

**SEDAR 48 Post-Data Workshop Webinar**  
**April 11, 2017 from 1:15 PM to 2:30 PM**  
**Summary Report**

The webinar began at 1:15 pm eastern time. The purpose of the webinar is to review data going into the assessment, and to finalize tasks from 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.

TIP Program Data

Some data gaps exist in time series for some gears in different data collection areas. This affects the determination of the ratio of black grouper to gag landed in a particular data collection area. Some improvement is possible by combining gears. IFQ data could also be used to fill gaps in commercial landings; however, IFQ data do not have the appropriate gear or area-fished information to be directly comparable to the other commercial data. Using larger “bins” into which data may be included may allow more data to be used in the assessment. Discussions yielded several ways to determine the TIP ratios for the model. ***The Panel recommended that the analytical team tabulate landings by the same strata, treat dives as black grouper only, and calculate the variance on a trip-by-trip basis.***

Recreational Statistics

SEDAR 48 is estimating larger harvest levels than SEDAR 19, particularly in the mid-1990s and early 2000s. Landings have generally declined over the entire time series (1986 – 2015). Recreational discards are comparable between SEDAR 48 and SEDAR 19, with the exception of 1987. Generally, SEDAR 48 estimates marginally larger numbers of discards of black grouper compared to SEDAR 19. Ratios of black to gag grouper used in SEDAR 19 were used again for SEDAR 48, after including APAIS adjustments to landings. For the headboat data, an analyst recommended using SEDAR 19 data for 1986 and 1987, since the SEDAR 48 data appear unreliable for those years.

Indices

The headboat index was updated to account for the change in the area designators in 2013. To account for this, the new areas were combined to represent coverage over the historical area prior to 2013. Vessel-specific effort was not usable, since captains can change on a vessel during the fishing year. The revised data indicate a more level catch history over the time series compared to the prior data.

The MRFSS index was modified by re-computing the cluster index, and focusing only on type-A catch for May – December (closed in the South Atlantic from January – April). Recreational landings in MRFSS focused on hook-and-line landings only, with spearfishing landings

excluded. The resultant dataset covers the whole year for the southeast (Gulf and South Atlantic).

Given the outstanding data issues, the analytical body, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, has decided to discontinue the SEDAR 48 assessment effort. The analytical team will explore other methods in the interim. The Data Workshop report will be drafted and distributed to the Panel and the Councils.

Final Sections are due to SEDAR by May 12, 2017  
The Data Workshop Report will be distributed in June, 2017

Participants:

Julie Neer	Ryan Rindone	Chris Bradshaw	Jim Tolan
Jessica Stephen	Kevin McCarthy	Larry Beerkircher	Mike Errigo
Refik Orhun	Robert Ahrens	Bob Ellis	Steve Brown
Steve Turner	Vivian Matter	Ted Switzer	Joe O'Hop
Kelly Fitzpatrick	Ken Brennan		