

SEDAR 52 Assessment Scoping Webinar
October 26, 2017 from 1:00 PM to 2:45 PM
Summary Report

The webinar began at 1:00 pm eastern time. The purpose of the webinar is to review data collection needs, modeling approaches, and to finalize tasks to be completed ahead of the workshop.

SEDAR 52 is a standard-type stock assessment which will assess Gulf of Mexico red snapper. The assessment will use the Stock Synthesis modeling environment, which has seen extensive use in the Gulf of Mexico and elsewhere. The terminal year for the assessment will be 2016.

Outstanding data:

- Commercial discards
- Shrimp effort
- Shrimp bycatch
- ROV survey data
- ROV-East age composition data
- SEAMAP length composition data

Outstanding analyses:

- Reweighted age and length composition data for directed fisheries
- Age-length key
- Shrimp bycatch
- Converting SEAMAP age composition data to length composition data
- Commercial CPUE IFQ split time series

New Data Outstanding:

- LA Hydroacoustic survey
 - Age/length pairs
- Louisiana Creel Survey
 - Recreational landings and discards
- TX SEAMAP Bottom Longline Survey
 - Length composition data, index
- West Florida Shelf Towed Camera Survey
 - Only two years old- may not produce index, but may provide lengths
- NFWF/RESTORE Act Survey
 - Age/length pairs
- Gulf Reef Fish Supplemental Length/Age Comps
 - Age/length pairs

Data Revisions Pending:

- NMFS Bottom Longline Survey
- SEAMAP Groundfish Survey

It was decided at the previous data scoping webinar to provide length data in fork length instead of total length. Fork length will require fewer conversions, since over 80% of samples are recorded in fork length. Reversing the previous regressions can be used to predict fork length from maximum total length. Ultimately, however, the assessment will still report length as maximum total length.

Length composition data were compared between directed fisheries. Earlier years for the commercial handline fleets show discrepancies in the total number of samples per year. The same issue is present in the commercial age composition data. An examination of the proportion of ages by year may show that these discrepancies are less relevant; however, if a large number of samples were previously not included, the impact such an omission may have had on the assessment will need to be characterized.

Fishery-Dependent Data:

Commercial landings between assessments (SEDAR 31 Update and SEDAR 52) matched up well when new data were included. One exception was in 2014 for the eastern handline component of the commercial fishery, which was considered “preliminary” during the last assessment. Recreational landings also matched up well when new data were included. Historical estimates for commercial and recreational landings data remained the same as the previous assessment.

Commercial discards remain outstanding. MRIP discards show similar values between the last assessment and SEDAR 52, with small differences due to miscoding of the management history. Closed season discards have been increasing (generally) over the last few years. Headboat discards differed substantially between assessments in the eastern and western components of the headboat fishery, and are due to changes in the MRFSS proxy previously used. The analyst recommended using the SEDAR Data Best Practices approach to address this issue. This issue will be discussed further at the in-person assessment meeting in Miami.

Shrimp effort data remain largely unchanged from the previous stock assessment, but lack data on bycatch from 2016. Bycatch estimates were treated as a super-year in the past assessment; however, a recommendation to use the year-to-year data in the SEDAR 52 assessment was proffered. In the meantime, the previous method will be used, less 2016 data. Most variations in age composition data show minor differences between whether a fish is classified as “age-0” or “age-1”.

CPUE indices for MRFSS show some differences in the eastern Gulf, but that difference is likely due to a previous coding error. Headboat CPUE are similar between assessments except for 2011 in the eastern Gulf, because the Stephens and MacCall trip selection method did not select any trips for 2011. This difference may be due to the variation on the Stephens and MacCall trip selection results which result from adding additional years of data.

Fishery-Independent Data

SEAMAP Summer Groundfish survey data were largely unchanged between assessments. Differences in scale were present for the NMFS Bottom Longline survey, but trends in abundance were similar. The SEAMAP Larval survey was largely similar to the previous assessment. The NMFS Video survey data also showed differences in scale, which can be investigated along with the NMFS Bottom Longline data.

Modeling

The analytical team plans to have a continuity run to present at the in-person meeting in Miami; however, various data delays will stress the timelines and deadlines currently in place. Alternative scheduling will be presented and discussed at the workshop.

Working Docs Due: November 15, 2017
Data/Assessment Workshop will be in Miami from November 29 – December 1, 2017
Assessment Webinar 1 will be held the week of January 15, 2018
Assessment Webinar 2 will be held the week of February 12, 2018

Participants:

Julie Neer	Ryan Rindone	Adyan Rios	Benny Gallaway
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Jim Tolan	Jill Herndon	Erik Lang	Gene Proulx
John Mareska	Judd Curtis	Dominique Lazarre	Kai Lorenzen
Kevin McCarthy	Leann Bosarge	Linda Lombardi	Refik Orhun
Robert Allman	Bob Gill	Shannon Calay	Skyler Sagarese
Steven Atran	Ted Switzer	Dan Goethel	Adam Pollack
David Hanisko	Gary Fitzhugh	Chad Hanson	Buddy Guindon
Ching-Ping Chih	Jim Zurbrick	John Walter	Kevin Anson
Martha Guyas	Matt Smith	Michael Drexler	Jeff Isely
Liz Scott-Denton	Clay Porch	Kelly Fitzpatrick	Vivian Matter
Matt Campbell	Kevin Thompson		