

SEDAR Committee Summary
October 2, 2017
Leann Bosarge, Chair

The Committee adopted the agenda, as presented, and approved the minutes of the August 2017 Committee meeting.

SEDAR Steering Committee Summary

Staff provided an overview of the discussions from the SEDAR Steering Committee webinar (**Tab I, No. 4**) held on September 26, 2017. Concerns remain with the viability of the proposed research track process, which maintains support from the majority of the SEDAR cooperators. A stock identification workshop is being coordinated for the Gulf and Atlantic cobia stocks in 2018. Most discussions centered on the 2018 and 2019 SEDAR schedule, which saw several changes for the Gulf Council since the last Steering Committee meeting in May. The Gulf Council will not receive an assessment for vermilion snapper until 2020 due to data processing limitations and a scheduling conflict with the lead analyst. Gulf Council representation at the meeting expressed concern that the Council was receiving fewer assessments than expected.

SEDAR Schedule

The Committee reviewed the SEDAR schedule (**Tab I, No. 5**). It was acknowledged that the delays from the MRIP calibration update effort resulted in the difficulties with the scheduling of stock assessments in the Gulf. Dr. Ponwith indicated that it would not be possible to assess any other species in 2018 aside from those listed on the current schedule. The only possible addition may be cobia, but only in the event that the stock ID workshop indicates a homogenous stock throughout the Gulf and South Atlantic, thus, requiring a joint assessment. This scenario would not result in one of the currently listed species in 2018 being removed from the schedule. Committee members asked what could be done to improve the process, and advocated for identifying areas where solutions may be implemented. A Committee member suggested removing the MRIP calibration update effort from the schedule, and updating those data as the respective species are assessed in the future.

Further discussions were delayed until Full Council, as the Committee had exceeded its scheduled time.

This concludes my report.