

TAB E

**Sustainable Fisheries/Ecosystem Management Committee Report
October 5, 2015
Robin Riechers - Chair**

**SSC Review of Integrated Ecosystem Assessment – Management Strategy Evaluation –
Single Species (Tab B, No. 4)**

SSC representative Dr. Luiz Barbieri summarized a presentation given to the SSC by Dr. Bill Harford (SEFSC) on how Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) could be applied to an ecosystem model to evaluate the impacts of various management strategies on single-species management. Evaluating the possible impacts of a future red tide event on gag and red grouper was shown as an example. The MSE approach allows the evaluation of multiple performance metrics, such as avoiding an overfished state, avoiding risk of collapse, and evaluating net present value of catch.

It was reported that the SSC discussed formation of a workgroup to increase integration with Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (IEA) group at SEFSC. The IEA group will give a follow-up presentation to the SSC in 2016 on applying MSE to a multi-species approach based on SSC input.

NOAA Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management Policy Tab E, No. 5a,b)

Dr. Jason Link (NMFS/HQ) presented a review of the NMFS draft ecosystem based fishery management policy. Part of the reason for this policy is to make clear that NMFS needs to, can, and is committed to establishing ecosystem based fisheries management. The draft policy includes a statement of policy, definition of ecosystem based fisheries management, and guiding principles for implementation. Dr. Link pointed out that there are several levels of ecosystem based fisheries management, and that ecosystem based fisheries management is different from ecosystem based management or an ecosystem approach to single species management. The comment period for the draft policy is open through December 16, 2015. Executive Director Doug Gregory suggested that staff work with Chairman Kevin Anson to draft a letter providing comments on behalf of the Council. The letter could be circulated to Council members before being submitted to NMFS. Committee members agreed that this was a reasonable approach.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my report.