

SEDAR Committee: Action Schedule & Next Steps for Tab I

Agenda Item IV: SEDAR May 2018 Draft Steering Committee Report (Tab I, No. 4 & 5)

Timeline Status: Review and provide guidance for the October 2018 meeting

Council Input and Next Step: Review the proposed changes to the SEDAR process. 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. In addition, the SEFSC is proposing that not all assessment time be allocated, but rather a “reserve capacity” be retained to deal with unforeseen circumstances.

The Council may want to inquire with the SEFSC regarding 1) changes in specifying assessment availability by data processing weeks; 2) the proposal to build in a “reserve capacity” of unallocated weeks each year to accommodate potential unforeseen demands; and, 3) the need for an interim assessment on red snapper. The Council may also want to request a more detailed presentation from the SEFSC regarding the new Research/Operational/Interim assessment approach at a future meeting.

Agenda Item IV (b): Updated SEDAR Schedule Review (Tab I, No. 6)

Timeline Status: Review and provide guidance on the 2020 and 2021 schedules. The 2019 assessment schedule is fixed.

Council Input and Next Step:

The 2019 schedule is set. King mackerel will be an update assessment because a joint benchmark assessment with Mexico was not possible. Vermilion snapper is scheduled as a standard assessment and cobia as 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 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 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.

The preliminary 2021 assessment schedule should be finalized by the end of 2018 and definitely no later than the Spring 2019 Steering Committee meeting (i.e., at the January 2019 Council meeting).
