

Review of Modifications to the SEDAR Process

SAFMC SSC Meeting
October 2025
Julie A. Neer & Emily Ott

sedarweb.org

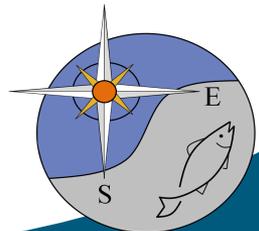


Background

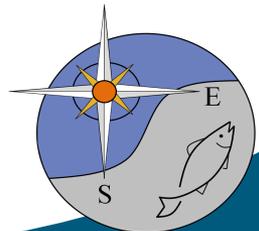
Procedural Details

Components

Role of SSC



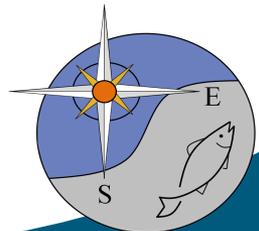
Background



Process for SEFSC-led SEDAR Projects for Council Cooperators

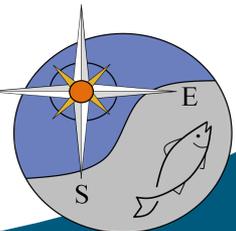
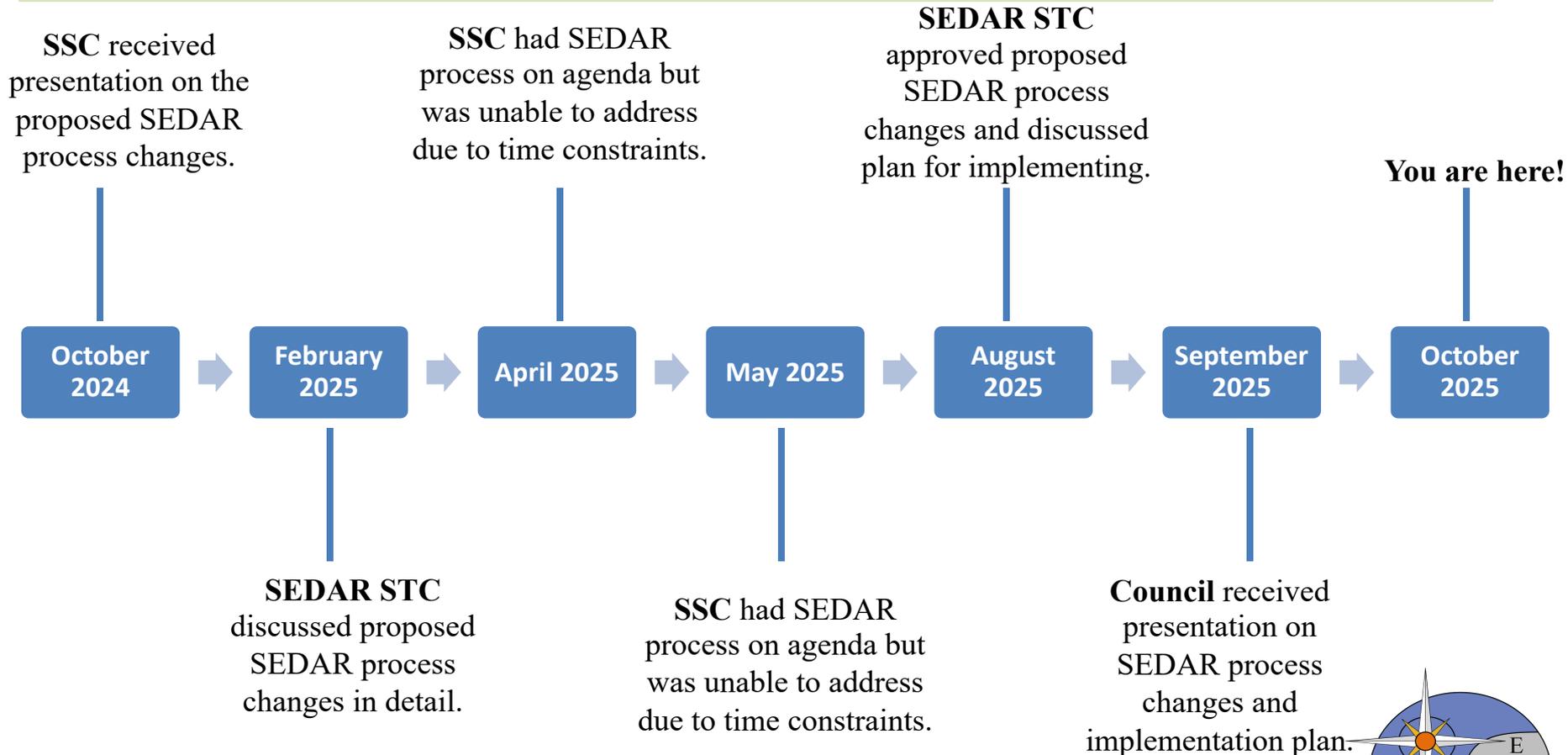
Rationale for Modifications to the SEDAR Process

- There is a need to increase the timeliness and throughput of fisheries management advice.
- The duration of SEDAR projects has increased substantially.
- Resources are not increasing and are likely to decrease. Therefore, to increase throughput we must reduce the time it takes.



Process for SEFSC-led SEDAR Projects for Council Cooperators

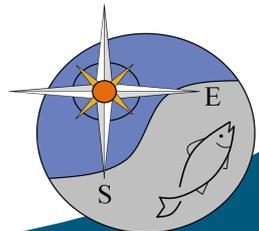
Process Discussion Timeline



Process for SEFSC-led SEDAR Projects for Council Cooperators

Process Key Takeaways

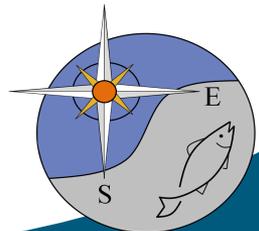
- The SEDAR process will be limited to those assessments with sufficient new information to require external participation/review.
- All SEDAR projects will be called “Assessments”, but not all assessments will follow the same process.
- For each individual project, the structure of the process will be made up of various components.
- For SEDAR assessments, the specific components included in each project will be negotiated between the Center and Council Staff with input from SSC/Council.



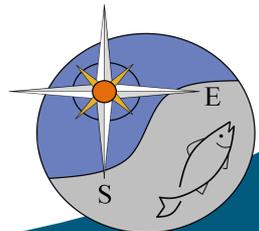
Process for SEFSC-led SEDAR Projects for Council Cooperators

Process Key Takeaways Continued

- Components should be finalized before the development of Terms of Reference and Project Schedule
- The SEFSC will take responsibility for the assessment component of the SEDAR process. Data and review components remain unchanged.
- The role of the SSC in model development will be expanded.
- Update assessments, lite assessments and interim assessment approaches will be *conducted internally by the SEFSC* and reviewed by the SSC.



Procedural Details



Process for SEFSC SEDAR Projects for Council Cooperators

Stage-Specific Process Changes

1. Data

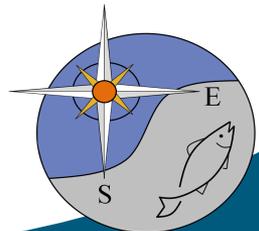
- Data components remain unchanged
- Data workshop/webinars organized by SEDAR are open to the public

2. Assessment

- The Councils will establish a Technical Team with diverse scientific expertise and fishing experience as appropriate for the cooperator and the logistics to which they must adhere.
- The Center will develop the assessment internally and will coordinate ad-hoc meetings with members of the Technical Team as needed.
- The Center will provide a record of these communications for inclusion in the assessment report. Ad-hoc meetings could focus on technical issues, or on stakeholder input/outreach.

3. Review

- Review components remain unchanged
- Review workshop/webinars organized by SEDAR are open to the public

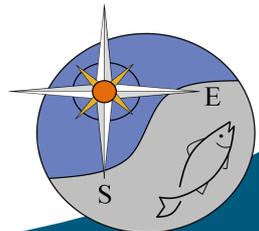


Process for SEFSC SEDAR Projects for Council Cooperators

ASSESSMENT STAGE

Impetus for change to assessment process:

- Assessment webinars are inefficient and often do not produce useful and consistent scientific advice.
- Create logistic workload that could be better spent on model work.
- Not an efficient or useful way to engage stakeholders.
- Difficult to find times when all can attend.
- Changing Workforce

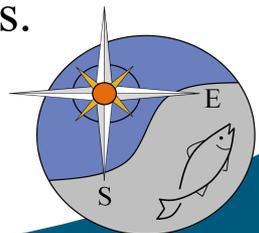


Process for SEFSC SEDAR Projects for Council Cooperators

ASSESSMENT STAGE

Technical Team: made up of individuals with the relevant scientific expertise and fishing experience who would be available to provide feedback as needed during model development

- This team may be a standing group that covers multiple assessments or may be developed for a specific stock or group of stocks (e.g., tilefishes or mackerel).
- The lead analytic agency may reach out to members of the team as needed, either as individuals or as the whole.
- Technical Teams may not be needed for all assessments.
- Technical feedback from SSC members may be needed before the pre-decisional meeting for certain assessments but not needed for others.
- Fishermen input may be helpful for model development.

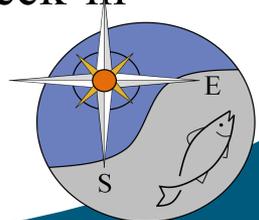


Process for SEFSC SEDAR Projects for Council Cooperators

ASSESSMENT STAGE

Pre-Decisional Briefings to the SSC (Check-ins)

- SEFSC would present an assessment development “check-in” to the SSC.
- Presentation will highlight key decision points
- SSC will be asked for feedback prior to the completion of the assessment
- Analytic Team will consider SSC recommendations and make modifications before finalizing the assessment
- Agency will work with Council Cooperators to schedule this check-in at least several months in advance.



Components



Process for SEFSC SEDAR Projects for Council Cooperators

Potential Process Components

- **Data Stage Components**

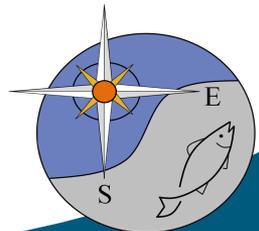
1. Stock Identification
2. Data Scoping
3. Data Topical Working Groups
4. Data Webinars
5. In Person Data Workshop / Virtual Data Workshop

- **Assessment Stage Components**

1. Assessment Topical Working Groups
2. Assessment Panel Webinars
3. Agency-Led Internal Assessment

- **External Peer Review Stage Components**

1. Review Workshop
2. Desk Review

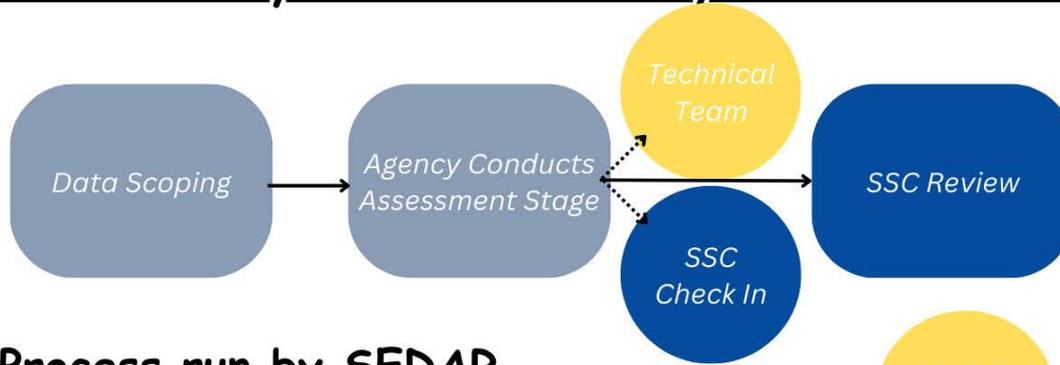


SEDAR Process for Fishery Management Councils & FL FWC

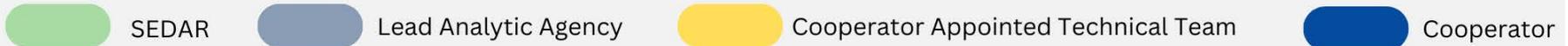
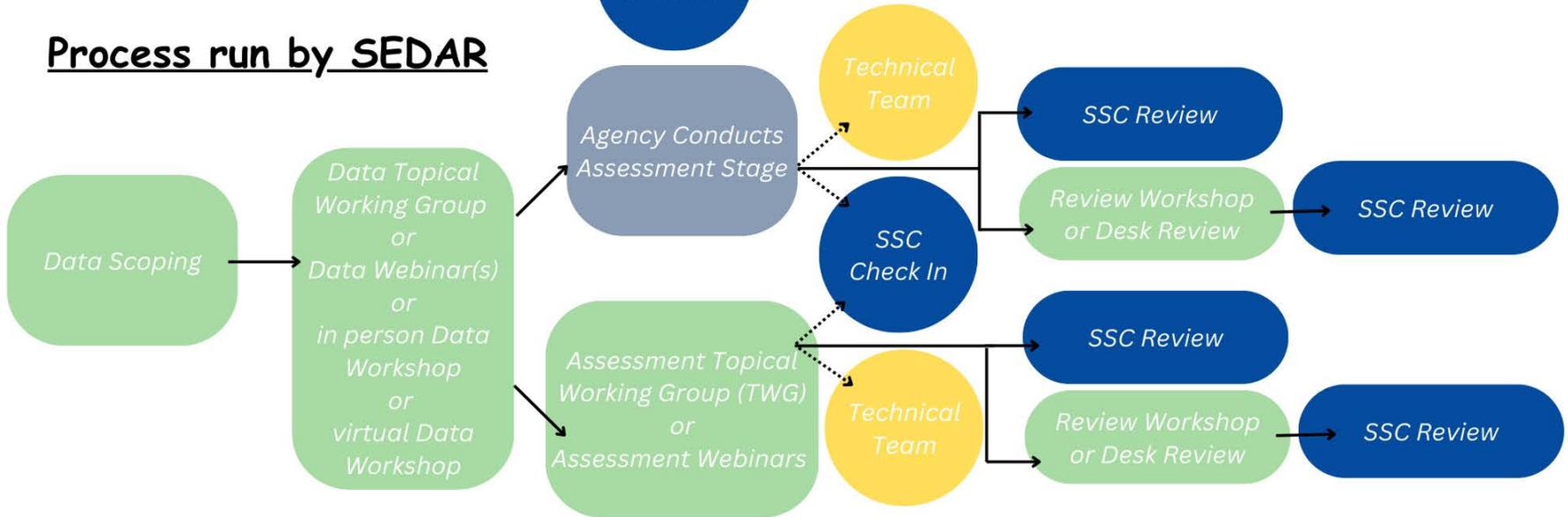
Process run by Southeast Fishery Science Center

last updated 9/2/2025

*Stock ID if needed before Data Scoping



Process run by SEDAR

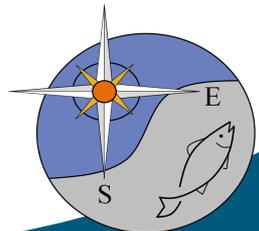


SEDAR

Southeast Data Assessment and Review



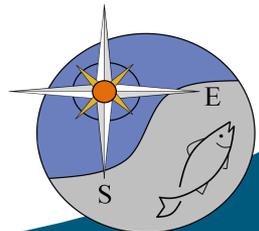
Summary of SSC Roles



Process for SEFSC SEDAR Projects for Council Cooperators

Role of SSC

- Provide guidance on structure of the assessment process, specifically regarding which process components are needed
- Recommend data or assessment topics to be included in the process through review of Terms of Reference
- Participate in the Data process, serve on Topical Working Groups, Technical Teams, or Review Panels
- Provide recommendation during pre-decisional reviews
- Review assessments to provide management advice



Thank you!

Questions?

Julie.neer@safmc.net

Emily.ott@safmc.net

