

**Gulf Council
Standing and Special Shrimp
Scientific and Statistical Committee
Scope of Work
July 21 – 22, 2026
Tampa, Florida**

Agenda Item 4: Estimation of Shrimp Trawl Bycatch Methodology

Action: Presentations, discussion, and recommendations

Committee input and next steps: SEFSC contractors will present on the shrimp bycatch estimation methodology and its application to bycatch of red snapper, which will be integrated into the current red snapper stock assessment. In the SSC's review of a Center for Independent Experts review of shrimp bycatch estimation methodology for finfish species, this methodology was touched upon at the SSC's May 2025 meeting, at which time the SSC requested additional time for review at a future meeting. Council staff will also brief the SSC on the recommendations of the Council's Shrimp Trawl Bycatch Methodology for Finfish Workgroup, which was convened in March and May 2026. The SSC should consider the information presented, ask questions of the SEFSC contractors and Council staff, and make recommendations for use in stock assessments for observer-characterized finfish species in shrimp trawl bycatch.

Motion/recommendation to Council expected

Agenda Item 5: Gray Triggerfish Bycatch Estimation

Action: Presentations, discussion, and recommendation

Committee input and next steps: Dr. Cheston Peterson (SEFSC) will present the method for estimating bycatch of gray triggerfish by shrimp trawls that is being used in the ongoing gray triggerfish stock assessment (SEDAR 100). Dr. Peterson will review the method and its assumptions. Council staff will then provide a review of recommendations from the Working Group on Shrimp Trawl Bycatch for Finfish. The SSC should consider the information presented, ask questions of SEFSC and Council staff, and make a recommendation on the use of proxy species for uncharacterized finfish such as gray triggerfish in shrimp trawl bycatch for stock assessments.

Motion/recommendation to Council expected

Agenda Item 6: Review of the Minimum Threshold Number of Federal Gulf Shrimp Permits

Action: Presentation and discussion

Committee input and next steps: NMFS staff will brief the SSC on the trend of valid or renewable federal Gulf shrimp permits as it relates to the minimum threshold number of valid or renewable federal Gulf shrimp permits established in Shrimp Amendment 17B. The Council requested that NMFS provide an updated approach to setting the minimum threshold. NMFS staff will provide a status update, as well as a review of the types of data for potential inclusion in an updated approach. The SSC should consider the information presented, ask questions of NMFS, and provide input to NMFS as appropriate.

Agenda Item 8: Review of Fisheries Integrated Modeling System (FIMS) Peer-review

Action: Presentation, discussions, and recommendations

Committee input and next steps: Dr. Jie Cao (SSC) will present a brief review of the peer-review of NMFS new Fisheries Integrated Modeling System (FIMS). The peer-review was held virtually from April 21 – 23, 2026. This new approach is intended to be implemented agency-wide by NMFS for conducting the bulk of stock assessment work in the future. The SSC should consider the information presented, ask questions, and make any recommendations as appropriate.

Agenda Item 9: Discussion: Gulf King Mackerel Landings and Length Composition Data from Mexico

Action: Presentation, discussions, and recommendations

Committee input and next steps: Dr. Francesca Forrestal (SEFSC) will review recent findings regarding landings of king mackerel off Mexico. Acquisition of these data has been long in the making, dating back to the early 2010s. These data include annual commercial landings by fleet (trolling, gillnet) and length composition data. These data are expected to be considered in the stock assessment of king mackerel (SEDAR 99), which will be extended by a few months to allow the analysts to work with Mexican scientists. The SSC should consider the information presented, ask questions of SEFSC staff, and make any recommendations as appropriate.

Agenda Item 10: Review: Gulf Tilefish Data Triage and Stock Evaluation Options

Action: Presentation, discussions, and recommendations

Committee input and next steps: Dr. Katie Siegfried (SEFSC) will present progress to date on the SEFSC's data triage and options for stock assessment for Gulf tilefishes. The last stock assessment of these species (golden tilefish, goldface tilefish, and blueline tilefish) was SEDAR 22, which used data through 2009. This modified approach to considering these data is being considered due to the limited data available to assess the complex and will include consideration

of index-based approaches. The SSC should consider the information presented, ask questions of SEFSC staff, and make any recommendations as appropriate.

Agenda Item 7, 11: Public Comment

Action: Information

Committee Input and Next Steps: Members of the public will be able to address the SSC directly with respect to the topics discussed during this meeting, and other matters, as time allows.

Agenda Item 12: Other Business

Action: Discussion

Committee Input and Next Steps: Additional items may be brought up for discussion by SSC members, time permitting. If the SSC wishes to pursue action, then action can be scheduled at a future SSC meeting.