Standing and Reef Fish SSC
Meeting Summary
Webinar
August 2, 2016

The meeting of the Standing and Reef Fish SSC was convened at 1:20 pm on August 2, 2016. The agenda was approved with the removal of the agenda item to select an SSC representative for the August Council meeting. It was decided that staff would present the SSC summary, so an SSC representative was not needed.

SEDER 51 (Gray Snapper) Benchmark Assessment Preparation

Review of SEDAR 51 Project Schedule

Staff reviewed the project schedule for SEDAR 51, which will assess Gulf of Mexico gray snapper. The date for the Data Scoping Webinar was modified to be the week of January 9th, 2017. Staff noted that the current schedule did not conflict with other Gulf Council meetings. A few typos were noted in the schedule which will be corrected in the final version. A committee member commented that holding the Assessment Workshop via webinars was not conducive to the same caliber of critique and analysis as is possible in an in-person workshop.

Without opposition, the SSC approves the SEDAR 51 benchmark assessment (gray snapper) project schedule as revised and corrected according to the SSC suggestions.

Review and Approval of Terms of Reference

Staff reviewed the terms of reference (TORs) for SEDAR 51. Council staff provided edits to portions of the TORs, including requiring justification for the use of FMSY proxies, consideration of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill (and other episodic events), and modifications to projections. Committee members noted that the benchmark of FTarget was not formally defined, and changed that projection parameter to 75% of FMSY.

Without opposition, the SSC approves the SEDAR 51 benchmark stock assessment terms of reference as amended.

Volunteers for the SEDAR 51 Stock ID, Data, Assessment, and Review Workshops:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stock ID</th>
<th>Data Workshop</th>
<th>Assessment Workshop</th>
<th>Review Workshop</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jim Tolan</td>
<td>Jim Tolan</td>
<td>Mary Christman</td>
<td>Kai Lorenzen (Chair)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jeff Isely</td>
<td>Mary Christman</td>
<td>Joe Powers</td>
<td>Sean Powers</td>
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<td>Paul Mickle</td>
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<td>Luiz Barbieri</td>
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Reevaluation of Alternative FMSY Proxies (FMAX, F20% SPR, F22% SPR, and F24% SPR) for Red Snapper

SSC members noted that the FMSY proxy is used as a limit reference point as opposed to a target reference point (such as optimum yield). However, while the FMSY proxy is used as a limit, the true limit is unknown. Therefore, buffers are used to make sure that the true limit is not exceeded. SSC members felt that this issue should be discussed in the context of limit vs. target reference points, and as part of a broader discussion of MSY proxies that will be on the agenda for the next SSC meeting. Although some recent papers were distributed to the SSC discussing how life history traits affect the resiliency and compensatory mortality of stocks, the materials distributed were just a small portion of what is available. One SSC member suggested that a broader discussion of risk also be included in the next SSC meeting. The SSC Chair and Vice-chair will work with Council staff to develop a more comprehensive discussion for the next SSC meeting, which will be an in-person meeting rather than a webinar.

Discussion of Next Gray Triggerfish Assessment – Benchmark or Standard

Staff reviewed the Council motion passed in June 2016 to hold a gray triggerfish assessment in 2017, and the SSC motion to have the next assessment of gray triggerfish be conducted as a benchmark-track assessment. Whether the assessment should be a benchmark assessment or some other type of assessment was heavily debated. Gaps in knowledge that were identified in the last assessment (SEDAR 43) are largely still an issue, with little data available to rectify those shortcomings. However, new and additional circle hook data, and additional years of data for the SEAMAP larval index, will be available for a new assessment. Given the data available to be included, and the timing of assessment deliverables, the Committee determined that an update assessment would be sufficient to include the necessary new and additional information. Further, an update assessment can be completed in time to produce new projections by the end of the current 2017-2019 projection period. The Committee determined that the terminal year for the data used in the update assessment should be 2017, meaning that the earliest an update assessment of gray triggerfish could begin would be in the early fall of 2018.

By a vote of 12 to 3 with 1 abstention, the SSC recommends that an update assessment of gray triggerfish be conducted at the earliest opportunity.

Review of SEDAR Assessment Schedule

Staff reviewed the proposed SEDAR stock assessment schedule with the Committee. Changes include the removal of a gray triggerfish benchmark assessment in place of the gray snapper assessment in 2017 because the timing and logistics of the SEDAR schedule will not accommodate such a change, and the addition of a gray triggerfish update assessment to start in mid to late summer of 2018 with completion in the winter of 2019. For 2019, the gray snapper benchmark assessment will be removed from the priority list because the benchmark assessment will occur in 2017. The new proposed SEDAR schedule is attached.
Other Business

There was no other business.

SSC Members Present

**Standing SSC**
- Luiz Barbieri, Chair
- Joe Powers, V. Chair
- Harry Blanchet
- Benjamin Blount
- Mary Christman
- Bob Gill
- Jack Isaacs

**Reef Fish SSC**
- Jeff Isely
- Kai Lorenzen
- Paul Mickle
- Will Patterson
- Sean Powers
- Steven Scyphers
- Robert Shipp
- James Tolan
- Jason Adriance
- Robert Ellis
- Jennifer Herbig
- John Mareska

**Council Staff**
- Steven Atran
- Doug Gregory
- Karen Hoak
- Emily Muehlstein
- Kathy Pereira
- Ryan Rindone
- Bernadine Roy
- Camilla Shireman
- Carrie Simmons

**Others**
- Heather Blough, NMFS/SERO
- Peter Hood, NMFS/SERO
- Nancie Cummings, NMFS/SEFSC
- Julie Neer, SEDAR
- Chris Blankenship, AL DCNR
- Elizabeth Silleck, EDF
- Michael Drexler, Ocean Conservancy
- Lora Clarke, PEW Trusts
- Chad Hanson, PEW Trusts

**Council Representative**
- Doug Boyd
## Gulf of Mexico SEDAR Schedule

**August 2, 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>GMFMC</th>
<th>Terminal Year</th>
<th>Start Date - End Date:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>FWC Assesments: &lt;br&gt;1- Black Grouper B &lt;br&gt;2- Goliath Grouper B</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Winter 2016 – April 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>FWC Assessments: &lt;br&gt;1- Yellowtail Snapper B</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>April 2017 - Jan 2018</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Fall 2017 - Spring 2018</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>2015</td>
<td>Spring 2017 – Winter 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Proposed</td>
<td>1- Gray Snapper B (cont.) &lt;br&gt;2- MRIP Calib. Updates (cont.) &lt;br&gt;3- Scamp (Research Track) &lt;br&gt;4- King Mackerel S (HMS) &lt;br&gt;5- Gray Triggerfish U</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>April 2017 – Jan 2018</td>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>Fall 2017 – Summer 2018</td>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>Spring 2018 – Winter 2018</td>
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<td>2016/17</td>
<td>Late Summer 2018 – Winter 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Proposed</td>
<td>1- Cobia U &lt;br&gt;2- Spanish Mackerel U &lt;br&gt;3- Yellowedge Grouper U/S &lt;br&gt;4- Tilefish U/S</td>
<td>2017/18</td>
<td></td>
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<td>FWC Assessments: &lt;br&gt;1- Spiny Lobster</td>
<td>2017/18</td>
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*Subject to adjustment based on available data. HMS = Highly Migratory Species. Assessments are listed by priority. Some assessments require two slots due to stock structure.*