



# SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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David M. Cupka, Chairman  
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## OVERVIEW

### SEDAR Committee

Hilton New Bern/Riverfront  
100 Middle Street  
New Bern, North Carolina

Item to be addressed at this meeting: (1) SEDAR approvals and appointments; (2) SAFMC research plan, (3) SAFMC assessment timing and prioritization, and (4) discuss conflict of interest disclosure.

1. **Approval of Agenda**

2. **Approval of Minutes**

The Committee last met September 2010.

3. **SEDAR Activities**

The SEDAR 24 assessment of South Atlantic red snapper was completed since the last meeting. The Review Panel met October 12-14 in Savannah GA, and the SSC reviewed the assessment November 8-10 in Charleston, SC.

The review for SEDAR 23, Goliath Grouper, was held November 15-17 in Key West.

A joint sub-committee of the Gulf and South Atlantic SSCs met November 18-19 to review the spiny lobster update.

The Steering Committee met October 5-7 in Charleston (see next item).

4. **SEDAR Steering Committee Report**

The SEDAR Steering Committee met October 5-7 in Charleston, SC. The meeting summary is provided (Attachment 1). Highlights of the meeting are discussed below.

The Committee discussed assessment capabilities and likely future needs. Assessment capacity will need to increase in future years to meet expected demand. Further increases in SEFSC analytical capabilities are expected in the short term, but such capability is likely to remain a limitation for the foreseeable future.

Streamlining the process is viewed as one way of addressing the gap between needs and output. Assessment updates are one area where considerable improvements may be made, primarily by relying on the SSC to review assessments prepared by analysts outside of an extensive workshop process. Toward this end, the committee proposed a 3-tiered assessment hierarchy consisting of a first time benchmark, subsequent "Standard assessments", and streamlined "Update Assessments". Details are provided in the attachment to the Steering Committee Minutes.

Procedural changes implemented for 2010 were discussed in depth, with the Committee agreeing that further modifications may be beneficial. In particular, the committee advised using a combination of webinars and a workshop meeting for the assessment process and dropping the 'pr-review' comment period. Restricting AW panelists to scientists was also considered; fishery representatives would be appointed as observers, similar to what occurs now with the review panel. The Committee directed that a work group consisting of representatives from SEDAR, each Council, SEFSC, SERO, and HMS further develop the proposed changes for approval consideration via a February 2011 conference call.

The Committee developed assessment priorities for 2011-2015.

Next meetings include a conference call in February 2011, date to be determined, and a meeting May 3, 2011 in Charleston SC.

#### ACTION

Provide guidance to representatives on the process revisions and other topics

### 5. **SEDAR 25 Approvals**

SEDAR 25 will develop assessments of black sea bass and golden tilefish. Note that black sea bass began as an update in 2010. The Steering Committee accepted the SAFMC request to elevate the assessment to accommodate new age data.

Under the new assessment categories these would be considered 'Standard Assessments'. However, since that process is not approved the approach proposed for these in 2011 is a bit of a hybrid between a benchmark and standard. For example, there will be separate data and assessment workshops as in a benchmark process, and an effort to focus discussion on issues supported by new data as in a standard assessment (eg., new age composition information, updated discard mortality estimates).

The Committee is asked to approve the schedule and TORs with this item (Attachment 2). Participants will be considered next.

#### ACTION

Approve SEDAR 25 Schedule and TORs

Provide guidance to the Steering Committee Delegation.

### 6. **SEDAR Appointments**

The Committee is asked to consider appointments to the SEDAR pool (Attachment 3) and to SEDAR 25 (Attachment 2). Note that the SAFMC SEDAR Conflict of Interest (COI) form, approved in September 2010, was provided along with the AP application. The COI form was

also distributed to those SEDAR pool members who were appointed previously and who are interested in serving on SEDAR 25.

**ACTION**

SEDAR Pool Appointments

SEDAR 25 Appointments