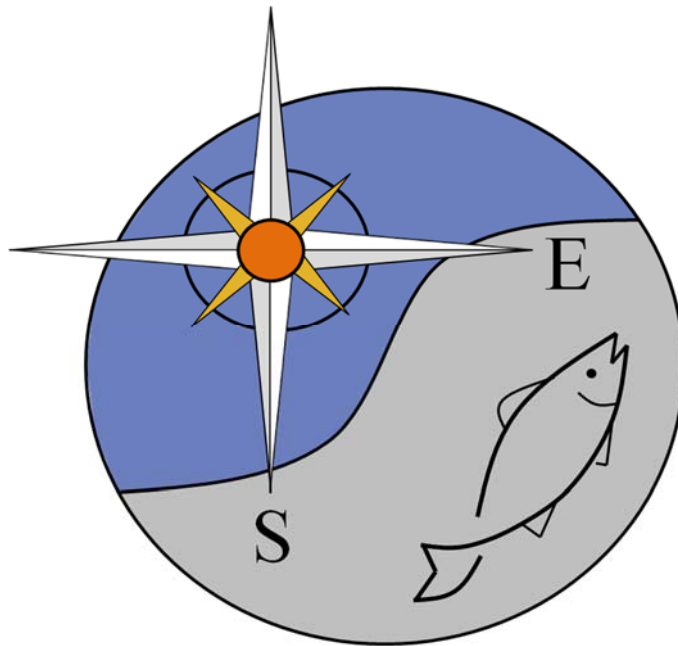


SEDAR



SEDAR Steering Committee

Meeting Brief

September 28-29, 2015

Crowne Plaza

North Charleston, SC

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1. Introduction

1.1. Documents

Agenda

Attachment 1. October 2014 Meeting Summary

1.2. Action

Introductions

Review and Approve Agenda

Approve October 2014 Meeting Summary

2. SEDAR Project Updates

2.1. Documents

Attachment 2. Projects Report, October 2015

Attachment 3. SEDAR Projects List

2.2. Summary

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

2.3. ACTION

- Project guidance as required.

3. Data Best Practices Workshop

3.1. Documents

Attachment 4. SEDAR Data Best Practices Workshop Report

3.2. Overview

The SEDAR Data Best Practices workshop was held June 22-26, 2015 in Atlanta, GA. The primary goal of this workshop was to identify common decisions made in SEDAR Data Workshops and to develop recommended best practices to help support and streamline such decisions in future assessments. The workshop focused on data compilation and analysis, and procedural issues that may help or hinder that work.

The organization and advance preparation required for this workshop was considerable. Prior to the workshop a series of focus group webinars were held to develop an inventory of SEDAR Data Workshop common or recurring data, analysis, and process issues. Not all issues identified in the inventory could be tackled during this workshop process, so issues in the inventory were prioritized to address key process issues and as many straight forward technical issues as possible.

In order to address the diverse issues that arise at DW's, a large number of people participated in this workshop. To effectively manage the workshop and make it run efficiently, there were two hierarchical levels of participation. Workshop participants were assigned to a Best Practice Panel (BPP) and/or one of five Topical Technical Groups (TTG; life history, commercial, recreational, indices, and catch at size/age).

The workshop was divided into a series of Technical Group breakout sessions and plenary sessions. During the breakout sessions, TTG members discussed the identified data issues and potential solutions and developed preliminary best practice recommendations. The BPP participated in all plenary sessions while the TTG's only participated in the plenary sessions where issues relevant to their group were discussed. In the plenary sessions, TTG members presented a brief overview of the data issue, potential solutions, and preliminary best practice recommendations. The BPP and TTG(s) had further discussion on the issue, as necessary, and together developed the final best practice recommendations.

During the workshop, participants developed best practice recommendations for a variety of technical and process issues; identified a potential process to address future revision and evaluation of workshop recommendations and best practices; and made general recommendations to help improve the SEDAR process. These topics are fully documented within the final workshop report, but some of the key next steps are highlighted below.

- Implement best practice recommendations. Workshop participants recommended that the best practices identified take effect immediately, while also acknowledging that incorporating best practice recommendations will be a rolling process and it may take time to fully implement all of the recommendations. The timing of implementation may vary by Cooperator and/or Technical Group and may be, in part, dependent on the upcoming SEDAR schedule.
- Incorporate process tools developed during the workshop (e.g. SEDAR Data Timeline, DW Roles & Responsibilities tables, etc.) into the SEDAR planning process and project implementation.
- Consider creating a SEDAR Data Best Practice Methods Group to address future revision and evaluation of workshop recommendations and Best Practices. The workshop panelists recommended establishing a methods group similar to the Assessment Working Group used by ICCAT that would meet annually, or as needed via webinar(s) or workshop. The panel would be chaired by SEDAR or SEFSC personnel. The standing panel would have similar representation as the Best Practice Panel during this workshop, adding other participants as needed based on the topics to be addressed.
- Consider creating a SEDAR Project Management position to help effectively track SEDAR assessment projects. The workshop panelists noted that the data compilation and analyses for SEDAR assessments are very complex and

many of the data inputs/outputs are interconnected. The ideal candidate for this position would have project management experience and would preferably be based and managed within the SEFSC. Development and use of a project management software package was also suggested as a useful tool to help manage projects and track critical dependencies and data bottlenecks over time.

- Plan/coordinate workshops proposed by SEDAR Data Best Practice panelists. Some of the issues discussed at the Data Best Practices workshop were complex and could not be resolved during this workshop process. Technical groups proposed a number of workshops to help resolve these issues. A comprehensive list of the proposed workshops prioritized by participants is included in the workshop report. The Stock Boundary workshop was identified by the group as the highest priority.
- Develop SEDAR Best Practice section on website. Currently, all of the Data Best Practice information is housed on the Procedural Workshop 7: Data Best Practices webpage. The workshop participants noted that SEDAR best practices recommendations need to be easily accessible on the SEDAR website. SEDAR staff will explore developing a SEDAR Best Practice section of the website.
- Consider development of a management and regulatory history database. Workshop participants developed new SEDAR management templates during the workshop which will be used in future assessments. However, panelists also noted that it would be helpful to develop an overall database that contains regulatory information for all species. A panel member noted there have already been some discussions about this within NMFS.

3.3. ACTION

Review recommendations and next steps, and provide guidance on implementation.

- Best Practice's Group: Data
- SEFSC SEDAR Project Manager
- Next Level Workshops
 - Meristics and Stock Boundaries
 - Discard Mortality
 - Estimating Commercial Directed Discards
 - Indices Construction
 - Assess Reproductive Inputs Effect on Fishery Management Reference Points
 - Reconvene SE US Histological Workshops

- Maturity Estimation Methods
- Uncertainty in Commercial Landings
- Develop Best Practices section for website
- Management and regulatory history database

4. SEFSC Data and Assessment Program Reviews

4.1. Documents

Attachment 5. SEFSC Program Review Document

4.2. Summary

Southeast Fisheries Science Center Data and Assessment Programs were reviewed in 2013 and 2014. Center Director Dr. Bonnie Ponwith will update the Committee on steps the SEFSC is taking to address comments and suggestions. The documents package includes the reviewer reports and SEFSC response for the data (2013) and assessment (2014) programs.

5. NOAA Fisheries Stock Assessment Prioritization

5.1. Documents

Attachment 6. Prioritization Plan

5.2. Summary

Dr. Rick Methot of NOAA Fisheries will present the Stock Assessment Prioritization plan to the Committee.

5.3. Action

- Discuss application to SEDAR priorities

6. SEDAR SOPPS and Process Review

6.1. Documents

Attachment 7. SEDAR SOPPS

6.2. Summary

The Committee reviewed the SEDAR SOPPS in detail at the last meeting and directed that the revised version be considered for final approval at the next meeting.

- Approve SOPPs incorporating changes from prior meeting

7. Stock Assessment Resource Availability

7.1. Documents

None

7.2. Summary

During discussion of assessment project scheduling at the October 2014 meeting, the Committee requested that, at the next meeting, Center Director, Dr. Ponwith, provide information on the assessment resources available to meet the assessment needs of each Cooperator. It was further requested that a more precise measurement of capabilities and workload be used for this report than the assessment “slot” metric used by this committee in the past.

8. Assessment Project Schedule

8.1. Documents

Attachment 8. 2016 Project Schedule

8.2. Summary

The committee is asked to finalize 2017 projects and identify future priorities.

SEDAR Stock Boundaries / Meristics Procedural Workshop Proposal

At the SEDAR Data Best Practice workshop, panelists developed best practices for a number of technical and process issues, including development of a process timeline for the data portion of SEDAR Benchmark assessments. Two data decisions were identified by panelists as critical to being made early within the SEDAR process: 1) the stock boundary decision and 2) the development of meristic conversion equations. The stock boundary decision provides the basis for how all data are identified and allocated to a particular spatial area within a specific stock. Stock boundaries or ID affect how all of the data are compiled and analyzed for all SEDAR Data Workshop (DW) Working Groups. Meristic conversions are needed early in the process as various DW Working Groups need this information to begin analyses in preparation for the DW. If these two critical decisions are made late in the process, they can potentially cause substantial delays in data compilation.

To address these issues, the SEDAR Data Best Practice panelists recommended having a Stock Boundary and Meristics Workshop approximately 2-3 years in advance of SEDAR Data Workshops. This workshop would review current stock boundaries and meristic equations used for species under Fishery Management Plans (FMP) and provide recommendations for both stock boundaries and meristic equations by species. The workshop could be specific to species that have recently been assessed, those on the current SEDAR schedule, or broader to encompass all species under a specific FMP.

The species specific stock boundary and meristic conversions recommended from this workshop would then be reviewed via a ‘Stock Boundaries/Meristic Review’ webinar for each SEDAR benchmark project approximately 22 weeks before the Data Workshop. The review would be done by Data Workshop Panelists appointed to that SEDAR project, making sure to include representatives from the Life History, Commercial, and Recreational Working Groups. This Review would determine if the recommendations can be used for the assessment ‘as is’ or if any changes or additional analyses need to be considered. If changes or additional analyses are needed, these items would be incorporated into the DW Terms of Reference.

SEDAR is proposing to broaden the ‘Gray and Lane Snapper Stock ID’ procedural workshop currently on the 2016 schedule, to a ‘Stock Boundary and Meristics’ procedural workshop to better match the recommendations coming out of the SEDAR Data Best Practice Workshop.

8.3. Action

- Review 2016 Workload
- Finalize 2017 Projects
- Identify 2018-2019 Priorities
- Consider Stock Boundary & Meristics Procedural Workshop for 2016

9. Other Business

10. Next Meetings

Based on past practices, the next meeting will be via webinar in late Spring 2016.

11. Adjourn

Table 1. Assessment Project Schedule and Details Overview.

Plan Year	SEDAR #	Stocks	Type	Terminal Data	SEDAR Concluded (dissemination)
2014					
	41	SA Red snapper and gray triggerfish	Benchmark	2013	April 2016
	42	Gulf red grouper	Benchmark	2013	September 2015
	43	Gulf gray triggerfish	Standard	2013	August 2015
2015					
	44	ASMFC Red Drum	Review (B)	2014	October 2015
	45	Gulf Vermilion Snapper	Standard	2014	March 2016
	46	Caribbean data limited	Benchmark	2013	April 2016
	47	FL Goliath Grouper	Review (B)	2014	June 2016
	48	FL Black Grouper	Review (B)	2014	December 2016
	U	SA Golden Tilefish	Update	2014	April 2016
2016	49	Gulf Data Limited	Benchmark	2014	December 2016
	50	ASMFC Spot/Croaker	Review (B)		Oct 2016
	U	SA Red grouper	Update	2015	January 2017
	U	HMS Dusky Shark	Update	2014	July 2016
	U	Gulf Gag	Update	2015	January 2017
	U	Gulf Greater Amberjack	Update	2015	February 2017
	U	SA Blueline Tilefish	Update	2015	January 2017
	PW	Gray & Lane Snapper Stock ID	Proc Wkshp	NA	Jan 2017
2017	B	SA Scamp & Gray Snapper	Benchmark	TBD	TBD
	U	Gulf Blacktip Shark	Update	2016	TBD
	U	SA Vermilion	Update	TBD	TBD
	U	SA Greater Amberjack	Update	TBD	TBD
	S/B	Yellowtail Snapper	S or B	2016	Aug 2018
2018	B	Atlantic Blacktip Shark	Benchmark	2017	TBD
Future Priorities					
		Gulf Red Snapper	S		
		Yellowtail Snapper	TBD – S or B	TBD	TBD
		Gulf yellowedge grouper	Standard	2015	
		Gulf & Atlantic gray snapper	Benchmark	2015	
		SA red porgy	TBD S/B	2016	2018

Table 2. Workload Planning Worksheet, 2016-2018.

YEAR	Quarter	South Atlantic Team					Gulf Team					Carib	HMS	
		1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2
2016	1	41	41			gT	49	49				46	DS	
	2	41	41				49	49				46	DS	
	3			BL	RG		49	49		GG	GAJ			
	4			BL	RG		49	49		GG	GAJ			
2017	1	SGS	SGS				49	49	SGS					
	2	SGS	SGS		GAJ				SGS				GBt	
	3	SGS	SGS		GAJ				SGS				GBt	
	4	SGS	SGS	VS					SGS				ABt	
2018	1	SGS	SGS	VS					SGS				ABt	
	2												ABt	
	3												ABt	
	4												ABt	

THIS TABLE IS NOT A WORKLOAD ASSIGNMENT.

Entries are based on the approach of assessment project “slots” and annual quarters developed at the last Steering Committee meeting. Projects are entered for discussion purposes and workload illustration, and are in no way meant to assign any individuals to a particular combination of projects or timing.

BENCHMARK Benchmarks are in Bold. Project number listed where know, otherwise species listed
Standard Standard Projects in Italics
Update Update Projects in plain font

Codes

gT golden Tilefish
SGS Scamp/Gray Snapper benchmark

DS HMS Dusky Shark
GBt Gulf Blacktip Shark
Abt Atlantic Blacktip Shark