

MEETING OVERVIEW

The Stock Assessment Review Committee (SARC) meeting of the 35th Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop (35th SAW) was held in the Aquarium Conference Room of the Northeast Fisheries Science Center's Woods Hole Laboratory, Woods Hole, MA during 24-28 June, 2002. The SARC Chairman was Dr. Norman Hall, Centre for Fish and Fisheries Research, Murdoch University, Western Australia. Members of the SARC included scientists from the NEFSC, the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC), Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), the States of Maine and North Carolina, NYU School of Medicine, Marine Institute of Ireland, and the Centro Nacional Patagonico of Argentina (Table 1). In addition, 27 other persons attended some or all of the meeting (Table 2). The meeting agenda is presented in Table 3.

Table 1. SAW-35th SARC Composition.

Chairman

Norman G. Hall

(Murdoch University, Perth, Western Australia) (CIE)

Northeast Fishery Science Center:

Steven Cadrin

Devora Hart

James Weinberg

Susan Wigley

Regional Fishery Management Councils:

Chris Moore, MAFMC

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission/States:

John Carmichael, NC

Matthew Cieri, ME

Joseph Defosse, ASMFC

Other experts:

Ciaran Kelly, Marine Institute of Ireland

Ana Parma, Centro Nacional Patagonico of Argentina (CIE)

Isaac Wirgin, NYU School of Medicine

Opening

Dr. Terrence Smith, Stock Assessment Workshop (SAW) Chairman, welcomed the meeting participants and briefly reviewed the overall SAW process. Dr. Hall reviewed the agenda and discussed the conduct of the meeting.

Table 2. List of Participants.

NMFS, Northeast Fisheries Science Center

Steve Murawski

Fred Serchuk

Frank Almeida

Wendy Gabriel

Josef Idoine

Paul Nitschke

Loretta O'Brien

William Overholtz

Paul Rago

Gary Shepherd

Vaughn Silva

Pie Smith

Terry Smith

Katherine Sosebee

Michele Thompson

MAFMC/ASMFC/States/Industry

Michael Armstrong, MA

Stephen Brown, NMFS

Eleanor Bochenek, Rutgers

Paul Caruso, MA

Steven Correira, MA

James Fletcher, Industry

Laura Lee, ASMFC

Michael Lewis, ASMFC

Jim Lovgren, MAFMC

Bill Phoel, Industry

John Sheppard, MA

Pete Straub, Richard Stockton College

Marla Trollan, MAFMC

Bonnie VanPelt, NERO

Table 3. Agenda of the 35th Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop (SAW-35) Stock Assessment Review Committee (SARC) Meeting

Aquarium Conference Room - NEFSC Woods Hole Laboratory
 Woods Hole, Massachusetts
 24-28 June, 2002

AGENDA

| TOPIC | WORKING GROUP & PRESENTER(S) | SARC LEADER | RAPPORTEUR |
|--|--|--------------------|-------------------|
| MONDAY, 24 June (1:00 - 5:00 PM)..... | | | |
| Opening | | | |
| Welcome | Terry Smith, SAW Chairman | | P. Smith |
| Introduction | Norm Hall, SARC Chairman | | |
| Summer flounder (A) | Southern Demersal Working Group Mark Terceiro | C. Moore | P. Nitschke |
| TUESDAY, 25 June (8:30 AM - 6:00 PM)..... | | | |
| Scup (B) | Scup Assessment Subcommittee ASMFC Scup Technical Team Laura Lee | C. Kelly | M. Lewis |
| Informal reception (6:00 PM) at SWOPE Building (Marine Biological Laboratory) | | | |
| WEDNESDAY, 26 June (8:30 AM - 5:00 PM)..... | | | |
| 8:30 AM | | | |
| Methods Working Group (C) | Methods Working Group Paul Rago | A. Parma | K. Sosebee |
| 1:00 PM | | | |
| Whiting Stock Identification (D) | Undersea Research Foundation Bill Phoel | S. Cadrin | |
| THURSDAY, 27 June (8:30 AM - 5:00 PM)..... | | | |
| Review Advisory Reports and Consensus Summary Sections for the SARC Report | | | |
| FRIDAY, 28 June (8:30 AM - 5:00 PM)..... | | | |
| SARC comments, research recommendations, and 2nd drafts of Advisory Reports | | | |
| Other business | | P. Smith | |
| * = To be determined by SARC Chairman | | | |

The Process

The Northeast Regional Coordinating Council (NRCC) guides the SAW process and is composed of the chief executives of the five partner organizations (NMFS/NEFSC, NMFS/NER, NEFMC, MAFMC, ASMFC). Working groups assemble the data for assessments, decide on methodology, and prepare documents for SARC review. Assessments for SARC review were prepared at meetings listed in Table 4.

Agenda and Reports

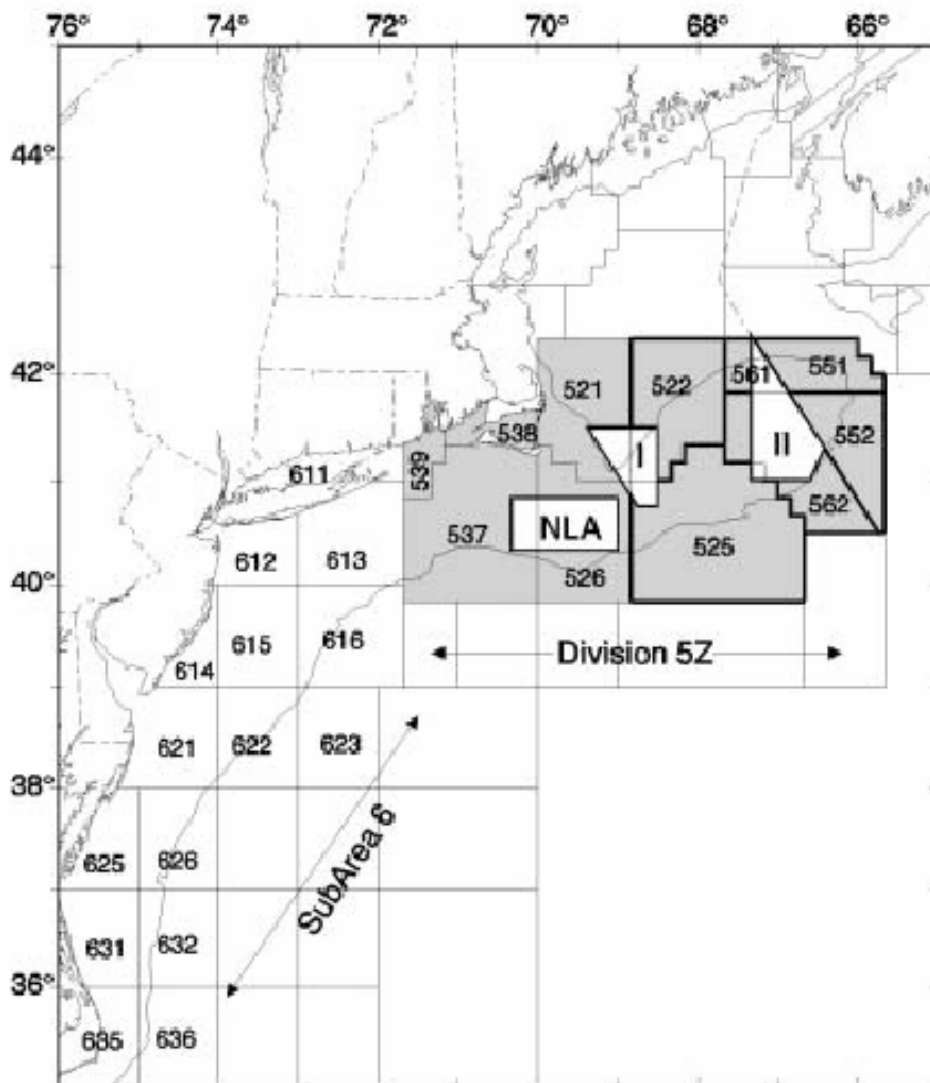
The SAW-35 SARC agenda (Table 3) included presentations on assessments for summer flounder, scup, a review by the SAW Methods Group, and a review of preliminary results from a research study concerning silver hake (whiting). A chart of US commercial statistical areas used to report landings in the Northwest Atlantic is presented in Figure 1. A chart showing the sampling strata used in NEFSC bottom trawls surveys is presented in Figure 2.

SARC documentation includes two reports: one containing the assessments, SARC comments, and research recommendations (SARC Consensus Summary), and another produced in a standard format which includes the status of stocks and management advice (SARC Advisory Report). The draft reports were made available at a SAW-35 Public Review Workshop held during a joint MAFMC and ASMFC meeting (6-8 August, Philadelphia). Following the Public Review Workshop, the documents are finalized and published in the NEFSC Reference Document series as the *35th SARC Consensus Summary of Assessments* (this document) and the *35th SAW Public Review Workshop Report* (the latter document includes the final version of the Advisory Report).

Table 4. SAW-35 Working Group meetings and participants.

| Working Group and Participants | Meeting Date | Stock/Species |
|--|--|------------------------|
| <u>SAW Southern Demersal</u> J. Bancroft, DEDFW P. Caruso, MADMF C. Legault, NEFSC A. Mooney, NYDEC C. Moore, MAFMC P. Nitschke, NEFSC R. Pearson, NERO E. Powell, Rutgers University M. Terceiro, NEFSC (Chair) | 20-21 May, 2002 | Summer flounder |
| <u>SSC Overfishing Definition Meeting</u> J. Armstrong, MADMF B. Beal, MAFMC E. Bochanek, Rutgers D. Conover, MAFMC V. Crecco, MADMF W. Gabriel, NEFSC M. Gibson, RI DEM J. Hightower J. Hoenig M. Holliday, NMFS E. Houde C. Jones M. Lewis, MAFMC T. Miller C. Moore, MAFMC (Chair) R. Pearson, NMFS | July 31 - August 1, 2001 | Summer flounder |
| <u>ASMFC Scup Assessment Subcommittee</u> P. Caruso, MA DMF V. Crecco, CT DEP L. Lee, ASMFC M. Lewis, ASMFC (Chair) C. Moore, MAFMC B. Murphy, RI DEM M. Terceiro, NEFSC | April 16, 2002 May 17, 29 June 4, 2002 | Scup |
| <u>SAW Methods Working Group</u> P. Rago, NEFSC (Chair) | | |

Figure 1. Statistical areas used for catch monitoring in offshore fisheries in the Northeast United States.



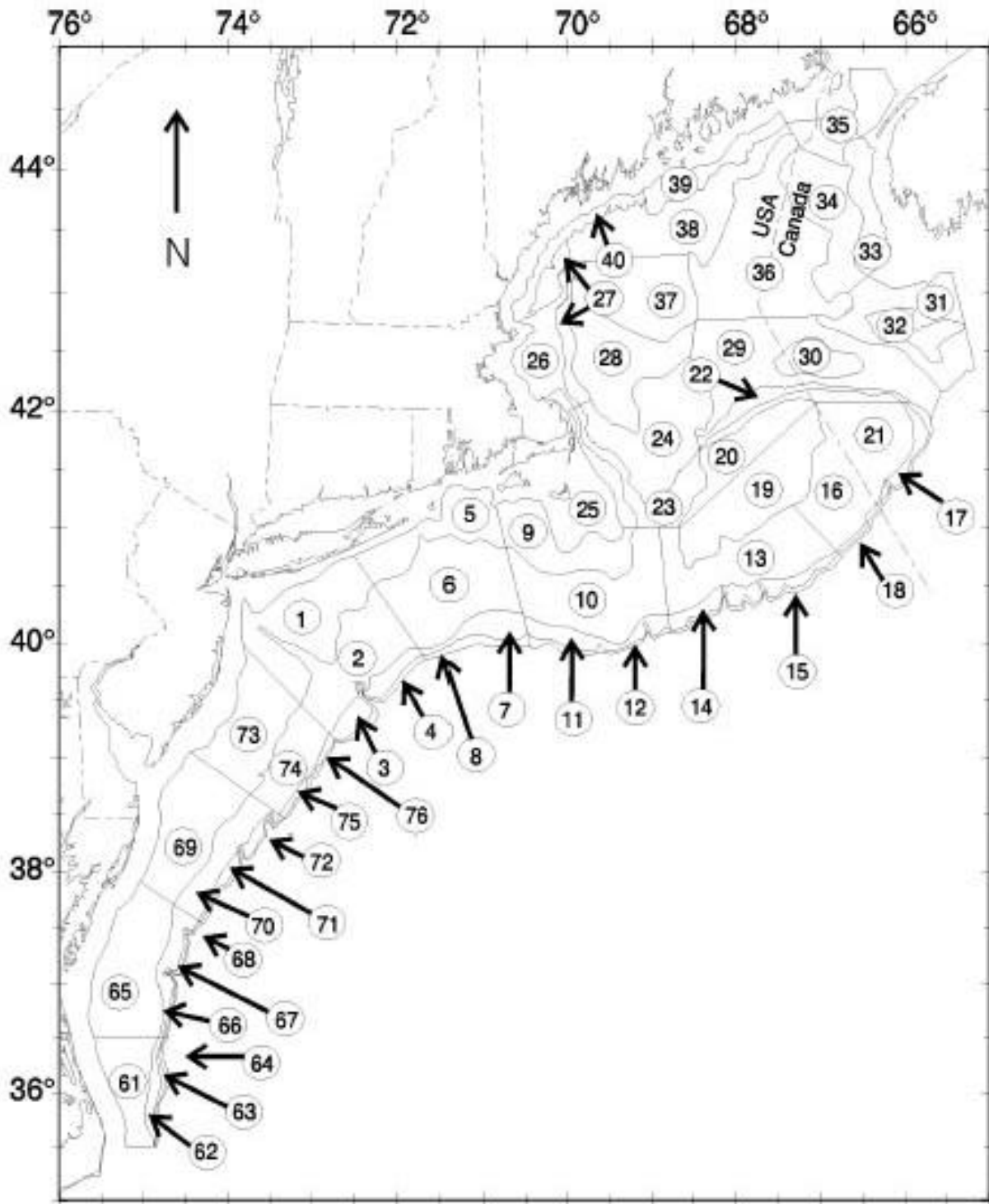


Figure 2. Offshore sampling strata used in NEFSC bottom trawl surveys.