

Summary of the SEDAR Committee Kevin Anson, Chair - March 30, 2015

Staff reviewed the status of planned stock assessments in the Gulf through 2017 (**Tab I, No. 4**), and summarized minor updates to the timelines presented in the schedule. The Committee was encouraged to consider which data-poor species to assess in 2016. The SEFSC provided a list of species by the respective amount of data available for informing the Council's decision on which species to include in the data-poor assessment. The Committee was informed that at least five species could be assessed, with a realistic goal of assessing 7 to 8 species likely being possible:

Category 1: Highest Level of Data

Gray Snapper
Scamp
Red Drum
Lane Snapper
Wenchman

Category 2: Second Highest Level of Data (in order of Committee priority)

Yellowmouth Grouper
Speckled Hind
Snowy Grouper
Almaco Jack
Lesser Amberjack

The Committee approved assessing the species listed in Categories 1 and 2 with the understanding that assessments on all species in Category 1 would be completed in 2016. The species in Category 2 would be assessed in 2016, if possible, in order of priority. The SEFSC also reminded the Committee of a change in effort estimation for MRIP from which new calibration estimates will be available in 2017. The calibration estimates would require SEFSC assessment scientists' time to update ABCs for previously assessed species which could reduce the number of assessments which could be completed in 2017. The Committee asked if an update of red snapper could be completed in 2016 while keeping the red snapper standard assessment beginning in 2017 on the schedule. The SEFSC remarked that the 2017 standard assessment of red snapper would allow the incorporation of recalibrated MRIP estimates from the aforementioned new MRIP effort survey, and that they would query their staff as to the feasibility of an update assessment for red snapper in 2016.

This concludes my report.