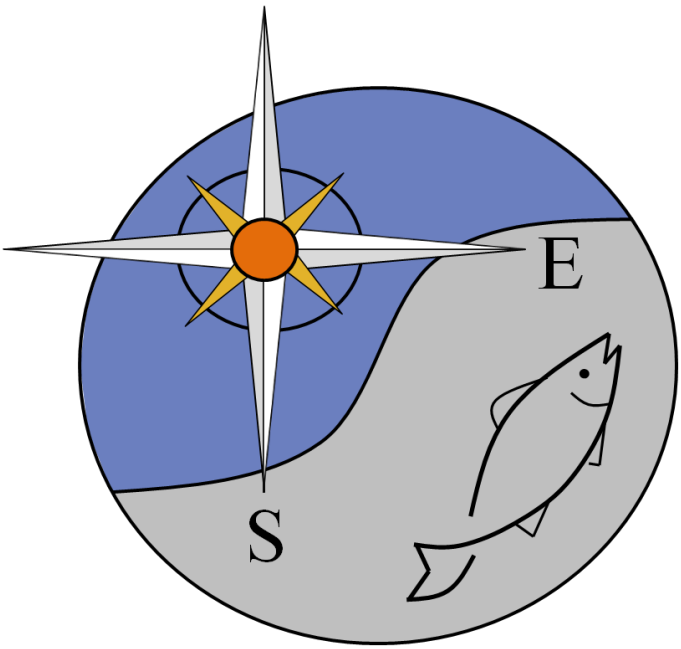
SEDAR



SEDAR Steering Committee

Meeting Summary

September 26, 2017

Town and Country Inn

Charleston SC

Version: First Draft

9/27/2017

CONTENTS

Documents

MEETING SUMMARY RECOMMENDATIONS AND TASKS

The following is a summary of key meeting recommendations and tasks. Additional details and committee discussion is provided under the "Meeting Outcome" section of each agenda topic. The projects table that follows these summary recommendations reflects the workload decisions made at this meeting.

Research Track Process

- Supported the existing plan to conduct a pilot research track assessment of Scamp in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic in 2018.
- Directed the SEFSC to prepare a work plan addressing TORs and a project schedule (suggested completion by November 1) for review by a panel of Cooperator SSC and technical representatives before the end of 2017.
- Expressed concern with the time demands of the research track and the subsequent impact of assessment productivity.
- Reiterated the importance of an independent peer review, including CIE representatives, of the research track product.

Projects Update

- Reviewed the Cobia stock ID process and provided guidance.
    - TOR approval by the Steering Committee
    - Participants appointments by each Cooperator.
    - Joint technical review following the peer review by independent reviewers.
    - Identify a facilitator Chair for the stock ID workshop who will serve as facilitator of the workshop.
    - Work groups select chairs from their membership
    - Follow the data workshop model for decision making.
    - Request that the MAFMC provide travel support for their appointees.

SEDAR Schedule

- The Committee was unable to finalize 2018 and 2019 GMFMC assessment projects; other Cooperator projects were finalized.
- Guidance to complete the 2019 GMFMC Red Snapper assessment no later than April 2020, preferably by January. Include 2018 data if feasible within the delivery deadline.
- Added GMFMC Red Snapper to the MRIP revisions.
- Removed SAFMC red snapper from the MRIP revisions.
- Delayed the shark stock ID workshop indefinitely.
- Updated 2020 – 2021 Cooperator priorities

SEDAR Projects Overview – 2017 – 2022. Reflects the actions of the Steering Committee at this meeting.

SEDAR SCHEDULE OVERVIEW - September 2017 Steering Committee Results

YEAR	QTR	South Atlantic Team				Gulf/Caribbean Team					HMS Team		FL FWCC	ASMFC GSMFC	Extra	SEDAR Workshop
		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	1	2				
2017 FINAL	1	Blueline Tilefish Benchmark			Rg cont	data lim cont		Gray Snapper B				Sandbar Shark STD	BlkGrpr Bench			
	2			BSB Std												
	3				VS Std		RS std		RS std				Gulf Hogfish U			
	4									SpLob-all B						
2018 FINAL	1		Cobia STKID								Gom Blktip U			Gulf Menhaden Review		
	2	GAJ Std				Red Grp Std										
	3		COBIA B TY17	MRIP Revise[1]	Red Prgy Std		TBD[5]	Gray Trig Std	MRIP Revise[2]				YTS Bench		King Mack Bench	
	4										Atl Blktip Bench	Porbeagle (Iccat)				
2019 Final	1	Scamp RT[3]		Snowy Grp Std	tilefish	Scamp RT[3]	RS Std	Cobia Std	RS Std	Queen Trig PR-StX				ATL Menhaden Review		
	2															
	3		Request: Red Snapper (benchmark), Spanish (Std), gag				Request: vermilion (ASAP), Data Poor 2[4], Greater Amberjack, gag			*Request: Lane@PR, Queen Snap@PR, Redtail Parrot@STX, Yellowtail Snapr@STX*						
	4	Scamp OA				Scamp OA							Mutton Bench			
2020 Prelim	1															
	2															
	3															
	4															
2021		Gray Triggerfish (Benchmark), red grouper, black sea bass				Gray Triggerfish, Vermilion Snapper, Black Grouper, Spiny Lobster, Gray Snapper, Hogifsh, Cobia, Red Grouper, Lane, Red Drum					under development					
2022		White Grunt (Benchmark)									under development					

1. South Atlantic MRIP Revision stocks: Red Grouper, Blueline Tilefish, Black Sea Bass
2. Gulf of Mexico MRIP Revision stocks: Greater Amberjack, Gag, Vermilion Snapper, Spanish Mackerel, Red Snapper
3. Scamp Research Track includes Gulf and South Altantic. Yellowmouth grouper will also be evaluted due to species identification concerns.
4. Gulf Data Poor II: Queen, Blackfin, Cubera, and Silk Snapper; Warsaw and Yellowfin Grouper; Banded Rudderfish
5. TBD at the GMFMC meeting, October 2-5 2017

VERSION 9/27/2017

ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Bonnie Ponwith, SEFSC, Chair
Leann Bosarge, GMFMC
*Karyl Brewster-Geisz, NMFS
*Luiz Barbieri, FL FWC
*Patrick Campfield, ASMFC
Roy Crabtree, SERO
*Dave Donaldson, GSMFC
Michelle Duval, SAFMC
*Doug Gregory, GMFMC
Gregg Waugh, SAFMC

SEDAR STAFF

Julia Byrd
John Carmichael
Julie Neer

OBSERVERS

Charlie Phillips, SAFMC
Mark Brown, SAFMC
Ben Hartig, SAFMC
Monica Smit-Brunello, SERO
Rick DeVictor, SEFSC
Jack McGovern, SEFSC
Jessica McCawley, FL FWCC
Erika Burgess, FL FWCC
Doug Haymans, GA DNR
Kimberly Cole, SAFMC
Mike Collins, SAFMC
Chip Collier, SAFMC
Myra Brouwer, SAFMC
Christine Wiegand, SAFMC
Mike Errigo, SAFMC
Cameron Rhodes, SAFMC
Amber Von Harten, SAFMC
Kathleen Howington, SAFMC
Dean Foster, PEW
Leda Cunningham, PEW
Lora Clarke, PEW
Amy Dukes, SC DNR
Marcel Reichert, SC DNR
Rusty Hudson, DSF
Frank Helies, SERO
*Alan Bianchi, NC DMF
*Anna Beckwith, SAFMC
*Wally Bubley, SC DNR
*Anne Markwith, NC DMF
*Erik Williams, SEFSC
*Ryan Rindone, GMFMC
*Carrie Simmons, GMFMC
*Jeff Pulver, NOAA
*Jessica Stephen, SERO
*Karen Raine, SERO
*Kathy Knowlton, GA DNR
*Travis Kemp
*Martha Guyas, FL FWCC
*McLean Seward, NC DMF
*Michael Drexler, Ocean Conservancy
*Robert Allman, SEFSC
*Tracey Smart, SC DNR

* Denotes participation via webinar

1. Introduction

1.1. Documents

Agenda

Attachment 1. May 2017 Meeting Summary

1.2. Action

- Introductions
- Review and Approve Agenda
- Approve May 2017 Meeting Summary

Meeting Outcome

Chairman Ponwith opened the meeting, and the committee approved the agenda and prior meeting summary.

Due to the change in the SAFMC September 2017 meeting dates following Hurricane Irma, this meeting was reduced in length and held in conjunction with the SAFMC meeting. Several members therefore attended by Webinar.

2. Research Track Process

2.1. Documents

Attachment 2. Research track comments summary
Attachment 3. Background package on the research track
Attachment 4. SEFSC response to SAFMC request for additional details

2.2. Summary

The committee has reviewed the research track process for assessment development several times. The report of the prior meeting (Attachment 1) has a detailed review of progress through May 2017. At that time the Committee agreed that the research track process was not fully developed and vetted, and the SEFSC agreed to further develop the details of the process for additional consideration at this meeting. For the Committee's convenience, a summary of research track discussions and comments by the Steering Committee and Gulf and South Atlantic SSCs is provided in Attachment 2, and background information including the relevant briefing materials from prior Committee meetings, is provided in Attachment 3.

The SAFMC convened an SSC meeting on September 5 2017 to discuss the research track process. Additional background was requested from the SEFSC for that meeting (Attachment 4). The SSC provided continued support for the research track process in concept. Due to continuing concerns about the lack of detail and clarity in the approach and how it will operate, the SSC recommended that the research track be conducted as a pilot and subsequently evaluated.

At this meeting, the Committee is asked to continue discussion of the research track process and consider its application for future assessments. Currently, the Gulf-South Atlantic Scamp assessment starting in 2019 is to be conducted through the research track approach.

2.3. **Action**

- Provide guidance on the research track process
- Consider Scamp as a research track process or joint council (SAFMC+GMFMC) benchmark.

Meeting Outcome

The committee discussed the research track process extensively. Major points are summarized in the following bullets

- The GMFMC and HMS noted that the RT requires a lot of time and resources, tying up several Cooperator assessment slots.

- A suggestion was made to consider running the RT outside of SEDAR, using the 25% research time that is already accommodated. However, it was suggested that this is not feasible with current resources, as the same personnel working on assessments also need to work on the RT.

- The SAFMC suggested conducting a pilot with scamp, and withholding final adoption and SOPPs changes until that is completed and evaluated.

- There are concerns that the significant data bottlenecks that limit current productivity are not addressed by the RT process, and will prohibit the productivity gains proposed through the operational assessments.

- There was discussion of implementing the RT for some regions or cooperators. This was not considered viable, mainly because the lack of consistency in approaches and technical decisions is a common criticism of the process now and applying different procedures will add to those concerns. Additionally, it would remove a potential benefit of the RT – the opportunity to enable cross-over of SEFSC technical expertise between regions and thereby reduce differences in assessment methods.

- Despite concerns by the Committee that the RT as scheduled for scamp is too time consuming at 18 months, and the timeline of 1 year provided in the initial proposal, there is no clear recommendation at this time on how long the RT will actually take and there remains a desire by analytical teams to maintain an open-ended schedule to address data delivery and analytical challenges that may arise.

- It was noted that the time required for the RT is an investment in the product, and is expected to be less overall than that required to conduct multiple benchmarks of a single stock, as required when a benchmark assessment "fails" peer review.

- The Committee reiterated support for including an independent peer review with CIE reviewers.

- Concerns were expressed with the apparent lack of a clear consensus on the RT methods by the various SEFSC teams involved in assessment production. The process needs to be clearly defined and described before the Scamp pilot begins.

- The Committee ultimately agreed to proceed with a RT pilot of Scamp in 2019.

    - A work plan, including terms of reference and a project schedule and addressing the roles and responsibilities of participants, will be initially drafted by the SEFSC.

    - SEDAR staff suggests that this be completed by November 1. The Committee did not set a specific date. However, it was agreed that it should be completed ASAP to facilitate the review group meeting (as noted below) and to give the review group time to consult with other participants prior to their meeting.

    - A review group composed of SEFSC staff, SAFMC and GMFMC SSC (2 per Council) and other technical representatives, Council staff (1 per Council), and SEDAR staff will review the preliminary TORs and Schedule. A meeting of this group is desired before the end of 2017; appointments should be made by November 1.

    - The Committee recognized the importance of obtaining feedback on the proposed plan from critical data providers and other assessment process participants within each Cooperator's organization. It was also recognized that the group needed to be of a manageable size. To address these competing constraints, the committee requested that members of the group be encouraged to consult with key data providers and assessment participants to ensure adequate input on, and support for, the proposed plan.

    - The TORs and Schedule developed by the review group will serve as the initial drafts for consideration and approval by the GMFMC and SAFMC, per normal SEDAR practices. These

approvals should be completed by July 2018 to allow this project to begin in early 2019.

Motions

1. Move to maintain the existing approach.
   Motion failed.

3. SEDAR Projects Status Reports

3.1. Documents

Attachment 5. Projects Report Fall 2017
Attachment 6. Cobia Stock ID work plan

3.2. Summary

The projects report (Attachment 5) provides a summary of current and recently completed SEDAR assessment projects. Approved current and future projects and timing is shown in Table 1 at the end of this document.

- 2018 Planning: Major planning milestones, such as data delivery deadlines and workshop dates, are shown in the projects report (Attachment 5) for 2018 projects.

  Due to the shortened meeting, these topics will not be reviewed in detail. Members will be asked to provide any comments or concerns.

- Cobia Stock ID: Stock ID will be evaluated as the first step in the planned Cobia assessment. This is a complex situation, as the species ranges from the Gulf to the mid-Atlantic, there is considerable controversy regarding the prior recommendation that divided the Gulf and South Atlantic stocks at the GA-FL line, and there are known unique spawning groups in some inland areas. An organizing committee with representatives from the SEFSC, SERO, Gulf Council, South Atlantic Council, and ASMFC has been convened to guide the process. The general approach being established now follows the guidance provided by this Committee in September 2016 for the comprehensive stock ID workshop, and consists of a stock ID workshop, independent peer review, and further SSC and regional leadership review.

  This is a potentially costly and time consuming precursor to the assessment, so the Steering Committee is asked to provide guidance on the approach and particularly the multiple levels of review. Attachment 6 provides an overview of the process planning efforts to date, including proposed Terms of Reference for the workshop and peer review, and a project schedule.

3.3. ACTION

- Provide guidance on current projects as required.
- Provide guidance in the Cobia stock ID resolution approach
  - TOR approval

        - by the Steering Committee or Cooperators individually?
    - Participant levels and appointments:
        - suggest each Cooperator provide workshop and peer review appointments. Guidance is required on participation levels and SEDAR travel support.
        - A number of specific experts are desired for this workshop, most of whom are outside typical SEDAR and Cooperator channels. How will these individuals be appointed?
            - If by a Cooperator, they need to be part of the SEDAR AP.
            - The SEFSC Director has authority to appoint outside experts when necessary to fill an expertise gap.
        - Identify and appoint a chairs for the workshop and peer review, and work group leaders for the workshop
    - Overall approach, timing, and levels of review
        - Given that all Cooperators within the stock range are involved in the planning, stock ID workshop, and peer review, to what extent is further, separate review by each Cooperator required (Step 3 in the process described in the appendix to Attachment 6)?
        - Can a joint SSC review, including a subset of affected cooperators/jurisdictions, serve the same need (similar to the joint SSC webinar convened by SEDAR for Blueline Tilefish)? If so, to what extent should members of this group be independent from those who serve on the workshop or peer review panels?

Meeting Outcome

The committee reviewed the Cobia stock ID process as proposed by the organizing committee, and provided the following guidance:

- Supported TOR and schedule approval by the Steering Committee, through an email exchange, following cooperator technical review. The Committee reserves the right to request a meeting to discuss and consider the TORs and schedule.
- Supported participant appointments by each Cooperator and the suggested participant levels.
- Supported a joint technical review following the peer review, including representatives from all cooperators involved in the project, to review the peer review recommendations and develop terms of reference for the assessment addressing the stock ID recommendations. Members of this panel shall be independent of the other stages of stock ID.
- Supported a chair for the stock ID workshop who will serve as facilitator of the workshop and assist work group leads in presenting findings to the review workshop. All cooperators making appointments to the stock ID workshop will be asked to suggest candidates for the chair.

- Supported work groups selecting a chair from their membership
- Supported following the data workshop model for decision making, with all workshop appointees contributing to the consensus decision.
- Supported requesting that the MAFMC provide travel support for their appointees to the stock ID activities.

4. Assessment Schedule Review

4.1. Documents

Attachment 7. SEDAR Projects List

4.2. Summary

Ongoing project details are addressed in the project status update (Attachment 5). Attachment 6 provides the complete record of past assessments. Priorities for 2018 – 2020, as approved at the September 2016 meeting, are shown in Table 1.

Schedule Topics

1. SAFMC: remove red snapper from the MRIP revisions; revised 2019 priorities
2. Gulf Council: revised 2019 priorities.
3. FWCC: timing & type update.
4. HMS: Porbeagle through ICCAT; need for shark stock ID?
5. King Mackerel: Tentatively scheduled to begin in 2018.
6. SEFSC alternative scheduling approach

4.3. Action

- Consider project priority and timing changes requested by the Cooperators
- Finalize 2019 assessment projects
- Identify 2020 assessment candidates

Meeting Outcome

The committee discussed the schedule in detail.

GMFMC Vermilion Snapper created considerable difficulties for the Committee. This assessment was scheduled for MRIP revision in 2017 and full assessment in 2019 at the September 2016 Steering Committee meeting, and elevated to a full assessment in 2018 at the May 2017 Steering Committee meeting. However, in June 2017 the Gulf Council shifted the assessment back to 2019, so it was not included in the data deadline and workshop scheduling call held in July 2017. In August 2017 the Gulf Council moved Vermilion Snapper back to 2018 in response to MRIP revision delays, and this request was the crux of the Steering Committee discussion. The SEFSC reported that due to the high volume of age structures for Vermilion Snapper, the age structures could not be evaluated in time to support a 2018 assessment. The SEFSC also reported that overlap of lead analysts between Vermilion Snapper and the 2019 red snapper assessment prevented conducting Vermilion in 2019. The

GMFMC proposed various alternatives to fill the vacant slot. Yellowedge Grouper and Tilefish were not feasible, due to the ageing workload and possible analyst overlap. Cobia was rejected during prior discussions, due to analyst overlap.

No suitable candidate to fill the additional GMFMC assessment slot could be identified at the meeting. Therefore, the GMFMC representatives proposed several alternatives, listed below, for evaluation by the SEFSC and resolution at the GMFMC meeting the week following this meeting.

1) Prepare updates of Gag and Greater Amberjack in 2018, and drop these from the MRIP revisions.
2) Conduct a standard assessment of Spanish Mackerel in 2018
3) If neither #1 nor #2 prove feasible, the GMFMC requests that the SEFSC propose a suitable alternative.

Other Schedule recommendations and clarifications

- Complete the 2019 GMFMC Red Snapper assessment no later than April 2020, preferably by January. Include 2018 data if feasible within the delivery deadline.
- Added GMFMC Red Snapper to the MRIP revisions.
- Removed SAFMC red snapper from the MRIP revisions.
- Delayed the shark stock ID workshop indefinitely.
- Updated 2020 – 2021 Cooperator priorities
- HMS reported that they are working with SEFSC to apply the NMFS stock prioritization tool to identify priorities for 2020 and beyond.
- The Caribbean spiny lobster assessment will likely be delayed due to hurricane impacts.
- King mackerel will be conducted as a benchmark assessment utilizing only US data. Mexican scientists will observe the process and the SEFSC will continue to work with them on preparing their data for inclusion in an assessment in the future.

5. Budget Update

5.1. Summary

Gregg Waugh will provide an update on 2017 spending and the 2018 outlook. Based on preliminary participation estimates for 2018 projects, all can be supported if at least level funding is achieved in 2018.

Meeting Outcome

Gregg Waugh reported that the Council, and therefore SEDAR, are in year 3 of the 5-year grant period. Delays in receiving annual funds from NMFS could create funding issues when the grant ends and no carry over is available. Level funding is expected to continue over the next few years, requiring continuing efforts to limit expenses.

The SAFMC has supplemented SEDAR administrative expenses in the past, but may not be able to in the future due to a tightening council budget.

6. Other Business

7. Next Meeting

Based on past practices, the next meeting will be held via Webinar in early May 2018.

8. Adjourn

Table 1. Schedule Worksheet – September 2017 Discussion Draft. See the Table on page 4 for changes made at this meeting.

SEDAR SCHEDULE WORKSHEET - September 2017

YEAR	QTR	South Atlantic Team				Gulf/Caribbean Team					HMS Team		FL FWCC	ASMFC GSMFC	Extra	SEDAR Workshop
		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	1	2				
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	2			Blk cbass Std												
	3				VermSnp Std											
	4						RS std		RS std	SpLob-all B			Gulf Hogfish U			
2018 FINAL	1		Cobia STKID			Gray Trig Std					Gom Blktip U			Gulf Menhaden Review		
	2	GrAmbrjk Std														
	3		COBIA B TY17	MRIP Revise[1]	Red Prgy Std		Red Grp Std	verm Std	MRIP Revise[2]						King Mack Bench	
	4										Atl Blktip Bench	Porbeagle (Iccat)	YTS Bench	ATL Menhaden Review		Stock ID Shark?
2019 Prelim	1	4Scamp RT[3]				1Scamp RT[3]										
	2			1Snowy Grp Std	2tilefish		2RS Std	3Cobia S	4YEG S	Queen Trig PR-StX						
	3		3gag				5 tile	6 span								
	4															
2020 Prelim	1		Request: Red Snapper, Spanish, Red Grouper				Request: Data Poor 2[4], Red Snapper, Greater Amberjack, gag,			*Request: Lane@PR, Queen Snap@PR, Redtail Parrot@STX, Yellowtail Snapr@STX*			Mutton Bench			
	2															
	3															
	4	Scamp OA				Scamp OA										
2021+		Request: White Grunt, Gray Triggerfish				Gray Triggerfish, Vermilion Snapper, Black Grouper, Spiny Lobster, Gray Snapper, Hogifsh, Cobia, Red Grouper, Lane, Red Drum										

1. South Atlantic MRIP Revision stocks: Red Grouper, Blueline Tilefish, Black Sea Bass
2. Gulf of Mexico MRIP Revision stocks: Greater Amberjack, Gag, Vermilion Snapper, Spanish Mackerel
3. Scamp Research Track includes Gulf and South Altantic. Yellowmouth grouper will also be evaluted due to species identification concerns.
4. Gulf Data Poor II: Queen, Blackfin, Cubera, and Silk Snapper; Warsaw and Yellowfin Grouper; Banded Rudderfish

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