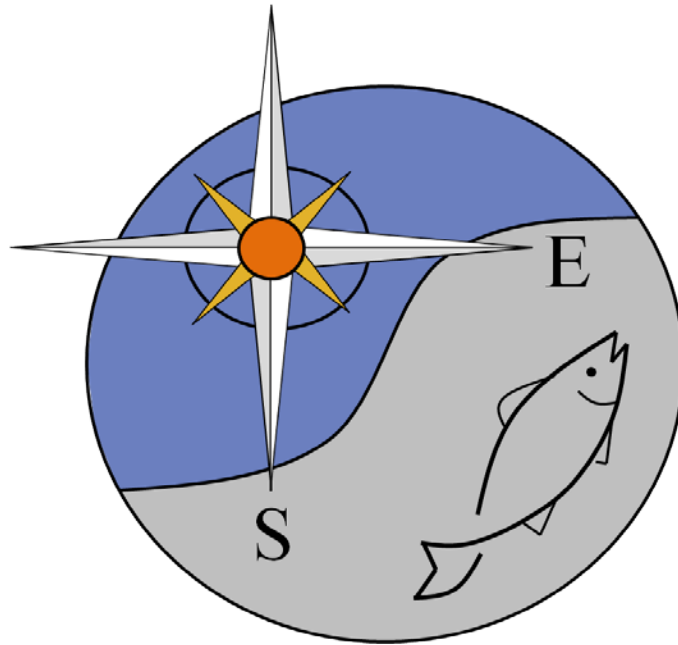


SEDAR



SEDAR Steering Committee

Meeting Brief

May 5, 2017

Meeting via Webinar

Version: Briefing Book

4/21/2017

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Documents

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Attachment 2. Projects Report Spring 2017
Attachment 3. FL FWCC Black Grouper Memo
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Attachment 5. Draft Research Track Implementation Option 1
Attachment 6. Research Track Process Working Group Report
Attachment 7. Scamp Statement of Work (not available for first briefing book)
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WEBINAR ACCESS

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1955309188476646659>

Registration is required to access the webinar. Please register in advance so that you will receive the automatic reminders and access links.

1. Introduction

1.1. Documents

Agenda

Attachment 1. September 2016 Meeting Summary

1.2. Action

- Introductions
- Review and Approve Agenda
- Approve September 2016 Meeting Summary

2. SEDAR Assessment Status Reports

2.1. Documents

Attachment 2. Projects Report Spring 2017

Attachment 3. FL FWCC Black Grouper Memo

2.2. Summary

The projects report (Attachment 2) provides a summary of current and recently completed SEDAR assessment projects. Approved current and future projects and timing is shown in Table 1 at the end of this document.

- SEDAR 48: Dr. Luiz Barbieri, FL FWCC, will update the committee on the status of SEDAR 48, Black Grouper. The FWCC recommends halting further work on SEDAR 48 due to numerous data issues.
- MRIP Revisions: The transition team recommended delaying assessment updates until 2018, to allow inclusion of all 3 years of side-by-side effort survey estimates in the calibration. Key steps and timing:
 - Effort survey calibration peer review: June 26-30 2017
 - Initial calibrated estimates 1981-2016: October 2017
 - Access point calibration peer review complete: April 2018
- Stock ID: The comprehensive stock ID workshop planned for 2017 was cancelled due to budget shortfalls. However, stock ID remains a major issue for some species and how it is decided is an important part of the research track process that will be discussed in a later topic.

The Gulf and South Atlantic Councils have tentatively agreed to holding a joint SSC meeting in 2017 to address MRIP issues primarily. However, since there is potential overlap of the Gulf-South Atlantic boundary by many stocks, SEDAR staff suggests also asking this group to categorize stocks according to their stock ID status. Preliminarily, this will include categorizing stocks as:

- stock ID is addressed adequately by existing assessments,
- stock overlap is not considered a significant issue or possibility,
- stock overlap is likely and significant and should be evaluated
- no information is available at this time to inform stock ID

Due to the potential for stock overlap between the South Atlantic and Mid-Atlantic jurisdictions, SEDAR staff suggests including MAFMC SSC representatives in the stock ID portion of the meeting.

2.3. ACTION

- Provide guidance as required.

3. Research Track Assessment Process

3.1. Documents

Attachment 4. SEFSC Operational-Research Track Assessment Proposal
Attachment 5. Draft Research Track Implementation Option 1
Attachment 6. Research Track Process Working Group Report
Attachment 7. Scamp Statement of Work (not available for first briefing book)
Attachment 8. Research Track Decision Document

3.2. Overview

Background

Since 2015 the Committee has held several discussions on the proposed Research Track assessment approach. Following the October 2015 meeting, SEFSC staff was directed to present the SEDAR Research Track approach to the Council SSCs and Councils in preparation for further Steering Committee discussion in Fall 2016. An initial test application was planned for Scamp in 2018. A revised proposal, including a timeline and additional process details (Attachment 4), was favorably received by this Committee in September 2016, and the Committee suggested expanding initial implementation of the process to include both the 2018 Scamp and Cobia stock assessments. Initial timing developed at that time called for assessment development in 2018 through mid-2019, SSC review in 2019, and completion of Operational Assessments in 2020.

The Committee directed staff to develop detailed guidelines and consider how to address the Research Track and Operational Assessment processes within the SEDAR guidelines. The first step was to develop a detailed process document through a workgroup of SEFSC analytical and data team representatives, organized and supported by SEDAR Staff. This was to be followed by review by a "SOPPS" group including representatives of each Cooperator.

Progress since last meeting

SEDAR staff initiated a working group of SEFSC analytical and data team representatives, and developed an initial research track implementation plan based on applying the research track process and timeline (as described in September 2016) to the SEDAR benchmark process (Attachment 5). Efforts to date by the working group, based on discussion held in 2 webinars during February and March 2017, are documented in detail in Attachment 6. Because critical details remained unresolved after the second webinar, and no clear consensus on how to implement the research track emerged, a third webinar was planned for early April. Additionally, SEFSC representatives agreed to develop a preliminary Scope of Work (Attachment 7) for the Scamp assessment to aid in mapping out the process.

The third webinar was cancelled because several members were not available and the Scamp Scope of Work was not completed and ready for review by the group. Therefore, SEDAR staff prepared a decision document (Attachment 8) to summarize

the various options discussed for conducting the research track. The decision document was provided to the entire work group for review over several days prior to the completion of the briefing book. No comments were received by noon on Friday, April 21 when the briefing book needed to be completed for distribution. Comments received prior to the meeting will be provided as they become available.

Actions for this meeting:

Discussion on the research track process planned for this meeting is required to develop the guidance necessary to initiate the first research track assessments. Further detailed discussion is planned for the in-person meeting in Fall 2017. Changes to the SEDAR Guidelines will be considered for final approval once the Committee has a chance to evaluate the new approach.

The approach discussed in Fall 2016 included holding a dedicated procedural workshop to address stock ID for multiple stocks, including Scamp and Cobia, during late 2017. Due to a budget shortfall, in December 2016 the Committee approved delaying the procedural workshop indefinitely and addressing stock ID within the research tracks of Scamp and Cobia. To keep these assessments on track, the Committee will need to provide guidance at this meeting on how stock ID will be evaluated and resolved.

Guidance on applying the Research Track process to scamp and cobia, specifically addressing the Terms of Reference and project schedules, is required at this meeting to allow cooperator consideration and approval by August 2017 for the Gulf Council and September 2017 for the South Atlantic Council. Delaying this guidance until the (tentative) September 2017 Steering Committee meeting would likely push Council approval until December 2017 (South Atlantic) and January 2018 (Gulf), leading to delays in both assessments.

The workgroup recommended that Cobia should not be conducted as a research track assessment at this point. This was based on the current lack of clarity and consensus on how the research track approach will be implemented, and particularly how Stock ID will be resolved. Making stock ID a TOR for the research track and carrying the decision through to be considered by the peer review means that every management entity encompassed by any potential stock definition will need to be engaged in the entire research track process. For Cobia, this means the South Atlantic as well as the Gulf and Mid Atlantic Councils. It also means that multiple assessment teams and representatives will be involved. For Cobia, this includes the Gulf team in Miami, the South Atlantic team in Beaufort, and the NEFSC in Woods Hole. However, based on the planning documents from the previous Steering Committee meeting, no Gulf team resources were allocated for Cobia from 2018 - 2020. Addressing stock ID prior to the rest of the assessment process will define the scope of the project, making it much more practical to manage.

3.1. Action

- Provide guidance on the research track approach. Some key topics to consider:
 - Driving factors: Hypothesis testing or deadlines
 - Independent Peer Review: Role and participants (retain CIE?)

- Stock ID: determined *a priori* (per the process described in October 2017) or developed through the research track along with the assessment model and reviewed at the peer review?
- Role of Data Best Practices timeline
- Role of data providers during model development phase
- Public process during the model development phase
- Provide guidance on project scheduling for research track application to Scamp and Cobia in 2018.
 - How and when will stock ID be addressed?
 - Should Cobia be conducted as a Research Track?
- Provide guidance on initial Terms of Reference for the research track application to Scamp and Cobia in 2018.

4. Assessment Schedule Review

4.1. Documents

Attachment 9. SEDAR Projects List

Attachment 10. SEFSC Memos on SAFMC Tilefish

4.2. Summary

Ongoing project details are addressed in the project status update (Attachment 2). Attachment 9 provides the complete record of past assessments. Priorities for 2018 – 2020, as approved at the September 2016 meeting, are shown in Table 1.

Schedule Topics

1. Delay of MRIP revision assessments until 2018 (as discussed in the project status – Attachment 2).
 - a. Does this affect the chosen species?
 - b. Does this affect plans for other 2017-2018 assessments?
2. Black Grouper and implications for other FWCC projects.
3. SAFMC request for SEFSC to address golden Tilefish in place of the MRIP revisions in 2017, and recommendations on age determination reliability for golden Tilefish (Attachment 10).
4. King Mackerel: Tentatively scheduled to begin in 2017; uncertainty regarding the process given the desire to include international data; no activity budgeted for 2017; concerns with data delivery work load in 2018.

4.3. Action

- Consider FL FWCC request to delay Black Grouper
- Adjust schedule to accommodate 2018 MRIP revisions
- Consider species or schedule changes requested by the Cooperators
- Address concerns with King Mackerel scheduling
- Address recommendation to conduct Cobia as a benchmark (not as a Research Track)

5. Other Business

5.1. SEDAR Data Best Practices Panel Update - FYI

The SEDAR Data Best Practices Standing Panel 2016 Annual Report was completed in February 2017 and is available on the SEDAR website (<http://sedarweb.org/sedar-data-best-practices>). The Standing Panel met via webinar in March 2017 to review Data Best Practice feedback received to date and to begin discussions on which Data Best Practice issues to address next. The Panel felt it would be better to delay prioritizing the next issues to address until Data Best Practice feedback is received from additional benchmark assessment projects that are currently underway (SEDAR 48 and SEDAR 51). The Panel also began developing criteria to help with issue prioritization. The Panel's next webinar meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 2017.

6. Next Meeting

Based on past practices, the next meeting will be held in Charleston SC during the last two weeks of September, 2017. Dates to consider are September 18-22 and 25-29.

7. Adjourn

Table 1. Future SEDAR Priorities.

APPROVED SEDAR ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE - September 2016																										
YEAR	South Atlantic Team				Gulf/Caribbean Team					HMS Team		FL FWCC	Extra	SEDAR Workshop	ASMFC GSMFC											
	QTR	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	1	2														
2016 FINAL	1	Red Snapper-Gray Trigger Benchmark			Red Grouper Std	Gulf Data Limited Benchmark			Carib Data Lim Bench	Dusky Update		Goliath Bench	SA gT													
	2																									
	3						Blk cbass Std				GAJ-Update			Gag Update												
	4																									
2017 FINAL	1	ATL-East GOM Blueline Tilefish			Blk cbass Std			Gray Snapper Res track	MRIP Revise ²	SpLob-PR & Life Hist WS		Sandbar Shark STD	BlkGrpr Bench		Stock ID 1											
	2																									
	3			MRIP Revise ¹												Vermilon Std					Red Snap Update			King Mack Bench		
	4																									
2018 FINAL	1	Scamp Research Track ³	Atl Cobia Res Track			Scamp Research Track ³		Red Snap Update			Queen Trig PR-StX	Gom Blktip Std				Gulf Menhaden Review										
	2																									
	3		GrAmbrjk Std	Red Prgy Std				Gray Trig Std																		
	4																									
2019	1							Red Grp Std		Request: Lane@PR, Queen Snap@PR, Redtail Parrot@STX, Yellowtail Snapr@STX	Atl Blktip Bench				Stock ID 2 Shark	ATL Menhaden Review										
	2																									
	3							GS-OA																		
	4																									
2020	1	S/RT-OA																								
	2																									
	3																									
	4																									
2021+	1	White Grunt, Gray Triggerfish				Gray Triggerfish, Yellowmouth Grouper, Yellowtail Snapper, Vermilion Snapper, Mutton Snapper, Black Grouper, Spiny Lobster, Gray Snapper, Goliath Grouper																				
	2																									
	3																									
	4																									
1. South Atlantic MRIP Revision stocks: Red Snapper, Red Grouper, Blueline Tilefish, Black Sea Bass																										
2. Gulf of Mexico MRIP Revision stocks: Greater Amberjack, Gag, Vermilion Snapper, Spanish Mackerel																										
3. Scamp Research Track includes Gulf and South Altantic. Yellowmouth grouper will also be evaluted due to species identification concerns.																										
4. Gulf Data Poor II: Queen, Blackfin, Cubera, and Silk Snapper; Warsaw and Yellowfin Grouper; Banded Rudderfish																										
															4/18/2017											