

A second SEDAR 41 Post Data Workshop webinar was held Thursday, September 11, 2014 to discuss outstanding data issues. Discussion topics are summarized in the list below. Details on the commercial and life history discussions will be available in the SEDAR 41 Post DW 2 webinar summary. Details on the headboat data discussion are outlined below.

SEDAR 41 Webinar Discussion Topics

Commercial

- Kept discards

Life History

- Red snapper spawning frequency and fraction
- Gray triggerfish ageing and maturity
- Analyses pending gray triggerfish ageing decision

Headboat Data

- Accuracy of early data

Issue: Reports of inaccuracies in the early years of headboat data

A working paper, SEDAR41-DW40, was submitted after the Data Workshop (8/27) and raised two primary issues: 1) accuracy in the early years of headboat data as it pertains to the red snapper headboat index (pre-1992) and 2) changes in regulations in 1992 and 2010 that altered headboat fishery behavior. The second issue was discussed during the DW plenary and was the primary reason the panel made the recommendation to split the red snapper headboat index into two time series (1976-1991 and 1992-2009). Both red snapper headboat indices were recommended for use in the assessment by the Index Working Group and by the full DW panel. Indices from the headboat data were ranked third among all the indices recommended for use, first among the indices from fishery dependent data. The first issue was not discussed during the DW plenary and was brought to the panel for feedback on the second Post Data Workshop webinar (9/11).

The Data Workshop panel noted that the issue of misreporting in the headboat logbook program would affect both the headboat indices and landings data for red snapper and gray triggerfish. Panelists noted these reports of inaccuracies would potentially impact all species caught by the headboat fishery and could have impacts on all future snapper grouper assessments. The nature and prevalence (temporally and spatially) of the headboat misreporting are currently unknown. The panel agreed that this was a serious issue that warranted further investigation and had a lengthy discussion on how this issue could potentially be addressed for this assessment. The options discussed on the webinar are outlined below followed by the panel's recommendations.

1) Stop, investigate headboat misreporting issue, delay assessments for both SEDAR 41 species, and potentially all snapper grouper species

Uncertainty or error associated with headboat misreporting issue is unknown; in order to address this issue need to know nature and prevalence of misreporting; this is the only option that will get to the root of the issue; length of delay unknown and will be dependent on the process used to address issue

2) Recommend NOT using the 1976-1991 red snapper headboat index in the assessment model

Option only addresses the headboat index not headboat landings; cannot fully address this issue without addressing all data associated with headboat logbooks

3) Start red snapper assessment in 1992 (or other year?), look at overfishing not overfished status

Bulk of historical landings for red snapper occur in 1960-70 for the commercial fishery; if start assessment in 1992 will be missing large amount of removals from the population; could potentially affect assessment passing review; starting in 1992 would not allow assessment to use other credible sources of data available pre-1992

4) Use plenary recommendations 'as is'

Does not address the claims (inaccuracies in early headboat data) which have been raised in previous SEDAR assessments and through SEDAR41-DW40; could potentially affect assessment getting through review process

5) Expand headboat index CV's, run sensitivity removing early time series headboat index (similar to what was done in SEDAR 25 for black seabass)

Option only addresses headboat index not headboat landings; data not available to quantify how to adjust the CV's; changes in CV would have to be based on expert opinion; change in CV only addresses one type of potential inaccuracy in reporting when there may be biases that an increased CV alone cannot address

6) Expand CV in headboat index (1976-1992) and headboat landings

Data not available to quantify how to adjust the CV's for either the index or landings; changes in CV would have to be based on expert opinion; change in CV only addresses one type of potential inaccuracy in reporting when there may be biases that an increased CV alone cannot address; the validity of this approach (expanding CV's) to address the issue will depend on the nature of the misreporting, which at this time, is unknown

7) Remove headboat logbooks entries identified as inaccurate?

Difficult to determine how to identify which reports are inaccurate; identification and removal of these records would likely be a lengthy process; not enough information on the extent of misreporting to do this effectively

8) Use historic landings CV for headboat landings through 1992 (or another year?)

Headboat landings data were used in calculations of historic landings and CV; if question reliability of headboat data in general, likely need to revisit methods used for this calculation; change in CV only

addresses one type of potential inaccuracy in reporting when there may be biases that an increased CV alone cannot address

9) Use method to calculate historic recreational landings to calculate headboat landings pre 1991

Method used to calculate historic landings was done for the recreational sector as a whole, not by mode; may not be possible to use this method on a single mode; headboat logbook data used in calculations for historic recreational landings and CV; fishermen noted at the data workshop that regulatory changes in 1992 changed headboat fishery behavior and targeting; using the same method to calculate historical landings would apply a CPUE post 1992 back in time which would likely be inappropriate due to the noted changes in headboat fishery behavior

10) Push decision until next webinar (Sept. 26), try to gather additional information in interim to inform decision

Panel discussed what type of information could be provided in the allotted time; suggestion to explore the ratio of commercial to headboat landings to examine recall bias between the voluntary and mandatory reporting years; panel noted this analysis alone would likely not be able to provide enough information to make decision; likely not able to provide enough new information in the next two weeks to better inform decision; in order to address this issue need to know nature and prevalence of misreporting and two weeks is not enough time to do that

DW Panel Recommendation:

Option 1) Stop, investigate headboat misreporting issue, delay assessments for both species; length of delay is unknown until have more details on how to resolve this issue; could have implications for all snapper grouper assessments in South Atlantic and potentially Gulf of Mexico

DW Panel Recommendation:

High priority should be given to a workshop (or other means) to address headboat misreporting issue (could be SEDAR Procedural Workshop).