

OVERVIEW

SEDAR Committee

The Beach House Hilton Head Island
1 South Forest Beach Drive
Hilton Head Island, SC

Tuesday, September 15, 2015

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

1. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Committee last met June 2015.

3. **APPOINTMENTS – CLOSED ACTION**

The Committee is asked to appoint SSC reviewers and a chair candidate for the SEDAR 47 Goliath Grouper Review Workshop (**Attachment 1**). The Gulf Council will also appoint reviewers and may consider a Chair; further discussion on which Council will appoint the chair will be held during the next Steering Committee meeting.

4. **SEDAR UPDATE AND APPROVALS**

The SEDAR Data Best Practices Workshop was held June 22-26, 2015 in Atlanta, GA.

SEDAR 41 held a Data Workshop August 4-6, 2015 in Charleston, SC.

The Steering Committee will meet September 28-29, 2015 in Charleston to consider future assessment scheduling.

Attachment 2 includes SEDAR administrative documents. At this meeting, the Committee is asked to approve Terms of Reference for the tilefish assessment, to be conducted as an update, and the review of Goliath Grouper.

ACTION

- Approve Tilefish update Terms of Reference
- Approve Goliath Grouper Review Terms of Reference

5. **SAFMC RESEARCH PLAN**

During review at the June 2015 meeting, the Committee recommended major revisions to the Annual Research Plan. An updated version is provided for consideration (**Attachment 3**).

ACTION

- Approve the 2015 Research Plan

6. SEFSC HEADBOAT DATA EVALUATION

The evaluation of headboat reporting is concluded and a report was made available during the SEDAR 41 data workshop. The report is provided for the Committee (**Attachment 4**).

7. SAFMC ASSESSMENT PRIORITIES

Table 1 provides an overview of SAFMC assessment projects through 2017, proposed timing for currently scheduled stocks, and potential priorities for 2018 and 2019.

Table 2 provides a summary history of stock assessments conducted for South Atlantic resources since 2002, indicating the frequency and timing of past assessments and the age each assessment will be in 2018.

As discussed at earlier meetings, further changes are underway in the MRIP program. A new approach to the effort survey is now being conducted, side by side with the prior method for 2015 and 2016. Revised survey estimates using the new method should begin to be available for stock assessment use in late 2017. Devoting assessment resources to updates of key recreational stocks is expected during 2018 and 2019, and the MRIP transition team indicated a number of stocks as potential priorities to update, based largely on the level of recreational catch. These stocks are indicated by the gray shaded section in Table 2.

Proposed schedule priorities for 2018-2020 shown in Table 1 are based on the following principles:

- Assessment age
- MRIP Transition Team update priorities for new MRIP estimates
- 4 assessment slots available through SEFSC
- 1 slot available through FL FWCC (NOTE: Any suggested timing here is a request; FL FWCC determines allocation of their assessment resources)
- Propose Standard approach for assessments where new SERFS indices may be available (black sea bass, red porgy, snowy grouper, and gag)

This proposed schedule address all currently assessed stocks and adds one new stock, White Grunt. Once those proposed through 2020 are addressed, the 'oldest' assessments would be Wreckfish, conducted in 2014 and 6 years old at that time; Goliath Grouper, assessed in 2016 and age 4; and those assessed in 2017 (Greater Amberjack, Gray Snapper, Scamp, Vermilion Snapper, and Yellowtail Snapper) that will be age 3.

ACTION

- Indicate assessment priorities through 2019
 - Indicate priorities for updates in 2018 to address revised MRIP estimates
 - Recommend timing for Scamp and Gray Snapper benchmarks; Vermilion Snapper and Greater Amberjack updates.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

9. ADJOURN

Table 1. SEDAR Assessment Projects for the South Atlantic. Italicized entries represent proposed timing and priorities. Italicized entries are not currently endorsed by the SEFSC, nor have they been reviewed by the SEDAR Steering Committee.

Plan Year	SEDAR #	Stocks	Approach	Terminal Data	Assessment Complete	Lead Agency
2015	41	Red snapper & Gray triggerfish	Benchmark	2014	April 2016	SEFSC
	<i>U</i>	<i>Tilefish</i>	<i>Update</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>April 2016</i>	<i>SEFSC</i>
2016	47	Goliath grouper	Benchmark	2014	Jun 2016	FL FWCC
	48	Black grouper	Standard	2014	Aug. 2016	FL FWCC
	<i>U</i>	<i>Blueline tilefish</i>	<i>Update</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>Jan 2017</i>	<i>SEFSC</i>
		<i>Red grouper</i>	<i>Update</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>Jan 2017</i>	<i>SEFSC</i>
Future Priorities – 2017 and Beyond						
2017	<i>B</i>	<i>Scamp & Gray snapper 2017</i>	<i>Benchmark</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>Oct 2018</i>	<i>SEFSC</i>
	<i>U</i>	<i>Vermilion*, GAJ</i>	<i>Update</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>April 2018</i>	<i>SEFSC</i>
	<i>S/B</i>	<i>Yellowtail Snapper</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>Mid-2018</i>	<i>FL FWCC</i>
2018	<i>U</i>	<i>Red Snapper</i>	<i>Update</i>	<i>2017</i>		<i>SEFSC</i>
	<i>S</i>	<i>Sea Bass</i>	<i>Standard</i>	<i>2017</i>		<i>SEFSC</i>
	<i>S</i>	<i>Red Porgy</i>	<i>Standard</i>	<i>2016</i>		<i>SEFSC</i>
	<i>S</i>	<i>Snowy Grouper</i>	<i>Standard</i>	<i>2016</i>		<i>SEFSC</i>
	<i>S</i>	<i>Spiny Lobster</i>	<i>Standard</i>	<i>2017</i>		<i>FL FWCC</i>
2019	<i>U</i>	<i>Blueline</i>	<i>Update</i>	<i>2018</i>		<i>SEFSC</i>
	<i>U</i>	<i>Spanish</i>	<i>Update</i>	<i>2018</i>		<i>SEFSC</i>
	<i>U</i>	<i>Cobia</i>	<i>Update</i>	<i>2017</i>		<i>SEFSC</i>
	<i>S</i>	<i>Gag</i>	<i>Standard</i>	<i>2018</i>		<i>SEFSC</i>
	<i>U</i>	<i>Yellowtail Snapper</i>	<i>Update</i>	<i>2018</i>		<i>FL FWCC</i>
2020	<i>B</i>	<i>White Grunt (potentially multiple stocks)</i>	<i>Benchmark</i>			<i>SEFSC</i>
	<i>U</i>	<i>King Mackerel</i>	<i>Update</i>			<i>SEFSC</i>
	<i>U</i>	<i>Tilefish</i>	<i>Update</i>			<i>SEFSC</i>
	<i>U</i>	<i>Mutton and or Hogfish</i>	<i>Update</i>			<i>FL FWCC</i>
*	Indicates stocks prioritized for assessment sooner than scheduled here, should an opportunity arise.					

Table 2. Assessment History for South Atlantic stocks. Stocks in the shaded area at top were identified as potential priorities for updated assessments incorporating revised MRIP estimates by the MRIP Transition Team. “N” refers to the number of times the stock has been assessed since 2002. “age18” refers to the years that will have passed in 2018 since the previous assessment.

SPECIES	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	N	Age18
COBIA											X						1	6
SPANISH SEA BASS							X				X						2	6
GAG		X		X						X		X					4	5
HOGFISH			X		X								X				2	4
KING MACK			X				X						X				3	4
MUTTON GRAY TRIGGER						X						X		X			2	4
RED SNAPPER						X			X					X			3	3
YELLOWTAIL		X								X						X	3	1
GR AMBERJACK						X										X	2	1
GRAY SNAPPER																X	1	1
SCAMP																X	1	1
VERMILION RED PORGY	X	X			X	X	X				X					X	5	1
SNOWY BLUELINE			X									X					2	5
BLACK GROUPE								X							X		2	2
RED GROUPE								X							X		2	2
TILEFISH			X							X					X		3	2
WRECKFISH													X				1	1
SPINY LOBSTER				X					X								2	8
GOLIATH			X						X						X		3	2