

GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

SEDAR COMMITTEE

Webinar

JUNE 17, 2020

VOTING MEMBERS

- 10 Tom Frazer.....Florida
- 11 Martha Guyas (designee for Jessica McCawley).....Florida
- 12 Paul Mickle (designee for Joe Spraggins).....Mississippi
- 13 Lance Robinson (designee for Robin Riechers).....Texas

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- 16 Kevin Anson (designee for Scott Bannon).....Alabama
- 17 Patrick Banks.....Louisiana
- 18 Susan Boggs.....Alabama
- 19 Leann Bosarge.....Mississippi
- 20 Roy Crabtree.....NMFS
- 21 Dale Diaz.....Mississippi
- 22 Dave Donaldson.....GSMFC
- 23 Jonathan Dugas.....Louisiana
- 24 Phil Dyskow.....Florida
- 25 Lt. Nicholas Giancola.....USCG
- 26 John Sanchez.....Florida
- 27 Greg Stunz.....Texas
- 28 Ed Swindell.....Louisiana
- 29 Troy Williamson.....Texas

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1
2
3 Table of Contents.....3
4
5 Adoption of Agenda and Approval of Minutes.....5
6
7 Action Guide and Next Steps.....5
8
9 SEDAR Steering Committee Report.....5
10
11 Review of Gulf of Mexico SEDAR Schedule.....18
12
13 Adjournment.....28
14
15 - - -
16
17

1 The SEDAR Committee of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management
2 Council convened via webinar on Wednesday morning, June 17,
3 2020, and was called to order by Chairman Tom Frazer.

4
5 **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**
6 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
7 **ACTION GUIDE AND NEXT STEPS**
8

9 **CHAIRMAN TOM FRAZER:** We're going to get started. We'll start
10 with the Gulf SEDAR Committee. Members of that committee are
11 myself, Lance Robinson, Martha Guyas, and Paul Mickle. The
12 first order of business is the Adoption of the Agenda, and it's
13 Tab I, Number 1. Take a quick peek at that, and we'll get it on
14 the board.

15
16 It's a relatively short agenda, and it looks like we've got five
17 items up there, and so the first order is the Adoption of the
18 Agenda, and so, if I could get a motion to adopt the agenda as
19 written, that would be great.

20
21 **MS. MARTHA GUYAS:** So moved.

22
23 **CHAIRMAN FRAZER:** It's moved by Martha. Do I have a second?

24
25 **DR. PAUL MICKLE:** All right. Second by Dr. Mickle, and so is
26 there any opposition to approving the agenda? Okay. Seeing
27 none, we'll consider the agenda adopted as written. The second
28 order of business would be the Approval of the October 2019
29 Minutes. Is there a motion to approve those minutes as written?

30
31 **MS. GUYAS:** So moved.

32
33 **CHAIRMAN FRAZER:** It's moved by Ms. Guyas. Is there a second?

34
35 **DR. MICKLE:** Second.

36
37 **CHAIRMAN FRAZER:** It's seconded by Dr. Mickle. Is there any
38 further discussion on the motion? Hearing none, we will
39 consider the October 2019 minutes approved as written, and so
40 the next item on the agenda would be the Action Guide and Next
41 Steps, and that would be Tab I, Number 3, and, Mr. Rindone, if
42 you're willing to guide us through that, I would greatly
43 appreciate it.

44
45 **MR. RYAN RINDONE:** Sure thing. The first thing that you guys
46 are going to hear is a summary of the Steering Committee meeting
47 that was held on May 20 and 21 via webinar, and Dr. Simmons will
48 give you an overview presentation of the materials and outcomes

1 discussed during that meeting, and you guys should take a look
2 at the information and ask any questions and provide feedback to
3 us and the Science Center, and our next meeting will be held in
4 the fall.

5
6 Then we'll go over the SEDAR schedule, and I'll take you through
7 that, and the schedule indicates the type of assessment and the
8 terminal year for each species recommended, and we finalized the
9 2022 schedule of assessments during our May 2020 webinar, and so
10 you guys should be looking at 2023 and 2024 species and provide
11 any recommendations and feedback, and, as you recall, the
12 Science Center has requested that the council avoid adjusting
13 its SEDAR schedule within a couple of years of when the
14 assessment is scheduled to begin, just because of all the
15 legwork that happens on the frontend to get ready for an
16 assessment.

17
18 Just as a bit of background information, the council had
19 requested an interim analysis for gray triggerfish to be ready
20 for the September 2020 SSC meeting, and the Science Center has
21 indicated so far that that's going to be on time, but they can
22 touch more on that if they like.

23
24 The council may want to discuss an additional interim analysis
25 request for red snapper, based on the timing of the proposed
26 research track and subsequent operational assessment, and then,
27 if you guys have any other Other Business items to bring up, we
28 can do that.

29
30 **CHAIRMAN FRAZER:** All right. Thank you, Ryan. We will move
31 right into Item Number IV on the agenda, and that would be the
32 Report of the SEDAR Steering Committee, and Dr. Simmons will
33 lead us through that.

34
35 **SEDAR STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT**

36
37 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CARRIE SIMMONS:** Good morning. Thank you,
38 Mr. Chair. We don't have the report yet from the SEDAR Steering
39 Committee meeting, and so this presentation really focuses on
40 some outcomes pertinent to the Gulf Council and what we thought
41 we would like to bring to the council's attention. If you want
42 more information, this follows the outline of our briefing book
43 materials from that virtual meeting we had, and that is provided
44 as background to the committee and council, and that's Tab I,
45 Number 4(c).

46
47 Just to give you an overview, we're going to talk about the
48 SEDAR projects report, and we received an update on that, and

1 the SEDAR process review and discussions, some proposed changes
2 of the Science Center regarding operational assessments, and
3 we'll get into the assessment schedule review in this
4 presentation, to get you thinking about it, and then Ryan will
5 go into more detail with the schedule. We had three Other
6 Business items that came up before the Steering Committee that I
7 will discuss, and then some next steps.

8
9 For the SEDAR projects report section, they provided information
10 on delays to SEDAR 68, which is the scamp research track, and
11 recall this is a joint research track assessment with the South
12 Atlantic Council, and they are going to be two separate stocks
13 after the stock ID workshop, but that is a joint effort on the
14 schedule.

15
16 Due to COVID-19, there are several delays in that schedule, and
17 the March data workshop got cancelled, and I think it's about a
18 three-month delay now, and they have had a series of virtual
19 webinars, to try to get this data workshop back on track, but I
20 still believe they're about three months behind.

21
22 Several SEDAR projects are beginning in 2020, and, so far,
23 everything seems to be on target, and so there's really no
24 action here needed by the council, if you have any questions.

25
26 I already said that the stock ID was held by webinar, and so
27 there was technical chair issues brought up during the May 2019
28 Steering Committee meeting, and this was also still a concern
29 again during our 2020 meeting, and, apparently, there's some
30 reluctance for the various SSC members or analysts to serve as
31 the chair, this technical chair, because there are so many
32 multiple stages and the length of time involved in the research
33 track, and so, after a lot of discussion, we offered, the Gulf
34 offered, to maybe survey its SSC again and see if we could have
35 an additional member serve as the technical chair.

36
37 The analysts have taken over and served as the chair in the
38 past, I believe, but they just felt like it was really difficult
39 to follow the discussion and keep track of everything that was
40 going on and be fully engaged while running the meeting, and so
41 we're going to try that and report back to the Science Center,
42 and see if we can get another volunteer to serve as the
43 technical chair for scamp.

44
45 If you want to look at the background information, there were
46 several things that were put forward regarding clarification
47 from the Science Center for operational assessments, and these
48 are some of the things that we wanted to pull out and point out

1 to the council, and then we'll be bringing this to the SSC as
2 well, for their information and comments.

3
4 One of the things that they wanted to clarify was that new data
5 and changes in model structure must be requested by the council
6 and approved by the Science Center, and this is only for
7 operational assessments that we're talking about right now.
8 Public webinars or in-person meetings are anticipated to be
9 rare, but they must be requested in the statement of work and
10 then approved by the Science Center.

11
12 There is some terminology change here, and they are no longer
13 assessment panels, but they're going to be renamed and
14 classified as topical working groups, and so TWG throughout the
15 rest of the presentation, and the Science Center will provide a
16 project manager for the topical working group.

17
18 The aim of this working group is they will be appointed by the
19 cooperators, the council, to address specific items as needed,
20 and we think they're going to consist of SSC members, council
21 staff, and stakeholders, and they will give guidance to the
22 operational assessment lead analysts.

23
24 The intent for these operational assessments is the process
25 change is still under development, and we're just starting to
26 talk about this, and we're going to bring it to our SSC to take
27 a look at and ask questions. We haven't updated the SEDAR
28 Steering Committee SOPPs, and so we need to work through that as
29 we work through this process, and the SSC is still the review
30 body for the operational assessments. If you have any
31 questions, it would be a good time to ask those, and, again,
32 we'll brief the SSC on these changes.

33
34 Now we get to the 2022 and 2023 projects, and just to remind
35 everybody that the 2022 schedule is finalized, and the scamp
36 operational assessment will hopefully be finished up, and the
37 red snapper research track will get started, the yellowedge
38 grouper operational assessment will be finalized, the Spanish
39 mackerel operational assessment, and then FWC is going to work
40 on a mutton snapper benchmark assessment.

41
42 For 2023, this is the proposed and accepted list, and this we
43 would typically bring to the council in March or April and then
44 talk about it during the May Steering Committee meeting.
45 However, that meeting was cancelled, and so this is a little
46 later than normal, but we are asking that you take a close look
47 at this and see if you have any concerns or questions, so that
48 we can make any changes immediately, because that needs to occur

1 after this meeting.

2
3 We did switch the red drum research track out for the gray
4 triggerfish research track, and we made that request during the
5 meeting, and we will finish up the yellowedge grouper
6 operational assessment, and Florida will start the west Florida
7 hogfish benchmark assessment.

8
9 Then, in 2024, this is proposed, and we will finish up year-two
10 of the gray triggerfish research track, and we asked for a lane
11 snapper operational assessment, a vermilion snapper operational
12 assessment, and to look at a tilefish stock complex evaluation,
13 an operational assessment, and that means that, in the past, we
14 tried a golden tilefish assessment, and that also looked at
15 blueline tilefish, and that was considered BSIA, although they
16 did have some difficulties with the data, and we're asking the
17 Science Center to take a look at it again and include all three
18 species for consideration. Then, also, FWC will be working on
19 the black grouper benchmark assessment. Again, we're looking
20 for feedback on the 2023 immediately, if there's any questions
21 of concern, and then, long-term, on the 2024 proposed species.

22
23 We had three Other Business items. The first one was a
24 procedural workshop, a pre-proposal came to the Steering
25 Committee, and that was best practices for combining indices of
26 abundance surveys, and the main objective was to streamline this
27 process, and you can read the main objective there, but the
28 Steering Committee requested more information about this, and
29 members requested it to be more inclusive of highly migratory
30 species and the South Atlantic Council, and so we'll be looking
31 at this again in September and talking about it further, but the
32 Gulf Council was supportive of this approach during the meeting,
33 and we would like to see more information.

34
35 I think most people know that we're looking at more detail for
36 some shrimp stock assessments, and this research assessment plan
37 was proposed during the Steering Committee meeting, and so the
38 process that was proposed is that, during Phase 1, if you look
39 at that first year that we have there, the SEAMAP, effort,
40 catch, and observer process, that would involve the Gulf
41 Council, SSC members, and the Science Center, and we're
42 anticipating receiving terms of reference from the Science
43 Center shortly to put in front of the SSC during their July 21
44 through 23 meeting. Then Phases 2 and 3 would follow the SEDAR
45 process, both for the assessment workshop and review, for the
46 other two years.

47
48 Based on this schedule, the Science Center anticipates that we

1 may be getting new management advice as early as 2021 to look at
2 potentially modifying the Shrimp FMPs for those status
3 determination criteria, such as maximum sustainable yield, OY,
4 and maximum fishing mortality, all those good things, in 2021.
5 We do have some action here, and we'll be working with the
6 Science Center staff and the SSC.

7
8 The third Other Business item was we've been requesting kind of
9 a feedback loop or the closing of that loop after we provide an
10 operational assessment statement of work. We are being asked to
11 provide these two years out, and the SSC is reviewing those, and
12 then it's not really clear, until we were to get to the SEDAR
13 Steering Committee meeting, whether those statements of work
14 were reasonable or there were concerns or things needed to be
15 tweaked.

16
17 We are asking to receive a memo, feedback, from the Science
18 Center telling us whether those statements of work can be
19 accomplished or if we need to make changes, and so this just
20 provides an example of how that might work, and so, for the 2023
21 species that were just approved in our SEDAR Steering Committee,
22 we would use this, and we're going to be developing a statement
23 of work for those, unless there's changes at this meeting, and
24 we would submit those to the Science Center by October of this
25 year, and they would tell us in a memo by February 1 of 2021 if
26 that's possible or if we need to make changes, and then we would
27 develop the terms of reference and get the schedule and all
28 those other things together to finalize everything before the
29 assessment begins.

30
31 These are really for us, just to let you know that we need to
32 brief the SSC on these changes to the operational assessment
33 process and the statement of work outline and process, and I
34 have talked to Julie Neer, and she's willing to come to the SSC,
35 or at least remotely talk to them, about these changes as the
36 process evolves. We also need to poll the SSC for a technical
37 committee chair for the scamp research track.

38
39 We are looking forward to receiving those terms of reference for
40 the shrimp assessment for review in July, and, again, as you get
41 into the schedule, just a reminder to review those 2023 and 2024
42 assessment schedules and provide feedback, and that concludes my
43 presentation. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

44
45 **CHAIRMAN FRAZER:** All right. Thank you, Dr. Simmons. We'll
46 take a few minutes here for folks that might want to ask some
47 questions, as they relate to the presentation. I see Dr.
48 Mickle.

1
2 **DR. MICKLE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Great presentation, Carrie,
3 and I really appreciate the information, and it's a lot of hard
4 work done by Clay and the Science Center and council staff and
5 everybody. A lot of effort is put into the detail, and it's a
6 complicated process, and I do believe it's becoming more
7 efficient, and that's because everybody is working together on
8 it, and that's great. I love to see these open exchanges, and I
9 know it's been a long work in progress, and so I think it's
10 starting to really take the shape of what we want to see as part
11 of the efficiencies being increased.

12
13 We know the data is a bottleneck, and some of these actions,
14 with the research track and others, are helping with that, and I
15 think it's great to actually identify the largest bottlenecks
16 and take them on, head-on, in the overall process.

17
18 Before we get into the scheduling specifically, I had a
19 question, I guess for Carrie. On Slide 6 and your second-to-
20 last slide, you were talking about the review process coming in
21 front of the SSC, and then going back to the SEDAR Committee,
22 and so, those discussion points and the review process that goes
23 in front of the SSC, will that be presented -- I'm assuming that
24 those discussions and opinions will be presented to us at the
25 council meeting in October, as our meeting is at the end of
26 October, but would that material and discussion points and
27 feedback be presented in the SSC summary report, or would it be
28 in an actual SEDAR Committee meeting?

29
30 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** I think, if I'm understanding your
31 question correctly, Dr. Mickle, you're referring to many of the
32 clarifications that the Science Center is proposing for the
33 operational assessments.

34
35 **DR. MICKLE:** Yes, and so the opinions of the SSC on how well
36 those work or how big of an impact those recommendations or
37 changes will have, and will it be presented by the delegate
38 that's chosen from the SSC in giving their summary report to us,
39 or will it actually be in a formal SEDAR Committee meeting
40 report presented to us at the meeting, because, if we could
41 choose, I would prefer that the SSC scientists presenting those
42 discussion points present that information, so we could discuss
43 it with them.

44
45 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** Certainly, and so you're suggesting
46 that we have another Gulf SEDAR Committee in August, so that we
47 can talk about any recommendations or information that the SSC
48 provided from their July meeting to this committee?

1
2 **DR. MICKLE:** Yes, that works.
3
4 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** Sure, we can do that, and I think
5 the plan is for Dr. Neer to brief the SSC in July on some of
6 these changes, and is that correct, Ryan?
7
8 **MR. RINDONE:** Yes, and that July agenda has been under quite a
9 bit of flux in the last twenty-four hours, but we will
10 accommodate that.
11
12 **CHAIRMAN FRAZER:** Thank you, Dr. Mickle. We will now go to Mr.
13 Diaz.
14
15 **MR. DALE DIAZ:** Thank you, and I'm not on your committee, but I
16 do have two questions and a comment, and so I'm going to do the
17 questions first. I am seeing king mackerel, and I know you said
18 that everything is on time, but when the council likely see king
19 mackerel, Dr. Simmons, or Mr. Rindone, or whoever can answer
20 that? What meeting?
21
22 **MR. RINDONE:** August.
23
24 **MR. DIAZ:** The August meeting? Okay. Thank you.
25
26 **MR. RINDONE:** The SSC should review it in July, and then you
27 guys would be able to see it as soon as August.
28
29 **MR. DIAZ:** Okay. That sounds great, and so thank you for that.
30 Under 2023, I know research tracks take up two spots, and we've
31 got red snapper for two spots on operational assessment, and
32 then triggerfish is only taking one spot, when it's a research
33 track, and I was just going to see -- The two spots for red
34 snapper in 2023 for the operational assessment, is that correct?
35
36 **CHAIRMAN FRAZER:** Yes, it is correct, and I think it's a
37 manpower issue, and I know that Clay is on the line here, and he
38 can address that.
39
40 **DR. CLAY PORCH:** Sure. We actually assess red snapper as two
41 stocks, and we manage it as one, but we have essentially two
42 assessments, one east and one west of the Mississippi River,
43 because it's not a huge connection between the two, and you can
44 see different stock trends often on one side of the Mississippi
45 compared to the other.
46
47 Arguably, there could be even finer spatial structure, but we
48 just don't have the data for that, but, in any case, that's why

1 it takes two slots, plus red snapper is arguably the most
2 complicated assessment in the nation, with more pieces of data
3 than probably any two or three assessments combined, and so it
4 is an awful lot of work.

5
6 **MR. DIAZ:** Thank you, Dr. Porch. I appreciate that, and I know
7 it is, but thank god we have the data. We probably have got
8 more data on red snapper than just about any other species in
9 the nation also, I would argue, or I would guess, or let me put
10 it that way.

11
12 The comment I was going to make is I do know that we had to
13 replace -- We took red drum out in order to make room for
14 triggerfish, and I just want to make sure the council is aware
15 of that, but I do remember you saying that it was doubtful that
16 we would have had the information that we needed to actually
17 accomplish a stock assessment on red drum anyway, and so I don't
18 think we're losing anything. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
19 appreciate it.

20
21 **CHAIRMAN FRAZER:** Thank you, Mr. Diaz, and thank you, Clay, for
22 weighing-in there. I see next on the list here is Ms. Guyas.
23 Martha, go ahead.

24
25 **MS. GUYAS:** Thanks. I had a question about the operational
26 assessments, and so the slide that says that new data and
27 changes in model structure must be requested by the council and
28 approved by the Science Center, and so --

29
30 **CHAIRMAN FRAZER:** Let's go ahead and get that slide up, real
31 quick, so people can see it.

32
33 **MS. GUYAS:** Okay. I guess my question would be, given that the
34 people around the council table may not be aware of data that
35 should be incorporated, what's the process for that? Are we
36 thinking that maybe the SSC would review the terms of reference
37 first, and then maybe suggest changes, or make recommendations,
38 for the council to consider, and then the council would make a
39 decision on that and send it to the Science Center, and I'm just
40 trying to understand the process for that. Thanks.

41
42 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** I think what we mean there is the
43 SSC, staff, council members in general, requested by the Gulf
44 Council as a cooperator, everyone together, because staff
45 receives the draft -- Well, we don't receive them anymore. The
46 scopes of work we come up with on our own, and I'm thinking of
47 terms of reference, and Ryan is probably going to be better at
48 explaining this than me, but we draft those, and we weigh-in on

1 them, and we put them in front of the SSC, and the SSC weighs-in
2 on them, and then, after that, we write a memo, and the Chair
3 reviews those memos, and then we send them to the Science
4 Center.

5
6 Then we're asking for a memo back of are those scopes of work
7 reasonable, and that's a new process, before we get to the
8 Steering Committee meeting. Once we decide on that, then we
9 will develop terms of reference and scheduling, and Ryan correct
10 me, or Dr. Porch, if I'm not getting this correct.

11
12 **CHAIRMAN FRAZER:** I will give Ryan an opportunity to weigh-in
13 here for a minute.

14
15 **MR. RINDONE:** Sure. Dr. Simmons has it pretty well spot-on.
16 When an assessment is upcoming, staff considers some of the
17 research that is coming through the pipelines, and we might put
18 some of that in front of the SSC to consider, and we also look
19 at things from the previous assessment that were not done, for
20 whatever reason, and communicate with the Science Center to try
21 to figure out if any of this can be accomplished this time
22 around, and so there's initial communication between us and the
23 Science Center before the SSC reviews that scope of work.

24
25 Then, after that point, we send that scope of work to the
26 Science Center and SEDAR, and we'll get terms of reference back
27 at that point, and there really shouldn't be any surprises,
28 because we've been communicating with the Center, and we know
29 generally what they're going to be able to pull off, and so the
30 terms of reference should be more of a formality at that point,
31 because we do most of the legwork now on the frontend.

32
33 Our SEDAR approval process for that rests mostly with the
34 Executive Director and the Chair, for ultimately saying, all
35 right, we're going to send this scope of work and these terms of
36 reference off, but, at any point, we can certainly share those
37 with anyone who is interested, and they are reviewed in public
38 at the SSC meetings.

39
40 **CHAIRMAN FRAZER:** Thank you, Ryan. Dr. Porch, did you want to
41 add anything from the Science Center perspective?

42
43 **DR. PORCH:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just wanted to clarify some
44 things about the operational assessment, and the idea behind
45 them ultimately was that we already had a peer-reviewed
46 assessment approach from the previous benchmark or research
47 track assessment, and so the only things that actually need
48 further review are the proposed changes to the assessment that

1 are listed in the statement of work.

2
3 The original proposal actually for operational assessments did
4 not include assessment panels that would review the entire
5 assessment, and, as this started to get implemented or whatever,
6 we started to see that the SEDAR coordinator was appointing
7 assessment panels, and it was converting all the operational
8 assessments essentially into either standard assessments, or
9 even the equivalent of benchmark assessments, and that was
10 slowing the process down considerably, and so all the
11 assessments were late, basically, because we're just turning
12 over every stone again, and that wasn't the original intent.

13
14 The idea of operational assessments was to make the whole
15 process more efficient, and so you have the research track or
16 the previous benchmark, where we did that work of overturning
17 all the stones, and now we have a peer-reviewed assessment, and
18 then you have some changes that might be proposed that the SSC
19 agrees they feel comfortable reviewing, and so then we might add
20 those to the statement of work to an operational assessment, but
21 there's really no need to review all the aspects of the
22 assessment all over again. We just need to review the new
23 things, and then, ultimately, it's going to go to the SSC for a
24 final level of review.

25
26 Again, the original proposal didn't include assessment panels,
27 and they were just supposed to focus on the new things, and
28 we're just kind of correcting that. Formerly, there were no
29 standard operating procedures put in place yet for the
30 operational assessment and the research track, even though we
31 were kind of moving forward and sort of testing the waters, and
32 I think there was general support for the approach, and so I
33 guess what I'm saying is we're not really changing the
34 procedure, and we're kind of correcting it. Again, the idea is
35 to be transparent, but also efficient, so we can get more
36 assessments out. Thanks.

37
38 **CHAIRMAN FRAZER:** Thanks, Clay. Again, I appreciate the input
39 there from Carrie and Ryan and Clay, and, Martha, are we good?
40 Do you think you got your question covered?

41
42 **MS. GUYAS:** Yes. Thank you.

43
44 **CHAIRMAN FRAZER:** Okay. Clay, it looks like you might have had
45 your hand up for a separate issue. Do you want to tackle that,
46 or are you good?

47
48 **DR. PORCH:** No, and that was it.

1
2 **CHAIRMAN FRAZER:** Okay. Next on the list would be Ms. Bosarge.
3 Leann.

4
5 **MS. LEANN BOSARGE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to
6 say thanks to staff for giving us that slide on the shrimp
7 research assessment plan. I understand it a lot better now, and
8 I think that's going to work pretty well, and I did have one
9 question.

10
11 I like the idea of presenting it to the SSC, to help with that
12 statement of work, or to review a statement of work, and will we
13 allow some of the SSC members to volunteer for this assessment
14 team, the way we do for all the other assessments, and I ask
15 that because I know we have one SSC member that used to work in
16 the Galveston Lab on those particular models, and it seems like
17 his input and assistance would be valuable in this process, all
18 the way through the process and not just during the one SSC
19 meeting.

20
21 **CHAIRMAN FRAZER:** Ryan, do you have your hand up?

22
23 **MR. RINDONE:** Under the way that the Science Center intends for
24 the operational assessments to work, the SSC members could be
25 nominated to these topical working groups in the future, which
26 are going to take the place of any formal assessment panel, and
27 so it will scale back SSC involvement in the assessment process,
28 as opposed to the way that it is at present, and then the SSC
29 will ultimately be responsible for the review of the operational
30 assessments, like they are now, and so they will -- For some of
31 them anyway, it will be the first time that they will see
32 certain aspects of the assessment, as opposed to have them walk
33 through it throughout the assessment process, the way that they
34 are now.

35
36 **CHAIRMAN FRAZER:** Ryan, thank you for that, but I just want to
37 make sure that we're on the same page here, Leann, and I think
38 you're actually talking about participation in the topical
39 working group on the shrimp research assessment, and is that
40 correct?

41
42 **MS. BOSARGE:** Yes, I'm sorry, and I used the wrong vocabulary.

43
44 **CHAIRMAN FRAZER:** Okay, and, again, I think there will certainly
45 be that opportunity to participate, get the appropriate
46 representation on the topical working groups, and Clay was one
47 of the folks that put this particular slide together, and,
48 again, I'm going to invite him to talk about participation in

1 those groups.

2
3 **DR. PORCH:** Thank you, Chair. To Ms. Bosarge's question, we'll
4 have these four different topical working groups, and we're
5 actually in the process now of putting together statements of
6 work, which we'll submit to the July SSC, and we certainly would
7 like the SSC member that you mentioned to participate in
8 multiple of these working groups, and I think that would be
9 really important.

10
11 Also, some of the working groups, such as effort and catch
12 estimation, ideally, we would have some industry representatives
13 participate, and probably Benny Gallaway and folks like that as
14 well, since they've been working with this data for a long time,
15 and so that's the idea.

16
17 We're putting together working groups now, and some things, like
18 the SEAMAP index working group, that probably would be primarily
19 internal, since we run the survey, and the idea there is
20 basically what's the best way to use the SEAMAP data for an
21 index of abundance, since that's what it's intended to do, and,
22 if we have that, there may not actually be a need to use fishery
23 catch per unit effort information, at least for the most recent
24 period, but there's also the best way to estimate effort, which
25 is in contention right now, and how do we get catch, just from
26 the state trip ticket systems, and is there anything else that
27 we need to do.

28
29 Then there's a lot of issues with how we develop estimates from
30 the observer data, and this will spill over into bycatch
31 estimates, since we use that data for the other stock
32 assessments, and so I think it's really important to have SSC
33 involvement in at least three of the four groups, and maybe even
34 also in the SEAMAP group, and, also, like I said, industry, and,
35 of course, that particular member who was involved in these
36 assessments.

37
38 **CHAIRMAN FRAZER:** Thank you, Clay. I appreciate that. Okay.
39 Are there any other questions? I don't see any hands at the
40 moment, and I will give everybody a second.

41
42 **MS. BOSARGE:** Mr. Chairman, I thought I put my hand back up, and
43 I tried to lower it and put it back up, and maybe I messed that
44 up, and may I ask another question?

45
46 **CHAIRMAN FRAZER:** You sure can. You're just quicker than I am.

47
48 **MS. BOSARGE:** Thank you, sir. Clay, that sounds wonderful, and

1 you touched on the other thing that I was going to mention
2 relative to shrimp, and that was the industry participation. It
3 was a little worrisome to me, just because the Shrimp AP, as you
4 know, we ended up having to make some changes to that meeting,
5 that was going to happen, where we would have reviewed the last
6 shrimp stock assessment and given some input on these things on
7 this slide right here, but, with COVID-19, we weren't able to do
8 that, and we have some pretty savvy AP members.

9
10 I would say they're all savvy, but we have some that are former
11 council members and have seen the transition of the shrimp stock
12 assessment models over the years and are very familiar with that
13 history, and so I definitely think making sure that we present
14 it to the AP and get that feedback to you and involve the actual
15 fishermen, just like we do in some of our other assessments, as
16 it progresses, and please pull them in where you can, to get
17 input, even if it's just to listen in on a webinar as you're
18 discussing certain data topics, and maybe they will have
19 relevant feedback for you that could be helpful, and so I
20 appreciate that. Then, on a different topic, if I may, Mr.
21 Chairman, and I had one question.

22
23 **CHAIRMAN FRAZER:** Go ahead.

24
25 **MS. BOSARGE:** On the new SEDAR process, the only thing that I
26 had a little reservation about, that made me hesitant, and I
27 understand that we need to be more efficient, especially on
28 something that would have ended up being just an update, where
29 we're going to plug-and-chug, and, therefore, there would not be
30 very many public webinars, and I'm okay with no in-person
31 meetings and it being a webinar, but it seems something always
32 comes up, and it's never quite as easy as what we thought, and
33 it's a little bothersome to me that the webinars wouldn't be at
34 least open to the public to listen in to, so that we can follow
35 the process and understand where maybe a stumbling block is.

36
37 I feel like that's always a good thing to happen, because
38 somebody comes up with a good idea, or realizes that there is
39 research that needs to take place there, and communications
40 happen, and you never know where it leads, and so could we speak
41 to the public webinars?

42
43 **DR. PORCH:** Mr. Chair, can I speak to that?

44
45 **CHAIRMAN FRAZER:** Go ahead, Clay.

46
47 **DR. PORCH:** To the last point, the webinars actually would be
48 public. We just are saying we don't need to have ten of them

1 for an operational assessment, but they certainly would be
2 public, and, potentially, there can also be in-person workshops,
3 but it's just that the in-person workshops should focus on the
4 new things that are being added to the assessment and not rehash
5 every single point of the assessment, because that just
6 basically makes it a benchmark and slows things down
7 unnecessarily.

8
9 The workshops would be public, and I would anticipate, if there
10 are substantial changes to the assessment, that we might
11 actually have a couple, and one example is what's going on now
12 with the South Atlantic red snapper, in that they're going to
13 have a topical workshop that's actually run by the State of
14 Florida, but will have a lot of experts on selectivity
15 participating, and then that information, whatever comes out of
16 that workshop, will be worked into the assessment, and then
17 there will be a couple of webinars, and maybe a very brief in-
18 person workshop, although I doubt it will happen, because of
19 COVID-19, and, at that workshop, they will review how the
20 information from the topical workshop was actually incorporated
21 into the assessment, and so we're not saying there is no public
22 webinars.

23
24 Then, to the first point about participation from the industry,
25 of course, we welcome it, and, in particular, Ms. Bosarge, we
26 hope that you will participate in those working groups.

27
28 **MS. BOSARGE:** Thank you, Clay. I would be honored.

29
30 **CHAIRMAN FRAZER:** All right. Thank you, Leann, for asking the
31 question, and thank you, Dr. Porch, for continuing to emphasize
32 that we value the public participation in all aspects of the
33 process, and so I think everybody would agree with that.

34
35 The next item, and I don't see any other hands up at this point,
36 and so we are going to take a quick look at the SEDAR schedule,
37 particularly the 2023 and 2024 years, and so if I can get Mr.
38 Rindone back on the line.

39
40 **REVIEW OF GULF OF MEXICO SEDAR SCHEDULE**

41
42 **MR. RINDONE:** You have your schedule in front of you, and you
43 can see the things that are being finished up for 2020, and so,
44 at the July SSC meeting, the SSC is going to review the
45 assessments for cobia, Gulf kingfish, and yellowtail snapper,
46 and we will have the gag operational assessment, which is
47 getting geared up here, and that will have an in-person
48 workshop, hopefully, in February of 2021.

1
2 We'll still be working on the scamp operational assessment in
3 2021, and the timing of that may adjust a little bit as we
4 figure out exactly where we're at with that process, and we'll
5 be starting the red snapper research track assessment, and the
6 planning team for that assessment, that helps develop the terms
7 of reference and figure out the schedule and whatnot, we've
8 already had our first meeting, and we have another one
9 scheduled, and we're working through that process now. Then FWC
10 will be running a benchmark assessment for mutton snapper, which
11 we haven't done in a little while.

12
13 In 2022, we'll finish up that scamp operational assessment and
14 continue work on the red snapper research track, and then we'll
15 also start operational assessments for yellowedge grouper and
16 Spanish mackerel, which should hopefully be pretty
17 straightforward, and we'll finish up that mutton snapper
18 assessment with FWC.

19
20 In 2023, at least what we have listed in 2023 was accepted by
21 the Science Center for moving forward, but these assessments
22 haven't been formally scheduled yet, and we're finishing up the
23 research track for red snapper and doing the operational
24 assessment, and we're starting the research track for gray
25 triggerfish, and then we're tying off the yellowedge grouper
26 operational assessment. Then FWC will take up west Florida
27 hogfish, as well as the other populations of hogfish, but that
28 doesn't pertain to the Gulf, and so I just listed west Florida.

29
30 Just as an aside, FWC still operates under the
31 benchmark/standard/update framework, because it works better for
32 their processes.

33
34 Then, in 2024, we have proposed finishing up the gray
35 triggerfish research track, which would, in 2025, be followed by
36 an operational assessment, and we would also do an operational
37 assessment for lane snapper and vermilion snapper and do an
38 evaluation of the tilefish complex, to see what's possible to be
39 done with those species.

40
41 The last time we tried to assess tilefish was data through 2009,
42 and the review workshop for that was in February of 2011, and so
43 that assessment has got a nice thick layer of dust on it, and so
44 it's time to figure out what we can do with the tilefish
45 species. Then FWC will make another attempt at black grouper,
46 depending on the progress that they and the Science Center,
47 perhaps, are able to make in figuring out some of the
48 misidentification issues that plagued the assessment the last

1 time around and caused it be prematurely terminated. Any
2 questions?

3
4 **CHAIRMAN FRAZER:** We will give people just a few seconds to
5 assess that schedule.

6
7 **MR. RINDONE:** Just to clarify, for 2023 and 2024 especially,
8 what I have listed as far as when things will start and when
9 they will end, those are purely estimates, and we don't know
10 precisely at this point when things will start and end, and that
11 may result in some adjustment of the terminal years that you see
12 in that center column there.

13
14 Typically, if an assessment starts in say around September or
15 later, we can include data from the previous year, but, if it
16 starts earlier in the year, it's more difficult to do that, just
17 based on when data are finalized and available.

18
19 **CHAIRMAN FRAZER:** Thank you, Mr. Rindone. It looks like we have
20 a question from Mr. Swindell.

21
22 **MR. ED SWINDELL:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ryan, I keep looking
23 at this whole chart, and we keep -- There is no red drum
24 anywhere in this whole thing, and, yet, we're still also working
25 on vermilion snapper, and the SSC says the vermilion snapper is
26 not overfished, and overfishing is not occurring, and so I don't
27 understand truly, and I will have to get somewhere into this
28 vermilion snapper thing, as to why we're doing anything with the
29 vermilion snapper and we're not doing anything with the red
30 drum, and here we've got a fishery resource that's out there
31 that we're not paying attention to it, and we're not able to
32 utilize it, and I thought, as a fishery management council, we
33 were supposed to at least make use of the resources that are
34 available, and we're not doing anything.

35
36 I really believe we are doing a disservice to the Magnuson Act
37 by not giving some attention, some way or another, to red drum,
38 and I understand that it's difficult to do an assessment, but
39 don't tell me that it can't be done in some fashion, and I
40 believe there are ways to get it done, and that's just my
41 opinion. Thank you.

42
43 **CHAIRMAN FRAZER:** Thank you, Mr. Swindell. I think one of the
44 comments that was made earlier, as we were going through the
45 SEDAR report, was that there was -- The red drum was originally
46 on the schedule, and it was replaced with gray triggerfish,
47 given the urgency, again, with that particular fish, and so your
48 point is well taken, and there is no harvest, as you know, of

1 red drum in federal waters at this time, but your comments are
2 noted, and we'll see if anybody else has anything to say about
3 that. In the short-term, we're going to go ahead and go to
4 Martha.

5
6 **MS. GUYAS:** Thanks. I was going to say that I think putting
7 triggerfish on the schedule in 2023 and 2024 was the right move.
8 I think that assessment self-imploded recently, and we need to
9 figure out what's going on there, and clearly we need a research
10 track, given all the issues.

11
12 I was going to circle back to the question that Ryan brought up
13 in the action guide regarding red snapper, and so we have the
14 operational and research track assessments starting -- Well, I
15 guess going on -- Starting in 2021 and continuing through 2023,
16 and I wanted to have some discussion about whether we need an
17 interim analysis or would like to see an interim analysis for
18 red snapper.

19
20 I think the last assessment maybe came out in 2017, and I'm not
21 sure how old the data was from that, and, Ryan, do you know off
22 the top of your head?

23
24 **MR. RINDONE:** 2015.

25
26 **MS. GUYAS:** 2015, and so it's been five years, and I would just
27 put that out there, and I know we have Great Red Snapper Count
28 stuff coming out soon, and so I don't know if there's a way -- I
29 mean, there's a lot happening, and I'm trying to figure out
30 what's the best course of action here.

31
32 **CHAIRMAN FRAZER:** Thanks, Martha. I think that's a good
33 question, and particularly in light of some of the discussion
34 we've had over the last couple of days. I know that Clay has
35 his hand up.

36
37 **DR. PORCH:** We are planning to conduct interim analyses for the
38 2021 and the 2022 seasons, anticipating that the research track
39 assessment for red snapper will be completed sometime between
40 early 2022 or the 2023 end date.

41
42 Just keep in mind that research tracks are intentionally
43 flexible, and so that 2023 date reflects sort of the longest
44 possible time we think it would take, and it's possible that,
45 given the information that comes in, that we'll complete the
46 research track sooner, but, again, it's intended to be a
47 flexible process, and so we schedule a long amount of time for
48 it, but, in the interim, we plan to do those kind of interim

1 analyses, and, as I discussed yesterday, there is two possible
2 approaches.

3
4 We can use the approaches that we've shown you in the past, that
5 hinges on our most reliable survey information, or, depending on
6 what Greg Stunz's group delivers with the Great Red Snapper
7 Count, we could potentially use those abundance estimates
8 directly to derive an ABC.

9
10 **CHAIRMAN FRAZER:** Thank you, Clay. I guess it all sounds good,
11 and there are, as you pointed out, a number of options moving
12 forward, and so, if it's the intent of the council, I guess we
13 would just emphasize the desire to have those interim analyses
14 and realize that they could incorporate any number of data, and
15 is that correct?

16
17 **DR. PORCH:** Yes, that's correct.

18
19 **CHAIRMAN FRAZER:** Dr. Simmons.

20
21 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I guess I
22 would just try to get an idea of when we thought that interim
23 analysis might be ready, if the Great Red Snapper Count could be
24 included, and I think it was discussed a little bit yesterday,
25 and is that something that may be available you said in early
26 2021 for the SSC to review?

27
28 **DR. PORCH:** Yes, I think so, and a lot depends on when we
29 actually get the estimates from the Great Red Snapper Count, and
30 so the last I heard from Greg was potentially by the end of
31 June, and he may want to comment, but I have also heard that,
32 because they lost their lead analyst, it could actually not be
33 completed until fall, and so maybe he can further enlighten us
34 there. If the estimates do come in June or July, we should have
35 plenty of time to incorporate them in a potential interim
36 analysis in time for the SSC to review and then the council to
37 implement it for the 2021 season.

38
39 **CHAIRMAN FRAZER:** Dr. Stunz, do you want to provide some
40 comments?

41
42 **DR. GREG STUNZ:** Clay is right, and we're looking probably more
43 like the July timeframe, and so thanks, Clay, for swiping our
44 lead analyst, or, actually, it wasn't Clay, but he went out to a
45 NOAA lab in Hawaii.

46
47 **DR. PORCH:** If it was me, I would have let him work on it.

48

1 **DR. STUNZ:** Exactly, but, as I mentioned yesterday, we're
2 working just as fast as we can, and we do have some procedural
3 things to go through, as far as the source of that money was
4 from Congress, and briefing their staff and others, and so
5 there's some things -- I don't really know what that's going to
6 look like, but, as far as the actual real work of getting the
7 numbers in, it looks like it's going to be a July timeframe, and
8 so hopefully that will help you out, Clay, to do that, but just
9 rest assured that we're not sitting here. We're working as fast
10 as possible, and especially this COVID stuff didn't help us out
11 any, but we're working through it right now.

12
13 **CHAIRMAN FRAZER:** Thanks, Greg. It looks like you had your hand
14 up for something else, and I will circle back to you here at the
15 end.

16
17 **DR. STUNZ:** That was it.

18
19 **CHAIRMAN FRAZER:** Okay. Great. Ryan, you had your hand up?

20
21 **MR. RINDONE:** I was going to speak to Mr. Swindell's comments
22 about red drum, but it may be better to yield my time to Clay,
23 if Clay wants to comment on that instead.

24
25 **CHAIRMAN FRAZER:** Okay. I will give Clay an opportunity if he
26 wants to address the red drum issue.

27
28 **DR. PORCH:** Okay. Do you want me to take it up now?

29
30 **CHAIRMAN FRAZER:** Yes.

31
32 **DR. PORCH:** All right. Thanks. The big issue with red drum is
33 that, ideally, we would do a Gulf-wide assessment that
34 incorporates all the state data, since really the juveniles grow
35 up predominantly inshore, and most of the states have
36 assessments for them already.

37
38 Then, when they go offshore, there is some degree of mixing
39 throughout the Gulf, and basically populations in Texas can
40 conceivably go all the way to -- Members can go all the way to
41 Florida, but, for the most part, the movements are somewhat
42 limited, so that the genetic research we have shows that
43 populations in Texas are more similar to the ones in Louisiana
44 than they are in Florida, and vice versa.

45
46 What we really need is to get a comprehensive sampling program
47 that uses essentially purse seines, which is a non-selective
48 gear, to get the age composition of the population throughout

1 the entire Gulf, especially the northern Gulf, since that's
2 where the bulk of the fish are, and then we can compare that to
3 the similar work that was done in the 1980s and 1990s, and then
4 we have a basis for the assessment.

5
6 If we get something like that, I would actually advocate for
7 doing a Gulf-wide assessment, and then we would probably have
8 some spatial structure that incorporates the state data more
9 directly, just simply because they don't move that much when
10 they are younger animals and they're in the estuaries, and so I
11 think it would be a great idea, and we would love to do it, but
12 we do need the data to populate it.

13
14 Otherwise, we would have to use some data-limited approach, and
15 that didn't work so well the last time. I mean, we could review
16 it again and see if we can find some other data-limited approach
17 to apply that would be informative, but, ideally, we would just
18 collect the data that we need to, but it's just expensive, and I
19 don't think that anybody has quite pulled it off yet.

20
21 **CHAIRMAN FRAZER:** Thanks, Clay. We've got a little bit of time
22 here left, and I've got three people still on the board, and I'm
23 going to try to walk through them in order. Crabtree, Anson,
24 and then Simmons, and then Ed Swindell will get an opportunity
25 as well. Dr. Crabtree.

26
27 **DR. CRABTREE:** Just to follow-up on red drum, I mean, we talk
28 about the fishery being closed, but, really, it's one of the
29 largest recreational fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico, and I
30 think we harvest eight or nine million pounds a year, and so,
31 more than anything, we've made a management decision to use a
32 large closed area, which is the EEZ, as part of the way to
33 manage red drum, and we have decided to keep it a state-water
34 fishery on the juveniles.

35
36 I know that not everyone is in agreement with that, and we also
37 decided to have it be a recreational fishery. People have
38 different opinions on that, but I think you could change that if
39 you wanted to, and, I mean, you shouldn't assume that, because
40 you don't have a stock assessment, the fishery has to be closed.
41 I would point out that the largest recreational fishery in the
42 South Atlantic is dolphin, and there's no assessment for
43 dolphin, and we manage it, and the EEZ is open, and so I think
44 it's just more of a choice as to how we're managing red drum,
45 and I've been on this council an awful long time, and I think,
46 generally, the majority of members are satisfied with it and
47 haven't wanted to change it.

48

1 **CHAIRMAN FRAZER:** Thank you, Dr. Crabtree. Kevin Anson.

2
3 **MR. ANSON:** In regard to red drum, and Roy's comments
4 specifically, I guess one could argue that it's a choice, but,
5 if the council wanted to move in the direction of opening up
6 harvest in the EEZ, we have to do that with science, or, as Clay
7 pointed out, we need information on the core area of its range,
8 and that's in the northern Gulf, and that was my question, is I
9 thought that Dr. Sean Powers had some MARFIN money to do some
10 research, and I can follow-up with him, but I'm just curious if
11 either Ryan or Dr. Porch has any information about the status of
12 that research and how it plays into providing that information
13 that would be needed to conduct an assessment.

14
15 **CHAIRMAN FRAZER:** Either Ryan or Clay, to that point, real
16 quick.

17
18 **MR. RINDONE:** Clay can correct me if I'm wrong, but Dr. Sean
19 Powers has been working in the northern Gulf, and Dr. Sue
20 Barbieri in the eastern Gulf, with generally similar techniques,
21 to try to survey the red drum population, and I don't know if
22 Sue's research is still continuing or if she's wrapped up field
23 sampling, and I think she has wrapped up the field sampling
24 portion of her work, and we haven't seen the results of any of
25 those data yet, to know how they could be used to better explain
26 things that we currently don't know about the stock, but it
27 isn't just those areas that need to be examined, and it's really
28 a Gulf-wide issue, like Dr. Porch mentioned.

29
30 **DR. PORCH:** I am not fully up-to-speed on the breadth of Dr.
31 Powers' survey. I was under the impression that it didn't
32 really include that much of Louisiana and Texas, and, of course,
33 Louisiana is the teeth of the fishery, but I could be wrong on
34 that, and it's certainly a point worth following-up on.

35
36 **CHAIRMAN FRAZER:** Okay. Thank you. We'll get some information
37 and get back to folks on that one. Dr. Simmons.

38
39 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. It sounds
40 like we could just go ahead and work on a letter to the Science
41 Center just requesting that interim analysis for red snapper,
42 and it sounds like they're already working on it, but just so
43 everyone is aware, and the staff can do that, but, taking a step
44 back and thinking about the interim analysis, the bigger
45 picture, and I know that Dr. Porch provided a presentation to
46 the council a while back on this process and what species were
47 good candidates.

1 We had originally planned, in March and April, the March/April
2 council meeting, that we would work with the Science Center
3 staff and come up with that list, and not only talk about the
4 timing of when the analysis could be presented to the SSC, but
5 what species the council may want to request every year, or
6 every other year, and the intent of that request.

7
8 Is it just a health check, or is the council's intent, perhaps,
9 to make actual management changes and then putting that out to
10 the management process and seeing how long it takes us to
11 implement those changes and when, again, we may want to request
12 another interim analysis, and so we'll plan to do that for the
13 August council meeting with you, Dr. Porch, and try to work
14 through that process a little bit further and put that out to
15 management, if that's possible.

16
17 **CHAIRMAN FRAZER:** Thanks, Carrie. We have two more, and then
18 we're going to take a break, if we don't have any other
19 business, and so first will be Ed Swindell and then Leann
20 Bosarge.

21
22 **MR. SWINDELL:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you need purse seine
23 data, have you talked to the purse seine operation that used to
24 operate for bait out of Apalachicola? I believe he was on the
25 council at one time, and, also, the bait operation in Louisiana
26 might could help you with purse seines, although the one in
27 Apalachicola is a single vessel purse seine operation, instead
28 of a twin purse seine operation for the menhaden industry, which
29 is the way that the one in Louisiana works.

30
31 I just know there are large, large schools, and the fish
32 spotters in the menhaden industry see enormous schools of big
33 redfish swimming the Gulf of Mexico off of Louisiana and
34 Mississippi and Texas, and I would recommend that, some way or
35 another, and I think it would behoove us all to at look at this
36 resource with some more detail.

37
38 Yes, I agree with Roy that it probably is helping some with the
39 abundance of the resource in the Gulf states, in the inshore
40 waters, where most of the redfish are being caught by the
41 recreational people, but, to not have any knowledge, and we just
42 cannot assume that that is the right way to manage this
43 resource.

44
45 I think we need to do a stock assessment and see how big the
46 stock is, and we know all that we can harvest of the resource,
47 but I just think that we're hiding our faces here a little bit,
48 just because this was placed on the no-fishing list years and

1 years and years ago, and I don't know how long it was, but I
2 think it was the wrong way to do it. The resource is there, and
3 it should be utilized to the best of the ability for the people
4 of the nation. Thank you.

5
6 **CHAIRMAN FRAZER:** Thank you, Mr. Swindell. I think we'll go
7 ahead now to Ms. Bosarge.

8
9 **MS. BOSARGE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ed said a little bit of
10 what I was going to say, and I will mention one more port, port
11 of call, and Pascagoula also some vessels that are purse seine
12 vessels, and Pascagoula also has a National Marine Fisheries
13 Science lab located in it, and so that may be logistically a
14 viable spot for that research to take place, but I will say
15 that, if that research is going to take place with that gear
16 type, which I understand what Dr. Porch is saying, that you need
17 to compare apples-to-apples, as far as the year classes and what
18 age structure looks like in that offshore population.

19
20 The last real hard data that we had on that was when those fish
21 were being collected in that purse seine fishery, and so, to
22 compare to that, you need to collect them in that same fashion
23 again, to really be able to understand what changes may have
24 transpired, based on the way that that fishery is prosecuted
25 now, the inshore fishery that is.

26
27 I will say this, that I believe the scientists that want to
28 conduct that research will have to reach out to the industry.
29 It probably will not happen vice versa, just because it is a
30 very politically-charged topic, and so I hope that will happen,
31 if for no other reason than we need a stock assessment on that
32 offshore population for the states, so they can understand the
33 health of that overall stock.

34
35 I know they do some things on the statewide level, state-by-
36 state, but we need to see what the whole stock is, and it's one
37 big stock, and we need to understand what it looks like and if
38 it's healthy, regardless of whether we open any federal fishing,
39 which that's probably a long shot, but we need to know what it
40 looks like from a science perspective, to make sure that even
41 the inshore fishing is sustainable.

42
43 **CHAIRMAN FRAZER:** Thank you, Ms. Bosarge. Some really good
44 discussion surrounding red drum, and so I think, certainly
45 before the next council meeting, and there's a number of folks
46 on this call, staff, that can round up some information that
47 would allow us to kind of get an update on the latest data, the
48 science, as it relates to red drum.

1
2 I do know that, in Florida, there's a number of folks that are
3 interested in doing that research, and they have reached out to
4 the fishermen in Apalachicola Bay, Ed, and so there are other
5 opportunities, and so we'll try to get an update, again, on the
6 status of the research as it relates to that species for the
7 next meeting.

8
9 In the short-term, I'm going to try to adhere as close as I can
10 to the schedule, and so, if there's not any other questions with
11 regard to the schedule itself, is there any other business to
12 come before the committee? Seeing none, we will adjourn the
13 SEDAR Committee.

14
15 (Whereupon, the meeting adjourned on June 17, 2020.)

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