

**SUMMARY REPORT
FROM THE SEDAR COMMITTEE MEETING
Wilmington, NC
December 3, 2008**

The SEDAR Committee met December 3rd, 2008 in Wilmington, NC. The committee discussed the following items:

1. SEDAR 19, South Atlantic red grouper and Gulf and South Atlantic black grouper

The Committee was provided planning documents for SEDAR 19, including Terms of Reference, a project schedule, and a list of suggested participants. The committee approved the schedule and terms of reference as presented.

Discussion regarding participant appointments centered around representation by fishermen and Council members. It was agreed that AP and other fishermen appointments would be made following a closed session to review new applicants to the SEDAR pool. The Committee discussed the need for representation by a Council member from FL given the importance of these species to that state. FL representatives agreed to work with Council staff to ensure adequate coverage. There were several other adjustments among technical representatives based on changes in state positions and recommendations of the SSC. The Committee accepted these changes and gave staff leeway to work with the appropriate state representatives to finalize several appointments.

The Committee was advised that no candidate is identified for the Council appointed member of the review panel. The SSC was asked to consider qualified individuals and provide suggestions to staff which the committee will take up at a later meeting. The Committee approved participants as modified.

2. SEDAR Planning Schedule

The Committee was provided the latest SEDAR planning schedule for review. Attention was drawn to the 'to be determined' slot listed with black sea bass for SEDAR 24 in 2011. The committee was advised that the SSC suggested conducting black sea bass as an update and assessing several new species in SEDAR 24. Suggested candidates include white grunt, gray triggerfish, scamp, and cobia. The Committee noted concern regarding landings trends in the black sea bass fishery and progress on the rebuilding plan, and commented that conducting a benchmark of black sea bass provided an opportunity to go through the desired cycle of benchmark – update – benchmark within approximately 10 years. Concern was expressed regarding cobia by several states. Therefore, the committee agreed for SEDAR 24 to maintain the black sea bass benchmark and add a benchmark for cobia.

The Committee was advised that FL is interested in conducting a benchmark of yellowtail snapper in 2010 or 2011 rather than an update in 2009. FL technical staff

agreed to lead the black grouper assessment and will participate in several Gulf of Mexico updates in 2009 and therefore are concerned with also accommodating yellowtail snapper in 2009. Also, conducting a benchmark will allow consideration of more advanced models that may resolve some issues identified in the original assessment. The Committee directed staff to work with FL and identify an appropriate SEDAR slot to review a yellowtail benchmark, such as SEDARs 20 or 26.

3. Report on SEDAR methods workshops

The committee received reports on the 3 SEDAR methods workshops organized to date. These address catchability, the data workshop indices group, and Caribbean data. Most discussion concerned the catchability workshop and the importance of this parameter in the stock assessments.

4. SEDAR 17 Report

The Committee received a progress report on SEDAR 17 assessments of Spanish mackerel and vermilion snapper. Despite a contracted schedule and early concerns regarding the feasibility of completing ageing work in time for the data workshop, the assessments were completed successfully and approved by the review panel and SSC.

5. SEDAR 16 Research and Data Needs

The Committee received a report on the numerous research and data needs related to SEDAR 16, king mackerel. Many of these carry over from previous mackerel assessments and are similar to recommendations from other stocks. The Committee discussed the possibility of increasing sampling of mackerel tournaments and suggested providing the recreational data needs to the MRIP program in a letter.

6. Recommendations for next SEDAR Steering Committee

The committee suggested that the SEDAR steering committee consider meeting prior to the scheduled meeting in May 2009 to address procedural recommendations noted through SEDARs 16 and 17, to consider proposed schedule changes for SEDAR 24 and yellowtail snapper, to consider means of increasing assessment production, to discuss SAFE reports, and to evaluate the goal of evaluating a species at least every 5 years.

7. Consideration of SEDAR pool applicants.

The Committee entered closed session to consider applicants to the SEDAR pool. Richard Stiglitz and John Adair were added to the pool. The committee also appointed these individuals to the SEDAR 19 data workshop. Three AP members, Mark Marhefka, Don DeMaria, and Bill Kelly, were appointed to all three SEDAR 19 workshops. The Committee recommended that future applicants for the SEDAR pool be handled through the AP Selection committee and that they submit the same application as AP candidates.

MOTIONS

MOTION 1. APPROVE SEDAR 19 PARTICIPANTS AS MODIFIED AND TO CONSIDER ADDITIONAL SEDAR POOL APPLICANTS DURING CLOSED SESSION.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION #2: APPROVE SEDAR 19 TERMS OF REFERENCE.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION #3: APPROVE SEDAR 19 SCHEDULE.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION #4: TO ADDRESS BENCHMARK ASSESSMENTS FOR BLACK SEA BASS AND COBIA IN SEDAR 24.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION #5: APPROVE THE SEDAR SCHEDULE WITH THE IDENTIFIED CHANGES.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION #6: ADD RICHARD STIGLITZ AND JOHN ADAIR TO THE SEDAR POOL.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION #6: APPOINT MARK MARHEFKA, DON DEMARIA AND BILL KELLY FOR ALL 3 SEDAR 19 WORKSHOPS AND APPOINT RICHARD STIGLITZ AND JOHN ADAIR FOR THE SEDAR 19 DATA WORKSHOP.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE