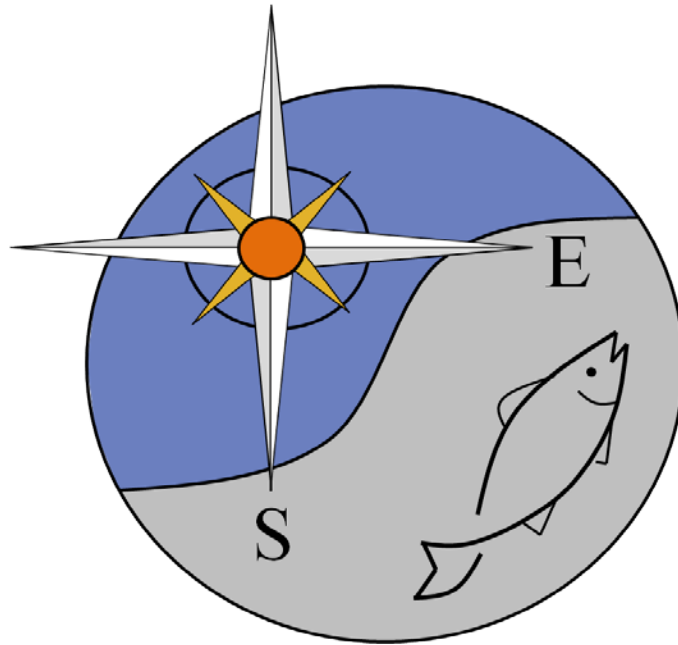


# **SEDAR**



**SEDAR Steering Committee**  
**FINAL Meeting Report**  
**May 9, 2016**

**Version: Final**  
**9/21/2016**

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## Documents

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Attachment 4. 2016 & 2017 Project Schedules  
Attachment 5. Draft Data Best Practices Standing Panel Charge and TORs  
Attachment 6. SEFSC Operational-Research Track Assessment Proposal  
Attachment 7. MRIP Effort Survey Transition Fact Sheet.  
Attachment 8. FL FWCC Memo on Black Grouper timing

### 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 “Meeting Outcome”.

## **Attendance**

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Bonnie Ponwith, NMFS-SEFSC, Chair  
Kevin Anson, GMFMC  
Karyl Brewster-Geisz, NMFS-HMS  
Patrick Campfield, ASMFC  
Roy Crabtree, NMFS-SERO  
Dave Donaldson, GSMFC  
Michelle Duval, SAFMC  
Carlos Farchette, CFMC  
Doug Gregory, GMFMC  
Gregg Waugh, SAFMC

### **SEDAR STAFF**

Julia Byrd  
John Carmichael  
Julie Neer

### **OBSERVERS**

Kristan Blackhart, NMFS  
Benjamin Carr, Oceana  
Bob Gill  
Russell Hudson, Directed Sustainable Fisheries  
Jack McGovern, NMFS  
Clay Porch, NMFS  
Ryan Rindone, GMFMC  
Carrie Simmons, GMFMC  
Erik Williams, NMFS

## Summary Outcomes and Actions

- Consented to enable webinar participation for the SEDAR 50 Stock ID workshop only, for those participants appointed by the MAFMC who raised objection to travel to NC. The Webinar will be open and available to anyone who wishes to access it to observe the workshop proceedings.
- Supported the Data Best Practices Panel (DBP) recommendation for a multi-species stock ID and meristics workshop in 2017. Stocks to be considered include, but are not limited to, cobia, lane snapper and scamp.
- Supported a stock ID evaluation for gray snapper as part of the benchmark process.
- Comments on the draft Data Best Practices charge and TORs, and topics for the next procedural workshop, are due to Julia Byrd by May 27.
- The Gulf SSC will receive a presentation on the research track proposal at their June 2016 meeting.
- Potential priority stocks for MRIP revision assessments in the Gulf of Mexico were identified as gray triggerfish, greater amberjack, gag, red snapper, red grouper, king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, and vermilion snapper.
- Potential priority stocks for MRIP revision assessments in the South Atlantic will be provided to the SAFMC prior to the June Council meeting.
- Approved a sandbar shark standard assessment to be completed by December 2017.
- Added an assessment of Gulf and South Atlantic King mackerel in 2018, intending to include data from Mexico. This assessment will be conducted by the ICCAT-Highly Migratory Team at the SEFSC Miami Lab.

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1. Documents

Agenda

Attachment 1. October 2015 Meeting Summary

### 1.2. Action

Introductions

Review and Approve Agenda

Approve October 2014 Meeting Summary

## 2. SEDAR Assessment Status Reports

### 2.1. Documents

Attachment 2. Projects Report Spring 2016

Attachment 3. SEDAR Projects List

Attachment 4. 2016 & 2017 Project Schedules

### 2.2. Summary

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

### 2.3. ACTION

- Project guidance as required.

#### MEETING OUTCOME:

- Discussed the request from the MAFMC to allow webinar access to the SEDAR 50 stock ID workshop for their appointees who have raised objection to travel to NC at this time. It was noted that the SAW/SARC process of the NEFSC allows webinar participation at the first meeting of an assessment. The Committee supported allowing webinar participation by those individuals and opening the webinar for observation by anyone interested. This was noted as a one-time exception and is not a change in the existing policy whereby SEDAR workshops are not broadcast via webinar.
- Supported the request by the SAFMC to conduct South Atlantic red grouper as a standard assessment.

## 3. Activities Reports

### 3.1. Documents

Attachment 5. Draft Data Best Practices Standing Panel Charge and TORs

Attachment 6. SEFSC Operational-Research Track Assessment Proposal

Attachment 7. MRIP Effort Survey Transition Fact Sheet.

### 3.2. Overview

#### Data Best Practices (Attachment 5)

The SEDAR Data Best Practices workshop was held June 22-26, 2015 in Atlanta, GA. Participants developed and documented many Best Practices that are being applied in current assessment projects. A Data Best Practices Standing Panel was formed in Fall 2015, and recently met, via webinar on April 13, to develop terms of reference and a charge for the Panel. These are offered for review and consideration by the Steering Committee. The Panel selected Dr. Shannon Calay as their chair.

The Panel discussed the upcoming Stock ID and Meristics Procedural Workshop (PW). This workshop was originally scheduled for 2016, but the Panel recommended delaying this workshop until 2017 to allow more preparation time in order to address a larger group of species.

Additionally the Panel discussed potential topics for the next PW. The Steering Committee was interested in getting feedback on whether the next PW should address discard mortality or the effect of reproductive inputs on reference points. The Panel recommended holding a broader Procedural Workshop on reference points which would include the topic of reproductive inputs. The Panel noted that there are efforts to discuss reproductive measures/inputs nationally with meetings planned for later in 2016 and 2017 and that some of the SSC's have recently discussed reference point selection. The proposed workshop could build on these efforts. The Panel also recommended two additional Procedural Workshop topics to be considered in the future: Gulf of Mexico shrimp bycatch estimation and data limited method improvements/best practices.

#### NMFS Assessment Prioritization Tool Review

NOAA Fisheries developed a tool to help Councils and the agency prioritize assessments. It was presented to the SSCs and Councils during Fall and Winter 2015. The SAFMC SSC will review a draft application of the rule at its May 3-5 Meeting.

Each Council is asked to report to the Steering Committee on its progress in reviewing and applying the prioritization tool. Further discussion, including how the tool could be used to inform the SEDAR assessment schedule, is planned for the October 2016 Steering Committee meeting.

#### SEDAR Research Track Progress (Attachment 6)

SEFSC staff planned to present the proposed SEDAR Research Track benchmark approach to the Council SSCs between the October 2015 meeting and this meeting. The document provided will be presented to the SAFMC SSC, May 3-5, 2016, and includes suggestions of an earlier review by the GMFMC to include a timeline. The first test application of the research track approach is planned for the Gulf of Mexico-South Atlantic scamp assessment beginning in 2018. At this meeting, Councils are asked to brief the Steering Committee on their SSC reviews and

comments, and provide guidance for further discussion at the October 2016 meeting.

#### Potential MRIP Revision Assessment Stocks (Attachment 7)

Some 2017 assessment resources were allocated to addressing revised MRIP estimates expected from the effort survey revisions. A task from the October 2015 meeting was for the SEFSC to score candidate stocks for MRIP revision assessments, provide results for SSC review in Spring 2016, and report priorities to the Steering Committee at this meeting. The transition plan indicates data will be available for inclusion on stock assessments in July 2017. Stocks should be identified by the October 2016 Steering Committee so they can be considered during the planning call in early 2017.

#### 3.1. **Action**

- Review and provide feedback on the Data Best Practices Group Charge and TORs.
- Provide guidance on timing of the Stock ID and Meristics Workshop.
- Provide guidance on the topic for the next SEDAR Procedural Workshop.
- Provide guidance on use of the NMFS assessment prioritization tool for assessment scheduling in Fall 2016.
- Provide guidance on the research track approach for the 2018 scamp assessment.
- Provide guidance on identifying MRIP revision assessment priorities: role of SEFSC, Council and Council SSCs, and timing.

#### **MEETING OUTCOME:**

- Discussed the Data Best Practices proposal and established a comment due by date of May 27. Comments should be forwarded to Julia Byrd, SEDAR Staff, and will be reviewed by the DBP group at its next meeting in early June (Monday, June 6 at 10 am)
- Supported delaying the stock ID and meristics workshop until 2017, with gray snapper addressed in a dedicated workshop or process convened as part of the gray snapper benchmark assessment. At this time, stocks to be considered include lane snapper, scamp and cobia.
- Discussed the NMFS stock assessment prioritization. The GMFMC noted that it has asked the SEFSC to provide scoring of metrics. The SAFMC SSC reviewed initial scoring developed by SEFSC and SAFMC staff, and intends to hold a workshop with AP representatives in October to complete the scoring process. HMS has held initial discussion with SEFSC staff and the AP on applying the process to shark stocks. Once initial scoring is complete, the process calls for Councils to conduct a second level of scoring and weighting to identify priorities. Councils were asked to address this step by the end of 2016.

- The research track approach was reviewed by the SAFMC SSC in May, and their comments will be considered by the SAFMC in June. The GMFMC SSC will receive a presentation in June followed by a report of their recommendations to the Council in June. The Steering Committee will decide whether or not to pursue this process change at the Fall 2016 meeting.
- The Center has identified priority stocks for MRIP revision assessments based on criteria such as the proportion of landings taken in the recreational component and the impact of prior changes in MRIP landings estimates on assessment results. Potential priority stocks for MRIP revision assessments in the Gulf of Mexico were identified as gray triggerfish, greater amberjack, gag, red snapper, red grouper, king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, and vermilion snapper. Potential priority stocks for MRIP revision assessments in the South Atlantic will be provided to the SAFMC prior to the June Council meeting.

## 4. Assessment Schedule Review

### 4.1. Documents

Attachment 8. FL FWCC Memo on Black Grouper timing

### 4.2. Summary

Ongoing project details are addressed in the project status update (attachment 3). Future priorities are shown in the assessment list. Priorities for 2018 are shown in the schedule worksheet, as approved at the October 2015 meeting. Final approval of 2018 priorities is planned for the Fall meeting.

### 4.3. Action

- Review priorities for 2018 and beyond, and provide guidance to enable final approval of 2018 stocks at the Fall 2016 meeting.
- Consider species and timing of the planned Stock ID and meristics workshop
- Consider FL FWCC request to delay black grouper
- Consider timing for the yellowtail snapper benchmark

## MEETING OUTCOME:

- Requested that members provide comments on future procedural workshop topics by May 27 for consideration by the DBP panel. Suggested topics for immediate consideration include discard mortality or the effects of reproductive inputs on reference points. The next priorities to consider include Gulf of Mexico shrimp bycatch



estimation and best practices for data limited methods. Additional topics identified for future workshops include commercial discard estimation, index construction, histological methods, maturity estimation, and landings uncertainty.

- Supported the FL FWCC request to delay black grouper.
- Revised the assessment planning worksheet (Table 2) to better reflect timing and resource allocation in 2016 and 2017
- Supported the HMS request to conduct a standard assessment of sandbar shark, with data scoping in February 2017 and the project completed in December 2017.
- The GMFMC identified 2019 priorities: gray triggerfish, benchmark; cobia, update; Spanish mackerel, update; tilefish, update; yellowedge grouper, update; spiny lobster, FWCC Led.
- The SAFMC identified Cobia as a benchmark priority for 2018, and requested that it be included in the stock ID workshop planned for 2017 due to continuing concerns over cobia stock ID.
- The SEFSC reported on efforts to obtain king mackerel data from Mexico. An assessment is planned in 2018.
- The SEFSC indicated that a preliminary application of data limited assessment approaches to unassessed South Atlantic stocks was under consideration for late 2016 or 2017.

## **5. Other Business**

## **6. Next Meetings**

Based on past practices, the next meeting will be held in Charleston SC during the last two weeks of September.

## **7. Adjourn**

Table 1. Assessment Project Schedule and Details Overview, Revised to reflect meeting outcomes

Start Year	SEDAR #	SPECIES & JURISDICTION	Assessment Track	Terminal Year of Data	Available to Cooperator
2014	35	CFMC red hind	Benchmark	2012	October 2014
	39	HMS smoothhound sharks, Gulf and Atlantic	Benchmark	2012	March 2015
	40	ASMFC Atlantic menhaden	Review	2012	January 2015
	41	SAFMC red snapper and gray triggerfish	Benchmark	2014	April 2016
	42	GMFMC red grouper	Benchmark	2013	August 2015
	U	GMFMC red snapper	Update	2013	December 2014
	U	SAFMC gag grouper	Update	2012	April 2014
2015	43	GMFMC gray triggerfish	Standard	2013	July 2015
	44	ASMFC red drum	Review	2013	October 2015
	45	GMFMC vermilion snapper	Standard	2014	March 2016
	46	CFMC data limited stocks	Benchmark	2013	May 2016
	47	FL FWC goliath grouper	Benchmark	2014	June 2016
2016	49	GMFMC Data-limited species	Benchmark	2014	December 2016
	50	SAFMC / MAFMC Atlantic blueline tilefish	Benchmark	2015	June 2017
	U	SAFMC tilefish	Update	2014	April 2016
	U	HMS dusky shark	Update	2015	July 2016
	U	GMFMC gag grouper	Update	2015	January 2017
	53	SAFMC red grouper	Standard	2015	March 2017
	U	GMFMC greater amberjack	Update	2015	February 2017
2017	48	FL FWC black grouper	Benchmark	2015	January 2018
	51	GMFMC gray snapper	Benchmark	2015	April 2018
	52	GMFMC red snapper	Standard	2016	March 2018
	U	SAFMC vermilion snapper	Update	2016	April 2018
	54	HMS sandbar shark	Standard	2016	December 2017
	R	SAFMC MRIP Catch Revisions	Revision	2016	TBD
	R	GMFMC MRIP Catch Revisions	Revision	2016	TBD
2018		SAFMC / GMFMC scamp	Benchmark	2016	July 2018
	U	HMS Gulf of Mexico blacktip shark	Update	2016	April 2018
	B	King mackerel	Benchmark	TBD	TBD
	B	FL FWC yellowtail snapper	Benchmark	TBD	TBD
<b>Future Priorities (tentative)</b>					
2018		HMS Atlantic blacktip shark	Benchmark		
		SAFMC Cobia	Benchmark		
2019		GMFMC gray triggerfish	Benchmark		
		GMFMC cobia, Spanish mackerel, tilefish, yellowedge grouper	Update		
		Spiny lobster	TBD		

**(Table 1. Continued)****SEDAR Methods and Procedures Workshops**

Number	Year	Topic
1	2008	Indices Development and Evaluation
2	2008	Evaluating and Modeling Catchability
3	2009	Caribbean Data Review
4	2010	Evaluating Assessment Uncertainty
5	2012	GOM Episodic Events Workshop
6	2014	South Atlantic Shrimp Data Evaluation
7	2015	Best Practices, Data
	2017	Stock ID and Meristics Workshop
	TBD	Best Practices, Assessment (to be held following the research track pilot of scamp in 2018)
FUTURE TOPICS	TBD	Discard mortality, natural mortality, effects of reproductive parameters on reference points, GoM shrimp bycatch estimation, data limited assessment best practices

Table 2. Workload Planning Worksheet, 2016-2018, reflecting actions taken at this meeting. 2018 timing and priorities will be finalized at the Fall 2017 meeting.

YEAR	Quarter	<u>South Atlantic Team</u>				<u>Gulf/Caribbean</u>					<u>HMS</u>		<u>FL FWCC</u>	Extra	SEDAR WS
		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	1		
2016 FINAL	1	<b>RSGT</b>	<b>RSGT</b>			<b>GDL</b>	<b>GDL</b>			<b>CDL</b>			<b>GG</b>	SA gT	
	2	<b>RSGT</b>	<b>RSGT</b>			<b>GDL</b>	<b>GDL</b>			<b>CDL</b>	DS		<b>GG</b>	SA gT	
	3	<b>BL</b>	<b>BL</b>		<i>RG</i>	<b>GDL</b>	<b>GDL</b>				DS				
	4	<b>BL</b>	<b>BL</b>		<i>RG</i>	<b>GDL</b>	<b>GDL</b>	GAJ	GAG						
2017 FINAL	1	<b>BL</b>	<b>BL</b>		<i>RG</i>	<b>GDL</b>	<b>GDL</b>	<b>GS</b>					<b>BLG</b>		
	2	<b>BL</b>	<b>BL</b>					<b>GS</b>				<i>SBS</i>	<b>BLG</b>		StockID
	3	<b>BL</b>	<b>BL</b>	MRIP				<b>GS</b>	MRIP			<i>SBS</i>	<b>BLG</b>		StockID
	4			MRIP	VS		<i>RS</i>	<b>GS</b>	MRIP	<i>RS</i>	GBt	<i>SBS</i>	<b>BLG</b>	<b>KM</b>	
2018 DRAFT	1	<b>S/RT</b>		MRIP	VS	<b>S/RT</b>	<i>RS</i>	<b>GS</b>	MRIP	<i>RS</i>	GBt		<b>YTS</b>	<b>KM</b>	
	2	<b>S/RT</b>		MRIP		<b>S/RT</b>			MRIP				<b>YTS</b>	<b>KM</b>	TBD
	3	<b>S/RT</b>				<b>S/RT</b>							<b>YTS</b>	<b>KM</b>	TBD
	4	<b>S/RT</b>				<b>S/RT</b>					<b>ABt</b>		<b>YTS</b>	<b>KM</b>	
2019 DRAFT	1	<b>S/RT</b>				<b>S/RT</b>					<b>ABt</b>			<b>KM</b>	
	2	<b>S/RT</b>				<b>S/RT</b>					<b>ABt</b>				
	3														
	4														

**BENCHMARK** Benchmarks are in Bold. These require 5 quarters, 4 for the SEDAR process and 1 for SSC reporting and projections

*Standard* Standard Projects in Italics. These require 2-3 quarters.

Update Update Projects in plain font. These require 1-2 quarters.

Species and Stocks Codes

gT	golden Tilefish	BL	Blueline Tilefish	RS	Red Snapper
S/RT	Scamp, Research Track Pilot	RG	Red Grouper	GAG	Gag Grouper
DS	HMS Dusky Shark	VS	Vermilion Snapper	SBS	Sandbar shark
GBt	Gulf Blacktip Shark	GAJ	Greater Amberjack	YTS	Yellowtail Snapper
RSGT	Red Snapper, Gray Triggerfish	ABt	Atlantic Blacktip Shark	GDL	Gulf Data Limited
BLG	Black Grouper (review only)	ABP	Best Practices, Assessments	GS	Gray Snapper, start time TBD
MRIP	Revision Updates for MRIP Data	GG	Goliath Grouper (review only)	SID	Stock ID and Meristics
CDL	Caribbean Data Limited	KM	King Mackerel		