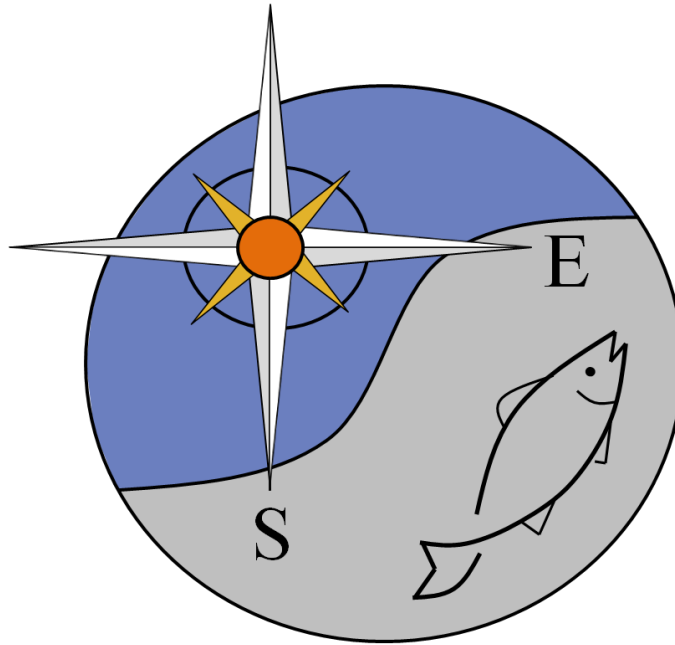


SEDAR



**SEDAR Steering Committee
Meeting Brief
September 26, 2017**

**Town and Country Inn
Charleston SC**

**Version: Briefing Book
9/7/2017**

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Documents

Attachment 1. May 2017 Meeting Summary
Attachment 2. Research track comments summary
Attachment 3. Background package on the research track
Attachment 4. SEFSC response to SAFMC request for additional details
Attachment 5. Projects Report Fall 2017
Attachment 6. Cobia Stock ID work plan
Attachment 7. SEDAR Projects List

1. Introduction

1.1. Documents

Agenda

Attachment 1. May 2017 Meeting Summary

1.2. Action

- Introductions
- Review and Approve Agenda
- Approve May 2017 Meeting Summary

2. Research Track Process

2.1. Documents

Attachment 2. Research track comments summary

Attachment 3. Background package on the research track

Attachment 4. SEFSC response to SAFMC request for additional details

2.2. Summary

The committee has reviewed the research track process for assessment development several times. The report of the prior meeting (Attachment 1) has a detailed review of progress through May 2017. At that time the Committee agreed that the research track process was not fully developed and vetted, and the SEFSC agreed to further develop the details of the process for additional consideration at this meeting. For the Committee's convenience, a summary of research track discussions and comments by the Steering Committee and Gulf and South Atlantic SSCs is provided in Attachment 2, and background information including the relevant briefing materials from prior Committee meetings, is provided in Attachment 3.

The SAFMC convened an SSC meeting on September 5 2017 to discuss the research track process. Additional background was requested from the SEFSC for that meeting (Attachment 4). The SSC provided continued support for the research track process in concept. Due to continuing concerns about the lack of detail and clarity in the approach and how it will operate, the SSC recommended that the research track be conducted as a pilot and subsequently evaluated.

At this meeting, the Committee is asked to continue discussion of the research track process and consider its application for future assessments. Currently, the Gulf-South Atlantic Scamp assessment starting in 2019 is to be conducted through the research track approach.

2.3. Action

- Provide guidance on the research track process
- Consider Scamp as a research track process or joint council (SAFMC+GMFMC) benchmark.

3. SEDAR Projects Status Reports

3.1. Documents

Attachment 5. Projects Report Fall 2017

Attachment 6. Cobia Stock ID work plan

3.2. Summary

The projects report (Attachment 5) 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.

- 2018 Planning: Major planning milestones, such as data delivery deadlines and workshop dates, are shown in the projects report (Attachment 5) for 2018 projects.

Due to the shortened meeting, these topics will not be reviewed in detail. Members will be asked to provide any comments or concerns.

- Cobia Stock ID: Stock ID will be evaluated as the first step in the planned Cobia assessment. This is a complex situation, as the species ranges from the Gulf to the mid-Atlantic, there is considerable controversy regarding the prior recommendation that divided the Gulf and South Atlantic stocks at the GA-FL line, and there are known unique spawning groups in some inland areas. An organizing committee with representatives from the SEFSC, SERO, Gulf Council, South Atlantic Council, and ASMFC has been convened to guide the process. The general approach being established now follows the guidance provided by this Committee in September 2016 for the comprehensive stock ID workshop, and consists of a stock ID workshop, independent peer review, and further SSC and regional leadership review.

This is a potentially costly and time consuming precursor to the assessment, so the Steering Committee is asked to provide guidance on the approach and particularly the multiple levels of review. Attachment 6 provides an overview of the process planning efforts to date, including proposed Terms of Reference for the workshop and peer review, and a project schedule.

3.3. ACTION

- Provide guidance on current projects as required.
- Provide guidance in the Cobia stock ID resolution approach
 - TOR approval
 - by the Steering Committee or Cooperators individually?
 - Participant levels and appointments:
 - suggest each Cooperator provide workshop and peer review appointments. Guidance is required on participation levels and SEDAR travel support.

- A number of specific experts are desired for this workshop, most of whom are outside typical SEDAR and Cooperator channels. How will these individuals be appointed?
 - If by a Cooperator, they need to be part of the SEDAR AP.
 - The SEFSC Director has authority to appoint outside experts when necessary to fill an expertise gap.
- Identify and appoint a chairs for the workshop and peer review, and work group leaders for the workshop
- Overall approach, timing, and levels of review
 - Given that all Cooperators within the stock range are involved in the planning, stock ID workshop, and peer review, to what extent is further, separate review by each Cooperator required (Step 3 in the process described in the appendix to Attachment 6)?
 - Can a joint SSC review, including a subset of affected cooperators/jurisdictions, serve the same need (similar to the joint SSC webinar convened by SEDAR for Blueline Tilefish)? If so, to what extent should members of this group be independent from those who serve on the workshop or peer review panels?

4. Assessment Schedule Review

4.1. Documents

Attachment 7. SEDAR Projects List

4.2. Summary

Ongoing project details are addressed in the project status update (Attachment 5). Attachment 6 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. SAFMC: remove red snapper from the MRIP revisions; revised 2019 priorities
2. Gulf Council: revised 2019 priorities.
3. FWCC: timing & type update.
4. HMS: Porbeagle through ICCAT; need for shark stock ID?
5. King Mackerel: Tentatively scheduled to begin in 2018.
6. SEFSC alternative scheduling approach

4.3. Action

- Consider project priority and timing changes requested by the Cooperators
- Finalize 2019 assessment projects
- Identify 2020 assessment candidates

5. Budget Update

5.1. Summary

Gregg Waugh will provide an update on 2017 spending and the 2018 outlook. Based on preliminary participation estimates for 2018 projects, all can be supported if at least level funding is achieved in 2018.

6. Other Business

7. Next Meeting

Based on past practices, the next meeting will be held via Webinar in early May, 2018.

8. Adjourn

YEAR	South Atlantic Team				Gulf/Caribbean Team					HMS Team		FL FWCC	ASMFC GSMFC	Extra	SEDAR Workshop		
	QTR	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	1	2					
2017 FINAL	1	Blueline Tilefish Benchmark			Rg cont	data lim cont							BlkGrpr Bench				
	2						Gray Snapper B				Sandbar Shark STD						
	3		Blk cbass Std														
	4		VermSnp Std														
2018 FINAL	1		Cobia STKID			Gray Trig Std				SpLob-all B	Gom Blktip U		Gulf Hogfish U	Gulf Menhaden Review			
	2	GrAmbrjk Std															
	3			MRIP Revise ¹	Red Prgy Std		Red Grp Std	verm Std	MRIP Revise ²								
	4		COBIA B TY17														
2019 Prelim	1	4Scamp RT ³				1Scamp RT ³					Atl Blktip Bench		YTS Bench	ATL Menhaden Review	King Mack Bench	Stock ID Shark?	
	2																
	3			1Snowy Grp Std	2tilefish			2RS Std	3Cobia S	4YEG S		Queen Trig PR-StX					Porbeagle (Iccat)
	4		3gag					5 tile	6 span								
2020 Prelim	1		Request: Red Snapper, Spanish, Red Grouper				Request: Data Poor 2 ⁴ , Red Snapper, Greater Amberjack, gag, Redtail			Request: Lane@PR, Queen Snap@PR, Redtail Parrot@STX , Yellowtail Snapr@STX							
	2																
	3																
	4	Scamp OA			Scamp OA							Mutton Bench					
2021+		Request: White Grunt, Gray Triggerfish				Gray Triggerfish, Vermilion Snapper, Black Grouper, Spiny Lobster, Gray Snapper, Hogifsh, Cobia, Red Grouper, Lane, Red Drum											

1. South Atlantic MRIP Revision stocks: 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

9/6/2017 Draft

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