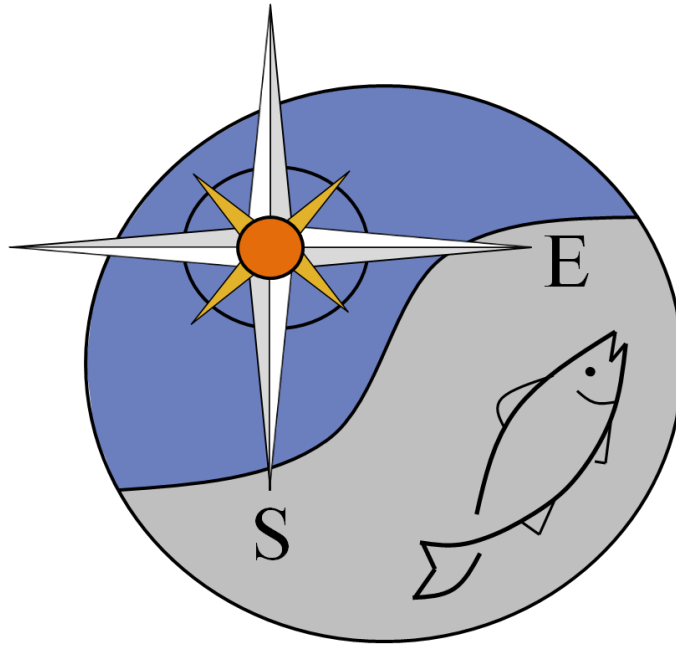


SEDAR



**SEDAR Steering Committee
Meeting Report
May 14-15, 2018**

**Crowne Plaza
North Charleston SC**

**Version: Draft
Rev 5/23/2018**

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ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Clay Porch, SEFSC, Chair
Leann Bosarge, GMFMC
Karyl Brewster-Geisz, NMFS
*Luiz Barbieri, FL FWC
Patrick Campfield, ASMFC
Carlos Farchette, CFMC
* Attended via Webinar

Roy Crabtree, SERO
Steve Vanderkoy, GSMFC
Charlie Phillips, SAFMC
Doug Gregory, GMFMC
Gregg Waugh, SAFMC

SEDAR STAFF

Julia Byrd
John Carmichael

Julie Neer

OBSERVERS

Mark Brown
Steve Durkee

Lora Clarke

WEBINAR OBSERVERS

Ken Brennan
Shannon Calay
Rob Cheshire
Mike Errigo
Kelly Fitzpatrick
Eric Fitzpatrick
David Gloeckner
Chad Hanson
Rusty Hudson
Jeff Isely

Vivian Matter
Skyler Sagarese
George Sedberry
Katie Siegfried
Carrie Simmons
Erik Williams
Beth Wrege
Ryan Rindone
Matthew Smith

Meeting Summary

The following is an overview of key meeting outcomes and recommendations, provided for convenience. Consult the detailed discussion of outcomes under each agenda topic for details.

Proposed Process Changes:

- The Committee supported the Research Track – Operational Assessment – Key Stock – Interim Analysis approach.
- Scamp will be conducted as a research track pilot, including the planning team and working group concepts. Details of these groups are found in appendix 1.
- Preliminary TORs for operational assessments must be provided in advance of steering committee meetings where the projects will be scheduled, to allow SEFSC to evaluate the data workload.

SEDAR Projects

- The Scamp Leadership Group call will be cancelled if there is no change recommended in the stock ID.
- King Mackerel will be conducted as an update in 2019.
- SEFSC MRIP data delivery dates for 2018 SEDAR assessments were updated. These dates assume MRIP calibrated data, addressing the FES and APAIS changes, will be available in July 2018. Project schedules for each assessment will be updated based on the revised data delivery dates provided by SEFSC at this meeting.
- MRIP revision assessments will be conducted once the final MRIP data are available with MRIP calibrations and SEFSC adjustments applied. Cooperators will work with the SEFSC directly on scheduling and report presentations.

Future Schedule

- The Steering Committee will consider data processing limitations for future project scheduling.
- Cooperators need to further refine their priorities for 2020 to address the excessive data processing needs imposed by the current plan. The Committee will adjust the 2020 schedule, to ensure it does not exceed data processing capabilities, at the Spring 2019 meeting.
- Project priorities are shown in the schedule table on page 5.

NOTE: PROJECT TIMING SHOWN HERE IS APPROXIMATE AND USED TO ILLUSTRATE THE GENERAL TIMING AND ORDERING OF PROJECTS FOR PLANNING PURPOSES. PROJECT STARTING AND ENDING DATES WILL BE DETERMINED THROUGH THE APPROVED PROJECT SCHEDULES AND MAY DEVIATE FROM WHAT IS SUGGESTED IN THIS TABLE.

VERSION 5/15/2018

1. Introduction

1.1. Documents

Agenda

Attachment 1. September 2017 Meeting Summary

1.2. Action

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

Meeting Outcome

The Committee welcomed the new SEFSC Science and Research Director, Dr. Clay Porch, to the Committee. Chairman Porch opened the meeting, and the committee approved the agenda and prior meeting summary.

2. SEDAR Development and Evolution

2.1. Documents

Attachment 2. SEDAR SOPPS

Attachment 3. SEDAR Development and Changes

Attachment 4. Assessment Productivity Overview

2.2. Summary

During the last several meetings the Steering Committee has extensively discussed the Research Track/Operational Assessment approach as a potential change in the SEDAR process to increase assessment productivity. While the SEDAR Steering Committee has grappled with meeting productivity needs since the very beginning of the program, many of the current members may not be aware of the changes and evolution of the program over time. During this topic, Staff will present a brief overview of the program, from its inception through the major changes that have led to the current approach.

Current SEDAR SOPPs are provided as Attachment 2. A review of major SEDAR program developments and Steering Committee recommendations is provided in Attachment 3. Attachment 4 gives a snapshot of SEDAR assessment productivity over time.

2.3. Action

- Informational; none required

Meeting Outcome

John Carmichael presented a summary of major developments in the SEDAR process since it was initiated in 2002.

3. Future Approach and Process

3.1. Documents

Attachment 5. Research Track Background
Attachment 6. Research track reference docs
Attachment 7. SEFSC proposal
Attachment 8. Scamp Scope of Work
Attachment 9. Strawman SEDAR Process changes
Attachment 10. Data Providers Overview

3.2. Summary

The committee has been discussing the Research Track – Operational Assessment process since 2015. A review of these prior discussions and Committee concerns and recommendations is provided in Attachment 5. For convenience, Attachment 6 is a compilation of past documents reviewed by the committee, consisting of multiple documents combined into a single PDF. There is a summary of each document included at the beginning to aid navigation. Attachment 7 is the updated SEFSC proposal for the RT that also includes regular scheduling and interim analyses of key or primary stocks. Attachment 8 represents the SEFSC’s initial thoughts regarding the timing and scope of work for the pilot research track assessment on scamp, scheduled to begin in 2019. Attachment 9 is a strawman prepared by SEDAR staff to address the details of the research track – operational assessment – interim analysis process, and link it the current approach. Attachment 10 is an excel spreadsheet that shows an overview of SEDAR data providers by data source and Cooperator, illustrating the complexity of SEDAR data delivery.

The Committee is asked to consider the current proposals and provide guidance on the RT-OA approach.

3.3. Action

- Provide guidance on the research track process

Meeting Outcome

John Carmichael presented an overview of proposed changes to the SEDAR approach, including the Research Track, Operational Assessments, Key Stocks, and Interim Analyses. The Committee supported the overarching concept as described in the SEFSC proposal and SEDAR staff strawman. The Research Track and Operational Assessments are SEDAR activities, while the Key Stocks and Interim Analyses will be addressed between the SEFSC and each Cooperator. The Committee’s discussion and recommendations included the following:

- It is important to maintain transparency and thoroughness in the Research Track component, where assessment tools are developed. It was noted that the

constituent involvement is most effective and efficient at the data workshop step.

- The Committee supported using the Planning Team and Working Group concepts for the Scamp Pilot (see Appendix 1).
- Research Track (RT) and Operational Assessments (OA) can be used to provide guidance on what will be updated through Interim Analyses.
- Long term assessment planning and a regular schedule for Interim analysis are critical to the success of these changes. The assessment schedule should provide for some 'reserve capacity' to address unforeseen circumstances and allow flexibility to address developing issues.
- The Committee acknowledges that increasing assessment productivity may result in some decrease in transparency. Given the critical need for increased productivity, this is a necessary trade-off at this time.
 - There will be less transparency in the Interim Analyses than is now provided through SEDAR benchmark and standard assessment processes. Reasonable transparency will be maintained by considering Interim Analyses approaches during RT and OA steps, and by review of the findings at SSC and Council meetings.
 - Operational Assessments may be conducted similar to the current update or standard processes. Therefore, the level of transparency provided will vary for each operational project.
- Stock ID should be addressed for most stocks as the first step in the RT, using webinar meetings as needed.
 - RT assessments should be requested far enough in advance to allow the SEFSC to review stock ID information and report findings to the Steering Committee, enabling the Committee to determine if a more robust Stock ID evaluation is required. To reduce costs, any required future peer reviews of stock boundary recommendations should be conducted through other planned peer reviews, rather than a dedicated peer review. Requests for first-time assessments should be made 5 years in advance.
 - By default, stocks will be divided by council management jurisdictions or existing, accepted boundaries. The burden of proof lies in justifying deviation from existing or council boundaries.
- Clear and detailed TORs are required for OAs, particularly to address any changes to be made in response to peer review comments, deviations from the tool developed through the RT, or changes identified during a prior OA or Interim Analysis review.

- Initial TORs must be provided to the SEFSC at least 3 months before the Spring Steering Committee meeting of the year before the OA is scheduled. For example, details on an OA to be conducted in 2020 must be provided to SEFSC prior to the Spring 2019 meeting. This will allow the SEFSC time to evaluate the data and analytical demands of the planned assessments so the Committee can resolve any issues for the coming year at its Spring meeting.
- SEDAR should explore approaches for developing a searchable and indexed database of existing reference materials.

4. SEDAR Projects Status Reports

4.1. Documents

Attachment 11. Projects Report Spring 2018

4.2. Summary

The projects report (Attachment 10) 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.

- Cobia Stock ID: The Cobia Stock ID Workshop was held in April 2018. The group did not recommend changes to the assessment stock boundary. Recommendations will be peer reviewed the first week of June. The Joint Cooperator Technical webinar review will occur in late July/August 2018. The Science and Management Leadership call, if necessary, will be held in mid-August 2018 with the final stock ID resolution complete by the end of August 2018.
- Scamp Research Track: The Scamp scope of work from SEFSC has not yet been reviewed by the SAFMC-GMFMC workgroup as planned in Fall 2017. If the Committee supports the RT for Scamp, and the draft scope of work (Attachment 8), it can be provided for review by the workgroup following this meeting so the workgroup can develop a schedule and TORs. Schedules and TORs would then need to go through the Cooperator review and approval process (unless the Steering Committee agrees to an alternative, expedited approach of some sort). This will likely delay SSC review and Council approval of the TORs and Schedule until late 2018.
- King Mackerel: Originally planned as a benchmark, it is now recommended that this assessment proceed as a standard.
- Use of Revised MRIP data in 2018 assessments: Several 2018 assessments were planned to include revised MRIP data that will be available in July 2018. In March 2018, during discussions of data delivery for SAFMC Greater Amberjack, SEFSC informed SEDAR that additional processing of the MRIP data will be required (to address changes in charter vessel coverage in prior years and apply the SEFSC weight estimate protocol), resulting in some delay in data delivery. Impacts to individual assessment data delivery deadlines are addressed in the projects report (Attachment 10). SEDAR staff is currently working with the

SEFSC assessment leads and data staff to determine how delays in MRIP data delivery will affect overall assessment project schedules, and will provide the latest information during the meeting.

Table 1. Revised data delivery dates based on SEFSC adjustments to the MRIP revision data.

Project	Original Data Delivery	MRIP Fully Calibrated Data Delivery
SEDAR 29 Update: HMS GoM Blacktip Shark	4/6/2018	8/3/2018
SEDAR 59: SA Greater Amberjack	5/25/2018	8/17/2018
SEDAR 61: GoM Red Grouper	6/1/2018	8/31/2018
SEDAR 62: GoM Gray Triggerfish	7/13/2018	9/21/2018
SEDAR 60: SA Red Porgy	8/10/2018	10/5/2018
SEDAR 58: Atlantic Cobia (<i>no change</i>)	11/13/2018	11/13/2018

- MRIP Revision Assessments: The STC has not provided explicit guidance on how revision assessments will be conducted. Discussions so far have suggested they will be conducted through a process similar to update assessments, with SEFSC obtaining the revised data, revising the assessments, and providing the results to the SSC. Update similarity is only procedural; terminal years will not be advanced.
 - How much time will revisions require, and in what order will they be conducted?
 - The SAFMC requests Red Grouper be their first revision completed.
 - Does the committee support treating these similar to updates, with little SEDAR involvement and leaving the details of scheduling and presentation to the Center and Council?
 - When can revisions assessments begin (given the need for additional SEFSC adjustments to the MRIP dataset once the revised data are released in July 2018?)
 - Are TORs or some type of specific guidance needed or desired by the Committee?

4.3. ACTION

- Provide guidance on the Scamp RT and timing.
- Consider conducting King Mackerel as a Standard or Update.
- Address issues related to MRIP revisions

Meeting Outcome

COBIA: The Committee noted that the Stock ID process applied to Cobia was expensive and time consuming. A more streamlined and efficient approach should be considered in the future, with greater reliance on webinars as noted above in the Research Track details. Also, unless there is a change in the stock boundary, the Committee recommended cancelling the Science-Management Leadership call.

SCAMP: The Committee supported addressing Scamp as the first Research Track assessment. Specific guidance includes:

- Include the Planning Team and Working Group as discussed (Appendix 1)
- Follow the general approach and timing suggested in the Scamp scope of work.
- Consider revising the TORs based on NMFS discussions to consider greater consistency in TORs across the Nation.
- Update the Scamp schedule with specific dates.
- The SAFMC and GMFMC were requested to appoint Scamp planning team representatives by June 1, 2018. TORs and Schedules should be approved by January 1, 2019.

KING MACKEREL: The Committee discussed past plans, and supported conducting King Mackerel as an update in 2019.

UPDATE vs STANDARD assessments: During the King Mackerel deliberations the Committee discussed the differences between standard and update assessments. Although no distinction was made between these assessment types during past planning efforts, the SEFSC now intends to more accurately consider data processing requirements in the SEDAR planning process, and noted that there is a higher cost for standard process assessments. In the future, the standard and update approaches will be replaced by the single Operational Assessment. Data costs for the OA will vary depending on the complexity of the project.

MRIP REVISED DATA: The proposed schedule for providing completely revised MRIP data, addressing both the MRIP calibrations and the SEFSC charter survey and weight adjustments was further revised at this meeting. Delays in MRIP revised data are due to delays in completing the MRIP calibration process and the need for additional data processing personnel within SEFSC. Given that planning of the Gulf Red Grouper assessment is farther along than other projects, and a workshop is already scheduled, the SAFMC agreed to allow data for Gulf Red Grouper to be prioritized, and to allow additional delay in the SAFMC Greater Amberjack assessment. A revised data delivery schedule is shown below:

Project	Original Data Delivery	REVISED MRIP Fully Calibrated Data Delivery	Estimated Completion Date*	Terminal Year
SEDAR 29 Update: HMS GoM Blacktip Shark	4/6/2018	8/3/2018	No changes	
SEDAR 59: SA Greater Amberjack	5/25/2018	10/29/2018	5/1/2019	2017~
SEDAR 61: GoM Red Grouper	6/1/2018	9/21/2018	4/1/2019	2017^
SEDAR 62: GoM Gray Triggerfish	7/13/2018	11/16/2018	6/2019	2017
SEDAR 60: SA Red Porgy	8/10/2018	10/31/2018	6/2019	2017
SEDAR 58: Atlantic Cobia	11/13/2018	11/20/2018	Fall 2019	2017

* **PRELIMINARY.** Based on revised data delivery dates; actual dates may vary. Project schedules will be updated after consultation with analytical teams and data providers.

~ Terminal year is advanced from 2016.

^ Advancing the Terminal Year is desired. Data providers will be consulted to determine if the TY can be advanced. The delivery date for GOM Red Grouper may be delayed until April.

MRIP REVISION ASSESSMENTS: MRIP revision assessments will be completed once the revised data are available. They will not advance the assessment terminal year; only revised MRIP catch information will be included. They will be prepared by SEFSC and provided directly to the Councils without SEDAR involvement. Each cooperator will work with SEFSC to determine delivery schedules and presentations. SAFMC MRIP revisions are expected to be available for SSC review in October 2018.

5. Assessment Schedule Review

5.1. Documents

Attachment 12. SEDAR Projects List

5.2. Summary

Ongoing project details are addressed in the project status update (Attachment 10). Attachment 11 provides the complete record of past assessments. Priorities for 2018 – 2020, as approved at the September 2016 meeting, are shown in Table 2. Due to uncertainty in the timing of later 2018 and 2019 projects, particularly surrounding the MRIP revisions and their impact on other projects, SEDAR staff has not held a planning call with SEFSC to establish data delivery deadlines and project milestones for 2019 projects.

5.3. Action

- Consider project priority and timing changes requested by the Cooperators
 - Earlier start for SAFMC golden Tilefish
 - Gulf Cobia
- Finalize 2019 assessment projects
- Identify 2020 assessment candidates

Meeting Outcome

PLANNING APPROACH: The SEFSC recommended considering data processing limitations in the project plan. A total of 34 weeks of processing time are available across all projects on the SEDAR schedule. Benchmark assessments require 6 weeks, Research Track and Standard assessments require 5 weeks, Update assessments require 3 weeks, and future Operational Assessments will require 3-5 weeks, depending on the amount of changes desired.

The approved 2019 assessment plan (Table 3) will required an estimated 35 weeks of data processing.

The 2020 preliminary assessment plan requires approximately 59 weeks, which is beyond what SEFSC can support at this time. The Committee will adjust the 2020 schedule as necessary at the Spring 2019 meeting. The following steps will be considered to address this discrepancy over the next year:

- Each Cooperator requesting Operational Assessments in 2020 will consider the scope of those projects and develop TORs prior to the Spring 2019 Committee meeting (as discussed under the Operational Assessment process previously), so that SEFSC can evaluate the data burden.
- SEFSC is working to automate data processing and hire additional staff. Data processing capabilities will be updated at the Spring 2019 meeting.
- The timing of data delivery for HMS Hammerhead Sharks and FL FWCC Mutton Snapper will be refined before the Spring 2019 meeting.
- SEDAR Staff will facilitate discussion between SEFSC and CFMC to refine the CFMC assessment request for 2019 and 2020.

6. Other Business

7. Next Meeting

The Committee is asked to make a recommendation for the next meeting.

Meeting Outcome

The next meeting will be held in late September, via webinar.

8. Adjourn

Appendix 1. Scamp Research Track Pilot

Scamp Research Track Pilot – Plan team and “working group”

1. PLANNING TEAM

Members

SEDAR: Julia Byrd, Julie Neer

SAFMC: 1 Council staff, 1 SSC

GMFMC: 1 Council staff, 1 SSC

SEFSC: Skyler (Gulf assess lead), SA assess lead, Dave Gloeckner (Data lead)

Working Group Chair (if not one of above)

Charge

Develop draft TORs & Schedule for approval by SAFMC/GMFMC using existing processes.

- based on SEFSC scamp project plan
- stock ID addressed through webinars, pre-DW
- provide recommendations for specific participants, particularly to provide expertise needed to address TORs.

2. SCAMP ASSESSMENT PANEL (eg “Working Group”)

Goals:

- Improve consistency in decision making across workshops, particularly DW to AW
- Reduce the expectation that AW is obligated to follow all DW recommendations
- Improve consistency in decision making across assessments, e.g., addressing uncertainty ranges

This group is similar to the existing assessment panel.

This is a subset within the DW process – all the rest of the DW process is unchanged.

Members (may be larger than normal due to 2 Cooperators)

Qualifications: high level of commitment, technical expertise, strive for balance of opinions and expertise,

SEFSC: Gulf and SA assessment leads; other analysts as needed – who will contribute to the report and analyses. 1 representative will serve as the working group technical chair.

GMFMC: 1 SSC, 1 other analytical (or SSC), 1 Council staff (optional),

SAFMC: 1SSC, 1 other analytical (or SSC), 1 Council staff (optional)

OTHER analytical: 1-2 others, based on plan team recommendations and additional expertise needed

Chair Assignments: Chair duties will be divided into technical and administrative tasks. Technical tasks will be handled by the lead analyst (or other designee of the

lead assessment agency). Administrative tasks will be handled by the SEDAR Coordinator. Specific tasks are illustrated in the assignment table below.

Chair Duties / SEDAR assignment

Chair Duties	SEDAR assignment
Aid in forming WG	Both
Oversee meeting arrangements	Coordinator
Secure TOR & Schedule Approvals, Appointments per SEDAR process	Coordinator
Chair WG meetings	Technical Chair
Assure WG reports completed on time	Both
Attend RW as WG rep	Technical Chair
Manage RW presentations	Both
Manage note taking during meetings	Coordinator
Facilitate consensus building during meetings	Coordinator/lead analyst
Manage member tasks assignments & workshop requests	Technical Chair
If no consensus, make final decision on WG products to present to RW	Technical Chair
If minority opinion, present minority and alternative models to FW	Technical Chair

Charge: The working group is collectively responsible for preparing the stock assessment.

Attend Data and assessment workshops
 Participate in consensus decision making
 Contribute analyses as needed (based on expertise, esp if added to the working group to help with a specific analytical area)
 Contribute to report preparation
 Present to RW as needed

DW impacts

- Same DW process as used now
- DW work groups make recommendations, prepare report sections and documentation
- Decisions made during full plenary (no change), **with the WG members responsible for developing consensus recommendations as needed – this is the approach used during the Data Best Practices Workshop**
- **NEW: WG members prepare a DW report section summarizing the consensus recommendations (a new section to the report)**

AW impacts

No changes required unless there is a change in chair roles
 AW may also include other participants who contribute, but are not part of the panel: Now this includes fishermen, other analysts/data providers