



# SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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## OVERVIEW

### SEDAR Committee

Renaissance Orlando Airport Hotel  
5445 Forbes Place  
Orlando, FL  
*Second Briefing Book Version*

Items to be addressed at this meeting: (1) SEDAR activities update, (2) SSC ORCS Workshop, (3) SAFMC Research Plan, and (4) Steering Committee guidance.

1. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Committee last met March 2012.

3. **SEDAR ACTIVITIES**

The assessment process is underway for SEDAR 28, South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico cobia and Spanish mackerel. The Data Workshop was held February 6-10, 2012, in Charleston, and the Assessment Workshop May 7-11 in Miami. Due to inadequate progress on assessment models, the Review Workshop planned for August 6-10 will be delayed, until October 29 - November 2. This will prevent review of this assessment by the SSC at their meeting held earlier in October. SSC review of these assessments can be delayed until the next meeting, expected following the March 2013 Council meeting, or the Council can request a special SSC meeting to review these assessments and provide recommendations by the December or March 2012 meetings.

Update assessments are underway for vermilion snapper and red porgy. Completion is anticipated in time for review by the SSC in October 2012.

*Insertion: SEDAR collaborated with NOAA staff and the MRIP program to convene an MRFSS/MRIP Calibration Workshop, March 27-29, 2012, in Raleigh NC. Calibration procedures were recommended, and a subgroup of workshop participants are currently developing calibration values. Calibrated catch estimates are expected to be available by July 1, 2012. See Attachment 5 for a summary of workshop outcomes.*

The current SEDAR project schedule is provided (Attachment 1). This version reflects actions taken by the Steering Committee during its May 18 meeting.

**ACTION:** Recommend timing for SSC review of SEDAR 28 assessments.

#### **4. SSC ORCS WORKSHOP**

The SSC reviewed the "ORCS" (Only Reliable Catch Stocks) report (Attachment 2) and recommended that the ABC control rule be modified to adopt its practices for developing ABCs for unassessed stocks. A workshop will be held August 1-3, 2012, where the SSC will apply the ORCS metrics to unassessed stocks, to provide the qualitative status level, and develop appropriate catch measures. Modifications to the ABC control rule, reflecting the methods derived to incorporate the ORCS approaches, will also be developed during the workshop. Workshop timing was chosen to allow the work to be completed and available to the SSC in October to support ABC recommendations. Luiz Barbieri will provide the Committee an overview of the approach and the planned workshop. The following background is provided to help the Committee understand the ORCS approach and need for Council guidance on risk levels.

Key components of the ORCS approach are a metrics table that provides a qualitative status level for each stock based on evaluation of a number of characteristics or metrics, a measure of catch that provides a starting reference value, and a scalar (i.e. multiplier) value that determines ABC from the reference catch measure and status level. The SSC workshop will provide status classification and catch measure.

Scalar values are the final component needed to derive ABC per the ORCS approach. The scalar value is a multiplier applied to the historic catch measure. It therefore determines the amount by which ABC is greater or less than the historic catch. Because the scalar determines ABC's deviation from the historical trend, the SSC notes that risk tolerance is strongly involved when choosing a scalar value, and therefore recommends that scalar values be determined by the Council. For example, if a stock is scored as 'lightly exploited' by the metrics table, the ORCS approach suggests ABC could be twice the observed catch measure. The SSC does not support a single scalar value for each status level, and instead recommends that a range be provided. Further, the SSC recommends that the Council should establish a scalar that reflects the degree to which it is comfortable in allowing future catches to increase over the reference catch measure.

The ORCS report suggests scalars of 2x the catch statistic for lightly exploited stocks, 1x the statistic for moderately exploited stocks, and 0.5x the statistic for heavily exploited stocks. The SSC recommends that these specific values be replaced by a range from which the Council can select the appropriate stock-specific risk level.

**ACTION:** Provide guidance on determining appropriate risk levels (scalar values) for unassessed stocks.

#### **5. SAFMC RESEARCH PRIORITIZATION PLAN**

The Reauthorized MSA required that Councils prepare and submit 5-year prioritized research plans that NOAA Fisheries will use in developing research and monitoring plans. The Council is asked annually to review and approve the research plan prepared in response to this requirement (Attachment 3). The SSC reviewed and commented on this version at its last meeting in April 2012.

**ACTION:** Review and approve the 2012-16 research plan.

6. **STEERING COMMITTEE GUIDANCE**

The Steering Committee will meet via webinar on May 18, 2012.

Topics to discuss include the assessment schedule for 2014 and the SEDAR process. The Committee will be briefed on Steering Committee actions and recommendations (Attachment 4).

ACTION: Provide recommendations for the Steering Committee

7. **OTHER BUSINESS**

8. **TIMING AND TASKS MOTION**

9. **ADJOURN**