

SEDAR

SouthEast Data, Assessment, and Review

*South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
Caribbean Fishery Management Council
NOAA Fisheries
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission*

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SEDAR Review Panel Overview and Instructions

SEDAR Review Workshops provide independent peer reviews of stock assessments prepared through SEDAR data and assessment workshops. The term ‘review’ is applied broadly, as the goal is not a simple pass-fail evaluation of the assessment. The intent is to ensure that the assessment and results presented are scientifically sound and that decision makers are provided adequate advice. The Review Panel may request additional analyses, corrections of existing analyses and sensitivity runs from the assessment model provided by the Assessment Workshop. An Analytical Team, composed of a subset of the Assessment Workshop panel and representing the primary analysts for each assessment, will be present at the workshop to present assessment findings, provide additional results or model information, and prepare any additional analyses requested by the Review Panel. Although many individuals contribute to a SEDAR assessment, the Review Panel is ultimately responsible for ensuring that the best possible assessment is provided through the SEDAR process.

The charge to each SEDAR Review Workshop is specified in Terms of Reference that are approved by the Councils having jurisdiction over the stocks assessed. During the review the Review Workshop panel will prepare a Consensus Summary addressing each of the Terms of Reference. The consensus summary should represent the views of the group as a whole, and may include any dissenting views of individual panelists. The panel will also prepare an Advisory Report for each assessment which summarizes the primary assessment findings. Outlines and example documents will be provided by SEDAR staff.

All SEDAR workshops, including the Review Workshop, are open, transparent, public processes administered according to the rules and regulations governing Federal Fishery Management Council operations. The names and affiliations of reviewers will be disclosed in the review workshop documents. The Review Workshop Consensus Summary and Advisory Reports will be publicly distributed along with the other SEDAR Workshop working papers and reports. The public will be given an opportunity to comment during the Review Workshop and may submit written comments in accordance with Council guidelines.

SEDAR workshops are ‘paperless’ to the extent practical. All working papers and supplementary documents of the data and assessment workshops are available via the internet and will be available to review panelists on cd at the workshop. Review Panelists should bring a

laptop computer for accessing electronic documentation, drafting workshop report sections, and possibly conducting additional analyses and data summarizations.

The Review Panel Chair is responsible for compiling and editing the Review Panel Consensus Summary and Advisory Reports, and submitting the reports to the SEDAR Coordinator by a deadline specified by the SEDAR Steering Committee. At the start of the workshop the Chair will assign each panelist specific duties, such as drafting specific consensus and advisory report sections. The Chair will select one panelist to serve as assessment leader for each stock assessment under review. The assessment leader is responsible for preparing initial drafts of the consensus report and advisory report for the assigned assessment. Such duties may be further subdivided if workshop manpower allows.

The Review Panel is instructed not to provide specific management advice. Such advice will be provided following completion of the review and through existing Council Committees, such as the Science and Statistical Committee and Advisory Panels. All decisions and recommendations of the Review Panel should be based solely on scientific merit.

The Review Panel's primary responsibility is to ensure that assessment results and stock status determinations are based on the best assessment possible. This means that, during the course of review, the panel is allowed flexibility to deviate from the assessment provided through the Assessment Workshop that may include modifying the assessment configuration, requesting a reasonable number of sensitivity runs, requesting additional details and results of the existing assessments, or requesting correction of any errors identified. However, the allowance for flexibility is limited, and the review panel is not authorized to conduct an alternative assessment or to request an alternative assessment from the technical staff present. The Review Panel is responsible for applying its collective judgment in determining whether changes and corrections to the presented assessment are sufficient to constitute an alternative assessment. The Review Panel Chair will coordinate with the technical staff present to determine which requests can be accomplished and establish priorities.

Any changes in assessment results stemming from modifications or corrections solicited by the review panel will be documented in an addendum to the assessment report. If updated estimates are not available for review by the conclusion of the workshop, the review panel shall agree to a process for reviewing the final results. Any additional or supplemental analyses requested by the Review Panel and completed by the Analytical team shall, at the discretion of the chair and panel, be either documented through addenda to the assessment report or provided in the Review Panel Consensus Summary.

If the Review Panel finds an assessment deficient to the extent that technical staff present cannot correct the deficiencies during the course of the workshop, or the Panel deems that desired modifications would result in an alternative assessment, then the Review Panel shall provide, in writing, the required remedial measures and a suggested appropriate approach for correcting the assessment and subsequently reviewing the corrected assessment.