

**SEDAR Committee Summary**  
**August 20, 2018**  
**Leann Bosarge, Chair**

*SEDAR Process Changes*

SEFSC staff reviewed the proposed changes to the SEDAR stock assessment process. Prior to SEDAR, stock assessments were completed by a limited number of participants, required fewer data streams, simpler models, and relied almost entirely on the SSC as the primary review body. The process was timely but not transparent. At the sacrifice of timeliness and throughput, SEDAR was created as an assessment structure that used consensus decision making by interdisciplinary panels, independent peer-review, and SSC review. SEDAR was not intended to handle all stock assessments, but rather those key stocks that required more scrutiny. Many assessments have benefited from additional data streams and improved models; however, as the number of data sets and model complexity have increased, so have the number of potential failure points in terms of data provision.

The proposed changes introduce the research track, operational assessment, and the interim analysis. The research track is similar to the current benchmark assessment process, and is designed to create the tools to perform the analyses necessary for the assessment, but does not yield management advice. Therefore, it does not require the most recent data. The operational assessment uses the tools created in the research track, along with the most recent data for all pertinent data streams, to yield management advice. The interim analysis occurs outside the SEDAR process, and updates the most critical indices from the previous operational assessment to update management advice. An advanced approach to scheduling using a stock assessment prioritization tool is anticipated to better manage workloads and tasking, allowing for improved planning of stock assessments.

SEFSC staff noted a need to right-size assessments for the data available for a given species. Stock assessment reports will also be streamlined to improve general comprehension. Finally, continued outreach and education of the stock assessment process and how those data are used for management should continue through the Marine Recreational Education Program.

*SEDAR Assessment Schedule*

Delays resulting from the Marine Recreational Information Program data recalibration have resulted in delays for the scamp research track and operational assessments, the red grouper and gray triggerfish operational assessments, and changes to terminal year considerations for the gag and greater amberjack operational assessments. With red drum listed for a possible assessment in 2021, some concern was expressed about the data available at that point compared to the data available in 2016 during the previous data-limited stock assessment (SEDAR 49). The Committee noted that some research projects were ongoing, and those data could be examined when they become available.

This concludes my report.