FINAL SUMMARY REPORT FROM THE SEDAR COMMITTEE MEETING New Bern, NC December 2, 2014

The Committee received a report from the October 2014 SEDAR Steering Committee meeting.

The Committee approved a revised schedule for SEDAR 41, South Atlantic Red Snapper and Gray Triggerfish. Dr. Ponwith provided an update on SEFSC efforts to resolve concerns with historic headboat catch estimates. Approaches were developed and reviewed by outside experts. The evaluation will consist of identifying QA/QC practices in place during the 1970's and 1980's, and evaluating data for signs of bias.

Dr.Ponwith was asked about improved timeliness in headboat catch estimates resulting from the weekly reporting requirement. Since ACLs are specified in pounds for most stocks, some delay is incurred to obtain and analyze weight data through biological catch sampling. The Center treats the headboat data collection as waves, similar to those used by MRIP, so that 2 months of weight data collection can be obtained to convert landings reported in numbers to landings in pounds for tracking ACL progress.

The Committee recommended assessing vermilion snapper on a 3-year cycle in the future, and prioritizing vermilion snapper for an earlier assessment if additional capacity becomes available in 2016.

MOTIONS:

Move to approve the modified SEDAR 41 schedule. Approved by Committee. Approved by Council.

Move to assess vermilion snapper every 3 years. Approved by committee. Approved by Council.