

MAFMC Scientific and Statistical Committee Meeting
March 21-22, 2012
Baltimore, MD
Terms of reference

Using information provided by March 7, 2012, the SSC will provide a written report that identifies the following for tilefish for the upcoming fishing year(s):

- 1) The materials considered in reaching its recommendations;
- 2) The level (1-4) that the SSC deems most appropriate for the information content of the most recent stock assessment, based on criteria listed in the Omnibus Amendment;
- 3) If possible, the level of catch (in weight) associated with the overfishing limit (OFL) based on the maximum fishing mortality rate threshold;
- 4) The level of catch (in weight) associated with the acceptable biological catch (ABC) for the stock. The ABC will be selected based on the overfishing definition contained in the FMP, and will reflect the level of scientific uncertainty inherent in the stock assessment such that the recommended ABC is less than or equal to the overfishing limit consistent with the Council's risk policy described in the Omnibus Amendment, the Act, and the National Standard 1 Guidelines to the Act;
- 5) If possible, the probability of overfishing associated with the OFL and ABC catch level recommendations;
- 6) The most significant sources of scientific uncertainty associated with determination of OFL and ABC;
- 7) Ecosystem considerations that the SSC took into account, beyond those already incorporated into the stock assessment, in selecting the ABC, and the basis for those considerations;
- 8) A certification that the recommendations provided by the SSC represent the best scientific information available; and
- 9) A list of high priority research or monitoring recommendations that would reduce the scientific uncertainty in the ABC recommendation.

The SSC recommendations shall be provided to Council staff within 10 working days following the SSC meeting.