

SEDAR Steering Committee Meeting via Conference Call

November 20, 2003

Attendance

Steering Committee Members in attendance

Bob Mahood, SAFMC, Chair
Wayne Swingle, GMFMC
Miguel Rolon, CFMC
Larry Simpson, GSMFC
Lisa Kline, ASMFC
Roy Crabtree, SERO
Nancy Thompson, SEFSC

Others in attendance

John Carmichael, SEDAR Coordinator
Larry Massey, SEFSC
Peter Hood, SERO
Jack McGovern, SERO
Joe Kimmell, SERO
Jim Weaver, SERO
Gregg Waugh, SAFMC
Graciela Garcia-Moliner, CFMC
Alex Chester, SEFSC
Josh Nowlis, SERO
Jim Cowan, GMFMC FAP
Mike Prager, SEFSC
John Merriner, SEFSC

Agenda Items and Discussion Summary

1. Introductions
2. Approval of Agenda.
The Agenda was approved.
3. Approval of August 13, 2003 meeting minutes
The minutes were approved
4. Review of Council/NOAA Fisheries SEDAR Process
The SEDAR Process document was approved.
5. Review of SEDAR workshops for 2003/2004

The SEDAR workshop schedule was approved (see attachment 1). The scheduled workload is a cause for concern; several SEDAR assessments are running concurrently in 2004 and there is little time between workshops in several instances. This makes it difficult for state and federal staff to adequately prepare for the workshops. Technical staff recommends that 8 weeks are necessary to properly prepare for a SEDAR data workshop, and that at least 4 weeks are necessary between workshops. The tight schedule and time demands resulting from excessive workshops within a year also make it difficult for constituents to stay involved in the process.

There was a request on behalf of the State of Florida to conduct a full SEDAR assessment of spiny lobster for the Atlantic and Gulf Stock. Information presented at the August meeting suggested that a spiny lobster assessment would be provided to SEDAR for review only. The Steering Committee reached consensus that the schedule for 2003/2004 is full and that no additional SEDAR assessments can be conducted until 2005.

The GMFMC recommended and the Steering Committee approved replacing scamp with vermillion snapper for the shallow water complex SEDAR assessment.

6. Issues to Resolve

A. Appointment contacts for identifying workshop participants

The following were approved as 'Appointment Contacts'.

NMFS: Larry Massey

NC: Louis Daniel

SC: David Cupka

GA: Susan Shipman/Spud Woodward

FL: Mark Robson/Roy Williams

GMFMC: Wayne Swingle/Rick Leard

CFMC: Graciela Garcia-Moliner

ASMFC: Lisa Kline

GSMFC: Dave Donaldson/Steve Vanderkay

Role of appointment contacts

The steering committee concurred that the appointment contacts are responsible for designating appropriate individuals to serve on SEDAR Workshop Panels. When a SEDAR cycle is initiated, the SEDAR Coordinator will notify the appropriate contacts, who will then provide panel appointments.

B. Timeliness of Panel appointments

Identifying workshop panelists is taking an inordinate amount of time. The Steering Committee recommends that the Appointment Contacts pay close attention to appointment requests, and make every effort to meet appointment deadlines.

C. Independence of Reviewers

The Steering Committee recommends that strict independence be maintained for the Review Workshop Panelists. This is important to ensure that the review is truly an unbiased peer review. Any person involved as a panelist in a prior workshop is considered ineligible to serve as a Review Workshop Panelist.

D. Spiny Lobster

This item was discussed with item 5.

E. Long-term Scheduling

The Steering Committee discussed the possibility of establishing 2 SEDAR cycles per year: a spring cycle conducted through the Miami SEFSC lab, and a Fall Cycle conducted through the Beaufort SEFSC lab. The Steering Committee considered this a reasonable approach, but will discuss further at the next meeting.

F. Follow-ups from August Meeting

1. CIE Reports. CIE reports stemming from their involvement in Review Panels should be provided to the SEDAR Coordinator for inclusion in the Administrative Record of each SEDAR. Alex Chester and John Merriner will work to provide CIE reports from past SEDARs.

2. Queen Conch and Spiny Lobster in the CFMC: No further information provided.

7. Other Items

A. Webpage

The SEFSC agreed to host and support a SEDAR webpage. Documents are temporarily posted on a segment of the SEFSC website. A dedicated SEDAR website is under development. This site will provide advanced document posting and exchange, with several tiers of access possible. The SEDAR coordinator will serve as administrator, responsible for granting access to private areas and document sections and approving documents for public posting.

8. Other Business

A. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Steering Committee will be held at the SERO, the afternoon of Monday, January 26th and Morning of Tuesday, January 27th. This is prior to the Review Workshop for Goliath Grouper and Hogfish.

9. Adjourn.

The meeting adjourned.