

## **SAFMC SEDAR Projects Report**

April 2019 SSC Meeting

### **Projects in Progress**

#### **Impacts of the December 22, 2018 – January 25, 2019 Federal Government Shutdown.**

The Federal government shutdown impacted all SEDAR projects currently underway. A complete listing of the affected SEDAR activities is provided in Appendix 1. From the perspective of final project completion, as measured by the timing of SSC review, the current SAFMC projects of Red Porgy and Greater Amberjack will not be negatively affected. Joint projects including the King Mackerel update and the FL FWCC led benchmark of Yellowtail Snapper will likely be delayed several months. The Scamp research track will be delayed, with the data workshop likely to be held in early 2020 rather than late 2019.

SEFSC and SEDAR staff met on February 13 to reschedule the major milestones and activities, including data deliveries, workshops, and webinars. The changes agreed to on the call are noted under each project.

#### **Impacts of the revised MRIP data.**

The SSC reviewed assessments incorporating the revised MRIP data during a webinar on February 25, 2019. Numerous questions and concerns were raised with the estimates and their application to stock assessments. Some were raised again relative to Greater Amberjack (SEDAR 59) during a webinar of the assessment panel on February 26, and the panel indicated that a workshop devoted to the MRIP data revisions was needed. This request was relayed to the Council's SEDAR Committee during the March 2019 meeting, and the Council supported the workshop concept and recommended delaying action on the ongoing assessments until the workshop is held and the SSC's issues with the MRIP data are resolved. Project schedules and updates here will be further impacted by planning for this workshop. The SSC will address the workshop specifically at their April 2019 meeting.

#### **SEDAR 58 Atlantic Cobia, Benchmark**

**SEDAR Contact:** Kathleen Howington

##### **Summary:**

Atlantic Cobia was originally scheduled as a Research Track assessment. However, at their May 2017 meeting, the SEDAR Steering Committee recommended conducting cobia as a Benchmark assessment, including a Stock ID evaluation based on the process developed by the Steering Committee in September 2016. Cooperators made workshop appointments for the Stock ID process in December 2018. The Stock ID Workshop was held April 10-12, 2018; the Stock ID Review Workshop was held June 5-7, 2018; the Joint Cooperator Technical Review was held July 30, 2018 via webinar; and the Science and Management Leadership Call was canceled due to guidance from the SEDAR Steering Committee which indicated this call was not necessary if there was not a change in the stock boundary. The final Cobia Stock ID Process Compiled Report was distributed August 17, 2018.

The ASMFC and SAFMC approved the assessment ToRs and schedule in May and June 2018, respectively. Appointments were made by both Cooperators in June 2018. The terminal year of the assessment is 2017. The schedule has been delayed approximately six weeks to allow for inclusion of the fully calibrated MRIP data.

### **SHUTDOWN IMPACTS**

The Cobia Data Workshop has been rescheduled for April 1 - 5, 2019. The SEFSC was able to hold this workshop in March, but options were limited by hotel availability and noticing requirements. The rest of the schedule has been modified accordingly, with assessment webinars from July – October 2019 and the Review Workshop on November 19-21, 2019. The final assessment report is scheduled for distribution January 6, 2019.

### SEDAR 59 South Atlantic Greater Amberjack, Standard

**SEDAR Contact:** Kathleen Howington

#### **Summary:**

A standard assessment was requested to allow consideration of video and headboat at-sea indices, to reconsider the use of age and length composition data, and to incorporate the latest BAM model configurations and updates to data calculation methodologies. The terminal year of the assessment was 2016, but due to delays in the fully calibrated MRIP data for use in assessments, the terminal year was advanced to 2017. The Council made appointments and approved the schedule and terms of reference in December 2017. A Data Scoping webinar was held on March 30, 2018. The original schedule included a data deadline for updated data of May 25, 2018; a series of Assessment webinars from June – October 2018; and was scheduled to be complete in December 2018, and review by the SSC in Spring 2019.

On the Data Scoping webinar, there was discussion on the availability and inclusion of the fully calibrated MRIP estimates into SEDAR 59. Further discussions noted that availability of the fully calibrated MRIP data would affect all 2018 SEDAR Projects. The SEDAR 59 schedule was delayed to allow for the including fully calibrated MRIP data and advancing the terminal year. The original schedule included an updated data deadline of November 2, 2018 and a series of Assessment webinars from December 2018 – March 2019, and completion in mid-May 2019.

### **SHUTDOWN IMPACTS**

The original intent was for the Greater Amberjack assessment to be pushed back a few months, to a completion date in late June. This would allow the assessment to be considered by the SAFMC SSC in October 2019 and not result in any changes to the Council's timing of actions. However, the timing of this assessment will be slowed down due to concerns about the revised MRIP data. The assessment schedule will need to be revisited by SEFSC and SEDAR once more is known about the timing of the MRIP data workshop.

### SEDAR 60 South Atlantic Red Porgy, Standard

**SEDAR Contact:** Kathleen Howington

**Summary:**

A standard assessment was requested to allow consideration of new video index data, reconsider the use of age and length composition data, and to incorporate the latest BAM model configurations and updates to data calculation methodologies. The terminal year of the assessment is 2017. The Council made appointments and approved the schedule and terms of reference in December 2017. The original schedule included an updated data deadline of August 10, 2018; a series of webinars from June 2018 – January 2019; and was scheduled to be complete in March 2019.

To allow for inclusion of the fully calibrated MRIP data, the SEDAR 60 schedule was delayed. The revised schedule included a Data Scoping webinar which was held June 29, 2018; an in-person workshop planned for February 5-7, 2019 in the Beaufort, NC area; and a series of webinars from January – April 2019. The assessment was scheduled to be complete in June 2019.

**SHUTDOWN IMPACTS**

The Red Porgy assessment will be pushed back a few months, to a completion date in late August. Completing the assessment by late August would allow the assessment to be considered by the SAFMC SSC in October 2019 and would not therefore result in any changes to the Council's timing of actions.

The SAFMC SSC requested the in-person workshop due to concerns over the elapsed time since the last assessment and the impacts of the revised MRIP data on assessment performance. As other projects were scheduled, particularly those that involved hotel meeting space subject to financial penalties, it became apparent that there was no window when this workshop could be scheduled during April – June. Further delaying this project would have two consequences: 1) the South Atlantic Golden Tilefish would be delayed, and not available to the SSC in April 2020 as planned, and 2) the Red Porgy assessment would not likely be completed for SSC review in October.

This timing was contingent upon Council approval of cancelling the planned in-person workshop and conducting the assessment via webinar meetings. Due largely to the concerns raised by the SSC regarding the MRIP data, the Council did not support cancelling this workshop. As a result, the assessment schedule will need to be revisited by SEFSC and SEDAR once more is known about the workshop timing.

SEDAR 64 Southeastern US Yellowtail Snapper, Benchmark

**SEDAR Contact:** Julie Neer

**Summary:** The State of Florida is taking the lead on the assessment of Southeastern US Yellowtail Snapper. SEDAR Staff worked with FWRI to produce a Project Schedule and Terms of Reference, which were approved by both Councils in June 2018. The Project Schedule has the assessment getting underway late 2018, with a raw data deadline in December 2018. The terminal year of data is 2017. The Data Workshop scheduled for

February 25-27, 2019 was postponed due to the shutdown. The assessment was originally scheduled for completion in October 2019.

### **SHUTDOWN IMPACTS**

The Yellowtail Snapper assessment will be pushed back approximately 4 months. Due to hotel availability, the Data Workshop will be held June 25-27, 2019. The remainder of the project will be delayed as a result. A final completion date is not yet identified and will be determined once SEDAR and FWCC staff can develop a new project timeline.

## SEDAR 68 Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Scamp, Research Track (1 or 2 stocks)

**SEDAR Contact:** Julie Neer

**Summary:** A Scamp Research Track assessment was preliminarily scheduled to start the first quarter of 2018. At their May 2017 meeting, the SEDAR Steering Committee delayed the start of the Scamp Research Track assessment until 2019 due to the Research Track process not being adequately described. A planning team met via webinar October 10, 2018 to develop a project milestone schedule and Terms of Reference (ToR). A Joint SAFMC and GMFMC SSC Sub-Panel is scheduled to meet via webinar on November 27, 2018 to review the draft ToRs and schedule which will then be provided for review and approval by the Gulf and South Atlantic Councils.

### **SHUTDOWN IMPACTS**

The Scamp Research Track will be delayed significantly as a result of the shutdown. SEDAR and SEFSC staff agreed that completing the other ongoing projects were a higher priority in the recovery effort. The Scamp planning group met in late February to update the project plan. Some of the milestones preliminarily agreed to include an aging workshop in early August 2019 and stock ID webinars in August and September. It is likely that research track completion will be pushed back to 2021, with operational assessment completion in late 2021.

## Upcoming Projects – Planning Underway

### SEDAR 66 South Atlantic Tilefish, Standard

**SEDAR Contact:** Julia Byrd

**Summary:** A standard assessment was requested to incorporate the latest BAM model configurations and updates to data calculation methodologies, to reconsider the error distributions for fitting age and length composition data, to examine evidence for changing selectivity in input data sources, and to investigate the potential use of two new data sources. The terminal year of the assessment is 2018. The preliminary schedule included a series of webinars from May 2019 – February 2020, an in-person workshop in January 14-16, 2020, and project completion to enable review by the SSC in April 2020.

### **SHUTDOWN IMPACTS**

The original post-shutdown assessment project revisions kept this project on track, as long as the Red Porgy in-person workshop was omitted. Since the Council rejected that request, and the SSC has raised concerns about the MRIP data that have delayed other ongoing projects, completion of this project will in all likelihood be delayed. The schedule will be revisited once further details on the MRIP data workshop are available and other projects are rescheduled.

#### SEDAR 36 South Atlantic Snowy Grouper, Update

**SEDAR Contact:** Julia Byrd

**Summary:** The Snowy Grouper update assessment is scheduled to be complete in September 2020. The terminal year of the assessment is 2018.

#### **SHUTDOWN IMPACTS**

None.

#### SEDAR 38 Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic King Mackerel, Update

**SEDAR Contact:** Julie Neer

**Summary:** Planning is underway for the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic King Mackerel Update assessments. TORs were reviewed by the SSC via email in December 2018. TORS, including SSC comments, are offered for review and included as Appendix 2. The SAFMC supports a coordinated review effort by the GMFMC and SAFMC SSCs.

#### **SHUTDOWN IMPACTS**

The King Mackerel assessment will be pushed back to a completion date in March 2020, for possible review at the Spring 2020 SAFMC SSC meeting.

The SAFMC coordinated review effort by the GMFMC and SAFMC SSCs.

## **2020 SEDAR Projects**

South Atlantic Operational Assessments planned for 2020 include Spanish Mackerel and Gag. The SEDAR Steering Committee will be discussing the 2020 workplan at the May 2019 meeting.

Table 1. SAFMC SEDAR Priorities

<b>Plan Year</b>	<b>SEDAR #</b>	<b>Stocks</b>	<b>Approach</b>	<b>Terminal Data</b>	<b>SSC Review</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>
2018	58	Atlantic Cobia	Benchmark	2017	NA	SEFSC
	59	Greater Amberjack	Standard	2017	TBD	SEFSC
	60	Red Porgy	Standard	2017	TBD	SEFSC
	TBD	King Mackerel	Update	2017 FY	Apr 2020	SEFSC
2019	64	Yellowtail Snapper	Benchmark	2017	TBD	FL FWCC
	U	Snowy Grouper	Update	2018	TBD	SEFSC
	66	Golden Tilefish	Standard	2018	TBD	SEFSC
	68	Scamp, Gulf + SA	Research Track	TBD	TBD	SEFSC
	68OA	Scamp, Gulf + SA	Research Track	TBD	TBD	SEFSC
<b>FUTURE PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED BY SAFMC</b>						
2020 <sup>1</sup>		Spanish Mackerel	Operational			SEFSC
		Gag	Operational			SEFSC
		Scamp (cont.)	RT/Operational			SEFSC
2021		Gray Triggerfish	Research Track			SEFSC
		Black Sea Bass	Operational			SEFSC
		Red Grouper	Operational			SEFSC
		Red Snapper (cont.)	RT/Operational			SEFSC
		Mutton Snapper	Operational			FL FWCC
2022		White Grunt	Research Track			SEFSC
		Gray Triggerfish (cont.)	RT/Operational			SEFSC
		TBD by Spring 2020				
		TBD by Spring 2020				

1. By 2020, all SEDAR Assessments will use the Research Track and Operational project categories.