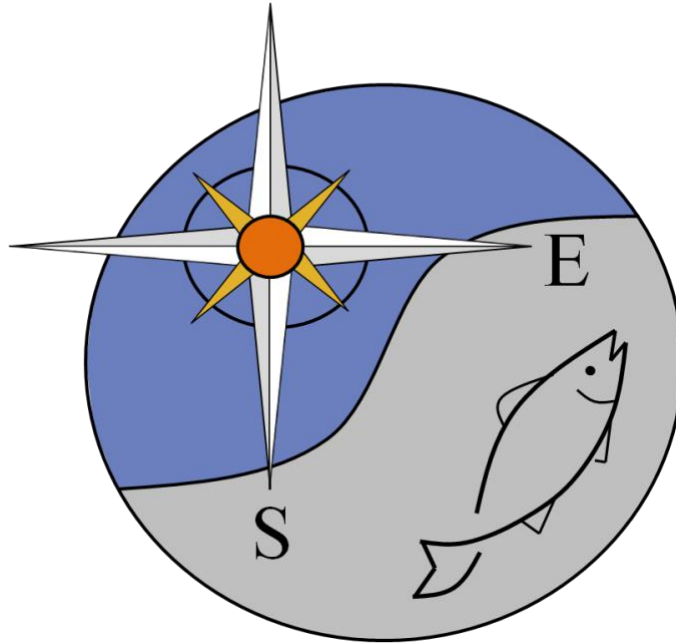


SEDAR



SEDAR Steering Committee MEETING REPORT

May 16 - 17, 2019

**Francis Marion Hotel
Charleston SC**

**Version: FINAL
9/30/2019**

CONTENTS

1.	Introduction	6
2.	SEDAR Projects Report	6
3.	Assessment Schedule Review	7
4.	SEFSC update on Wreckfish	8
5.	Other Business.....	8
6.	Next Meeting.....	9
7.	Adjourn.....	9

Documents

- Attachment 1. September 2018 Meeting Summary
- Attachment 2. SEDAR Projects Update May 2019
- Attachment 3. SEDAR Projects List

Attendance

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Clay Porch, SEFSC, Chair
Carrie Simmons, GMFMC
Karyl Brewster-Geisz, NMFS
Patrick Campfield, ASMFC
Marcos Hanke, CFMC
Dave Donaldson, GSMFC

Roy Crabtree, SERO
Dale Diaz, GMFMC
Gregg Waugh, SAFMC
Jessica McCawley, SAFMC

SEDAR STAFF

Kathleen Howington
John Carmichael

Julie Neer

OBSERVERS

Ryan Rindone, GMFMC
Steve Durkee, HMS

John Froeschke GMFMC

WEBINAR OBSERVERS

Adyan Rios
Erik Williams
Graciela Garcia-Moliner
John Quinlan
Kyle Dettloff

Matthew Smith
Rusty Hudson
Shannon Calay
Skyler Sagarese
Vivian Matter

Meeting Outcomes Summary

SEDAR Project Priorities

- Approved the 2019 & 2020 revisions to address the 2018/2019 government shutdown
- Approved project priorities for 2021 as shown in Table 1.
- Requested Cooperators provide Scopes of Work for 2021 assessments to the SEFSC by August 1, 2019. These projects will be considered for approval at the Fall 2019 meeting.
 - SAFMC: Black Sea Bass, Red Grouper
 - GMFMC: Gray triggerfish, Gray Snapper, GOM Hogfish
 - CFMC: Lane Snapper, Queen Snapper, Redtail Parrot, Yellowtail Snapper
- Recommended Cooperators consider identifying “Key Stocks” for their jurisdiction and begin working toward a long-term assessment plan.

Wreckfish

- Data limited approaches should be considered because the US fishery does not have access to the entire stock.
- SEFSC will report to SAFMC SSC in Fall 2019.
- Further discussion planned for the Spring 2020 Steering Committee meeting.

Other Business Topics

- Research Track Chair
 - Supported appointing a scientist to Chair the research track DW-AW steps.
- Interim Analyses
 - Agreed that interim analyses will be considered to support fishing level recommendations. Doing so does not affect the need for SSC review & recommendations.
- BSIA
 - SEFSC/SERO will take the lead on developing the Southeast Regional Implementation Plan
- 508 Compliance
 - Recommended that future SEDAR stock assessment reports be formatted to meet 508 requirements.

Table 1. SEDAR Project Priorities. Including schedule and priority recommendations from the May 2019 SEDAR Steering Committee meeting.

		2019 Schedule revisions, approved					FUTURE Requests							
		2020/21 Approved Projects					2021 Preliminary Projects - to be finalized Fall 2019.							
SEDAR SCHEDULE OVERVIEW - MAY 2019 SEDAR Steering Committee Approved - 5/17/2019														
YEAR	SA Team				Gulf/Caribbean Team					HMS Team		FL FWCC	ASMFC GSMFC	CMP
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	1	2			
2019		COBIA B TY17			Red Grp Std	Gray Trig Std							ATL Menhaden Review	
				GAJ Std 17	Red Prgy Std 17		Cobia U	Vermilion S		Spiny Lobster	Atl Blktip Bench	YTS Bench		King U
2020	Scamp RT	Snowy Grp u 18	gag OA	tilefish OA 18	Scamp RT					Queen Trig PR-StX-STT				
						GAJ OA 2018	Gag OA 2019							
2021	Scamp OA	RS RT+OA	black sea bass, red grp oa	spanish OA	Scamp OA	gray trig, Gray Snap, gulf hog		RedSnp RT + OA		Lane@PR, Queen Snap@PR, Redtail Parrot@STX, Yellowtail Snapr@STX	Hammerheads - RT	Mutton Benchmark		
2022			gray trigger RT			Red Grouper RT, Red Drum RT						Atlantic hogfish		
2023			White Grunt RT											

STD=Standard Assessment
 B=Benchmark Assessment
 RT=Research Track Assessment

OA=Operational Assessment
 U=Update Assessment
 Numbers indicate desired terminal year

1. Introduction

1.1. Documents

Agenda

Attachment 1. September 2018 Meeting Summary

1.2. Action

- Introductions
- Review and Approve Agenda
- Approve September 2018 Meeting Summary

MEETING OUTCOME

The Committee modified the agenda to the following topics under other business: Research Track process chairs, usefulness of interim analyses, regional BSAI implementation plans, and 508 compliance.

2. SEDAR Projects Report

2.1. Documents

Attachment 2. SEDAR Projects Update May 2019

2.2. Summary

The projects report (Attachment 2) provides a summary of current and recently completed SEDAR assessment projects.

The major items of concern since the last meeting in September 2018 include:

- Delays in data delivery during late 2018, due to addressing the MRIP revision effort and updated estimates, that postponed some assessment projects.
- Impacts of the 2019 government shutdown: In February 2019, SEFSC and SEDAR staff developed a modified workplan providing only minimal delays (1-3 months) for most projects. Additional delay was added to the Scamp research track assessment.
- In a recent development, SAFMC projects will be delayed further due to MRIP data concerns raised by the SAFMC SSC in late February. The SAFMC SSC is planning a workshop to address MRIP data concerns on August 19th through the 21st.

2.3. Action

- Informational; none required

3. Assessment Schedule Review

3.1. Documents

Attachment 3. SEDAR Projects List

3.2. Summary

Due to concerns with the workload of the initial 2020 schedule, the SEFSC requested that each cooperator provide a statement of work for the 2020 operational assessments. These statements of work are appended to the projects update, attachment 2. SEFSC will report on the SOWs and workload outlook, and the Committee is asked to adjust the 2020 and 2021 schedules as necessary to accommodate SEFSC capabilities.

Priorities for 2019 – 2021 are shown in Table 2. Please note that this table is significantly different than the version reviewed previously and included in the draft report from the September 2018 Steering Committee Meeting. See the meeting report (Attachment 1) for that version. This version includes the following changes:

- Ongoing projects are adjusted to reflect the February 2019 SEDAR/SEFSC planning call that was convened to address the shutdown impacts. These changes are shown in orange in the table and are considered final
- Future projects are shifted ahead in response to the changes in ongoing projects. Projects are arranged in columns based on expected lead analytical responsibilities (to the best of SEDAR's knowledge at this time). The Steering Committee is asked to consider these changes, shown in yellow in the table.
- The Scamp research track will be delayed by about 9 months to reduce delays in other projects from the shutdown. This potentially impacts Red Snapper research track assessments in both the Gulf and South Atlantic, which were scheduled to begin after Scamp concluded.

3.3. Action

- Finalize 2020 and early 2021 projects
- Identify 2021 priorities
- Consider long-term priorities

MEETING OUTCOME

The Committee reviewed future assessment project priorities and finalized assessment projects for 2020. Recommendations are shown in Table 1, found at the front of this report with the summarized findings and recommendations. The Committee also reviewed the planning process and the expectations of each Cooperator. The process is summarized at the end of this report in Appendix 1.

2020 Workplan

Chair Porch prepared a preliminary evaluation of the workload required for 2020 projects. This indicated that analytical resources are adequate for the requested projects, but there is a possibility of a limitation due to data resources. However, at this time the

plan appears feasible and was approved for further development of project milestones and schedules.

2021 Workplan

The Committee identified preliminary projects for 2021. These will be finalized at the Fall 2019 meeting. Councils were requested to provide statements of work for all potential 2021 operational assessments to the SEFSC by August 1, 2019.

Future Priorities and Workload Planning

The Committee discussed the “Key Stocks” concept developed by SAFMC and considered in SEFSC long-term assessment planning of assessments and interim analyses. Cooperators are requested to identify key stocks for their jurisdiction for further consideration and discussion at the Spring 2020 Steering Committee meeting. Although interim analyses are not a SEDAR project, they will need to be considered in workload planning.

4. SEFSC update on Wreckfish

The SAFMC requested that SEFSC provide an update on possible approaches to updating the existing Wreckfish assessment or developing a new benchmark that can be managed through SEFSC and SEDAR.

MEETING OUTCOME

Chair Porch provided an update on Wreckfish assessment approaches. The SEFSC notes that the broad range of the species and access by US fishermen to only a portion of the stock pose a major impediment to developing an informative and reliable US assessment. Considering data limited approaches such as DCAC may be preferable to relying on catch for future fishing level recommendations. The SEFSC will provide a briefing to the SAFMC SSC at its October meeting, and the SSC will be asked to provide guidance on continued use of the existing assessment versus other alternatives. The Steering Committee will be briefed on that discussion at the Spring 2020 meeting.

5. Other Business

MEETING OUTCOME

Research Track Chair

The Committee supported assigning a scientist to chair the research track process. One individual will chair the DW through AW stages of the research track. The Chair will be recommended by the research track planning team and appointed by the lead analytical agency (e.g., SEFSC or FL FWCC). Peer Reviews will be chaired by an SSC representative, per current practices.

Interim Analyses

The Committee discussed the use of interim analyses for providing more up-to-date assessment and stock information. It was agreed that interim analyses would be considered in support of fishing level recommendations. The SSC review and recommendation process required by the MSA and Council policies would not be

affected. The SEFSC stated that while interim analyses are not a SEDAR product, they will have to be taken into account within the SEDAR planning process.

BSIA

The Committee discussed the Best Scientific Information Available guidance provided during the May 2019 Council Coordination Committee (CCC) meeting that requires developing regional implementation plans within 3 years. The SEFSC and SERO will take the lead on developing a single plan for the Southeast Region. HMS will develop their own plan. The Committee recommended that the plan consider differences in timing and process for research track, operational, and interim analyses, and address stock status criteria.

508 Compliance

The Committee discussed accessibility or 508 compliance for SEDAR documentation. Current and future SEDAR assessment reports will be formatted to comply with 508 criteria. This may require some changes in how documents are developed and formatted before they are submitted to SEDAR. SEDAR staff will work with appropriate assessment participants and agency staff to determine what is necessary to accomplish this task.

6. Next Meeting

The Committee is asked to make a scheduling recommendation for the next meeting. Based on past practices, this meeting will be held via webinar, in late September 2019.

MEETING OUTCOME

The Committee supported the suggested timing of late September. Members will be polled in July 2019 to determine availability.

7. Adjourn

Table 2. SEDAR Schedule Worksheet – May 2019 Discussion Draft. Results of schedule decisions made at this meeting are shown in Table 1 at the front of this document.

Table Color Legend:

2019 Schedule revisions based on SEFSC post-shutdown & SA SSC MRIP

2020 Requests, starting project shifts to accommodate the 2019 revisions

FUTURE Requests – to be considered by the Steering Committee

SEDAR SCHEDULE OVERVIEW - MAY 2019 Discussion Draft SEDAR Steering Committee - 4/3/2019														
YEAR	SA Team				Gulf/Caribbean Team					HMS Team		FLFWCC	ASMFC GSMFC	CMP
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	1	2			
2019 shutdown Revise		COBIA B TY17			Red Grp Std	Gray Trig Std							ATL Menhaden Review	
				GAJ Std	Red Prgy Std		Cobia U	Vermilion S			Spiny Lobster			YTS Bench
2020 Prelim	Scamp RT ³	Snowy Grp u	gag OA	spanish OA	Scamp RT ³	GAJ OA				Queen Trig PR-STX	Atl Blktip Bench			
2021			Gray Trigger (RT), red grp, black sea bass	tilefish std			Gag OA					Lane@PR, Queen Snap@PR, Redtail Parrot@STX, Yellowtail Snap@STX	Hammerheads - RT	Mutton Bench
2022	Scamp OA	RS RT+OA	White Grunt (Benchmark)		Scamp OA				RedSnP RT + OA					
2023														

Appendix 1. SEDAR ASSESSMENT PROJECT PRIORITIES & TIMING

1. Cooperators develop their project priorities.
Timing: ongoing, 2-5 years in advance of Steering Committee discussions
2. SEDAR Steering Committee reviews preliminary Cooperator requests.
Timing: 2.5 to 3 years in advance
Outcome: Preliminary projects list, ready for further consideration through the next steps
3. Cooperators develop **Scope of Work** for each of their assessments on the preliminary list.
Timing: approximately 2 years before assessment
Submission: To SEFSC (Director and designees), 2 months prior to the Spring Steering Committee Meeting (typically will be around March 1)
NOTE: Scope of Work is required for OPERATIONAL assessments only. Research Track process uses a planning team to develop a schedule and TORs to meet project needs
Contents: The following topics should be considered in SOW development
 - Years of data to be updated (may provide a specific terminal year)
 - Additional datasets or research findings to be included and evaluated
 - Peer Review or SSC recommendations to be included and evaluated
 - Process recommendations (ie, webinar or in-person meeting needs)
4. Steering Committee finalizes assessment priorities at the Spring meeting.
Timing: Priorities are finalized 2 years in advance (2022 projects finalized in 2020)
Considerations: Analytical and data workload and resources
Outcome: Final assessment project list for the year
5. SEDAR/SEFSC planning meeting to address the approved project list.
Timing: 2-3 months following the Steering Committee meeting (typically by August 1)
Outcome: Project milestones and suggested workshop dates
6. SEDAR drafts initial TORs and schedules for Cooperator review and consideration
Timing: 1-3 months following the planning meeting
Considerations: based on the milestones developed through the planning meeting
SEFSC (lead analysts) consulted on initial draft.
7. SEDAR Steering Committee issues resolution.
Timing: Fall Steering Committee meeting
Outcome: Address any issues with fulfilling the project list that arose during the initial planning process.