic we would like to see brought up to the SSC.

Gulf of Mexico Vermilion Snapper:

The SOW requests that the Center explore the use of the SRFS for private recreational catch and effort for vermilion snapper in place of the same data collected by the MRIP-FES. The Center does not support this request because the stock assessment requires a common currency for recreational statistics across the Gulf and there are significant catches of vermilion snapper outside Florida waters. The Center intends to transition to fully calibrated recreational estimates derived from state surveys when they are available and vetted by the MRIP transition process. At such a time that state survey data are used, the Center would also prepare runs to evaluate the impact of transitioning to these new estimates.

The SOW requests that the Center evaluate the protocol for estimating shrimp trawl bycatch and update the WinBugs program with any changes to data collection protocols that may have occurred over the last decade, and also requests that the Center re-evaluate the super-year approach for modeling shrimp bycatch to better reflect the low observed bycatch levels in recent years (i.e., using two super-years to reflect the high and low effort regimes pre- and post-2000). Both of these topics are under consideration by an external working group. Once they are vetted by a review body, they should not be reconsidered during individual assessment proceedings. The Center agrees to follow the recommendations of the external working group charged with reviewing the shrimp bycatch estimation procedures.

The SOW requests that the Center explore re-parametrization of the double normal selectivity curves for the fishery-independent surveys to reduce correlations and improve model stability. This is too prescriptive. The Center agrees to investigate the selectivity functions in general, rather than just the double-normal selectivity functions.

Gulf of Mexico Red Grouper

The wording of the SOW suggests two parallel assessments from start to finish (SRFS and FES). The Center does not agree to support two parallel assessments. The Center anticipates guidance from the MRIP transition team. If the SRFS data are deemed approved and calibrated by the transition team, we expect to use the SRFS recreational estimates as BSIA. The Center also notes that if the MRIP transition process vets the SRFS, then we would prepare runs to evaluate the impact of transitioning to SRFS.

The SOW requests the Center explore stock assessment model runs incorporating historical landings data back to the start of the fishery, and the sensitivity of the model to the start year used. This has been explored previously and shown not to be particularly sensitive. Even in the instance that SRFS data are used, the start year is expected to have little impact, and workload to take all data sources further back in time will pose a large increase to the workload for data providers.

The SOW requests that the Center evaluate age and length composition data collected through SRFS between 2014 – 2022 for inclusion in the model. The decision to include that data will likely be independent of the MRIP transition process. If it is fundamentally new data, collected in a way different from past data, ***then it may merit a topical working group.***

The SOW requests that the Center evaluate the resultant differences in the MRIP-FES and SRFS model runs, characterizing strengths and weaknesses in both. It is not efficient to conduct this work within the scope of individual assessment processes. The Center expects to use data in accordance with the recommendations of the MRIP transition team. The Center recommends deleting this element though guidance from the MRIP transition team will be reflected in the way data are used and in the final report.

Technical Working Groups

Red Tide: no comment

Recreational Mean Weight Estimation: No need for an in-person meeting. Need one webinar to discuss.

SRFS Data Evaluation: No need. This should be handled through the MRIP transition team.

SRFS Age/Length Comp: May merit a TWG if data are fundamentally new, or collected in a new way.

Thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J.F. Walter III".

John F. Walter, III
Deputy Director, Science and Council Services
NOAA Southeast Fisheries Science Center

CC: Julie Neer, Clay Porch, Shannon Cass-Calay, Kate Siegfried



Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

Managing Fishery Resources in the U.S. Federal Waters of the Gulf of Mexico

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Gulf of Mexico Cobia Operational Assessment Scope of Work DRAFT: September 2021

1. Update the approved SEDAR 28 Update Gulf of Mexico cobia base model with data through 2023.
2. Document any changes or corrections made to model and input datasets and provide updated input data tables.
 - Document changes in MRIP data, both pre- and post-recalibration, in terms of the magnitude of changes to catch and effort. Compare to values from SEDAR 28 Update for Gulf cobia.
 - Describe any annual differences in the magnitude of landings from the previous assessment greater than 10%.
 - Update life history data (e.g., growth, reproduction, mortality) if warranted.
 - Evaluate any new data on discard mortality.
 - Re-examine Stevens and MacCall method of developing subset of trips targeting cobia.
 - Incorporate social and economic information into the stock assessment considerations as practicable.
3. To the extent possible, the following should be considered in developing the base model:
 - Consider whether steepness can be estimated, with or without a prior. If steepness is fixed, evaluate the sensitivity of that assumption.
 - Explore selectivity functions for recreational and commercial fisheries.
 - Explore uncertainty in landings data using appropriate methods in sensitivity analyses.
4. Update model parameter estimates and their variances, model uncertainties, estimates of stock status and management benchmarks, and provide the probability of overfishing occurring at specified future harvest and exploitation levels. Provide commercial and recreational landings and discards in pounds and numbers.
 - Use the following status determination criteria (SDC):
 - $MSY \text{ proxy} = \text{yield at } F_{MSY} \text{ or proxy } (F_{SPR30\%})$
 - $MSST = 0.75 * SSB_{MSY}$
 - $MFMT = F_{MSY} \text{ and } F_{Rebuild} \text{ (if overfished)}$
 - $OY = ACL$ as defined by the Gulf and South Atlantic Councils in CMP Amendment 18 (GMFMC and SAFMC 2011).
 - If different SDC are recommended, provide outputs for both the current and recommended SDC.
 - Unless otherwise recommended, use the geometric mean of the previous three years' fishing mortality to determine $F_{Current}$. If an alternative approach is recommended, provide justification and outputs for the current and alternative approach.
 - For the purposes of yield projections, for selectivity and retention, use the average of the most recent three fishing years.

- Describe changes in catch advice as they relate to the use of FES-adjusted MRIP recreational catch and effort data, versus changes related to stock abundance.
 - Provide yield and spawning stock biomass streams for the overfishing limit and acceptable biological catch in pounds:
 - Annually for five years
 - Under a “constant catch” scenario for both three and five years
 - For the equilibrium yield at F_{MSY} , when estimable
5. Develop a stock assessment report to address these TORS and fully document the input data and results of the stock assessment model.

Topical Working Group

A topical working group **is not** recommended for this assessment.



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MEMORANDUM

Date: 25 August 2021

006954AUG2021

To: Dr. Julie A. Neer, SEDAR Coordinator

From: Dr. Carrie Simmons, Executive Director

Re: Gulf of Mexico Red Grouper and Vermilion Snapper Operational Assessment Scopes of Work

Please find attached the Scopes of Work for the Operational Assessments of Gulf of Mexico Red Grouper and Vermilion Snapper. These scopes of work have received final approval by the Gulf Council through the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee's and SEDAR internal approval process.

Please confirm receipt, and feel free to contact me at the Gulf Council office if you have any questions.

cc: Chip Collier, Ph.D.
Tom Frazer, Ph.D.
Jim Nance, Ph.D.
Technical Staff

Attachments: Scope of Work – Red Grouper OA
Scope of Work – Vermilion Snapper OA



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Gulf of Mexico Vermilion Snapper Operational Assessment Scope of Work DRAFT: August 25, 2021

1. Update the approved SEDAR 67 Gulf of Mexico vermilion snapper base model with data through 2023.
2. Document any changes or corrections made to model and input datasets and provide updated input data tables.
 - Document any changes in MRIP data, both pre- and post-recalibration, in terms of the magnitude of changes to catch and effort. Compare to values from SEDAR 67 (see Table 26 therein).
 - Update life history data (e.g., growth, reproduction, mortality) if warranted.
 - Explore the use of the Florida State Reef Fish Survey Program for private recreational catch and effort for vermilion snapper, in place of the same data collected by the Marine Recreational Information Program.
3. Update model parameter estimates and their variances, model uncertainties, estimates of stock status and management benchmarks, and provide the probability of overfishing occurring at specified future harvest and exploitation levels. Provide commercial and recreational landings and discards in pounds and numbers.
 - Explore the implications of dropping fishery-dependent CPUE indices from the assessment
 - Evaluate the protocol for estimating shrimp trawl bycatch and update the WinBugs program with any changes to data collection protocols that may have occurred over the last decade
 - Re-evaluate the super-year approach for modeling shrimp bycatch to better reflect the low observed bycatch levels in recent years (i.e., using two super-years to reflect the high and low effort regimes pre- and post-2000)
 - Explore re-parametrization of the double normal selectivity curves for the fishery-independent surveys to reduce correlations and improve model stability
 - Use the following status determination criteria (SDC):
 - MSY or MSY proxy = yield at F_{MSY} or $F_{Rebuild}$ (if overfished)
 - $MSST = 0.5 * SSB_{MSY}$
 - $MFMT = F_{MSY}$ (or proxy) and $F_{Rebuild}$ (if overfished)
 - $OY = \text{Yield at } 75\% \text{ of } F_{MSY}$
 - If different SDC are recommended, provide outputs for both the current and recommended SDC.
 - Unless otherwise recommended, use the geometric mean of the previous three years' fishing mortality to determine $F_{Current}$. If an alternative approach is recommended, provide justification and outputs for the current and alternative approach.
 - Provide yield and spawning stock biomass streams for the overfishing limit and acceptable biological catch in pounds:

- Annually for five years
 - Under a “constant catch” scenario for both three and five years
 - For the equilibrium yield at F_{MSY} (or proxy), when estimable
4. Develop a stock assessment report to address these TORS and fully document the input data and results of the stock assessment model.

Topical Working Groups

A topical working group **is not** recommended for this assessment.



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Gulf of Mexico Red Grouper Operational Assessment Scope of Work Original: August 25, 2021 Amended: November 5, 2021

1. Update the approved SEDAR 61 Gulf of Mexico red grouper MRIP base model with data through 2022.
 - Document any changes or corrections made to model and input datasets and provide updated input data tables.
 - Document any changes in MRIP data, both pre- and post-recalibration, in terms of the magnitude of changes to catch and effort. Compare to values from SEDAR 61.
 - Update life history data (e.g., growth, reproduction, mortality) if warranted.
 - Consider the treatment of recreational harvest:
 - Consider inputting recreational catch in weight (i.e., pounds) instead of in numbers of fish.
 - Re-evaluate error estimates for recreational landings.
 - Explore the effects of the changes in the mean weight estimation procedure between SEDAR 61 and the 2021 red grouper interim analysis
 - If using numbers of fish as the input unit for recreational catch, compare the mean weights estimated by the model with that reported by the SERO ACL Monitoring Dataset, or explore fitting to the SERO mean weights.
 - Explore stock assessment model runs incorporating historical landings data back to the start of the fishery, and the sensitivity of the model to the start year used.
2. Use the Florida State Reef Fish Survey (SRFS) Program for private recreational landings for red grouper, in place of the same data collected by MRIP-FES, with data through 2022. This TOR should be viewed as similar to TOR #1, except that SRFS should replace MRIP-FES.
 - Document differences between SRFS and MRIP-FES data, both pre- and post-recalibration, in terms of the magnitude of changes to catch and effort.
 - Carry over life history data (e.g., growth, reproduction, mortality) from the MRIP-FES base model.
 - Evaluate age and length composition collected through SRFS between 2014 – 2022 for inclusion in the SRFS model.
 - Consider the treatment of recreational harvest:
 - Consider inputting recreational catch in weight (i.e., pounds) instead of in numbers of fish.
 - Evaluate error estimates for recreational landings.
 - Consider whether to combine, or keep separate, landings estimates for the private and for-hire fleets.
 - Generate all customary and appropriate model diagnostics (e.g., jitter analysis, retrospective analyses, likelihood profiling, etc.) to evaluate model performance.

3. Explore the potential effects of red tide with consideration of past red tide events, and more recent events in 2018 and thereafter for MRIP-FES and SRFS models.
 - Explore age-specific episodic mortality of red grouper due to red tide.
4. Update model parameter estimates and their variances, model uncertainties, estimates of stock status and management benchmarks, and provide the probability of overfishing occurring at specified future harvest and exploitation levels for MRIP-FES and SRFS model runs. Provide commercial and recreational landings and discards in pounds and numbers.
 - Use the following status determination criteria (SDC):
 - MSY or MSY proxy = yield at F_{MSY} or $F_{Rebuild}$ (if overfished)
 - $MSST = 0.5 * SSB_{MSY}$
 - $MFMT = F_{MSY}$ (or proxy) and $F_{Rebuild}$ (if overfished)
 - $OY = 75\%$ of F_{MSY}
 - If different SDC are recommended, provide outputs for both the current and recommended SDC.
 - Unless otherwise recommended, use the geometric mean of the previous three years' fishing mortality to determine $F_{Current}$. If an alternative approach is recommended, provide justification and outputs for the current and alternative approach.
 - Provide yield and spawning stock biomass streams for the overfishing limit and acceptable biological catch in pounds:
 - Annually for five years
 - Under a "constant catch" scenario for both three and five years
 - For the equilibrium yield at F_{MSY} , when estimable
5. Evaluate the resultant differences in the MRIP-FES and SRFS model runs, characterizing strengths and weaknesses in both.
6. Develop a stock assessment report to address these TORS and fully document the input data and results of the stock assessment model.

Topical Working Group

Topical working groups are requested for:

- Red tide age-specific episodic mortality and red tide index development (*in-person*)
- Changes in the recreational mean weight estimation procedure (*in-person*)
- SRFS data evaluation (landings and indices) (*in-person*)



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February 1, 2022

MEMORANDUM FOR: Robert E. Beal
Executive Director
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

FROM: John F. Walter, III
Deputy Director, Science and Council Services
NOAA Southeast Fisheries Science Center

SUBJECT: SEFSC Response to 2024 SEDAR Draft Statements of Work

The Center has reviewed the statement of work (SOW) for the proposed 2024 SEDAR stock assessment of Atlantic Migratory Group Cobia (attached below). The Center strongly recommends that this stock assessment be conducted no earlier than 2025, but it also acknowledges that the SOW is otherwise acceptable as written.

Thanks,

John F. Walter, III
Deputy Director, Science and Council Services
NOAA Southeast Fisheries Science Center

CC: Julie Neer, Clay Porch, Shannon Cass-Calay, Erik Williams

Draft Statement of Work and Timing

Species:

Cobia Atlantic Migratory Group

Model and Additional Data Years:

- Prior Assessment: Cobia Atlantic Migratory Group SEDAR 58
- Prior Terminal Year: 2017
- OA Terminal Year: 2023/2024, adding 5-6 years of new data, depending on SEDAR schedule timing and the chosen terminal year
- The 2019 stock assessment (SEDAR 58) used BAM to assess Atlantic cobia

Requested Data Updates (Please be as specific as possible):

Defer to SEFSC assessment leads based on outcomes of SEDAR 58, priority research recommendations, and any life history or other new information from recent cobia research

- Add new years to data streams/time series used in previous assessment
- Consider adding recreational data for more states, to evaluate stock shifts and associated additional mortality...

Requested Model Modification to previously approved assessment (Please be as specific):

- Modification Request 1:

Is a Topical Working Group Needed?: Yes or **No**

APPROVED TIMING:

- Assessment Species are approved at Spring SEDAR Steering Committee Meeting (ex. May 2020)
- Cooperators use their process to develop SoWs
- Initial Cooperator-approved SoWs submitted to SEFSC by November 1 (15 Oct 2020 in this example)
- SEFSC provides feedback to Cooperators via memo no later than February 1st (1 February 2021 in this example)
- Cooperators/Technical review bodies review feedback and negotiate final SoWs with SEFSC
- Final SoWs provided to SEDAR Program Manager by May 1st. (1 May 2021)

COBIA TIMING:

We defer to SEFSC on timing of assessment development meetings/webinars and milestones. ASMFC can suggest the endpoint, to receive the final report to Cooperator by December, in order to provide results to the Cobia Fishery Management Board in January of the following year, for use in setting harvest levels and regulations for the next fishing season. A generic calendar year picture is provided as a starting point, with specific year not yet defined.

January (Yr TBD) – call for data

April – DW webinar

July – AW webinar

October – review final model runs

December – final report provided

January (Yr+1) – report provided to Cobia Fishery Management Board



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February 1, 2022

MEMORANDUM FOR: David M. Donaldson
Executive Director
Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission

FROM: John F. Walter, III
Deputy Director, Science and Council Services
NOAA Southeast Fisheries Science Center

SUBJECT: SEFSC Response to 2024 SEDAR Draft Statements of Work

The Center has reviewed the proposed statement of work (SOW) for the 2024 SEDAR stock assessment of Gulf Menhaden (attached below). The Center agrees that this SOW is acceptable as written.

Thanks,

John F. Walter, III
Deputy Director, Science and Council Services
NOAA Southeast Fisheries Science Center

CC: Julie Neer, Clay Porch, Shannon Cass-Calay, Kate Siegfried

GDAR## Gulf Menhaden Operational Assessment Statement of Work

Gulf Menhaden

- Model and Additional Data Years to Update the Gulf Menhaden GDAR03 assessment from a terminal year of 2020 to 2023.
 - Apply using the existing BAM configuration from GDAR03
- Data updates to include any newly available information on steepness for similar species.
 - Document any changes or corrections made to input datasets and any additional data added for the update.
 - Document any changes in assessment methodology incorporated into the update.
 - Consider comments provided by the GSMFC's GDAR03 review.
 - Update estimates of stock status and biological reference points. Provide declarations of stock status relative to the reference points.
 - Review the research recommendations from GDAR03, note any which have been completed, and make any necessary additions or clarifications.

Process

- Convene the State-Federal Fisheries Management Committee's Menhaden Advisory Committee (MAC) of the GSMFC and outside experts to meet via webinar or in-person to review model development and provide guidance, provide data updates, evaluate model outputs and results, and develop the final determination of stock status relative to the reference points.
- The NOAA stock assessment scientist and the GSMFC's representative will develop a stock assessment report to address these TORs and fully document the input data, methods, and results.
- All expenses in support of completion of the GOAR## Gulf Menhaden Operational Assessment (minus the NOAA stock assessment scientist) will be provided by the GSMFC's Interjurisdictional Fisheries Program. There will not be a request for a CIE review in association with the GDAR##.