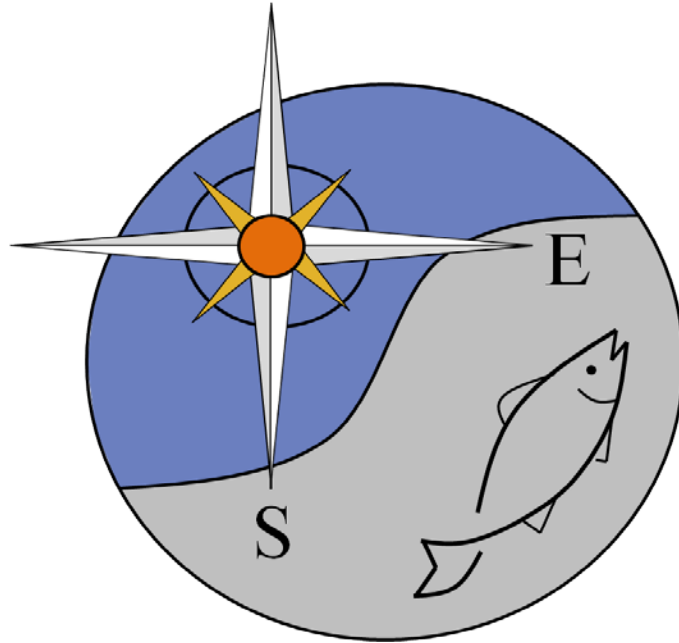


SEDAR



SEDAR Steering Committee

May 5, 2017

DRAFT Meeting Report

(For review and approval during the September 2017 meeting)

Meeting via Webinar

Version: FINAL DRAFT

5/16/2017

CONTENTS

1.	Introduction.....	7
2.	SEDAR Assessment Status Reports	7
3.	Research Track Assessment Process	9
4.	Assessment Schedule Review.....	12
5.	Other Business	14
6.	Next Meeting	15
7.	Adjourn	15

Documents

- Attachment 1. September 2016 Meeting Summary
- Attachment 2. Projects Report Spring 2017
- Attachment 3. FL FWCC Black Grouper Memo
- Attachment 4. SEFSC Operational-Research Track Assessment Proposal
- Attachment 5. Draft Research Track Implementation Option 1
- Attachment 6. Research Track Process Working Group Report
- Attachment 7. Scamp Statement of Work (NOT COMPLETED)
- Attachment 8. Research Track Decision Document
- Attachment 9. SEDAR Projects List
- Attachment 10. SEFSC Memos on SAFMC Tilefish

ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Bonnie Ponwith, SEFSC, Chair

Bob Beal, ASMFC

Karyl Brewster-Geisz, NMFS-HMS

Luiz Barbieri, FL FWC

Roy Crabtree, NMFS-SERO

Dave Donaldson, GSMFC

Michelle Duval, SAFMC

Doug Gregory, GMFMC

Carlos Farchette, CFMC,

Gregg Waugh, SAFMC

SEDAR STAFF

Julia Byrd

John Carmichael

Julie Neer

OBSERVERS

Joey Ballenger, SC DNR

Peter Barile, SFA

Erika Burgess, FL FWCC

Shannon Calay, SEFSC

Rob Cheshire, SEFSC

Bob Gill, Gulf Seafood Institute

Rusty Hudson, DSF

Clay Porch, SEFSC

Ryan Rindone, GMFMC

Gary Redding, NOAA

Skyler Sagarese, SEFSC

Carrie Simmons, GMFMC

Erik Williams, SEFSC

Beth Wrege, NMFS

Nancie Cummings, SEFSC

Adyan Rios, NMFS

MEETING SUMMARY RECOMMENDATIONS AND TASKS

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

Assessment Projects Status

- Supported the FWCC request to halt further work on SEDAR 48, Black Grouper.
 - Directed that FWCC work to find solutions to the data issues and provide progress reports to the Steering Committee.
 - Directed the SEFSC report to the Gulf and South Atlantic June Council meetings regarding the impacts of the data issues on existing Gag and Black Grouper assessments.
- Supported the SEFSC request to delay completion of SEDAR 56. SAFMC Black Sea Bass, by 6 weeks.
 - Directed the SEFSC to report to the June SAFMC meeting on the feasibility of advancing the terminal year to 2016 or 2017.
- Supported recommendations of the MRIP Transition Team and Cooperators to delay MRIP revision assessments until 2018, when the full 3 years of side by side comparison data can be included in the calibration process.
- Recommended that stock status determinations and fishing level recommendations be withheld for ongoing assessments until calibrated MRIP data can be included.
- Replaced the Caribbean Spiny Lobster, Puerto Rico, standard assessment in 2017 with a Puerto Rico-USVI benchmark beginning late 2017.

Research Track

- Agreed that development of the proposed research track process was not sufficient for implementation at this time
 - SEFSC agreed to further develop process details for continued discussion at the next meeting in September 2017.
- Agreed to conduct Atlantic Cobia as a benchmark, rather than research track, and include resolution of stock ID prior to the data workshop.

Assessment Schedule

- Revised the 2017 – 2019 SEDAR Work Plan, as shown in table A below, to address the changes raised during the projects status and research track topics.
- FL FWCC intends to assess Hogfish in 2018, Yellowtail Snapper in 2019, and Mutton Snapper in 2020.
 - Discussion and resolution of which Hogfish stocks will be assessed – Gulf of Mexico or Florida Keys – and appropriate data terminal year will take place at the GMFMC meeting in June 2017.

- The GMFMC added a request for Cobia or Red Grouper in 2018; resolution is expected during the June 2017 GMFMC meeting.
- Agreed to delay the Scamp research track project until 2019.
- The SEFSC agreed to revise the South Atlantic golden Tilefish model and provide results for consideration at the October 2017 SAFMC SSC meeting.

Table A. SEDAR Work Plan approved at the May 5, 2017 SEDAR Steering Committee Webinar.

SEDAR SCHEDULE WORKSHEET - MAY 2017																								
YEAR	South Atlantic Team				Gulf/Caribbean Team					HMS Team		FL FWCC	ASMFC GSMFC	Extra	SEDAR Workshop									
	QTR	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	1					2								
2016 FINAL	1	Red Snapper-Gray Trigger Benchmark		Blk cbass Std	Vermlon Std	Gray Trig Std	Red Snap std	Gray Snapper B	Red Snap std	SpLob-all B	Gom Blktip Std	Atl Blktip Bench	YTS	Mutton	Goliath Bench	SA gT								
	2																							
	3	ATL Blueline Tilefish	Red Grouper Std														Gulf Data Limited Benchmark	GAJ- Update	Gag Update	Carib Data Lim Bench	Dusky Update			
	4																							
2017 FINAL	1	GrAmbrjk Std	Cobia STKID	MRIP Revise ¹	Red Prgy Std	Cob-RG?	verm Std	MRIP Revise ²	Queen Trig PR-StX	Request: Lane@PR, Queen Snap@PR, Redtail Parrot@STX , Yellowtail Snapr@STX	Atl Blktip Bench	YTS	Mutton	BlkGrpr Bench	Gulf Menhaden Review	King Mack Bench								
	2																							
	3																COBIA B TY17	Snowy Grp Std	SpMack Std	Scamp Research Track ³	Request: Cobia, Spanish, Yellowedge Grouper, Tilefish, Spiny Lobster	Atl Blktip Bench	YTS	ATL Menhaden Review
	4																							
2018 FINAL	1	Scamp Research Track ³	Request: Red Snapper, Tilefish, Red Grouper	Gag Std	Request: Data Poor 2 ⁴ , Red Snapper, Gag, Greater Amberjack	Request: Lane@PR, Queen Snap@PR, Redtail Parrot@STX , Yellowtail Snapr@STX	Atl Blktip Bench	YTS	Mutton	Request: Lane@PR, Queen Snap@PR, Redtail Parrot@STX , Yellowtail Snapr@STX	Atl Blktip Bench	YTS	ATL Menhaden Review	King Mack Bench	Stock ID Shark									
	2																							
	3																							
	4																							
2019 Prelim	1	Request: White Grunt, Gray Triggerfish	Request: White Grunt, Gray Triggerfish	Request: White Grunt, Gray Triggerfish	Request: White Grunt, Gray Triggerfish	Request: White Grunt, Gray Triggerfish	Request: White Grunt, Gray Triggerfish	Request: White Grunt, Gray Triggerfish	Request: White Grunt, Gray Triggerfish	Request: White Grunt, Gray Triggerfish	Request: White Grunt, Gray Triggerfish	Request: White Grunt, Gray Triggerfish	Request: White Grunt, Gray Triggerfish	Request: White Grunt, Gray Triggerfish	Request: White Grunt, Gray Triggerfish									
	2																							
	3																							
	4																							
2020 Prelim	1	Request: White Grunt, Gray Triggerfish	Request: White Grunt, Gray Triggerfish	Request: White Grunt, Gray Triggerfish	Request: White Grunt, Gray Triggerfish	Request: White Grunt, Gray Triggerfish	Request: White Grunt, Gray Triggerfish	Request: White Grunt, Gray Triggerfish	Request: White Grunt, Gray Triggerfish	Request: White Grunt, Gray Triggerfish	Request: White Grunt, Gray Triggerfish	Request: White Grunt, Gray Triggerfish	Request: White Grunt, Gray Triggerfish	Request: White Grunt, Gray Triggerfish	Request: White Grunt, Gray Triggerfish									
	2																							
	3																							
	4																							
2021+	1	Request: White Grunt, Gray Triggerfish	Request: White Grunt, Gray Triggerfish	Request: White Grunt, Gray Triggerfish	Request: White Grunt, Gray Triggerfish	Request: White Grunt, Gray Triggerfish	Request: White Grunt, Gray Triggerfish	Request: White Grunt, Gray Triggerfish	Request: White Grunt, Gray Triggerfish	Request: White Grunt, Gray Triggerfish	Request: White Grunt, Gray Triggerfish	Request: White Grunt, Gray Triggerfish	Request: White Grunt, Gray Triggerfish	Request: White Grunt, Gray Triggerfish	Request: White Grunt, Gray Triggerfish									
	2																							
	3																							
	4																							

1. South Atlantic MRIP Revision stocks: Red Snapper, 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 Atlantic. Yellowmouth grouper will also be evaluated due to species identification concerns.
 4. Gulf Data Poor II: Queen, Blackfin, Cubera, and Silk Snapper; Warsaw and Yellowfin Grouper; Banded Rudderfish

5/5/2017 Draft

1. Introduction

1.1. Documents

Agenda

Attachment 1. September 2016 Meeting Summary

1.2. Action

- Introductions
- Review and Approve Agenda
- Approve September 2016 Meeting Summary

MEETING OUTCOME:

- The Committee approved the agenda as modified to include discussion of SEDAR 56 and the joint SSC workshop.
- The Committee approved the 2016 Meeting Summary. It was noted that the GMFMC requested an assessment of Vermilion Snapper in 2018, in the slot listing Red Grouper in the meeting summary Table B.

2. SEDAR Assessment Status Reports

2.1. Documents

Attachment 2. Projects Report Spring 2017

Attachment 3. FL FWCC Black Grouper Memo

2.2. Summary

The projects report (Attachment 2) 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.

- SEDAR 48: Dr. Luiz Barbieri, FL FWCC, will update the committee on the status of SEDAR 48, Black Grouper. The FWCC recommends halting further work on SEDAR 48 due to numerous data issues.
- MRIP Revisions: The transition team recommended delaying assessment updates until 2018, to allow inclusion of all 3 years of side-by-side effort survey estimates in the calibration. Key steps and timing:
 - Effort survey calibration peer review: June 26-30 2017
 - Initial calibrated estimates 1981-2016: October 2017
 - Access point calibration peer review complete: April 2018
- Stock ID: The comprehensive stock ID workshop planned for 2017 was cancelled due to budget shortfalls. However, stock ID remains a major issue for some species and how it is decided is an important part of the research track process that will be discussed in a later topic.

The Gulf and South Atlantic Councils have tentatively agreed to holding a joint SSC meeting in 2017 to address MRIP issues primarily. However, since there is potential overlap of the Gulf-South Atlantic boundary by many stocks, SEDAR staff suggests also asking this group to categorize stocks according to their stock ID status. Preliminarily, this will include categorizing stocks as:

- stock ID is addressed adequately by existing assessments,
- stock overlap is not considered a significant issue or possibility,
- stock overlap is likely and significant and should be evaluated
- no information is available at this time to inform stock ID

Due to the potential for stock overlap between the South Atlantic and Mid-Atlantic jurisdictions, SEDAR staff suggests including MAFMC SSC representatives in the stock ID portion of the meeting.

2.3. ACTION

- Provide guidance as required

MEETING OUTCOME

- The Committee discussed and supported the FL FWCC recommendation to halt further work on the SEDAR 48 Black Grouper assessment due to numerous data issues that create undue uncertainty. Data issues cited in support of this recommendation include likely bias in the ratios used to adjust for Black Grouper reported in landings records as Gag, large changes in MRIP estimates and associated uncertainty resulting from the APAIS calibration, concerns over the impact of the next MRIP calibrations for the effort survey, and reproductive traits.
 - The FWCC will continue to work on solutions to these issues, the findings of the data workshop will be documented in a data workshop report, and the Councils and Steering Committee will be kept informed on progress and developments.
 - SEFSC was requested to report at the June 2017 meetings of the Gulf and South Atlantic Councils on the implications of the landings reporting issue on current Gag and Black Grouper assessments. In particular, the Councils need guidance to address likely public concerns regarding the status and adequacy of current Gag and Black Grouper assessments.
- The Committee discussed, and ultimately approved, the SEFSC request to delay the SEDAR 56 assessment of Black Sea Bass. The request was for a 6-week extension of the completion date, to offset a 6-week delay in data availability as detailed in the May 4, 2017 SEDAR memo to Dr. Bonnie Ponwith. Due to this change in schedule, the assessment will not be available for review by the SAFMC SSC at its October 2017 meeting. The SAFMC raised additional concerns that, due to this delay, the 2015 terminal year will be considerably out of date if the assessment is not available to the Council until sometime in 2018, and noted that this concern is exacerbated by the need to revise the assessment for calibrated MRIP data during the latter half of 2018.

- The SAFMC requested that the SEFSC evaluate the feasibility of advancing the terminal year of Black Sea Bass to 2016 or 2017, and report findings to the SAFMC at its June 2017 meeting. At that time the Council will consider possible impacts to other planned 2018 assessments.
- The Committee discussed the recommendation of the MRIP transition team to delay the final effort survey calibration until 2018 and its impacts on assessment scheduling and overall productivity. These impacts include delaying the MRIP revision assessments until the latter half of 2018, and preventing assessments planned for late 2017 or early 2018 from incorporating the final calibrated MRIP data. While delaying the revision assessments creates some space in the assessment schedule for 2017, the time required for age structure reading and data compilation prevents the Steering Committee from using that space to address other assessment needs, or using it to offset the consequences this change will have on 2018 productivity.
 - The Committee recommended that Councils consider not using results of assessments completed in the next few months to evaluate stock status and develop fishing level recommendations, and to instead wait until those assessments can be revised with calibrated MRIP data.
- The planned SEDAR standard assessment of CFMC Spiny Lobster for Puerto Rico in 2017 should not proceed as planned. Both the Caribbean SSC and the SEFSC would like to conduct further analysis, building off of the SEDAR 46 assessment results. Therefore, it is recommended that a benchmark assessment for Caribbean spiny lobster be conducted for all three island platforms. The prior benchmark assessment was not accepted so the next assessment needs to be a benchmark.

3. Research Track Assessment Process

3.1. Documents

Attachment 4. SEFSC Operational-Research Track Assessment Proposal
Attachment 5. Draft Research Track Implementation Option 1
Attachment 6. Research Track Process Working Group Report
Attachment 7. Scamp Statement of Work (NOT COMPLETED)
Attachment 8. Research Track Decision Document

3.2. Overview

Background

Since 2015 the Committee has held several discussions on the proposed Research Track assessment approach. Following the October 2015 meeting, SEFSC staff was directed to present the SEDAR Research Track approach to the Council SSCs and

Councils in preparation for further Steering Committee discussion in Fall 2016. An initial test application was planned for Scamp in 2018. A revised proposal, including a timeline and additional process details (Attachment 4), was favorably received by this Committee in September 2016, and the Committee suggested expanding initial implementation of the process to include both the 2018 Scamp and Cobia stock assessments. Initial timing developed at that time called for assessment development in 2018 through mid-2019, SSC review in 2019, and completion of Operational Assessments in 2020.

The Committee directed staff to develop detailed guidelines and consider how to address the Research Track and Operational Assessment processes within the SEDAR guidelines. The first step was to develop a detailed process document through a workgroup of SEFSC analytical and data team representatives, organized and supported by SEDAR Staff. This was to be followed by review by a "SOPPS" group including representatives of each Cooperator.

Progress since last meeting

SEDAR staff initiated a working group of SEFSC analytical and data team representatives, and developed an initial research track implementation plan based on applying the research track process and timeline (as described in September 2016) to the SEDAR benchmark process (Attachment 5). Efforts to date by the working group, based on discussion held in 2 webinars during February and March 2017, are documented in detail in Attachment 6. Because critical details remained unresolved after the second webinar, and no clear consensus on how to implement the research track emerged, a third webinar was planned for early April. Additionally, SEFSC representatives agreed to develop a preliminary Scope of Work (Attachment 7) for the Scamp assessment to aid in mapping out the process.

The third webinar was cancelled because several members were not available and the Scamp Scope of Work was not completed and ready for review by the group. Therefore, SEDAR staff prepared a decision document (Attachment 8) to summarize the various options discussed for conducting the research track. The decision document was provided to the entire work group for review over several days prior to the completion of the briefing book. No comments were received by noon on Friday, April 21 when the briefing book needed to be completed for distribution. Comments received prior to the meeting will be provided as they become available.

Actions for this meeting:

Discussion on the research track process planned for this meeting is required to develop the guidance necessary to initiate the first research track assessments. Further detailed discussion is planned for the in-person meeting in Fall 2017. Changes to the SEDAR Guidelines will be considered for final approval once the Committee has a chance to evaluate the new approach.

The approach discussed in Fall 2016 included holding a dedicated procedural workshop to address stock ID for multiple stocks, including Scamp and Cobia, during late 2017. Due to a budget shortfall, in December 2016 the Committee approved delaying the procedural workshop indefinitely and addressing stock ID within the research tracks of Scamp and Cobia. To keep these assessments on track,

the Committee will need to provide guidance at this meeting on how stock ID will be evaluated and resolved.

Guidance on applying the Research Track process to scamp and cobia, specifically addressing the Terms of Reference and project schedules, is required at this meeting to allow cooperator consideration and approval by August 2017 for the Gulf Council and September 2017 for the South Atlantic Council. Delaying this guidance until the (tentative) September 2017 Steering Committee meeting would likely push Council approval until December 2017 (South Atlantic) and January 2018 (Gulf), leading to delays in both assessments.

The workgroup recommended that Cobia should not be conducted as a research track assessment at this point. This was based on the current lack of clarity and consensus on how the research track approach will be implemented, and particularly how Stock ID will be resolved. Making stock ID a TOR for the research track and carrying the decision through to be considered by the peer review means that every management entity encompassed by any potential stock definition will need to be engaged in the entire research track process. For Cobia, this means the South Atlantic as well as the Gulf and Mid Atlantic Councils. It also means that multiple assessment teams and representatives will be involved. For Cobia, this includes the Gulf team in Miami, the South Atlantic team in Beaufort, and the NEFSC in Woods Hole. However, based on the planning documents from the previous Steering Committee meeting, no Gulf team resources were allocated for Cobia from 2018 - 2020. Addressing stock ID prior to the rest of the assessment process will define the scope of the project, making it much more practical to manage.

3.1. **Action**

- Provide guidance on the research track approach. Some key topics to consider:
 - Driving factors: Hypothesis testing or deadlines
 - Independent Peer Review: Role and participants (retain CIE?)
 - Stock ID: determined *a priori* (per the process described in October 2017) or developed through the research track along with the assessment model and reviewed at the peer review?
 - Role of Data Best Practices timeline
 - Role of data providers during model development phase
 - Public process during the model development phase
- Provide guidance on project scheduling for research track application to Scamp and Cobia in 2018.
 - How and when will stock ID be addressed?
 - Should Cobia be conducted as a Research Track?
- Provide guidance on initial Terms of Reference for the research track application to Scamp and Cobia in 2018.

MEETING OUTCOME

- The Committee agreed that the proposed research track process was not ready to be implemented at this time. Important process and descriptive information and documentation needs to be provided.

- Chairman Ponwith committed to facilitating discussions with SEFSC staff to reach consensus on critical details of the research track, and document the process through example TORs and schedules. Once that effort is complete, the process details and recommendations will be provided to the SOPPs review group described at the September 2016 meeting, and then to the Steering Committee in September 2017 for review and recommendations.
 - Some Cooperators have yet to identify their SOPPs group representatives. A follow-up request for appointments will be sent once the process documents are completed by SEFSC.
- The Committee agreed that maintaining a strong SSC role throughout assessment development is critical.
- The Committee raised concerns that the productivity benefits offered by the research track, primarily related to increased operational assessments, may not be achievable given the current data delivery capabilities of the SEFSC. Research track process development needs to consider realistic data delivery capabilities, and the effects of process changes on key data providers throughout the region.
- The Committee recommended conducting the Atlantic Cobia assessment as a SEDAR benchmark, including stock ID evaluation based on the process developed in September 2016.

4. Assessment Schedule Review

4.1. Documents

Attachment 9. SEDAR Projects List

Attachment 10. SEFSC Memos on SAFMC Tilefish

4.2. Summary

Ongoing project details are addressed in the project status update (Attachment 2). Attachment 9 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. Delay of MRIP revision assessments until 2018 (as discussed in the project status – Attachment 2).
 - a. Does this affect the chosen species?
 - b. Does this affect plans for other 2017-2018 assessments?
2. Black Grouper and implications for other FWCC projects.
3. SAFMC request for SEFSC to address golden Tilefish in place of the MRIP revisions in 2017, and recommendations on age determination reliability for golden Tilefish (Attachment 10).
4. King Mackerel: Tentatively scheduled to begin in 2017; uncertainty regarding the process given the desire to include international data; no activity budgeted for 2017; concerns with data delivery work load in 2018.

4.3. Action

- Consider FL FWCC request to delay Black Grouper
- Adjust schedule to accommodate 2018 MRIP revisions
- Consider species or schedule changes requested by the Cooperators
- Address concerns with King Mackerel scheduling
- Address recommendation to conduct Cobia as a benchmark (not as a Research Track)

MEETING OUTCOME

- The SEFSC advised that it was not possible to move any of the GMFMC assessment projects from 2018 to 2017 to offset the shift in the MRIP revisions project to 2018.
- GSMFC requested clarification on roles and responsibilities for the Gulf Menhaden review in 2019. SEDAR will request the CIE reviewers and provide meeting space and logistics, and GSMFC will provide travel support for their appointed reviewers and observers.
- FL FWCC advised the Committee that they intended to update Hogfish in 2018, Yellowtail Snapper in 2019, and Mutton Snapper in 2020.
 - Discussion and resolution of which Hogfish stocks will be assessed – Gulf of Mexico or Florida Keys – and appropriate data terminal year will take place at the GMFMC meeting in June 2017.
 - FL FWC is tasked with producing a Scope of Work for the 2018 update for Hogfish, which will be provided to the Steering Committee at its Fall 2017 meeting. This Scope of work will detail the level of assessment to be done, a project schedule, and identify data needs and responsible partners for producing data products.
- The CFMC Spiny Lobster assessment will be conducted as a benchmark starting in late 2017, and will address all areas (Puerto Rico and USVI). The life history workshop scheduled for 2017 will be put on hold indefinitely, so efforts can focus on Spiny Lobster.
- The GMFMC clarified that their requested standard assessments for 2018 were Gray Triggerfish and Vermilion Snapper, and added a request for Cobia or Red Grouper in 2018. While Cobia was preferred by the Council, the SEFSC advised that two of the 3 requests (Vermilion Snapper, Cobia, Red Grouper) could be accommodated. Further, due to analyst assignments and preparation time, the request to add Cobia could not be supported at this time. Further discussion and explanation will likely take place at the June 2017 GMFMC meeting.
- The SEFSC recommended maintaining the Scamp assessment as a research track in 2018. However, delaying MRIP revision assessments until 2018 decreases the expected productivity twofold. Overall productivity drops in 2017 since no stocks can be advanced into the MRIP revision vacancies, and the need to conduct the MRIP revisions in 2018 consumes resources initially devoted to other projects. In addition, because the research track process has not been adequately described, the Cooperators are not in position to make the necessary approvals and appointments required during the next few months to support an early

2018 project start. Therefore, the Committee agreed to delay the Scamp project until 2019.

- The SAFMC reviewed the SEFSC's rejection of its request to conduct a golden Tilefish standard assessment in 2017, and requested that the SEFSC prepare a revision to incorporate the current Best Science approach model fitting algorithm, as used in the recent Red Grouper assessment. The SEFSC agreed to revise the model as requested and provide results for consideration at the October 2017 SAFMC SSC meeting. While this item was discussed at the SEDAR Steering Committee, this revision is not a SEDAR project.
- The Committee agreed to conduct the Cobia assessment as a benchmark, preceded by a stock ID evaluation process, as noted earlier in this report. The Stock ID evaluation workshop will be held in early 2018, with specific timing determined, to the extent practical, by the availability of ongoing cobia research products. The process will include a peer review and the steps developed in September 2016 for addressing the stock ID procedural workshop. All Cooperators potentially impacted by the stock ID recommendation will be invited to participate in the workshop, including the SAFMC, GMFMC, MAFMC, SEFSC, SERO and ASMFC. (Details on the Stock ID process are appended to this report for convenience.)
- It was noted that this change the timing of the Cobia assessment and is inconsistent with the SAFMC request of September 2016 to delay Cobia until 2019 data can be included. However, since that request was made the Cobia fishery has faced additional closures and high recreational catches, making such a delay in the assessment potentially risky. The SAFMC will discuss the timing change at its June 2017 meeting.
- SEFSC provided an update on the King Mackerel benchmark scheduled for 2018. Further deliberations will be held with Mexican representatives the week of May 8-11, 2017. The intent is to conduct this assessment following the SEDAR process. It will include assessment scientists outside the core South Atlantic, Gulf, Caribbean and HMS Teams, but will require participation by the data providers who support all assessments in the Southeast Region.
- The SAFMC requested that the 2018 assessments of Greater Amberjack and Red Porgy be conducted as planned, and that the MRIP revision project take the place previously filled by the Scamp research track in 2018.
- The results of the schedule deliberations during this meeting are shown in Table A on Page 6.

5. Other Business

5.1. SEDAR Data Best Practices Panel Update - FYI

The SEDAR Data Best Practices Standing Panel 2016 Annual Report was completed in February 2017 and is available on the SEDAR website (<http://sedarweb.org/sedar-data-best-practices>). The Standing Panel met via webinar in March 2017 to review Data Best

Practice feedback received to date and to begin discussions on which Data Best Practice issues to address next. The Panel felt it would be better to delay prioritizing the next issues to address until Data Best Practice feedback is received from additional benchmark assessment projects that are currently underway (SEDAR 48 and SEDAR 51). The Panel also began developing criteria to help with issue prioritization. The Panel's next webinar meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 2017.

MEETING OUTCOME

- The Committee discussed the joint SSC workshop or possible meeting being planned to address alternative MRIP estimation methods and Stock ID consideration candidates. Both Council Staff and SEFSC have taken initial efforts to organize the meeting. An organizing committee will be convened including representatives from: SAFMC and GMFMC Staff and SSCs, MAFMC SSC, MRIP, SEFSC, and SERO. Tentative dates are the weeks of November 6 or 13, 2017. Tentative participants will include subset of the Gulf, SAFMC, and MAFMC SSCs, SEFSC, and MRIP.

6. Next Meeting

Based on past practices, the next meeting will be held in Charleston SC during the last two weeks of September, 2017. Dates to consider are September 18-22 and 25-29.

7. Adjourn

Table 1. Future SEDAR Priorities as provided for the May 2017 Meeting.

APPROVED SEDAR ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE - September 2016																		
YEAR	South Atlantic Team				Gulf/Caribbean Team					HMS Team		FL FWCC	Extra	SEDAR Workshop	ASMFC GSMFC			
	QTR	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	1	2						
2016 FINAL	1	Red Snapper-Gray Trigger Benchmark				Gulf Data Limited Benchmark				Carib Data Lim Bench	Dusky Update	Goliath Bench	SA gT					
	2																	
	3	ATL-East GOM BlueLine Tilefish			Red Grouper Std				GAJ- Update	Gag Update								
	4																	
2017 FINAL	1	ATL-East GOM BlueLine Tilefish				Gulf Data Limited Benchmark				SpLob-PR & Life Hist WS	Sandbar Shark STD	BlkGrpr Bench	Stock ID 1					
	2		Blk cbass Std															
	3							Gray Snapper Res track	MRIP Revise ²					Red Snap Update	Gom Blk tip Std	King Mack Bench	Stock ID 2 Shark	ATL Menhaden Review
	4		MRIP Revise ¹	Vermilon Std	Red Snap Update													
2018 FINAL	1	Scamp Research Track ³	Atl Cobia Res Track			Scamp Research Track ³				Queen Trig PR-StX	Atl Blk tip Bench	King Mack Bench	Stock ID 2 Shark	ATL Menhaden Review				
	2																	
	3			GrAmbrjk Std	Red Prgy Std			Gray Trig Std										
	4							Red Grp Std										
2019	1	S/RT-OA	Cobia-OA			Request: Vermilion, Cobia, Spanish, Yellowedge Grouper, Tilefish, Red Drum, Lane Snapper, Spiny Lobster				Request: Lane@PR, Queen Snap@PR, Redtail Parrot@STX, Yellowtail Snapr@STX	Atl Blk tip Bench	King Mack Bench	Stock ID 2 Shark	ATL Menhaden Review				
	2																	
	3				Snowy Grp Std		SpMack Std		GS-OA									
	4				Gag Std													
2020	1	S/RT-OA	Cobia-OA			Request: Data Poor ⁴ , Red Snapper, Gag, Greater Amberjack, Snowy Grouper, Speckled Hind				Request: Lane@PR, Queen Snap@PR, Redtail Parrot@STX, Yellowtail Snapr@STX	Atl Blk tip Bench	King Mack Bench	Stock ID 2 Shark	ATL Menhaden Review				
	2																	
	3																	
	4																	
2021+		White Grunt, Gray Triggerfish				Gray Triggerfish, Yellowmouth Grouper, Yellowtail Snapper, Vermilion Snapper, Mutton Snapper, Black Grouper, Spiny Lobster, Gray Snapper, Goliath Grouper												

1. South Atlantic MRIP Revision stocks: Red Snapper, 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 Atlantic. Yellowmouth grouper will also be evaluated due to species identification concerns.
 4. Gulf Data Poor II: Queen, Blackfin, Cubera, and Silk Snapper; Warsaw and Yellowfin Grouper; Banded Rudderfish

4/18/2017

Appendix – Stock ID resolution guidance from September 2016 Steering Committee Meeting.

- Committee agreed that stock ID decisions have management impacts and should include review and consideration by managers (e.g., SEDAR Steering Committee, Cooperators)
- Default recommendation is that stocks are assessed along existing management boundaries or established assessment boundaries. Adequate evidence is required to divide stocks in other ways.
- Reviewed TORs for proposed workshop, suggested changes as follows:
 - TOR D under stock id, addressing the discussion of stock & management units
 - Add language to consider strength of evidence for any stock ID recommendations that result in mismatch between biological and management boundaries
 - Add language to address the risks (biological and management) & consequences of managing based on existing council or prior assessment boundaries if evidence suggests a change in boundaries should be considered
 - Workshop participants
 - SSC
 - Management: Council and regional office
 - Science: SEFSC & state: data, life history, surveys, spatial, tagging/movements
 - Specialized experts: genetics
- Request Independent Peer Review of the workshop report
 - 2 CIE reviewers (request genetics & ID expertise)
 - SSC reps – 2 per cooperator to include 1 as chair
 - Management representative – regional office
 - Assessment representative – SEFSC
 - Optional slot for additional expertise if required
- Workshop Report and Peer review findings will be reviewed by the SSC (or appropriate technical review body) of all cooperators affected by the stock ID recommendations
 - Note that SSC representation is also provided at the workshop
 - Each Cooperator will conduct its own review, according to its own policies. Joint meetings may be convened if deemed necessary by the affected Cooperators or the Steering Committee.
- If a change in stock ID is recommended that causes a stock to cross cooperator jurisdictions, then steps will be taken to involve all cooperators, management (Regional Office) and Science entities (Science Center) in making a decision on how to resolve the discrepancy and provide guidance on the appropriate TORs to provide the necessary and appropriate management parameters
 - Will consider a joint SSC meeting, via webinar, with subset of reps from affected SSCs to provide technical review and efficiently develop consistent, compatible recommendations by technical advisors.

- A conference call meeting will be convened of regional and cooperator leadership to develop guidance on TORS for addressing the management-stock unit overlap, similar to what was held for Blueline Tilefish with the SE and NE parties
- Summarized steps in the Stock ID process:
 - Workshop
 - Peer review of workshop findings
 - SSC review of findings
 - Resolution of mismatch and overlap by jurisdictions; guidance for assessment TORs
 - Assessment proceeds