Tab I, No. 6

Overview of SEDAR Steering Committee Meeting Outcomes October 16th via webinar

Overview

- SEDAR Projects Report
- SEDAR Process Review and Discussion
- Assessment Schedule Review
- Other Business

SEDAR Projects Update

- SEDAR 70 – Gulf Greater Amberjack delayed 1 month
  - On track for review by SSC in January 2021
- COVID -19 impacts to ongoing projects:
  - SEDAR 68 Gulf and SA Scamp:
    - In-person Data Workshop canceled; held webinars instead
    - Pre-decisional recommendations made in Data Plenary Webinars in April and May 2020
    - Assessment placed on hold for three months due to time constraints from data providers, final Data Workshop webinar held September 2020

SEDAR Process Review and Discussion

SEFSC Intent for Operational Assessments (OA):

- Dr. Neer provided an overview of information outlined in Attachment 3

- *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 scope of work. These topics should focus on potential variations from the previously-approved model structure and data*.

- The Committee continued to ask questions about the process and expressed concerns about transparency

SEDAR Process Review and Discussion continued

SEDAR Steering Committee motion:

Motion: The SEDAR Steering Committee requests the SEFSC and SEDAR staff develop a guidance document for the Operational Assessment process including the use of Topical Working Groups 'TWG' to ensure the process will remain transparent while still meeting the needs of SEFSC to streamline the current process. The guidance document should be presented to the Committee at the Spring 2021 meeting.

Approved by consensus

Assessment Schedule Changes – 2021-2022

- Workload for data providers (aging and catch estimates) has become highly challenging due to COVID-19
- Backlog of aging fish hard parts due to telework schedule; federal staff can't enter buildings/laboratories
- Prioritizing gag for the Gulf of Mexico
- Delay gray snapper (SEDAR 75) start 1 year to 2022
- Delay yellowedge grouper OA assessment 1 year
- Delay gray triggerfish RT start to 2024

Other Business – Proposed Workshop

- Proposed SEDAR Methods and Procedures Workshop: Index Development Using Fishery-Independent Survey Data that Varies Across Space and Time
- 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.
- **Motion**: The SEDAR Steering Committee supports the indices procedural workshop proposed in Attachment 6.

Approved by consensus

Other Business – SEDAR Search Tool

Research Recommendations Tool

- Stock assessments conducted through SEDAR process typically contain a list of Research Recommendations
  - Produced by the appointed panels and analysts for a given assessment that help to inform researchers and modelers of data gaps

- SEDAR staff created the “SEDAR Research Recommendations Search Tool” and a searchable PDF “All Research Recommendations”

- http://sedarweb.org/research-recomendations

Questions?