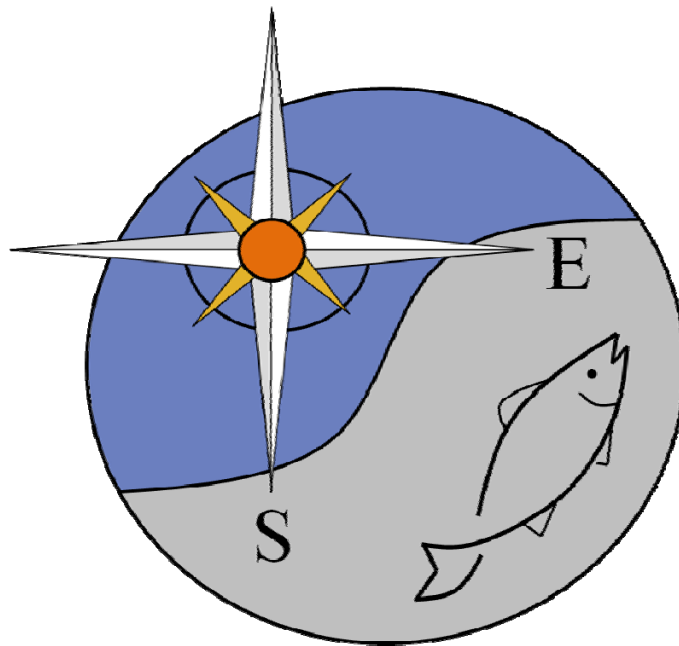


SEDAR



SEDAR Steering Committee

Meeting Brief

October 13, 2011

**Crowne Plaze
North Charleston, SC**

PURPOSE

This meeting is convened to:

- Approve 2013 assessment schedule
- Review SEDAR document guidelines and summary report
- Review framework TORs
- Review the SEDAR budget

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- Attachment 2. SEDAR Assessment Schedule
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- Attachment 9. 2011 Budget Report
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1. Introduction

1.1. Documents

Agenda

Attachment 1. May 2011 Meeting Summary

1.2. Action

Introductions

Review and Approve Agenda

Approve May 2011 Summary

2. Activities Update

2.1. Documents

Attachment 2. SEDAR Assessment Schedule

2.2. Overview - 2011 Projects

2.2.1. SEDAR 21 Benchmark

Stocks: HMS Sandbar, Dusky, and 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 final Stock Assessment Reports were disseminated by SEDAR as follows:

Dusky shark – 29 August 2011

Sandbar shark – 14 September 2011

Gulf of Mexico Blacknose shark – 14 September 2011

Atlantic Blacknose shark – 15 September 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 final Stock Assessment Reports were disseminated by SEDAR as follows:

Gulf of Mexico Tilefish – 21 July 2011

Gulf of Mexico Yellowedge grouper – 21 August 2011

Action Items: None

2.2.3. SEDAR 25 Benchmark

Stocks: South Atlantic black sea bass and tilefish

Coordinator: Kari Fenske

Progress Summary: SEDAR 25 is still underway. The Assessment Workshop was held June 21-23, 2011 in Beaufort, NC. Five webinars were scheduled to complete the analyses and discussions following the Assessment Workshop. The Review Workshop will be held Oct 11-13, 2011 in North Charleston, SC. The date of the Review Workshop was moved back by about three weeks to accommodate delays in the data and assessment workshops. Three CIE reviewers, two SA SSC members and an SSC Chair will be panelists at the Review Workshop.

Action Items: None

2.2.4. SEDAR 26 Benchmark

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 was held May 16th – 20th, 2011 in St. Croix, USVI, and the Assessment Workshop was held July 25-29, 2011 in St. Thomas, USVI. Several assessment webinars were held to finalize the assessment. The Review Workshop is scheduled for October 17-21, 2011 in San Juan, PR. The projected completion date of the final Stock Assessment Reports is the end of November, 2011.

Action Items: None

2.2.5. 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: None

2.2.6. Gulf Updates

Stocks: Gulf of Mexico gray triggerfish and vermilion snapper

Coordinator: Ryan Rindone

Progress summary: Communications with stock assessment scientists at the Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC) in Miami indicate that data acquisition for the gray triggerfish and vermilion snapper update assessments is progressing. The assessments are expected to be completed by September, with SSC peer-preview occurring during the Gulf SSC's scheduled October meeting.

Action Items: None

2.3. Overview - 2012 Projects

2.3.1. SEDAR 28 Benchmark

Stocks: Gulf and South Atlantic Spanish mackerel and cobia

Coordinator: Kari Fenske, Ryan Rindone

Progress Summary: SEDAR 28 is in the initial planning stages. Councils have made appointments, and reviewed and approved the TORs and project schedule. The Data Workshop will be held February 6-10 in Charleston, SC; the Assessment Workshop will be held May 7-11 in Miami, FL and the Review Workshop will be held August 6-10 in Atlanta, GA.

Action Items:

- 1) Gulf and South Atlantic Councils agree to RW Chair. Luiz Barbieri, member of both the SAFMC and GMFMC SSCs, has agreed to fill this role. He was appointed to this position by the SAFMC and endorsed by the GMFMC.
- 2) Project Budget: The Committee is asked to consider how this project will be budgeted, in particular, will Gulf appointees be reimbursed through the SEDAR grant to SAFMC or the supplement to the GMFMC.

2.3.2. SEDAR Benchmark (previously 29)

Stocks: South Atlantic White Grunt Benchmark

Coordinator: Kari Fenske

Progress Summary: The SA Council has requested that this species be dropped and SEFSC staff focus on SA Vermillion snapper and SA Red porgy updates instead.

Action Items: The Steering Committee should provide approval/disapproval of this request

2.3.3. SEDAR 29 Standard

Stocks: HMS Gulf of Mexico blacktip shark

Coordinator: Julie Neer

Progress Summary: A standard assessment of HMS Gulf of Mexico Blacktip shark will be conducted through SEDAR 29. All data sources used in the previous benchmark will be updated and provided to the analysts by 2 December 2011. This is to allow the analytic team time to ensure the continuity run is functioning prior to the in-person workshop.

A data scoping call to discuss additional potential data sources for inclusion will be held in January, 2012, and a Data webinar will be held in February, 2012. The Data/Assessment Workshop will be held May 19th – 23rd, 2012 in Panama City, Florida. Several assessment webinars will be held to finalize the assessment. As HMS has no SSC to provide an independent review of the assessment, the assessment report will be

sent to a CIE reviewer for an external review. The projected completion date of the final Stock Assessment Report is the end of June, 2012.

Action Items: None

2.3.4. SEDAR 30 Benchmark

Stocks: Caribbean blue tang, white grunt, queen triggerfish

Coordinator: Julie Neer

Progress Summary: A benchmark assessment of Caribbean Blue tang, White grunt, and Gray triggerfish will be conducted through SEDAR 30. Given the unique, island-specific nature of the fisheries in the region, and the relatively little data available for consideration and discussion, an alternative approach to the data workshop is being planned. Rather than hold a data workshop on one island, which have been poorly attended by industry representatives from other islands, a small group of SESFC personnel and the SEDAR Coordinator will spend the week travelling among the three island, spending one day on each meeting with fisherman to gather information for indices development, life history and length verification, and insight into landings trends.

A Data webinar will be conducted in September, 2012 to review the analyses conducted from the guidance provided by the data scoping trip. The Assessment Workshop will be held October 15th – 19th, 2012. Several assessment webinars were held to finalize the assessment. The Review Workshop is scheduled for late February/early March, 2013. The projected completion date of the final Stock Assessment Reports is June 2013.

Action Items: None

2.3.5. SEDAR 31 Benchmark or Standard

Stocks: Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper

Coordinator: Ryan Rindone

Progress Summary: The Gulf SSC voted to recommend that the scheduled 2012 Gulf red snapper standard assessment be changed to a benchmark, and that it be held in 2013. The Gulf SSC subsequently approved the draft terms of reference for a red snapper benchmark assessment, but did not review the draft terms of reference for the scheduled red snapper standard assessment. The Gulf SSC's recommendation for a red snapper benchmark assessment has been supported by the Gulf Council through a request to the Steering Committee to change the 2012 red snapper standard assessment to a benchmark. During planning efforts for 2012, Center staff proposed developing a benchmark in late 2012, to include data through 2011.

Action Items: Determine the type of assessment to be conducted and when it should begin.

2.3.6. South Atlantic Updates

Stocks: South Atlantic vermilion snapper and red porgy

Coordinator: Kari Fenske

Progress Summary: The SEFSC and SA Council will be conducting an update of the SA Vermillion snapper and Red porgy stocks. All data to be updated will be requested by the SEFSC and TORs will be coordinated through the SA Council and SSC without SEDAR involvement. The final report will be provided to SEDAR for the administrative record. The SA Council requests that the assessments be available for SSC review at the SSC meeting scheduled for October 23-25, 2012.

Action Items: None

2.3.7. SEDAR Stock Assessment Data Identification Workshop

Coordinator: Ryan Rindone

Progress summary: This was originally titled the "DWH Workshop" for SEDAR planning. The SEDAR Stock Assessment Data Identification Workshop is aimed at identifying those data sets that may further augment the SEDAR stock assessment process in an attempt to produce the best scientific information available. Particular emphasis will be given to those data sets which aid in explaining uncertainty surrounding the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and the potential subsequent effect the event may have had on Gulf federally-managed fisheries. Analysts, researchers, and managers will convene to discuss available data sets, determine the usefulness and applicability of the presented data, discuss troubleshooting techniques in relation to data inclusion into stock assessment models, and discuss what data still need to be collected.

Action Items:

Discuss the proposed revised workshop title.

Provide guidance on the overall structure of the workshop, including overarching goals, timing, location, and participation. Focus should center around how this workshop (or workshops) will be different from previous workshops held in the Gulf.

2.4. ACTIONS

Where required, listed under each topic above.

3. SEDAR Assessment Schedule

3.1. Documents

Attachment 3. Schedule Planning Worksheet

3.2. Overview

The Committee is asked to finalize stocks to be assessed in 2013 and identify candidates for 2014-16.

SAFMC Requests

1) Red Snapper Benchmark

NOTE: The Council requested that SEFSC evaluate preliminary findings of recently increased fishery-independent sampling and advise on the feasibility of assessing red snapper in 2013.

2) Blueline Tilefish Benchmark

3) Red Grouper Update or Standard

NOTE: Request review of red grouper data and bio-sample progress by SEFSC, and consideration of update or standard assessment by SEFSC and SSC.

4) Snowy Grouper Standard

5) Gag Grouper Standard

Alternates, if one of the above should prove infeasible or an additional assessment slot become available:

gray trigger, white grunt, scamp

GMFMC Requests

The Gulf Council requests the following assessments:

CFMC Requests

Stocks identified through the SEDAR Caribbean Data Evaluation Workshop as potentially having adequate data for benchmark assessments will be addressed in 2011 and 2012. The next step is to being applying data poor techniques to other stocks. Therefore, the Caribbean Council requests that a length evaluation workshop be conducted in 2013.

HMS Requests

HMS has no advance requests.

3.3. ACTIONS

- Approve 2013 assessments

4. Procedures Workshops

4.1. Documents

4.2. Overview

Recreational Data Workshop:

The Committee has discussed a procedural workshop dedicated to methods of developing historic (pre-MRFSS, 1981) estimates of recreational catches. Recently, changes in the recreational data collection program and the shift from the MRFSS process to the MRIP procedures will have implications on all existing assessments. These two topics may best be discussed through a dedicated workshop. For example, reviewing MRIP changes for 2003-2011 estimates could provide an opportunity to incorporate these data updates into existing assessments through the update process, and would ensure consistency in how the changed data are addressed.

Indices Workshop II:

An earlier SEDAR Procedures workshop developed protocols for evaluating indices. Workshop participants are interested in revising those protocols to reflect current practices and need and develop a ranking system that could be applied across assessments. Most expected participants are SEFSC staff, and it may be possible to conduct this work over email and webinars.

4.3. ACTIONS

- Identify procedural workshops for 2012.

5. Website Redesign

5.1. Documents

5.2. Overview

Following the brief discussions on the proposed SEDAR website redesign at the May 2011 Steering Committee meeting, staff contacted Brion Cook, IT Director, at the SEFSC. Brion and his staff have reviewed the proposed website changes and have found it to be feasible under the current SEFSC website layout. We are in the process of working out the legal and technical issues and have not yet moved beyond the draft website design shown at the May 2011 Steering Committee meeting. The website redesign conceptually focuses on making the SEDAR website more useful as a resource for all users and will allow SEDAR staff more autonomy in adding documents and making minor changes.

5.3. ACTIONS

None.

6. Summary Report Revision

6.1. Documents:

Attachment 4. Summary Report Outline
Attachment 5. Summary Report Presentation

6.2. 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.

The Committee directed staff to develop a revised summary report that is simplified and better meets current needs to inform non-technical audiences of assessment findings. A proposed outline is provided for review.

6.3. ACTIONS

- Review and approve summary report outline

7. Document Guidelines

7.1. Documents:

Attachment 6. Proposed document guidelines

7.2. Overview

The proposed document guidelines expand on information that was previously included in earlier versions of the SEDAR Policies and Procedures. The revised guideline document specifically addresses the types of documents associated with SEDAR assessments, how documents are prepared and submitted, and creates a new category of documents for public comment. Public comment on some projects has been increasing in recent years and the guidelines outline a plan for compiling and disseminating them. The SEDAR Document Guidelines are intended for distribution to appointed SEDAR panelists, observers, and the general public.

7.3. ACTIONS

- Approve document guidelines

8. Revised TORs

8.1. Documents

Attachment 7. Proposed TOR Framework

8.2. Overview

Staff has worked with SEFSC analysts to revised and update the framework TORs. This is necessary to address the newly created 'Standard' assessment category, and to ensure the workshop panels are provided appropriate guidance. TORs are transitioning to a more question and answer approach, especially with those of the RW, to optimize information provided to the Council and SSC.

8.3. ACTIONS

- Review and approve framework TORs

9. Fishery Performance Reports

9.1. Documents

Attachment 8. Fishery Performance Questionnaire

9.2. Overview

Some Councils are exploring improved ways of obtaining fishery trends and perceptions from advisory panels, including requesting that such groups document their perceptions in writing through a report that is submitted to the Council. Interest at the Council level is geared toward understanding uncertainties in science and management that may be important to setting ABCs and ACLs. As similar information is also considered important to the assessment process and evaluation of assessment findings, SEDAR staff requests that the Steering Committee consider a means of obtaining documentable feedback from constituents.

9.3. ACTIONS

- Consider developing a fishery performance and perceptions document

10. Budget Report

10.1. Documents

Attachment 9. 2011 Budget Report
Attachment 10. 2012 Draft Budget

10.2. Overview

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

10.1. ACTIONS

None.

11. Other Business

Discussion of continued need for CD?

12. Next Meeting

1. Meeting: May 2012, with Council Chairs.
2. Meeting: October 2013

13. Adjourn