SEDAR

SEDAR Steering Committee

Meeting Brief

May 20-21, 2020

Meeting via Webinar

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Table of Contents

1 INTRODUCTION 3
2 SEDAR PROJECTS REPORT 3
3 SEDAR PROCESS REVIEW AND DISCUSSION 4
4 ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE REVIEW 6
5 OTHER BUSINESS 7
6 NEXT MEETING 7

DOCUMENTS

Attachment 1: September 2019 Draft Meeting Summary
Attachment 2: SEDAR Projects Update April 2020
Attachment 3: Summary of current Research Track and Operational Assessment procedures
Attachment 4: SEDAR Assessment Project Priorities and Timing
Attachment 5: Cooperator SoW
Attachment 6: SEDAR Projects List
Attachment 7: Modifications to the Project Planning Grid from the September 2019 Steering Committee report
Attachment 8: Procedural Workshop Pre-proposal – Best Practices for Combining Index of Abundance Surveys

1 Introduction

1.1 Documents

- Agenda
- Attachment 1. September 2019 Draft Meeting Summary

1.2 Action

- Introduction
- Review and Approve Agenda
- Approve Meeting Summary

2 SEDAR Projects Report

2.1 Documents

Attachment 2. SEDAR Projects Update April 2020

2.2 Summary

The projects report (Attachment 2) provides a summary of current and recently completed SEDAR assessment projects.

Highlighted project developments:

- COVID-19 Impacts to ongoing projects:
    - Fortunately, only SEDAR 68 – Scamp assessment has been impacted by delays due to COVID-19. The Data Workshop was scheduled for March 16-20, 2020 but was cancelled due to the restrictions on large gatherings and the concern of many participants with regards to travel. The modified data review process for S68 is discussed in more detail below.
    - Several SEDAR projects will be getting underway in the next few months, and it remains to be seen if modifications to those schedules will need to be made as a result of the disruption.
- SEDAR 68 Scamp Data Review and Recommendation Process: After the cancellation of the in-person DW, and the mounting evidence that it would be some time before any sort of large gathering would be possible, SEDAR and SEFSC Staff held discussions to determine a path forward, followed by additional discussions with the previously-appointed working group leads. The following process is currently underway:
    - Working Groups (Life History, Commercial Statistics, Recreational Statistics, and Indices of Abundance) worked amongst themselves to schedule and held various meetings to review the available data and make pre-decisional recommendations.
    - Several publicly-noticed Data Plenary webinars will be held, during which the Working Groups will present the results of the discussions to the entire Data Panel for review and comment.
    - If concerns are raised that require additional analysis, the Working Group will be tasked to complete that request and report back at the next Plenary webinar.

- Once the Panel is satisfied with the analyses, then the Assessment Development Team (ADT) will make the final decision regarding recommending using the data in the assessment. These recommendations will happen during the Plenary webinars.
- A Data Process Report will be produced, to document the discussions and decisions of the Panel and the ADT.

2.3 Action

- Informational; none required

3 SEDAR Process Review and Discussion

3.1 Documents

Attachment 3. Summary of current Research Track and Operational Assessment procedures

Attachment 4. SEDAR Assessment Project Priorities and Timing

3.2 Summary

<u>Update on SEDAR 68 – Scamp Research Track (RT) Pilot Process</u>

- Stock ID Process: The Stock ID process, conducted via webinars, was successful. Three Working Groups (Life History, Genetics, and Landings and Spatial Movements) worked to review material pertinent to their working group and provided pre-decisional recommendations for the entire Stock ID Panel to consider during publicly–noticed webinars. The Panel completed a report of their findings which can be found on the SEDAR website. (http://sedarweb.org/docs/wpapers/S68_SID_05_Stock_ID_Final_Report.pdf)
- Assessment Development Team issues: The ADT component of the Research Track process was implemented to ensure there was a core group of individuals who were involved and responsible for the decision-making in all stages of the assessment process, in the hopes of having some consistency between stages. While identifying individuals willing to serve on the ADT was initially not a challenge, having the appointees actually be available to participate has become difficult. The RT process is very long, and other responsibilities are making it difficult for ADT members to fulfill their roles.
- Technical Chair Issues: From the May 2019 Steering Committee Final Report:

  The Committee supported assigning a scientist to chair the research track process. One individual will chair the DW through AW stages of the research track. The Chair will be recommended by the research track planning team and appointed by the lead analytical agency (e.g., SEFSC or FL FWCC). Peer Reviews will be chaired by an SSC representative, per current practices.

  There was some difficulty finding a Technical Chair for SEDAR 68. Participants were reluctant to agree to serve as Chair through multiple stages of the process. A member of

the ADT ultimately agreed to Chair the Data portion of the process, and the lead analysts agreed to serve as Chairs for their respective assessments but all have expressed the concern of how difficult it is to be fully engaged in the discussions while running the meeting. The scope of the duties of the Technical Chair, or perhaps how the Technical Chair is selected, may need to be reconsidered.

Discussion on the nature and direction of Operational Assessments

A summary of the current process for Operational Assessments (OA) not associated with a Research Track can be found in Attachment 3. This process is fairly flexible, allowing OAs to range in scope from the simple addition of more years of data where the assessment is conducted basically "in-house" by the Center (most similar to the previous Updates) to a much more involved process which allows for the inclusion of new data, new methods, assessment panels and in-person meetings and webinars, all open to the public.

The SEFSC provides the following clarification regarding OAs:

- The SEFSC is responsible for preparing Operational Assessments and managing the technical aspects of them, including data acquisition and model development.
- Unless there is a justified reason for a more complex approach and changes in the model, Operational Assessments should primarily include updating the existing assessment framework with the most recent data and only minor modifications in the framework and supporting information.
- The scope of OAs may be expanded to include additional datasets, changes in model structure, and incorporation of new information on the species or fishery *as requested by the SSC* if the SEFSC agrees they are necessary to ensure the assessment is best available science and can be reasonable accommodated with available resources.
- Operational Assessments will not include 'Assessment Panels' as previously defined through SEDAR. Instead, "Topical Working Groups" will be appointed by the Cooperators as needed to address specific items identified in the SoWs of a given OA and provide guidance to the lead analysts. As noted in the first bullet, the SEFSC is responsible for making technical decisions regarding the assessment.
- SEFSC will provide a Project Manager for each OA that it conducts. The Project Manager will be responsible for coordinating SEFSC tasks and all data management for that assessment.
- At the completion of each assessment (OA or RT), a summary page listing all data sets included in the assessment, along with the contact information for who provided the analysis, will be complied. This will be the source of data information for the next assessment.
- SEDAR will continue to serve a liaison between the Cooperators and the lead assessment agencies. It will manage administrative items such as Statements of Work, Terms of Reference, Topical Working Group appointments, and website postings. In the rare event that an OA requires public webinars or in-person meetings, SEDAR Coordinators will handle those arrangements.

Table. Comparison of key components of OA Process currently in place and modifications proposed by the SEFSC

Component	Current Process	Modifications
Project Management	SEDAR	SEFSC
Assessment Panel	Yes	Topical Working Groups
Webinars/meetings	Yes/Occasionally	Few/Topical

3.3 Action

Discuss clarifications to the nature, timing, or approach to Operational Assessments not associated with Research Track assessments.

4 Assessment Schedule Review

4.1 Documents

Attachment 5. Cooperator SoWs

Attachment 6. SEDAR Projects List

Attachment 7. Modifications to the Project Planning Grid from the September 2019 Steering Committee report.

4.2 Summary

The SEFSC requested that each cooperator provide a SoW for the 2021 operational assessments (Attachment 5). SEFSC will report on the SOWs and workload outlook, and the Committee is asked to finalize priorities for 2022 and recommend priorities for 2023.

ASFMC Schedule Request Modifications: ASFMC has requested to push the Atlantic red drum assessment review back until 2024 and conduct an update of Atlantic menhaden in 2022.

SAFMC Schedule Modification: The SEFSC informed the South Atlantic Council at its March 2020 meeting that they would be able to complete the SA red snapper operational assessment by the April 2021 SSC meeting, earlier that originally predicted. This shift in completion date was in response to the redefining of the items contained in the SoW.

Priorities for 2020 – 2023 are shown in Table 2. Due to potential COVID-19 disruptions to assessment schedules for the 2020 projects, it was agreed to postpone the SEDAR-SEFSC Scheduling Call for the 2021 projects (originally scheduled for April) until June.

4.3 Action

- Finalize 2022 Projects
- Recommend 2023 Priorities
- Consider long-term priorities
- Verify date for submitting 2023 Scopes of Work to SEFSC: March 1, 2021

5 Other Business

- Procedural Workshop Pre-proposal – Best Practices for Combining Index of Abundance Surveys

  Objective: To streamline future reef-fish assessments by defining best practices for generating indices of relative abundance and size composition that incorporate data from multiple surveys and account for survey changes through time.

  Attachment 8: Pre-proposal summary

- SEDAR Methods Working Group/Workshop – Shrimp Assessment Process Review

  The SEFSC is conducting an in-depth review of several components of the Gulf of Mexico shrimp assessments. The Center believes a SEDAR Methods Working Group could be beneficial for summarizing the individual review components. A CIE desk review may be requested.

6 Next Meeting

The Committee is asked to make a scheduling recommendation and suggest topics for the next meeting. Based on past practices, this meeting would be a webinar-based meeting in September 2020. Given the need to conduct the current (May 2020) meeting via webinar, the Committee could consider an in-person meeting in Charleston, SC for the September 2020 meeting.

Table 2: SEDAR Project Planning Grid – May 2020 SEDAR Steering Committee Discussion Draft

Table Color Legend:

Steering Committee Approved and SEFSC Scheduled Projects	FUTURE Requests
Steering Committee Approved, PENDING SEFSC SCHEDULING	2022 Preliminary Projects - Finalized This Meeting

YEAR	SA Team				Gulf/Caribbean Team					HMS Team		FL FWCC	ASMFC GSMFC	CMP
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	1	2			
2020	Scamp RT	Snowy Grouper U	Gag Grouper OA	Tilefish OA	Scamp RT	GAJ OA	Vermilion OA	Cobia U		Atl Blacktip Benchmark				King U
		Red Snapper OA					Gag Grouper OA							
2021	Scamp OA		Black Sea Bass OA	Spanish OA	Scamp OA	Red Snapper RT and OA	Gray Snapper OA	Red Snapper RT and OA	Queen Trigger PR-STX-STT	Hammerheads RT		Mutton Bench		
2022	Gray Trigger RT	Blueline /Vermilion OA		Red Grouper OA	Yellowedge OA				Lane@PR, Queen snap@PR, Redtail Parrot@STX, YTS			Hogfish Bench	ASFMC menhaden OA	Gulf Spanish OA
2023			White Grunt RT				Red Drum RT					Black Grouper Bench	Gulf Menhaden OA	
2024													ASFMC Red Drum	
2025														
2026														

Timing of projects shown in this table is approximate and is intended for SEDAR Steering Committee workload planning purposes only. Please consult individual project schedules for specific start and end dates.