

INTRODUCTION TO SAW-41 ASSESSMENT REPORT

The Northeast Stock Assessment Workshop (SAW) process has three parts: preparation of stock assessments by the SAW Working Groups and/or by ASMFC Technical Committees / Assessment Committees; peer review of the assessments by a panel of outside experts who judge the adequacy of the assessment as a basis for providing scientific advice to managers; and a presentation of the results and reports to the Regions managers.

Starting with SAW-39 (June 2004), the process was revised in two fundamental ways. First, the Stock Assessment Review Committee (SARC) is now a smaller panel (3 panelists and a chair) with panelists provided by the University of Miami's Independent System for Peer Review (CIE). Second, the SARC no longer provides management advice. Instead, Council and Commission teams (e.g., Plan Development Teams, Monitoring and Technical Committees) formulate management advice, given that an assessment has been accepted by the SARC.

Reports that are produced following the SAW/SARC-41 meeting include: An *Assessment Summary Report* - a brief summary of the assessment results in a format useful to managers; this *Assessment Report* - a detailed account of the assessments for each stock; and SARC panelists reports - one for each panelist and a separate report from the SARC chair summarizing the individual panelist reports.

The 42nd SARC was convened in Woods Hole at the Northeast Fisheries Science Center, June 6 - 10, 2005 to review

assessments of summer flounder, bluefish and tilefish. The reviews were based on detailed assessment reports produced by the SAW Southern Demersal Working Group for summer flounder and tilefish and the ASMFC Technical Committee/Assessment Subcommittee for bluefish. A panelist list, meeting agenda, list of working group meetings and a list of attendees are provided in Tables 1 - 4, respectively.

In overview, the SARC accepted the summer flounder and tilefish assessments. The SARC-41 reviewers all accepted the summer flounder and tilefish assessments as sufficient to serve as a basis for providing scientific advice to managers. For the bluefish assessment, however, the SARC members were divided as to the acceptability of the assessment. One reviewer rejected the bluefish assessment. The other two reviewers felt that the bluefish assessment was adequate, but that the assessment results needed to be treated with great caution. All three reviewers felt that the bluefish assessment was weak with respect to the quality of input data, certain aspects of the modeling, and lack of progress on Research Recommendations from the previous SARC. The reviewers spent considerable time discussing the weaknesses of the bluefish assessment; as a consequence, little time was spent discussing whether the updated biological reference points, the estimates of current biomass and fishing mortality rate, and the determination of bluefish stock status were correct. All reviewers believe that this assessment could be improved. Bluefish were also reviewed in June, 2004 by SARC-39, and that assessment was rejected.

Table 1. 41st Stock Assessment Review Committee Panel.

**The 41st Northeast Regional
Stock Assessment Review Committee
(41st SARC)**

**Stephen H. Clark Conference Room – Northeast Fisheries Science Center
Woods Hole, Massachusetts**

June 6 – 10, 2005

SARC Chairman:

**Cynthia Jones
Old Dominion University
Virginia, USA (CIE)**

SARC Panelists:

**Patrick Cordue
Innovative Solutions Limited
Wellington, New Zealand (CIE)**

**Olav Godø
Inst. of Marine Research
Bergen, Norway (CIE)**

**John Wheeler
DFO
Newfoundland, Canada (CIE)**

Table 2. Agenda, 41st Stock Assessment Review Committee Meeting.

Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop (SAW 41)
Stock Assessment Review Committee (SARC) Meeting

Stephen H. Clark Conference Room – Northeast Fisheries Science Center
 Woods Hole, Massachusetts

June 6 – 10, 2005

AGENDA

TOPIC	PRESENTER	SARC LEADER	RAPPORTEUR
MONDAY, 6 June (1:00 – 5:00 PM).....			
Opening			
Welcome	James Weinberg, SAW Chairman		
Introduction	Cynthia Jones, SARC Chairman		
Agenda			
Conduct of Meeting			
Summer Flounder (A)	Mark Terceiro	Patrick Cordue	Kathy Sosebee
SARC Discussion	Cynthia Jones		
Tuesday, 7 June (8:30 AM – 12:00).....			
Bluefish (B)	Jessica Coakley	Olav Godø	Gary Shepherd
SARC Discussion	Cynthia Jones		
Tuesday, 7 June (1:15 – 5:00 PM).....			
Golden Tilefish (C)	Paul Nitschke	John Wheeler	Laurel Col
SARC Discussion	Cynthia Jones		

Wednesday, 8 June (8:30 AM – 12:00)

Revisit Assessments, if needed. **TBA** TBA **TBA**

SARC Discussion **Cynthia Jones**

Wednesday, 8 June (1:15 PM – 5:00)

SARC Report writing (closed)

Thursday, 9 June (8:30 AM –)

SARC Report writing (closed)

Table 3. 41st Stock Assessment Workshop, list of working groups and meetings.

<u>Assessment Group</u>	<u>Chair</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Meeting Date/Place</u>
SAW Southern Demersal Working Group	Mark Terceiro, NMFS NEFSC	Summer flounder	May 10-11,2005 Woods Hole
Chris Batsavage, NCDMF		Katherine Sosebee, NMFS NEFSC	
Jeffrey Brust, NJDFW		Susan Wigley, NMFS NEFSC	
Steve Cadrin, NMFS NEFSC		Richard Wong, DEDFW	
Paul Caruso, MADMF		Najih Lazar, RIDFW	
Greg DiDomenico, GSSA/NFI-SMC		Anne Mooney, NYDEC	
Toni Kerns, ASMFC		Don Byrne, NJDFW	
Janine Laroux, NMFS Contract Observer		Stew Michels, DEDFW	
Paul Nitschke, NMFS NEFSC		Steve Doctor, MDDNR	
Chris Moore, MAFMC		Chris Bonzak, VIMS	
Brian Murphy, RIDFW		Rob O'Reilly, VMRC	
David Simpson, CTDEP			
SAW Southern Demersal Working Group	Ralph Mayo, NMFS NEFSC	Tilefish	May 3-6, 2005 Woods Hole
Larry A. Alade ,UMES/NEFSC		John Nolan, F/V Seacapture	
Jon Brodziak, NEFSC		Laurie Nolan, Industry	
Steve Cadrin, NEFSC		Michael Palmer, NEFSC	
Laurel Col, NEFSC		Paul Rago, NEFSC	
Dan Farnhan, F/V Kimberly		Anne Richards, NEFSC	
Brian Hooker, NERO		Barbara Rountree, NEFSC	
Chris Legault, NEFSC		Gary Shepherd, NEFSC	
Ralph Mayo, NEFSC (Acting Chair)		Katherine Sosebee, NEFSC	
Jose' Montañez, MAFMC		Steve Turner, SEFSC	
Josh Moser, NEFSC		Susan Wigley, NEFSC	
Paul Nitschke, NEFSC (Assessment Lead)			

ASMFC Technical Committee/Assessment Subcommittee

Jessica Coakley, MAFMC

Bluefish

April 28,2005

Providence, RI

Jessica Coakley, Chair, MAFMC

Gary Shepherd, NEFSC

Doug Grout, NH Dept. Fish and Wildlife

Paul Caruso, MA DMF

Laura M. Lee, ASMFC

Brian Murphy, RI DMF

Kurt Gottschall, CT DEP

Alice Weber, NY DEP

Brandon Muffley, NJ DEP

Rich Wong, DE DMF

Rob O'Reilly, VA Marine Res. Comm.

Beth Burns, NC Div. Mar. Fish.

Mark Collins, SC DNR

Rich McBride, FL Fish & Wildl. Cons.
Comm.

Julie Nygard, ASMFC

Table 4. 41st Stock Assessment Review Committee, List of Attendees

Paul Caruso, MA DMF

Jessica Coakley, MAFMC

Susan Wigley, NEFSC

Stacy Kubis, NEFSC

Laurel Col, NEFSC

Ralph Mayo, NEFSC

Russell Brown, NEFSC

Josh Moser, NEFSC

Toni Kerns, ASMFC

Paul Nitschke, NEFSC

Gary Shepherd, NEFSC

Julie Nygard, ASMFC

Laura M. Lee, ASMFC

Brian Murphy, RIDFW

Katherine Sosebee, NEFSC

Mark Terceiro, NEFSC

Bonnie VanPelt, NMFS-NERO

Laurie Nolan, Industry/MAFMC