

## **SEDAR Procedural Workshop: Catchability Statement of Work**

### **Overview:**

Due to a paucity of fishery-independent monitoring information, stock assessments of Southeastern fisheries resources conducted through SEDAR rely heavily on evaluating fishery-dependent data sources to detect changes in abundance over time. Recently, assessment methods were developed that allowed for relaxation of the constant catchability assumption typically used when analyzing fishery dependent catch per unit effort (CPUE) information. While both assessment scientists and participating constituent representatives agree it is highly unlikely that catchability has remained constant, agreeing on best practices to incorporate time-varying catchability changes remains a challenge.

SEDAR will convene a workshop including representatives from Federal and state agencies, non-governmental organizations, Council technical and constituent advisors, and university researchers to evaluate methods for including time-varying catchability in SEDAR stock assessments.

### **Objectives of the workshop:**

- Develop recommendations for incorporating catchability changes in SEDAR assessments,
- Recommend criteria for consideration when modeling catchability for individual species or fisheries.
- Prepare a SEDAR procedures document addressing these recommendations that will be used to guide future SEDAR assessments.

Academic and science agency participants will conduct a literature search to investigate how catchability issues have been addressed in other fisheries, areas, and countries.

Constituent representatives will contribute their first-hand knowledge of fishing methods, and how they may have changed over time, including how gear and navigation advancements may have changed their ability to catch fish.

Management agency staff will review and document regulatory histories for species and fisheries, with particular attention paid to snapper-grouper.

Analysts will use this information to identify significant changes catchability, determine when such changes occurred, and develop a plausible range for the magnitude of change and recommend how to best model those changes in future SEDAR assessments.