



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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OVERVIEW

SEDAR Committee

Charleston Marriott Hotel
170 Lockwood Boulevard
Charleston, SC

Items to be addressed at this meeting: (1) SEDAR activities update, (2) SEDAR process update, (3) SEFSC data management update, (4) SEFSC fishery independent monitoring, (5) Incorporating observer comments, (5) SAFE report review, and (6) Steering Committee guidance.

1. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Committee last met March 2011.

3. **SEDAR ACTIVITIES**

The assessment process is nearing completion for SEDAR 25, South Atlantic black sea bass and golden tilefish. The workshop was held June 21-23 and several webinars have been completed. The Review Workshop was pushed back to October 11-13, 2011 to allow more time for model development.

4. **SEDAR PROCESS UPDATE**

The Committee will receive a presentation on recent changes in the SEDAR process. These changes are documented in Attachment 1.

5. **SEFSC DATA PROGRAM UPDATE**

The Committee will receive a presentation on SEFSC efforts to improve data access and management.

6. **INCORPORATING OBSERVER COMMENTS**

Council, AP, and constituent representatives serve as appointed observers at various steps of the SEDAR process. Although there is no formal process for receiving such comments, insights from these observers have proven useful to the SSC and Council when addressing stock assessments. At the June meeting the Committee agreed to request that appointed observers provide a written report documenting their observations and impressions. The Committee also directed staff to consider mechanisms for incorporating such comments into the overall assessment process.

Recommendations

Purpose:

Council-appointed observer comments are separate from the SEDAR process and should be geared toward supporting the Council and SSC review of the assessments as provided by SEDAR.

Comments should document the appointee's participation in, and perceptions of, the process.

Appointed observers should be asked to submit comments following their participation in SEDAR. Those appointed to multiple workshops should be allowed to submit a single report addressing their full range of participation.

Submitted comments will be made available to the SSC when it receives an assessment report from SEDAR.

Submitted comments will become part of the Council's Administrative Record, and made available to the Council and APs along with the full assessment report and SSC recommendations.

ACTION: Review and approve process changes

7. **SAFE REPORT FRAMEWORK**

The Council directed that a Snapper-Grouper SAFE report be prepared and presented to the Council by the September meeting. The draft is provided as Attachment 2.

Council, SERO, and SEFSC staff developed a framework SAFE report based on recommendations put forth through the SEDAR Steering Committee several years ago.

It was intended that the report prepared for this meeting would include data through 2010. However, no additional data became available prior to mid-August when the report needed to be completed for inclusion in the briefing book. Therefore, this version of the report stands as a conceptual draft that incorporates data through 2009 that are consistent with the information in the ACL amendment.

The Committee is asked to review the content and presentation of the SAFE report and provide guidance on any changes or additions.

ACTION: Provide guidance on SAFE report content and presentation.

8. **SEDAR STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Steering Committee will meet October 13, 2011 in Charleston.

Topics to discuss include the assessment schedule for 2013 and the SEDAR process.

Assessment Schedule:

The SSC provided the following advice on future assessment priorities during their July Conference Call. See the SSC report (Attachment 3) for details and justifications.

Primary Priority

red snapper benchmark

blueline tilefish benchmark

Secondary Priority

gray triggerfish benchmark

gag – Standard

white grunt benchmark

scamp benchmark

snowy grouper – Standard

The Council is asked to develop a prioritized list of stocks to assess in 2013 for consideration by the Steering Committee. The actual number of assessments conducted will be determined based upon SEFSC available resources and the types of assessments desired (e.g., benchmarks require more resources than updates).

SEDAR Process

At the June meeting, Committee members were asked to review the SEDAR guidelines (Attachment 1) prior to this meeting and consider any changes that should be recommended. Members were further asked to categorize SEDAR concerns as scientific or procedural. The Committee is asked to discuss member's concerns and develop recommendations for consideration at the Steering Committee

ACTION: Provide recommendations for the Steering Committee

9. SEDAR 28 APPROVALS

The Committee is asked to approve the Terms of Reference and Project Schedule for SEDAR 28 (Attachment 4) and to make appointments for the workshops (Attachment 5).

Recommendations for appointments will be made during the closed session portion of the meeting.

Participants:

Interested participants, based on solicitations of the AP and SSC and consideration of participants in previous assessments are listed in Attachment 4. This assessment involves both the Gulf and South Atlantic Councils, so the normal number of workshop appointees is reduced.

Suggested number of appointees:

Data Workshop: 8 - 10

Assessment Workshop: 2 constituent observers and 2 technical panelists

Review Workshop: 2 SSC reviewers and 1 SSC chair. The Council may also appoint a 3rd reviewer from outside the SSC.

Note that the Councils have not discussed whether the Chair should be appointed by the Gulf or South Atlantic Council for this assessment. This will be raised at the Steering Committee, if both Councils have an SSC member interested in serving as chair.

TORS:

The TORS presented in Attachment 4 include recommendations of the SSC.

SCHEDULE:

The project schedule has been delayed due to uncertainty in the Gulf red snapper assessment for 2013. Staff intends to have a schedule available by the meeting if SEFSC staffing issues can be resolved.

ACTION: Appoint participants, and approve the schedule and TORs.