

Review of Proposed Modifications to the SEDAR Process

SAFMC SSC Meeting
May 2025
Julie A. Neer

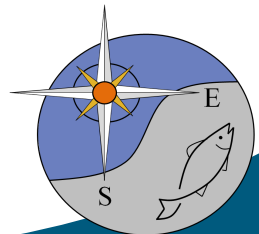
sedarweb.org



SEDAR – Southeast Data, Assessment & Review

Background Information

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

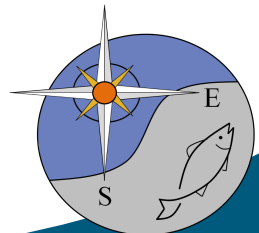


Goals of the Proposed Modifications

Primary Council Objectives

- Timeliness (i.e. recency of TY)
- Flexibility to address issues that emerge
- Throughput – update ABCs every 1-2 years
 - MSE tested MPs/Interim Assessment
 - Routine updates
 - DLMs
 - SAFE Reports
- Transparency and thoroughness when needed
- Do the assessment that is appropriate for the data.
- Sufficient frequency and timeliness of management advice
- Flexibility or bandwidth to respond to an emerging issue
- Ability to put an assessment in the queue
- Need better SOWs/TORs

Note: The SEFSC shares many of these objectives



Recommended Changes

March 2024 SEDAR Steering Committee

Eliminate RT/OA process

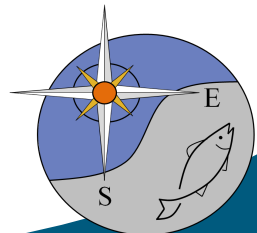


Eliminate nomenclature and the slot concept



- Not all assessments are the same
- A previously accepted age structured assessment with minimal changes can be completed in as little as 6-9 months.
- Additional components require additional time (e.g. stock ID, DW, AWs, TWGs, CIE Review, SSC rework)

Remaining stocks could be assessed using less time-consuming approaches (e.g. update assessments, updated projections, IA, MPs). Generally conducted extra-SEDAR.



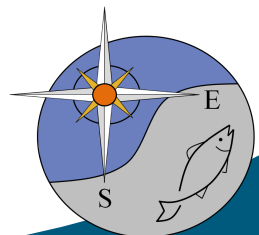
Recommended Changes February 2025

SEDAR Steering Committee

SEFSC takes responsibility for the assessment component of SEDAR process

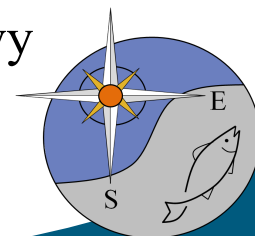
Impetus for change:

- Assessment webinars are inefficient and often do not produce useful and consistent scientific advice.
 - Overall, we rarely gain technical insights during webinars.
 - 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

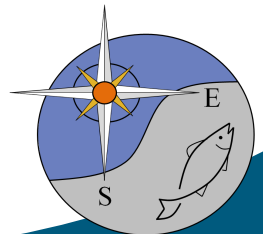


Concern: How to maintain transparency if the assessment process is run by the SEFSC

- What transparency will be available if the SEFSC runs the assessment portion/process?
 - The Data Workshop is a public meeting
 - If there is no DW, we can hold a data webinar if requested by the Council.
 - The SSC meetings and their public comment opportunities.
 - The Review Workshop.
 - We do not want to lose the technical input of the SSC members (as panelists), so we propose utilizing the SSC along the way.
 - SEFSC may provide the SSC progress report(s) or solicit input on specific as necessary
 - Examples: Gulf Yellowedge and Red Grouper, SA Snowy Grouper

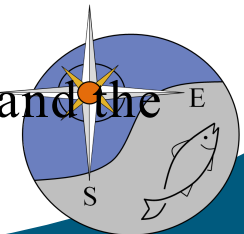


Procedural Details



Proposal for SEFSC SEDAR Projects for SAFMC, GMFMC, and CFMC

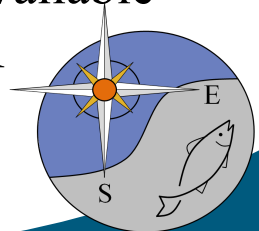
- The SEDAR process will be limited to those assessments with sufficient new information to require external participation/review.
- Update assessments and interim assessment approaches would be *conducted internally by the SEFSC* and reviewed by the SSC.
- The SEFSC proposes to take responsibility for the assessment component of the SEDAR process. Data and review components remain unchanged.
- For SEDAR assessments, the specific components included in each project will be negotiated between the Center and Council Staff with input from SSC/Council. A Council may elect to prepare a statement of work or communicate verbally.
- 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.



Proposal for SEFSC SEDAR Projects for SAFMC, GMFMC, and CFMC

● Potential Components:

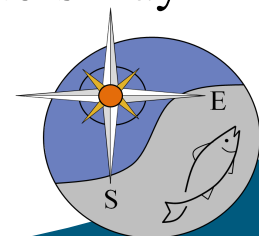
- Stock ID Process - appropriate for new assessments, when many new data inputs must be considered, or when there is a need to substantially modify an existing assessment
- In-person Data Workshop - appropriate for new assessments, when many new data inputs must be considered, or when there is a need to substantially modify an existing assessment
- Data Webinar(s) - appropriate when limited new information is available. These would function similarly to a Topical Working Group
- External CIE Review - appropriate for new assessments, when many new data inputs must be considered, or when there is a need to substantially modify an existing assessment
- SSC Review - appropriate when limited new information is available and for all updates/interim analyses conducted extra-SEDAR



Proposal for SEFSC SEDAR Projects for SAFMC, GMFMC, and CFMC

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

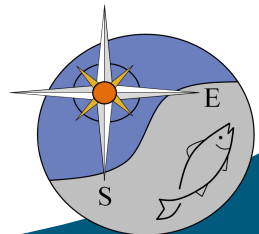
- This team may be a standing group that covers multiple assessments or may be developed for a specific stock or group of stocks (e.g., tilefishes or mackerel).
- The lead analytic agency may reach out to members of the team as needed, either as individuals or as the whole.
- Technical Teams may not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



Proposal for SEFSC SEDAR Projects for SAFMC, GMFMC, and CFMC

- **For all SEDAR projects:**

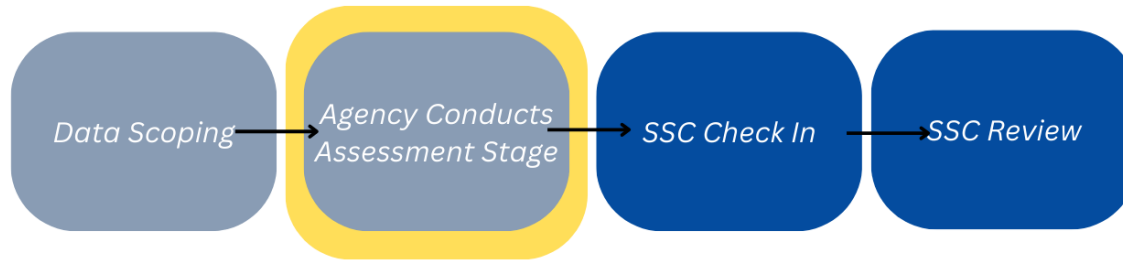
- SEDAR will organize a data scoping call and the data workshop/webinar(s). The public is encouraged to participate.
- The Center will then take over responsibility for the assessment component.
- The Center will develop the assessment internally and will coordinate ad-hoc meetings with members of the 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.
- The role of the SSC in model development will be expanded. Council Staff will schedule a pre-decisional briefing(s) with the SSC to provide feedback on key decision points. The Center will revise the assessment as appropriate.
- SEDAR will coordinate the review process as usual.



SEDAR Process for Fishery Management Councils & FL FWC

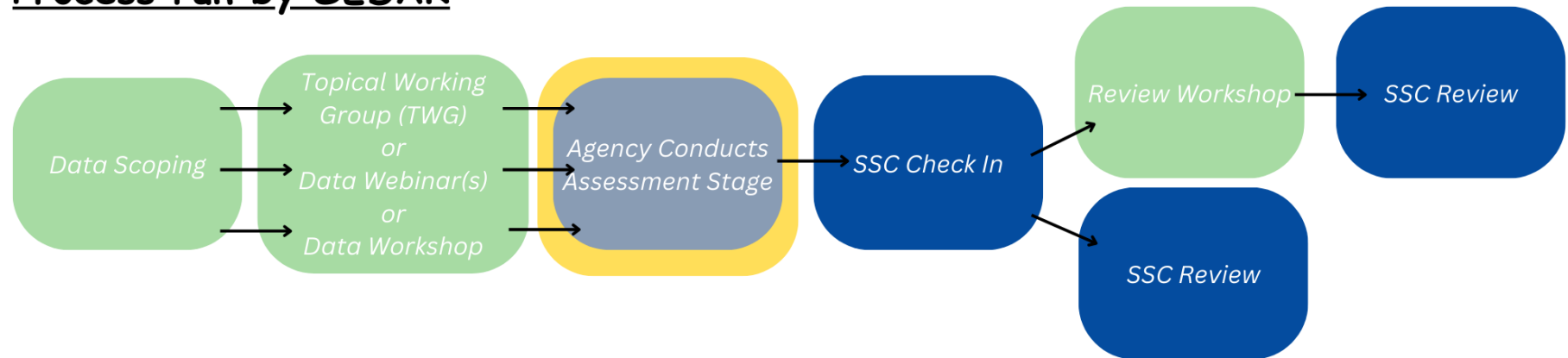
last updated 5/12/2025

Process run by Southeast Fishery Science Center



*Stock ID if needed before
Data Scoping

Process run by SEDAR



SEDAR Lead Analytic Agency Cooperator Appointed Technical Team Cooperator



SEDAR

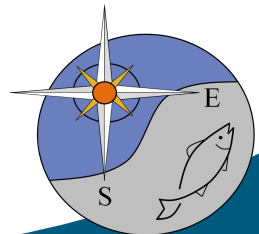
Southeast Data Assessment and Review



Next Steps

- 2025 – SSC review of SEDAR process changes, consideration of alternative (“right-sized” & non-age-based approaches)
- Finalize SEDAR process changes – TBD
- Transition scheduling – 2027*

*Gulf S100 Gray Triggerfish may serve as a pilot starting in 2025



Questions?

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