John Carmichael

From: John Carmichael
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2010 11:35 AM
To: Ben Hartig; Bob Mahood; Brian Cheuvront; Charles Phillips (ga_capt@yahoo.com); David Cupka (palmettobooks@bellsouth.net); Duane Harris; George Geiger (georgejgeiger@bellsouth.net); Gregg Waugh; John Carmichael; Louis Daniel; Lt. Brian Sullivan (Brian.A.Sullivan@USCG.mil); Mac Currin (mcurrin1@bellsouth.net); Mark Robson; Rita Merritt (MIRIDON@ec.rr.com); Robert Boyles Jr.; Roy Crabtree; Spud_Woodward@dnr.state.ga.us; Tom Swatzel (tom@swatzel.com); VOShea@asmfc.org
Cc: Rachael Lindsay; Dale Theiling; Mike Collins
Subject: SEDAR 2010 Atlantic Red Snapper Assessment

SAFMC Council Members,

During a meeting via conference call last week, the SEDAR Steering Committee recommended that the planned update of South Atlantic red snapper be conducted as a benchmark, and that the process be expedited to meet SAFMC's desired deadline of presentation to the Council in December 2010. The Steering Committee notes that the benchmark process is the more appropriate approach for this assessment, as it will allow thorough consideration of numerous red snapper assessment issues raised by the Council in December 2009. Conducting a benchmark assessment will allow the workshop panels greater flexibility to incorporate new research and data sources and to reconsider key assessment assumptions in light of current information. Moreover, the benchmark process includes an independent peer review, which will help ensure that the methods and results are valid and robust, and offers increased opportunity for public input.

In December 2009 the Council approved Terms of Reference and a schedule for red snapper as an update assessment, and approved appointments to an update process addressing 3 stocks. Due to the change in the assessment, the Council will be provided an updated schedule and Terms of Reference based on the benchmark process for red snapper at the March meeting, and will also be asked to make additional appointments as appropriate for a red snapper benchmark assessment.

Also be advised that the Steering Committee recommended delaying the planned snowy grouper update assessment to ensure that adequate resources are available to complete the red snapper benchmark by December 2009. The black sea bass update will be conducted in 2010, with presentation to the Council planned for March 2011. The SAFMC SEDAR Committee will be asked in March to reconsider appointments to the update process in light of the change to only include black sea bass. The Steering Committee will discuss rescheduling of snowy grouper when it meets in May 2010.

Council members are asked to consider technical and AP appointments for the red snapper benchmark data, assessment, and review workshops; consider appointments for the black sea bass update process; and forward recommendations to me for consideration by the SEDAR Committee during the March SAFMC meeting.
In addition, state agency representatives are encouraged to identify agency staff involved in data collection, research, and monitoring efforts for red snapper, and forward for appointment to the data and assessment workshops.

Thanks,
John

John Carmichael

Science and Statistics Program Manager

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