

**Standing and Reef Fish SSC
Meeting Summary
Webinar
August 2, 2016**

The meeting of the Standing and Reef Fish SSC was convened at 1:20 pm on August 2, 2016. The agenda was approved with the removal of the agenda item to select an SSC representative for the August Council meeting. It was decided that staff would present the SSC summary, so an SSC representative was not needed.

SEDAR 51 (Gray Snapper) Benchmark Assessment Preparation

Review of SEDAR 51 Project Schedule

Staff reviewed the project schedule for SEDAR 51, which will assess Gulf of Mexico gray snapper. The date for the Data Scoping Webinar was modified to be the week of January 9th, 2017. Staff noted that the current schedule did not conflict with other Gulf Council meetings. A few typos were noted in the schedule which will be corrected in the final version. A committee member commented that holding the Assessment Workshop via webinars was not conducive to the same caliber of critique and analysis as is possible in an in-person workshop.

Without opposition, the SSC approves the SEDAR 51 benchmark assessment (gray snapper) project schedule as revised and corrected according to the SSC suggestions.

Review and Approval of Terms of Reference

Staff reviewed the terms of reference (TORs) for SEDAR 51. Council staff provided edits to portions of the TORs, including requiring justification for the use of F_{MSY} proxies, consideration of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill (and other episodic events), and modifications to projections. Committee members noted that the benchmark of F_{Target} was not formally defined, and changed that projection parameter to 75% of F_{MSY} .

Without opposition, the SSC approves the SEDAR 51 benchmark stock assessment terms of reference as amended.

Volunteers for the SEDAR 51 Stock ID, Data, Assessment, and Review Workshops:

Stock ID	Data Workshop	Assessment Workshop	Review Workshop
Jim Tolan	Jim Tolan	Mary Christman	Kai Lorenzen (<i>Chair</i>)
Jeff Isely	Mary Christman	Joe Powers	Sean Powers
	Paul Mickle		Luiz Barbieri

Reevaluation of Alternative F_{MSY} Proxies (F_{MAX} , $F_{20\% SPR}$, $F_{22\% SPR}$, and $F_{24\% SPR}$) for Red Snapper

SSC members noted that the F_{MSY} proxy is used as a limit reference point as opposed to a target reference point (such as optimum yield). However, while the F_{MSY} proxy is used as a limit, the true limit is unknown. Therefore, buffers are used to make sure that the true limit is not exceeded. SSC members felt that this issue should be discussed in the context of limit vs. target reference points, and as part of a broader discussion of MSY proxies that will be on the agenda for the next SSC meeting. Although some recent papers were distributed to the SSC discussing how life history traits affect the resiliency and compensatory mortality of stocks, the materials distributed were just a small portion of what is available. One SSC member suggested that a broader discussion of risk also be included in the next SSC meeting. The SSC Chair and Vice-chair will work with Council staff to develop a more comprehensive discussion for the next SSC meeting, which will be an in-person meeting rather than a webinar.

Discussion of Next Gray Triggerfish Assessment – Benchmark or Standard

Staff reviewed the Council motion passed in June 2016 to hold a gray triggerfish assessment in 2017, and the SSC motion to have the next assessment of gray triggerfish be conducted as a benchmark-track assessment. Whether the assessment should be a benchmark assessment or some other type of assessment was heavily debated. Gaps in knowledge that were identified in the last assessment (SEDAR 43) are largely still an issue, with little data available to rectify those shortcomings. However, new and additional circle hook data, and additional years of data for the SEAMAP larval index, will be available for a new assessment. Given the data available to be included, and the timing of assessment deliverables, the Committee determined that an update assessment would be sufficient to include the necessary new and additional information. Further, an update assessment can be completed in time to produce new projections by the end of the current 2017-2019 projection period. The Committee determined that the terminal year for the data used in the update assessment should be 2017, meaning that the earliest an update assessment of gray triggerfish could begin would be in the early fall of 2018.

By a vote of 12 to 3 with 1 abstention, the SSC recommends that an update assessment of gray triggerfish be conducted at the earliest opportunity.

Review of SEDAR Assessment Schedule

Staff reviewed the proposed SEDAR stock assessment schedule with the Committee. Changes include the removal of a gray triggerfish benchmark assessment in place of the gray snapper assessment in 2017 because the timing and logistics of the SEDAR schedule will not accommodate such a change, and the addition of a gray triggerfish update assessment to start in mid to late summer of 2018 with completion in the winter of 2019. For 2019, the gray snapper benchmark assessment will be removed from the priority list because the benchmark assessment will occur in 2017. The new proposed SEDAR schedule is attached.

Other Business

There was no other business.

SSC Members Present

Standing SSC

L Luiz Barbieri, Chair
Joe Powers, V. Chair
Harry Blanchet
Benjamin Blount
Mary Christman
Bob Gill
Jack Isaacs

Jeff Isely
Kai Lorenzen
Paul Mickle
Will Patterson
Sean Powers
Steven Scyphers
Robert Shipp
James Tolan

Reef Fish SSC

Jason Adriance
Robert Ellis
Jennifer Herbig
John Mareska

Council Staff

Steven Atran
Doug Gregory
Karen Hoak
Emily Muehlstein
Kathy Pereira
Ryan Rindone
Bernadine Roy
Camilla Shireman
Carrie Simmons

Others

Heather Blough, NMFS/SERO
Peter Hood, NMFS/SERO
Nancie Cummings, NMFS/SEFSC
Julie Neer, SEDAR
Chris Blankenship, AL DCNR
Elizabeth Silleck, EDF
Michael Drexler, Ocean Conservancy
Lora Clarke, PEW Trusts
Chad Hanson, PEW Trusts

Sharon McBreen, Pew Trusts
Thomas Anderson
Frank Helies
Costa Kouzouinis
Josh Livingston
George McKinney

Council Representative

Doug Boyd



Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

Managing Fishery Resources in the U.S. Federal Waters of the Gulf of Mexico

2203 N. Lois Avenue, Suite 1100

Tampa, Florida 33607 USA

Phone: 813.348.1630 • Toll free: 888.833.1844 • Fax: 813.348.1711

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Gulf of Mexico SEDAR Schedule				
August 2, 2016				
Year	Status	GMFMC	Terminal Year:	Start Date - End Date:
2016	Final	1- Vermilion Snapper S 2- Gag U 3- Greater Amberjack U 4- Data Poor: Red Drum, Lane Snapper, Wenchman, Yellowmouth Grouper, Speckled Hind, Snowy Grouper, Almaco Jack, Lesser AJ	2014 2015 2015 2014	Finished by Spring 2016 Sept 2016 - Jan 2017 Sept 2016 - Feb 2017 May 2016 - Dec 2016
		FWC Assessments: 1- Black Grouper B 2- Goliath Grouper B	2014 2014	Winter 2016 – April 2017 Winter 2015 – July 2016
2017	Final	1- MRIP Calib. Updates: Gray Triggerfish, Gag, Greater Amberjack, Red Snapper, Red Grouper, King Mackerel, Spanish Mackerel, Vermilion Snapper	2016	Fall 2017 – Summer 2018
		2- Gray Snapper B 3- Red Snapper S FWC Assessments:	2015 2016	April 2017 - Jan 2018 Fall 2017 - Spring 2018
		1- Yellowtail Snapper B	2015	Spring 2017 – Winter 2017
2018	Proposed	1- Gray Snapper B (<i>cont.</i>)	2015	April 2017 – Jan 2018
		2- MRIP Calib. Updates (<i>cont.</i>)	2016	Fall 2017 – Summer 2018
		3- Scamp (<i>Research Track</i>)	2016	Spring 2018 – Winter 2018
		4- King Mackerel S (<i>HMS</i>)	2016	Spring 2018 – Winter 2018
		5- Gray Triggerfish U	2016/17	Late Summer 2018 – Winter 2018
2019	Proposed	1- Cobia U	2017/18	
		2- Spanish Mackerel U	2017/18	
		3- Yellowedge Grouper U/S	2017/18	
		4- Tilefish U/S	2017/18	
		FWC Assessments: 1- Spiny Lobster	2017/18	

*Subject to adjustment based on available data. HMS = Highly Migratory Species
Assessments are listed by priority. Some assessments require two slots due to stock structure.