

Southeast Data Assessment and Review 91 US Caribbean Spiny Lobster

182nd CFMC Meeting

Process Timeline and Terms of Reference

- Data workshop, Assessment workshop, and Review workshop
- Workshop appointments finalized in April 2024
- Data scoping call June 2024
- Data submission deadlines of September and October 2024
- Data workshop November 2024
- Assessment webinars January April 2025
- Review workshop August 2025



Terms of Reference – Data Workshop

Review available data inputs and provide tables and figures including, but not limited to:

Commercial and recreational catches and/or discards.

Length/age composition data

Life history and ecological information

Indices of abundance

Include data through at least 2022.

Provide recommendations for future research. Include specific guidance on research goals, data to be collected, and how the research will inform stock assessment.

Prepare the Data Workshop report providing complete documentation of workshop actions and decisions in accordance with project schedule deadlines (Section II of the SEDAR assessment report).

Develop and apply assessment tools that are compatible with available data and consistent with standard practices. Document input data, model assumptions and configuration, and equations for each approach considered.

Characterize uncertainty in the assessment and estimated values.

Consider uncertainty in input data, modeling approach, and model configuration.

Provide appropriate measures of model performance, reliability, and 'goodness of fit'.

Provide measures of uncertainty for estimated parameters and derived quantities such as biological reference points and stock status if feasible.

To the extent possible given data limitations, provide management benchmarks and status determination criteria, including:

Maximum Fishing Mortality Threshold (MFMT) = FMSY or proxy

MSY proxy = yield at MFMT

Minimum Stock Size Threshold (MSST) = SSBMSY or proxy

If alternative status determination criteria are recommended, provide a description of their use and a justification.



To the extent possible, develop projections to support estimates of maximum sustainable yield (MSY, the overfishing limit (OFL) and acceptable biological catch (ABC) as described below. If projections are not possible, and alternative management procedures are recommended, provide a description of their use and a justification.

Unless otherwise recommended, use the geometric mean of the three previous years' fishing mortality to determine F_{Current}

Project FMSY or proxy

If the stock is overfished:

- i. Project F₀
- ii. Project F_{Rebuild}



Provide recommendations for future research and data collection.

Provide an Assessment Workshop Report to address these Terms of reference and fully document the input data and results.



Terms of Reference - Review Workshop

Evaluate the data used in the assessment, addressing the following:

Are data decisions made by the DW and AW sound and robust?

Are data uncertainties acknowledged, reported, and within normal or expected levels?

Are data applied properly within the assessment model?

Are input data series reliable and sufficient to support the assessment approach and findings?

Evaluate the methods used to assess the stock, taking into account the available data.

Are methods scientifically sound and robust?
Are assessment models configured properly and used consistent with standard practices?

Are the methods appropriate given the available data?



Terms of Reference - Review Workshop

Evaluate the assessment findings with respect to the following:

Can the results be used to inform management in the U.S. Caribbean (i.e., develop annual catch recommendations)?

Is it likely the stock is overfished? What information helps you reach this conclusion?

Is it likely the stock is undergoing overfishing? What information helps you reach this conclusion?

Comment on the degree to which methods used to evaluate uncertainty reflect and capture the significant sources of uncertainty in the population, data sources, and assessment methods. Ensure that the implications of uncertainty in technical conclusions are clearly stated.



Terms of Reference – Review Workshop

Consider the research recommendations provided by the Data and Assessment workshops and make any additional recommendations or prioritizations warranted. Clearly denote research and monitoring that could improve the reliability of, and information provided by, future assessments.

Provide guidance on key improvements in data or modeling approaches that should be considered when scheduling the next assessment.

Provide recommendations on possible ways to improve the SEDAR process.

Prepare a Peer Review Summary summarizing the Panel's overall conclusions and recommendations.





