

SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

SEDAR COMMITTEE

**DoubleTree by Hilton Atlantic Beach Oceanfront
Atlantic Beach, NC**

December 7, 2017

SUMMARY MINUTES

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Ben Hartig

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Nik Mehta
Dr. Cisco Werner

Dr. Jack McGovern
Dr. Bonnie Ponwith
Dale Diaz
Erika Bures
Rick DeVactor

Other observers and participants attached.

The SEDAR Committee of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council convened in open session at the DoubleTree by Hilton Atlantic Beach Oceanfront, Atlantic Beach, North Carolina, Thursday morning, December 7, 2017, and was called to order by Chairman Charlie Phillips.

MR. CARMICHAEL: Our next step would be the SSC Report, and Marcel had to leave early, unfortunately, yesterday, but I will draw your attention to the attachment, the agenda and overview, and Item 2 is the SSC Report. The SSC had probably more discussion about SEDAR at this last meeting than any meeting that I can remember in many, many years, and they made a lot of recommendations.

Some of that was they had a number of topics to review, assessment schedules and terms of reference, but you had also made some requests to them about considering assessment type for some future assessments, and they had some discussions on the terms of reference and the recommendation, for example, to include a term of reference that is in the ones that we are proposing here for the red porgy and greater amberjack, where they review, evaluate, and report on the status and progress of all research recommendations listed in the last assessment, peer review reports, and SSC reports.

Our assumption is that you approve it for these assessments and this would be something that we would start to work into all of our terms of reference in the future, but they had a lot of SEDAR discussion, and one thing we're planning for their next meeting is to have a bit of an orientation, to talk about the SSC process as well as to give them a refresher on the SEDAR process and policies and how assessments are selected and how the type is selected and things of that nature, because we do have a lot of new members on the SSC. I think that wraps up the SSC issues.

Then, Charlie, the next item was to request your approval for the terms of reference and schedules, and this is Attachment 2, for greater amberjack and red porgy. If you're satisfied with the documents as presented, I think you could make one motion that approved the schedules and terms of reference for greater amberjack and red porgy, if you desired.

MR. PHILLIPS: Is there discussion?

DR. DUVAL: **I will go ahead and make a motion to approve the schedule and terms of reference for greater amberjack and red porgy.**

MR. PHILLIPS: I have a second by Ben.

MR. HARTIG: John, I haven't reviewed this in detail, and we have the new one from the SSC within those?

MR. CARMICHAEL: Yes, we do.

MR. HARTIG: Thank you.

MR. PHILLIPS: Any other discussion? **Is there any opposition to the motion? Seeing none, the motion passes.**

MR. CARMICHAEL: That takes care of Item 3. The next item is Number 4, and this is the SEDAR Steering Committee Report. As I expect that most of you all recall, the SEDAR Steering Committee met immediately after the SEDAR Committee during the South Atlantic Council meeting week in September. They had a lot of discussion about the assessment schedule that was coming up for 2018 and the research track process some more, and we're still looking at scamp continuing as a pilot research track.

We're waiting for terms of reference and schedule examples from the Science Center, which I presume the Center is working on now and we'll get that, and, once we have that, then the Gulf and South Atlantic are appointing SSC folks to review those, so that we can come up with draft terms of reference and schedule for that project, which would then go out to the Gulf and South Atlantic for approval.

The South Atlantic SSC representatives on that group are Luiz Barbieri and Rob Ahrens, and they also discussed cobia, and they approved the stock ID process, which we just talked about in-depth, a three-step process for stock ID, during the closed session, that being the workshop and independent peer review and then a cooperator technical review. That is planned to get underway in 2018 and have the stock ID resolution scheduled by the summer of 2018. At that point, then we'll begin the regular stock assessment process, data workshop and all of that, and we hope to have the data workshop for cobia in late 2018, and we'll have a schedule for that soon.

Then the final items on the Steering Committee, and let me just bring this up and show these on the screen, is the South Atlantic's review of the stocks that we have planned for the future. At the SSC meeting, you asked them to give you some feedback on the assessment type, and I think it was snowy grouper and tilefish, which they did, and they have recommended standard assessments for those.

Then you also asked them about gag and I believe Spanish, and they recommended standards, and a big reason the SSC is recommending standards for these assessments that are coming up is because of the revisions in the MRIP data affecting the entire time series, and they would really like the opportunity to have the standards, so they can have more SSC involvement and more of an open public participation in the process, through the webinars and meetings, if necessary, to look at that data and to understand the consequences of those changes on the entire time series and potentially the management actions that you might have to take in the future.

If the council is satisfied with the 2019 priorities and the longer-term priorities, looking ahead to the future, then this is what we would go to the Steering Committee with at their next meeting, and no motions or anything are necessary, unless you want to make a change in these lists.

MR. PHILLIPS: Is everybody happy?

DR. DUVAL: Just a question, John. In the SSC report, it says that the SSC still recommends an update for the next snowy grouper assessment, but, in the chart, it lists it as a standard. SEDAR 36 was a standard, I know.

MR. CARMICHAEL: Yes, I see that, and I would think the SSC recommendation was -- We probably missed that one in updating the table, and so thank you.

DR. DUVAL: I guess my only question about an update instead of a standard would be exactly the types of things that they brought up with regard to the other stocks, in terms of the impact of the MRIP recalibrations, because, as you all recall, after SEDAR 36, that actually had a pretty significant impact on the allocation.

It was not the fact that Monroe County data were post-stratified, which they had not been in the previous assessment, but it was the change to the catch estimation, and that actually resulted in a pretty big change, when we applied the allocation formula to that revised time series of landings, and Dr. Data back there actually looked at it both ways, and it was determined that it was really the change in the MRIP catch estimation methodology, and so maybe just some input from me that I think a standard still might be a good idea that the SSC may want to reconsider, just for those reasons alone.

MR. CARMICHAEL: I appreciate that, and it is up to you guys, and, as I said, that was an extensive discussion with them, and I wonder if, in some cases, they have things that they talked about earlier versus later might have come out a little bit different in that regard. I don't exactly remember, at this point, the order that they considered those, but I agree with you, and I think a standard. I think that's one reason that I left that that way, because there was so much discussion of standard for everything, and we are concerned about what this data is going to do, and it's not maybe just changing the scale, but it's changing potential time series, and potentially catch rate changes, which could really be significant.

MR. PHILLIPS: Is there anything else?

MR. HARTIG: John, when are you going to know when the king mackerel dates are going to be? It's scheduled in there for late -- I know it's late 2018.

MR. CARMICHAEL: It is late 2018, and that's as much as we know right now. I think my understanding of the data delivery limitations in the Center is that it would be challenging, the last discussion we had, for them to support a data workshop in 2018. They may be able to provide some preliminary data and get the data process rolling, which is multi-step, because of how one piece of data feeds into another source of data, but, at this point, that's kind of all that we know.

We will do a planning call after the next Steering Committee meeting to really look harder at 2019 and when things happen, and we will know more then, and Bonnie may be able to -- We're not real sure of the progress that's happened down at the Center since the Steering Committee meeting, and so I think I would turn to Bonnie, to see if she can shed some more light on it.

DR. PONWITH: When we talked about beginning the data process in 2018, there is one little tiny window right in there, and that was the one place, and kind of the only place, that beginning to work on those data could work. I can do a check back in with them to make sure that that window remains, because that's going to be the driver. It's shoe-horning it in among all the other scheduled things from the three councils for the data demands, and I can double-check and have an answer to you maybe later today or by tomorrow.

MR. CARMICHAEL: A follow-up in Full Council would be nice.

MR. HARTIG: Hearing that, that's fine. I just don't want to see, somewhere down the line, that king mackerel gets kicked out of that slot or have something going into 2019, because, within the next year or two, it will be critical to look at king mackerel, because we're seeing some pretty substantial increases in the stock, and it would be nice to have the assessment go through those.

MR. PHILLIPS: Anything else, John?

MR. CARMICHAEL: No, sir, Mr. Chairman. That's all that I had.

MR. PHILLIPS: Then we will adjourn the SEDAR Committee.

(Whereupon, the meeting adjourned on December 7, 2017.)

Certified By: _____ Date: _____

Transcribed By:
Amanda Thomas
January 3, 2018

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Thursday (12/7/17)

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(Thursday 12/7/17)

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