

SEDAR

SouthEast Data, Assessment, and Review

*South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
Caribbean Fishery Management Council
NOAA Fisheries
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission*

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SEDAR Steering Committee

**August 2 – 3, 2005
Summary Minutes**

The SEDAR Steering Committee convened at 10:00 am, Tuesday, August 2, 2005 at the SERO in St. Petersburg, FL.

Attendance:

Members: Miguel Rolon, Eugenio Pinero, Bob Mahood, Louis Daniel, Julie Morris, Wayne Swingle, Nancy Thompson, Vince O'shea, Roy Crabtree.

Staff: John Carmichael, Dawn Aring.

Observers: George Geiger

Actions:

1. Summary minutes of the February 2005 meeting were approved as submitted.
2. SEDAR Schedule
 - 2.1 The following schedule for SEDAR benchmark assessments through 2010 was approved:

SEDAR #	SPECIES	Year
9	GMFMC Vermilion/Greater Amberjack/Gray Trigger	2005 F
10	SAFMC & GMFMC Gag	2006 S
11	GMFMC Red Grouper	2006 F
12	CFMC Yellowfin Grouper, Mutton Snapper, Queen Conch	2007 S
13	SAFMC greater amberjack, White Grunt	2007 F
14	GMFMC Yellowedge grouper, Tilefish	2008 S
15	SA Spanish Mackerel/Black Sea Bass	2008 F
16	SA and GOM red drum.	2009 S
17	Hogfish. Atlantic YTS (update or benchmark) Review ASMFC menhaden and Croaker.	2009 F
18	GMFMC Red Snapper	2010 S
19	CFMC Yellowtail, spiny lobster, queen conch	2010 F

2.2. SEDAR Update Schedule: The following schedule for assessment updates was approved:

SEDAR Update #	Species	Benchmark SEDAR#	Scheduled Completion
1	SA Black Sea bass	2	4/22/2005
2	SA Red Porgy	1	July 2006
3	SA/GM King Mackerel	5	Fall 2006
4	Goliath Grouper	6	2006
5	SA Vermillion Snapper	2	2007
6	GM Greater Amberjack/Vermilion Snapper/Gray Triggerfish	9	2009
7	SA Goldentile/Snowy Grouper	4	2009
8	SA/GM Gag & Red Grouper	10	2010
9	FL Spiny Lobster	8	2010

2.3. King Mackerel Assessment: The scheduled benchmark assessment for King Mackerel was dropped. King mackerel will be updated in 2006. Advice on an appropriate 'mixing rate' will be solicited from the SA and GOM SSC's via a joint meeting. The meeting may consist of the full SSC's or an approved subset of SSC members at Council discretion. The group will be provided TORs developed by SAFMC and GMFMC; the general charge is to review available data on stock composition in the mixing zone and recommend an appropriate range of stock composition for use in the stock assessment. The assessment will then be updated. If the joint SSC group is unable to reach consensus, the issue will be forwarded to a panel of 3 CIE appointed experts for independent resolution.

2.4 SEDAR 17, Hogfish and SA yellowtail snapper: The Steering Committee agreed to offer FL the opportunity to take the lead on a new hogfish assessment and update or benchmark of the yellowtail snapper assessment. FL will be offered the opportunity to conduct a process similar to that for the recent SA spiny lobster assessment, where FL conducts the workshops with assistance from SEFSC scientists and Council-appointed/SEDAR funded SSC, AP and Council representation. Alternatively, FL may opt to have the workshops coordinated through SEDAR and provide the assessment lead. Finally, if FL declines either of these options, the SEFSC will take lead and SEDAR will coordinate the workshops.

3. Research and Monitoring Needs:

Progress has been made but more can still be done to ensure research and monitoring needs are addressed before benchmark and update assessments. The Steering Committee agreed to instruct a small subcommittee composed of John Carmichael, John

Poffenberger, and John Merriner to review SEDAR research needs for upcoming updates, develop a data inventory for coming benchmarks, and try to identify potential data needs in advance. The product will be a listing of expected data needs for coming assessments and a document that will identify and prioritize data needs. The information will be provided to states, commissions, Universities, cooperative research groups, and agencies to help focus research and monitoring efforts and encourage greater cooperation among entities.

4. Workshop Composition

The Steering Committee agreed to maintain the all CIE review panel for SEDAR 9 as a trial. Once the review is completed the Committee will review the outcome and decide whether such a change should be permanent.

The Committee stressed the need to ensure appropriate appointments are made for each workshop, and suggested greater attention be paid to ensuring appropriate expertise is available at all workshops.

Data workshops need to devote additional effort to data evaluation.

- A Term of Reference should be added to data workshops requiring that the workshop panel must state whether or not datasets are appropriate for use in assessments.
- Councils are encouraged to appoint individuals to data workshops who are qualified and able to lead work groups; Councils should note possible group leaders when making appointments.
- Conference calls with group leaders should be considered as a way to improve progress at data workshops.
- Training should be considered as a way of ensuring adequate group leaders and increasing the pool of capable workshop chairs.

5. Review SEDAR guidelines & procedures

5.1 Review Workshop Charge

The Committee reviewed results from the SEDAR 7 Review Workshop. No changes to the review workshop charge are suggested. The Committee stressed the importance that the SEDAR process ultimately provide a credible and accurate assessment. The Committee reiterated that the RW is responsible for providing credible and appropriate results, even if this means deviating from results offered by the assessment workshop panel.

5.2 Preparation of the Assessment Summary

The Committee agreed that the 'assessment summary' should be a product of the review panel. The panel shall be provided with a skeleton format. The report will be entitled 'Stock Assessment Advisory Report'.

5.3 Advisory Report Format

The Steering Committee agreed that future reports should follow the format used in SEDAR 7.

5.4 Terms of Reference Language

The Committee considers the general TOR language appropriate. Specific TOR's should be considered when addressing known data poor species. The Committee recommended modifying the AW TOR addressing ABC to require a range. The Committee made a general recommendation that greater attention be paid to providing confidence intervals for critical assessment values.

5.5 Documentation of assessment changes resulting from the review panel

The Committee considers that the Review Workshop has the 'final word' on the assessment results and advice. The panel shall review all supplementary documents and recommend methods of documenting assessment results when they differ from those documented in the Assessment Workshop report.

5.6 SEDAR Assessment Update Process

The assessment update process was reviewed. The Steering Committee agreed that SSC's should prepare a consensus summary and advisory report when they review an assessment update. The Committee agreed to maintain flexibility in coordination and chairing of workshops for the update process

6. SEDAR Schedules

The Committee reviewed the coming schedule and possibility for conflicts. The Committee is opposed to standardizing workshop schedules. The committee approved shifting review workshops slightly to provide less overlap with NE SARC reviews.

7. Research and Monitoring Recommendations

The Committee agreed that prioritizing research and monitoring needs is important. Workshop panels shall be encouraged to identify issues that are especially influential to the assessments. Research and monitoring needs should be examined several years prior to an assessment.

8. Budget

The Committee received and update on the budget. Bob Mahood was asked to provide a budget summary to all committee members.

9. Management Workload

Roy Crabtree reviewed the impending management action workload.

- Ginny Fay will serve as contact for future Steering Committee briefing materials and potential action items.
- A management schedule similar to the SEDAR planning schedule shall be prepared for the next meeting. Each Council Exec. Dir. should provide the appropriate activity information to the SEDAR Coordinator for consolidation.
- Peter Christopher at the NERO has worked on similar information for the NER Coordinating Council

10. Next Meeting.

The next meeting will be hosted by the CFMC. Tentative dates are February 1 and 2, 2006.

Meeting Items:

- Integration with other sciences – Sociology, Economics
- Research and Monitoring Report
- Management action schedule
- All CIE Review Panel evaluation (SEDAR 9)