

Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC)

Virtual Meeting

April 8-10, 2026

*Scan to see the
meeting agenda*



SSC Chair welcome presentation
Vance P. Vicente



RULES FOR SSC MEETINGS

1 Roll Call Procedures

SSC Roll Call: Await your name and confirm attendance.

General Roll Call: CFMC panel members, CFMC headquarters, followed by all others.



2 Keep all microphones off

Virtual attendees: Ensure you are muted.



In-person: Mute your laptop. Use the tabletop mic only when called upon (Red = Muted, Green = Active).



3

Requesting the floor to speak

Use the “Raise Hand” icon to be granted a turn.

You will be notified by the Chair when it is your turn.



4

Audio quality

Speak loudly and clearly for the record.



5

Documents/presentations

Send all materials presented at the meeting to Kiara or Liajay



6

Recording & Conduct

This meeting is being recorded. To ensure clear audio and professional decorum, please refrain from chewing gum or eating during the session.



7

Speaker identification

Please state your full name before speaking to ensure accurate transcription.



Call to order and Meeting Roll call

- SSC members
- Other CFMC panel members (DAP chairs, EBFM TAP chair and OEAP chair, other chairs)
- Conference Room attendees
- All participants

SSC Members	Attendance		
	April 8	April 9	April 10
Vance P. Vicente (Chair)	✓	✓	✓
Richard S. Appeldoorn	✓	✓	✓
Jason Cope	✓	✓	Excused
Juan Cruz Motta	✓	✓	✓
Tarsila Seara	✓	✓	✓
Jorge García Sais	Excused	Excused	✓
Todd Gedamke	✓	✓	Excused
Walter Keithly	✓	✓	✓
Michelle T. Scharer Umpierre	Excused	Excused	Excused
Elizabeth Kadison	✓	✓	✓
Skyler R. Sagarese	✓	✓	✓

Approval of April 9-11, 2024 DRAFT minutes

- Also available at CFMC-ISSUU webpage

Scan for full document



CARIBBEAN FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE
HYBRID MEETING
COURTYARD MARRIOTT
ISLA VERDE, PUERTO RICO

APRIL 9-11, 2024

The Caribbean Fishery Management Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee convened at the Courtyard in Isla Verde on Tuesday morning, April 9th, 2024, and was called to order at 10:00 A.M. by Chairman Vance Vicente.

Call to Order

VANCE VICENTE: Well, good morning, all. The SSC on April 9 to April 11, 2024, meeting is taking place now, here, at the Courtyard by Marriott Isla Verde Resort in Boca de Cangrejos, Carolina, Puerto Rico. It's beginning today, April 9, 2024, exactly at 10:00 A.M. Atlantic Standard Time. This is a three-day public hybrid meeting. Day one is April 9, 2024, from 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Day two, April 10, 2024, from 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. And day three, April 11, 2024, from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M., Atlantic Standard Time.

First of all, I want to welcome everybody, in particular, the District Advisory Panel members, or if they're not members, the Chairs, which are Nelson Crespo, which is the Puerto Rico District Advisory Panel Chairman, Julian Magras, which is the Saint Thomas/Saint John District Advisory Panel Chair, Gerson Martinez, who is the Chair of the Saint Croix District Advisory Panel. I also want to welcome, well, the SSC members that will be participating today. We will find out who's going to be missing when we make the roll call.

I also want to welcome and thank the Council staff for their continued support in solving logistical problems of all the SSC meetings. So, thank you very much. And to the Southeast Fisheries Science Center scientists, particularly, to those speakers that will be lecturing us with various topics. These are Adyan Rios, Kyle Shertzer, Sarah Stephenson, and maybe somebody else depending on whether we find out whether there will be an additional speaker today.

Before we begin the roll call, I have been asked to read out the rules for this meeting, which were kindly prepared by Kiara Matias, which is the administrative assistance of the Caribbean Fishery Management Council. So let me go through this protocol

3

Action item

SSC input: Comments and/or motion on 2024 & 2025 minutes
(Moved by JJ/ second by Tarsila)

Approval of September 2025 DRAFT minutes

- Also available at CFMC-ISSUU webpage

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1 CARIBBEAN FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
2 SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE
3 PUBLIC VIRTUAL MEETING
4
5 SEPTEMBER 23-25, 2025
6
7 The Scientific and Statistical Committees of the Caribbean Fishery
8 Management Council convened via Zoom on Tuesday morning, September
9 23, 2025, and was called to order at 12:30 P.M. by the Council
10 Chair, Vance Vicente.
11
12 CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL
13
14 VANCE P. VICENTE CERNUDA: Well, good afternoon to all. We're ready
15 to commence our first 2025 SSC meeting, which will begin today,
16 September 24th, and will continue until September 25th. This is our
17 first meeting in 2025 and also our first SSC virtual meeting, so
18 I expect cooperation from all of you. This may be difficult, but
19 it is possible.
20
21 We have a quorum. There are six members of the SSC that have signed
22 in already. First, I want to say to Skyler Sagarese that we welcome
23 him as a new member of the Caribbean Fishery Management Council,
24 SSC. As you know, Eric Williams announced his resignation, due to
25 all the changes in the federal government earlier this year.
26
27 And then, for the roll call. We're going to ask all the SSC members
28 present at the moment to identify themselves. I need to stress
29 this: keep all the microphones off. All the virtual guests, make
30 sure you have the microphone set to mute. If in-person, please set
31 your computer microphone to mute and ensure you have the face-to-
32 face microphone on the red light. The green light is only for when
33 you have the turn to speak.
34
35 Raise your hand to be granted a turn. You will be notified when it
36 is your turn. You must speak out loudly, please, and clearly. That
37 way, we can hear your testimony better and record it better. The
38 meeting is being recorded. Please do not chew gum and/or sweets in
39 the process of it. And lastly, it is very important to identify
40 yourself with your name and last name each time you speak. There
41 will be verbatim transcriptions of the meeting, and the transcriber
42 needs to identify the speakers. So, thank you for your attention
43 and cooperation.
44
45 First, I hope that everybody has a read schedule for today. If
46 there are any suggested changes to the agenda, we're open to
47 hearing it. So, please.
48

4

Action item

SSC input: Comments and/or motion on 2024 & 2025 minutes
(Moved by JJ/ second by Tarsila)

Agenda* and SSC expected input (as in FR)

Day	Time (AST=EST)	Agenda item	Expected SSC Input
April 8, 2026 (Day 1)	1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Call to order and Roll call	--
		Consideration of SSC Verbatim transcription April 2024 and September 2025 minutes	Revision and approval via motion
		Adoption of the agenda	Revision and approval via motion
	1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	SEDAR 84 Caribbean Stoplight Parrotfish (St. Croix): Final Review – Adyan Ríos, Caribbean Branch SEFSC, NOAA Fisheries	-Discussion on the models presented by SEFSC. -Provide recommendations either via motion, document, and/or verbal for (e.g. ABC, BSIA, OFL only as they have to vote).
	3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.	Break	--
April 9, 2026 (Day 2)	3:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	SEDAR 84 Caribbean Yellowtail Snapper (St. Thomas/St. John) – Adyan Ríos, Caribbean Branch SEFSC, NOAA Fisheries	
	1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	SEDAR 84 Caribbean Yellowtail Snapper (St. Thomas/St. John) (Cont.) - Adyan Ríos, Caribbean Branch SEFSC, NOAA Fisheries	Provide comments/recommendations to the analysts; recommendations via motion to the CFMC - vote required.
	1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	SEDAR 84 Caribbean Yellowtail Snapper (Puerto Rico) - Adyan Ríos, Caribbean Branch SEFSC, NOAA Fisheries	--
	3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.	Break	--
	3:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Final Recommendations to CFMC on SEDAR 84	Provide comments, recommendations via motion as needed.

*The order of business may be adjusted as necessary to accommodate the completion of agenda items. Interested parties should be aware that discussions may start earlier or later than indicated, at the discretion of the Chair. In addition, the meeting may be completed prior to the date established in this notice.

Agenda* and SSC expected input (as in FR)

Day	Time (AST=EST)	Agenda item	Expected SSC Input
Friday April 10, 2026 (Day 3)	1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	SEDAR 91 U. S. Caribbean Spiny Lobster Puerto Rico Assessment - Adyan Ríos, Caribbean Branch SEFSC, NOAA Fisheries	Revision and approval via motion
	3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.	Break	--
	3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	SSC Final Recommendations to the CFMC on SEDAR 91 Spiny Lobster Puerto Rico	Provide recommendations either via motion, document, and/or verbal.
	4:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	SEDAR 103 update – Liajay Rivera, CFMC	Provide comments, questions if needed
		Other Business	
		Next Meeting	
		-- Adjourn --	

Action item

SSC members input: Comments and/or motion on agenda approval as
written

*The order of business may be adjusted as necessary to accommodate the completion of agenda items. Interested parties should be aware that discussions may start earlier or later than indicated, at the discretion of the Chair. In addition, the meeting may be completed prior to the date established in this notice.

Meeting Recap (item agenda amended)

Day	Time (AST=EST)	Agenda item	Final SSC Input
Wednesday April 8, 2026 (Day 1)	1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Call to order and Roll call	--
		Consideration of SSC Verbatim transcription April 2024 and September 2025 minutes	Approved
		Adoption of the agenda	Approved
	1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	SEDAR 91 U. S. Caribbean Spiny Lobster Puerto Rico Assessment - Adyan Ríos, Caribbean Branch SEFSC, NOAA Fisheries	Motion (1): Determination of assessment as BSIA ✓
	3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.	Break	--
	3:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	(cont'd) SEDAR 91 U. S. Caribbean Spiny Lobster Puerto Rico Assessment - Adyan Ríos, Caribbean Branch SEFSC, NOAA Fisheries	Research recommendations developed for SEDAR 91
Thursday April 9, 2026 (Day 2)d	1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	(cont'd) SEDAR 91 U. S. Caribbean Spiny Lobster Puerto Rico Assessment - Adyan Ríos, Caribbean Branch SEFSC, NOAA Fisheries SEDAR 84 Caribbean Yellowtail Snapper (Puerto Rico) -Adyan Ríos, Caribbean Branch SEFSC, NOAA Fisheries	Motions (2): >Useful for providing management advice ✓ Recommendations on annual landings ✓ ABC, OFL for CFMC ✓ Decision on model runs or previous runs ✓
	1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	SEDAR 84 Caribbean Yellowtail Snapper (Puerto Rico) - Adyan Ríos, Caribbean Branch SEFSC, NOAA Fisheries	Discussions on SEDAR 84
	3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.	Break	--
	3:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	(cont'd) SEDAR 84 Caribbean Yellowtail Snapper (Puerto Rico) - Adyan Ríos, Caribbean Branch SEFSC, NOAA Fisheries	Provided discussion on sensitivities.



Meeting Recap (item agenda amended)

Day	Time (AST=EST)	Agenda item	Final SSC Input
Friday April 10, 2026 (Day 3)	1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	(cont'd) SEDAR 84 Caribbean Yellowtail Snapper (Puerto Rico) - Adyan Ríos, Caribbean Branch SEFSC, NOAA Fisheries	-Continue and complete final review -Discussion on the models presented by SEFSC. -Research recommendations developed for SEDAR 84 PR -Motions (2): >Determination of assessment as BSIA ✓ >Not at present useful for providing management advice and developing fishing level recommendations for the Council. ✓
	3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.	Break	--
	3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	SEDAR 84 Caribbean Yellowtail Snapper (St. Thomas/St. John) — Adyan Ríos, Caribbean Branch SEFSC, NOAA Fisheries SEDAR 84 Caribbean Stoplight Parrotfish (St. Croix): Final Review — Adyan Ríos, Caribbean Branch SEFSC, NOAA Fisheries	-Discussion on the models presented by SEFSC. -Research recommendations developed for SEDAR 84 STT/STJ and STX -Motions (4: 2 for STT/STJ; 2 for STX): >Determination of assessment as best available science ✓ >Not at present useful for providing management advice and developing fishing level recommendations for the Council. ✓
		Final Recommendations to CFMC on SEDAR 84 PR	Motion (1): >The SSC endorses the recommendations made by the data and review panels and also makes the following recommendations related to SEDAR 91 and SEDAR 84. ✓
	4:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	SEDAR 103 update — Liajay Rivera, CFMC	No questions
		Other Business	None
		Next Meeting	Not discussed
-- Adjourn --			9

SEDAR 91 U.S. Caribbean Spiny Lobster Puerto Rico Assessment



- Last meeting highlights
 - The assessment was conducted by the SEFSC.
- SEFSC would explore bringing additional data for the analysis needed to be looked at for SEDAR 91 assessment Puerto Rico.
- SEFSC will present SEDAR 91 Puerto Rico assessment results to the SSC for final review.

Today:

- Continuation of discussions on new model runs

Action item SSC input needed
Review SEDAR 91 assessment results by SEFSC
1. Determination of assessment (BSIA) ✓
2. Useful for providing management advice ✓
3. Recommendations on annual landings ✓
4. ABC, OFL for CFMC ✓
5. Decision on model runs or previous runs ✓

SEDAR 84 Caribbean Yellowtail Snapper Puerto Rico



- Last meeting highlights
 - The SSC and the SEFSC Caribbean Branch discussed additional model runs for the full review of SEDAR 84.
- SEFSC analysts will explore SSC recommendations for SEDAR 84 and present the stock assessment results to the SSC at their next meeting.

Today:

- The SEFSC will bring the results of model runs for SEDAR 84 PR

Action item SSC input needed	
1.	Review the additional model runs to be presented today by the SEFSC ✓
2.	Provide recommendations as final assessment review for SEDAR 84 Puerto Rico ✓
	a. Determination of assessment (BSIA) ✓
	b. Not at present useful for providing management advice ✓
	c. Recommendations on annual landings
	d. ABC, OFL for CFMC
	e. Decision on model runs or previous runs

SEDAR 84 Caribbean Yellowtail Snapper St. Thomas/ St. John



- Last meeting highlights
 - The SSC and the SEFSC Caribbean Branch discussed additional model runs for the full review of SEDAR 84.
- SEFSC analysts will explore SSC recommendations for SEDAR 84 and present the stock assessment results to the SSC at their next meeting.

Today:

- The SEFSC will bring the results of model runs for SEDAR 84 STT/STJ.

Action item SSC input needed
1. Review the additional model runs to be presented today by the SEFSC ✓
2. Provide recommendations as final assessment review for SEDAR 84 St. Thomas/ St. John ✓ a. Determination of assessment (BSIA) b. Not at present useful for providing management advice ✓ c. Recommendations on annual landings d. ABC, OFL for CFMC e. Decision on model runs or previous runs

SEDAR 84 Caribbean Stoplight Parrotfish

St. Croix: Final Review



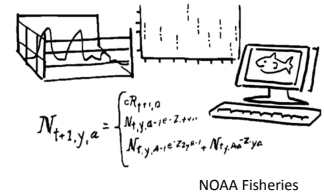
- Previous meeting highlights
 - The SSC and the SEFSC Caribbean Branch discussed additional model runs for the full review of SEDAR 84.
- SEFSC analysts will explore SSC recommendations for SEDAR 84 and present the stock assessment results to the SSC at their next meeting.

Today:

- The SEFSC will bring the results of model runs for SEDAR 84 STX.

Action item SSC input needed
1. Review the additional model runs to be presented today by the SEFSC. ✓
2. Provide recommendations as final assessment review for SEDAR 84 St. Croix. ✓ a. Determination of assessment (BSIA) b. Not at present useful for providing management advice ✓ c. Recommendations on annual landings d. ABC, OFL for CFMC e. Decision on model runs or previous runs

SEDAR 103 U.S. Caribbean Application of Alternate Assessment Methods -Update



- Last meeting highlights
 - Presented Terms of Reference (TORs)
 - Method Development TORs
 - Methods Application TORs
 - SEDAR 103 previewed participants
 - Tentative schedule

Today:

- CFMC/SEFSC to provide status updates

Action item SSC input needed
No comments/questions

Next steps

- SSC meeting report to be presented at the next CFMC meeting
 - April 21-22 2026, St. Croix 189th
- Pending items for follow-up:
 - SEDAR 103 progress updates:
<https://sedarweb.org/assessments/sedar-103-us-caribbean-application-of-alternate-assessment-methods/>
 - Research Priorities
 - Fishery-Independent Surveys in Management
 - Partnership re-envisioning framework report
 - SATT Report
 - All Council Data Review - Ecosystem Data
- SSC documents available at ISSUU, CFMC web page
 - [List of motions](#)
 - [List of recommendations](#)