



SEDAR 74 Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper Stock ID Process Terms of Reference

September 2020

Process Goal: Review Gulf of Mexico stock structure and unit stock definitions and consider whether changes are required.

1. Review relevant information on population structure. Potential sources include genetic studies, growth patterns, movement and migration, existing stock definitions, otolith chemistry, oceanographic and habitat characteristics, and hotspot maps of landings or CPUE.
2. Make recommendations on biological stock structure and the assessment unit stock or stocks to be addressed through SEDAR 74 and document the rationale behind the recommendations. The default boundaries for assessments should be the current Council boundaries between the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic, and the boundary used in previous assessments to divide the eastern (shrimp grids 1-12) and western (shrimp grids 13-21) Gulf of Mexico. If there is reasonable evidence for deviating from these boundaries, an accompanying recommendation on spatial considerations for management should also be provided.
3. Discuss the strength of evidence in support of stock ID recommendations with particular attention paid to recommendations if they result in a mismatch of biological stock structure, assessment unit stock, and existing management boundaries.
4. Provide recommendations for future research on stock structure.
5. Prepare a report providing complete documentation of workshop recommendations and decisions.