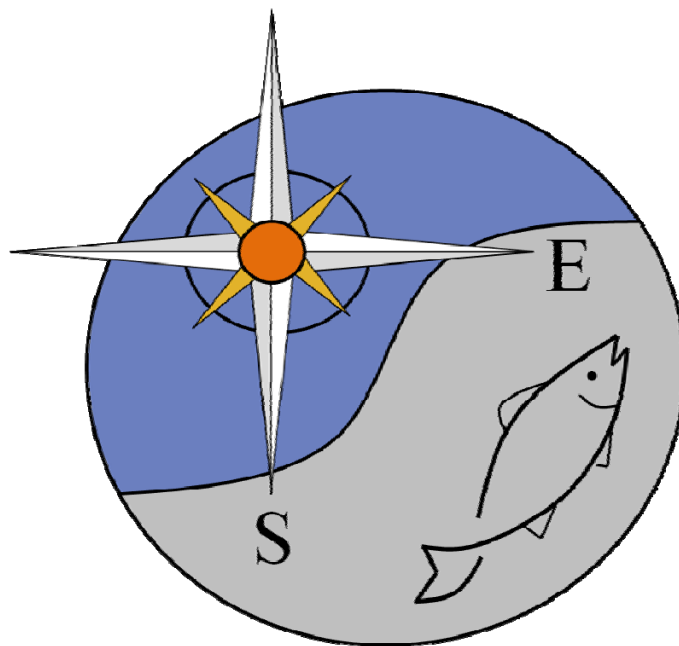


SEDAR



SEDAR Steering Committee

Final Meeting Summary

Meeting Date: October 13, 2011

Report Finalized: May 18, 2012

**Crowne Plaze
North Charleston, SC**

1. Introduction

The Committee approved the summary from the May 2011 meeting.

2. Activities Update

SEDAR 28: Cobia and Spanish Mackerel.

The Committee supported Luiz Barbieri, a member of both the Gulf and South Atlantic SSCs, to chair the SEDAR 28 Review Workshop on behalf of the Gulf and South Atlantic Councils. Travel reimbursement will be provided through the base SEDAR funding administered through the South Atlantic Council.

Special Topics Workshops- Gulf DWH Workshop

The Committee recommended holding two workshops to address assessment impacts from the DWH event in the Gulf of Mexico. The first workshop will be devoted to identifying and characterizing available datasets and considering storage alternatives to ensure future access. An additional goal is to develop meta-data formats to support a future event dataset compilation. The second workshop will be devoted to exploring methods for incorporating the impacts of extreme events into stock assessments. A two-phased approach was discussed, with the first devoted to general approaches and the second considering application through case studies. The DWH event and recent red tide were suggested as case studies.

3. SEDAR Assessment Schedule

The Committee finalized assessment projects for 2012 and 2013, and identified candidates for 2014. A complete list is provided in Table 1; notes on particular assessments follow.

Gulf Red Snapper: SEFSC is conducting an update of projections incorporating observed landings information. A benchmark including data through 2011 will be conducted during 2012 and 2013, and made available to the Gulf Council by their August 2013 meeting.

Atlantic Red Snapper: SEFSC will conduct an evaluation of new fishery independent data, stock progress under the moratorium, and the effectiveness of the moratorium for consideration by the South Atlantic SSC in April 2013. A plan for the evaluation will be presented for SSC consideration and approval in April 2012.

King Mackerel: A benchmark assessment of king mackerel will be conducted in 2013, including data through the 2011/12 fishing year. Migration of the assessment to the Stock Synthesis framework will be considered.

The Committee discussed holding assessment workshop entirely via webinar. Although this approach was not widely supported by participants when tried in 2010, another attempt is recommended as a way to address rising costs in the current fixed to reduced budget situation. A primary criticism of the prior effort was that information was not available for participant review prior to most webinar meetings; resolving that is strongly encouraged by the Committee. Based on recommendations of South Atlantic Council representative, the all-webinar AW approach will

be applied for the South Atlantic benchmark project of gray triggerfish and blueline tilefish in 2013. The Caribbean Council recommended applying this approach for planned assessments of parrotfish and white grunt in 2013.

Future review and approval of assessment projects will be handled as follows:

- 1) Steering Committee identifies initial projects: Fall meeting (2011 for the 2014 schedule).
- 2) Council review, through SSC or Committees as desired.
- 3) SEDAR Technical Committee reviews the proposed projects, provides recommendations for the Steering Committee.
- 4) Preliminary project list developed by the Steering Committee in May (2012 for the 2014 schedule), addressing any timing or workload issues identified.
- 5) Steering Committee preliminary list reviewed by the Councils (Committees or SSC as desired).
- 6) Project schedule finalized by the Steering Committee at the Fall meeting (2012 for the 2014 schedule).

4. Procedures Workshops

The Committee supported convening a SEDAR procedural workshop in 2012 devoted to recreational data and the MRFSS-MRIP transition in particular. Objectives include developing methods for accommodating the data revisions, interim adjustment alternatives, and long term evaluations.

5. Website Redesign

The SEFSC is evaluating the website proposal. Recent IT changes within the agency may impact what can be accomplished.

6. Summary Report Revision

The Committee supported the summary report revisions, and suggested the following additional changes.

- Constituents and layman are the primary audience for the summary report
- Provide a general explanation of the report content and presentation approaches to help readers understand the tables and figures.
- Draft the Executive Summary to provide a clear overview of the assessment and its findings.

7. Document Guidelines

The Committee supported the document guidelines with minor revision to the draft disclaimer language.

8. Revised TORs

The Committee supported the base Terms of Reference.

9. Fishery Performance Reports

The Committee agreed the obtaining the information solicited through these reports could be useful to the assessment process and management. Concerns were raised that the approach is essentially a survey, and therefore will require OMB review and approval. It was noted that responses may not provide a representative sample across the fishery, thereby reducing the use of the information as an indication of population trends or issues.

10. Budget Report

Bob Mahood briefed the committee on 2011 budget status and the proposed budget for 2012.

11. Other Business

The Committee supported ending distribution of the final documentation cd's.

The Committee supported convening a SEDAR Technical Committee to review project schedules. Meetings will be held via conference call or webinar. Membership will include:

- SSC member from each Council
- HMS representative
- SERO representative
- SEFSC representatives as necessary
- Interstate Commission representative if desired

The Committee supported developing a process for training SEDAR workshop appointees in the basics of stock assessment, fisheries science, and fisheries data.

12. Next Meeting

1. May 2012, Monday of CCC meeting.
2. October 2012

This report was reviewed by the Steering Committee on May 18, 2012. It was approved with the following modification: Bob Gill, GMFMC, indicated that he did not concur with conducting a king mackerel benchmark in 2013.

Table 1. Final SEDAR assessment projects for 2012 and 2013, and initial 2014 priorities.

	SAFMC/Commission (Beaufort)		GMFMC/CFMC (Miami)		HMS (PC)	FL FWCC & Other
2012 FINAL	1. Spanish mackerel B 2. Cobia B 3. Vermilion U 4. Red porgy U <i>Red Snapper proposal</i>	5. Atl menhaden U	1. Spanish mackerel B 2. Cobia B 3. & 4. Red snapper B	5. Blue tang B 6. Queen trigger B	1. GOM Blacktip shark B	Mutton S
						Special GOM DWH Rec Data
2013 FINAL	1.Gray triggerfish B 2. Blueline tilefish B 3. Snowy grp. STD 4. Gag STD 5. Red grp. U/S <i>Red Snapper evaluation to SSC April 2013.</i>		1. & 2 Red Snapper (aug Council meet) 3. Gag B 4. Grt. amberjack B 5. King mackerel B	6. St. Croix Parrotfish B 7. Parrotfish, other areas, or White grunt	1. May 2012 2. May 2012	Hogfish B (tent.)
						Special Indices
2014 TENT	1. & 2. White Grunt B 3. Scamp B 4. Red Snapper B Black grp U Grt. amberjack U	5. GOM menhaden	1. Scamp Bench 2. Black Grouper U 3. Yellowedge grp. U 4. Red snapper U 5. Red grp. B Gray snapper B	6. Queen conch 7. Spiny lobster	1. Oct 2012 2. Oct 2012	