



# SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 203  
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405  
TEL 843/571-4366 FAX 843/769-4520  
Toll Free: (866) SAFMC-10

E-mail: safmc@safmc.net

Web site: www.safmc.net

David M. Cupka, Chairman  
Ben Hartig, Vice-Chairman

Robert K. Mahood, Executive Director  
Gregg T. Waugh, Deputy Executive Director

## OVERVIEW

### SEDAR Committee

Savannah Hilton DeSoto Hotel  
15 East Liberty Street  
Savannah, GA

Items to be addressed at this meeting:(1) SEDAR activities update, (2) SAFMC assessment priorities, (3) MRIP headboat logbook study, and (4) Steering Committee guidance.

1. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Committee last met December 2011.

3. **SEDAR ACTIVITIES**

The assessment process is underway for SEDAR 25, South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico cobia and Spanish mackerel. The Data Workshop was held February 6-10, 2012, in Charleston. The groups intend to include 2011 data as the terminal assessment year, although some sources may not be available until the Assessment Workshop in May.

The current SEDAR project schedule is provided (Attachment 1). Initial Steering Committee actions left the assessment type for red grouper in 2013 undecided. The SSC recommended that this be a standard assessment, to allow incorporation of new SEFIS data and consideration of spatial aspects if possible.

The Council requested an evaluation of black sea bass in 2013. This will be discussed at the next Steering Committee meeting.

**ACTION:** Recommend red grouper assessment type

4. **ASSESSMENT PRIORITIES**

The Committee is asked to establish assessment priorities for 2014.

During their meeting of November 2011 the SSC reviewed, and did not change, the preliminary 2014 assessment priorities that follow:

- Red Snapper Benchmark
- White Grunt Benchmark
- Scamp Benchmark
- Black Grouper Update (FL FWCC Lead)

SEFSC indicated at the previous meeting of this committee in December 2011 that a South Atlantic red snapper benchmark could be prepared in 2013. SEFSC will update the Committee on this project at the meeting.

Given available resources, 3 benchmarks is a full load for a single year. Adding to this is the expectation that white grunt comprises multiple stocks in the South Atlantic, requiring consideration of multiple assessments. Nonetheless, the Council may wish to consider prioritizing additional stocks for update assessments if additional resources become available or there are changes in the benchmark list. One possibility is greater amberjack, last assessed in 2007. Another is black sea bass, for which SSC recommendations for further analysis was discussed at the December meeting.

ACTION: Recommend 2014 assessment priorities.

5. **MRIP HEADBOAT ELECTRONIC LOGBOOK PILOT STUDY**

The Committee will be provided the requested presentation on an MRIP pilot study evaluating the use of electronic logbooks in the headboat fishery.

6. **REVISED MRIP CATCH ESTIMATES**

The Committee will be briefed on the MRIP catch estimates, their deviations from the original MRFSS estimates for South Atlantic stocks, and potential management implications.

**7. MRIP/MRFSS CALIBRATION WORKSHOP**

SEDAR is cooperating with the MRIP program to hold a workshop addressing calibration of MRFSS estimates prior to 2004 based on the MRIP estimates provided for 2004-2011, and to consider how the revised MRIP estimates can be incorporated into stock assessments. The workshop will be held March 27-29 in Raleigh, NC. Representatives of Councils, SSCs, NOAA Fisheries, and the Interstate Commissions of the Northeast and Southeast Regions will participate.

Calibration Workshop TORS:

1. Review ongoing and completed studies comparing MRFSS methodologies to those slated for use in MRIP, and propose any additional work that would further facilitate MRFSS/MRIP calibration.
2. Propose a methodology for calibrating MRFSS data to MRIP data, based on the years in which paired estimates are available (currently expected to be 2004-2011), and demonstrate how it would work in hind-casting catch and effort for select data sets (pre-2004).
3. Recommend a plan for implementing the calibration methodology into updated and benchmark stock assessments.

**8. MRIP/MAFMC VOLUNTEER ANGLER DATA WORKSHOP**

The MAFMC and MRIP program recently held a workshop to review volunteer angler data collection programs. Information on numerous programs were provided, mostly addressing the Atlantic Coast and Gulf of Mexico areas. Participants discussed the challenges to developing such programs and deriving data that are useful in quantitative assessment frameworks. Such programs offer promise for filling in certain data gaps, such as the fate and biologic characteristics of discarded fish.

**9. STEERING COMMITTEE GUIDANCE**

The Steering Committee will meet via webinar in May 2012 on a date to be determined.

Topics to discuss include the assessment schedule for 2014 and the SEDAR process.

ACTION: Provide recommendations for the Steering Committee

**10. OTHER BUSINESS**

**11. TIMING AND TASKS MOTION**

**12. ADJOURN**