



**NOAA  
FISHERIES**

Southeast Fisheries  
Science Center

# Theme 4: Communication

Does the assessment program adequately communicate research, methods, results, and data needs to the councils, state commissions, and stakeholders?

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# Current Requirements for SEDAR Documentation

- SEDAR participants are encouraged to document analytical products (e.g. CPUE, catch/discard estimates) in writing.
- SEDAR documents are available online at <http://www.sefsc.noaa.gov/sedar/>



# Adequacy/Transparency of SEDAR Documentation

- There is comprehensive documentation of SEDAR inputs, analyses and results. Represents a significant burden on analysts and data providers.

SEDAR	STOCK(S)	YEAR	COUNCIL	DOCUMENTS (Authored by SA Analyst)	Stock Assessment Reports
SEDAR 24	Red Snapper	2010	SAFMC	31 (10)	1
SEDAR 25	Sea Bass, Tilefish	2011	SAFMC	36 (8)	2
SEDAR 26	Queen Snapper, Silk Snapper, Redta	2011	CFMC	26 (10)	3
SEDAR 28	Cobia, Spanish Mackerel	2012	GMFMC/SAFMC	32 (14)	4
SEDAR 29	Blacktip Shark	2012	HMS	24 (4)	1
SEDAR 30	Blue Tang, Queen Triggerfish	2012	CFMC	4 (3)	2
SEDAR 31	Red Snapper	2012/13	GMFMC	50 (12)	1
SEDAR 32	Gray Triggerfish, Blueline Tilefish	2013	SAMMC	26 (15)	1
SEDAR 33	Gag Grouper, Greater Amberjack	2013	GMFMC	55 (16)	2
SEDAR 34	Sharptnose, Bonnethead Sharks	2013	HMS	41 (6)	2
SEDAR 36	Snowy Grouper	2013	SAFMC	15 (7)	1



# Adequacy/Transparency of SEDAR Documentation

- Stock Assessment Reports - Comprehensive, Peer-reviewed

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# Adequacy/Transparency of SEDAR Documentation

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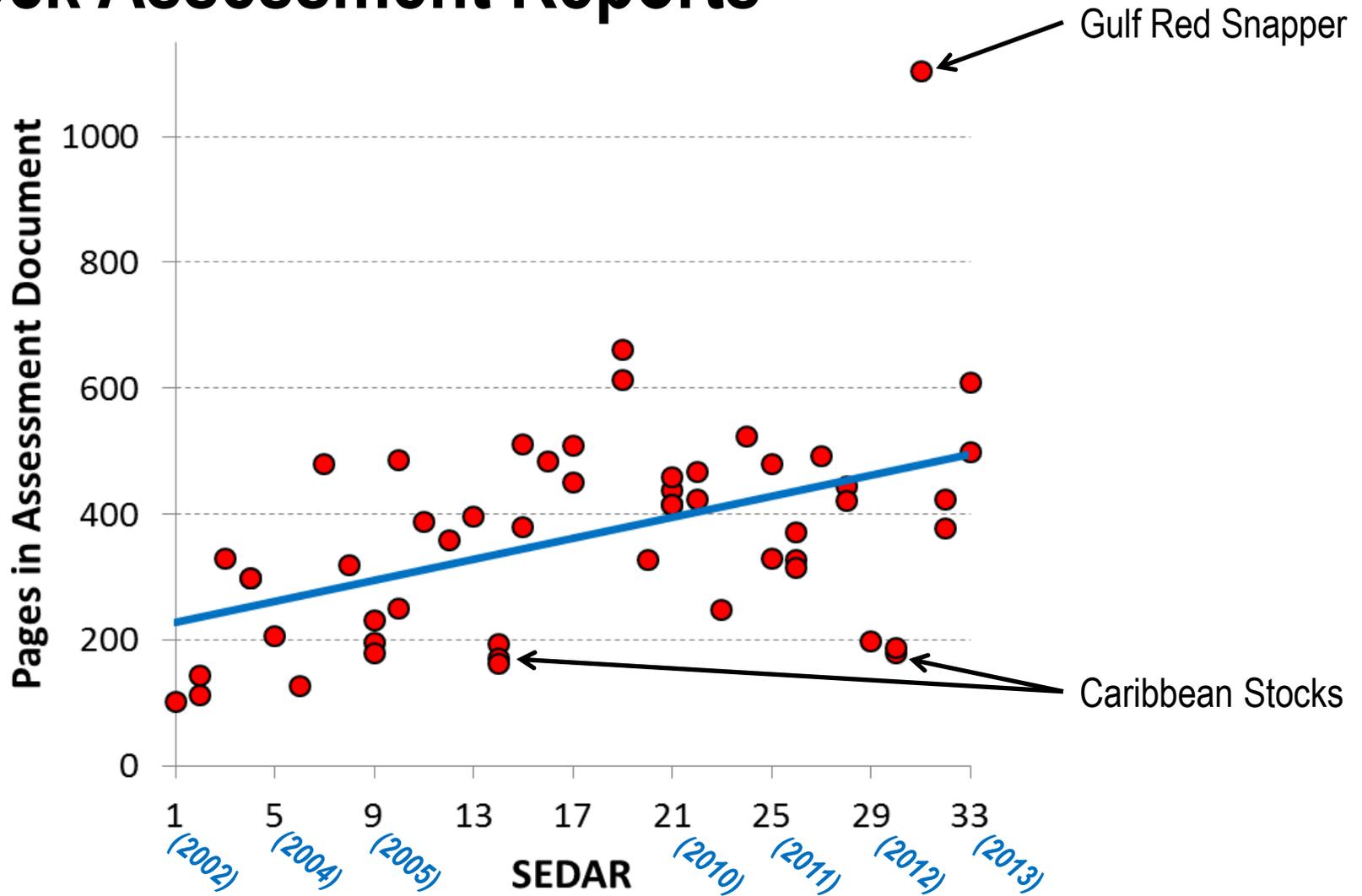
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# Stock Assessment Reports



*\*does not include workshop working papers*

# A summary of SEDAR vs. peer-review pubs by SEFSC lead analysts?

# Improvements to SEDAR Documentation

- Stock Assessment reports are becoming very long. Burdens analyst(s) and reviewers. A shorter document could be more effective.
- SEDAR documents contain redundant information - **STREAMLINE**
- Stakeholders and managers have requested an additional plain language "Executive Summary".



# Communications to SSC

- Written documents are submitted to describe assessment results requested post-Review Workshop.
  - **Problem:** These contain FINAL assessment results, but are NOT archived on the SEDAR server.
- Presentations to SSC are comprehensive, and include:
  - Data Review
  - Model Configuration(s)
  - Model Diagnostics and Fits to Data
  - Model Results Including Characterization of Uncertainty
  - Development of Management Metrics (OFL, ABC)



*"At this point, I'll ask all of you to follow me to the conference room directly below us!"*

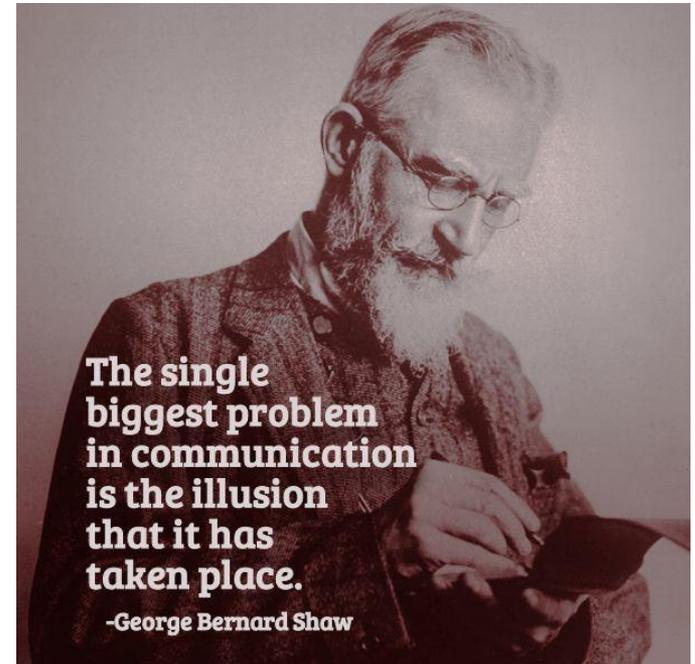
# Communications to Councils

- Strong preference for short presentations (e.g. 15 minutes).
- Presentations to the Councils are made by SSC officer or the lead stock assessment analyst.
- Presentations to Council are brief and concise, and typically include:
  - Relevant Model Results (e.g. MSRA Table, SSB, F, R trends)
  - SSC-Recommended Management Metrics (Annual OFL, ABC)



# Improving Communication with Stakeholders

- Stakeholders participate in SEDAR, but still report dissatisfaction and a lack of transparency
- **Recommendations:**
  - Develop plain-language executive summary
  - Develop SEDAR stakeholder advisory panels



# Outreach

- Currently SEFSC participates in education programs for:
  - Fisheries Managers and Stakeholders (MREP)
  - Undergraduates (Marine Resource Population Dynamics Workshop and RTR Summer Program)



# Discussion Points

- Could SEDAR Documentation be reduced?
  - Fewer working documents?
  - Shorter stock assessment reports
- How can we improve communications to SSCs and Councils?
- How can we improve communications to stakeholders and the public?
  - Need for plain-language summary?