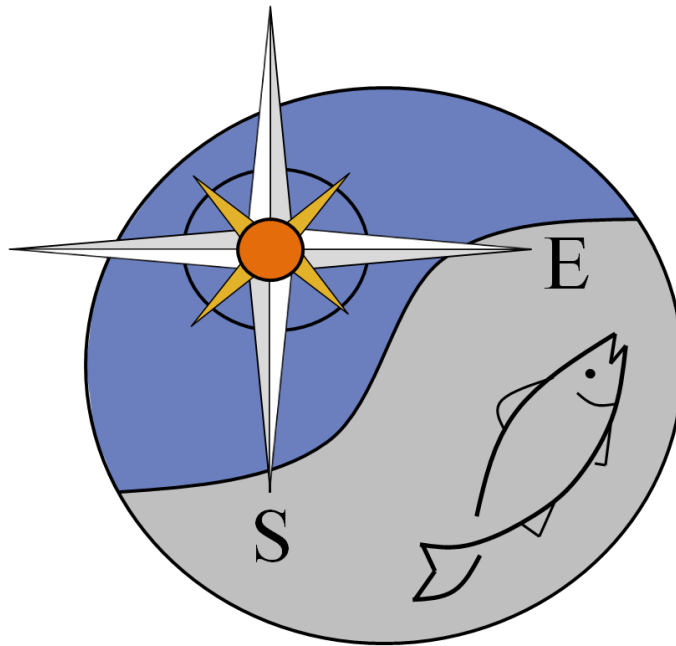


SEDAR



SEDAR Steering Committee

DRAFT Meeting Report DRAFT

October 6 - 7, 2014

**Crowne Plaza
North Charleston, SC**

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Report Content Note:

To provide context for recommendations and maintain the full record, this document combines the briefing summary provided to the Committee for consideration during the meeting as well as summary Committee discussion points and recommendations.

Outcomes from the meeting are found under the section headers “Committee Recommendations”.

SEDAR Project Schedule, updated to include recommendations from this meeting.

Start Year	SEDAR #	Stocks	Approach	Terminal Data	SEDAR Concluded (dissemination)
2014					
	39	HMS Smoothhound complexes	Benchmark	2012	March 2015
	40	Atl. menhaden	Review	2012	January 2015
	41	SA Red snapper and gray triggerfish	Benchmark	2014	April 2016
	42	Gulf red grouper	Benchmark	2013	August 2015
	U	Gulf red snapper	Update	2013	December 2014
2015					
	43	Gulf gray triggerfish	Standard	2014	July 2015
	44	Atlantic red drum	Review	2013	October 2015
	45	Gulf vermilion snapper	Standard	TBD	TBD
	46	Caribbean data limited	Benchmark	2014	TBD, 2016
	B	FWC Black grouper, Goliath	B or S	2014	TBD
	P	Best Practices - Data	Procedures	NA	Spring 2015
2016					
	B	GOM Data Poor group	Benchmark	TBD	TBD
	U	SA Red grouper	Update	2014	April 2016
	B	Atlantic croaker/spot	Review	TBD	TBD
	B	HMS blacktip, Atl B & GOM U	B + U	TBD	TBD
	TBD	Gulf Menhaden	Std or U	TBD	TBD
	U	GOM Gag & GAJ	Update	2015	Jan 2017
	U	SA blueline tilefish	Update (Std)	2015	Jan 2017
	P	Gray & Lane Snapper stock ID	Procedures	NA	NA
	ITEMS BELOW THIS POINT ARE TENTATIVE - TO BE FINALIZED BY STEERING COMMITTEE				
	2015	Gulf Red Snapper, S B or U	TBD		
	2016	Gulf Red Snapper, S B or U	TBD		
	U	SA Golden Tilefish	Update		
	P	Best Practices – Assessment	Procedures		
	2017	SA red porgy	Benchmark		
	2017	SA scamp/Gray snapper	Benchmark		
	2017	SA vermilion & GAJ	Updates		
	2017	Gulf & SA Gray Snapper	Benchmark		
	2017	Gulf yellowedge grouper	Standard		
	2017	FWCC yellowtail snapper	TBD	2016	
	2018	HMS scalloped hammerhead, dusky	Benchmark		

1. Introduction

1.1. Documents

Agenda
Attachment 1. June 2014 Meeting Summary
Attachment 2. Correspondence Received

1.2. Action

Introductions
Review and Approve Agenda
Approve February 2013 Meeting Summary

2. SEDAR Project Updates

2.1. Documents

Attachment 3. Projects Report, October 2014
Attachment 4. Data Methods Procedures Workshop Workplan

2.2. Summary

Attachment 3 provides a summary of current and recently completed SEDAR assessment projects.

2.3. ACTION

- Approve Data Methods Procedure Workshop Plan

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Data Methods Procedure Workshop

- Add an objective to address future revision and evaluation of workshop recommendations and Best Practices.
- Add an objective to consider creation of a standing data methods group.
- Add an objective to consider peer review of workshop recommendations, through SSCs, CIE or other entities.
- Allow 1 SSC/Technical representative per Cooperator on the Organizing Committee.

3. Headboat Data Evaluation

3.1. Documents

Attachment 5. S41 webinar summary report

3.2. **Overview**

A working paper submitted during SEDAR 41 questioned the validity of data collected during the early years of the headboat fishery. Such claims have arisen before, leading data and assessment panels to consider various analytical solutions such as assumed uncertainty levels, sensitivity runs and time periods for CPUE evaluations. Considering that many of the claims arise from a core area for the South Atlantic red snapper stock, concerns were raised after the Data Workshop concluded and that prior solutions remain under question, the SEDAR 41 Data Workshop Panel could not reach a consensus on a way forward with the assessment until this data is fully evaluated and the extent and nature of the reporting issues are determined and addressed.

During the September SAMFC Meeting SEFSC Director Dr. Ponwith indicated the center intended to develop and peer review a plan for addressing headboat reporting. The evaluation is likely to include focus groups, representing captains who reported the information, and agency staff who compiled and evaluated the information. Data gathered through these groups will be evaluated to determine the appropriate response. All South Atlantic assessments are 'on hold' while this is resolved.

3.3. **ACTION**

- Provide guidance on the headboat data evaluation as appropriate.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

- Chair Ponwith provided an update on plans for evaluating headboat data. Due to difficulties and time constraints associated with developing and then conducting a thorough survey of headboat data providers, combined with serious technical concerns with recall bias that suggest any such survey is highly unlikely to provide valid information, the current plan is to conduct an in-depth evaluation of trends in the dataset and examine QA/QC practices in place during the pre-1992 period.
- The Committee recognized the technical difficulties noted and considers the approach reasonable. However, concern was expressed over the lack of public involvement.

4. SEFSC Assessment Program Review

4.1. **Documents**

4.2. **Summary**

The SEFSC Assessment Program Review was conducted July 7 – 10 in Miami, FL. There was considerable discussion on SEDAR. Two issues raised repeatedly

mirror things discussed by the Steering Committee over the years, namely managing workload and increasing productivity.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

- Chair Ponwith provided a presentation on the program review approach and summarized panel recommendations.
- The SEFSC is currently considering reviewer recommendations and drafting a response.
- Reviewer reports will be posted to the SEFSC and NMFS S&T websites soon.

5. SEDAR SOPPS and PROCESS REVIEW

5.1. Documents

Attachment 6. SEDAR SOPPS

Attachment 7. SEDAR Assessment Process Revision

5.2. Summary

At the prior meeting the Committee expressed an interest in reviewing the SEDAR SOPPS in detail. The Committee may wish to withhold discussion on SOPPS modifications until the final outcome from the SEFSC assessment program review is complete, or to address the various revisions suggested at this time. The Committee is also asked to consider process changes, including a revision to the assessment process discussed at the last several meetings.

Assessment Process Update

During prior meetings the Committee discussed modifications to the assessment development process that would streamline communication between the analysts and assessment panel, following an approach considered similar to the IPT approach used to develop FMPs. A draft of this process was prepared by staff and presented to SERO legal counsel for comment. The revised version is provided here for Committee discussion. The approaches described here are consistent with long-standing Steering Committee guidance, expressed by this quote from the October 2007 meeting:

The Committee recommended that it be clearly stated to all analytical teams that they shall be prepared to present a functioning model at the beginning of each assessment workshop, and that the analytical team should be encouraged to communicate with others on the assessment workshop panel via email or conference call as necessary to develop a functioning model.

SOPPS Revisions

During the prior SOPPs consideration that updated review procedures to address desk reviews, HMS noted a number of edits, possible clarifications, and potential changes to the SOPPs. These will be offered for Committee consideration.

The Gulf Council requested discussion on the need for transparent public access to working documents during workshops, especially the data workshop for attendees. Current policies are described in Section 5.2 on page 7 of the SOPPs.

5.3. **Actions**

- Approve proposed revisions to the assessment process
- Consider SOPPs modifications

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Committee approved the proposed revisions to the Assessment Process.
 - Assessment process milestones should be indicated in the project schedule to ensure all participants are aware of what is expected at each step in the process
 - SEDAR SOPPs will be modified by Staff to incorporate the process changes.
 - General timing of the Review Workshop will remain part of the initial project plan, while finalizing specific dates of the review may be withheld until approximately the first milestone meeting. Whether such flexibility in scheduling will be practical, given the need to make peer review plans well in advance and Cooperator expectations on dissemination dates, is something the Committee will need to evaluate as this approach is applied.
- The first application of this new approach will be to the SEDAR 42 assessment of Gulf red grouper, getting underway in November with its Data Workshop.
 - Revisions to the Project Plan and Schedule will be drafted by the SEDAR Coordinator and offered to the analytical team and Gulf Council for expedited approval.
- SEDAR SOPPs were reviewed in detail. Changes will be approved at the next meeting. Significant changes and areas of discussion are noted here.
 - The current assessment classifications (Benchmark, Standard, Update) were clarified as actually representing assessment “approaches”. This better reflects that differences between benchmark, standard and update have to do with how the assessments are prepared and not the assessments themselves,

particularly the “quality” or “reliability” of the assessments. SEDAR facilitates assessment preparation, and the Steering Committee has identified 3 approaches for preparation.

- SEDAR Coordinators were authorized to monitor project deliverables and report delays to the appropriate Cooperator Liaison contact and the Steering Committee Chair.
- Draft working papers for all phases of an assessment will be distributed to participants and posted to the SEDAR website once they are submitted to the Coordinator.
- Including standard or guidelines to determine what constitutes a working paper was discussed. SEDAR currently approaches this inclusively, by placing no restrictions on working papers. No changes were made to this policy.
- Organizing a “Constituent Advisory Panel” was discussed as part of several SEFSC proposals for improving SEDAR. The goal is to convene a trained and experienced group of constituents to whom analysts can address questions and issues from assessments. Because it is not clear how such a group would relate to existing Cooperator APs; how many groups are necessary to cover the breadth of stocks, fisheries, and areas encompassed by SEDAR; under which entity such a group would exist and be managed; and how individuals would be identified and appointed, the topic was shelved until the details can be further considered.

6. Assessment Project Schedule

6.1. Documents

Attachment 8. 2015 Project Schedule
Attachment 9. SEDAR Project List

6.2. Summary

The committee is asked to finalize 2015 projects and identify future priorities.

Highlighted Cooperator changes and requests:

- GMFMC Red Snapper 2015: Council requested benchmark ASAP
- GMFMC Red Drum 2016: Council requested consideration as a data poor assessment, in conjunction with other stocks to be named by the Council.
- ASMFC requested addition of spot to 2016 review
- SAFMC informed all assessments on hold pending headboat data evaluation
- FL FWCC is considering a change in black grouper, 2015.

6.3. **Actions**

- Finalize 2015 projects
- Identify 2016-2018 priorities
- Determine deadline to identify stocks to assess with Gulf red drum

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

- Scheduling decisions from this meeting are summarized in Table 2 below. Table 1 shows the schedule as it existed prior to the meeting.
- SEDAR 41, South Atlantic red snapper and gray triggerfish, will be delayed approximately 1 year, and will include 2014 data.
- Gulf red snapper remains unresolved. The current update of Gulf red snapper will include 'calibrated' MRIP data. The SEFSC does not consider another assessment of red snapper in 2015 advisable, as it may only incorporate one additional year of data. It was further recommended that consideration of possible regional management in the Gulf of Mexico needs to be addressed through Council action before an assessment can be conducted on a regional basis. Including red snapper in 2015 or 2016 will require that other stocks now on the schedule be dropped.
 - The Steering Committee will determine timing of the next assessment of Gulf red snapper at its next meeting.
- Gulf vermilion snapper was added for 2015.
- The FL FWCC is considering conducting the next assessments of black grouper, yellowtail snapper and Goliath grouper with the Stock Synthesis package. This may be accommodated through the SEDAR Standard Process or Benchmark process, depending on the nature of the decisions required to apply SS to these stocks. According to SEDAR SOPPs, Cooperator SSCs are responsible for determining when the leeway allowed within the Standard Process is exceeded by a project, thus triggering the Benchmark Process. FWCC will prepare a project proposal addressing what is required to conduct the next assessments of these 3 stocks using SS, and submit it to the Gulf and South Atlantic Council SSCs for consideration. SSC recommendations will be provided to the Steering Committee at its next meeting.
- The Committee discussed which body possessed the authority to specify the type of assessment conducted, particularly when dealing with follow-up assessments. The following general guidance is provided to guide Cooperators in making future requests.
 - First time assessments are conducted through the Benchmark process.

- Next assessments of a stock will be conducted through the Update process by default. If a Cooperator believes an alternative process should be applied (i.e., Benchmark or Standard), they are responsible for providing justification for the change when the issue is discussed at the Steering Committee. Such justification must be provided well enough in advance for the SEFSC to evaluate the recommendation so it can be resolved at the Steering Committee.
- For future schedule requests, Cooperators are asked to provide stocks to be assessed in priority order, and to indicate either a desired delivery date of the final product or a desired terminal data year.
- The SEFSC was tasked with providing an indication of assessment productivity resources available to each Cooperator for the next meeting, in some unit that is more precise than the current system of “slots” now being used. For example, a recommendation from the SEFSC program review was to use month to manage work load. An initial step in this direction was made at this meeting, by indicating on Table 2 the quarters of the year when particular projects will be conducted.
- A SEDAR Procedures workshop is recommended for 2016 to address stock ID and data availability for gray and lane snappers in the Gulf and South Atlantic.

Table 1. Assessment Project Schedule and Details 2013 - 2016, based on Steering Committee recommendations of June 2014 and subsequent Cooperator requests. (provided for Steering Committee Discussion at this meeting)

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	UNK
	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	2014	UNK
	44	Gulf Red Snapper	Standard	2014	Dec 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	UNK
	U	SA blueline tilefish	Update (Std)	2014	UNK
	U	FL Yellowtail Snapper (FWCC)	Update	2014	May 2016
	47	SA Scamp & Gray Snapper	Benchmark	2014	UNK
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 Vermilion Snapper	Update	2014	
		Gulf Menhaden	Std or Update	2015	
		Gulf red drum & other data poor	Benchmark	2015	
		Gulf yellowedge grouper	Standard	2015	
		Gulf gray snapper	Benchmark	2015	
		Caribbean Grunts	Benchmark	2015	
		Gulf greater amberjack	Update	2015	December 2016
		Gulf gag	Update	2015	December 2016
		FL Yellowtail snapper	Update	2015	April 2016
		HMS Blacktip SA	Benchmark		

Table 2. Stock Assessment Schedule Worksheet. Stock are listed in the priority order of the Cooperator (where priorities have been identified). The values following “Q” indicate the quarter of the year when assessment work takes place. Stocks in parenthesis represent timing issues yet to be resolved.

YEAR	SAFMC/Commission (Beaufort)		GMFMC/CFMC (Miami)		HMS (SEFSC/PC)	FL FWC	Procedures
	SAFMC	Commissions	GMFMC	CFMC			
2015	RS/GT B (Q3-4)	ATL Red Drum (Review)	Red grouper B (Q1-3) Gray trig S (Q1-3) Vermilion S (Q2-4) <i>Red snapper (TBD)</i>	Data Poor (Q1-4) Data eval	Smoothhound	Black grp S/B Goliath S/B	1. Best Practices - Data
2016	RS/GT B (Q1-2) Red grouper U (Q1) Blueline tilefish U (Q3-4) <i>Golden tilefish U</i>	ATL Croaker & Spot (R) Gulf Men S/U	1. Gag U (Q2-4) 2. GAJ U (Q2-4) 3. Data Poor B (red drum and others) (Q1-4) <i>Red snapper (TBD)</i>	Data Poor assessments (Q1-4)	ATL blacktip B GOM Blacktip U (Q2-4)		<i>1. Best practices – Assessment</i> 2. gray/lane s stock id/data inv
2017	1. Red Porgy B 2: Scamp/Gray s. B 3. Vermilion s. U 4. GAJ U		5. <i>Gray Snapper (TBD)</i> 4. Yellowedge Gr. S		Blacktips cont (Q1)	Yellowtail Snapper S/B ‘16	

7. SEDAR Website Revisions

7.1. Documents

None.

7.2. Summary

A newly designed SEDAR website with 3rd party commercial hosting is nearing completion. Staff is working to load past materials and refine the presentation and search and listing features. The site will be exhibited at this meeting.

8. Other Business

The Gulf Council requested that the Committee rotate Steering Committee chairmanship among partners.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Committee did not change the practice of the SEFSC Director serving as the standing Chair of the Committee.
- A presentation on SEDAR policies and procedures will be made at the January 2015 Gulf Council meeting.

9. Next Meetings

- Based on past practices, the next meeting will be via webinar in Spring 2015.

10. Adjourn