

**SEDAR 68 Data Scoping Webinar
Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Scamp
October 10, 2019 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Summary Report**

Stock ID Review

The Stock ID workgroup did not identify any stock substructure within the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic; therefore, the recommendation was to perform two stock assessments with the stock divided at the Council jurisdictional boundary. Further, scamp are difficult to distinguish from yellowmouth grouper, even for trained biologists; therefore, the two species should be treated as a complex and assessed together.

The Data Workshop Panel discussed the proportion of landings that were likely scamp versus yellowmouth grouper. It was identified that scamp would comprise more than 90% of the landings of the proposed complex. Additional information for the Gulf can be found in SEDAR 49.

Working Groups and Data

The scientists responsible for life history information were identified, as were the metrics expected to be provided and by which lab. Commercial landings will come from the Accumulated Landings System, the states, and logbooks. Recreational landings will come from MRIP, adjusted for the Fishing Effort Survey, and from LA Creel and TPWD. Headboat landings will come from the Southeast Region Headboat Survey. Generally, the Data Workshop Panel did not think looking back further than 1986 for the Gulf would be useful, given the available data. Data for the South Atlantic go back beyond 1986, with a start year to be determined later. The terminal year for the assessments will be 2017; however, analysts should produce the data they have completed and are able to provide. Data will be updated to a more current terminal year for the upcoming operational assessment at a later date. Discard data will come from MRIP and the Observer Program in the Gulf, and from the self-reported logbook program in the South Atlantic. Abundance indices may be difficult to produce for recreational fleets, except for headboats. An index of abundance for the commercial handline fisheries may be producible. Fishery-independent surveys were reviewed, with the goal of creating a combined video survey and index. There is presently no justification to stratify the Gulf by east and west. Lengths will be input in fork length, and will be binned by region as is appropriate. Discard mortality will be analyzed as a separate working group.

The final Stock ID Report will be due on October 18, 2019

Participants:

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