

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
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1 Eric Brazer.....Reef Fish Shareholders Alliance
2 James Bruce.....MS
3 Traci Floyd.....MDMR, MS
4 Susan Gerhart.....NMFS
5 Peter Hood.....NMFS
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7 Bill Kelly.....FKCFA, FL
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10 Kelia Paul.....Panama City Beach, FL
11 Clay Porch.....SEFSC
12 Jessica Stephen.....NMFS

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

5
6 **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**
7 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
8 **ACTION GUIDE AND NEXT STEPS**
9

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

14
15 **MR. KEVIN ANSON:** So moved.

16
17 **MR. DALE DIAZ:** Second.

18
19 **CHAIRMAN FRAZER:** All right. It's moved and seconded. Moving
20 on, we have the Approval of the October 2018 Minutes. Is there
21 any changes to the minutes? Seeing none, can I get a motion for
22 approval of the minutes?

23
24 **MS. MARTHA GUYAS:** Motion to approve the minutes.

25
26 **CHAIRMAN FRAZER:** There's a motion by Ms. Guyas. Is there a
27 second?

28
29 **MR. ANSON:** Second.

30
31 **CHAIRMAN FRAZER:** It's seconded by Mr. Anson. The minutes stand
32 approved. The next item on the agenda is the Action Guide and
33 Next Steps. Dr. Simmons, do you want to walk us through that?

34
35 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CARRIE SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A
36 couple of things we'll be doing this morning, and I'm going to
37 walk through the SEDAR Steering Committee Summary, and that was
38 an in-person meeting held on May 16 and 17, and there is several
39 items that I'm going to review with you regarding that and the
40 changes to the schedule, due to the government shutdown, and
41 then there's going to be some actionable items that we're going
42 to ask for when we get to the schedule, and so I will provide an
43 overview, and then Ryan can get into the details of that,
44 regarding 2022.

45
46 We need to solidify that at this meeting, if we can. If we need
47 to come back again in August and make any final decisions, but
48 preferably at this meeting, if we could get a good idea of what

1 the council wants to do in 2022, and that's very helpful,
2 because we will need to start drafting scopes of work, and I
3 will get into that some more as I get into the report, as a
4 request from the Science Center and the SEDAR process. I guess,
5 with that, I will stop there, until we get into the summary.
6

7 **CHAIRMAN FRAZER:** I think we can move right into the summary
8 report.
9

10 **MAY 2019 SEDAR STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**
11

12 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** Okay. A couple of things. In Tab
13 I, Number 4, that's our summary, just regarding the Gulf. If
14 you want to read the full summary, that's going to be in Tab I,
15 Number 4(a), and that would include the South Atlantic Council
16 and Caribbean and all the other discussion items in their
17 schedule in that report, and so I'm going to focus on Tab I,
18 Number 4.
19

20 Then we also included, just a background material, the Tab I,
21 Number 4(b), which was provided in our briefing book during the
22 SEDAR Steering Committee, as the changes in the schedule, and so
23 I pulled from that, as it relates to the Gulf, in our
24 independent stand-alone summary. We'll start with that, and
25 Bernie has it up on the screen. Also, Mr. Dale Diaz was present
26 and voted at the meeting with me, in May in Charleston, and so
27 he can contribute to anything that I may have missed.
28

29 If we scroll down a little bit, just to provide an overview of
30 some of the changes that occurred due to the furlough, as many
31 of you know, red grouper was delayed. The red grouper
32 assessment was delayed, and that is now planning to be available
33 in July, and I think it's towards the end of July, and I think
34 it's going to miss our July SSC meeting, and so it will not go
35 to the SSC until September and then to the council in October.
36

37 The SEDAR 62 assessment for gray snapper, that was also delayed
38 about two months from the furlough, and that is scheduled to be
39 completed in October. There was a recent in-person workshop,
40 and I think Ms. Boggs attended as the council liaison in May,
41 and there was a couple of items of concern that were brought up
42 that we originally thought may delay this assessment, but my
43 understanding, from Dr. Porch and his staff, is that the plan is
44 to keep this on target, and we intend to get that report to the
45 SSC in January of 2020 and then to the council at their January
46 meeting, and so hopefully that will stay on track.
47

48 There were minimal changes, I think really no changes, to

1 vermilion snapper and the Gulf cobia. Those were scheduled to
2 be completed on time, and you can see it's March 2020 for
3 vermilion snapper and then the Gulf cobia in April.

4
5 Regarding the research track, remember, for scamp, that's a
6 joint research track, and it was delayed quite a bit, by nine
7 months, and that is scheduled to finish in June of 2021. As
8 soon as that is done, the councils have requested that
9 operational assessment begin immediately, so the councils can
10 get management advice, and that is scheduled to be completed in
11 2022.

12
13 For the operational assessments for gag and greater amberjack,
14 those are delayed some as well, and those are scheduled to be
15 initiated in 2020 and then completed in 2021, and we have
16 drafted scopes of work/terms of reference, as we get used to
17 this new process, and they were approved by the SSC, and then
18 one thing that we kind of understood better during this Steering
19 Committee meeting is that, during this new sort of process, is
20 we can request in-person meetings, and so we found that out, and
21 we sent a letter and requested an in-person workshop for gag,
22 because we thought there was a lot more new information and that
23 it was worthwhile to have the in-person workshop to discuss some
24 of those issues.

25
26 We know that greater amberjack is really of high importance to
27 the Gulf Council and the constituents, but we really didn't find
28 any need at this time, because we didn't see enough new
29 information to request an in-person workshop at this time.

30
31 Based on the delays to the scamp research track, we also
32 discussed the Gulf red snapper research track, and that isn't
33 scheduled to begin until 2021 now, and I think the aim is that
34 will be completed, I believe, in 2023, and then they will start
35 the operational assessment after that, and so late 2023, or
36 early 2024, we would get the management advice from that
37 assessment.

38
39 Then, for yellowtail snapper, it was delayed approximately four
40 months, and it's estimated to be available in March of 2020, and
41 that's going to be led by the FWC, and so let's come back to the
42 action items on this schedule, and you can see it kind of laid
43 out a little bit better, and we can have Dr. Porch chime in on
44 anything that we might have missed.

45
46 Just a few other items that I wanted to touch on that we
47 discussed during the Steering Committee is this key stocks and
48 the stock prioritization process. This was a request and an

1 effort, I think by Headquarters, for a while now for the
2 councils to come up with a process for prioritizing stocks for
3 assessments, and we initiated that process, and we worked
4 closely with the Science Center, and it's gone to the SSC a
5 couple of times, but we feel like it's still too cumbersome and
6 complicated, and so we want to look at the key stocks idea and
7 look at what the South Atlantic Council has done and then work
8 with the Science Center on that, and so that's our plan now
9 moving forward, and we can elaborate on that more later as well.

10
11 The other item that was brought up is the research track
12 assessment process. The Science Center requested, and SEDAR,
13 that the committee have a more technical person, and we agreed
14 with that, and we thought that was a good idea. We also
15 discussed the progress and process of the interim assessments,
16 and we think that those have been really helpful to the
17 councils, and we think that those are going to be great moving
18 forward.

19
20 One thing that was brought up is they're asking that the
21 councils kind of specify where we see those interim assessments
22 working, but I would kind of throw it back to the Science Center
23 and say the analysts are probably the best at identifying which
24 stocks we have the most information on that we could really
25 utilize this process on, and so I think this is going to be a
26 real collaborative effort, and I hope that we will see more
27 interim assessments in the future, and so I think this could be
28 very helpful for us.

29
30 Then the last item, and we brought this up under Other Business,
31 is the best scientific information available. There was a
32 finalization of a NOAA policy from Headquarters regarding this
33 guidance, and I just wanted to put it on the agenda, so we could
34 start thinking about it.

35
36 This is a policy directive, and it's finalized, and it's going
37 to go to our SSC in July for discussion and review, and one of
38 the action items in there is that we create a regional BSIA
39 framework for the Southeast, and so we'll be working with the
40 South Atlantic Council and the Science Center and Regional
41 Office staff to develop this, and we need to do that within
42 three years, and so we discussed that process a little bit, and
43 Dr. Crabtree suggested that his staff would take the lead on
44 that and include all three councils, and so that's our goal
45 right now, and we're going to start working on that.

46
47 We discussed the 508 compliance a little bit, and that's
48 something that all councils are working on, and so, of course,

1 the SEDAR process is going to start that process as well for
2 disabilities, and then the scope of work process -- The idea of
3 this, and I think we kind of got a better understanding of this,
4 is, when there is a lot of new information, and it's not just an
5 update, we can work with the SSC, and we can work with academia
6 and look at the literature and say, yes, we think there's enough
7 new things in this scope of work that we would like to consider
8 before we get to the terms of reference that we can try to
9 outline.

10
11 Then the Science Center can get that information ahead of time,
12 and the idea is this would be a couple of years in advance, to
13 decide if it's possible to do those things based on the type of
14 assessment. Then, from that, we would turn that around and make
15 it into the terms of reference, and then that would be finalized
16 by the SSC and then provided back to the Science Center, and so
17 we have a little bit better understanding of, I think, that
18 process. With that, that concludes my report, and I can take
19 questions or get into the schedule. Thank you.

20
21 **CHAIRMAN FRAZER:** All right. Does anybody have any questions
22 regarding the report? Seeing none -- Dr. Porch.

23
24 **DR. CLAY PORCH:** Thank you, Chair. Just a couple of comments.
25 One, you mentioned that, the way the calendar is set up now, red
26 snapper takes -- The research track would take around two years,
27 but that's a worst-case scenario. Mostly likely, it won't take
28 anywhere near that long, and so I'm not quite sure how that
29 evolved that it's -- When I look at the calendar on the SEDAR
30 report, how it's stretching across a three-year period, but I
31 don't expect it to take anywhere near that long.

32
33 There is some room even potentially for moving it up into the
34 latter half of 2020, and so I think that still is an open
35 question, and I don't see a reason that it has to coincide at
36 the start with the South Atlantic red snapper research track,
37 and so I'm saying there's a little flexibility there, and
38 certainly it's -- Almost certainly, it won't take as long as it
39 has been allotted, in terms of the length of time for the
40 research track to be completed and then the operational
41 assessment falling on the heels of it.

42
43 Another comment on interim analyses, and I did note that you had
44 mentioned that red grouper took six months, but I think there
45 was just something missed in communication there. I mean, it
46 only took us a week or something to do that, and it's just a
47 question of how it could be used, given the situation with red
48 grouper.

1
2 The other point I would mention, which is written in the report,
3 is that the advantage of doing interim analyses, and that you're
4 using basically close to real-time data, is that it could
5 actually supersede all of this carryover and payback kind of
6 things, because you would actually have what the stock trend is
7 and then link the catch directly to the stock trend, and so,
8 regardless of the situation, whether you caught too few or too
9 many red snapper in the previous year, you would look at the
10 stock trends and then figure out how you need to adjust catch.

11
12 **CHAIRMAN FRAZER:** Dr. Crabtree.

13
14 **DR. ROY CRABTREE:** Clay, are we scheduling interim analyses on
15 the SEDAR schedule, or how are we going to handle those?

16
17 **DR. PORCH:** We wouldn't have to schedule it, because it's
18 something that -- At least the interim analyses, as we've
19 described it, where you're basically linking changes in catch to
20 trends in abundance, is a relatively simple exercise, and we
21 shouldn't have to schedule it.

22
23 In parallel, we will be doing management strategy evaluations to
24 evaluate how well that type of approach works. In fact, we just
25 published -- Well, we just submitted a paper for publication
26 that looks at the method that we presented to the SSC, and it
27 seems to perform rather well, and so we'll see when that gets
28 peer reviewed, and then we'll distribute it to the council.

29
30 **DR. CRABTREE:** I am wondering if it would be useful for us to
31 get a list of species that you think are candidates for interim
32 analysis now, so that we could start talking about when we would
33 do them and when they would be delivered and that kind of thing.

34
35 **DR. PORCH:** Yes, we could do that.

36
37 **CHAIRMAN FRAZER:** That would be great, but, since you don't
38 schedule them though -- I mean, they can be opportunistic, and
39 so, for example, if we're, in the future, considering carrying
40 forward some allocation, I guess, or some quota, then we could
41 ask for those, and we could request an interim analysis for a
42 particular stock?

43
44 **DR. PORCH:** You could, but my intent would be to automate the
45 whole process, and so we're going to make the indices available
46 on our website, and so anybody can look at them at any time, and
47 then, once you have the indices, it's a fairly trivial exercise
48 to do the interim analysis, and then it's up to the council

1 whether they want to use it or not.

2
3 **DR. CRABTREE:** I am thinking, Tom, that we're going to want them
4 every year for the stocks that they can be done on, and then
5 it's a matter of figuring out the timing and when we would need
6 them delivered, so we can get them in front of the SSC and get
7 them in front of the council.

8
9 Like with species that are in an IFQ, we would need to get that
10 stuff done before the end of the calendar year, so that we would
11 know how much IFQ to release, potentially, if we're going to
12 change the catch rates, but I don't see any reason why we
13 wouldn't want this every year, if we can do it.

14
15 **CHAIRMAN FRAZER:** I agree. That would be great. As long as
16 they're going to be automated, and that's the plan, I don't
17 think we could ask for more than that. Thanks, Clay. Mr.
18 Anson.

19
20 **MR. ANSON:** Following up on that then, what's your expectations
21 then, Dr. Porch, about when those indices would be available and
22 then looking at the time it would take to run those interim
23 analyses, or interim assessments? I mean, would it be like June
24 that the indices would be available, and you can run them over a
25 two-month period and have something in August, or is it a more
26 drawn-out process?

27
28 **DR. PORCH:** It depends on when the survey is conducted, and so,
29 if a survey is conducted in, like some of them are, April or
30 May, then it takes a little time to process the information so
31 that you can update that index with the most recent data, and
32 then, after that, it's not much time to do the interim analysis,
33 and it's basically a very simple calculation, and so, once we
34 automate the process, it's days after the index is put up.

35
36 The thing that takes the longest is processing the survey data
37 and updating the index. For instance, for our video survey,
38 you've got to read all of the videos, and that takes some time,
39 and so there could be several months that go by between the time
40 some surveys are conducted and the data is made available, but
41 that's basically the major time lag that's involved.

42
43 **CHAIRMAN FRAZER:** Mr. Rindone.

44
45 **MR. RYAN RINDONE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Dr. Porch, just for
46 the committee's edification, I was wondering if you could
47 briefly touch on what an interim analysis is, just so they have
48 an understanding as to what it is compared to like an

1 operational assessment.

2
3 **DR. PORCH:** Right, and an interim analysis is basically looking
4 at trends in our survey data for the age classes of the stock
5 that are exploited by the fishery. If the index goes up, then
6 presumably you could catch a little bit more than you did in the
7 previous year. If the index goes down, you might want to back
8 off on the catch, and there's an equation that links that to our
9 stock status determination criteria and all that, and it's a
10 relatively simple equation. It's basically analogous to the
11 equation you would use for a depletion analysis, like what the
12 State of Alabama does with their survey, and so it's easy to
13 explain.

14
15 If the council would like, we could give a presentation. I know
16 the SSC has seen it, and I can't remember if we made a
17 presentation to the council before, but I can explain it in five
18 minutes, but it's just easier with the figure than it is just to
19 say waving your hand and using some words, but, basically, if
20 the index goes up, the catch probably go up. If the index goes
21 down, the catch can go down, and you're using real-time data, or
22 closer to real-time data.

23
24 **CHAIRMAN FRAZER:** Mr. Anson.

25
26 **MR. ANSON:** Following up on your comment then on depending upon
27 the timing of the data and development of the particular indices
28 for that species, I guess I'm just trying to look, efficiency-
29 wise, for the public's understanding and such, is that we
30 devote, I guess, the least amount of time to look at the interim
31 analysis and kind of pick a point in time that that would be
32 conducted, and yet you may not have the most recent data, i.e.,
33 maybe it was collected a few months ago, but it hasn't been
34 processed, but at least that, at a date certain, that you be
35 able to review them, and then you would have -- You would have
36 to go through your structure, as to making any changes in quota
37 and such in the upcoming fishing year.

38
39 That's what I am trying to do, is kind of time that, or
40 reconcile it, so that all of that can be done so that it can
41 affect the most recent fishing year that's coming, or the next
42 fishing year, if possible.

43
44 **CHAIRMAN FRAZER:** I guess what I would -- I mean, I think it
45 would be great, for example, Clay, if we could get perhaps, at
46 our next meeting, a presentation to kind of, with the figures,
47 to go over the interim analyses. By that time, perhaps we could
48 also have a list of candidate species and look at what those

1 schedules might look like, so we can see when we would have the
2 information that might inform the decisions that we make at the
3 table here. Are there any more questions here? Okay. Seeing
4 none, I guess we'll go ahead and move on to the SEDAR schedule
5 and Ryan.

6 7 **REVIEW OF GULF OF MEXICO SEDAR SCHEDULE**

8
9 **MR. RINDONE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. You guys can see the
10 schedule right there in front of you. We have -- In 2019, we're
11 wrapping up gray triggerfish and red grouper, and Dr. Simmons
12 touched on when the delivery dates for those are anticipated,
13 and we should get red grouper by July 26, and so we won't get it
14 in time for the July SSC meeting, since that meeting is
15 basically that week, and so the SSC will look at that at their
16 September meeting, and then, gray triggerfish, we're looking to
17 get that around the end of year, and so the SSC will take that
18 one up in January.

19
20 The scamp research track is underway, with prep for the stock ID
21 portion of the assessment, which is where we determine where the
22 stock boundaries are, if there's a multi-stock structure, et
23 cetera, and then, from there, it will move on into the actual
24 data workshop.

25
26 For vermilion snapper, we determined, based on the information
27 that needs to be updated in that assessment, that we're going to
28 be able to handle the data and assessment workshop portion of it
29 just via webinar, and so there won't be an in-person meeting for
30 that one, but, again, that one is going to be starting later
31 this year, and that will wrap up in early to mid-2020.

32
33 Then we have updated specimens for both cobia and kingfish that
34 are beginning this year, with kingfish finishing in the winter,
35 and then cobia next spring. Then FWC is currently working on a
36 benchmark assessment of yellowtail snapper, and the data
37 workshop for that is at the end of June, and that's going to be
38 in St. Pete.

39
40 In 2020, we wrap up vermilion, cobia, and we'll also be wrapping
41 up yellowtail snapper, and then we'll start operational
42 assessments for greater amberjack, which will have webinar-based
43 workshops, and gag, which will have an in-person workshop.
44 There's a lot more to discuss with gag.

45
46 We'll continue the effort with the scamp research track, and so
47 we'll also have the assessment and review workshops occur during
48 that time period. The review workshop might actually occur in

1 2021, and it just depends on how the schedule shakes out. Then
2 we're also requesting that FWC, at the end of 2020, begin a
3 benchmark assessment for mutton snapper. Dale.

4
5 **MR. DIAZ:** I'm sorry, but, before you get too far, I think you
6 skipped over king mackerel. Is king mackerel on time?

7
8 **MR. RINDONE:** Yes. It will finish this winter, and so the SSC
9 will hopefully be able to take it up in January, and so that's
10 the intent right now anyway, and that's being done by the NMFS
11 Highly Migratory Species Branch. Seeing no other hands, we'll
12 keep chugging.

13
14 2019 and 2020, at this point, we're considering those nailed to
15 the floor, and so nothing in there is set to change. In 2021,
16 the council is looking to finalize with the Steering Committee
17 in September, and this would see us finish off the greater
18 amberjack and gag operational assessments. It would finish off
19 the scamp research track and start the scamp operational
20 assessment, and the operational assessment is where we actually
21 get the management advice.

22
23 We are hoping to start the research track for red snapper at the
24 beginning of 2021 and also an operational assessment for gray
25 snapper, which we also intend to request an in-person data and
26 assessment workshop for. Based on the last assessment, there is
27 some things that we would like to -- There are several things
28 that probably need to be discussed, and it would be best to do
29 those in person.

30
31 We will finish off the mutton snapper assessment with FWC and
32 try and start a benchmark assessment for hogfish. The last
33 hogfish assessment was an update, and it was reviewed by the
34 SSC, and the SSC said that, the next time around, a more
35 thorough approach that basically looked at everything again from
36 the beginning was probably necessary for west Florida hogfish.

37
38 2022 is next, and we'll finish off the scamp operational
39 assessment and continue the efforts of the red snapper research
40 track and hopefully finish off the gray snapper operational
41 assessment, and we've also proposed starting research tracks for
42 red grouper and red drum.

43
44 The red drum research track hinges largely on the completion and
45 publication of a lot of research that's going on around the Gulf
46 right now, especially in the eastern and northern Gulf, with
47 respect to the age and length composition of the offshore
48 component of the stock, and a lot of those data have been --

1 They haven't been collected for two decades, since the purse
2 seine fishery closed, and so there are several different groups
3 that have received funding and have been working on answering
4 those questions for a couple of years now, and so we went ahead
5 and stuck it on the schedule, anticipating those projects being
6 completed and those data being available. The actual type of
7 assessment that we would get out of that would be determined by
8 the research track process.

9
10 You will also notice, for the research tracks, that we don't
11 have a terminal year of data listed, and that's because, for the
12 sake of the research track, which, again, doesn't produce
13 management advice, it's more important to answer the questions
14 and address the problems that may come up in terms of trying to
15 develop the model more so than it is to squeeze in the most
16 recent terminal year of information. When we do the operational
17 assessment, which follows the research track, that's when we
18 plug in all the most recent information and get the management
19 advice.

20
21 Then, in 2023, although it seems like a long way off, it really
22 isn't, and so we've gone ahead and added that onto the end of
23 the calendar year, and so are there any questions or requests
24 for revision?

25
26 2021 is where we really need feedback from you guys, if there is
27 anything that you really think needs to be changed, and also
28 2022, but 2021 is the one that we're going to be trying to get
29 approved with the Steering Committee in September.

30
31 **MS. GUYAS:** Okay, and so I want to talk about the hogfish
32 assessment on here. I'm a little bit concerned about the timing
33 of this, and so think back. When we just got this past
34 assessment, before that assessment, we had changed regulations,
35 the size limit, and that size limit took effect in August of
36 2017, and so the last assessment didn't have any of that in
37 there.

38
39 This assessment, if the terminal year is 2019, it's only going
40 to have a little more than two years of that change in there,
41 and I kind of feel like we could probably push that assessment
42 back at least a year. Last time around, with hogfish, we wanted
43 to do it right at three years, because I think we were in a
44 situation where, after the third year, the quota was going to
45 significantly drop down to the equilibrium level, where, I think
46 in this case, with the new limits that we approved with the red
47 snapper and hogfish ACL amendment, that's not really the case.

48

1 I think it's just kind of more or less stable, and I think it
2 would be the like the 2020 level or beyond that. It's less of a
3 situation where we need to like assess this right now, in my
4 view, as far as management goes, and we wouldn't have a vast
5 reduction in quota or anything like that if we put that off for
6 a year. I just feel like it might be beneficial to have another
7 year of catch information with the new regulations, maybe so we
8 could understand the effects of those regulations, if they have
9 any, and that's just my thoughts on that.

10
11 **CHAIRMAN FRAZER:** The FWC is responsible for that assessment,
12 and so is that a recommendation that you're suggesting that we
13 would make to the FWC?

14
15 **MS. GUYAS:** I would make that recommendation. I mean, I work
16 for FWC, but I just wanted to kind of put that out there. To
17 me, it makes sense, and I feel like we need to incorporate that
18 management change in the assessment, if we can. I would want to
19 get data at least through 2022, I think. As far as what quarter
20 it starts in and ends, you all can figure that with Luiz. I am
21 not so worried about that, but just I'm more concerned about
22 like the last year of data that we have.

23
24 **CHAIRMAN FRAZER:** I am just looking around to the council.
25 That's a recommendation, obviously, that we would make to the
26 FWC. Is everybody good with that? Go ahead, Dr. Simmons.

27
28 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** Maybe I don't understand it
29 exactly, sitting as a fairly new person on the Steering
30 Committee meeting, but I think we ask for the FWC, through the
31 Steering Committee process, that they do these assessments, and
32 I think Dr. Barbieri wasn't at this meeting, if I recall, but I
33 believe it's through the Steering Committee process that we're
34 requesting this to be scheduled.

35
36 **MS. GUYAS:** Do you need a motion for a recommendation to go back
37 to the Steering Committee or whatever?

38
39 **CHAIRMAN FRAZER:** Okay, and so, again, we would just work
40 through the Steering Committee, and we can do that. Is there
41 any other -- Mr. Anson and then Mr. Donaldson.

42
43 **MR. ANSON:** I read the minutes from the last meeting in October,
44 but it's still a little unclear to me as to how the calibrations
45 for red snapper at least, but other species, with the FES and
46 the Gulf survey, how those are going to be treated relative to
47 the SEDAR schedule for each of the assessments.

1 Again, at one time, there was going to be time allotted to doing
2 the calibration that the Science Center staff would be doing,
3 and then there was discussion as to maybe that would happen
4 outside, through the workshops and such, but I'm just -- Again,
5 I can't recall exactly how that calibration effort is going to
6 be done and then whether or not it impacts the SEDAR schedule
7 with staff and such.

8

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

10

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

17

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

27

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

30

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

36

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

41

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

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