

CONSENSUS STATEMENT
FROM SSC MAR 09 COUNCIL MEETING

1. As an emergency interim action, the SSC recommends that the SEDAR schedule be adjusted to accommodate development of basic assessment analyses (e.g., surplus production models, etc.) that will generate estimates of MSY for South Atlantic data poor, unassessed stocks. The SSC has developed a process for determining ABC values as required under MSRA and these basic analyses are essential for applying this process and developing more reliable and scientifically defensible ABC values for data poor stocks. The SSC requests these analyses be completed by December 2010.

The SSC recognizes that this request will necessitate that currently scheduled SEDARs (black seabass, and cobia benchmarks, and updates for spiny lobster, golden tilefish, snowy grouper and gag) be delayed until after 2011. To facilitate completing this work within the available time we recommend a modified SEDAR process as follows: 1) two Data Workshops addressing multiple stocks, 2) two Assessment Workshops, one to develop methods and a second for refining preliminary models, and 3) review provided by the SSC.

2. The SSC requests that the SEFSC provide the following analyses: quantile tables of MSY values for gag and vermilion; total removal estimates for speckled hind and warsaw grouper under species-specific moratorium and under deepwater species prohibition.

3. The SSC requests that a listserve and ftp site be made available.