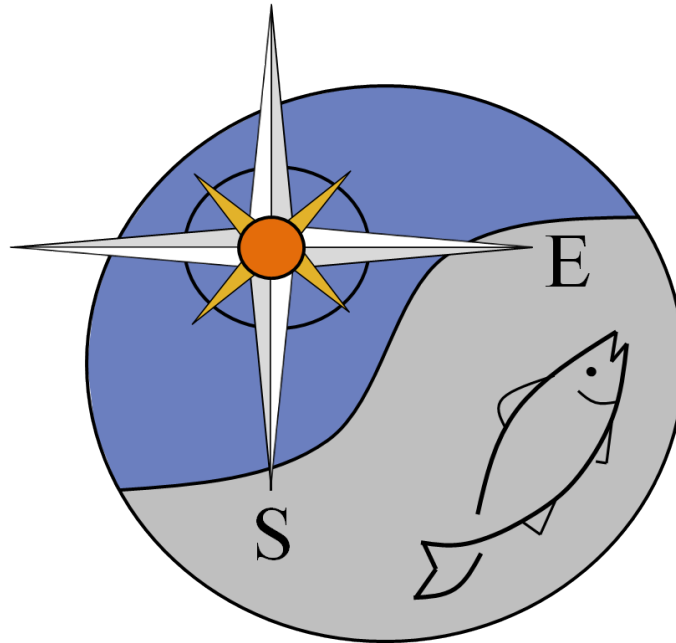


SEDAR



SEDAR Steering Committee

Meeting Report

DRAFT

May 20-21, 2020

Meeting via Webinar

Version: Draft 1

5/26/2020

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Attachment 6: SEDAR Projects List

Attachment 7: Modifications to the Project Planning Grid from the September 2019 Steering Committee report

Attachment 8: Procedural Workshop Pre-proposal – Best Practices for Combining Index of Abundance Surveys

Attendance

COMMITTEE MEMEBERS

SEDAR STAFF

WEBINAR OBSERVERS

John Froeschke GMFMC Staff
Mel Bell, SAFMC
Julia Byrd, SAFMC Staff
Skyler Sagarese, SEFSC
Steve Vanderkooy, GSMFC

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Meeting Outcomes Summary

SEDAR Project Priorities

- Approved project priorities for 2022 as shown in Table 1.
- Requested Cooperators provide Scopes of Work for 2023 assessments to the SEFSC by October 15th, 2020. The SEFSC will provide feedback to the Cooperators by February 1st, 2021. These projects will be considered for approval at the Spring 2021 meeting.
 - SAFMC: Tilefish, Snowy Grouper

SEDAR Process review and Discussion

Other Business Topics

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Table 1: SEDAR Project Planning Grid – Meeting Outcome: May 2020 SEDAR Steering Committee

Table Color Legend:

Steering Committee Approved and SEFSC Scheduled Projects				FUTURE Requests										
Steering Committee Approved, PENDING SEFSC SCHEDULING				2022 Proposed Projects										
YEAR	SA Team				Gulf/Caribbean Team					HMS Team		FL FWCC	ASMFC GSMFC	CMP
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	1	2			
2020	Scamp RT	Snowy Grouper U	Gag Grouper OA	Tilefish OA	Scamp RT	GAJ OA	Vermilion OA	Cobia U		Atlantic Blacktip Benchmark				King U
2021		Red Snapper OA											Gag Grouper OA	
2022	Scamp OA		Black Sea Bass OA	Spanish Mackerel OA	Scamp OA	Red Snapper RT		Red Snapper RT	Queen Trigger PR-STX-STT OA	Hammerheads RT	Mutton Bench		Gulf Menhaden OA	
2023	Gray Triggerfish RT	Red Grouper OA	Vermilion OA	Blueline Tilefish OA	Yellowedge OA				Queen snap@PR, redtail parrot@STX					
2024		Snowy Grouper/ Tilefish	White Grunt RT		Lane Snapper OA?	Tilefish Complex OA?	Gray Triggerfish RT	Red Snapper OA	Vermilion OA	Lane@PR, YTS		Hogfish Bench		
2025												Black Grouper Bench?	ASFMC Red Drum (PR) / Gulf Menhaden OA	
2026														

Timing of projects shown in this table is approximate and is intended for SEDAR Steering Committee workload planning purposes only. Please consult individual project schedules for specific start and end dates.

1 Introduction

1.1 Documents

- Agenda
- Attachment 1. September 2019 Draft Meeting Summary

1.2 Action

- Introduction
- Review and Approve Agenda
- Approve Meeting Summary

MEETING OUTCOME

Other Business was modified to include a discussion on formatting and timing of the Statements of Work for Operational Assessments and Gulf Shrimp Stock Assessment Review.

2 SEDAR Projects Report

2.1 Documents

Attachment 2. SEDAR Projects Update April 2020

2.2 Summary

The projects report (Attachment 2) provides a summary of current and recently completed SEDAR assessment projects.

Highlighted project developments:

- COVID-19 Impacts to ongoing projects:
 - Fortunately, only SEDAR 68 – Scamp assessment has been impacted by delays due to COVID-19. The Data Workshop was scheduled for March 16-20, 2020 but was cancelled due to the restrictions on large gatherings and the concern of many participants with regards to travel. The modified data review process for S68 is discussed in more detail below.
 - Several SEDAR projects will be getting underway in the next few months, and it remains to be seen if modifications to those schedules will need to be made as a result of the disruption.
- SEDAR 68 Scamp Data Review and Recommendation Process: After the cancellation of the in-person DW, and the mounting evidence that it would be some time before any sort of large gathering would be possible, SEDAR and SEFSC Staff held discussions to determine a path forward, followed by additional discussions with the previously-appointed working group leads. The following process is currently underway:

- Working Groups (Life History, Commercial Statistics, Recreational Statistics, and Indices of Abundance) worked amongst themselves to schedule and held various meetings to review the available data and make pre-decisional recommendations.
- Several publicly-noticed Data Plenary webinars will be held, during which the Working Groups will present the results of the discussions to the entire Data Panel for review and comment.
- If concerns are raised that require additional analysis, the Working Group will be tasked to complete that request and report back at the next Plenary webinar.
- Once the Panel is satisfied with the analyses, then the Assessment Development Team (ADT) will make the final decision regarding recommending using the data in the assessment. These recommendations will happen during the Plenary webinars.
- A Data Process Report will be produced, to document the discussions and decisions of the Panel and the ADT.

MEETING OUTCOME

It was requested that the following text be added to the report for the SEDAR Project Updates:

The SEFSC informed the Gulf Council at its January 2020 Council meeting that they were unable to complete the SEDAR 62 standard assessment of Gulf gray triggerfish. The SEFSC recommended a Research Track assessment approach and thought that an interim analysis may be possible in the near term.

2.3 Action

- Informational; none required

3 SEDAR Process Review and Discussion

3.1 Documents

Attachment 3. Summary of current Research Track and Operational Assessment procedures

Attachment 4. SEDAR Assessment Project Priorities and Timing

3.2 Summary

Update on SEDAR 68 – Scamp Research Track (RT) Pilot Process

- Stock ID Process: The Stock ID process, conducted via webinars, was successful. Three Working Groups (Life History, Genetics, and Landings and Spatial Movements) worked to review material pertinent to their working group and provided pre-decisional recommendations for the entire Stock ID Panel to consider during publicly-noticed webinars. The Panel completed a report of their findings which can be found on the

SEDAR website.

(http://sedarweb.org/docs/wpapers/S68_SID_05_Stock_ID_Final_Report.pdf)

- Assessment Development Team issues: The ADT component of the Research Track process was implemented to ensure there was a core group of individuals who were involved and responsible for the decision-making in all stages of the assessment process, in the hopes of having some consistency between stages. While identifying individuals willing to serve on the ADT was initially not a challenge, having the appointees actually be available to participate has become difficult. The RT process is very long, and other responsibilities are making it difficult for ADT members to fulfill their roles.
- Technical Chair Issues: From the May 2019 Steering Committee Final Report:

The Committee supported assigning a scientist to chair the research track process. One individual will chair the DW through AW stages of the research track. The Chair will be recommended by the research track planning team and appointed by the lead analytical agency (e.g., SEFSC or FL FWCC). Peer Reviews will be chaired by an SSC representative, per current practices.

There was some difficulty finding a Technical Chair for SEDAR 68. Participants were reluctant to agree to serve as Chair through multiple stages of the process. A member of the ADT ultimately agreed to Chair the Data portion of the process, and the lead analysts agreed to serve as Chairs for their respective assessments but all have expressed the concern of how difficult it is to be fully engaged in the discussions while running the meeting. The scope of the duties of the Technical Chair, or perhaps how the Technical Chair is selected, may need to be reconsidered.

Discussion on the nature and direction of Operational Assessments

A summary of the current process for Operational Assessments (OA) not associated with a Research Track can be found in Attachment 3. This process is fairly flexible, allowing OAs to range in scope from the simple addition of more years of data where the assessment is conducted basically “in-house” by the Center (most similar to the previous Updates) to a much more involved process which allows for the inclusion of new data, new methods, assessment panels and in-person meetings and webinars, all open to the public.

The SEFSC provides the following clarification regarding OAs:

- The SEFSC is responsible for preparing Operational Assessments and managing the technical aspects of them, including data acquisition and model development.
- Unless there is a justified reason for a more complex approach and changes in the model, Operational Assessments should primarily include updating the existing assessment framework with the most recent data and only minor modifications in the framework and supporting information.
- The scope of OAs may be expanded to include additional datasets, changes in model structure, and incorporation of new information on the species or fishery *as requested by the SSC* if the SEFSC agrees they are necessary to ensure the assessment is best available science and can be reasonable accommodated with available resources.

- Operational Assessments will not include ‘Assessment Panels’ as previously defined through SEDAR. Instead, “Topical Working Groups” will be appointed by the Cooperators as needed to address specific items identified in the SoWs of a given OA and provide guidance to the lead analysts. As noted in the first bullet, the SEFSC is responsible for making technical decisions regarding the assessment.
- SEFSC will provide a Project Manager for each OA that it conducts. The Project Manager will be responsible for coordinating SEFSC tasks and all data management for that assessment.
- At the completion of each assessment (OA or RT), a summary page listing all data sets included in the assessment, along with the contact information for who provided the analysis, will be compiled. This will be the source of data information for the next assessment.
- SEDAR will continue to serve a liaison between the Cooperators and the lead assessment agencies. It will manage administrative items such as Statements of Work, Terms of Reference, Topical Working Group appointments, and website postings. In the rare event that an OA requires public webinars or in-person meetings, SEDAR Coordinators will handle those arrangements.

Table. Comparison of key components of OA Process currently in place and modifications proposed by the SEFSC

Component	Current Process	Modifications
Project Management	SEDAR	SEFSC
Assessment Panel	Yes	Topical Working Groups
Webinars/meetings	Yes/Occasionally	Few/Topical

3.3 Action

Discuss clarifications to the nature, timing, or approach to Operational Assessments not associated with Research Track assessments.

MEETING OUTCOME

Update on Scamp Pilot Research Track Process

The Committee did not have any advice regarding the difficulty of retaining ADT members for the scamp assessment. It was noted that the Scamp assessment schedule has been impacted by both the 2019 Federal shutdown and COVID-19 impacts, so this issue may not be a problem for future Research Tracks.

The issue of finding a Technical Chair received much discussion.

OA Process

4 Assessment Schedule Review

4.1 Documents

Attachment 5. Cooperator SoWs

Attachment 6. SEDAR Projects List

Attachment 7. Modifications to the Project Planning Grid from the September 2019 Steering Committee report.

4.2 Summary

The SEFSC requested that each cooperator provide a SoW for the 2021 operational assessments (Attachment 5). SEFSC will report on the SOWs and workload outlook, and the Committee is asked to finalize priorities for 2022 and recommend priorities for 2023.

ASFMC Schedule Request Modifications: ASFMC has requested to push the Atlantic red drum assessment review back until 2024 and conduct an update of Atlantic menhaden in 2022.

SAFMC Schedule Modification: The SEFSC informed the South Atlantic Council at its March 2020 meeting that they would be able to complete the SA red snapper operational assessment by the April 2021 SSC meeting, earlier than originally predicted. This shift in completion date was in response to the redefining of the items contained in the SoW.

Priorities for 2020 – 2023 are shown in Table 2. Due to potential COVID-19 disruptions to assessment schedules for the 2020 projects, it was agreed to postpone the SEDAR-SEFSC Scheduling Call for the 2021 projects (originally scheduled for April) until June.

4.3 Action

- Finalize 2022 Projects
- Recommend 2023 Priorities
- Consider long-term priorities
- Verify date for submitting 2023 Scopes of Work to SEFSC: March 1, 2021

MEETING OUTCOME

The Committee reviewed future assessment project priorities and finalized assessment projects for 2022. Recommendations are shown in Table 1, found at the front of this report with the summarized findings and recommendations.

2022 Workplan

Chair Porch indicated that analytical resources are adequate for the requested projects., but there acknowledged that projects or timing may need to be modified given the unknowns regarding the potential future impacts COVID -19. However, at this time the plan appears feasible and was approved for further development of project milestones and schedules.

2023 Workplan

The Committee identified preliminary projects for 2023. These will be finalized at the Spring 2021 meeting. Cooperators were requested to provide statements of work for all potential 2023 operational assessments to the SEFSC by October 15, 2020.

Future Priorities and Workload Planning

Cooperators are requested to identify their assessment priorities for 2024-2026 for further consideration and discussion at the Fall 2020 Steering Committee meeting. Although interim analyses are not a SEDAR project, they will need to be considered in SEFSC workload planning.

5 Other Business

- Procedural Workshop Pre-proposal – Best Practices for Combining Index of Abundance Surveys

Objective: To streamline future reef-fish assessments by defining best practices for generating indices of relative abundance and size composition that incorporate data from multiple surveys and account for survey changes through time.

Attachment 8: Pre-proposal summary

- SEDAR Methods Working Group/Workshop – Shrimp Assessment Process Review

The SEFSC is conducting an in-depth review of several components of the Gulf of Mexico shrimp assessments. The Center believes a SEDAR Methods Working Group could be beneficial for summarizing the individual review components. A CIE desk review may be requested.

MEETING OUTCOME

Procedural Workshop Pre-proposal – Best Practices for Combining Index of Abundance Surveys

The Committee supported the Indices Pre-proposal and would welcome a full proposal be prepared for the Fall Meeting. They suggested that more thought be given to being more inclusion for participants and topics outside of the Gulf of Mexico to justify SEDAR support.

SEDAR Methods Working Group/Workshop – Shrimp Assessment Process Review

Shrimp Research/Assessment Plan



Format and Timing of Statements for Work for Operational Assessments

Proposed Format

Species:

Shadow Shark

Model and Additional Data Years:

- Prior Assessment: SE Shadow Shark SEDAR 99
- Prior Terminal Year: 2026
- OA Terminal Year: 2030/2031, adding 4-5 years of new data, depending on the chosen terminal year.)
- Apply the current SUPRA configuration.

Requested Data Updates (Please be as specific as possible):

- Include any new and updated information on life history, discard mortality, and steepness.
- Explore using appropriate CVs for the landings data to capture the uncertainty in the model results.
- Evaluate sensitivity runs with differing amounts of recruitment coming from outside the system to account for the possibility of transport of larvae and adults from the Caribbean.

Requested Model Modification to previously approved assessment (Please be as specific as possible):

- Modification Request 1:
- Modification request 2:

Is a Topical Working Group Needed?: Yes or No

If Yes, Topical Working Group Topics:

- Topic 1:
- Topic 2:

Suggested Topical Working Group Process:

Webinars/workshops?

Proposed Timing

- Assessment Species are approved at Spring SEDAR Steering Committee Meeting (ex. May 2020)
- Cooperators use their process to develop SoWs
- Initial Cooperator-approved SoWs submitted to SEFSC by October 15th (15 Oct 2020 in this example)
- SEFSC provides feedback to Cooperators via memo no later than February 1st (1 February 2021 in this example)
- Cooperators/Technical review bodies review feedback and negotiate final SoWs with SEFSC
- Final SoWs provided to SEDAR Program Manager by May 1st. (1 May 2021)

6 Next Meeting

The Committee is asked to make a scheduling recommendation and suggest topics for the next meeting. Based on past practices, this meeting would be a webinar-based meeting in September 2020. Given the need to conduct the current (May 2020) meeting via webinar, the Committee could consider an in-person meeting in Charleston, SC for the September 2020 meeting.

MEETING OUTCOME

The Committee was in favor of the next SEDAR Steering Committee meeting be held via webinar. Due to a variety of meetings already scheduled for that month, the Committee is looking at the week of August 31st and September 28th. A doodle poll will be sent to the Committee to determine the exact dates.