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A review of proposed changes to the SEDAR assessment process

SEFSC

GMFMC SSC

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Background

- Need to increase timeliness and throughput of advice, streamlining operations
- Resources likely to decrease
- Project time must decrease to maintain or increase throughput
- SEDAR project duration has increased substantially through time



Previously Recommended Changes

1) *Eliminate RT/OA process* ✓

2) *Eliminate nomenclature and the slot concept* ✓

- Not all assessments are the same
- Age-structured model with minimal changes: 6-9 months
 - Additional features require additional time (e.g. stock ID, DW, AWs, TWGs, CIE Review, SSC rework)

3) *Identify “Key Stocks” and prioritize them*

4) *Assess remaining stocks with less time-consuming approaches* ✓

- E.g., update assessments, updated projections, IAs, MPs
- Conducted extra-SEDAR with SSC review



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5) SEFSC takes responsibility for the assessment component of SEDAR process

Impetus for change:

- Assessment webinars lack efficiency, produce little consistent scientific advice
 - Overall, technical insights uncommon during webinars
 - Webinar logistical workload comes at the cost of time for model work
 - Webinars rarely effectively engage stakeholders
 - Difficult to find agreeable times to meet
- Changing and uncertain future for SEFSC workforce
 - Assessment, data collection and analysis, etc.





How to maintain transparency if the assessment process is run by the SEFSC

- Transparency outside the assessment portion/process?
 - Data Workshop is open to the public, plenaries streamed
 - If no DW, SEFSC can hold a data webinar if needed or requested
 - SSC meetings and their public comment opportunities
 - Review Workshop is open to the public, streamed
- SEFSC wants technical input from SSC members. So, we propose:
 - Analytical team to provide progress report(s), seek input along the way
 - Example: Gulf Yellowedge Grouper
 - SEFSC convened small SSC panel for technical guidance
 - Example: Gulf Red Grouper
 - SEFSC presented major model changes, incorporated SSC feedback, then completed modeling work



Things to keep in mind:

- Though we do not want to lose transparency, *transparency is not the same as participation.*
- Transparency proposed meets requirements without extending assessment schedule
 - Is it worth a longer schedule to continue with the way it has been done in the past?
- Feedback from SEDAR: declining participation of Panels
 - Assessment panels, ADTs or TWG panels
 - Panel contributions to assessment process can be limited

 **Transparency** =  **Throughput**



Procedural Details



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Proposal for SEDAR Projects:

- SEDAR process limited to assessments with sufficient new information to require external participation/review.
 - Update assessments and interim assessment approaches would be **conducted internally by the SEFSC** and reviewed by the SSC.
- SEFSC would run the assessment component of the SEDAR process internally.
- Data and Review components remain unchanged.
 - Specifics for SEDAR assessments negotiated between SEFSC and Council Staff with input from SSC
- Council may establish a standing Technical Team with appropriate experience and expectations for logistics.

Proposal for SEDAR Projects:

- **For all SEDAR projects:**
 - SEDAR hosts data scoping call and Data Workshop/webinar(s).
 - The public is encouraged to participate.
 - SEFSC internally develops assessment
 - Coordinate ad-hoc meetings with members of the Technical Team
 - Focus on technical issues, stakeholder input/outreach
 - Provide communications record for inclusion in the assessment report
 - SSC role in model development will be expanded:
 - Council Staff will schedule a pre-decisional briefing(s) with the SSC to provide feedback on key decision points
 - SEFSC will revise the assessment as appropriate
 - Example: Gulf Red Grouper
 - SEDAR coordinates Review Workshop, when needed, as usual.



Proposal for SEDAR Projects

- **Optional Components:**

- In-person Data Workshop:

- New assessments
- When many new data inputs must be considered
- Need to substantially modify an existing assessment

- Data Webinar(s):

- Limited new information available
- Would function similarly to a Topical Working Group

- External CIE Review:

- New assessments
- When many new data inputs must be considered
- Need to substantially modify an existing assessment



Other extra-SEDAR assessments

- Update “lites” - To provide the most up-to-date management advice, the Center may update a recent assessment using all the available information, but some time-series may not be available through the terminal year. Provides new Status Determination Criteria (SDCs), OFL, ABCs etc.
 - Examples: when the MRIP data are revised or when a new best practice about natural mortality should be applied
- Updated projections - Re-run projections, and replace assumed removals with observed information. Retain SDCs, updated OFL and ABC.
- Interim assessment approaches - generally a data-limited method (DLM) approach to adjust the existing ABC (e.g., using a reliable index). Retain SDCs.
- Management Procedure - an approved (e.g., MSE simulation tested) approach to manage a stock based on a model-based or empirical harvest control rule or strategy. Does not provide SDCs. Often provides short term catch advice (e.g., ABC).
- **The use of any of these approaches to inform management would be subject to SSC feedback and review.**



When do we make the changes?

- Begin with SEDAR 100: Gulf Gray Triggerfish
 - Data scoping set for May 2025; CIE Review run by SEDAR.
 - Will reduce the time allocation on the assessment calendar
 - Would be especially impactful if there are other delays
 - SEFSC presents progress to SSC
 - Use Council's list of experts as needed
- Upcoming assessments:
 - King mackerel
 - Gag
 - Tilefish complex
 - MRIP data updates



Feedback?

