

**SEDAR Committee Summary
October 5, 2015
Kevin Anson, Chair**

Staff summarized the proceedings from the recent SEDAR Steering Committee meeting, highlighting the proposed changes to the stock assessment process. The Science Center has proposed a new process for assessing species. The proposed process would include a “research cycle” which would essentially perform the tasks typically conducted during a benchmark assessment, except management advice would not be provided. Such advice would be generated through “operational” assessments, which would function similar to the current standard and update assessments, depending on the issues to be addressed. Comments from the Gulf and South Atlantic Councils’ Science and Statistical Committee members will be solicited and used to fine-tune the proposed assessment process before implementation.

Staff reviewed the status of planned stock assessments in the Gulf for 2017 – 2018 (**Tab I, No. 4**). Some reorganization of assessment priorities was recommended during the SEDAR Steering Committee meeting. The red snapper standard assessment scheduled for 2017 would remain, and would incorporate updated MRIP effort calibration data. A “research cycle” assessment for scamp and gray snapper would be conducted concurrently with the South Atlantic, beginning in 2017 and concluding in early 2018. In the latter half of 2018, the option would be available to the Council to conduct update assessments which incorporate updated MRIP effort calibration data, or to update as many stocks as possible, by order of priority, with the updated MRIP effort calibration data. The SEDAR Steering Committee will meet via webinar on October 30th, 2015, to finalize the schedules for 2017 – 2018.

This concludes my report.