Clarification to the Process for Operational Assessments

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SEDAR Goals

- Robust and transparent assessments
- Stakeholder involvement in the assessment process
- Reliable and scientifically rigorous assessments
- Independent peer review of assessment products
- Timely assessment products
- Thorough documentation of methods and data
- Appropriate consistency in documentation, assessment approaches, and treatment of uncertainties

Limited Resources Challenge

TRANSPARENT

Research Track

Pick any 2

THOROUGH

TIMELY

Operational Assessments

Research Track

Research Track (THOROUGH and TRANSPARENT)

- Develop a tool: models & methods
- Test hypotheses, explore new ideas for stocks
- Implement new methods and new data streams across stocks
- No status or fishing levels provided
  - **Removes reliance on most recent data**
- Not open-ended
  - Assessments can't become research projects
- Allow project team flexibility to develop a feasible plan

Operational Assessments

Operational Assessment (THOROUGH & TIMELY)

- Update the accepted research-track assessment with the latest data
- Provide the management information
- Status and fishing levels provided
- Default approach for follow-up assessment
- Review conducted by SSC

SEFSC Intent for Operational Assessments (OA)

- Operational assessments are based on previous benchmark or research-track assessments that have already undergone independent peer review.
- Therefore, unless there is a justified reason for making changes to the model or data, OAs should normally be limited to updating the existing assessment framework with the most recent data and only minor modifications in the framework and supporting information.

Need for Clarification for the Operational Assessments

The SEFSC did not anticipate having Assessment Panels for every OA. However, increasingly panels and in-person meetings are requested by the Cooperators. The SEFSC notes that the panels and workshops result in OAs taking much more time than originally anticipated.

Modifications to the Operational Assessment Process

The SEFSC recommended eliminating "Assessment Panels" for all future Operational Assessments. Instead, OAs may have Topical Working Groups (TWG), which are working groups assembled to discuss specific topics identified in the Statements of Work (SoW)

Modifications to the Operational Assessment Process

Topical Working Groups (TWGs):

- Tasked to review and make recommendations on specific topics identified in the SoWs
- Comprised of members of the SSC, stakeholders, and other technical experts
- May meet via webinars or in-person workshops; process recommendation should be included in the SoW

Modifications to the Operational Assessment Process

Topical Working Groups (TWGs):

- May utilize an Planning Team-style approach to facilitate some of their discussion
- Will produce a written report (SEDAR Working Paper) documenting their discussions and recommendations

Modifications to the Operational Assessment Process

Topical Working Groups (TWGs):

- Timing of the TWG needs to be such that the report documenting the discussions and recommendations is available in time for the analytic teams to incorporate the information into the assessment.
- Most TWGs should be organized within the SEDAR Process, as that process it is already set up to handle Cooperator appointments, notices, meeting and webinar logistics, etc.

SSC Roles in Operational Assessments

- Provide Guidance on Issues for Consideration in the Statement of Work
- Participate in the Topical Working Groups
- Review the Assessment Report

SSC Roles in Operational Assessments

Provide Guidance on Issues for Consideration in the Statement of Work

Clear and detailed SoWs are required for OAs

- Defines scope of assessment
- Clarifies expectations
- Critical for scheduling

SSC Roles in Operational Assessments

Provide Guidance on Issues for Consideration in the Statement of Work

Identify possible issues that need a TWG

- What new information is available?
- Suggestions on who should participate?

Recommend topics that the SSC would like examined but do not require a TWG

SSC Roles in Operational Assessments

Provide Guidance on Issues for Consideration in the Statement of Work

<u>Possible items may include:</u>

- new data sets to be considered
- new modeling techniques that have been used in other assessment which may be useful for the assessment under consideration
- request for further analysis that the SSC or review panel found lacking during the last assessment

SSC Roles in Operational Assessments

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Modifications to the Operational Assessment Process

Next Steps:

Discussions with Cooperators regarding new approach

Discussions with Science Center staff to work out the logistics

Thank you

Questions?

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