

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
April 19, 2006

Final Summary Minutes

1. Introductions and Agenda Review

The conference call convened at 9:00 am, April 19 2006. Members in attendance included Nancy Thompson, Roy Crabtree, Wayne Swingle, Robin Riechers, Bob Mahood, Louis Daniel, Miguel Rolon, Eugenio Pinero, and Vince O'Shea. Staff in attendance included John Carmichael and Dawn Aring. No members of the public were reported at the Council listening stations.

2. Approval of Minutes, August 2005 meeting

The minutes were approved.

3. SEDAR 10 Gag Grouper Review Panel Composition

The Steering Committee supported the fully-independent review panel, consisting of 3 reviewers appointed through the CIE, for future SEDAR reviews.

The Steering Committee discussed the challenges faced in securing a chair for the SEDAR 9 Review. The chair must possess scientific credibility, be capable of running the meeting, and have the time and ability to edit and submit workshop reports.

Relying on representatives of other NOAA Fisheries Science Centers is considered a plus as it facilitates exchange of information and procedures. However, such individuals are not always available.

The first choice for chair will remain a representative of another science center appointed by the SEFSC Director. The Steering Committee will develop a pool of qualified and 'pre-approved' candidates for Review Panel chair to access when necessary. The pool may include SSC members, academia, and retired professionals.

Each Council and Commission is asked to submit names for the review panel pool.

4. SEDAR Schedule Review

The Committee reviewed the assessment update schedule.

1) Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper. GOM red snapper were assessed in SEDAR 7 using data through 2003. A benchmark is scheduled for 2010. Changing economic, fishery, and environmental conditions in the Gulf of Mexico over the last several years suggest uncertainty in projection assumptions. The Gulf Council and SERO would like the assessment updated before 2010. Dr. Crabtree suggested an update in 2008.

The Steering Committee will consider the update schedule for red snapper in detail at the next meeting.

2) Gulf of Mexico Greater Amberjack. GOM Greater Amberjack was assessed in SEDAR 9 (completed March 2006) and is scheduled for an update in 2009. The review panel noted greater than usual uncertainty in terminal estimates and suggested that results are heavily influenced by recreational (MRFSS) CPUE; the panel suggested updating the assessment in a few years. The Steering Committee raised general concern about MRFSS data in light of the recent NRC review of that program.

The Science Center will investigate the MRFSS CPUE for greater amberjack.

The Steering Committee will consider the timing of a greater amberjack update at the next meeting, once the SEDAR 9 review panel report is completed and reviewed by the GMFMC and GMFMC SSC.

3) Goliath Grouper. The GMFMC requested an update of the SEDAR 6 Goliath grouper assessment for 2006. Workload issues prevent meeting this request.

The Steering Committee will reconsider the goliath grouper update at the next meeting.

4) Gag/Red Grouper update. SA/GOM gag and red grouper assessments were scheduled for update in 2010,

The Steering Committee will consider timing of updates for gag and red grouper once the assessments are complete (gag, July 2006; red grouper, January 2007)

5) King Mackerel. The joint GMFMC-SAFMC SSC subcommittee met recently to review king mackerel mixing. Findings are unknown at this time as the report is not available. Each Council will receive the report and review it through their SSC and other channels as appropriate.

The Steering Committee will review the subcommittee report and recommendations of both Council SSCs at the next meeting. Mackerel update and benchmark scheduling will be evaluated at that time.

5. SEDAR Update Process Review

General text describing the SEDAR update process was reviewed. The intent is to allow each Council to develop updates through procedures similar to those in place for assessment development and review prior to SEDAR.

The Steering Committee agreed that updates of SEDAR Benchmark Assessments can be handled through the SSCs. Each Council is allowed latitude in developing specific procedures to meet their needs.

Information regarding the update process in the SEDAR Guidelines will be updated and provided to the Steering Committee at the next meeting.

6. Management Activities Update

The committee continually strives to better integrate assessment and management activities. Much of the discussion regarding update scheduling (above) addressed such needs at this time.

The committee expects to more formally approach this task at the next meeting.

7. Research and Monitoring Report Update

A preliminary draft of the research and monitoring report was presented. The focus is on describing primary data programs and attempting to identify obvious data gaps.

The committee noted that the SEDAR process has succeeded in bringing attention to regional data issues. The next step is to identify specific needs and possible resources.

Evaluating the 'representativeness' of abundance measures (e.g., CPUE indices; Headboat, MRFSS, and MARMAP in particular) is a concern. Such is beyond the scope of this particular report, but is a growing area of discussion at data and assessment workshops. This issue has implications beyond any particular assessment.

The committee noted that an important outcome of this report will be to provide a link between assessment needs and research and monitoring programs. The report should enable the steering committee to improve sampling and monitoring resource allocation.

The final report will be distributed to the committee at the next meeting.

Opportunities for developing methods to better evaluate abundance indices will be proposed at the next meeting.

8. Schedule Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Tuesday, August 1, 2006 - Wednesday, August 2, 2006 in the Caribbean Region.

9. Other Business

1) Workload. The Committee discussed the intensive workload related to the SEDAR process. Although one goal of SEDAR is to increase participation and better distribute assessment work, the bulk of this burden has fallen on the SEFSC.

Challenges in 2006 are especially severe as several recent assessment took longer than expected (SEDAR 7, 8, 9) and there are considerable HMS/ICCAT responsibilities. Meeting

current demands will require increased participation by those outside the SEFSC, including greater responsibility for data preparation and even assessment modeling.

All states in the region are facing similar demands and difficulties with the overall workload. The committee discussed the need to be realistic in scheduling assessments, but also acknowledged that management systems demand accurate and up-to-date information. It is especially critical to evaluate rebuilding strategies.

One alternative for some species may be to develop more precautionary management approaches that can accommodate less intensive and less frequent updates and evaluations.

All parties are encouraged to pursue additional resources and grant opportunities.

2) Travel. Participant travel is a major component of the SEDAR budget. Travel expenses, especially airfare, have increased recently which may lead to budget difficulties later in the year. Restraint is urged, in some cases participants may be asked to modify travel times to reduce costs.

10. Adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45.