GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

GULF SEDAR COMMITTEE

Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort Miramar Beach, Florida

June 5, 2019

VOTING MEMBERS
Tom Frazer..................................................Florida
Kevin Anson (designee for Scott Bannon)..................Alabama
Dale Diaz..................................................Mississippi
Martha Guyas (designee for Jessica McCawley)...........Florida

NON-VOTING MEMBERS
Patrick Banks...........................................Louisiana
Susan Boggs.............................................Alabama
Leann Bosarge..........................................Mississippi
Doug Boyd................................................Texas
Glenn Constant........................................USFWS
Roy Crabtree............................................NMFS
Dave Donaldson........................................GSMFC
Jonathan Dugas........................................Louisiana
Phil Dyskow .............................................Florida
Paul Mickle (designee for Joe Spraggins).................Mississippi
Lance Robinson (designee for Robin Riechers)...........Texas
John Sanchez...........................................Florida
Bob Shipp................................................Alabama
Greg Stunz...............................................Texas
Ed Swindell.............................................Louisiana
Lt. Mark Zanowicz.......................................USCG

STAFF
John Froeschke........................................Deputy Director
Lisa Hollensead........................................Fishery Biologist
Ava Lasseter............................................Anthropologist
Mara Levy...............................................NOAA General Counsel
Natasha Mendez-Ferrer.................................Fishery Biologist
Emily Muehlstein......................................Public Information Officer
Ryan Rindone..........................................Fishery Biologist & SEDAR Liaison
Bernadine Roy..........................................Office Manager
Charlotte Schiaffo.................................Administrative & Human Resources Assistant
Carrie Simmons........................................Executive Director

OTHER PARTICIPANTS
George Arnesen.........................................LA
Kindra Arnesen..........................................LA
Anna Beckwith..........................................SAFMC
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Eric Brazer</td>
<td>Reef Fish Shareholders Alliance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>James Bruce</td>
<td>MDMR, MS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Traci Floyd</td>
<td>NMFS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Susan Gerhart</td>
<td>NMFS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Peter Hood</td>
<td>NMFS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Mike Jepson</td>
<td>NMFS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Bill Kelly</td>
<td>FKCFA, FL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Ed Maccini</td>
<td>SOFA, FL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Alicia Paul</td>
<td>Panama City Beach, FL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Kelia Paul</td>
<td>Panama City Beach, FL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Clay Porch</td>
<td>SEFSC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Jessica Stephen</td>
<td>NMFS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

- - -
TABLE OF CONTENTS

1
2
Table of Contents.................................................................3

3
Adoption of Agenda and Approval of Minutes.................................4

4
Action Guide and Next Steps....................................................4

5
May 2019 SEDAR Steering Committee Meeting.................................5

6
Review of Gulf of Mexico SEDAR Schedule.................................12

7
Adjournment.................................................................16

8

- - -

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17
The Gulf SEDAR Committee of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council convened at the Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort, Miramar Beach, Florida, Wednesday morning, June 5, 2019, and was called to order by Chairman Tom Frazer.

ADDITION OF AGENDA
APPROVAL OF MINUTES
ACTION GUIDE AND NEXT STEPS

CHAIRMAN TOM FRAZER: We will go ahead and open up the agenda, and that’s Tab 1, Number 1. Does anybody have any additions or modifications to the agenda? Seeing none, can I get a motion to adopt the agenda?

MR. KEVIN ANSON: So moved.

MR. DALE DIAZ: Second.

CHAIRMAN FRAZER: All right. It’s moved and seconded. Moving on, we have the Approval of the October 2018 Minutes. Is there any changes to the minutes? Seeing none, can I get a motion for approval of the minutes?

MS. MARTHA GUYAS: Motion to approve the minutes.

CHAIRMAN FRAZER: There’s a motion by Ms. Guyas. Is there a second?

MR. ANSON: Second.

CHAIRMAN FRAZER: It’s seconded by Mr. Anson. The minutes stand approved. The next item on the agenda is the Action Guide and Next Steps. Dr. Simmons, do you want to walk us through that?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CARRIE SIMMONS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A couple of things we’ll be doing this morning, and I’m going to walk through the SEDAR Steering Committee Summary, and that was an in-person meeting held on May 16 and 17, and there is several items that I’m going to review with you regarding that and the changes to the schedule, due to the government shutdown, and then there’s going to be some actionable items that we’re going to ask for when we get to the schedule, and so I will provide an overview, and then Ryan can get into the details of that, regarding 2022.

We need to solidify that at this meeting, if we can. If we need to come back again in August and make any final decisions, but preferably at this meeting, if we could get a good idea of what
the council wants to do in 2022, and that’s very helpful, because we will need to start drafting scopes of work, and I will get into that some more as I get into the report, as a request from the Science Center and the SEDAR process. I guess, with that, I will stop there, until we get into the summary.

CHAIRMAN FRAZER: I think we can move right into the summary report.

MAY 2019 SEDAR STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS: Okay. A couple of things. In Tab I, Number 4, that’s our summary, just regarding the Gulf. If you want to read the full summary, that’s going to be in Tab I, Number 4(a), and that would include the South Atlantic Council and Caribbean and all the other discussion items in their schedule in that report, and so I’m going to focus on Tab I, Number 4.

Then we also included, just a background material, the Tab I, Number 4(b), which was provided in our briefing book during the SEDAR Steering Committee, as the changes in the schedule, and so I pulled from that, as it relates to the Gulf, in our independent stand-alone summary. We’ll start with that, and Bernie has it up on the screen. Also, Mr. Dale Diaz was present and voted at the meeting with me, in May in Charleston, and so he can contribute to anything that I may have missed.

If we scroll down a little bit, just to provide an overview of some of the changes that occurred due to the furlough, as many of you know, red grouper was delayed. The red grouper assessment was delayed, and that is now planning to be available in July, and I think it’s towards the end of July, and I think it’s going to miss our July SSC meeting, and so it will not go to the SSC until September and then to the council in October.

The SEDAR 62 assessment for gray snapper, that was also delayed about two months from the furlough, and that is scheduled to be completed in October. There was a recent in-person workshop, and I think Ms. Boggs attended as the council liaison in May, and there was a couple of items of concern that were brought up that we originally thought may delay this assessment, but my understanding, from Dr. Porch and his staff, is that the plan is to keep this on target, and we intend to get that report to the SSC in January of 2020 and then to the council at their January meeting, and so hopefully that will stay on track.

There were minimal changes, I think really no changes, to
vermilion snapper and the Gulf cobia. Those were scheduled to be completed on time, and you can see it’s March 2020 for vermilion snapper and then the Gulf cobia in April.

Regarding the research track, remember, for scamp, that’s a joint research track, and it was delayed quite a bit, by nine months, and that is scheduled to finish in June of 2021. As soon as that is done, the councils have requested that operational assessment begin immediately, so the councils can get management advice, and that is scheduled to be completed in 2022.

For the operational assessments for gag and greater amberjack, those are delayed some as well, and those are scheduled to be initiated in 2020 and then completed in 2021, and we have drafted scopes of work/terms of reference, as we get used to this new process, and they were approved by the SSC, and then one thing that we kind of understood better during this Steering Committee meeting is that, during this new sort of process, is we can request in-person meetings, and so we found that out, and we sent a letter and requested an in-person workshop for gag, because we thought there was a lot more new information and that it was worthwhile to have the in-person workshop to discuss some of those issues.

We know that greater amberjack is really of high importance to the Gulf Council and the constituents, but we really didn’t find any need at this time, because we didn’t see enough new information to request an in-person workshop at this time.

Based on the delays to the scamp research track, we also discussed the Gulf red snapper research track, and that isn’t scheduled to begin until 2021 now, and I think the aim is that will be completed, I believe, in 2023, and then they will start the operational assessment after that, and so late 2023, or early 2024, we would get the management advice from that assessment.

Then, for yellowtail snapper, it was delayed approximately four months, and it’s estimated to be available in March of 2020, and that’s going to be led by the FWC, and so let’s come back to the action items on this schedule, and you can see it kind of laid out a little bit better, and we can have Dr. Porch chime in on anything that we might have missed.

Just a few other items that I wanted to touch on that we discussed during the Steering Committee is this key stocks and the stock prioritization process. This was a request and an
effort, I think by Headquarters, for a while now for the
councils to come up with a process for prioritizing stocks for
assessments, and we initiated that process, and we worked
closely with the Science Center, and it’s gone to the SSC a
couple of times, but we feel like it’s still too cumbersome and
complicated, and so we want to look at the key stocks idea and
look at what the South Atlantic Council has done and then work
with the Science Center on that, and so that’s our plan now
moving forward, and we can elaborate on that more later as well.

The other item that was brought up is the research track
assessment process. The Science Center requested, and SEDAR,
that the committee have a more technical person, and we agreed
with that, and we thought that was a good idea. We also
discussed the progress and process of the interim assessments,
and we think that those have been really helpful to the
councils, and we think that those are going to be great moving
forward.

One thing that was brought up is they’re asking that the
councils kind of specify where we see those interim assessments
working, but I would kind of throw it back to the Science Center
and say the analysts are probably the best at identifying which
stocks we have the most information on that we could really
utilize this process on, and so I think this is going to be a
real collaborative effort, and I hope that we will see more
interim assessments in the future, and so I think this could be
very helpful for us.

Then the last item, and we brought this up under Other Business,
is the best scientific information available. There was a
finalization of a NOAA policy from Headquarters regarding this
guidance, and I just wanted to put it on the agenda, so we could
start thinking about it.

This is a policy directive, and it’s finalized, and it’s going
to go to our SSC in July for discussion and review, and one of
the action items in there is that we create a regional BSIA
framework for the Southeast, and so we’ll be working with the
South Atlantic Council and the Science Center and Regional
Office staff to develop this, and we need to do that within
three years, and so we discussed that process a little bit, and
Dr. Crabtree suggested that his staff would take the lead on
that and include all three councils, and so that’s our goal
right now, and we’re going to start working on that.

We discussed the 508 compliance a little bit, and that’s
something that all councils are working on, and so, of course,
the SEDAR process is going to start that process as well for
disabilities, and then the scope of work process -- The idea of
this, and I think we kind of got a better understanding of this,
is, when there is a lot of new information, and it’s not just an
update, we can work with the SSC, and we can work with academia
and look at the literature and say, yes, we think there’s enough
new things in this scope of work that we would like to consider
before we get to the terms of reference that we can try to
outline.

Then the Science Center can get that information ahead of time,
and the idea is this would be a couple of years in advance, to
decide if it’s possible to do those things based on the type of
assessment. Then, from that, we would turn that around and make
it into the terms of reference, and then that would be finalized
by the SSC and then provided back to the Science Center, and so
we have a little bit better understanding of, I think, that
process. With that, that concludes my report, and I can take
questions or get into the schedule. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN FRAZER: All right. Does anybody have any questions
regarding the report? Seeing none -- Dr. Porch.

DR. CLAY PORCH: Thank you, Chair. Just a couple of comments.
One, you mentioned that, the way the calendar is set up now, red
snapper takes -- The research track would take around two years,
but that’s a worst-case scenario. Mostly likely, it won’t take
anywhere near that long, and so I’m not quite sure how that
evolved that it’s -- When I look at the calendar on the SEDAR
report, how it’s stretching across a three-year period, but I
don’t expect it to take anywhere near that long.

There is some room even potentially for moving it up into the
latter half of 2020, and so I think that still is an open
question, and I don’t see a reason that it has to coincide at
the start with the South Atlantic red snapper research track,
and so I’m saying there’s a little flexibility there, and
certainly it’s -- Almost certainly, it won’t take as long as it
has been allotted, in terms of the length of time for the
research track to be completed and then the operational
assessment falling on the heels of it.

Another comment on interim analyses, and I did note that you had
mentioned that red grouper took six months, but I think there
was just something missed in communication there. I mean, it
only took us a week or something to do that, and it’s just a
question of how it could be used, given the situation with red
grouper.
The other point I would mention, which is written in the report, is that the advantage of doing interim analyses, and that you’re using basically close to real-time data, is that it could actually supersede all of this carryover and payback kind of things, because you would actually have what the stock trend is and then link the catch directly to the stock trend, and so, regardless of the situation, whether you caught too few or too many red snapper in the previous year, you would look at the stock trends and then figure out how you need to adjust catch.

CHAIRMAN FRAZER: Dr. Crabtree.

DR. ROY CRABTREE: Clay, are we scheduling interim analyses on the SEDAR schedule, or how are we going to handle those?

DR. PORCH: We wouldn’t have to schedule it, because it’s something that -- At least the interim analyses, as we’ve described it, where you’re basically linking changes in catch to trends in abundance, is a relatively simple exercise, and we shouldn’t have to schedule it.

In parallel, we will be doing management strategy evaluations to evaluate how well that type of approach works. In fact, we just published -- Well, we just submitted a paper for publication that looks at the method that we presented to the SSC, and it seems to perform rather well, and so we’ll see when that gets peer reviewed, and then we’ll distribute it to the council.

DR. CRABTREE: I am wondering if it would be useful for us to get a list of species that you think are candidates for interim analysis now, so that we could start talking about when we would do them and when they would be delivered and that kind of thing.

DR. PORCH: Yes, we could do that.

CHAIRMAN FRAZER: That would be great, but, since you don’t schedule them though -- I mean, they can be opportunistic, and so, for example, if we’re, in the future, considering carrying forward some allocation, I guess, or some quota, then we could ask for those, and we could request an interim analysis for a particular stock?

DR. PORCH: You could, but my intent would be to automate the whole process, and so we’re going to make the indices available on our website, and so anybody can look at them at any time, and then, once you have the indices, it’s a fairly trivial exercise to do the interim analysis, and then it’s up to the council
whether they want to use it or not.

DR. CRABTREE: I am thinking, Tom, that we’re going to want them every year for the stocks that they can be done on, and then it’s a matter of figuring out the timing and when we would need them delivered, so we can get them in front of the SSC and get them in front of the council.

Like with species that are in an IFQ, we would need to get that stuff done before the end of the calendar year, so that we would know how much IFQ to release, potentially, if we’re going to change the catch rates, but I don’t see any reason why we wouldn’t want this every year, if we can do it.

CHAIRMAN FRAZER: I agree. That would be great. As long as they’re going to be automated, and that’s the plan, I don’t think we could ask for more than that. Thanks, Clay. Mr. Anson.

MR. ANSON: Following up on that then, what’s your expectations then, Dr. Porch, about when those indices would be available and then looking at the time it would take to run those interim analyses, or interim assessments? I mean, would it be like June that the indices would be available, and you can run them over a two-month period and have something in August, or is it a more drawn-out process?

DR. PORCH: It depends on when the survey is conducted, and so, if a survey is conducted in, like some of them are, April or May, then it takes a little time to process the information so that you can update that index with the most recent data, and then, after that, it’s not much time to do the interim analysis, and it’s basically a very simple calculation, and so, once we automate the process, it’s days after the index is put up.

The thing that takes the longest is processing the survey data and updating the index. For instance, for our video survey, you’ve got to read all of the videos, and that takes some time, and so there could be several months that go by between the time some surveys are conducted and the data is made available, but that’s basically the major time lag that’s involved.

CHAIRMAN FRAZER: Mr. Rindone.

MR. RYAN RINDONE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Dr. Porch, just for the committee’s edification, I was wondering if you could briefly touch on what an interim analysis is, just so they have an understanding as to what it is compared to like an
operational assessment.

DR. PORCH: Right, and an interim analysis is basically looking
at trends in our survey data for the age classes of the stock
that are exploited by the fishery. If the index goes up, then
presumably you could catch a little bit more than you did in the
previous year. If the index goes down, you might want to back
off on the catch, and there’s an equation that links that to our
stock status determination criteria and all that, and it’s a
relatively simple equation. It’s basically analogous to the
equation you would use for a depletion analysis, like what the
State of Alabama does with their survey, and so it’s easy to
explain.

If the council would like, we could give a presentation. I know
the SSC has seen it, and I can’t remember if we made a
presentation to the council before, but I can explain it in five
minutes, but it’s just easier with the figure than it is just to
say waving your hand and using some words, but, basically, if
the index goes up, the catch probably go up. If the index goes
down, the catch can go down, and you’re using real-time data, or
closer to real-time data.

CHAIRMAN FRAZER: Mr. Anson.

MR. ANSON: Following up on your comment then on depending upon
the timing of the data and development of the particular indices
for that species, I guess I’m just trying to look, efficiency-
wise, for the public’s understanding and such, is that we
devote, I guess, the least amount of time to look at the interim
analysis and kind of pick a point in time that that would be
conducted, and yet you may not have the most recent data, i.e.,
maybe it was collected a few months ago, but it hasn’t been
processed, but at least that, at a date certain, that you be
able to review them, and then you would have -- You would have
to go through your structure, as to making any changes in quota
and such in the upcoming fishing year.

That’s what I am trying to do, is kind of time that, or
reconcile it, so that all of that can be done so that it can
affect the most recent fishing year that’s coming, or the next
fishing year, if possible.

CHAIRMAN FRAZER: I guess what I would -- I mean, I think it
would be great, for example, Clay, if we could get perhaps, at
our next meeting, a presentation to kind of, with the figures,
to go over the interim analyses. By that time, perhaps we could
also have a list of candidate species and look at what those
schedules might look like, so we can see when we would have the information that might inform the decisions that we make at the table here. Are there any more questions here? Okay. Seeing none, I guess we’ll go ahead and move on to the SEDAR schedule and Ryan.

**REVIEW OF GULF OF MEXICO SEDAR SCHEDULE**

**MR. RINDONE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. You guys can see the schedule right there in front of you. We have -- In 2019, we’re wrapping up gray triggerfish and red grouper, and Dr. Simmons touched on when the delivery dates for those are anticipated, and we should get red grouper by July 26, and so we won’t get it in time for the July SSC meeting, since that meeting is basically that week, and so the SSC will look at that at their September meeting, and then, gray triggerfish, we’re looking to get that around the end of year, and so the SSC will take that one up in January.

The scamp research track is underway, with prep for the stock ID portion of the assessment, which is where we determine where the stock boundaries are, if there’s a multi-stock structure, et cetera, and then, from there, it will move on into the actual data workshop.

For vermillion snapper, we determined, based on the information that needs to be updated in that assessment, that we’re going to be able to handle the data and assessment workshop portion of it just via webinar, and so there won’t be an in-person meeting for that one, but, again, that one is going to be starting later this year, and that will wrap up in early to mid-2020.

Then we have updated specimens for both cobia and kingfish that are beginning this year, with kingfish finishing in the winter, and then cobia next spring. Then FWC is currently working on a benchmark assessment of yellowtail snapper, and the data workshop for that is at the end of June, and that’s going to be in St. Pete.

In 2020, we wrap up vermillion, cobia, and we’ll also be wrapping up yellowtail snapper, and then we’ll start operational assessments for greater amberjack, which will have webinar-based workshops, and gag, which will have an in-person workshop. There’s a lot more to discuss with gag.

We’ll continue the effort with the scamp research track, and so we’ll also have the assessment and review workshops occur during that time period. The review workshop might actually occur in
2021, and it just depends on how the schedule shakes out. Then we’re also requesting that FWC, at the end of 2020, begin a benchmark assessment for mutton snapper. Dale.

MR. DIAZ: I’m sorry, but, before you get too far, I think you skipped over king mackerel. Is king mackerel on time?

MR. RINDONE: Yes. It will finish this winter, and so the SSC will hopefully be able to take it up in January, and so that’s the intent right now anyway, and that’s being done by the NMFS Highly Migratory Species Branch. Seeing no other hands, we’ll keep chugging.

2019 and 2020, at this point, we’re considering those nailed to the floor, and so nothing in there is set to change. In 2021, the council is looking to finalize with the Steering Committee in September, and this would see us finish off the greater amberjack and gag operational assessments. It would finish off the scamp research track and start the scamp operational assessment, and the operational assessment is where we actually get the management advice.

We are hoping to start the research track for red snapper at the beginning of 2021 and also an operational assessment for gray snapper, which we also intend to request an in-person data and assessment workshop for. Based on the last assessment, there is some things that we would like to -- There are several things that probably need to be discussed, and it would be best to do those in person.

We will finish off the mutton snapper assessment with FWC and try and start a benchmark assessment for hogfish. The last hogfish assessment was an update, and it was reviewed by the SSC, and the SSC said that, the next time around, a more thorough approach that basically looked at everything again from the beginning was probably necessary for west Florida hogfish.

2022 is next, and we’ll finish off the scamp operational assessment and continue the efforts of the red snapper research track and hopefully finish off the gray snapper operational assessment, and we’ve also proposed starting research tracks for red grouper and red drum.

The red drum research track hinges largely on the completion and publication of a lot of research that’s going on around the Gulf right now, especially in the eastern and northern Gulf, with respect to the age and length composition of the offshore component of the stock, and a lot of those data have been --
They haven’t been collected for two decades, since the purse seine fishery closed, and so there are several different groups that have received funding and have been working on answering those questions for a couple of years now, and so we went ahead and stuck it on the schedule, anticipating those projects being completed and those data being available. The actual type of assessment that we would get out of that would be determined by the research track process.

You will also notice, for the research tracks, that we don’t have a terminal year of data listed, and that’s because, for the sake of the research track, which, again, doesn’t produce management advice, it’s more important to answer the questions and address the problems that may come up in terms of trying to develop the model more so than it is to squeeze in the most recent terminal year of information. When we do the operational assessment, which follows the research track, that’s when we plug in all the most recent information and get the management advice.

Then, in 2023, although it seems like a long way off, it really isn’t, and so we’ve gone ahead and added that onto the end of the calendar year, and so are there any questions or requests for revision?

2021 is where we really need feedback from you guys, if there is anything that you really think needs to be changed, and also 2022, but 2021 is the one that we’re going to be trying to get approved with the Steering Committee in September.

MS. GUYAS: Okay, and so I want to talk about the hogfish assessment on here. I’m a little bit concerned about the timing of this, and so think back. When we just got this past assessment, before that assessment, we had changed regulations, the size limit, and that size limit took effect in August of 2017, and so the last assessment didn’t have any of that in there.

This assessment, if the terminal year is 2019, it’s only going to have a little more than two years of that change in there, and I kind of feel like we could probably push that assessment back at least a year. Last time around, with hogfish, we wanted to do it right at three years, because I think we were in a situation where, after the third year, the quota was going to significantly drop down to the equilibrium level, where, I think in this case, with the new limits that we approved with the red snapper and hogfish ACL amendment, that’s not really the case.
I think it’s just kind of more or less stable, and I think it would be the like the 2020 level or beyond that. It’s less of a situation where we need to like assess this right now, in my view, as far as management goes, and we wouldn’t have a vast reduction in quota or anything like that if we put that off for a year. I just feel like it might be beneficial to have another year of catch information with the new regulations, maybe so we could understand the effects of those regulations, if they have any, and that’s just my thoughts on that.

**CHAIRMAN FRAZER:** The FWC is responsible for that assessment, and so is that a recommendation that you’re suggesting that we would make to the FWC?

**MS. GUYAS:** I would make that recommendation. I mean, I work for FWC, but I just wanted to kind of put that out there. To me, it makes sense, and I feel like we need to incorporate that management change in the assessment, if we can. I would want to get data at least through 2022, I think. As far as what quarter it starts in and ends, you all can figure that with Luiz. I am not so worried about that, but just I’m more concerned about like the last year of data that we have.

**CHAIRMAN FRAZER:** I am just looking around to the council. That’s a recommendation, obviously, that we would make to the FWC. Is everybody good with that? Go ahead, Dr. Simmons.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** Maybe I don’t understand it exactly, sitting as a fairly new person on the Steering Committee meeting, but I think we ask for the FWC, through the Steering Committee process, that they do these assessments, and I think Dr. Barbieri wasn’t at this meeting, if I recall, but I believe it’s through the Steering Committee process that we’re requesting this to be scheduled.

**MS. GUYAS:** Do you need a motion for a recommendation to go back to the Steering Committee or whatever?

**CHAIRMAN FRAZER:** Okay, and so, again, we would just work through the Steering Committee, and we can do that. Is there any other -- Mr. Anson and then Mr. Donaldson.

**MR. ANSON:** I read the minutes from the last meeting in October, but it’s still a little unclear to me as to how the calibrations for red snapper at least, but other species, with the FES and the Gulf survey, how those are going to be treated relative to the SEDAR schedule for each of the assessments.
Again, at one time, there was going to be time allotted to doing the calibration that the Science Center staff would be doing, and then there was discussion as to maybe that would happen outside, through the workshops and such, but I’m just -- Again, I can’t recall exactly how that calibration effort is going to be done and then whether or not it impacts the SEDAR schedule with staff and such.

CHAIRMAN FRAZER: I am going to kick that over to Clay.

DR. PORCH: The plan right now is that the NMFS Office of Science and Technology, and so the MRIP folks, will be working with the states to develop the calibrations, and they expect them to be completed by early 2020, and so, most of the assessments that will start from now on, that timing should work for that.

Red grouper would be an exception, because it will be completed well before then, and so the question there though is do we need the calibrations yet. Right now, the assessment is being conducted in the FES currencies, and so the statistics that MRIP supports, and I expect subsequent assessments of other species will also be conducted in that currency, but it is still possible for species to be managed using the state currencies, if the council wishes to go that way, in which case we need the calibrations, which will be completed in early 2020.

CHAIRMAN FRAZER: Are you good with that, Kevin? Okay. Mr. Donaldson.

MR. DAVE DONALDSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Regarding cobia, I wanted to make you all aware that the commission has completed a fisheries profile for that species, and that report, that information, would be available for the upcoming cobia assessment, just to make you all aware of it.

CHAIRMAN FRAZER: Thanks, Dave. Are there any other comments having to do with the schedule? Seeing none, is there any other business to consider at this time? Seeing none, that concludes the activities of this committee.

(Whereupon, the meeting adjourned on June 5, 2019.)