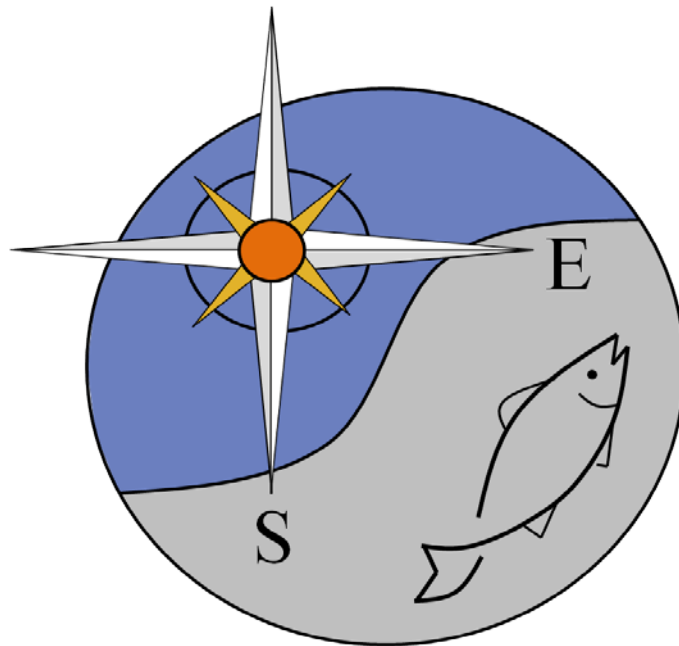


SEDAR



SEDAR Steering Committee

Meeting Brief

June 5, 2014

Webinar Meeting

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Webinar Access Information

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1. Introduction

1.1. Documents

Agenda

Attachment 1. January 30, 2014, Meeting Summary

1.2. Action

Introductions

Review and Approve Agenda

Approve February 2013 Meeting Summary

2. SEDAR SOPPS Revisions

2.1. Documents

Attachment 2. SOPPS with revisions

2.2. Summary

Revisions to the SEDAR SOPPs (Guidelines) were recommended to address desk peer reviews and National Standard 2 updates addressing public comment during workshops. Suggested language and revisions were discussed at the October 2013 and January 2014 meetings. Those revision are incorporated into the SOPPs document and offered here for final approval.

In reviewing these revisions, the HMS group identified a number of additional revisions, ranging from editorial changes to inconsistencies with current practices. As the last major revision was conducted in 2009 and approved in 2011, an overall review may be in order to bring the document in line with both current practices and changes in program needs related to the MSA revision. One caveat to consider, however, is that the agency is in the process of reviewing all reviews programs for compliance with NS guidelines, so care must be taken not to make changes that could lead to compliance concerns. Moreover, it may prove more efficient to conduct an overall review after recommendations on NS compliance are available.

2.3. ACTION ITEMS

- Review and Approve the SOPPs revisions
- Provide guidance on further updates

3. SEDAR Assessment Summary Report

3.1. Documents

Attachment 3. Existing Summary Report Contents
Attachment 4. Gulf Council Summary Report Outline
Attachment 5. Example SAFMC Gag Grouper Summary

3.2. Overview

The Steering Committee agreed to reconsider the use and contents of the Assessment Summary Report, with the Gulf Council agreeing to provide examples and an overview of possible document changes. The revised outline is provided for consideration, along with the current version for comparison. The current version was developed by a subcommittee including representatives from all Cooperators.

SEDAR Staff also reviewed usage and logistics related to the current report and agrees that the current report should be revised. As detailed below, the current report is outdated, presenting an impression of final findings that is no longer valid; it is time consuming and contributes to delays in final report dissemination; and it does not meet current needs for a summary of technical issues and uncertainties.

- Most importantly, the current report format was developed prior to the MSA revisions and changes in SEDAR RW TORs. At that time SEDAR reports were expected to provide the final assessment results, whereas now SEDAR review panels are encouraged to address uncertainties and are far less obligated to provide a single answer. More responsibility is now given to the SSC to interpret assessment findings. There is less of a desire on behalf of SSCs and Cooperators to have SEDAR reports provide final answers on criteria such as stock status, with more emphasis on providing ranges, multiple models, and multiple states of nature. The result is that the summary report, as an indicator of final findings, is largely outdated. Statements such as stock status are really no longer the purview of the review panel, and thus making such declarations in a summary report is misleading.
- The expectation to include various final summary tables for status, stock trends, and projections leads to delays in completing the overall assessment report. This is exacerbated when any updates are required after the RW, as the analysts need to provide the info for both the RW report needs and later for the summary. Staff has received push-back from analysts regarding the need to provide the additional information and figures.
- The summary report has always been a compromise and seldom meets the needs of addressing assessment issues and questions that may arise within the Council or constituents. This has led to requests for Council staff to develop additional summaries or FAQs of particularly controversial assessments, with South Atlantic red snapper a notable example. The Summary is prepared by SEDAR Coordinators, not stock assessments scientists, and they cannot be expected to communicate the technical issues

that may underlie many concerns, further contributing to Council and SERO efforts to solicit more technical summaries from staff scientists. As an example of one such effort, the recent South Atlantic gag summary is provided.

Based on the examples above, the current report is outdated, presenting an impression of final findings that is no longer valid; it is time consuming and contributes to delays in final report dissemination; and it does not meet current needs for a summary of technical issues and uncertainties. Therefore, SEDAR Staff recommends that the Committee consider dropping the summary report altogether. The summary should be replaced with a true executive summary that summarizes the overall process documented through the report sections and helps the reader navigate the report. A technical summary addressing uncertainties and concerns of the Council and constituents should be prepared by Cooperator Staff, as this will allow each Cooperator to tailor the contents and presentation to meet their needs. Such summaries would be part of the Cooperator documentation and not the SEDAR report, thus reducing one point of delay in report dissemination.

3.3. ACTION

- Consider modifications to the Summary Report

4. 2015 SEDAR Project Schedules

4.1. Documents

Attachment 6. 2015 Project Schedule

4.2. Summary

The 2015 project schedule was developed following the January meeting with input from SEFSC data and assessment program leadership and offered for review by the SEDAR Technical Committee.

No conflicts were identified by the Technical Committee. Specific suggestions are summarized here:

- Conduct the SA Blueline update as a Standard assessment
A similar recommendation was made by the SAFMC SSC and will be considered at the June Council meeting.
- Consider completing the SEDAR 43 Gulf gray triggerfish standard assessment sooner, to be available for the June Council meeting.

Changes such as these will not affect multiple cooperators and therefore can be resolved by the Center and Council, under the scheduling flexibility allowances approved by the Committee at the prior meeting. If the changes are approved, the Cooperator shall notify the SEDAR program manager in writing.

4.3. Actions

- Consider the suggested 2015 changes and approval for the SEFSC and appropriate Cooperators to address them.

5. 2016 Capabilities and Priorities

5.1. Documents

Attachment 7. SEDAR Project Listing

5.2. Summary

During this meeting the Committee considers the overall workload capability by Cooperator and identifies assessment priorities. A summary table of recent projects is provided, reflecting the January 2014 actions and the schedule development and coordination process described above.

A workload table is also provided, similar to what has been used in prior years to assist the committee.

5.3. Actions

- Identify the number of project slots available in 2016
- Develop assessment priorities for 2016 and beyond.

Table 1. Assessment Project Schedule and Details 2013 - 2016, based on Steering Committee recommendations of January 2014 and 2014 schedule coordination.

Start Year	SEDAR #	Stocks	Type	Terminal Data	SEDAR Concluded (dissemination)
2013	38	King mackerel	Benchmark	2012	August 2014
2014					
	39	HMS Smoothhound complexes	Benchmark	2012	March 2015
	40	Atl. menhaden	Review	2012	January 2015
	41	SA Red snapper and gray triggerfish	Benchmark	2013	August 2015
	42	Gulf red grouper	Benchmark	2013	August 2015
	U	Gulf red snapper	Update	2013	December 2014
	43	Gulf gray triggerfish	Standard	2013	July 2015
2015					
2016	U	SA Red grouper	Update	2013	April 2015
	44	Gulf Red Snapper	Standard	2014	December 2015
	45	Atlantic red drum	Review	2013	October 2015
	U	FL Black grouper	Update	2014	October 2015
	46	Caribbean data limited	Benchmark	2013	May 2016
	U	SA Golden Tilefish	Update	2014	April 2016
	U	SA Vermilion snapper (or blueline)	Update (Std)	2014	April 2016
	U	FL Yellowtail Snapper (FWCC)	Update	2014	May 2016
	47	SA Scamp & Gray Snapper	Benchmark	2014	October 2016
ITEMS BELOW THIS POINT ARE TENTATIVE - TO BE FINALIZED BY STEERING COMMITTEE, October 2014					
		Caribbean queen conch, spiny lobster	Benchmark	2014	
		SA red porgy	Benchmark	2014	October 1, 2016
		Atlantic Croaker	Review	2014	
		Gulf Menhaden	Std or Update	2015	
		Gulf red drum	Benchmark	2015	
		Gulf yellowedge grouper	Standard	2015	
		Gulf gray snapper	Benchmark	2015	
		Caribbean Grunts	Benchmark	2015	
		Gulf greater amberjack			
		Gulf gag			
		FL Yellowtail snapper	Update	2015	April 2016
		HMS Blacktip SA	Benchmark		

YEAR	SAFMC/Commission (Beaufort)		GMFMC/CFMC (Miami)		HMS (SEFSC/PC)	FL FWC	Procedures
	SAFMC	Commissions	GMFMC	CFMC			
2015	1,-3: RS/GT (cont) 4. Red grouper U 5.	ATL Red Drum (Review) By Oct '15	1. Red grouper B 2. Red snapper S 3. Gray Trigger S 4, 5. King mackerel B	6, 7. Data Poor	1, 2. Smoothhound (through March)	Yellowtail Snapper U	1. Best Practices - Data
2016	1, 2: scamp/gray snapper B 3. Blueline U (to April) 4.Tilefish U (to April) 5. Red Porgy B	ATL Croaker	1. Gag U 2. GAJ U 3. Red drum B 4. Yellowedge Gr. S 5. Gray Snapper B	6.	1. 2		1. Best practices - Assessment
2017							

6. SEFSC Program Review: Assessments

6.1. Documents

None.

6.2. Summary

As part of the ongoing annual review of national science programs, the SEFSC is conducting a review of the assessment program, July 7 - 11, 2014.

6.3. Actions

FYI, none required

7. Next Meetings

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 23 - 25 in Charleston. Specific dates should be decided at this meeting.

8. Adjourn