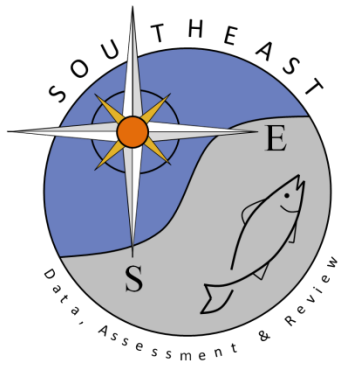


Excerpt from the December 2013 SAFMC SEDAR Committee Minutes
(Pages 11-21 where SEDAR 41 ToR were discussed)

SAFMC SEDAR Committee

SEDAR41-RD62

18 November 2015



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

SEDAR COMMITTEE

**Hilton Wilmington Riverside Hotel
Wilmington, NC**

December 3, 2013

SUMMARY MINUTES

SEDAR Committee

Ben Hartig, Chair
Jack Cox
Charlie Phillips

Zack Bowen
Dr. Michelle Duval

Council Members

Mel Bell
Anna Beckwith
John Jolley
Dr. Wilson Laney
Chris Conklin

Jessica McCawley
Lt. Morgan Fowler
Charlie Phillips
Doug Haymans
Dr. Roy Crabtree

Council Staff:

Bob Mahood
John Carmichael
Dr. Mike Errigo
Anna Martin
Amber Von Harten
Roger Pugliese
Myra Brouwer

Gregg Waugh
Mike Collins
Dr. Kari MacLauchlin
Dr. Brian Chevront
Kim Iverson
Julie O'Dell

Observers/Participants:

Dr. Bonnie Ponwith
Dr. Jack McGovern
Dr. Luiz Barbieri
Pres Pate
Phil Steele
Otha Easley
Rich Chesler

Monica Smit-Brunello
Dr. George Sedberry
Dr. Marcel Reichart
Doug Boyd
Dr. Michael Larkin
Chip Collier

Other Participants Attached

MR. HARTIG: Motion by Michelle; seconded by Jack. **Discussion? Is there any objection? Seeing none; that motion is approved.** SEDAR 41, red snapper and gray triggerfish, TORs and schedule we need to approve.

MR. CARMICHAEL: That would be Attachment 7. This is where the SSC was given two versions of the terms of reference. The primary difference was in dealing with the review workshop and to what extent the review workshop is asked to provide some judgment on whether or not it thinks like the data are adequate and the model is adequate.

Now, the review workshop terms of reference are based on a set of framework terms of reference approved by SEDAR. These were developed a couple of years ago when we went through our last kind of big look at the SEDAR process. For that reason, we weren't really comfortable making some of those changes just outright at this time because they do change a little bit the tone of what we'd be asking the review workshop to do.

It really has a question do we just ask them to give me the pros and cons of what you do or do that and kind of tell me do you think that this acceptable. It is kind of a fine line there; it is a gray area, no doubt. That is where the SSC came in with their recommendations of saying they went with kind of the base ones that they were given, the alternative that gets into highlighting the pros and cons aspects, which was suggested, as well as still retaining the language that asked for them to give some comment on like adequacy and appropriateness.

The SSC thinks it would best to have the steering committee weigh in on this gray area topic of whether or not we continue to ask the review panel to tell us about if they think things are adequate and appropriate and handled properly. We have the terms of reference here to consider and then we also have the action of asking you guys if you want to remand that issue up to the steering committee and have them weigh in on kind of the tone of those terms of reference for a review workshop.

MR. HARTIG: Okay; we need a motion to approve the TORs for SEDAR 41. Roy.

DR. CRABTREE: One of the things we heard a lot about from the public the last time we did red snapper were comparisons with the Gulf assessment. We're in a situation where the Gulf just completed a benchmark red snapper assessment; and we're getting ready to do a benchmark in the South Atlantic.

It sure would be nice to be better prepared to deal with those types of questions in terms of the Gulf did it this way and the South Atlantic did it differently and why and how did it affect things. I don't know if that's something that needs to be in the terms of reference or not; but I wish when we do this, folks would be more mindful of what has gone on in Miami and in the Gulf and do a better job of looking at the differences between the decisions they make and making sure there is adequate rationale and a clear explanation for why they did it different than on the other side; so that we could better explain some of these things.

Frankly, there weren't good explanations in my opinion for some of the differences between the assessments. I don't know, John, if that is something we could add to the terms of reference or exactly how to deal with this. I raised this quite often over the years; and it seems like it is forgotten when the assessment rolls around. I'm worried if we don't put it down somewhere, it will be forgotten again. If they make very different assumptions about things in this assessment than was done in the Gulf, I'm pretty sure we're going to hear all those same questions again.

MR. HARTIG: Yes; and that's a great point; but it is six of one and half a dozen of the other. I look at black sea bass and when we tried to just do comparison of a continuity run, we couldn't even do that in the same assessment; two assessments, two different steepness values; and I think there was some other value that changed; so you couldn't compare the two to see if you were even rebuilding based on the level in one assessment versus the other.

The people on the SSC tried very hard to try and do that and that wasn't possible. To try and get a comparison between a red snapper assessment on our side versus the Gulf is going to be even harder. I know the problems you're talking about, Roy, and I am very sensitive to them. I hate to even match this up – Bonnie is going to start cringing – but to have an assessment scientist from Miami participate at some level in our red snapper assessment I think would address some of your concerns.

I hate, Bonnie, to ask you to have a person for that assessment given the workload of your assessment scientists. I think it would be worth it. I think red snapper is important enough and I think that person could ask the necessary questions during the assessment and have some impact versus those different kinds of parameters. We could have those questions answered during the assessment and then bring those forward to the public as we move. Bonnie.

DR. PONWITH: What you suggest is not illogical. It is not illogical; it would be certainly way of maintaining some fluidity between the two sides of the Peninsula. The problem is it would basically take an assessment scientist from the Gulf and move them over to the South Atlantic; and I'm sure the Gulf Council would have some thoughts on that.

Here are a couple of thoughts. One of the things that – you know, speaking of think tanks, my colleagues in the center have been grappling with this issue of stock assessment through-put and trying to put their heads together on what ideas could we toss out to recraft the way we do stock assessments in a way that protects scientific integrity as our number objective but still as the same time maintains transparency but increases through-put.

One of the ideas they came up with was a methods' working group. My view is one of the ways of resolving the issue that Dr. Crabtree brought up, which is a legitimate issue, we spend a huge amount of analysts' time asking the questions why this here and that there; and that is time that could have been spent working on presentations and projections and other things.

I think it is a smart suggestion to be out ahead of that in advance, anticipating that those types of questions may come up again. That is also a logical request. A methods' working group could be a group of assessment scientists from both sides of the Peninsula that sit down and grapple with issues like steepness with recruitment, how to deal with recruitment, and answer those

questions generically to create some overarching best practices or guidelines so that decisions don't have to start from scratch for each assessment that some of those baseline decisions are grappled with and made and then you customize from there.

That would be a generic way of handling that. That would require a modification to the SEDAR protocols, which would start with a discussion in the councils and go to the SEDAR Steering Committee. That's a fairly long process and may not be the best solution for this imminent stock assessment.

The second approach is one of the things we talked about is if you want those assessments to be cognizant of one another, you can do one assessment for red snapper. That is when everybody cringes and it is because red snapper is by far and away our most complex and most controversial stock assessment that we do in the Gulf of Mexico and pretty close the same is true for the South Atlantic.

Merging them and doing them together and negotiating across the Peninsula about the timing and the strategy I think could make it buckle and implode under its own weight. It may be more complex than the benefits you would get out of it. But, certainly, a third way of dealing with that is to conduct the assessment in a way that is cognizant of what has been done in the past.

That is not an usual scientific approach; what has been done in the past, what has worked in the past; and if you depart from that, is there a logical explanation for why. I think it is reasonable. The place where I would draw the line is I would not want to constrain an assessment panel to saying you can only do this way because somebody else in a different place did it that way. Really, if you think about how science is done, the approach is that you do something, you toss rocks at it.

If it is still standing when all is said and done, that's a reliable approach. If it falters under scientific critique, then it is time to cast off that approach and evolve to another approach. It can be chilling of that sort of scientific process to actually constrain unnecessarily one assessment body to doing things exactly the way another assessment body did. Certainly, it would be reasonable to include a discussion of how it has been done in the past in your own region, how it has been done in other places, and include in that discussion rationale for why you may be departing from past practices.

MR. BELL: Mr. Chairman, I'm not on your committee but just an observation. We look at this from a standpoint of we're the South Atlantic Council and we deal with the Atlantic and the Gulf deals with the Gulf; but a lot of times the fishing public just sees red snapper and red snapper are just red snapper.

Some of them in the Gulf and they fish in the Atlantic and there is a lot of back and forth, and it is a rather hot button fishery. Part of what I heard Roy said was when the assessments are done and the dust settles, we just need to be prepared to answer questions. If there are different outcomes, slightly different processes or something, we just need to be able to be sensitive to that. We know that we're dealing with two stocks basically or managing that way, but they just sort of see red snapper. We just need to be sensitive to that somehow.

DR. CRABTREE: I'm not trying to lock people in. I think as much as anything it is a problem with just not providing an explanation that holds up and thinking about why you're doing it differently. In some cases I'm not sure the panels are even aware necessarily that they're doing things differently.

Dr. Barbieri and I had a discussion at a recent Gulf Council meeting around lines where I essentially read a statement from a South Atlantic assessment that says choice of SPR implies an underlying steepness; thus choosing a proxy equates to choosing steepness; but that isn't what was done in the Gulf Red Snapper Benchmark Assessment. The proxy didn't imply the steepness and they chose a steepness that wasn't consistent with the proxy.

You get one group of scientists and they just make a different decision than another group of scientists over here; and that is just the nature of things. If that is going to happen, they need to provide a really good explanation as to why they're doing that or why they're doing something that is different than what we've stated should be done in other assessments. Too often I don't think that happens; and sometimes it has big implications for where we wind up with these things. Maybe there is nothing to put in the terms and maybe this is just something that we need to come back in the SEDAR Steering Committee and talk about it more.

MS. McCAWLEY: I agree with Roy; I think this is really important. I'm not trying to lock anybody in based on what I heard about to run the assessment; but Florida will be ground zero for this. This happened the last time; and it is really important to have those explanations ready or it looks like, hey, councils, why are you not talking to each other. This is such an important species, why were these assumptions made? We just need to have those things ready; and I think being cognizant of that when you're entering into the assessment is important to have those explanations ready.

MR. CARMICHAEL: I've put a little bit of language up here; and this might get at something that we can do. It seems to me the differences that we talk about are really with total life history traits, the productivity measures and perhaps the uncertainties that we have in the assessment. The data sets are different. The data available for the Gulf assessment is different than what is available for the South Atlantic. There are more indices.

They've had some different issues in the Gulf. The shrimp bycatch and the removals by the shrimp fishery have been much more influential in terms of what happens with the Gulf assessment over the years than within the South Atlantic. The last time we did this there was a look at the size of the habitat, the slope differences. The depth profile is very different in the Gulf of Mexico than in the South Atlantic.

The productivity on almost every species that has a stock in the Gulf and the South Atlantic is almost always higher in the Gulf than it is in the South Atlantic for snapper grouper. We know going in there are going to be differences. What I think maybe we can do to get at this, and what I've put up here just says request that the SEDAR 41 assessment compare and contrast life history traits, productivity measures and assessment uncertainties between the Gulf and South Atlantic stocks.

Some of this we kind of know going up front this is not the first assessment for any of these stocks. I very well see that working papers could be prepared in advance of actually getting into the assessment itself that look at the life history traits. Maybe we just need to look at the fecundity and the maturity and sex ratios, perhaps, that show us why maybe as an individual those species have different traits.

Discard mortality is something maybe to look at because of fishery and depth differences. I know that was looked at in the last assessment. The productivity; that gets at the steepness and the SPR levels; and just making sure that there is some consideration to the different areas. The uncertainties I think could be interesting because of the differences in the data availability, particularly with regard to the surveys.

I think this is something that seems to me feasible within this assessment without making anyone feel like they're asked to configure an assessment exactly like another assessment which just happens to be a species with the same name which occurs in a different environment.

DR. CRABTREE: I think something like that might be all right. Remember, one of the big controversies when we had our red snapper assessment was about the reference point, SPR. Some on the SSC felt strongly that it should be 40 percent. We ultimately stayed at 30 percent. But, remember, part of that argument was, well, the Gulf is at 26 percent and has been for a year; why does it need to be 40 percent in the South Atlantic but 26 percent is adequate in the Gulf. You hear a lot of dancing around the issue but it is difficult to explain that to anybody. Maybe something like that, John, gets at it and would be a step in the right direction.

MR. CARMICHAEL: We will have to be aware that kind of proxy stuff, that comes out of the SSCs; and those are fishing level recommendations. They're embodied in those coming from the SSC; so we still could end up with the chance that our SSC makes a different recommendation in terms of a proxy than the Gulf. Hopefully, we had that debate the last time and we won't be in that same situation here having to argue the SPR proxy.

DR. CRABTREE: If I could, you're right about that; but we can go back to our SSC. Part of the problem with SEDAR is when the review panel hits the gavel and they're done; they're often done and there is no going back. What they do in those review panels often constrains everything that comes after it. At least that has been my experience.

MR. HAYMANS: Mr. Chairman, I'm not on your committee, but a question to Roy. I'm trying to tease out of the comments; did you have a similar comment to the Gulf Council during the most recent red snapper assessment; i.e., did the Gulf Council look at the most recent Atlantic red snapper and try to consider what was done there? Are there similar discussions from the Gulf Council?

DR. CRABTREE: I don't remember if we did or didn't. I've had discussions I think at both councils and I know at SEDAR Steering Committees quite a bit about trying to provide more consistency and more continuity among our assessments. We've had issues more in the Gulf as I recall with having a gag assessment done and then some months later a red grouper assessment

done and fundamental differences in the assumptions made about the two and had to come back in and reconcile those.

I don't know that we had this specific discussion when we did the benchmark on the Gulf. Part of the thing is the Gulf has been doing red snapper assessments going back to the early 1990's; so there is a long history of development of red snapper assessments; but we really hadn't had a modern SEDAR assessment in the South Atlantic until very recently.

I think these comments go well beyond just red snapper. I think it is a problem that we have that is in SEDAR is there is not enough – there is too much emphasis on doing the very best possible assessment and not enough emphasis on maintaining some degree of consistency and continuity among the assessments, whether it be South Atlantic and Gulf assessments or two different assessments both done in the Gulf. I see those problems.

MR. HAYMANS: So with there being one science center; could we begin to look at – I don't know what the right term would be, but assessment scientists who concentrate on species on both sides rather than just working in the Gulf or just working in the South Atlantic to kind of move forward in the future?

DR. PONWITH: Certainly, instead of keeping two pools of assessment scientists, one for the Gulf and one for the South Atlantic, we could open a discussion about the merits of having a red snapper expert who works on red snapper regardless of the geography. It is an interesting question because if you think about it, even in the Gulf of Mexico we don't treat that as one stock.

We treat it as two stocks and basically knit together two stock assessments because the demographics in the Western Gulf and the demographics in the Eastern Gulf are so completely different. You think about the difference in the South Atlantic to the Gulf, the South Atlantic actually includes the northern most edge of the range of the species; and so one could expect that there would be some differences in the demographics even in the South Atlantic relative to the Gulf.

Because of that reason, the Gulf is sort of on the bull's eye of the geographic range. The South Atlantic includes the edge. That is something we could discuss. There are multiple ways of looking at this. When we had this reference point question, one of the things that I did was went to the science enterprise across the nation and talked about how reference points are set, how recruitment processes are dealt with in stock assessments across the United States.

They had a nation-wide workshop dealing with some of those questions. Those results are informative by comparing and contrasting across the regions. Having a red snapper stock assessment scientist is one way of doing it. Another way of doing it is to hold these large-scale methods' workshops to iron out generically in the absence of an ongoing assessment how should we be looking at this?

Are there best practices in dealing with uncertainty and dealing with reference points and come up with some generic advice and tier down from that and customize relative to the needs of the

individual stock assessment. That would be a way to say this question has been asked, it has been answered, here is the baseline approach that has been agreed upon; and then from that point any departures from that would be justified in the process itself. The short answer is, yes, we could have those discussions.

MR. BOWEN: Correct me if I'm wrong, Dr. Ponwith, but wouldn't the genetics of the red snapper be more pertinent than the demographics of the red snapper?

DR. PONWITH: The genetics are certainly germane in terms of you're talking about differentiating the stock based on genetics?

MR. BOWEN: That is correct, yes.

DR. PONWITH: Certainly, the genetics of a stock are of interest; but the geography is as well.

DR. BARBIERI: Not to try to interfere, but this question I think is relevant; because it impacts a whole number of other stocks, you know, similar species in the Gulf and South Atlantic. Yes, genetics is an important component, but you have to keep in mind the genetics – when you look at genetics and think about genetics, you're thinking about evolutionary times and very, very long time scales.

Sometimes what the assessments are really focusing on biological processes that happened within ecological times; so you have population structure sometimes that these two stocks are still in the process of, from an evolutionary point of view, separating but we cannot tell them apart with the genetic techniques that we have on the table right now. They are subjected to different fisheries and they have different biological characteristics, demographics and other issues that actually call for them to be considered differently.

Throughout the world we have several stocks that depending on where the fisheries are operating and depending on the demographics – for example, red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico itself involves two separate models for the eastern and western Gulf because there are enough demographic differences going on to warrant treatment differently in terms of an assessment. I don't know if that addressed your question. I was just trying to clarify the issue that genetics is definitely important, but it is not the most fundamental point when you're looking at stock assessments.

MR. HARTIG: Well, let me ask you a question since you're here. You sit on both SSCs, correct, you're on the Gulf and ours?

DR. BARBIERI: Yes, sir.

MR. HARTIG: You do; so you get to look at the red snapper on the Gulf and the red snapper on the Atlantic. Do you think there is validity in going to one assessment side – doing both assessments?

DR. BARBIERI: What do you mean by one assessment side, Mr. Chairman?

MR. HARTIG: I'm saying either Miami does the Gulf and the Atlantic red snapper or Beaufort does the Gulf and Atlantic red snapper?

DR. BARBIERI: This is not one of those yes-no type of answers. I think there are advantages in having the two teams work together and exchange information. I see advantages in keeping some level of specialization so folks are actually familiar with the biological characteristics of the stock and the structure of the models and how everything – I can see advantages both ways. Some cross-breeding I think would be beneficial if there is available time for staff on the stock assessment panels to participate.

MR. CARMICHAEL: The Gulf isn't the only place we share boundaries with. We share boundaries with the Mid-Atlantic; and I don't anybody at this table wants to suggest that our black sea bass assessment be done by the Northeast Fisheries Science Center. But, in a way if you're not as involved in these issues as those of us around the table, you can look at that and say what is the difference? There is no magic to the boundary at Hatteras.

We're seeing expansions in a lot of stocks; and I don't think we would go there. I think the reality in dealing with SEDAR and seeing all these things over the years, there are a lot of differences in the basic data collection and the information that's available. Like it or not and whether or not it is ideal, there are just differences in this stuff between what goes on in the South Atlantic and what goes on in the Gulf of Mexico.

As Luiz mentioned, the eastern and western Gulf, that is why a lot of these things are different so I don't know that just assigning species to a person would necessarily get us any further. I think making sure that we give an eye toward what has going on the other areas and deal with things where we get – you know, where we have an uncertainty like a proxy for productivity; that we recognize that we are one region and when one group makes one recommendation and another makes another recommendation, it kind of adds to the uncertainty. It doesn't build a case for one or the other.

I think the SPR, as Roy mentioned, is a really great example. Discard mortality things can be a really good example unless you have good reason. Natural mortality; unless you have biological reasons to separate the differences, those are all things that we should look at. I fully support that but necessarily making it the same assessment scientist may not get you there.

MR. MAHOOD: Well, this is one of the things Roy said that the problem when we don't use the same parameters in the Gulf and the South Atlantic on some of these species is we get comment from people why didn't you? But if you look at it, the comments are always toward the Gulf because they're allowing more harvest and we're not.

Like Doug said, why don't they ever look at what we're doing in the Atlantic in the Gulf; well, why would they do that; we don't allow a fishery. You're not going to get comment from fishermen down there saying, well, why aren't you doing the same they're doing in the South Atlantic?

I think that most of the comments at least we got – I think gag grouper was maybe even more than red snapper – was how come you're not doing it; down there they're allowing more harvest, they're using different parameters, this type of thing. Generally when we get comments it is because we're not allowing harvest whereas with the same species in the Gulf they did a different type of stock assessment and they're allowing more harvest. I think that is where most of the comment comes from.

DR. CRABTREE: Well, that is some of that, certainly, and I don't know that we'll resolve this anymore. I don't know about whether it makes sense to have one team that does the red snapper assessments on both sides. That is something I don't think we're prepared to sort out today. I'm not trying to say that – and John is right; there are differences in the South Atlantic and the Gulf; and there may be legitimate reasons for things being different.

What I'm asking for is an awareness that when you make a decision, you're making a decision that is different than what was done in the Gulf or in a previous assessment; and so if you're going to do that, you need to recognize that and you need to explain it. I suspect there are occasions in assessments when they would say, "Oh, well, I didn't realize we were doing something different."

We really don't have a good explanation and it could have led to a different outcome. The key here is not so much what the decision is. It is making sure that you provide a really good reason and you show an awareness that you're doing something different and here is why.

DR. BARBIERI: To Dr. Crabtree's point, what I'm hearing is basically that you're requesting that the assessment panels – and we do have SSC members participating in the assessment and the review panels – be more aware of those issues. I think it is a fair request.

I think this is the time really for that request to come up before the data workshop, the assessment and the review shop actually take place; that this is a request coming from the council that those panels be more aware of those similarities or differences of all the issues that could be brought up afterwards and that we provide some input to you regarding those potential similarities and differences and that we make sure that we have an assessment process that tries to address those proactively. If that would be what you had in mind, Dr. Crabtree, I can see that being something that the SSC would take very seriously and we will try to carry that forward.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: I think legally from and administrative record perspective, if you got challenged on this you would want to – and litigant could bring up, well, look, so what is the best scientific information available? They're doing it this way for the same species and they're doing it a different way for the same species in the geographic areas.

I would think it is better to have those explanations up front as to why different methods were chosen and those sorts of things. I think you're in a much more defensible position when you go into court and you have those kinds of challenges in addition to having the public – you know, they raise those kinds of issues as you've all just discussed; so being able to explain it to them puts the council in a much better position, too.

MR. HARTIG: And they raise them at a high level now. They address the different inputs in the assessment. To me if John's wording gets into natural mortality, steepness and selectivities that are critical – those are three real critical parts of the assessment. When we change those based on the Gulf, we should explain why in the assessment they were changed.

The assessment scientists should say this is why they are different in the Atlantic; so we can have that on the record going forward and on the record to deal legal and then to inform the public of why they were different, why the South Atlantic red snapper is different. I think, John, if –

MR. CARMICHAEL: Do you want me to read it?

MR. HARTIG: Yes.

MR. CARMICHAEL: I really think this level of discussion; we talked about how to get this in there and Roy brought up making terms of reference. I think with this level of discussion we probably should try to craft a term of reference that makes sure this is in there and not overlooked. What I have put up here on the screen is an attempt to try and capture this in a possible motion that someone may want to make.

It addresses adding three terms of reference, one for each workshop, so I will read through this now. **It is move to add a Term of Reference to the SEDAR 41 Data Workshop to compare and contrast life history traits between the Gulf and South Atlantic Stocks; to add a Term of Reference to the SEDAR 41 Assessment Workshop to compare and contrast productivity measures and assessment assumptions between the Gulf and South Atlantic Stocks; and add a Term of Reference to the SEDAR 41 Review Workshop to compare and contrast assessment uncertainties between the Gulf and South Atlantic stocks.**

MR. HARTIG: Would somebody like to so move that motion? Charlie.

MR. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chairman, I so move.

MR. HARTIG: Anymore discussion; we've had plenty. I need to get a second first; second by Jack. Chris.

MR. CONKLIN: I just wanted to say that it would be a good idea if we could have all those explanations put in before it goes out for the peer review so you even further will be able to back it up; to have it get it looked at a lot more.

MR. HARTIG: You're absolutely right and this will do that. This will take it through the assessment process and so that will be included in every workshop we have. It will be a great addition. Bonnie.

DR. PONWITH: On the review workshop doing a compare and contrast to the assessment uncertainties; you mean just, for example, if the uncertainty is greater in the South Atlantic for a red snapper stock assessment because of the discontinuity in the fishery-independent data, that would be discussed; or, if biological sampling rates differed between those areas and it created

uncertainty in the age composition or the age structure in the assessment; those are the types of comparisons you're looking at to be discussed?

MR. CARMICHAEL: Yes; that is what I was thinking about there. We know we have the very stringent regulations that have gone on in the South Atlantic and that it affected our fishery-dependent data stream and that is probably going to contribute to an uncertainty. I think it will be helpful to have those guys comment on those kinds of things.

We try to focus the review panel on the uncertainty aspects. I'm hoping this sort of gives them leeway to kind of look at overall the whole outcomes and maybe point out data issues as well as related to monitoring that is done as well as how the regulations have affected our ability to estimate the stock with the methods we use; exactly.

MR. HARTIG: Okay, is there anymore discussion? Is there any objection to this motion? Seeing none; that motion is approved.

MR. CARMICHAEL: That adds a term of reference and we'll make that change and then to approve the schedule and other terms of reference for SEDAR 41. I expect we'd be saying we want to approve the terms of reference as modified.

MR. HARTIG: Okay, we need a motion to approve the terms of reference for SEDAR 41 as modified and the schedule. Motion by Michelle; seconded by Charlie. Discussion? Objection? Seeing none; that motion is approved.

MR. CARMICHAEL: And the other one is considering forwarding to the SEDAR Steering Committee the SSC's recommendation to evaluate the terms of reference. I think guidance on that would be that you support the SSC recommendation would be fine.

MR. HARTIG: Do you need a motion?

MR. CARMICHAEL: I think approval will be fine in this case.

MR. HARTIG: Okay, is there any objection to approving the SSC's – say it again, please.

MR. CARMICHAEL: SSC's recommendation to have the steering committee look into the terms of reference language for review workshops.

MR. HARTIG: Is there any objection to that? I don't see any, John, so we'll move ahead and do that at the steering committee level.

MR. CARMICHAEL: Do you want to do the other business before we get into the participants in the closed session?

MR. HARTIG: Yes.