

**SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**  
**STATEMENT OF WORK AND MILESTONES**  
**SEDAR SUPPLEMENTAL TO GRANT AWARD NA10NMF4410012**  
**SEPTEMBER 1, 2010 - AUGUST 31, 2013**

**Background**

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC), headquartered in Charleston, S.C., is responsible for the conservation and management of fish stocks within the federal 200-mile limit of the Atlantic off the coasts of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and east Florida to Key West.

When Congress passed Public Law 94-265, the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976 (MFCMA), it extended the U.S. jurisdiction of fisheries out to 200 miles and created a new form of regional government through the eight regional fishery management councils. The role of the councils is to develop fishery management plans needed to manage fishery resources within the 200-mile limit. This limit, sometimes referred to as the Exclusive Economic Zone or EEZ or "federal waters", extends offshore from state waters (three miles in the South Atlantic) to 200 nautical miles. Outer boundaries of the EEZ off the southeastern coast vary according to areas where jurisdictional boundaries meet with Bermuda, the Bahamas and Cuba.

In 1996, the Sustainable Fisheries Act (SFA) became law and amended the Magnuson Act changing the name to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Congress passed the SFA to protect marine fish stocks with requirements to prevent and stop overfishing, minimize bycatch, and protect habitat.

On January 12, 2007, President Bush signed the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006 (Act). The new law is groundbreaking in several respects: it mandates the use of annual catch limits and accountability measures to end overfishing, provides for widespread market-based fishery management through limited access programs, and calls for increased international cooperation.

In addition to its specific responsibilities under the Act, the SAFMC is responsible for administering and coordinating the Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR) process. SEDAR works to improve the stock assessment process in the southeast region to ensure the mandates of the Sustainable Fisheries Act are met in the development of fishery management plans, amendments and related management activities. The SAFMC is responsible for the oversight and coordination of the SEDAR process for the South Atlantic (SAFMC), Gulf (GMFMC), and Caribbean (CFMC) Councils; the Atlantic States (ASMFC) and the Gulf States (GSMFC) Marine Fisheries Commissions; and NOAA's Highly Migratory Species Division (HMS).

### **SEDAR Summary Relative to the Supplemental Funds**

As the result of the recent Deepwater Horizon oil discharge in the Gulf of Mexico, it is anticipated that additional and/or more frequent SEDAR stock assessments of Gulf fish species will be necessary. To meet these additional needs the SEDAR program has been provided the supplemental funding addressed in this statement of work. The stock assessment activities related to the additional needs in the Gulf of Mexico will be scheduled by the SEDAR Steering Committee, consisting of the three southeast Council's Chairmen and Executive Directors, the NOAA Fisheries Regional Administrator and Center Director, the Executive Directors of the Atlantic States and Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commissions and a representative of NMFS Highly Migratory Species Division.

#### ***Staff***

One additional SEDAR staff position will be hired (two year appointment) to organize and arrange the workshops and/or webinars for Gulf region species that will be assessed. This will require significant coordination with the staff of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, the NMFS SEFSC and SERO, as well as other SEDAR staff. Coordination of meeting dates, locations, and appropriate attendees will take place well in advance of the workshops. Also, working with NOAA Fisheries, staff will identify the Center of Independent Experts (CIE) reviewers that will participate in the review workshops. SEDAR staff will participate in the data workshops, assessment workshops, and review workshops as necessary. Staff will insure materials are delivered and incorporated into the appropriate electronic formats prior to and after each stage of the process. The SAFMC will be responsible for ensuring adequate documentation is provided at the conclusion of each workshop and that final reports are completed and distributed to the Gulf SEDAR partners. SEDAR assessments and workshop reports will be presented to the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council and NOAA Fisheries as appropriate.

#### ***Workshops***

During the grant period it is anticipated (best guess) there will be eight Gulf SEDAR benchmark and/or update stock assessments (four of each during the grant period) conducted. However, the actual number will depend on the needs (yet to be determined) related to the Deepwater Horizon oil discharge and its impacts. All information available, such as new fisheries independent data being collected by NOAA, the affects of the oil on the various life stages of the target fish species, and the oil-related fisheries closures for the species being assessed, will be used in this SEDAR process. Each Gulf SEDAR benchmark will consist of a Data Workshop, a Stock Assessment Workshop and a Stock Assessment Review Workshop. Data and assessment review workshops generally run 5 days, while assessment workshops are conducted via 6-8 webinars held over 6-8 weeks. The initial planning for these additional Gulf stock assessment activities will take place during the fall 2010 SEDAR Steering Committee meeting.

It is anticipated that stocks requiring additional or accelerated assessments may include, but are not limited to, red snapper, red and gag grouper, king and Spanish mackerel, vermilion snapper and gray triggerfish. It is also anticipated that additional data evaluations will be required for these assessments to investigate possible oil discharge related changes in both fishery dependent and independent data sources. Such evaluations may lead to additional workshops or webinars,

beyond those required of the standard SEDAR assessment process. Furthermore, increased NOAA monitoring efforts to evaluate impacts of the spill will provide additional data sources that will need a thorough evaluation before inclusion in specific stock assessments. This may also require that currently planned update assessments be elevated to benchmark assessments to incorporate these new data sources.

In addition to the SEDAR assessment process workshops, a special SEDAR procedures workshop will be held to consider methods of evaluating the impacts of the Deepwater Horizon oil discharge and related fishery closures on assessment data sources, techniques, and results. Analytical techniques will be required, either newly developed or through modification of existing techniques, that can accommodate possible oil discharge-related effects such as mortality, effort reductions and shifts related to large scale area closures, and changes in survey observations related to fish movements.

**SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
SEDAR SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET DESCRIPTION**

**PERSONNEL (\$134,509)**

Council Member Compensation (\$30,509) for Council member participation in SEDARs (approximately 4 benchmarks and 4 updates) compensated at the rate equivalent to the Federal General Schedule Grade 15 step 7.

Staff Compensation (\$104,000) one full time permanent position with increments, awards, cost of living increase; 100% of effort in support of SEDAR grant activities. Position is a two year appointment.

**FRINGE BENEFITS (\$36,400)**

Includes health and life insurance, retirement, and Medicare.

**TRAVEL (\$101,220)**

Costs for travel are based on expenses for localities (federal travel regulations per diem rates), historical information for modes of transportation (privately owned vehicles vs. airline travel), rental car allowance, and duration of previous SEDAR workshops. Average cost per traveler/activity varies from meeting to meeting based on location and duration.

Anticipating staff, council member and other invited participants traveling to eight SEDAR benchmark and/or update stock assessments (four of each during the grant period).

Benchmark assessments average \$16,870 in travel costs per assessment times 4 = \$67,480  
Update assessments average \$8,435 in travel costs per assessment times 4 = \$33,740

**SUPPLIES (\$6,300)**

Memory sticks, CDs and other general office supplies (pens, writing paper, clips, tape, file folders, etc.); meeting material (briefing books, nameplates, batteries, etc.); copier supplies (paper, dry ink, staples, etc.); computer and upgrades and computer supplies.

**OTHER (\$21,571)**

Includes office rent, meeting rooms, telephone and mailing, printing and training; insurance and administrative costs.

Rent

Office Space (per lease)	\$ 3,600
Meeting rooms	<u>\$ 12,676</u>
Total	\$ 16,276

Communications

Telephone	\$ 200
Postage	<u>\$ 400</u>
Total	\$ 600

Printing and Reproduction

Copies, briefing material, reports, etc.     \$   1000

Training

Employee improvement seminars  
and computer training                             \$     500

Administrative Costs

Administrative Officer and  
Office support                                         \$  3,195

**SEDAR SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET**  
**NA10NMF4410012**

<b>COMPENSATION</b>	
<b>Staff Compensation</b>	<b>\$104,000</b>
<b>Council Member Compensation</b>	<b>\$30,509</b>
<b>FRINGE BENEFITS</b>	
<b>Staff</b>	<b>\$36,400</b>
<b>TRAVEL</b>	
<b>Council Member</b>	<b>\$11,680</b>
<b>Staff</b>	<b>\$17,200</b>
<b>SEDAR Participants</b>	<b>\$72,340</b>
<b>SUPPLIES</b>	<b>\$6,300</b>
<b>OTHER</b>	
<b>Rent (Meeting Rooms)</b>	<b>\$12,676</b>
<b>Rent (Office)</b>	<b>\$3,600</b>
<b>Communications (Phone, Postage, etc.)</b>	<b>\$600</b>
<b>Printing &amp; Reproduction</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>
<b>Training</b>	<b>\$500</b>
<b>Administrative Costs</b>	<b>\$3,195</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$300,000</b>