



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Southeast Fisheries Science Center
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Date April 9, 2015

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Record

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SUBJECT: Establishment of the Southeast Data, Assessment and Review (SEDAR)
pursuant to Magnuson-Stevens Act § 302(g)(1)(E)

Section 302(g)(1)(E) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) provides that "The Secretary [of Commerce] and each Council may establish a peer review process for that Council for scientific information used to advise the Council about the conservation and management of the fishery." (16 U.S.C. § 1852(g)(1)(E)). The MSA National Standard 2 Guidelines provide guidance on the "best scientific information available" standard, including guidance on standards for establishing a peer review process per MSA section 302(g)(1)(E). The NS2 Guidelines also state that the Secretary will announce the establishment of a peer review process under MSA 302(g)(1)(E) in the Federal Register, along with a brief description of the process. This memorandum summarizes the decision by the Secretary of Commerce, through the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC), Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (GMFMC), and Caribbean Fishery Management Council (CFMC) to establish the Southeast Data, Assessment and Review (SEDAR) pursuant to MSA section 302(g)(1)(E).

The SEDAR is a regional scientific peer review process that has been jointly established pursuant to MSA section 302(g)(1)(E) by the NMFS, SAFMC, GMFMC, and CFMC, and used to provide the best scientific information available for fishery conservation and management recommendations. The NMFS, SAFMC, GMFMC, and CFMC have worked together to establish the SEDAR guidelines and ensure the SEDAR is in compliance with the NS2 Guidelines.

SEDAR Standard Operating Procedures were reviewed and modified to affirm compliance with National Standard 2 Guidelines at the June, 2014 SEDAR Steering Committee Meeting.