

OVERVIEW

SEDAR Committee

June 2014

Sawgrass Marriott
1000 PGA Tour Boulevard
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL

Items to be addressed at this meeting: SEDAR activities update, Steering Committee report and recommendations, fishery-dependent monitoring workshop, assessment priorities, peer review process, research plan, and SEDAR administrative approvals.

Attachment #	Document Title
1	SEDAR Schedule and Approvals
2	SSC Report, April 2014
3	Steering Committee Report, June 2014
4	Fishery Dependent Monitoring Workshop Proposal
5	SAFMC Peer Review Process, mark-up
6	2014 Research Priorities

1. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Committee last met March 2014.

3. **SEDAR AND ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES**

Attachment 1 provides an overview of SEDAR projects. Table 1 below summarizes South Atlantic assessments.

The SSC reviewed assessments and provided fishing level recommendations for snowy grouper, gag grouper and wreckfish (**Attachment 2**)

The FL FWCC mutton snapper assessment was delayed, and will be reviewed by the SSC in October 2014. FL FWCC is also working on an assessment of hogfish. Completion is scheduled for June 2014, with review by the SSC in October 2014. SSC recommendations will be provided to the Council for both stocks for the December 2014 meeting.

The SSC reviewed TORs for the upcoming black grouper update, and recommended that they specify that the production model be updated as well as the age structure model. Note that this stock is jointly managed with the Gulf Council, which will also be asked to review and approve TORs. In such circumstances Council's may add additional items to the TORs but not remove items added by another Council.

The SSC recommended modifying the gray triggerfish (SEDAR 41) TORs to ensure that projections account for potential changes in size limits being considered in Amendment X. The suggested addition is highlighted in "E" below.

SEDAR 41 AW ToR Excerpt:

9. Project future stock conditions (biomass, abundance, and exploitation; including probability density functions) and develop rebuilding schedules if warranted; include estimated generation time. Develop stock projections for the following circumstances, in accordance with the guidance on management needs provided in the management history:
 - A) If stock is overfished:
 - F=0, F=current, F=Fmsy, Ftarget
 - F=Frebuild (max exploitation that rebuilds in greatest allowed time)
 - Fixed landings equal to the ABC
 - B) If stock is overfishing
 - F=Fcurrent, F=Fmsy, F= Ftarget, Fixed landings equal to the ABC
 - C) If stock is neither overfished nor overfishing
 - F=Fcurrent, F=Fmsy, F=Ftarget, Fixed landings equal to the ABC
 - D) If data-limitations preclude classic projections (i.e. A, B, C above), explore alternate models to provide management advice.
 - E) **Gray triggerfish projections should account for changes in selectivity that may result from actions in Snapper Grouper Amendment 29.**

The SSC reviewed the assessment schedule at its last meeting (April 2014) and made the following recommendations:

- Supported replacing the vermilion snapper update with blueline tilefish
- Advised that an update may not be adequate for blueline tilefish and recommended a standard assessment.

SEDAR staff is planning a procedures workshop devoted to shrimp assessment and bycatch data. The workshop will be held July 21 - 25, 2014 in Charleston.

ACTION

- Review and approve black grouper TORs
- Consider gray triggerfish TOR modification
- Recommend assessment type and timing for blueline tilefish

Table 1. SEDAR Assessment Projects currently scheduled for the South Atlantic.

Stocks	Type	Terminal Data	SSC Review
Mutton snapper (FL)	Update	2012	October 2014
King mackerel	Benchmark	2012	October 2014
Hogfish (FL)	Benchmark 37	2013	October 2014
Red snapper Gray triggerfish	Benchmark 41 start 8/2014	2013	October 2015

Red grouper	Update	2014	October 2015
Black grouper (FL)	Update	2014	October 2015
Tilefish	Update	2014	April 2016
Vermilion snapper U or blueline tilefish S	TBD	2014	April 2016
Scamp Gray snapper	Benchmark	2014	October 2016
Red Porgy	Benchmark	2014	October 2016

4. **SAFMC ASSESSMENT PRIORITIES**

The SSC held a workshop in April 2014 to develop an assessment prioritization approach and identify assessment priorities. A presentation was provided by Rick Methot of NOAA fisheries on the Agency's efforts to develop stock prioritization guidelines at the National level, which led the SSC to defer specific action on SAFMC prioritization until the National guidelines are available, likely within the next year.

The SSC recommendations on immediate priorities are a white grunt benchmark, red porgy standard, vermilion snapper update and dolphin benchmark.

ACTION

- Identify short term assessment priorities (2016-2017)

5. **SEDAR STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT**

A report on the June 5 Steering Committee meeting will be provided at this meeting (**Attachment 3**).

The next Steering Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for the week of September 22, 2014 following the SAFMC September meeting.

ACTION

- Provide guidance on steering committee topics

6. **SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY DEPENDENT WORKSHOP**

At the December 2013 meeting this committee passed a motion requesting a workshop be held to address fishery dependent monitoring: "*Move to convene a workshop to develop a comprehensive fishery dependent sampling program for the snapper grouper fishery of the South Atlantic.*" The SSC reviewed current project plans, and recommended that the scope be expanded to include an inventory of fishery independent data as well. A comprehensive data inventory may provide a helpful check list to consult during SEDAR workshops to verify all available data are considered.

The Committee is asked to consider organizing committee membership, timing, and funding. (**Attachment 4**).

ACTION

- Provide guidance on the Fishery Dependent workshop, considering:
 - Planning committee participants
 - Timing
 - Funding

7. **SAFMC ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW PROCESS**

The Council developed a peer review process for assessments and analyses falling outside existing review programs such as SEDAR. This approach was applied to the recently completed assessment of wreckfish. The Committee is asked to review and critique the process now that it has been used, and consider if any changes are required.

The SSC was asked to review the process at its April 2014 meeting. Comments and recommendations are contained in their report (**Attachment 2**) and summarized here:

- The wreckfish assessment did not follow the process explicitly, including extra meetings and steps not specified in the process.
- Most SSC members felt the additions strengthened the process, and were explicitly addressed through the proposal and well documented for both SSC and Council consideration as the assessment progressed.
- No specific changes to the process were recommended by the SSC.
- The SSC took this opportunity to again point out the difficulties caused by confidentiality requirements.

Staff notes that there were some timing challenges in the wreckfish application. This required an SSC meeting via webinar in January to address the Peer Review approach, and delayed final approval of reviewers by the Council in March. While all parties involved supported the process and timing, and allowed flexibility in the approach to ensure assessment findings could be reviewed and available to the SSC in April 2014, earlier consideration of the review process in the future could improve the approach.

Several changes and clarifications are offered for consideration. These are highlighted in **Attachment 5** and summarized here.

- The process does not provide guidance on the SSC proposal review report. A list of things to consider is provided for discussion in the policy document.
- Consider adding guidance to the Policy that the peer review approach and timing should be addressed during the proposal review by the SSC (Step II).
- Appointment of peer reviewers is stated as similar to that used for SEDAR panels (Step IV). The process is silent on whether they must be members of the Council SEDAR AP. Guidance is requested on this point.

ACTION

- Review and approve modifications to the Peer Review Process

8. **SAFMC RESEARCH AND MONITORING PLAN**

The Committee is asked to review the annual research and monitoring plan before its submission to NMFS. The version presented here was reviewed by the SSC in April 2014 (**Attachment 6**).

Contents are largely similar to prior years. Additions are highlighted in this version, and primarily address the Council's interest in obtaining greater feedback on how the plan influences agency activities and priorities. SAFE reports remain a top priority.

ACTION:

- Review and approve the 2014 Research and Monitoring Plan

8. **OTHER BUSINESS**

9. **ADJOURN**