



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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WHEN/HOW TO ADDRESS ALLOCATIONS WITH ASSESSMENTS BASED ON THE NEW MRIP DATA

Council Coordination Committee Meeting

Washington, DC

November 6, 2019

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The SAFMC SSC reviewed the revised MRIP numbers for unassessed species in October 2019. The Council will see the results of the SSC review and the ABC recommendations at their December 2019 meeting.

At their March 2020 meeting, the Council will begin discussing any sector allocation changes they would like to make for these unassessed species. Additionally, the Council will review their allocation policy history. In its Allocation Review Trigger Policy, the SAFMC decided that they would review allocations for species at the time they reviewed stock assessment results to determine whether revisions to sector allocations are warranted.

The Council will be receiving stock assessment results for several species in 2020 and in 2021. In June 2020, the Council is scheduled to receive stock assessment results for greater amberjack, red porgy, yellowtail snapper (jointly managed with the GMFMC), and king mackerel (also jointly managed with the GMFMC). In December 2020, the Council is scheduled to receive stock assessment results for golden tilefish and snowy grouper. And in June 2021, the Council will receive gag stock assessment results. It is possible that the Council will receive assessment results for red snapper and black sea bass in December 2021.

If the Council chooses to use the existing allocation formulas and simply update the recreational/commercial allocations with the new MRIP data, changes may be implemented through various frameworks/regulatory amendments (generally 2-3 Council meetings to complete the Council's part). Should the Council choose to modify the underlying formula/method to specify sector allocations for any species, a regular plan amendment would be required (generally 4-5 Council meetings to complete the Council's part).