



## 2016 – 2017 Planned Council Meeting Topics

**December 12-15, 2016 — Royal Sonesta Harbor Court Baltimore, Baltimore, MD**

- 2017 Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass Recreational Specifications – *Adopt*
- Summer Flounder Amendment – *Status updated and review timelines*
- Scup Quota Period Framework – *Initiate/framework meeting 1*
- Squid Capacity Amendment – *Adopt alternatives for public hearing document*
- Omnibus Industry Funded Monitoring Amendment – *Adopt final alternatives*
- NJ SMZ Recommendation – *Final action*
- Monkfish specifications – *Final action*
- Review and approve 2017 Implementation plan

**February 14-16, 2017 — Hilton Garden Inn Outer Banks, Kitty Hawk, NC**

- Scup Quota Period Framework – *Framework meeting 1*
- Black sea bass 2017-2019 specifications – *Adopt*
- Summer Flounder Amendment – *Review draft commercial range of alternatives*

## MAFMC 2017 COUNCIL MEETINGS

February 14-16, 2017	Hilton Garden Inn 5353 N. Virginia Dare Trail Kitty Hawk, NC 252-261-1290
April 11-13, 2017	Icona Golden Inn 7849 Dune Dr. Avalon, NJ 08202 609-368-5155
June 6-8, 2017	The Main 100 Main St. Norfolk, VA 23510 757-763-6200
August 8-10, 2017	Courtyard Marriott 21 North Juniper St. Philadelphia, PA 19107 215-496-3200
October 10-12, 2017	Hyatt Long Island East End 451 East Main St. Riverhead, NY 11901 631-208-0002
December 11-14, 2017	Westin Annapolis 100 Westgate Circle Annapolis, MD 21401 410-972-4300



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Michael P. Luisi, Chairman | G. Warren Elliott, Vice Chairman  
Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director

## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** 10/31/16  
**To:** Chris Moore  
**From:** Jason Didden *JDD*  
**Subject:** Tilefish Survey Proposals

The results of the review of the five tilefish survey proposals resulted in a preliminary preferred proposal: *Fisheries-independent pilot survey for golden (*Lopholatilus chamaelonticeps*) and blueline (*Caulolatilus microps*) tilefish throughout the range from Georges Bank to Cape Hatteras* submitted by the Research Foundation for SUNY Stony Brook. The primary strengths of this proposal included addressing both tilefish species throughout the entire Mid-Atlantic (per the request for proposals) and using a well understood gear type and methodology. These project characteristics make the SUNY project the most likely to lead to an implementable fishery-independent survey that could positively contribute to future assessments for golden and blueline tilefish. In addition, the SUNY proposal could provide information on geographic distribution and fishery selectivity, which have been identified as sources of uncertainty in the tilefish assessments. Like several of the other proposals, it also has strong industry and NMFS collaborating partners.

The review group identified several needs for additional information and/or modifications prior to any contract finalization, including:

- Consider using only long-bottom longline (which fishermen in the southeast have conveyed can be used to effectively target bluelines over both unstructured and mixed habitats) and only a single hook size. Alternatively, better justify plans to use multiple gear combinations (longline lengths and hook sizes) relative to the ability to resolve the effects of multiple gear types, including trade-offs between the number of gears used and the sample size for each gear.

- Based on the best information available, provide a table that shows the expected precision of key estimates given a range of sample sizes and if necessary, gear configurations.
  
- Provide additional information on the coordination phase of the project. If practical, increase stakeholder and NMFS stock assessment and survey scientist involvement to review all aspects of the proposed survey design before work commences.
  
- Given the potential effects of saturation and bait loss, ensure there is a record of hook size for each fish (including non-target species) and the number of empty and baited hooks retrieved after each set. Consider using hook timers and current meters to allow additional analysis of saturation effects (including impacts on costs).

## **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.

## 2016 FALL NRCC MEETING AGENDA

The Carlyle Dupont Circle Hotel—Washington, D.C.  
Call-in Information: (866) 647-1746, participant code: 6042534  
*All times are approximate*

### Tuesday, October 11

1200-1210

1. Welcome, introductions, modifications and additions to agenda, announcements  
(Bullard, Hare)

1210-1310

2. National Monument Discussion  
Discussion leader: Pentony
  - Discuss the recently announced Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument

1310-1410

3. Aquaculture Policy in the Region  
Discussion leader: Pentony
  - Presentation on the Gulf Council's aquaculture program
  - Review of the New England Council's aquaculture policy (Kevin Madley, GARFO's Regional Aquaculture Coordinator)
  - Discuss next steps for our region

1410-1510

4. Offshore Energy Issues  
Discussion leader: Nies
  - Discuss coordination between NEFMC, MAFMC, and ASMFC

1510-1520 *Break*

1520-1630

5. Climate Change: NE Action Plan Update and Management of Shifting Species  
Discussion leaders: Hare and Bullard
  - Update on NE Regional Climate Action Plan
  - Discuss joint management of summer flounder and black sea bass
  - At our Spring 2016 meeting, the NRCC tasked itself to create a working group to address shifting species and climate change. Any updates to report on this initiative?

1630-1700

6. Permit Splitting Omnibus Amendment  
Discussion leader: Nies
  - Discuss possible development of an omnibus amendment to address an interest in allowing permit splitting, and to further modify permit upgrade

restrictions (e.g., removing the restriction on increases in length, adding a restriction on weight/displacement).

*1700-1720*

7. Windowpane Flounder AMs

Discussion leader: Nies

- Provide update on anticipated implementation of windowpane flounder AMs and impacts on MAFMC-managed species.

*1720-1730*

8. Update on SBRM and Lobsters

Discussion leader: Pentony

- Background: As discussed at our spring meeting, the SBRM amendment made an inadvertent error by exempting lobster permit holders who do not have other Federal permits. The NRCC supported fixing this problem as expeditiously as possible. GARFO will report out on the plan for resolving this issue.
- Addresses 2016 Spring Action Item #5

*1730-Adjourn Day 1*

*Dinner or Happy Hour: TBD*

**Wednesday, October 12**

*0900-1000*

9. Priority Discussion

NEFMC, MAFMC, ASMFC, GARFO, and NEFSC outline priorities

- Discuss prioritization and coordination of resources, as needed
- Review operating agreements

*1000-1200 (Break as needed)*

10. Review Current Assessment Schedule established at Spring 2016 NRCC meeting and other assessment topics

Discussion leader: Weinberg/Simpkins

- Report out on Action Items
  - Cod stock structure
  - Plan B Working Group (Spring 2016 Action Item #2)
  - Mackerel assessment update
- Assessment Issues/Topics
  - MRIP Transition Schedule and coordination of national process with regional assessments
  - Groundfish Operational Assessments Timing
- Review previously established 2017-18 schedule and Additional work
  - NEFSC survey transition



- SBRM 3-year review
- Halibut data-poor efforts; coordination between NEFMC and NEFSC
- Strategic long-term planning for assessments to match management cycles/needs and improve research connections
  - Utility of National Stock Assessment Program prioritization process for such strategic planning

*1200-1300 Lunch*

*1300-1500*

11. Continue with Assessment Related Discussions

*Break 1500-1515*

*1515-1530*

12. Update on Skinning and Filletting Regulations as they apply to both New England and Mid-Atlantic Species

Discussion leader: MAFMC

- At our last meeting, Rick Robins offered to have the MAFMC take the lead on looking across the two Councils' FMPs to summarize skinning and filleting regulations. The plan was to have the MAFMC to report back to the NRCC at this meeting.
- Addresses 2016 Spring Action Item #6

*1530-1535*

13. Update on Cooperative Research Program Review

Discussion leader: Simpkins

- The NEFSC will report out on the Cooperative Research Program review and discuss possibly developing a white paper on study fleet best practice
- Addresses 2016 Spring Action Item #1

*1535-1600*

14. Meeting wrap up

- Discuss workload and scope of NRCC – interest in making modifications to how the group is currently functioning? (Beal)
- Complete any unfinished discussions or unresolved new business
- Review action items and assignments
- Confirm May 9-10, 2017 Spring meeting date (GARFO host) and identify Fall 2017 (MAFMC host) meeting date
- Adjourn meeting

*Hard stop for all participants at 4:00 pm*