

**Gulf SEDAR Committee Summary
June 18, 2018 – Key West, Florida
Leann Bosarge, Chair**

The Committee adopted the agenda, as presented, and approved the minutes of the April 2018 Committee meeting as amended.

SEDAR Steering Committee Summary

Staff reviewed the summary from the May 2018 SEDAR Steering Committee meeting (**Tab I, No. 4**), including a presentation on the proposed changes to the SEDAR process (**Tab I, No. 5**). The research/operational/interim assessment process will begin replacing the current assessment process in 2018, starting with a scamp research track assessment. Beginning 2019, each year, before the May SEDAR Steering Committee meeting, the SSC and Council need to specify the terms of reference (TORs) for operational assessments to determine the scope of work required. The SEFSC only has 34 weeks of data processing time available each year; however, this capacity may be expanded in the future with the addition of more staff and automation of data processing. Also, one member at the SEDAR Steering Committee recommended that some “reserve capacity” be retained to deal with unforeseen circumstances.

SEDAR Assessment Schedule

The Committee reviewed the SEDAR schedule (**Tab I, No. 6**), noting that the 2018 and 2019 assessment schedules are set. In 2019, king mackerel will be an update assessment because no new data sources are available. Vermilion snapper will be a standard assessment and cobia an update assessment. Florida FWC plans to conduct a yellowtail snapper benchmark assessment. The MRIP calibrations due in 2018 may extend into 2019.

By the August 2018 Council meeting the SSC and Council need 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 Committee asked whether an operational assessment always follows a research track, and the SEFSC confirmed that to be true. The SSC must specify the TORs for the requested 2020 operational assessments for gag and greater amberjack. Currently, 59 weeks of data processing are required for all requested assessments from the three Councils, but only 34 weeks are available, therefore this is the overriding function for scheduling and balancing the assessment needs of the 3 Councils the SEFSC services.

The preliminary 2021 assessment schedule should be finalized by the end of 2018 and definitely no later than the May 2019 Steering Committee meeting (i.e., at the January 2019 Council meeting). Presently, the red snapper research and operational track assessments are scheduled to conclude in 2021, along with an operational assessment of gag and an FWC assessment of mutton snapper.

This concludes my report.