

**OVERVIEW**  
**SEDAR Committee**  
**Monday, June 8, 2015**

Items to be addressed at this meeting: SEDAR activities update, SAFMC research plan, MRIP transition update, and Steering Committee recommendations.

**1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Committee last met December 2014.

**3. SEDAR UPDATE AND APPROVALS**

The SEDAR Data Best Practices Workshop will be held June 22-26 in Atlanta, GA.

SEDAR 41 will continue with a Data Workshop August 4-6 in Charleston, SC.

The Steering Committee will meet in the Fall to consider future assessment scheduling.

**Attachment 1** includes SEDAR administrative documents. At this meeting, the Committee is asked to approve Terms of Reference for the red grouper assessment, to be conducted as an update. The committee is also advised that the delivery date for red grouper was delayed by SEFSC during SEDAR scheduling discussions, and will be provided for Council consideration in January 2017 rather than January 2016. There are also changes in the assessment plans for Goliath and black grouper by FL FWCC.

The SSC considered recommending a standard process for red grouper, to allow consideration of possible video survey data. This was not recommended however, since red grouper are believed to be well sampled by the existing trap survey. The Committee instead recommended that a workshop be held to consider methods of incorporating video index data for multiple species. Issues to consider include video-trap calibration, standard methods for addressing video data, and methods that combine both video and trap data into a single index. If the Council supports this recommendation, it will be conveyed to the Steering Committee at the next meeting.

**ACTION**

- Approve red grouper Terms of Reference
- Consider SSC recommendation for a video index workshop

**4. SAFMC RESEARCH PLAN**

The Council is directed through the Reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act to regularly submit research and monitoring priorities to the Agency. At the South Atlantic, priorities are reviewed by the SSC in April, offered for approval by the Council at June, and then submitted to the Science Center and Regional Office. This year's plan is **Attachment 2**.

ACTION

- Approve the 2015 Research Plan

**5. MRIP TRANSITION PLAN**

The agency convened a ‘Transition Team’ to provide guidance on a transition plan for the revised recreational effort survey. Effort estimates now provided by the CHTS – Coastal Household Telephone Survey, will be instead provided by the mail-based FES – Fishing Effort Survey. The final transition plan is now available, and is provided for Committee consideration (**Attachment 3**).

This issue is important to the SEDAR Committee because it will impact future assessment scheduling. Revised recreational catch estimates will be available for assessment use beginning in Fall 2017. The Council may wish to direct assessment resources to updates of recreationally important species from late 2017 through 2018, to avoid the need to base management actions on calibrated values.

**6. SAFMC ASSESSMENT PRIORITIES**

Changes in priorities and scheduling include the delay in red grouper, as noted above, and changes in the delivery and assessment approach for black and goliath grouper by the FL FWCC.

Black grouper will be conducted as an update, with a target delivery date of August 2016. The approach for black grouper was previously undetermined. Goliath grouper will be conducted as a benchmark, with delivery in June 2016. Previously, Goliath was scheduled as an update for completion in October 2015.

Table 1 provides an overview of SAFMC assessment projects through 2017. The SSC did not recommend any changes when it reviewed these priorities in April.

## Timing Considerations:

- 2017 and 2018 priorities, in light of the MRIP transition effort. Potential priority stocks identified in the transition report include:
  - Red snapper
  - Hogfish
  - Black sea bass
  - Gray triggerfish
  - Blueline tilefish
  - Red porgy
  - Gag
- Scamp and gray snapper benchmark in light of the recommendation to determine stock structure prior to conducting a benchmark.

ACTION

- Indicate assessment priorities through 2018

**Table 1. SEDAR Assessment Projects for the South Atlantic.**

| Plan Year                           | SEDAR #  | Stocks                         | Approach  | Terminal Data | Assessment Complete | Lead Agency |
|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|-----------|---------------|---------------------|-------------|
| 2013                                | U  | Mutton snapper                 | Update    | 2012          | April 2015          | FL FWCC     |
| 2015                                | 41   | Red snapper & Gray triggerfish | Benchmark | 2014          | April 2016          | SEFSC       |
| 2016                                | 47   | Goliath grouper                | Benchmark | 2014          | Jun 2016            | FL FWCC     |
|                                     | 48   | Black grouper                  | Standard  | 2014          | Aug. 2016           | FL FWCC     |
|                                     | U  | Blueline tilefish              | Update    | 2015          | Jan 2017            | SEFSC       |
|                                     |  | Red grouper                    | Update    | 2015          | Jan 2017            | SEFSC       |
| Future Priorities – 2017 and Beyond |  |                                |           |               |                     |             |
| 2017                                | U  | Tilefish*                      | Update    | 2015          | TBD                 | SEFSC       |
|                                     | B  | Scamp & Gray snapper 2017      | Benchmark |               |                     | SEFSC       |
|                                     | U  | Vermilion*, GAJ                | Update    |               |                     | SEFSC       |
|                                     | S/B  | Yellowtail Snapper             | TBD       | 2016          | Mid-2018            | FL FWCC     |
| *                                   | Indicates stocks prioritized for assessment sooner than scheduled here, should an opportunity arise. |                                |           |               |                     |             |

**7. OTHER BUSINESS**

**8. ADJOURN**