

## Draft SCS9 Potential Themes:

### “Can You Hear Me Now?” Improving Communications Between Scientific and Statistical Committees and Those Who Use Their Advice

#### Premise and Purpose:

During SCS8, it became quite obvious to many of the SSC members and Council staff that we all had very disparate ways of conducting and communicating the business of the SSCs. Further, and in part exacerbated by shifts in species distributions over the last several decades, many of the SSCs find that they are increasingly required to collaborate with one another on issuing scientific advice to their respective Councils. While each Council will undoubtedly have its preferences, as will each NMFS fishery science center and regional office, there also undoubtedly exists opportunity for improvement. SCS9 could be used as a way to evaluate process and identify these improvements within and between regions. SSC members and Council staff can share insight into things that work and those that do not for their region and explore solutions with input from other regions. The expectation would be some standardization of processes across regions where possible, but in general, improvements in the timeliness, efficiency, and quality of advice provided to the Councils. Products of SCS9 would be ways in which all regions might explore general changes, and ways in which specific regions might explore specific changes to resolve identified concerns. These products would be presented to and considered by each regional fishery management council and its SSC.

#### SCS9 Potential Theme:

### Judging Success: Metrics for Evaluating Implementation of the Best Scientific Information Available into Fisheries Management

#### Premise and Purpose:

The last decade has seen a dramatic uptick in the consideration, request, evaluation, and in some cases, implementation of management strategy evaluation (MSE) as a tool for determining how to implement or modify fisheries management. Regional disparities exist in the frequency of implementation using MSE, due to a variety of reasons. These include differences in available capital and human resources, available data, and social confidence. While MSE can be used for many constructive purposes, it is not a panacea for “all that ails” a regional fishery management council (RFMC). SCS9 will explore examples of implementation of MSE-derived advice, to include examples of successes (intended effect(s) was observed) and failures (never implemented or intended effect(s) was not observed). SCS9 would also explore alternative methods of evaluating management changes, with emphasis on those methods which can be applied quickly to provide the timeliest advice to a RFMC. Products of SCS9 would be a characterization of MSE application nationwide, and of alternative evaluation tools and their respective requirements, which will better equip all SSCs to provide the best advice to their respective RFMCs. These products would be presented to and considered by each regional fishery management council and its SSC.