

**FINAL**  
**SUMMARY REPORT**  
**SEDAR COMMITTEE**  
**SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**  
**Jekyll Island, GA**  
**March 7, 2019**

The Committee approved minutes from the December 2018 meeting and the agenda for this meeting.

**Assessment Projects update**

The Committee was provided an overview of ongoing assessment projects. At this meeting the report primarily addressed schedule changes resulting from the federal government shutdown. The request to cancel the workshop associated with the Red Porgy assessment was not supported due to concerns with the MRIP data that are detailed below. The Committee supported convening a joint review of the King Mackerel assessment update with the GMFMC SSC.

There was extensive discussion of MRIP data concerns raised during the recent SSC webinar meeting to review the MRIP revision assessments and the SEDAR Greater Amberjack assessment webinar. Although the SSC meeting report is not yet available, John Carmichael briefed the Committee on issues raised by the SSC concerning the magnitude, associated uncertainty, and possible bias of the revised estimates. Similar issues raised the following day during a SEDAR Greater Amberjack webinar were also noted. Additionally, the Committee was provided a letter from the FL FWCC addressing their concerns regarding the plausibility of the MRIP effort estimates generated by the Fishing Effort Survey (FES). Dr. Clay Porch of the SEFSC reported that the agency was working on a white paper comparing CHTS and FES and other surveys and addressing Best Scientific Information Available. It was noted that resolving issues related to bias and magnitude of the FES and MRIP catch estimates will likely require further research and surveying, and therefore will not be accomplished in the near future.

The Committee agreed that addressing how to best incorporate the revised MRIP data in stock assessments and development of management recommendations was a critical issue that needed to be addressed even if doing so results in delays to planned assessments. The Committee supported convening an SSC workshop, including other state and federal participants, to address the SSC's uncertainty in the FES and estimation process, identify specific concerns and issues with the estimates and develop an approach for using the revised estimates in stock assessments and developing fishing level recommendations. The SSC will be asked to develop Terms of Reference for the workshop at the April meeting. State representatives were asked to provide a letter addressing their specific MRIP concerns to the Council by April 5 for consideration by the SSC.

**SEDAR Steering Committee**

The Committee was informed that the SEDAR Steering Committee would meet May 16-17, 2019 to review current projects and finalize the 2020 work plan. Given that efforts to address MRIP data concerns will delay current assessment plans, no further guidance was provided for the Steering Committee representatives.

## **MOTIONS**

**MOTION #1.** MOVE TO DIRECT STAFF TO ORGANIZE AN SSC WORKSHOP TO IDENTIFY MRIP DATA CONCERNS ACROSS THE SOUTH ATLANTIC, IDENTIFY SPECIFIC UNCERTAINTIES OR POTENTIAL BIAS, AND DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW TO PROCEED IN THE SHORT TERM FOR USING THE DATA IN STOCK ASSESSMENTS, IN DEVELOPING ABC RECOMMENDATIONS, AND EVALUATING ACLS. INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES FROM EACH STATE, MRIP/S&T, AND SEFSC.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

**MOTION #2.** MOVE TO APPROVE THE KING MACKEREL ASSESSMENT TERMS OF REFERENCE.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

### **Timing and Tasks**

**Motion #3.** MOVE TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING TASKS:

- COORDINATE WITH THE GMFMC TO ENABLE A JOINT SSC REVIEW OF THE KING MACKEREL UPDATE IN 2020.
- INCLUDE DISCUSSION OF THE PROPOSED SSC MRIP WORKSHOP ON THE AGENDA FOR THE APRIL 2019 SSC MEETING.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL