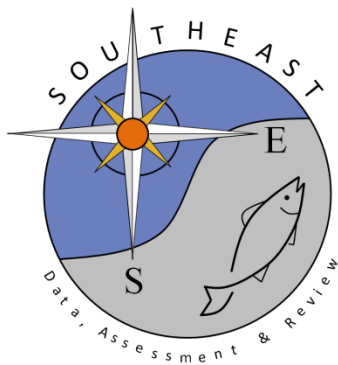


SEDAR 50 (Blueline Tilefish) Stock Identification Joint SSC Review Webinar Consensus Statements

Joint SSC Sub-Panel (included MAFMC, SAFMC, GMFMC representatives)

SEDAR50-DW16

Submitted: 8 November 2016



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SEDAR 50 (Blueline Tilefish) Stock Identification Joint SSC Review Webinar

Friday, October 28, 2016 from 12-3pm (EST)

SEDAR STEERING COMMITTEE CHARGE: Request a joint (Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico) SSC review of the Stock ID report via webinar to provide advice on addressing the stock unit – management unit overlap for Blueline Tilefish in the Gulf of Mexico, and comment on the risks of management based on the Gulf Council boundary.

ATTENDEES:

Appointed SSC Members: GMFMC: Mary Christman, Will Patterson

SAFMC: Anne Lange, George Sedberry, Fred Serchuk

MAFMC: John Boreman

SEDAR Staff: Julia Byrd & John Carmichael

Other Attendees: Steven Atran, Scott Crosson, Jason Didden, Michelle Duval, Mike Errigo, Nick Farmer, Nikolai Klibansky, Jack McGovern, Paul Nitschke, Jennifer Potts, Marcel Reichert, Ryan Rindone, Amy Schueller, Alexei Sharov, Carrie Simmons, Jessica Stephen, Kate Wilke, Erik Williams

APPOINTED SSC PARTICIPANT CONSENSUS STATEMENTS:

Task 1: Review the SEDAR 50 Stock ID Work Group Report (SEDAR50-DW12)

- Genetic evidence failed to reject null hypothesis of one continuous genetic stock. However, concern was raised about the limited sample size and geographic distribution of samples available from the Gulf of Mexico.
- Spatial data (fishery independent and fishery dependent) suggest Blueline Tilefish occur with a near continuous distribution in outer continental shelf benthic habitats from the Mid-Atlantic through the Gulf of Mexico.
- Blueline Tilefish habitat is sufficiently distributed from the western Gulf of Mexico through the South Atlantic/Mid-Atlantic to facilitate gene flow among regions.
- There is limited information on Blueline Tilefish adult movement; however, the Loop Current does provide a mechanism for larval connectivity between the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic.
- The Panel recognizes the limited information to fully describe the population structure of Blueline Tilefish throughout the species' range in U.S. waters, and therefore endorses the research recommendations from the Stock ID work group report.

- There are limited data to determine spatial variability of life history parameters due to the aging issues, and little data available from the Gulf of Mexico to assess population demographic differences among regions. The reproductive data available at the workshop have some spatial and substantial temporal limitations, but results of analyses of the existing data do not refute the existence of one population along the Atlantic Coast of the U.S. from the Florida Keys through Virginia.

Task 2: Provide advice on the level of overlap between the Atlantic Blueline Tilefish stock and the management jurisdictions of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils

- There is insufficient information to estimate what proportion of total Blueline Tilefish biomass exists in shelf areas under the management jurisdiction of the GMFMC, SAFMC, or MAFMC.
- In the past, Councils have used historical landings to allocate between regions. However, due to the short duration of Blueline Tilefish fishing effort in some Council jurisdictions, and regulatory changes that may have affected landings in recent years, this Panel does not think recent landings are likely to be representative of productivity. Therefore, landings history may be a poor proxy of abundance and not an ideal method for allocation of Blueline Tilefish.

Task 3: Provide guidance on the risks associated with management based on the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council boundary

- There is no information to examine source/sink population dynamics for Blueline Tilefish across its range in U.S. waters.
- This task is difficult to address since this Panel does not know what management is being planned in all regions, and the risks will depend on the extent different management regimes in each region are capable of preventing overfishing.