

SEDAR Procedures Workshop: Uncertainty

Project Description: SEDAR procedural workshops provide an opportunity for focused discussion and deliberation on topics that arise in multiple assessments and are structured to develop best practices for addressing common issues across assessments. The fourth procedural workshop will consider methods of addressing uncertainty in SEDAR assessments, including topics such as developing appropriate confidence intervals in both parameter estimates and projection outputs, methods of characterizing and expressing assessment uncertainty beyond that reflected in confidence intervals, use of sensitivity analyses and recommendations on standard sensitivities, and relating uncertainty to overall risk evaluation and especially the risk of overfishing occurring.

Time and Place: The workshop will be held 1:00 pm, Monday, February 22 through 1:00 pm Friday, February 26, 2010, in Charlotte NC.

SEDAR Procedural Workshop: Characterizing Uncertainty

Terms of Reference

Review and discuss past approaches to characterizing and presenting uncertainty in stock assessments and projection analyses conducted under the SEDAR process.

Review and discuss alternative approaches to characterizing and presenting uncertainty in stock assessments and projection analyses, including those utilized in other regions.

Discuss the sources of uncertainty which require consideration in the stock assessment process. Sources may include implementation uncertainty, within model uncertainty, inter-model uncertainties. Make recommendations on which sources of uncertainty to consider for future SEDAR stock assessments and projection analyses.

Recommend approaches for representing uncertainty in the assessment documentation and expressing confidence in estimated parameters. Discuss both inter- and intra-model uncertainty. Include guidance for different model classes.

Review and discuss uncertainty estimates needed for management, specifically addressing the needs for each council's ABC control rules and ACT determinations. Make recommendations on which uncertainty estimates should be included in future SEDAR stock assessments and projection analyses.

Provide recommendations on best use of uncertainty characterization and recommendation methods such as P* analysis, risk evaluation approaches, PSA.

Prepare a SEDAR procedures document addressing these recommendations that will be used to guide future SEDAR assessments and projection analyses.

SEDAR

SouthEast Data, Assessment, and Review

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
Caribbean Fishery Management Council
NOAA Fisheries Southeast Fisheries Science Center
NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Robert Mahood, Executive Director, SAFMC
FROM: Julie A. Neer, SEDAR Coordinator
DATE: September 21, 2009
RE: Council appointees for SEDAR Procedural Workshop IV – Characterizing Uncertainty

SEDAR has held several procedural workshops to allow for focused discussion on topics which have repeatedly been mentioned by participants and reviewers as requiring further discussion outside of the normal SEDAR assessment workshops. The fourth of these procedural workshops will focus on characterizing and representing uncertainty within stock assessments conducted following the SEDAR process.

The Council's SSC plays a critical role in interpreting and accepting the science used for management, and as such it would be useful to have several members of the SSC participate in the workshop, which will be held February 22 – 26, 2010 in Charlotte, NC.

As the Council is responsible for appointing participants to the various SEDAR workshop panels according to South Atlantic Council SEDAR procedures, I am requesting the appointment of two SSC participants for the SEDAR Procedural Workshop on Uncertainty.

I would appreciate it if this matter could be included for discussion at your December 2009 Council meeting. Please inform me of the results of your consideration by December 21, 2009.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Julie A Neer