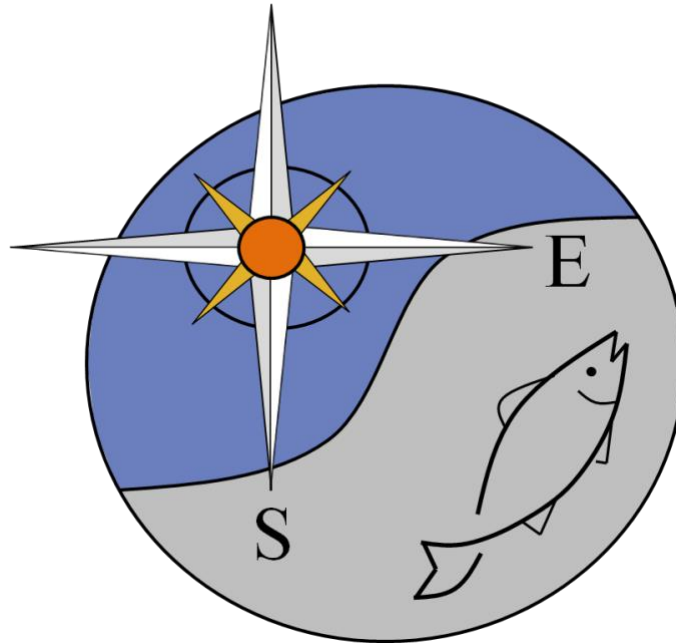


SEDAR



SEDAR Steering Committee

Meeting Brief

October 16, 2020

Meeting via Webinar

Webinar link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4725617821395778828>

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DOCUMENTS

- Attachment 1: May 2020 Draft Meeting Summary
- Attachment 2: SEDAR Projects Update September 2020
- Attachment 3: Topical Working Groups Discussion Document
- Attachment 4: SEDAR Projects List
- Attachment 5: SEFSC Proposal for Updated Assessment Schedule for Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic 2021-2023
- Attachment 6: Procedural Workshop Proposal– Best Practices for Combining Index of Abundance Surveys
- Attachment 7: Research Recommendations App How-To Document

1 Introduction

1.1 Documents

- Agenda
- Attachment 1. May 2020 Draft Meeting Summary

1.2 Action

- Introduction
- Review and Approve Agenda
- Approve Meeting Summary

2 SEDAR Projects Report

2.1 Documents

Attachment 2. SEDAR Projects Update September 2020

2.2 Summary

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

Highlighted project developments:

- SEDAR 70 – Gulf of Mexico Greater Amberjack: The SESFC informed the Gulf Council that the final SEDAR 70 assessment report would be delayed by one month. The original project schedule had the assessment completed by October 2020, but due to the need for additional time, the assessment will now be completed by November 2020. It should still go to the GMFMC SSC for review in January 2021, as originally scheduled.
- South Atlantic Snowy Grouper Update: The SESFC informed the South Atlantic Council that the final SEDAR 36 Snowy Grouper Update assessment report would be delayed by approximately one month. New age data became available which greatly extended the maximum age of snowy grouper. This change has required the analysts to do additional analysis to ensure the model still performs well. The original project schedule had the assessment completed by September 2020. The assessment will now be completed by October 2020.
- COVID-19 Impacts to ongoing projects:
 - SEDAR 68 Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Scamp: This assessment has been impacted by delays due to COVID-19. The Data Workshop was scheduled to be held March 16-20, 2020, but it was cancelled due to safety concerns regarding COVID-19. The process continued via a remote process, with individual working groups meeting to review the available data and come up with pre-decisional recommendations. Those pre-decisional recommendations were presented on a publicly-noticed Data Process Plenary Webinars held in April and May. The assessment was put on hold for three months due to time constraints with a variety of the data providers, with the final webinar being held in September. The

Assessment Development Team made final recommendations for a variety of data recommendations. The data providers are currently writing the Data Workshop report drafts, and finalizing and submitting final data inputs.

2.3 Action

- Informational; none required

3 SEDAR Process Review and Discussion

3.1 Documents

Attachment 3. Topical Working Groups Discussion Document

3.2 Summary

Topical Working Group Discussions

During the May 2020 SEDAR Steering Committee Meeting, Chair Porch provided the Committee a brief review of the Science Center's intentions and expectations for the Research Track (RT) and Operational Assessment (OA) approaches. One of the main clarifications was as follows:

The SEFSC recommended eliminating "Assessment Panels" for all future Operational Assessments. Instead, OAs may have Topical Working Groups (TWG), which are ad-hoc working groups assembled to discuss specific topics identified in the SoW. Those topics should focus on potential variations from the previously-approved model structure and data.

Since the May meeting, SEDAR Staff have worked with SEFSC staff to work on the details of implementing this new approach for upcoming Operational Assessments. Additionally, SEDAR Staff provided presentations to the GMFMC and SAFMC SSCs to inform them of the new process, and to obtain feedback and answer questions. One of the most common concerns was the loss of participation and transparency with the move to TWGs.

A summary of those discussions can be found in Attachment 3.

3.3 Action

- Discuss the use of Topical Working Groups in Operational Assessments

4 Assessment Schedule Review

4.1 Documents

Attachment 4. SEDAR Projects List

Attachment 5. SEFSC Proposal for Updated Assessment Schedule for Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic 2021-2023

4.2 Summary

- ASMFC Schedule Update: ASFMC has informed SEDAR that it will conduct the Operational Assessment of Atlantic menhaden in 2022 entirely in-house. SEDAR will not be required to organize the Review process.
- GSMFC Schedule Update: GSMFC has informed SEDAR that it will conduct the Operational Assessment of update of Gulf menhaden in 2021 entirely in-house. SEDAR will not be required to organize the Review process.
- The SEFSC will provide an update to the Gulf of Mexico Shrimp Assessment Process discussed during the last SEDAR Steering Committee meeting.
- The SEFSC will provide an update on the status of the Great Red Snapper Count.
- SEDAR and the SEFSC were not able to move forward with scheduling the 2022 assessment projects that were approved during the May 2020 Steering Committee Meeting, because of the impacts COVID-19 has had on current and future assessment projects. The SEFSC will provide an update on these impacts to the stock assessment enterprise (timing, process, meetings). (See Attachment 5)
- The SEFSC requested that each cooperator provide a Statement of Work for the 2023 operational assessments by October 15, 2020. The SEFSC will review the SoWs and will provide feedback to the Cooperators no later than February 1, 2021. These projects will be considered for approval at the Spring 2021 meeting. (Appendix 1)
 - SAFMC: Tilefish, Snowy Grouper
 - GMFMC: No OAs not associated with a Research Track will begin in 2023; red snapper OA timing dependent on 2021 Research Track schedule
- The Committee is asked to review the project schedule for 2023 and provide priorities for 2024 and beyond.

4.3 Action

- Consider any needed modifications to the 2021 and 2022 Projects
- Review 2023 Priorities
- Consider long-term priorities (2024/2025)

5 Other Business

- Procedural Workshop Proposal – Index Development Using Fishery Independent Survey Data that Varies Across Space and Time

Workshop Objective: To improve the quality of fishery-independent data inputs and streamline future stock assessments by defining best practices for generating indices of relative abundance and size composition that incorporate data from multiple surveys and/or account for survey changes through time.

The proposal containing details for the indices procedural workshop is available for your review in Attachment 6.

Attachment 6: Proposal summary

- Research Recommendations App

Stock assessments conducted through the SEDAR process usually contain a list of Research Recommendations. These are produced by the appointed Panels and analysts for a given assessment, with the purpose of these recommendations being to inform researchers of data gaps or modeling approaches that could potentially strengthen the next assessment. SEDAR staff produce a Consolidated Research Recommendations PDF that combines all assessments' research recommendations together in one document for ease of reference. While this document provides a comprehensive accounting of the research recommendations for all SEDAR assessments, it has can be cumbersome to navigate at times. To improve the usability of the Consolidated Research Recommendations document, SEDAR staff created the "SEDAR Research Recommendation Search Tool."

Attachment 7: Research Recommendations App How-To Document

5.1 Action

- Recommendations regarding Indices Procedural Workshop

6 Next Meeting

The Committee is asked to make a scheduling recommendation and suggest topics for the next meeting. Based on past practices, this meeting would be a webinar-based meeting in May 2021. Given the need to conduct the current (October 2020) meeting via webinar, the Committee could consider an in-person meeting in Charleston, SC for the May 2021 meeting.