

**Atlantic Croaker Technical Committee
Conference Call
1/9/04**

Participants

Russ Allen
Janaka deSilva
John Foster
Tina Moore

Rob O'Reilly
Paul Piavis
Nancy Wallace
Charlie Wenner

Summary

The Atlantic croaker Technical Committee (TC) was updated on the December meeting of the South Atlantic Board. During that meeting the Board decided that the TC should resolve five of the short term issues recommended by the Peer Review Panel and report back to the Board at a future meeting. The additional shorter term issues; the development of a coast wide model and the comparison of non-age assessment models do not have to be resolved before the next Board meeting, but a time frame should be developed for resolution of these issues. When the first five issues have been resolved and a detailed report has been written, the SEDAR panelists will review this report. When they have signed off on these issues, the report will be forwarded on to the Management Board.

The TC went through each of these first five issues and identified follow up tasks before the February TC meeting. In the next week, staff will work with the chairs to determine what would be an appropriate time for the entire TC to meet after the February meeting.

Other issues that were discussed was the need for a section of the report to include what has been done so far on the issue of the coast wide versus a regional model and the examination of other models. The results of the short-term work will be written in a supplemental report to the original Stock Assessment Report. This supplemental report must be very detailed with a justification of how each decision was made.

There was also discussion on the need for a CPUE index. At the February meeting the TC will discuss this issue and determine what needs to be done to develop this index.

Follow Up Tasks to be completed before February Meeting

Issue 1) Commercial landings did not include all removals from the population

- Rob O'Reilly will continue to work on the Virginia Scrap Data by examining the data for the haul seine and pound net fisheries.
- John Foster will bring to the meeting the bycatch estimates, BRD evaluation studies and effort from contact at the Galveston NMFS lab

- Need effort estimates from each state- as detailed as possible (total number of net hours?)

Issue 2) The model used catch data from 1973 to the present but tuning indices were only used from 1981 to the present.

- Charlie Wenner will examine the SEAMAP index (individual tows by sizes in weight and number)

Issue 3) The base model assumed that the SSB in 1973 was equal to 0.75 SSB (virgin biomass) from the Beverton-Holt analysis.

- Janaka deSilva will examine different estimates