

SEDAR Data Best Practices Standing Panel: Webinar Summary

September 1, 2016 from 10am-11:30am (EST)

Attendees

- Panel members: Donna Bellais, Karyl Brewster-Geisz, Shannon Calay, Gary Fitzhugh, Jeff Kipp, Marcel Reichert, Steve Turner, Erik Williams
- Staff: Julia Byrd, John Carmichael
- Other attendees: Bob Gill, Richard Malinowski

Housekeeping/Updates

- Panel updated on Stock ID & Meristics Procedural Workshop Organizing Committee's (OC) progress; OC has developed draft ToR and species recommendations which will be reviewed at the fall 2016 SEDAR Steering Committee meeting; noted that will be asking Steering Committee for additional guidance on how to handle when biological stock structure and/or assessment unit stock recommendations do not align with existing mgmt. units and on the potential impact Stock ID workshop recommendations may have on SEDAR assessment planning; Panel noted that changes in stock boundaries could affect scheduling/planning in multiple regions and that that it will be helpful to have management personnel involved in Stock ID workshops
- SEDAR Steering Committee fall meeting: Sept 20-21, 2016 in Charleston, SC; webinar registration information available on SEDAR website; Steering Committee will be updated on Panel's activities and will be asked to review 'ToR & Approach' document; Panel noted concerns with the potential changes in the 2017 SEDAR schedule and emphasized the need for the SEDAR schedule to be set 2-3 years in advance

SEDAR Data Best Practices Living Document

- Panel reviewed version of DRAFT Living Document incorporating recommendations from last webinar; recommended making the information available as one document on the website instead of making some of the information (e.g. mgmt. templates, etc.) also available as separate documents; noted the date/version of the document needs to be prominent so it will be easy for readers to determine what version they are using
- Panel determined this version of the 'Living Document' was ready for distribution (after accepting tracked changes); SEDAR staff will make document available on SEDAR website (Data Best Practices web page) and will notify SEDAR Data Best Practices workshop participants of its availability

Data Issue Inventory

- Panel reviewed draft 'Data Issue Inventory' developed by SEDAR staff and provided the following data field/formatting recommendations
 - In column E, "Data Best Practice Recommendation", add the Section # from the Living Document where the recommendation can be found
 - Add new data field 'SEDAR Deviations from Best Practices With Justification'; will identify the SEDAR project(s) where a deviation from the Best Practice recommendation occurred and include a brief description of the justification for the deviation

- Panel added the following ‘new’ data issues to the inventory
 - Combing Data from Multiple Sources: Panel members noted that there have been problems merging datasets from multiple agencies, sampling programs, research projects, etc.; duplicate records can exist for individual fish in multiple data sources which can lead to double reporting when trying to merge records; this was specifically mentioned as an issue for length and age data; potential need to develop standardized methodology on how/when data are reported in state and federal databases; this is becoming a larger issue as more entities provide data and goes back to how data is recorded at the source
 - Late data delivery – Panel member indicated late data delivery has been an issue for recent assessment projects; could be helpful to develop decision tree for how to best handle late data delivery and identify critical data bottlenecks (e.g. what data can we proceed without versus what will cause a project delay); Commercial Technical Group has identified some best practices for late data delivery
 - Age determination – develop best practices for age determination to include processing and reading age structures, age calibration, age variability and bias estimates, validation methods, etc. to help ensure this is being handled consistently between assessments
 - Updating Life History Parameters – develop guidance for how often/when life history parameters (growth, maturity, etc.) need to be updated
- There were also broader data collection issues identified when compiling the inventory for the June 2015 Data Best Practices workshop; these issues aren’t necessarily under the purview of SEDAR, but Panel members noted that some of these issues could be Procedural Workshop topics; Panel member noted would like these broader data collection issues need to be easily accessible on the SEDAR website
- Panel member noted it would be helpful to have a consolidated list of research recommendations from SEDAR projects; ‘Consolidated Research Recommendations’ document currently available on website (see link below) and is updated annually by SEDAR staff
http://sedarweb.org/docs/page/Consolidated_Research_Recommendations_Janauary_2016.pdf

Procedural Workshop

- SEDAR Steering Committee will be asked to identify their Procedural Workshop topic priorities for 2018 and 2019 at their Fall 2016 meeting; Panel was asked to review and update, as necessary, their recommendations for Procedural Workshop topics
- Group reviewed list of identified potential workshop topics (see list below; entity listed in parentheses indicates who identified each topic)
 - Reference Points – estimation & influences (Standing Panel)
 - Will include effects of reproductive inputs
 - Panel initially recommended this topic as priority during April 2016 Standing Panel webinar meeting
 - Assessment Best Practices (Steering Committee)
 - Stock ID / Metistics: Shark Species (SEDAR staff)
 - Estimating Commerical Directed Discards (Data BP Workshop)
 - Panel member noted SEFSC Data Section has contracted work to help address this topic

- Indices Construction (Data BP Workshop)
- Maturity Estimation (Data BP Workshop)
- Reconvene SE US histological workshops (Data BP Workshop)
- Uncertainty in Commercial Landings (Data BP Workshop)
- GoM Shrimp Bycatch Estimation (Standing Panel)
 - Being addressed outside of SEDAR within the next ~6 months
- Data Limited Methods Improvements/Best practices (Standing Panel)
 - SEFSC trying to obtain funding to address this topic outside of SEDAR
- Natural Mortality (Standing Panel)
 - Panel identified this as a potential topic due in part to the Then et al. 2014 estimation methods; time sensitive issue since M estimation methods could potentially impact all assessments; Panel member noted some SSC's have identified this as a priority topic and it could potentially be addressed through joint SSC discussions
- Combing Data from Multiple Sources/Merging Datasets (Standing Panel)
 - Panel members noted this is becoming a larger issue and may be a topic for a future Procedural Workshop topic; was noted there likely needs to be further discussion to decide how best to approach this issue
- **PROCEDURAL WORKSHOP TOPIC RECOMMENDATIONS**
 - **Reference Points**
 - **Natural Mortality – time sensitive, but could potentially be addressed outside of SEDAR**
- Panel member noted after reviewing the potential Procedural Workshop topics, there is a need for SEDAR continuing education; need to think about having workshop locations that are cost effective and easy to travel to and to promote participation by federal and non-federal partners

Data Best Practices Annual Report

- Julia/Shannon will work on draft Data Best Practices annual summary report; goal to have draft to Panel fall 2016 and to finalize before the end of 2016

ACTION ITEMS:

- **JULIA:**

- Share meeting summary and final Living Document with Panel
- Revise Data Issue Inventory based on webinar discussion and share with Panel
- Once 'finalized' - post Living Document and Data Issue Inventory to SEDAR website and notify Data Best Practice workshop participants of their availability

- **ALL PANEL MEMBERS:**

- Provide feedback on the revised DRAFT Data Issue Inventory when available

- **JULIA & SHANNON**

- Draft Data Best Practices Standing Panel annual progress report; goal to have draft for Panel review fall 2016 and to finalize before the end of the calendar year

Next Meeting

- Panel will meet via webinar in January/February 2017 – Julia will send poll to select date/time in the upcoming months