SEDAR 48 Data Webinar
February 14, 2017 from 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM
Summary Report

The webinar began at 11:00 am eastern time. The purpose of the webinar is to review data collection progress, and to finalize tasks to be completed ahead of the data workshop in St. Petersburg.

SEDAR 48 is a benchmark-type stock assessment which will assess southeastern US black grouper. The assessment will use the Stock Synthesis modeling environment, which has seen extensive use in the Gulf of Mexico and elsewhere.

Stock ID

A more formal presentation will be given at the Data Workshop by select panelists. Currently, the stock is being treated as one homogenous stock throughout the southeastern US.

Life History

Additional histology slides will be analyzed, and other outstanding information will be presented at the Data Workshop.

Commercial Data

The IFQ component in the Gulf may make building indices for the commercial fleets difficult. Data compilers are equesting a commercial hook-and-line index for the South Atlantic only through 2015. This approach is thought to be indicative of commercial landings (magnitude) and effort.

Recreational Data

MRFSS data will be presented in a working paper at the Data Workshop. Headboat landings may be subject to erroneous landings reports; however, compliance with reporting is thought to be mostly uniform, complete, and accurate. If a vessel is thought to have questionable reports, a specific vessel could be filtered out of the analyses. However, initially, no vessels will be filtered.

FWC Visual Survey

This survey has been combined with the NMFS visual survey.

Species Identification

Species identification (and misidentification) will be a discussion topic. In SEDAR 10, ratios were estimated between gag and black grouper to correct for misidentification. However, when

further analyzed, regional (north to south) and gear differences exist with respect to misidentification. Additionally, red grouper are also sometimes miscategorized along with black grouper. These ratios will need to be revisited. Commercial hook and line, spear fishermen, and commercial longline fishermen seem to identify gag and black grouper well; however, recreational hook and line and "other" fishermen occasionally demonstrate misidentification issues between the species. One way to proceed would be to analyze trip interviews by region, gear, and time (to account for regulatory changes).

Discards

Commercial logbook discard information will be compiled and contributed along with recreational discard data.

Age and Length Composition Data

Data will come from both the Beaufort and Panama City labs. Length frequencies will be determined for use in SS.

Continuity Model

Data since 2009 will be input into the model, and model debugging is underway.

Discard Mortality

The discard mortality model used for gag will be used for black grouper also.

Working papers are due to SEDAR by February 24th, 2017
The Data/Assessment Workshop will be in St. Petersburg from March 15-17, 2017
A follow-up webinar will be held the week of March 20th, 2017
Final data are due to analysts by March 24th, 2017

Participants:

Julie Neer	Ryan Rindone	Refik Orhun	Steve Brown
Nancie Cummings	Joe O'Hop	Michelle Masi	Alisha Gray
Beverly Sauls	Chris Bradshaw	Chris Stallings	David Gloeckner
James Tolan	Jessica Stephen	Kelly Fitzpatrick	Ken Brennan
Robert Ahrens	Bob Ellis		