

SEDAR Committee: Action Schedule & Next Steps for Tab I

Agenda Item IV: Overview of revised SEDAR Process

Timeline Status: Information and Background

Council Input and Next Step: Dr. Clay Porch will review the proposed changes to the SEDAR stock assessment process. The SEFSC staff are proposing that the Research/Operational/Interim assessment process will begin replacing the Benchmark/Standard/Update assessment process in 2018, starting with a Scamp Research Track assessment (which will begin in 2020). With this new process, each year, before the May SEDAR Steering Committee meeting, the SSC and Council need to specify the scope of work of the assessments requested for stocks to be assessed two years in advance. The SEFSC informed the Steering Committee that only 34 weeks of data processing are available each year. In addition, the SEFSC is proposing that not all assessment days be allocated but rather a “reserve capacity” be set to deal with unforeseen circumstances.

Council staff provided the SSC with several proposed modifications to the SEDAR process. Many of these recommendations are currently being considered in the new SEDAR process. The SSC representative will provide feedback on the SEFSC proposed changes to the SEDAR Steering Committee process and Council staff’s suggestions for streamlining.

Agenda Item V: Review and Finalize 2020 and 2021 Gulf of Mexico SEDAR Schedule

Timeline Status: Review and provide guidance on the 2020 and 2021 schedules. The 2019 assessment schedule is fixed and cannot be changed.

Council Input and Next Step: The 2019 schedule is set; king mackerel and cobia will have updated current data for the previous data streams. Vermilion snapper will also have updated data, and other appropriate model adjustments. Florida FWC plans to conduct a benchmark assessment on yellowtail snapper. The MRIP calibrations due in 2018 will extend into 2019.

Before the September 24 2018 SEDAR Steering Committee meeting, the Council needs to confirm that a red snapper Research Track assessment is desired in 2020, followed by an Operational Assessment in 2021 to receive management advice. The SSC reviewed the 2020 proposed schedule and the representative will provide a summary of their discussion. The SSC will also need to specify the Terms of Reference (TORs) of the requested 2020 Operational Assessments for gag and greater amberjack at a later date.

The preliminary 2021 assessment schedule should be finalized by the end of 2018 and definitely no later than the Spring 2019 Steering Committee meeting (i.e., at the January 2019 Council meeting).