

Species:

Gag Grouper

Model and Additional Data Years:

- Prior Assessment: SEDAR 71 Gag Operational Assessment
- Prior Terminal Year: 2019
- Data providers should provide all new and recent available data sufficient for use in the stock assessment through 2024. Data providers may decide to include preliminary or partial data for more recent years that could be used in the stock assessment models or projection analyses. Data inclusion for the stock assessment models and projection analyses will be determined by the lead analyst based on quantity and quality of the most recent data.
- Apply the current BAM configuration.

Requested Data Updates (Please be as specific as possible):

- Review any new and updated information to determine if it warrants consideration for modifying existing assumptions to life history, discard mortality, and steepness.
- Following NMFS Procedure 01-101-11, provide a model run using the SEDAR 71 Gag Operational Assessment configuration including recent years data.

Potential Modifications to previously approved assessment (Please be as specific as possible):

- Incorporate length composition from the SERFS video survey, as feasible.
- Incorporate catch level working group recommendations.
- Consider new methods for estimating natural mortality including a subset of Then et al. 2015, Hammel and Cope 2022, or other research. Consider direct estimation methods such as telemetry or conventional tagging approaches if available.

Is a Topical Working Group Needed? Yes

- Low recruitment: The Center recommends a SEDAR Procedural Workshop (PW) be conducted in 2024 or 2025 to examine the potential sources of recent recruitment declines in several reef fish species in the South Atlantic, including: gag, scamp, and red porgy. The Center will work with the Council to draft appropriate terms of reference for that PW.
- Reproductive Dynamics: A TWG is recommended if sufficient information is made available to better characterize the reproductive dynamics of gag (e.g. sex ratio, maturity schedule, batch fecundity, spawning seasonality, and spawning frequency, sperm limitation).

Suggested Topical Working Group Process:

Webinar

POTENTIAL SCHEDULE:

- Cooperators use their process to develop SoWs
- SSC reviews SoWs at April meeting, then SAFMC reviews in September, 2023
- Initial Cooperator-approved SoWs submitted to SEFSC by November 1, 2023
- SEFSC provides feedback to Cooperators via memo no later than February 1, 2024
- Cooperators/Technical review bodies review feedback and negotiate final SoWs with SEFSC
- Final SoWs provided to SEDAR Program Manager by May 1, 2024
- Terms of Reference to SSC in October 2024 and SAFMC in March 2025