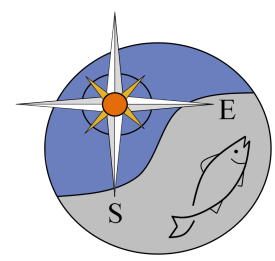


Proposed Modifications to the SEDAR Process

SAFMC SSC Meeting
October 2024
Julie A. Neer

sedarweb.org

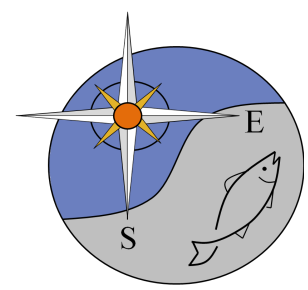




SEDAR Goals

- Robust and **transparent** assessments
- Stakeholder involvement in the assessment process
- Reliable and scientifically rigorous assessments
- Independent peer review of assessment products
- **Timely** assessment products
- **Thorough** documentation of methods and data
- Appropriate consistency in documentation, assessment approaches, and treatment of uncertainties



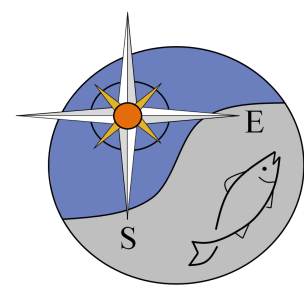


SEDAR Today

Current process consists of two options:

- **Research Track assessments (RT)**
 - Very thorough and transparent, time consuming (2-3 yrs), does not contain most current data nor produce management advice
- **Operational Assessments (OA)**
 - More timely terminal year of data, reduced transparency, shorter project schedules (~1 year), limited modifications allowed, provides management advice

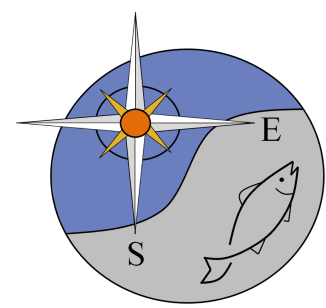




Need for Modification

- The RT/OA process was implemented in 2020
- The process has struggled to achieve the desired goals of increased assessment throughput and improved efficiency for data provisioning
- Overall productivity has decreased since the implementation of the RT/OA model
- To address these concerns, the SEFSC began having discussions with staffs of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Councils regarding what would be the objectives of a modified process





Goals of the Proposed Modifications



Primary Council Objectives

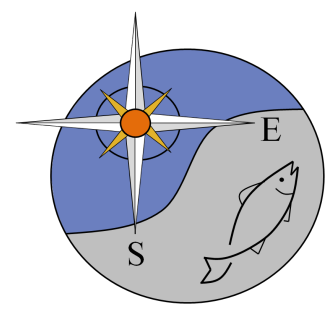
SAFMC

- Timeliness (i.e. recency of TY)
- Flexibility to address issues that emerge
- Throughput – update catch recommendations more frequently
- Right-sizing of assessments. Appropriate level of review

GMFMC

- Accuracy/Reproducibility
- Timeliness (i.e. recency of TY)
- Throughput
- Automation/Access to data, including FI Indices
- “Long-lasting” catch advice
 - Interim assessment
 - Routine updates, etc
- Transparency
- Thoroughness





Goals of the Proposed Modifications

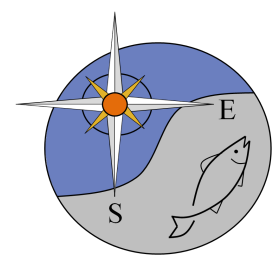
Primary Center Objectives



SEFSC

- Timeliness (i.e. recency of TY)
- Flexibility to address issues that emerge
- Throughput – increase number of stock assessment conducted in the region each year
- Right-sizing of assessments
- Eliminate ad-hoc calendars to facilitate project planning and resource management
- Continue R&D efforts to:
 - Improve stock assessment and fisheries management advice
 - Improve access to reliable data
 - Meet future needs



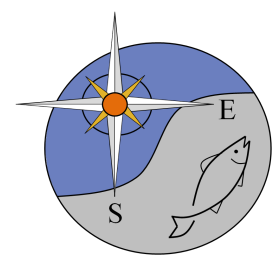


SEFSC RECOMMENDED CHANGES

At the March 2024 SEDAR Steering Committee meeting, the SERSC proposed the following:

- Eliminate the Research Track/Operational Assessment approach
- Eliminate Assessment nomenclature and schedule “slots”
- Identify and prioritize “Key Stocks”
- Assess remaining (non-key) stocks with less intensive approaches

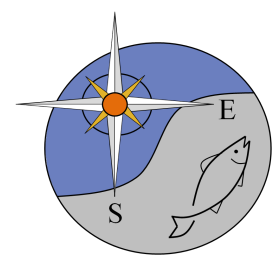




Eliminating Nomenclature

- SEDAR assessment categories have changed over time
 - Research Track/Operational Assessment
 - Benchmarks/Standards/Updates
- All categories produced complete assessment products, but often people would assign differing quality to different categories
- Starting in 2026, all projects would be “Assessments”





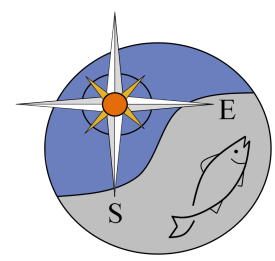
Eliminating Nomenclature

- **All SEDAR projects will be called Assessments, but not all assessments will follow the same process**
- **For each individual project, the structure of process will be made up of various components**

Components may include:

- Data Workshops
- Assessment Webinars
- Stock ID Process
- Independent Peer Review Process
- Process Panels or Topical Working Groups

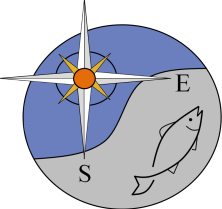




Eliminating Nomenclature

- Negotiations between the Cooperator and the Lead Analytic Agency will be held regarding which components to be included
- Components should be finalized before the development of Terms of Reference and Project Schedule
- As the Lead Analytic Agency is responsible for the final assessment product, they will determine the structure of the process





Current Slots & Scheduling

Table 1: SEDAR Project Planning Grid – July 2024 SEDAR Steering Committee Outcome

Table Color Legend:

Steering Committee Approved and SEFSC Scheduled Projects	FUTURE Requests
Steering Committee Approved, PENDING SEFSC SCHEDULING	2026 Preliminary Projects – To Be Finalized at the Summer 2024 Meeting

SEDAR SCHEDULE OVERVIEW – March 2024 SEDAR Steering Committee Outcome

YEAR	SA Team				Gulf Team					Caribbean Team		HMS Team		FLFWCC	Menhaden/ RW only	
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	1	2			
2024		S82 Gray Triggerfish RT		S89 Tilefish OA	S88 Red Grouper OA	S87 White, Pink, and Brown Shrimp Benchmark			S87 White, Pink, and Brown Shrimp Benchmark	S84 Yellowtail Snapper (PR & STT/STJ) and Stoplight Parrotfish (STX) Benchmark				S79 Mutton Snapper Benchmark	S96 YTS OA	S93 ASMFC Red Drum (RW) S97 GSMFC Menhaden OA
2025	S90 Red Snapper Benchmark	S95 Atlantic Migratory Cobia Benchmark	Dolphin MP RW	S90 Red Snapper Benchmark	King Mackerel		S98 Red Snapper Benchmark	S98 Red Snapper Benchmark			S91 Spiny Lobster (all islands) Benchmark	Bull and Sandbar Sharks			Black Group er MSE (24/25)	ASMFC Menhaden (RW)
2026		Gag Grouper	Red Grouper – single stock continuity -External Peer Review			Gray Triggerfish			Gag Grouper	Hogfish? (PR) and Red Hind (USVI)				S94 Hogfish		
2027	Snowy Grouper	Vermilion	BSB	SA King Mackerel	Greater Amberjack		Tilefish Complex?	Gray Snapper								GSMFC Menhaden
2028	Red Porgy	Greater Amberjack	Spanish Mackerel				Vermilion					Dolphin/Wahoo (MP?)				ASMFC Menhaden
2029								Cobia, Lane, Spanish								
2030									Scamp							

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.

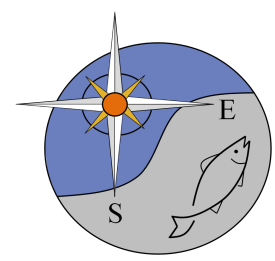


South Atlantic Highlights

YEAR	SA Team			
	1	2	3	4
2024		S82 Gray Triggerfish RT		S89 Tilefish OA
2025	S90 Red Snapper Benchmark	S95 Atlantic Migratory Cobia Benchmark	S92 Blueline Tilefish OA	S90 Red Snapper Benchmark
			Dolphin MP RW	
2026		Gag Grouper	Red Grouper – single stock continuity -External Peer Review	
2027	Snowy Grouper	Vermillion	BSB	SA King Mackerel
2028	Red Porgy	Greater Amberjack	Spanish Mackerel	

- **4 “slots” per Year**
 - Ideal, not always realized
 - 4 underway ≠ 4 completed
- **Typical project timing**
 - Research Track: 2y
 - Operational: .5 to 1y
 - Prior “Benchmark”: 1.5y
- **Timing**
 - Preliminary 3-5 yrs out
 - Request 3y out
 - Finalize 2y out
 - Finalize 2026 by mid-2024

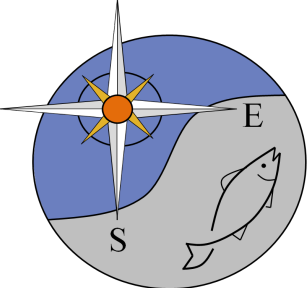




Identify & Prioritize Key Stocks

- Key Stocks: Intent is to represent those stocks that ‘drive’ the fishery and provide a subset that can indicate conditions of the fishery and stocks in a larger complex (e.g. Snapper Grouper)
- Discussion going back to 2008 with identification of primary data collection stocks for age-based assessments
- Refined following the 2015 Tech Memo “Prioritizing Fish Stock Assessments”; “Key Stocks” coined to deal with the reality that not all stocks can be assessed
- Criteria for what determines a key stock is determined by the Cooperator



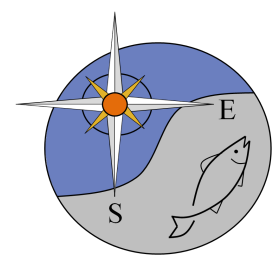


Proposed SEFSC Key Stocks Fixed Scheduling Approach

Preliminary SATL Calendar

	2024				2025				2026				2027				2028				2029				2030				2031				2032								
South Atlantic	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4					
Tilefish	D*	A	R												UM										D	A	R														
Blueline Tilefish		D	D	A	R										UM												D	A	R												
Cobia			D	D	A	A	A	R							UM												D	A	A	R											
Red Snapper				D	D	D	A	A	A	A	R									UM							D	D	A	A	A	R									
Gray Triggerfish	A	R						D	D	A	A	R								UM													D	A	A						
King Mackerel								D	D	A	A	R															UM											D			
Snowy Grouper											D	A	A	R												UM															
Gag Grouper											D	D	A	A	R											UM															
Red Grouper													D	D	A	A	R											UM													
Red Porgy															D	A	A	R									UM														
Greater Amberjack																	D	A	A	R								UM													
Vermilion																			D	A	A	R										UM									
Scamp																				D	A	A	R												UM						
Spanish Mackerel																					D	A	A	R																	



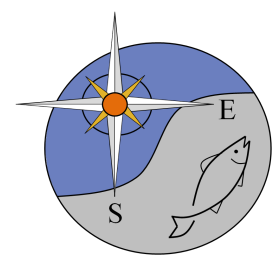


Assessing Non-Key Stocks Using Less Intensive Methods

This recommendation has the greatest unknowns

- Possibilities include less complex assessment approaches, data limited methods and interim assessment/MPs
- More information is needed to determine appropriate approaches for the various stocks
 - Data triage/gap analysis and model complexity discussions with the SEFSC may be useful
- Discussions regarding what the SSC will need to be comfortable for providing management management advice need to be had





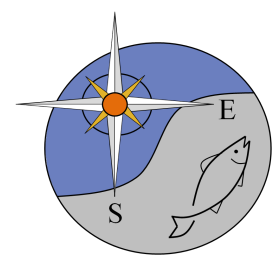
SSC Roles in Proposed Process

- **Provide Guidance on structure of the assessment process, specifically regarding which process components are needed**

Components may include:

- Data Workshops
- Assessment Webinars
- Stock ID Process
- Independent Peer Review Process
- Process Panels or Topical Working Groups





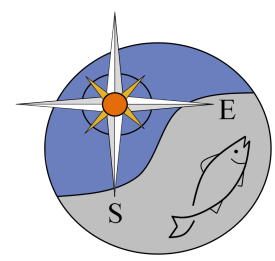
SSC Roles in Proposed Process

- **Recommend data or assessment topics to be included in the process**

Possible items may include:

- new data sets to be considered
- new modeling techniques that have been used in other assessment which may be useful for the assessment under consideration
- request for further analysis that the SSC or review panel found lacking during the last assessment

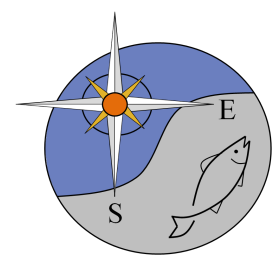




SSC Roles in Proposed Process

- **Participate in the Topical Working Groups or Assessment Panels**
- **Review Assessment Reports**

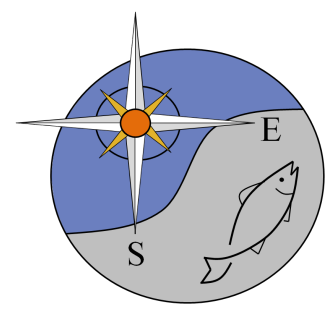




Next Steps

- December 2024 SAFMC Meeting: Further discussion of SEDAR process
- Spring 2025: SEDAR Steering Committee, further discussion of process changes based on Council input
 - Revision of SAFMC proposed long term schedule
 - Addressing the “non key” stocks
- 2025 – SSC review of SEDAR process changes, consideration of alternative (“right-sized” & non-age-based approaches)
- Finalize SEDAR process changes – TBD
- Transition scheduling - 2027





Thank you

Questions?

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