

For Discussion:

Lessons learned about changes to the SEDAR process

Confusion about projects that are taken outside of SEDAR:

- Should the Cooperator and lead analytic agency develop TORs and a project schedule when it's an internal assessment?
 - When? Who needs to review them? Etc.
- The first two internally led assessments attempted were exceptional cases (Gulf Tilefish and SA Black Sea Bass) and introduced avoidable confusion.
- External data providers have requested clarification about how their data will be used in an extra-SEDAR assessment.

Lessons continued...

General confusion about SEDAR process changes:

- How does the lead analytic agency engage with the SSC?
 - What if there are no SSC meeting during the life of a project? (ex. From the SA region)
 - How many times should the SSC be engaged?
- When/how are the components of each SEDAR assessment decided?
 - Who initiates the discussion? When?
 - Is it formal and should SEDAR be there for the discussions between cooperator and lead analytic agency?
- How to enlist the help of the technical committee?
 - Via Council staff?
 - Directly from the analytical agency?
- How do we communicate to stakeholders how the process/components are chosen?

Recommendations

- TORs, project schedules, and MOUs for extra-SEDAR products: Cooperators, external data providers, and analytical agencies need time to come up with protocols to develop these external to SEDAR
- Develop a decision process for determining which components are appropriate for each stock assessment.
 - Example decision: Use internal components mainly for updates or update-lites (i.e. species with little or no change to previous assessments/analyses)
- If external data providers view SEDAR and internal assessment data provision differently, clear communication from Cooperators is needed to clarify that both processes lead to management advice.
- Clearly set expectations about SSC engagement during the assessment process.