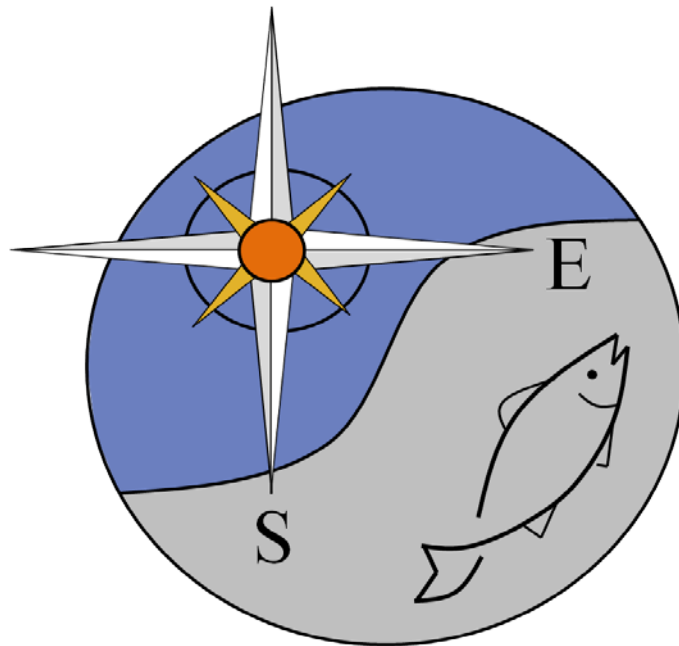


SEDAR



SEDAR Steering Committee

DRAFT Meeting Summary

January 30, 2014

Webinar Meeting

PURPOSE

This meeting is convened to:

- Finalize action from October 2013
- Determine 2015 assessment projects
- Consider long term assessment priorities

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Documents

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- Attachment 1. SEDAR Project List
- Attachment 2. Gulf Council Assessment Request
- Attachment 3. South Atlantic Council Assessment Request
- Attachment 4. SEDAR Assessment Project Details, 2013 - 2016

Attendance

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Douglass Boyd, GMFMC
Karyl Brewster-Geisz, NMFS HMS
Patrick Campfield, ASMFC
Roy Crabtree, NMFS SERO
Dave Donaldson, GSMFC
Carlos Farchette, CFMC
Doug Gregory, GMFMC
Ben Hartig, SAFMC
Bob Mahood, SAFMC
Miguel Rolon, CFMC

SEDAR STAFF

Julia Byrd
John Carmichael
Andrea Grabman
Julie Neer

OBSERVERS

Bill Arnold
Peter Barile
Michelle Duval
Bob Gill
Russell Hudson
Ryan Rindone
Carrie Simmons
Steve Turner
Steve VanderKooy
Gregg Waugh
Will Webster

1. Introduction

1.1. Documents

Agenda

Attachment 1. October 1-2, 2013, Meeting Summary

1.2. Action

Introductions

Review and Approve Agenda

2. Review of October 2013 Meeting Actions

2.1. Summary

The Steering Committee met October 1-2, 2013, in Charleston, SC. The Committee decided to withhold final action on most discussion topics due to the Federal Government shut down in effect at that time, as it prevented 3 members from attending the meeting.

Full details of the discussions are provided in the meeting summary (Attachment 1). The list that follows under Action Items summarizes the recommendations and is provided to guide discussion during this meeting, and is taken from the October meeting summary document.

2.2. Action Items

Committee Discussion and Action

Comments and recommendations offered during this meeting are included under each item in the list below. The listed items are specific recommendations from the October 2013 meeting.

1. Supported developing a new website and moving it to an outside host.

Supported by the Committee

2. Agreed that webinar participation is not practical for Data Workshops.

Supported by the Committee

3. Supported convening a Data Methods Workshop to develop data best practices guidelines for data workshops

Supported by the Committee.

Recommended including a TOR to consider whether a standing data methods workgroup should be convened, and, if so, consider membership, how the group would operate and topics to consider. Further discussion on a similar approach for assessment topics led to guidance to consider whether a single standing group, charged with data and assessment topics, should be convened.

4. Agreed that assessment webinars, as currently conducted, are proving ineffective and inefficient at addressing assessment issues. Supported developing an IPT-like process for conducting assessments, that allows analysts to interact via email or conference call with technical and constituent appointees to develop the assessment model, and through which recommendations are reviewed through 2-3 webinars or a combination of webinars and meetings

Supported by the Committee.

The Gulf Council expressed support for in-person assessment workshops. Members commented that transparency must be preserved through any process changes. SERO legal staff shall be consulted to ensure proposed changes are in compliance with applicable rules and requirements.

SEDAR staff will develop guidelines for this procedural change and report back to the Committee with a first draft at the May meeting. Final approval of any changes will be considered at the October 2014 meeting.

5. Recommended convening an Assessment Methods Workshop to develop best practices guidelines for assessments, in 2015 if funding is available.

Supported by the Committee.

Recommended including a TOR to consider whether a standing assessment methods workgroup should be convened, and, if so, consider membership, how the group would operate and topics to consider. In addition, consider whether a single standing group, charged with data and assessment topics, should be convened.

6. Supported additions to DW TORs addressing data uncertainties and obtaining reference documents addressing sampling programs and methods, to comply with revised NS2 guidelines.

Supported by the Committee.

7. Suggested adding TORs or instructions to include information on sampling targets in the DW documentation.

This topic is recommended for consideration at a future South Atlantic workshop devoted to fishery dependent sampling, to allow consideration of

more stocks and more timely recommendations than would occur if this were only addressed through SEDAR.

8. Agreed to reconsider the content and use of the Assessment Summary Report. Gulf Council representatives agreed to develop options and examples for consideration at the next meeting.

Supported by the Committee.

Gulf Council staff reported that progress is underway, and an example should be available for the May meeting.

9. Agreed that RW rapporteurs are no longer necessary.

Supported by the Committee.

10. Supported providing clarification on public comment policies for SEDAR workshops.

Supported by the Committee.

Further guidance was provided to include a specific time for oral comment on Review Workshop and Steering Committee agendas.

SEDAR staff will provide update Guidelines text for consideration at the May 2014 meeting.

11. Supported obtaining the OMB COI form for all RW reviewers, per revised NS2 guidelines. Directed SEDAR Staff to pursue various logistical issues related to this new requirement.

Supported by the Committee.

12. Recommended modifying the SEDAR guidelines to address desk reviews.

Supported by the Committee.

HMS staff will be included in the revision efforts to ensure the unique aspects of their program are addressed. Modified Guidelines will be provided for consideration at the next meeting in May 2014.

13. Supported maintaining 3 assessment classifications, considering updates the default assessment type following initial benchmarks, and updates requiring less resources than benchmarks in planning.

Supported by the Committee.

14. Supported allowing cooperators and lead assessment agencies to modify assessment plans, such as stocks to be assessed, without subsequent Steering Committee Action under limited circumstances and if specific criteria are met.

Supported by the Committee.

15. Recommended that Cooperators include desired dissemination dates and terminal data years for requested assessments.

Supported by the Committee.

16. Recommended that a representative of the FL FWCC assessment group be invited to join the Steering Committee.

This item was modified by the Committee.

Concerns were expressed that inviting FL to participate as a Steering Committee member effectively represents a policy decision that could be extended to all states within the area covered by SEDAR or Southeast stocks.

The Committee recommended that a FL FWCC representative be invited to attend Steering Committee meetings, with expenses paid by SEDAR.

The Committee also discussed inclusion of SSC chairs on the Steering Committee. Members were divided, and agreed to discuss this further at a future meeting.

3. SEDAR Assessment Schedule

3.1. Documents

Attachment 2. SEDAR Project List

Attachment 3. Gulf Council Assessment Request

Attachment 4. South Atlantic Council Assessment Request

Attachment 5. SEDAR Assessment Project Details, 2013 - 2016

3.2. Overview

Several additional documents are provided to help the Committee finalize the 2015 schedule and identify 2016 priorities. These include requests by the Gulf (Attachment 3) and South Atlantic (Attachment 4) Councils. Council requests and Steering Committee recommendations are combined in Attachment 5.

Committee Discussion and Actions

The Committee supported the staff recommendation to delay the Caribbean data limited workshop and assessments of queen conch and spiny lobster, as consequences of the delay in red hind caused by the Federal government shutdown in Fall 2013.

The Committee supported convening a review workshop addressing Atlantic red drum in August 2014, as no other stocks will be ready for review at that time.

The Committee supported the Gulf Council recommendation to ease the workload burden by conducting the 2015 assessments of vermilion snapper and gray triggerfish as standard assessments, applying the Stock Synthesis framework, and delaying scamp until sometime in the future. Vermilion snapper will begin once red snapper is complete, and gray trigger will be scheduled based on analyst availability, as yet to be determined.

The Gulf States Commission requested including an update or standard assessment of Gulf Menhaden for 2016.

The Committee discussed replacing one of the 2015 South Atlantic updates with blueline tilefish. Council guidance is required to determine which stock will be affected.

4. Other Business

The Committee accepted public comment on the topics of discussion.

5. Next Meetings

The Committee suggested meeting in conjunction with the CCC in May, 2014. The CCC meeting will be held May 13-15, 2014, in Virginia Beach, VA. Meeting on Monday, May 12 will limit the Steering Committee to one day and require travel on Sunday.

Committee Discussion and Actions

The Committee requested that the next meeting be held via Webinar, in May 2014, followed by an in-person meeting in late September 2014.

6. Adjourn

Table 1. Assessment Project Schedule and Details 2013 - 2016, based on Steering Committee recommendations of January 2014.

Start Year	SEDAR #	Stocks	Type	Terminal Data	SEDAR Concluded (dissemination)
2013	33	Gulf gag and gr. amberjack	Benchmark	2012	March 2014
	35	Caribbean red hind	Benchmark	2012	September 2014
	U	FL mutton snapper	Update	2012	April 2014
	37	FL Hogfish	Benchmark	2013	June 2014
	38	King mackerel	Benchmark	2012	August 2014
2014					
	39	HMS Smoothhound complexes	Benchmark	2012	April 2015
	40	Atl. menhaden	Review	2012	January 2015
	41	SA Red snapper and gray triggerfish	Benchmark	2013	August 1, 2015
	42	Gulf red grouper	Benchmark	2013	August 2015
	U	Gulf red snapper	Update	2013	December 2014
	U	SA Gag	Update	2012	April 15, 2014
2015		Atlantic red drum	Review	2013	September 15 2015
		FL Black grouper	Update	2014	April 2015
		Gulf Vermilion & Gray Trigger	Standard	2014	TBD
		Gulf red snapper	Standard	2014	December 2015
		Caribbean data limited	Benchmark	2013	TBD
		SA Scamp & Gray Snapper	Benchmark	2015	April 2016
		SA Golden Tilefish	Update	2014	October 1, 2015
		SA Red grouper	Update	2014	October 1, 2015
		SA Vermilion snapper	Update	2014	October 1, 2015
		HMS SA blacktip	Benchmark	2013	
2016	ITEMS BELOW THIS POINT ARE TENTATIVE - TO BE FINALIZED BY STEERING COMMITTEE, October 2014				
		Caribbean queen conch, spiny lobster	Benchmark	2014	
		SA red porgy	Benchmark	2014	October 1, 2016
		Atlantic Croaker	Review	2014	
		Gulf Menhaden	Std or Update	2015	
		Gulf red drum	Benchmark	2015	
		Gulf yellowedge grouper	Standard	2015	
		Gulf gray snapper	Benchmark	2015	
		Caribbean Grunts	Benchmark	2015	
		Gulf greater amberjack			
		Gulf gag			
		FL Yellowtail snapper	Update	2015	April 2016