

SEDAR

SouthEast Data, Assessment, and Review

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
Caribbean Fishery Management Council
NOAA Fisheries
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission

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SEDAR Steering Committee

June 10, 2008

Conference Call

DRAFT---MEETING SUMMARY --- DRAFT

1. *Introduction and Opening Remarks*

The meeting convened via conference call at 12:00 pm on Tuesday, June 10, 2008. Attending members: Bonnie Ponwith, Roy Crabtree, Larry Simpson, Rick Leard, Tom McIlwain, Bob Mahood, and Duane Harris (representing George Geiger, SAFMC Chair). Others participating in the call included: John Carmichael, Julie Neer, and Karyl Brewster-Geisz.

2. *Agenda Review*

The agenda was approved without modification.

3. *Discussion of Assessment Updates*

Dr. Ponwith provided the SEFSC opinion on preparing updates of Gulf of Mexico red snapper, gag grouper, and red grouper in 2009. SEFSC can accommodate all of these projects if the updates are disciplined and adhere to the SEDAR guidelines. Any requests to consider additional data or expand the scope of sensitivities and supporting analyses will likely require a decrease in the number of stocks to update.

Rick Leard reported that the Gulf Council SSC supported updates of all three stocks and accepted the restriction to only those datasets included in the original assessment.

The SEAMAP Gulf of Mexico shark/snapper/grouper longline index for red snapper was discussed as an area where the SSC may be required to exercise judgment in developing terms of reference for the red snapper update. The dataset was considered and evaluated in SEDAR 7, but not included in the final configuration due to a short time series (3 years available at the time). The Data Workshop reported noted the following regarding this survey:

Data from a relatively new shark/snapper/grouper longline survey were presented for the first time (SEDAR7-DW-9, see also 8 and 11). This survey consists of three years of data, and provides insights into the distribution and abundance of older, offshore stocks of large red snapper. The workgroup felt that a three-year time series was not appropriate for the current assessment, but noted that this survey would probably be valuable for future assessments. The most important contribution to the SEDAR from the longline survey is information pertaining to the previously undocumented age distribution of large red snapper in offshore waters and computed instantaneous mortality rates (0.13 per year, one std err 0.01), which may provide an upper limit on M for adult snapper.

Because this dataset was considered useful and informative, and only omitted from the benchmark due to its short time series, it is a candidate for inclusion in an update.

The Steering Committee discussed developing a policy statement to address this and possible similar future situations. The Committee agreed that those datasets evaluated through a SEDAR benchmark assessment, considered properly developed and potentially informative for the stock assessment by the panels, and recommended for future inclusion despite rejection based on currently available time series should be considered for inclusion in subsequent update assessments.

The Committee also discussed sensitivity analyses.

Dr. Ponwith agreed to consult with SEFSC staff within the next two weeks to determine whether including the longline index and providing numerous sensitivity analyses would add significantly to the workload of the update. If not, all three updates can be accommodated.

No issues were raised regarding the gag and red grouper updates. These should proceed as strict updates by adding new observations to the benchmark data series. The Gulf Council staff and SSC will work with the SEFSC to develop Terms of Reference and completion schedules.

4. Other Business

The Committee discussed a suggestion from the SAFMC SSC to modify the species for SEDAR 19. The SSC suggested replacing hogfish with black grouper and white grunt with red grouper. FL FWC would provide lead analytical responsibility for black grouper and the SEFSC would provide lead for red grouper. The SAFMC supported the change and representatives of both FWC and SEFSC on the SSC reported that the changes were feasible despite the late timing.

The SEDAR Steering Committee endorsed the change in SEDAR 19 species.

5. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 pm.