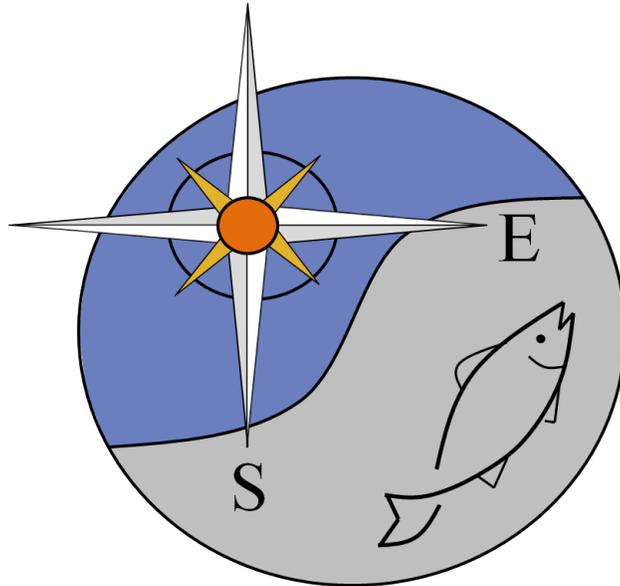


# SEDAR



## SEDAR Steering Committee

### Summary Report

August 4, 2025

Held via webinar

#### **Report Content Note:**

To provide context for recommendations and maintain the full record, this document combines the briefing summary provided to the Committee for consideration during the meeting as well as summary of Committee discussion points and recommendations.

*Outcomes from the meeting are found under the section headers “Meeting Outcome” for each relevant section and are italicized throughout the report.*

**Version: 3**  
**09/25/2025**

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**List of Participants**

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## **Meeting Outcomes Summary**

*This Meeting Outcomes Summary highlights the major decisions of the Committee during the meeting. Additional details can be found under the heading “Meeting Outcome” for each relevant section and are italicized throughout the report.*

### **SEDAR Process Review and Discussion**

#### **Process Modification Updates & Recommendations from the SEFSC:**

*The SEFSC presented an overview of the proposed changes to the SEDAR process. The presentation highlighted:*

- *Data provisioning options*
- *Agency-led assessment stage*
- *Extra-SEDAR Products*
- *Technical Teams*

*It was noted that Topical Working Groups may be appropriate when the time needed to explore an issue exceeds what can be allocated at an SSC meeting, even when an SSC can review the topic.*

*The issue of budgetary planning for the Technical Team approach was raised. The uncertainty of how often individuals may be needed to participate, and thus the inability to budget for their participation, may prove challenging to the Cooperators.*

*The lack of a schedule may make it difficult to identify individuals willing to participate in the Technical Teams, particularly SSC members, fishermen, and other stakeholders.*

*Concerns were raised about the use of Technical Teams as Advisory bodies and the need to notice meetings. It was noted that NOAA General Counsel has not yet been consulted.*

*The option of having individuals with stock assessment experience who are not on an SSC participate on Technical Teams may expand those who can assist in the development of assessments and may help alleviate some of the assessment burden on SSC members.*

*It was noted that the Technical Team is not a decision-making body. Rather the Team would provide recommendations to the analytic team for consideration in model development.*

#### *SEDAR Process Components Discussion:*

*The Committee received a presentation from SEDAR Staff summarizing the various potential components that may be selected for a given SEDAR project, as well as a document explaining the details of each component.*

*It is necessary that details of the different components be clearly documented and approved by the Committee so that the SEDAR Coordinators can implement the new process consistently.*

*It was noted that much of the content in the detail document was compiled from several existing SEDAR documents that had been previously approved by the Steering Committee.*

*The infographic of potential components available for selection shows all the options in one figure.*

*The difference between the roles of the Technical Team and the SSC pre-decisional briefing were discussed.*

*SEDAR Staff agreed with the SEFSC description of the Data Webinars process and will update the Process Components document to clarify the difference a virtual data workshop and data webinars.*

*The Committee suggested that having the option for a virtual external peer review should be considered if an in-person peer review is not available.*

*An alternative process was used to begin the SEDAR 99 Gulf king mackerel process which led to several issues.*

#### *Assessment Schedule Review*

##### *MRIP-FES Study – Updates to Assessments*

*The Committee received information on the SEFSC's proposed options for incorporating the updated FES data streams into existing assessments:*

- *Option 1: most timely - just use average adjustment factor for monitoring (no assessment runs)*
- *Option 2: re-run model with only updated FES data*
- *Option 3: a full, update lite model re-run with update to other data sources (based on availability)*

*The following scheduling recommendations/requests were discussed. It is the SEFSC's intention to conduct the assessments identified for 2026 and 2027. These recommendations are based on the current staffing levels:*

*South Atlantic: The final SEDAR-led assessment recommendations for 2026 were: red snapper (continued) and gag grouper. SA King mackerel will begin late 2026 with an assessment lead from the Gulf branch. A review of the SA dolphin MSE is slated for early 2026.*

*Gulf: The final SEDAR-led assessment recommendations for 2026 were: red snapper (continued), king mackerel (continued) and gray triggerfish (continued)- all to be completed in 2026. The additional recommendation for a SEDAR assessment in 2026 was gag grouper.*

*Caribbean: SEDAR will be conducting an "Application of Alternative assessment Methods" process in 2026. The in-person workshop is scheduled for April 2026.*

*HMS: The intent is to conduct an assessment process for sandbar shark beginning in 2026. The structure of the process remains to be determined.*

*FWC: Hogfish began Spring 2025 and should be completed in 2026. No additional SEDAR assessments were recommended for 2026 or beyond at this time, due to the high load on the assessment teams to conduct state assessments.*

*Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC): An assessment for cobia will be conducted in 2026. The structure and scope of the assessment needs to be discussed as the analyst who will lead the assessment only has availability for one year.*

*Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC): Gulf menhaden will be conducted in 2027.*

### **Other Business**

#### **Steering Committee Meeting Location Cost Comparison:**

*The Committee appreciated the information. Given the uncertainty in the budget, the fact that SEDAR personnel are based in Charleston, and no major cost savings to be gained by moving to an alternative location, it was agreed that the in-person meetings will continue to be held in Charleston.*

#### **SEDAR Process Infographics:**

*SEDAR Staff shared several process infographics that have been created to aid in the communication plan for the process changes. The Committee was very appreciative of this work*

*and made a few suggestions, including to correct the federal Gulf reef fish boundary to 9 nautical miles (nm) out to 200 nm.*

*Logistics Coordination for Count Projects:*

*The SEFSC requested SEDAR assistance in organizing the reviews for the South Atlantic red snapper project (SARSRP) and the Greater Amberjack Count (GAC), as they do not have expertise in meeting coordination.*

Table 1: SEDAR Project Grid - August 2025 SEDAR Steering Committee Outcome Grid

Table Color Legend:

|  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| Steering Committee Approved and SEFSC Scheduled Projects | FUTURE Requests      |
| Steering Committee Approved, PENDING SEFSC SCHEDULING    | No SEDAR Involvement |

**SEDAR SCHEDULE OVERVIEW- August 2025 SEDAR Steering Committee OUTCOME**

| Year | South Atlantic Branch     |                          |                           |   | Gulf Branch  |                       |                           |                           |   |  | Caribbean Branch                                 |                          | HMS Branch  |                     | Florida FWCC |   | Commission/<br>RW only |
|------|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---|--|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---|--|--|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------|--------------|---|------------------------|
|      | 1                         | 2                        | 3                         | 4 | 1  | 2                     | 3                         | 4                         | 5   | 6  | 1  | 2                        | 1           | 2                   | 1            | 2 |                        |
| 2025 | S90 Red Snapper Benchmark | S92 Blueline Tilefish OA | S90 Red Snapper Benchmark |   | S88 Red Grouper OA                                 |                       | S98 Red Snapper Benchmark | S98 Red Snapper Benchmark | S87 White, Pink, and Brown Shrimp Benchmark | S84 Yellowtail Snapper (PR & STT/STJ) and Stoplight Parrotfish (STX) Benchmark | S91 Spiny Lobster (all Islands) Benchmark        | S77 OA Hammerhead Sharks |             |                     | S96 YTS OA   |   |                        |
|      |                           | BSB (Update)             |                           |   |  |                       |                           |                           |   |  |  |                          |             |                     |              |   |                        |
| 2026 | S90 Red Snapper Benchmark | Gag Grouper (TWG)        | S104 Dolphin MSE RW       |   | S99 King Mackerel                                  | S100 Gray Triggerfish |                           |                           |   |  | S103 Application of Alternate Assessment Methods |                          |             | S101 Sandbar Sharks | S94 Hogfish  |   |                        |
|      |                           |                          |                           |   |  |                       |                           |                           |   |  |  |                          |             |                     |              |   | Black Grouper MSE RW?  |
| 2027 | Red Grouper (DW/Stock ID) | Snowy Update /TWG        | Spanish Mack (TWG)        |   | SATL - King Mackerel (Gulf Analyst)                | Yellowedge Update     | Vermillion (Update)       | Greater Amberjack (DW)    |   |  |  |                          | Bull Sharks |                     |              |   |                        |
|      |                           |                          |                           |   |  |                       |                           |                           |   |  |  |                          |             |                     |              |   |                        |
| 2028 | Red Porgy (TWG)           | GAJ (TWG)                |                           |   | Cobia, Lane, Spanish Data Limited Workshop (PW/DW) | Scamp (TWG)           |                           |                           |   |  |  |                          |             |                     |              |   | ASMFC Menhaden         |
| 2029 |                           | Scamp                    | Tilefishes                |   |  |                       |                           |                           |   |  |  |                          |             |                     |              |   |                        |
| 2030 |                           |                          |                           |   |  |                       |                           |                           |   |  |  |                          |             |                     |              |   |                        |
| 2031 |                           |                          |                           |   |  |                       |                           |                           |   |  |  |                          |             |                     |              |   |                        |

Timing of projects shown in this table is approximate and is intended for SEDAR Steering Committee workload planning purposes only. Please consult individual project schedules for specific start and end dates.

## 1 Introduction

### 1.1 Documents

- Agenda
- Attachment 1. February 2025 Draft Meeting Summary

### 1.2 Action

- Introduction
- Review and Approve Agenda
- Approve Meeting Summary

## **MEETING OUTCOME**

*The Committee adopted the agenda with the addition of one Other Business item: Logistics Coordination for Count Projects. The Committee approved the February 2025 Draft Meeting Summary.*

## 2 SEDAR Projects Report

### 2.1 Documents

Attachment 2. SEDAR Projects Update July 2025

### 2.2 Summary

The projects report (Attachment 2) provides a summary of current and recently completed SEDAR assessment projects.

Highlighted project developments:

#### SEDAR 91 Caribbean Spiny Lobster, Benchmark Assessment (3 management units)

**SEDAR Contact:** Emily Ott

**Summary:** Data webinars were completed June-October 2024, followed by an in-person Data Workshop held November 13-15, 2024. A series of assessment webinars were held January-April 2025. A Review Workshop was slated for August 2025; however, has been cancelled because of the CIE contract not receiving approval. The Caribbean SSC will be the review body for this assessment. The final assessment report should be completed August 2025.

#### SEDAR 101 Highly Migratory Species Sandbar Sharks

**SEDAR Contact:** Emily Ott

**Summary:** The Project Schedule and Terms of Reference were finalized in February 2025. The data scoping webinar was held in March 2025, and the Data Workshop was

slated for May 2025. Due to Agency personnel issues, the Data Workshop was postponed in March 2025. Discussions regarding resuming the process are underway.

### 2.3 Action

- Informational; none required

## MEETING OUTCOME

*The Committee had no comments on this agenda item.*

## 3 SEDAR Process Review and Discussion

### 3.1 Documents

Attachment 3: SEDAR Process Components Document

Attachment 4: SEDAR Process Components Presentation

Attachment 5: SEFSC Process Update Presentation

### 3.2 Summary

#### SSC Feedback on Proposed Process Changes:

During the February 2025 SEDAR Steering Committee meeting, the Committee recommended that the Council Science and Statistics Committees (SSC) receive presentations on the proposed modifications to the SEDAR process so they may provide feedback before the changes are implemented. The Council Cooperators are asked to share the feedback they received from their SSCs.

#### SEDAR Process Components Discussion:

The SEDAR Steering Committee has suggested a variety of modifications to the SEDAR process over its last few meetings. There is a desire by some members of the Committee to begin integrating at least some of these modifications for the upcoming assessments.

For SEDAR Staff to be able to implement these changes, and to limit confusion of the participants of the process, it is necessary to have clear guidance from the Committee regarding the options for the various stages of the process. SEDAR Staff have prepared a document (Attachment 3) and presentation (Attachment 4) which describes the components that may be selected for a specific SEDAR project.

#### Process Modification Updates & Recommendations from the SEFSC:

The SEFSC will provide an update on their discussions regarding proposed modifications to the SEDAR process (Attachment 5).

### 3.3 Action

- Provide comments and direction for improvements on the SEDAR Components document.
- Provide feedback on possible changes to the SEDAR process.

## **MEETING OUTCOME**

### *SSC Feedback on Proposed Process Changes:*

*It was stated that the SAFMC SSC has not had a chance to review the proposed changes despite having the topic on the agenda for two meetings, but the SAFMC wishes to move forward with the proposal and will solicit its SSC feedback at the next opportunity.*

*The Gulf SSC comments focused on the changes to the assessment process, and they supported the proposal.*

### *Process Modification Updates & Recommendations from the SEFSC:*

*The SEFSC presented an overview of the proposed changes to the SEDAR process. The presentation highlighted:*

- *Data provisioning options*
- *Agency-led assessment stage*
- *Extra-SEDAR Products*
- *Technical Teams*

*The Committee was informed of the Stock Assessment Forum, an internal SEFSC collaboration to aid the lead analysts in getting feedback on their assessments from other analysts across the Center.*

- *This concept was already underway at a small scale, but it is being expanded and formalized.*
- *This Forum will provide needed feedback on model development for the new assessment stage process.*

*The SEFSC presented their recommendations regarding when to implement the proposed changes.*

- *GFMC: SEDAR 100 Gray Triggerfish (currently underway). This assessment will serve as a pilot of the process for a project originally scheduled as a benchmark with an assessment panel.*
- *SAFMC: Gag grouper (beginning in 2026)*
- *ASMFC: Cobia will be conducted in 2026 with the Commission taking the lead; SEDAR will organize the review following current practices.*

*Committee Discussion:*

*It was noted that Topical Working Groups may be appropriate when the time needed to explore an issue exceeds what can be allocated at an SSC meeting, even when an SSC can review the topic.*

*The issue of budgetary planning for the Technical Team approach was raised. The uncertainty of how often individuals may be needed to participate, and thus the inability to budget for their participation, may prove challenging to the Cooperators.*

*The lack of a schedule may make it difficult to identify individuals willing to participate in the Technical Teams, particularly SSC members, fishermen, and other stakeholders.*

- *SEDAR Staff mentioned that they believe this approach may work better for stakeholders, as it is proving increasingly difficult for them to attend workshops and webinars, but most will be happy to have someone call them to provide feedback on a specific question or concern.*
- *It was noted that the window over which individuals would be asked to be available to participate will likely be shorter than what the current process requests.*

*Concerns were raised about the use of Technical Teams as Advisory bodies and the need to notice meetings. It was noted that NOAA General Counsel has not yet been consulted.*

- *SEDAR Staff noted that the proposed Technical Team approach is similar to the IPT style meetings that are held for the Topical Working Groups, a process that was initially endorsed by NOAA GC for SEDAR projects conducted during COVID.*
- *A key component is that the individuals being contacted must have been appointed by the Cooperator to serve in that role.*
- *It was also noted that the discussions among the Technical Team and the analytic team need to be documented by the lead analytic agency and included in the report that will be made available to the public.*

*The option of having individuals with stock assessment experience who are not on an SSC participate on Technical Teams may expand those who can assist in the development of assessments and may help alleviate some of the assessment burden on SSC members.*

*It was noted that the Technical Team is not a decision-making body. Rather the Team would provide recommendations to the analytic team for consideration in model development.*

*It was noted that the wording “Rules of Engagement” should be reconsidered. It was suggested that “Code of Conduct” or “Participation Guidelines” may be more appropriate.*

*SEDAR has existing Participant Guidelines on the SEDAR website but will be more proactive with sending those out to participants prior to meetings and webinars.*

*Hybrid meetings require an extensive amount of work, and it was suggested that efforts should be made to avoid hybrid meetings if possible. Discussions should be held in the planning stages to determine if an all-virtual approach would suffice. If not, then the goal should be everyone in-person.*

- *SEDAR Staff explained that currently the plenary sessions of Data Workshops are live streamed and recorded, and the public can listen in to those discussions. All recommendations are discussed during the plenary sessions.*
- *The working groups have been setting up individual virtual components to allow appointed individuals who were not able to travel to the meeting participate in the working group discussions. The working groups are not open to the public virtually.*
- *As always, anyone attending the meeting in person may participate in any of the working groups.*

#### *SEDAR Process Components Discussion:*

*The Committee received a presentation from SEDAR Staff summarizing the various potential components that may be selected for a given SEDAR project, as well as a document explaining the details of each component.*

*It is necessary that details of the different components be clearly documented and approved by the Committee so that the SEDAR Coordinators can implement the new process consistently.*

*It was noted that much of the content in the detail document was compiled from several existing SEDAR documents that had been previously approved by the Steering Committee.*

*The infographic of potential components available for selection shows all the options in one figure.*

- *It will likely not be necessary for all the potential components to be selected for most assessments.*
- *It is acknowledged that the more components that are selected, the longer the process will take.*

*The difference between the roles of the Technical Team and the SSC pre-decisional briefing were discussed:*

- *Most assessment decisions will be made by the analytic team without any outside feedback.*
- *Technical Teams will be contacted for limited input as needed.*
- *The SSC will be asked to review decisions that for the most part were not reviewed by the Technical Team, although there may be some overlap.*

*SEDAR Staff agreed with the SEFSC description of the Data Webinars process and will update the Process Components document to clarify the difference a virtual data workshop and data webinars.*

- *Data Workshops may be conducted in-person or virtually and all data sets would be reviewed and considered.*
- *Data Webinars could be utilized when there are several data sets that need more review than can be conducted using Topical Working Groups. All data sets will not be considered using this approach.*

*There was discussion regarding the need to have both Data and Assessment Topical Working Groups identified as components:*

- *Identifying whether the focus will be on a data or assessment topic aids with timing and planning.*
- *It was noted that data and assessment TWGs follow the same process.*
- *Having separate components allows for Cooperators to appoint different participants depending on the topic and needed expertise.*
- *It is not meant to limit the ability of a Data TWG to continue discussions in the assessment phase of the process.*
- *It is important for the analysts to know when the data component is completed, so having separate TWGs for the separate process stages helps with that delineation.*

*The Committee suggested that having the option for a virtual external peer review should be considered if an in-person peer review is not available.*

- *SEDAR will reach out to the CIE to determine if this would be an option in the future.*

*The importance of a strong review workshop chair to maintaining appropriate was recognized. It was also noted that having detailed review terms of reference is important in providing clear guidance for the CIE.*

*It was recommended that the option of a desk review be retained but considered a last resort.*

- *The option to have limited interaction between the analytic team and the CIE reviewers should be evaluated. (e.g., analysts provide a virtual presentation of assessment prior to desk review and allow CIE reviewers to ask questions.)*

*The Committee was reminded that the review is just that, a review of the assessment product. It is not required that everything suggested by the review panel, or an individual reviewer, needs to be implemented.*

*An alternative process was used to begin the SEDAR 99 Gulf king mackerel process which led to several issues. The Committee discussed the following:*

- *In place of a scoping webinar being held for the data TWG for S99 Gulf king mackerel, the SEFSC produced a presentation outlining data requests and identifying data providers which was provided to the TWG.*
- *There were several email discussions that went around SEDAR to various Agency individuals and Council representatives, which created confusion from both TWG appointees and stakeholders as to what the task of the TWG was, and how concerns were going to be addressed.*
- *SEDAR Staff clarified that there is a difference between a call for data and a scoping webinar.*
- *Scoping for a TWG is designed to be an opportunity for appointees and stakeholders to discuss the goal of the TWG, identify potential new data sets which may aid in achieving that goal, and make requests from the data provider/analytic team that will help them make recommendations on how to proceed. It is the first step in the TWG process and is open to the public.*

- *A call for data for a species that has a previous assessment is conducted by the lead analytic agency, usually by contacting individuals who provided data sets used previously.*
- *Utilizing a presentation sent to members of the TWG and other interested parties as a call for data is an appropriate way to contact previous data providers but should be used in conjunction with a public scoping process.*

## 4 Assessment Schedule Review

### 4.1 Documents

Attachment 6: SEDAR Projects List

Attachment 7: Modifications to the Project Planning Grid from the February 2025 Steering Committee Summary

### 4.2 Summary

The SEFSC will provide an update on the current staffing and budget issues and discuss how that may impact the upcoming SEDAR schedule, particularly 2026. Modifications to the schedules may be influenced by the discussions of the Committee during the meeting.

### 4.3 Action

- Consider any needed modifications to the 2026 Projects
- Discuss Future Project Requests (2027-2029)

## **MEETING OUTCOME**

*The briefing book draft of the project grid was set up as follows:*

- *Four slots focusing on reef fish in the South Atlantic*
- *Six slots for the Gulf*
- *Two slots in the Caribbean branch*
- *Two slots working on HMS sharks*
- *Two slots from Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)*
- *One slot focusing on menhaden*

*It was noted that the slots are intended to represent the overall availability of assessment analysts, however data management is often the limiting factor. Moreover, the number of slots assigned in the project grid do not necessarily imply that individual analysts are assigned to specific assessments or cooperators. In some cases, analysts from one 'slot' can and do support assessments for more than one cooperator.*

### **MRIP-FES Study – Updates to Assessments**

*The Committee received information on the SEFSC's proposed options for incorporating the updated FES data streams into existing assessments:*

- *Option 1: most timely - just use average adjustment factor for monitoring (no assessment runs)*
- *Option 2: re-run model with only updated FES data*
- *Option 3: a full, update lite model re-run with update to other data sources (based on availability)*

*The following options were proposed for current and upcoming assessments:*

- *Option 1 (ratio adjustment) – SA gag*
- *Option 2 (update FES rec data)- Gulf king mackerel, gray triggerfish, and red snapper*

*It was noted that Option 2 and 3 are both staffed by the same recreational data providers. Given that the only way to get “more” updated assessments would be to have some species switch from options 2 or 3 to 1.*

*It will be necessary for the Cooperators and SEFSC to continue to meet and discuss which of the three options would be most appropriate for a given stock, considering things such as timing and structure of the last assessment, timing of last management change, and overall workload.*

*The possibility of contracting other entities to conduct some assessments was discussed:*

- *The Agency is not currently allowed to contract individuals to replace those who have left.*
- *Funding is not available from the SEFSC to support outside contracts. If others could provide financial support, this could be discussed.*
- *Data provision continues to be the main bottleneck for assessment productivity, and it will likely be more challenging for at least the short-term due to the loss of a significant number of staff.*
- *It was noted that the amount of time spent training an outside individual in the data and previously used methods can take more of the Agency’s time than completing the assessment.*

*The following scheduling recommendations/requests were discussed. It is the SEFSC’s intention to conduct the assessments identified for 2026 and 2027. These recommendations are based on the current staffing levels:*

*South Atlantic: The final SEDAR-led assessment recommendations for 2026 were: red snapper (continued) and gag grouper. SA King mackerel will begin late 2026 with an assessment lead from the Gulf branch. A review of the SA dolphin MSE is slated for early 2026.*

*Notes:*

- *The SEFSC will be unable to fill the vacancy in the South Atlantic branch for the foreseeable future.*
- *The 2027 recommendations for assessments to be conducted by SEDAR were for red grouper, snowy grouper, and Spanish mackerel.*
- *The SEFSC will conduct a vermilion snapper assessment process outside of SEDAR in 2027.*

Gulf: The final SEDAR-led assessment recommendations for 2026 were: red snapper (continued), king mackerel (continued) and gray triggerfish (continued)- all to be completed in 2026. The additional recommendation for a SEDAR assessment in 2026 was gag grouper.

Notes:

- The SEFSC will conduct a tilefish assessment process outside of SEDAR in 2026.
- The timing and structure for greater amberjack assessment will depend on the results of the review of the Greater Amberjack Count, which is currently scheduled for peer-review and completion in early 2026. The SEFSC noted that the greater amberjack DW would not be held until early 2027.
- The SEFSC will conduct a vermilion snapper, yellowedge grouper, and gray snapper assessment process outside of SEDAR in 2027.

Caribbean: SEDAR will be conducting an “Application of Alternative assessment Methods” process in 2026. The in-person workshop is scheduled for April 2026.

Notes:

- No species were recommended beyond 2026.

HMS: The intent is to conduct an assessment process for sandbar shark beginning in 2026. The structure of the process remains to be determined.

- The HMS division lost an assessment biologist to early retirement.
- An MSE process is being considered, which would not be led by SEDAR.

FWC: Hogfish began Spring 2025 and should be completed in 2026. No additional SEDAR assessments were recommended for 2026 or beyond at this time, due to the high load on the assessment teams to conduct state assessments.

- A black grouper management strategy evaluation, organized by FWC, began in 2024. The desk MSE is slated to be completed in late 2025.
  - SEDAR may provide a peer review of the product once it is complete (mid-late 2026).

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC): An assessment for cobia will be conducted in 2026. The structure and scope of the assessment needs to be discussed as the analyst who will lead the assessment only has availability for one year.

Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC): Gulf menhaden will be conducted in 2027.

## 5 Other Business

### 5.1 Documents

Attachment 8: Steering Committee Meeting Location Comparison

Attachment 9: SEDAR Process Infographics

## 5.2 Summary

### Steering Committee Meeting Location Cost Comparison:

SEDAR Staff was requested to compile estimates to travel to the meeting in potential alternative locations and report back to the Committee at the Summer meeting. The following alternative locations were suggested: Atlanta, Charlotte, Tampa, and San Juan. The comparison can be found in Attachment 8. Charleston proved to be the most cost-effective meeting location.

### SEDAR Process Infographics:

The proposed modifications to the SEDAR process will require a communication plan to help stakeholders understand the changes. SEDAR Staff have begun producing a series of infographics that will aid in this process (Attachment 9). The Committee is asked to review the current graphics and provide comments, as well as suggestions for additional topics that should be considered.

## 5.3 Action

- The Committee should discuss any issues and provide recommendations if needed.

## **MEETING OUTCOME**

### Steering Committee Meeting Location Cost Comparison:

*The Committee appreciated the information. Given the uncertainty in the budget, the fact that SEDAR personnel are based in Charleston, and no major cost savings to be gained it was agreed that the in-person meetings will continue to be held in Charleston.*

### SEDAR Process Infographics:

*SEDAR Staff shared several process infographics that have been created to aid in the communication plan for the process changes. The Committee was very appreciative of this work and made a few suggestions, including to correct the federal Gulf reef fish boundary to 9 nautical miles (nm) out to 200 nm.*

### Logistics Coordination for Count Projects:

*The SEFSC requested SEDAR assistance in organizing the reviews for the South Atlantic red snapper project (SARSRP) and the Greater Amberjack Count (GAC), as they do not have expertise in meeting coordination.*

- *SEDAR would be happy to assist with these projects, depending on timing, format, and funding.*
- *SARSRP review is scheduled for November 4-6, 2025. SEDAR does not have another meeting that week, and the SA Council equipment should be available for use. It is unclear if SEDAR can cover the cost of this workshop as it was not in the 2025 budget. It was noted that the meeting will have to be held in Charleston if SEDAR is tasked with this, since it was not included in the 2025 budget.*

- *GAC review will likely be held in early 2026 (January or February). The SEFSC is discussing timing options with the CIE, as well as the investigators regarding what will be reviewed.*
- *It was noted that for future, a project's grants should budget for a review if it is part of the project plan.*

## 6 Next Meeting

The Committee is asked to make scheduling recommendations and suggest topics for the next meeting. SEDAR Staff would suggest the following:

- Virtual Check-in Meeting – Week of Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>
- In-person 2-day Meeting – Options include Feb. 2-4, Feb 9-12, Feb 17-19, Feb 23-26

### **MEETING OUTCOME**

*Based on the discussion during this meeting, it was determined that a check-in meeting in November 2025 was not necessary.*

*It was noted that the week of February 2-4, 2026, conflicts with the SAFMC Lines of Communication workshop, plus it is the week immediately after the Gulf Council meeting. Additionally, the Gulf SSC meeting will be held the week of February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026.*

*SEDAR Staff will send out a poll for the remaining February 2026 weeks.*

Table 1: SEDAR Project Grid - August 2025 SEDAR Steering Committee Discussion Grid

Table Color Legend:

|  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| Steering Committee Approved and SEFSC Scheduled Projects | FUTURE Requests      |
| Steering Committee Approved, PENDING SEFSC SCHEDULING    | No SEDAR Involvement |

**SEDAR SCHEDULE OVERVIEW- August 2025 SEDAR Steering Committee Discussion**

| Year | South Atlantic Team       |                          |                           |   | Gulf Team  |                       |                           |                           |   |                                     | Caribbean Team   |   | HMS Team                |   | Florida FWCC |   | Commission/<br>RW only |                |
|------|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---|--|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|--|---|-------------------------|---|--------------|---|------------------------|----------------|
|      | 1                         | 2                        | 3                         | 4 | 1  | 2                     | 3                         | 4                         | 5   | 6                                   | 1  | 2   | 1                       | 2 | 1            | 2 |                        |                |
| 2025 | S90 Red Snapper Benchmark | S92 Blueline Tilefish OA | S90 Red Snapper Benchmark |   | S88 Red Grouper OA                                 |                       | S98 Red Snapper Benchmark | S98 Red Snapper Benchmark | S87 White, Pink, and Brown Shrimp Benchmark |                                     | S84 Yellowtail Snapper (PR & STI/STJ) and Stoplight Parrotfish (STX) Benchmark | S91 Spiny Lobster (all islands) Benchmark | S770A Hammerhead Sharks |   | S96 YTS OA   |   |                        |                |
|      |                           | BSB (Update)             |                           |   | S99 King Mackerel                                  | S100 Gray Triggerfish |                           |                           |   |                                     |  |   |                         |   |              |   |                        |                |
| 2026 | S90 Red Snapper Benchmark | Gag Grouper (TWG)        | S104 Dolphin MSE RW       |   |  |                       |                           |                           | Tilefish Complex (DW)                       | Gag Grouper (Red Tide & Repro TWGs) | S103 Application of Alternate Assessment Methods                               |   | S101 Sandbar Sharks     |   | S94 Hogfish  |   | Black Grouper MSE RW?  | Cobia          |
|      |                           |                          |                           |   | MRIP and other data updates                        |                       |                           |                           |   |                                     |  |   |                         |   |              |   |                        |                |
| 2027 | Red Grouper (DW/Stock ID) | Snowy Update /TWG        | Vermilion Update          |   | SATL - King Mackerel (Gulf Analyst)                | Yellowedge Update     | Vermilion (Update)        | Greater Amberjack (DW)    |   | Gray Snapper Update                 |  |   | Bull Sharks             |   |              |   |                        | GSMFC Menhaden |
|      |                           |                          |                           |   |  | Scamp Update          |                           |                           |   |                                     |  |   |                         |   |              |   |                        |                |
| 2028 | Red Porgy (TWG)           | GAJ (TWG)                | Spanish Mack (TWG)        |   | Cobia, Lane, Spanish Data Limited Workshop (PW/DW) |                       |                           |                           |   |                                     |  |   |                         |   |              |   |                        | ASMFC Menhaden |
| 2029 |                           | Scamp                    | Tilefishes                |   |  |                       |                           |                           |   |                                     |  |   |                         |   |              |   |                        |                |
| 2030 |                           |                          |                           |   |  |                       |                           |                           |   |                                     |  |   |                         |   |              |   |                        |                |
| 2031 |                           |                          |                           |   |  |                       |                           |                           |   |                                     |  |   |                         |   |              |   |                        |                |

Timing of projects shown in this table is approximate and is intended for SEDAR Steering Committee workload planning purposes only. Please consult individual project schedules for specific start and end dates.