

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Scientific and Statistical Committee Meeting

March 14, 2018
Terms of Reference

For blueline tilefish (north of the Virginia-North Carolina border), the SSC will provide a written report that identifies the following for fishing years 2019-2021:

- 1) The level of uncertainty that the SSC deems most appropriate for the information content of the most recent stock assessment, based on criteria listed in the Omnibus Amendment;
- 2) If possible, the level of catch (in weight) associated with the overfishing limit (OFL) based on the maximum fishing mortality rate threshold or, if appropriate, an OFL proxy;
- 3) The level of catch (in weight) and the probability of overfishing associated with the acceptable biological catch (ABC) for the stock, the number of fishing years for which the ABC specification applies and, if possible, interim metrics that can be examined to determine if multi-year specifications need reconsideration prior to their expiration;
- 4) The most significant sources of scientific uncertainty associated with determination of OFL and ABC;
- 5) Ecosystem considerations accounted for in the stock assessment, and any additional ecosystem considerations that the SSC took into account in selecting the ABC, including the basis for those additional considerations;
- 6) Prioritized research or monitoring recommendations that would reduce the scientific uncertainty in the ABC recommendation and/or improve the assessment level;
- 7) The materials considered in reaching its recommendations;
- 8) A certification that the recommendations provided by the SSC represent the best scientific information available.