

### Optimum Yield

The Magnuson-Stevens Act and NS1 guidelines state that OY is based on MSY as reduced by relevant economic, social, or ecological factors. Additionally, the NS1 guidelines state that OY should include some consideration of uncertainty. If the estimates of MFMT and current biomass are known with a high level of certainty, and management controls can accurately limit catch, then OY could be set very close to MSY, assuming no other reductions are necessary for social, economic, or ecological factors. However, OY cannot exceed MSY. To the degree that such MSY estimates and management controls are lacking or unavailable, OY should be reduced farther from MSY.

For the assessed reef fish stocks that are not addressed in Amendments 48/5, the Gulf Council has defined OY as the yield from fishing at some percentage of  $F_{MSY}$  (or proxy). However, the NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC) staff and the Gulf Council's SSC have recommended against specifying OY as the yield at a certain value of  $F$ . They have suggested instead that OY be a percentage of MSY for three reasons: (1) If OY is specified as a percentage of  $F_{MSY}$  (or proxy), SEFSC staff would need to provide two sets of yield projections when running stock assessments (one for MSY and one for OY), adding complexity to the projections; (2) it is possible that the calculated long-term yield at the  $F_{OY}$  proxy could be greater than the calculated long-term yield at the  $F_{MSY}$  proxy, which would be inconsistent with the Magnuson-Stevens Act and NS1 guidelines; and (3) defining OY as a percent of MSY is more intuitive and easier to understand than using a percentage of the  $F_{MSY}$  proxy to define OY. Therefore, the Gulf Council proposes setting OY at 90 percent of the MSY or MSY proxy for all reef fish stocks addressed in Amendments 48/5 with the exception of goliath grouper.

For goliath grouper, the Council proposes using the ratio between the annual catch limit (ACL) and OFL to determine how much the OY should be reduced from the MSY. This relationship accounts for scientific and management uncertainty and would apply that knowledge to guide where OY should be set relative to MSY for this stock. Because possession of goliath grouper is prohibited, the OY value would be zero.

For red drum, the Gulf Council decided to keep the existing OY definition, which is based on a 1987 SEFSC stock assessment that concluded

under certain escapement rates of juveniles, the stock could rebuild. This OY definition is: (1) All red drum commercially and recreationally harvested from Gulf state waters landed consistent with state laws and regulations under a goal of allowing 30 percent escapement of the juvenile population; and (2) all red drum commercially or recreationally harvested from the Primary Area (Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama) of the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) under the total allowable catch (TAC) level and allocations specified under the provisions of the Red Drum FMP, and a zero-retention level from the Secondary Areas (Florida and Texas) of the EEZ. The red drum TAC for the Gulf EEZ has been zero since 1988 with the implementation of Amendment 2 to the Red Drum FMP and harvest in the EEZ is prohibited (53 FR 34662; June 29, 1988). Therefore, to achieve the OY, the Gulf states have independently and cooperatively implemented red drum regulations to achieve a 30 percent or greater escapement rate to the spawning stocks for each year class.

### Procedural Aspects of Amendments 48/5

The Council has submitted Amendments 48/5 for Secretarial review, approval, and implementation. NMFS' decision to approve, partially approve, or disapprove Amendments 48/5 will be based, in part, on consideration of comments, recommendations, and information received during the comment period on this notice of availability. After consideration of these factors, and consistency with the Magnuson-Stevens Act and other applicable laws, NMFS will publish a notice of agency decision in the **Federal Register** announcing the Agency's decision to approve, partially approve, or disapprove Amendments 48/5. Because none of the measures included in the amendments involve regulatory changes, no proposed or final rule is required at this time. If approved, the provisions of Amendments 48/5 would not be specified in regulations but would be considered amendments to the respective FMPs.

### Consideration of Public Comments

Comments on Amendments 48/5 must be received by May 9, 2022. Comments received during the comment period for this notice of availability will be considered by NMFS in its decision to approve, partially approve, or disapprove Amendments 48/5. Comments received after the comment period will not be considered by NMFS in this decision. All comments received

by NMFS during the comment period will be addressed in the notice of agency decision.

*Authority:* 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: March 3, 2022.

**Ngagne Jafnar Gueye,**

*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### Public Meeting of the Science Advisory Board

**AGENCY:** Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (DOC).

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** This notice sets forth the schedule and proposed agenda for the meeting of the Science Advisory Board (SAB). The members will discuss issues outlined in the section on Matters to be Considered.

**DATES:** The meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 27, 2022, 9:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) and Thursday, April 28, 2022, 8:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT). The time and the agenda topics described below are subject to change. For the latest agenda, please refer to the SAB website: <https://sab.noaa.gov/index.php/current-meetings/>.

**ADDRESSES:** The April 27 and 28, 2022 venue is to be determined; please check the website for the location. The link for the webinar registration for the April 27–28, 2022 meeting may be found here: <https://sab.noaa.gov/index.php/current-meetings/>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Cynthia Decker, Executive Director, SSMC3, Room 11230, 1315 East-West Hwy., Silver Spring, MD 20910; Phone Number: 301-734-1156; Email: [Cynthia.Decker@noaa.gov](mailto:Cynthia.Decker@noaa.gov); or visit the SAB website at <https://sab.noaa.gov/index.php/current-meetings/>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The NOAA Science Advisory Board (SAB) was established by a Decision Memorandum dated September 25, 1997, and is the only Federal Advisory Committee with responsibility to advise the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere on strategies for research, education, and application of science to operations and information

services. SAB activities and advice provide necessary input to ensure that National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) science programs are of the highest quality and provide optimal support to resource management.

*Status:* The April 27–28, 2022 meeting will be open to public participation with a 15-minute public comment period at 4:45 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) on Wednesday, April 27, 2022. The SAB expects that public statements presented at its meetings will not be repetitive of previously submitted verbal or written statements. In general, each individual or group making a verbal presentation will be limited to a total time of three minutes. Written comments for the April 27–28, 2022 meeting should be received in the SAB Executive Director's Office by April 20, 2022 to provide sufficient time for SAB review. Written comments received by the SAB Executive Director after this date will be distributed to the SAB, but may not be reviewed prior to the meeting date.

*Special Accommodations:* This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for special accommodations may be directed to the Executive Director no later than 12 p.m. on April 20, 2022.

*Matters to be Considered:* The meeting on April 27–28 will include the (1) NOAA Update, (2) NOAA Science Update (3) Leadership in Coastal Resilience (4) NOAA Response to SAB Ecosystem Science and Management Working Group Report: Decision Making Under Deep Uncertainty, (5) Presentation and Discussion of SAB 2022 Work Plan Topics (6) NOAA Response to SAB Data Archiving and Access Requirements Working Group Report: Recommendations Concerning the NOAA Cloud Strategic Plan Actions and the NOAA Data Strategic Plan Actions (7) NOAA Response to SAB Climate Working Group Report: Advancing Earth System Prediction (8) NOAA Response to SAB Climate Working Group Report: Opportunity for COVID–19-related Earth System monitoring and prediction efforts as a result of worldwide shelter in place/stay at home policies (9) Review of the Draft 2022 Report to the United States Congress from the Environmental Information Services Working Group. Meeting materials, including work products, will be made available on the

SAB website: <https://sab.noaa.gov/index.php/current-meetings/>.

**Dave Holst,**

*Chief Financial Officer/Administrative Officer, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[RTID 0648–XB807]

**Fisheries of the Gulf of Mexico; Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR); Public Meeting**

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of SEDAR 74 Discard Mortality Webinar I for Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper.

**SUMMARY:** The SEDAR 74 assessment of Gulf of Mexico red snapper will consist of a Data workshop, a series of assessment webinars, and a Review workshop. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

**DATES:** The SEDAR 74 Discard Mortality Webinar I will be held Friday, March 25, 2022, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Eastern.

**ADDRESSES:**

*Meeting address:* The meeting will be held via webinar. The webinar is open to members of the public. Those interested in participating should contact Julie A. Neer at SEDAR (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**) to request an invitation providing webinar access information. Please request webinar invitations at least 24 hours in advance of each webinar.

*SEDAR address:* 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, North Charleston, SC 29405.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Julie A. Neer, SEDAR Coordinator; (843) 571–4366; email: [Julie.neer@safmc.net](mailto:Julie.neer@safmc.net).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils, in conjunction with NOAA Fisheries and the Atlantic and Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commissions have implemented the Southeast Data, Assessment and Review (SEDAR) process, a multi-step method for determining the status of fish stocks in the Southeast Region. SEDAR is a multi-

step process including: (1) Data Workshop; (2) Assessment Process utilizing webinars; and (3) Review Workshop. The product of the Data Workshop is a data report that compiles and evaluates potential datasets and recommends which datasets are appropriate for assessment analyses. The product of the Assessment Process is a stock assessment report that describes the fisheries, evaluates the status of the stock, estimates biological benchmarks, projects future population conditions, and recommends research and monitoring needs. The assessment is independently peer reviewed at the Review Workshop. The product of the Review Workshop is a Summary documenting panel opinions regarding the strengths and weaknesses of the stock assessment and input data. Participants for SEDAR Workshops are appointed by the Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils and NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office, HMS Management Division, and Southeast Fisheries Science Center. Participants include data collectors and database managers; stock assessment scientists, biologists, and researchers; constituency representatives including fishermen, environmentalists, and NGO's; International experts; and staff of Councils, Commissions, and state and federal agencies.

The items of discussion in the Discard Mortality Webinar I are as follows:

- Participants will review discard mortality information for use in the assessment of Gulf of Mexico red snapper.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the intent to take final action to address the emergency.

**Special Accommodations**

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to the Council office (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 10 business days prior to each workshop.

*Note:* The times and sequence specified in this agenda are subject to change.

*Authority:* 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*