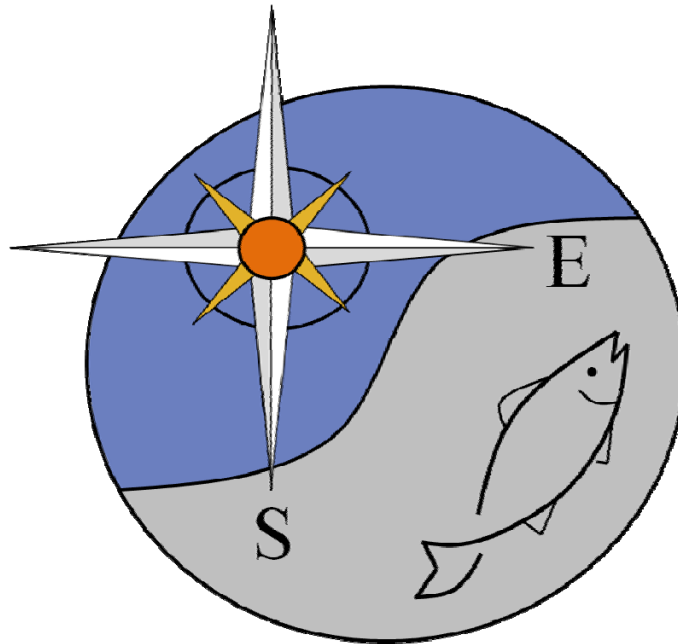


SEDAR

STEERING COMMITTEE



SEDAR Steering Committee Meeting Brief

May 2, 2011

**Doubletree Guest Suites
181 Church Street
Charleston, SC 29464**

PURPOSE

This meeting is convened to:

- Approve revised SEDAR guidelines
- Approve future assessment projects
- Review website design proposals
- Consider revising the Summary Report

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Documents:

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- Attachment 2. March 2011 Meeting Summary
- Attachment 3. SEDAR Planning Schedule
- Attachment 4. Revised SEDAR Guidelines
- Attachment 5. Revised TORS
- Attachment 6. 2011/12 proposed work plan
- Attachment 7. 2011/12 calendar
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1. Introduction

1.1. Documents

Agenda

Attachment 1. October 2010 Meeting Summary

Attachment 2. March 2011 Meeting Summary

1.2. Action

Introductions

Review and Approve Agenda

Approve March 2011 Summary

2. Activities Update

2.1. Documents

Attachment 3. SEDAR Planning Schedule

2.2. Overview

2.2.1. SEDAR 21 Benchmark

Stocks: HMS sandbar, dusky, blacknose sharks.

Coordinator: Julie A. Neer

Progress Summary: A benchmark stock assessment for HMS sandbar, dusky, and blacknose sharks was conducted through SEDAR 21. The Data Workshop was held June 21-25, 2010 in Charleston, SC as scheduled. The main Assessment webinars were conducted between September 2010 and January 2011. The Sandbar and Dusky pre-review workshop assessment reports were available for public comment and CIE review January 17th –February 2nd, 2011, while the two blacknose pre-review workshop assessment reports were available for public comment and CIE review January 31st – February 14th, 2011. The public comment and CIE review was held approximately one month later than initially scheduled due to a variety of issues that impacted the preparation time of the reports. An additional webinar was held on March 15th 2011 to review the public comment and CIE report. The Review workshop was held April 18th - 22nd, 2011 in Annapolis, MD as scheduled. The Review Panel is currently preparing its report. The projected completion of the final Stock Assessment Report is the end of May, 2011.

Action Items: None

2.2.2. SEDAR 22 Benchmark

Stocks: Gulf of Mexico yellowedge grouper and tilefish

Coordinator: Julie A. Neer

Progress Summary: A benchmark stock assessment for Gulf of Mexico Yellowedge grouper and Tilefish sharks was conducted through SEDAR 22. The Data Workshop was

held March 15-19, 2010 in Tampa, FL. as scheduled. The main Assessment webinars were conducted between May through November 2010. The pre-review workshop assessment reports were available for public comment and CIE review November 23 – December 14, 2010. The public comment and CIE review was held approximately six weeks later than initially scheduled due to a variety of issues that impacted the preparation time of the reports. An additional webinar was held on January 12, 2011 to review the public comment and CIE report. The Review workshop was held February 14 -17, 2011 in Tampa, Florida as scheduled. The Review Panel requested a variety of MCMC runs, which have proven to be very complicated and time consuming to produce. This has delayed the completion of the final Stock Assessment Report beyond its scheduled completion date. The analytic team is currently preparing its addendums and the Review Panel is preparing its report. The projected completion of the final Stock Assessment Report is the end of May, 2011.

Action Items: None

2.2.3. SEDAR 23 Benchmark

Stock: Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Goliath grouper

Coordinator: Julie A. Neer

Progress Summary: A benchmark stock assessment for Goliath grouper was conducted through SEDAR 23 at the request of the State of Florida. The assessment team was led by analysts from the Florida Marine Research Institute and followed a condensed SEDAR benchmark process in order to complete the assessment in time for the Florida Wildlife Commission meeting in December 2010. The Data Workshop was held April 26-29, 2010 and the Assessment Workshop was held August 2-5, 2010, both in Saint Petersburg, FL. The Review Workshop was held in Key West, Florida November 15-17, 2010. The final Stock Assessment Report was disseminated by SEDAR on 4 March 2011.

Action Items: None

2.2.4. SEDAR 25 Benchmark

Stocks: South Atlantic black sea bass and golden tilefish

Coordinator: Kari Fenske

Progress summary: SEDAR 25 is currently underway. The Data Workshop was held April 19-21 in Charleston, SC. The Assessment Workshop will be held June 21-23 in Beaufort, NC and will be followed by approximately three webinars in July and August. The project will conclude after the Review Workshop, which will be held September 20-22, 2011 in Charleston, SC.

Action Items: None.

2.2.5. SEDAR 26

Stocks: Caribbean Silk snapper, Queen snapper, and Redtail parrotfish

Coordinator: Julie A. Neer

Progress Summary: A benchmark assessment of Caribbean Silk snapper, Queen snapper, and Redtail parrotfish will be conducted through SEDAR 26. A data scoping call was held on March 21, 2011 and a Data webinar was conducted on April 15th, 2011. The Data Workshop is scheduled for May 16th – 20th, 2011 in St. Croix, USVI, the Assessment Workshop is scheduled for July 25-29, 2011 in ST. Thomas, USVI, and the Review Workshop is scheduled for October 17-21, 2011 in San Juan, PR.

Action Items: None

2.2.6. SEDAR 27 Benchmark

Stocks: Gulf of Mexico Menhaden and Southeast Yellowtail snapper

Coordinator: Julie A. Neer

Progress Summary: SEDAR will be conducting a Review Workshop for the 2011 assessments of Gulf of Mexico Menhaden and Southeast Yellowtail snapper. The Menhaden assessment is being conducted by SEFSC Beaufort Lab personnel in conjunction with the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission. The Southeast Yellowtail snapper assessment is being led by analysts from the Florida Marine Research Institute. The Review Workshop will be held November 1-4, 2011 in Saint Petersburg, Florida.

Action Items: Guidance is needed regarding the composition of the Review Panel in addition to the CIE Reviewers.

- Review workshop chair: Possible options include SSC member from GMFMC or SAFMC, Commission representative, or someone else
- SSC reviewers: menhaden assessment may impact GMFMC issues in addition to the GSMFC. YTS assessment will be used by both GMFMC and SAFMC SSCs for their ABC determinations.

2.2.7. SEDAR Update

Stock: Southeast US Spiny Lobster

Coordinator: Julie A. Neer

Progress Summary: An update stock assessment for Florida spiny lobster was conducted through SEDAR at the request of the State of Florida. The assessment team was led by analysts from the Florida Marine Research Institute. The Assessment was conducted via webinars and one workshop, held in Key West, Florida in September 2010. A subset of the GMFMC and SAFMC SSC participated in a Review Workshop in Key West, Florida November 17-18, 2010.

Action Items: None

2.2.8. SEDAR Update

Stock: Gulf of Mexico Greater Amberjack

Coordinator: Julie A. Neer

Progress Summary: An update stock assessment for Gulf of Mexico Greater Amberjack was conducted via webinars July through November 2010. The final update report was posted to the SEDAR website 24 March 2011.

Action Items: None

2.2.9. Gulf 2011 Updates

Stocks: Gulf of Mexico gray triggerfish and vermilion snapper

Coordinator: Ryan Rindone

Progress summary: On March 23, 2011, the Gulf Scientific and Statistical Committee approved the terms of reference for these stocks. The SSC-approved terms of reference have been sent to the NOAA Southeast Fisheries Science Center in Miami to begin the update process. The updates are expected to be completed before or by July 2011. Upon completion, the assessments will be delivered to the Gulf Scientific and Statistical Committee for determination of ABC and OFL, and then to the Gulf Council for ACL and ACT.

Action Items: None

2.2.10. DWH Assessment Issues Workshop

Coordinator: Ryan Rindone

Progress summary: The Coordinator, with the assistance of Gulf Council Staff and Gulf of Mexico researchers and resource managers, has been populating a list of potential attendees to attend a workshop addressing the integration of data and research conducted in response to the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill.

Goals of the workshop will include:

- Identification of data and research that has been/is currently being conducted which may prove to be valuable to the assessment of federally managed fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico
- Determine how best to integrate identified data into future stock assessments
- Discuss potential assessment hindrances which may be encountered while integrating oil spill data and research
- Discuss short-term and long-term needs for data acquisition and research in the Gulf in response to the spill to best monitor any potential effects on federally managed species

The workshop is currently anticipated to be held in the early spring of 2012. The rationale behind this time is that it should allow those who have or are currently conducting research to complete an entire year's worth of research, analyze their data, and report initial findings. The workshop will allow the Gulf Council and the Southeast Fisheries Science Center to identify, monitor, and integrate valuable data and research related to federally managed Gulf fisheries into stock assessments, thus incorporating any potential effects of the spill into timely stock assessments.

Action Items: Request guidance on participants, goals, meeting approach, relevant research and information.

2.2.11. MPA Procedural Workshop

SEDAR Procedural Workshop – Southeast MPAs

Coordinator: Julie A. Neer/ Kari Fenske

Progress Summary: A SEDAR Procedural workshop on Southeast MPAs was approved at the October 2010 SEDAR Steering Committee. SEDAR was instructed to hold the workshop in the first quarter of 2011. Jim Berkson was selected to serve as Chair of the workshop and a Steering Committee was assembled in late 2010. During the planning stages a variety of monetary and logistical issues was discovered and discussed. Due to these issues, the decision was made to cancel the workshop in late January 2011. At the time the Caribbean Council had planned on pursuing the workshop on their own.

Action Items: None

2.3. Action

Where required, listed under each topic above.

3. Guidelines and Policy Review

3.1. Documents

Attachment 4. Revised SEDAR Guidelines

3.2. Overview

The Committee is asked to review updated program guidelines incorporating process changes discussed in October 2010 and March 2011.

The version presented is streamlined from the previously approved document and includes an outline and bullets approach intended to increase readability.

3.3. Action

- Approve revised guidelines

4. Terms of Reference Revision

4.1. Documents

Attachment 5. Revised TORS

4.2. Overview

The Committee directed that SEDAR TORs should be updated to reflect new procedures, with the Science Center taking lead on drafting the revisions.

4.3. ACTIONS

- Review proposed TORs

5. Assessment Schedule

5.1. Documents

Attachment 6. 2011/12 proposed work plan

Attachment 7. 2011/12 calendar

5.2. Overview

The Committee is asked to review short-term and long-term assessment project scheduling.

Last October the committee endorsed an ambitious schedule for 2012 that was dependent on SEFSC staffing levels. SEDAR staff has worked with SEFSC to develop a work plan for 2011/2012 that provides the desired assessment productivity given current resources. A critical component in the plan is the staggering of benchmark data workshops to address data group's abilities to support workshops and associated data requests.

The South Atlantic Council requests that the assessment schedule be modified as follows:

- 1) swap the planned updates of vermilion snapper and greater amberjack, so that vermilion will be conducted in 2012 and greater amberjack in 2014.
- 2) swap the planned benchmarks of gray triggerfish and white grunt, so that gray triggerfish will be assessed in 2012 and white grunt in 2015.
- 3) add blueline tilefish to the 2013 benchmark project addressing Warsaw grouper and speckled hind.

NOTE: The MARMAP life history group has raised concerns over their ability to accommodate the age structure evaluation workload for South Atlantic stocks in 2012.

5.3. ACTIONS

- Approve the 2011/12 workplan
- Approve stocks and assessment categories for 2013
- Identify likely stocks and categories 2014-2018
- Identify and prioritize future procedural workshops

6. SEDAR Website Redesign

6.1. Documents:

Attachment 8. Website Example

6.2. Overview

Per guidance from the Steering Committee at the October 2010 meeting, SEDAR staff have begun drafting content ideas for a redesigned SEDAR website. The document 'website example' is provided for your review and comment. SEDAR staff will work

with the SEFSC on implementation details once the comments from the Steering Committee have been received and incorporated.

With the website redesign we hope to accomplish four goals:

1. Create an easier to use layout with information that is easier to find.
2. Develop the SEDAR website as a resource for analysts, managers, and constituents by adding reference content and making content easy to find.
3. Avoid redundancy in document uploading.
4. Make it easier for SEDAR staff to change and add information without relying on Science Center staff.

The proposed website power point file has hyperlinks that show how pages could be linked together. There are two ways to navigate. If you place the power point into the full screen “presentation mode” you just need to click on the hyperlink to jump to the page. To navigate while in the “slide development” format (with the slide sorter along the left side of the page), right click on any of the blue, underlined hyperlinks and choose “open hyperlink” to jump to the linked page. Please focus on the content and information flow and not on font, colors or stylistic design.

6.3. ACTIONS

- Review and provide guidance on the website framework

7. Summary Report Revision

7.1. Documents:

None

7.2. Overview

Contents of the assessment summary report were reviewed by the steering committee, and a framework approved, in 2009. The summary document resulting from this effort is detailed and largely technical. It meets the needs of agency staff but is not geared toward less technical audiences.

There has been considerable interest over the last several years in providing a more reader friendly, lay-audience decipherable summary of assessment findings. In response, SEDAR staff has worked with SERO and Council staff to develop FAQs and other summaries of assessment information for recent benchmarks. The downside of this approach is time and effort is being devoted to providing multiple summaries of the same information.

SEDAR staff proposes that the assessment summary be simplified so that it is appropriate for, and useful to, non-technical audiences.

7.3. ACTIONS

- Consider modifying the summary report contents to better meet current needs and procedures.

8. Budget Update

8.1. Documents

Attachment 9. Budget Update

8.2. Overview

ACTIONS

9. Other Business

Election of Vice-Chair
(last filled by Duane Harris of SAFMC)

10. Next Meeting

1. Meeting: May 2012, with Council Chairs.
2. Conference call, February 2012, if needed.

11. Adjourn