



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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Committee on Economics and Social Sciences

Spring 2024 Meeting

May 7, 2024 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Meeting Summary

Committee Members in Attendance: S. Lovell, A. Scheld, S. Ebbin, B. Murphy, M. Shivilani, J. Holzer, M. Russell, J. Walsh, S. Sethi, G. Parsons, T. Scott, E. Frimpong, D. Georgianna
ASMFC Staff: J. Patel, J. Kipp

Review of Data Availability Survey

After reviewing the results of the survey, it was found that data is frequently collected opportunistically and inconsistently by state and federal agencies depending on the availability of funding. Additionally, a review of CESS member specialties indicated that more members specialize in quantitative methods such as Benefit-Cost Analyses or Economic Impact Analyses. This will help determine who to direct specific Commission questions to based on expertise and specialty.

Next Steps for References Master List

Based on a quick overview of socioeconomic references sent in to create the master list of CESS references, 11 out of 26 Commission-managed species were represented. The data may have been biased by what constitutes socioeconomic sources and CESS member coverage of Commission species. However, this document is meant to be a growing document that can be a quick reference guide for those who will serve on species TCs and PDTs.

Next Steps: J. Patel to add reference list to CESS ShareFile for ease of access for editing and updating as needed.

CESS Expertise and Impact

ASMFC American lobster stock assessment scientist, J. Kipp presented on socioeconomic considerations in the ASMFC lobster assessment. There are 2 Assessment Terms of Reference for lobster that involve socioeconomic considerations: 1.) TOR 6: Update simple, empirical, indicator-based trend analyses of abundance, exploitation, fishery performance, and environmental stress for stock or sub-stock areas. Modify or develop new indicators, if warranted, and 2.) TOR 7: Evaluate the current regime-based exploitation and abundance reference points (i.e., targets and thresholds). Recommend modifications to these reference points, if necessary. Overtime, the performance of the stock based on fishery performance indicators has improved overall. It was noted that the fishery/industry target for this species is higher than the biological, meaning that there is a high chance that the market for this species could start to show signs of decline even when the stock is still biologically healthy. The lobster stock assessment scientists has been collaborating with J. Stoll's lab, T. Guilfoos, and B. Murphy to develop socioeconomic indicators for the stock and incorporate socioeconomic into the stock assessment

process. One challenge that they've run into with this collaboration is giving CESS members access to confidential data, which the lobster stock assessment scientists have been working to overcome through a memorandum of understand/ASMFC contract or by providing aggregate data.

Next Steps: J. Kipp to present at the end of this process to provide possible model of CESS role on TCs and PDTs for future assessment.

Risk and Uncertainty Update

First step in the risk and uncertainty tool is to fill out the 4 numbers that indicate current socioeconomic state of stock. This is due within the next 2 months while the TC finishes their part in the filling out the biological side of the tool.

Next Steps: J. Walsh to fill in the first 4 numbers and J. Patel to distribute to CESS members for further comment.

Other Business

In previous meetings, it was recommended that the CESS have an archive of documents to help new members better acclimate and current member have ease of access to documents that the CESS is working on and meeting materials. J. Patel recommended the ASMFC ShareFile. The Committee agreed that this was a solution.

Next Steps: J. Patel to talk to ASMFC ShareFile manager to give CESS members access to ShareFile and post a link on the ShareFile site.