



Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Scientific and Statistical Committee Meeting

July 24, 2023

Terms of Reference

For Bluefish, the SSC will provide a written report that identifies the following for the 2024-2025 fishing years:

- 1) Based on the criteria identified in the acceptable biological catch (ABC) control rule, assign the stock to one of four types of control rules (analytically derived, modified by the assessment team, modified by the SSC, or OFL cannot be specified) the SSC deems most appropriate for the information content of the most recent stock assessment;
- 2) If possible, determine the level of total catch (in weight) for each requested fishing year that is consistent with the constant 7-year rebuilding fishing mortality rate (F_{rebuild}) selected by the Council and, if appropriate, the associated coefficient of variation recommended by the SSC and its basis;
- 3) The level of catch (in weight) associated with the ABC for each requested fishing year consistent with the 7-year rebuilding fishing mortality rate (F_{rebuild}) selected by the Council. If appropriate, specify 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 total catch and the ABC;
- 5) Ecosystem considerations accounted for in the stock assessment, as appropriate, and any additional ecosystem considerations that the SSC considered in selecting the ABC, including the basis for those additional considerations;
- 6) Research or monitoring recommendations that would reduce the scientific uncertainty in the ABC recommendation and/or improve the assessment level;
- 7) The materials considered by the SSC in reaching its recommendations;
- 8) A conclusion that the recommendations provided by the SSC are based on scientific information the SSC believes meets the applicable National Standard guidelines for best scientific information available.