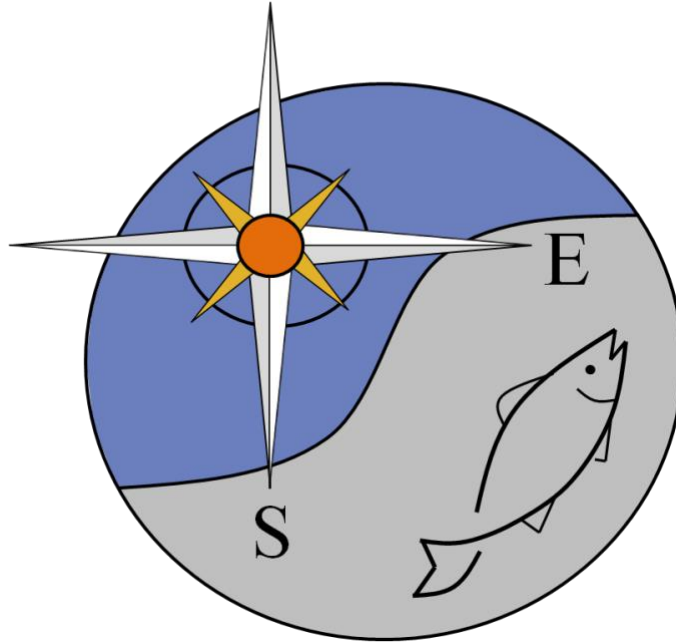


SEDAR



**SEDAR Steering Committee
MEETING SUMMARY
August 26, 2019**

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Documents

Attachment 1. Recommended Use of the Current Gulf of Mexico Surveys of Marine Recreational Fishing in Stock Assessments

ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Clay Porch, SEFSC, Chair
Karyl Brewster-Geisz, NMFS
Luiz Barbieri, FL FWCC
Patrick Campfield, ASMFC
Roy Crabtree, SERO

Dave Donaldson, GSMFC
Tom Frazer, GMFMC
Jessica McCawley, SAFMC
Carrie Simmons, GMFMC
Gregg Waugh, SAFMC

SEDAR STAFF

Kathleen Howington

John Carmichael

OBSERVERS

Rusty Hudson
Ryan Rindone
Julia Byrd
Tiffanie Cross
Myra Brower
Richard Cody
Catherine Bruger
Mike Errigo
Dale Diaz

Michael Drexler
Chad Hanson
Jeff Pulver
Cameron Rhodes
Beverly Sauls
Chip Collier
Bob Gill
Jason Adriance

Introduction

Documents

Agenda

Action

- Introductions
- Review and Approve Agenda

Meeting Outcome

This meeting was held via webinar. Committee Chair Dr. Clay Porch opened the meeting, and the committee approved the agenda. No other business items were requested.

1. NOAA Fisheries Gulf Surveys White Paper

1.1. Documents

Attachment 1. Recommended Use of the Current Gulf of Mexico Surveys of Marine Recreational Fishing in Stock Assessments

1.1. Summary

NOAA Fisheries prepared a White Paper addressing the use of Gulf of Mexico state recreational catch surveys titled “Recommended Use of the Current Gulf of Mexico Surveys of Marine Recreational Fishing in Stock Assessments” (Attachment 1). Given the importance of this issue to stock assessments in the Gulf of Mexico, the agency requested that the SEDAR Steering Committee review the paper. The intent of the paper is to document NOAA Fisheries’ recommendation for the most appropriate source of recreational catch information.

Meeting Outcome

Committee Chair Dr. Clay Porch briefly reviewed the summary of findings and recommendations in the July 2019 NOAA Fisheries report titled “Recommended Use of the Current Gulf of Mexico Surveys of Marine Recreational Fishing in Stock Assessments (Attachment 1). The agency recommendation, as summarized in the report, is:

“NOAA Fisheries has determined that Option 1—using a time series of catch estimates fully calibrated to ensure comparability across years and among states—is the best approach to use for stock assessments at this time. Option 1a is preferred until Options 1b or 1c are possible. Options 2 and 3 would be very difficult to defend without a considerable amount of further study. Options 1a and 4 are the only possibilities for the South Atlantic region, as there are no competing state surveys, but Option 4 is statistically indefensible. Having catch

estimates that are comparable both across states and throughout the historical time series should be the top priority.”

Efforts to address differences between MRIP and the Gulf state surveys remain a work in progress. The document reviewed at this meeting summarizes current conditions, and provides a way forward for the short-term.

The Committee did not object to the overall recommendation and recognizes that current data limitations prevent use of Options 1b and 1c at this time.

Committee Discussion Summary

- Concerns were raised that the report does not provide clear direction for developing a plan to integrate the different Gulf of Mexico state surveys into MRIP so that options 1b or 1c can be considered. Questions that remain to be answered include what is the timeline and who is responsible for making it happen.
- Alternative and supplemental surveys can expand the capabilities of a general survey such as MRIP.
- Given that additional information is necessary to implement options 1b and 1c, option 1a will be used to provide inputs for 2020 assessments.
- Efforts should continue to engage the Gulf states, along with the Gulf Council and Commission and MRIP, to work collaboratively on plans and a timeline to enable implementation of alternatives such as options 1b or 1c. Such an effort could lead to other solutions as well.
- There was discussion of a workshop that is being planned for September 2019 with FL FWC and MRIP to consider the FWC Gulf Reef Fish Survey. It is still in the preliminary planning stages and there is ongoing discussion on the focus and intent.
- There was discussion on the impact the current MRIP estimates may have on allocations based on the prior estimation process, and the need to consider updating allocation values to address this change in estimates. Ideally, an approach for updating or modifying allocations in response to the change in estimates will be developed that can apply across multiple species.

2. Other Business

No other business was discussed.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will be via webinar meeting on September 30, 2019 is planned.

Adjourn