

SEDAR Procedural Workshop: Indices

Overview:

Measures of population abundance are critical to developing adequate and reliable quantitative stock assessments. Given the complexity of developing indices of abundance and determining which indices may be useful for use in stock assessments, and that SEDAR independent peer review panels have commented that objective and consistent criteria for evaluating indices are currently lacking, a 4 day workshop will be convened to gather key members of the SEDAR assessment community to prepare a guide to index development and evaluation.

Scope of Work:

Participants will produce summaries and/or documents of various issues to be discussed prior to the workshop and participant in the development of the final report during and after the meeting.

Objectives of the workshop:

- Provide minimum requirements and an expected format for submission of SEDAR data workshop documents concerning development of abundance indices
- Discuss and document factors that need to be addressed when developing indices of abundance, relative to their information source:
 - Fishery independent factors may include: survey objectives, sampling design, species targeted, life stage of target species at time of sampling, time of year of survey, areas where surveys are conducted, length of time series
 - Fishery dependent factors may include: species targeted (including data reduction techniques), life stage of target species at time of fishery prosecution, effects of data reporting errors, time of year of fishery prosecution, areas where fishery is prosecuted, length of time series, regulation and closure effects
- Determine criteria for selecting indices for inclusion in the assessment model given that they meet the minimum requirements set forth by the group
- Provide appendices containing generalized computer code for developing abundance indices.

The major deliverable of this workshop will be a document providing guidelines for indices development and objective criteria for assessing the usefulness of individual indices for stock

SEDAR Procedural Workshop: Indices

assessment purposes. This document will be made available to all participants of future SEDAR workshops, along with other interested parties, to aid in both indices development and selection.