

**SEDAR 49: Data Limited Species  
Post-Data Workshop Webinar  
7 June 2016, 1:00 p.m. – 2:40 p.m.**

Update on Progress

*Red Drum:*

Red drum is being considered data-limited due to a lack of commercial landings, recent life history (especially maturity), and age composition data for the adult offshore population. The goal of SEDAR 49 is to provide a general snapshot of the Gulf-wide condition of the red drum stock, especially the offshore stock. The Data-limited modeling tool (DLMT) will produce a Gulf-wide catch recommendation that will include state waters. Total removals include state and federal waters because, given the current data-limited setting, data providers are unable to separate landings from the inshore and offshore populations.

Life history data for red drum are dated (1990s – 2000s). Growth and meristics have been updated using more recent data, while steepness has been gleaned from other similar species (for all SEDAR 49 stocks).

Total removals will be counted from 1981-2014, with ~6% coming from the commercial fishery, ~83% from the recreational fishery, and the remaining 11% from dead discards. The representative fleet will therefore be the private recreational fleet. This is largely due to the moratorium on harvest by commercial fishermen, and on harvest in federal waters.

The index of abundance to be used for red drum is the Dauphin Island Sea Lab bottom longline survey (2006-14), with and length composition data from purse seine, bottom longline, and weighted composition data from landings.

Outstanding red drum issues include data gaps in life history knowledge, selectivity issues with using the recreational fleet at the representative fleet (e.g., slot and bag limits vary by state), spatiotemporal limitations in age and length composition data, and modeling limitations with respect to the von Bertalanffy growth curve (assumes no sex-specific or regional differences in growth parameters).

*Lane Snapper:*

Life history data were more robust for lane snapper, permitting re-estimation of max age and maturity. Growth and meristics were updated using other lutjanids, as was steepness. Total removals span 1986 – 2014, with ~95% of removals coming as bycatch from the shrimp fishery (primarily age-0). However, from a directed effort standpoint, the representative fleet was deemed to be the headboat recreational fleet. The headboat fleet was selected as the preferred index of abundance, with age and length composition data coming from those landings. Shrimp bycatch will likely drive catch recommendations for lane snapper, and consideration of the

historical decline in the shrimp fleet. The remarkably high levels of shrimp bycatch will be reviewed, since the Panel expressed concern on their accuracy.

*Wenchman:*

Life history data were not robust for wenchman. Total removals span 1997 – 2014, with ~95% of removals coming as bycatch from the shrimp fishery (primarily age-0). The representative fleet was the commercial trawl fishery, about which little is known. The selected index of abundance was the SEAMAP small pelagics survey, from which length and, maybe, age composition data will be attempted. Life history parameters come from a single small-scale study, with no information on maturity. Poorly represented parameters will require proxies from similar species.

*Yellowmouth Grouper:*

Life history data are available, but are both dated and intermittent. Total removals were determined from 1990-2014, and are generally sporadic. Approximately 90% of landings are from the recreational sector. Very little commercial data are available. The representative fleet will be the combined recreational fleet (CFH, HB, Private). The preferred index of abundance was the Reef Fish Video Survey, which yielded limited length composition data.

*Snowy Grouper:*

Most life history information was gleaned from the South Atlantic assessment of snowy grouper (SEDAR 36). Total removals were determined from 1990-2014, and approximately 84% of removals came from the commercial bottom longline fleet (this will be the representative fleet). As such, the preferred index of abundance will be the commercial logbooks, with overall length and age composition data coming from those landings. Some concerns remain over the max age of snowy grouper, which will be investigated. Discard mortality is thought to be 100% from the bottom longline and vertical line commercial fisheries; however, discards are very low from those fleets.

*Speckled Hind:*

Life history information are largely borrowed from data from the South Atlantic. Total removals were determined from 1997-2014, with 55% of the landings coming from the commercial sector. The representative fleet was determined to be the commercial longline fleet. The preferred index of abundance was the commercial logbook, with length and age composition data coming from those landings.

*Lesser Amberjack:*

No life history parameters were recommended, with the exception of length to weight relationships. No other seriolids were appropriate for comparison, and no standard methodology exists for ageing lesser AJs. Removals are highly uncertain, and are confounded with other seriolids. The majority of landings appear to come from commercial fishing, with the

commercial handline fleet serving as the representative fleet. No preferred index of abundance was identified.

*Almaco Jack:*

No life history parameters were recommended, with the exception of length to weight relationships. No other seriolids were appropriate for comparison. Removals are highly uncertain, and are confounded with other seriolids. The majority of landings appear to come from recreational fishing, with the private recreational fleet serving as the representative fleet (~60% of removals). The preferred index of abundance was identified as the Reef Fish Video Survey, from which length composition data will be attempted.

## **Modeling Update**

The DLMT will be able to be applied to red drum, lane snapper, snowy grouper, speckled hind, and perhaps “amberjacks” if combined (data may require heavy reliance on another species as a proxy). For wenchman and the individual amberjacks, much data remains missing, and will make model outputs unreliable. For yellowmouth grouper, uncertain catches will result in uncertain population and resultant catch estimates.

For wenchman, considerable concerns remain in stock and fleet dynamics, especially with respect to growth, maturity, and which fleet is most representative in the wake of uncertain removals. Options include using other *Pristopomoides* as a proxy, or excluding wenchman from further analysis. ***The Panel elected to caveat wenchman results with the use of proxies.***

For yellowmouth grouper, an identification issue remains with it being confounded with scamp. Landings are also quite sporadic. Options include using data as provided, or recommending that the future scamp assessment examine scamp and yellowmouth as a combined complex. ***The Panel chose to move forward with the data provided.***

For the jacks, the general lack of life history data and considerable uncertainty in other areas are troubling. Options include proceeding with available data, or attempting a combined jacks assessment using proxies where possible. ***The Panel did not provide a recommendation for the jack species.***

### **Timelines:**

Data Workshop Report due to SEDAR by June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
Assessment Webinar I will be held the week of July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
Assessment Webinar II will be held the week of August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016.

**Participants:**

Julie Neer  
Mike Larkin  
Emily Satterfield  
Jay Gardner  
Linda Lombardi  
Robert Leaf  
Vivian Matter  
Refik Orhun

Ryan Rindone  
Adyan Rios  
Harry Blanchet  
Kelly Fitzpatrick  
Liz Scott-Denton  
Savannah Michaelson  
Yuying Zhang  
Chad Hanson

Skyler Sagarese  
David Hanisko  
Dave Gloeckner  
Jeff Mathews  
Ching-Ping Chih  
Shannon Calay  
Kevin McCarthy

Bob Gill  
FJ Eicke  
Bill Harford  
Jeff Isely  
Mike Drexler  
Sue Barbieri  
Matt Smith