

2020 SAFMC SEDAR Projects – Scope of Work

In 2020 the SEDAR Steering Committee will fully move to the Research Track – Operational Assessment approach. In another change, to help the Committee plan the SEDAR workload, the SEFSC now accounts for the time necessary to compile data for assessment projects. Initial assessment requests reviewed in May 2018 exceed the SEFSC data delivery capabilities for 2020. Additionally, as future operational assessments will range in complexity and may be similar to a current standard or update assessment, the SEFSC has asked that each SEDAR Cooperator provide preliminary information on the scope of future operational assessments. This will allow the SEFSC to more accurately determine data delivery needs and 2020 assessment capabilities.

To resolve the workload overage and provide adequate planning information for 2020 projects when they are finalized in May 2019, each Cooperator has been asked to provide scope of work information for 2020 Operational Assessments by March 1, 2019. South Atlantic Operational Assessments planned for 2020 include Spanish Mackerel and Gag. Preliminary topics to be discussed in these assessments are listed below, based on comments and research recommendations provided in the Stock Assessment and SSC reports.

Spanish Mackerel

Model and Additional Data Years

- Update the Atlantic Spanish Mackerel SEDAR 28 BAM model, terminal year 2011. (This will add 7-8 years of new data, depending on the chosen terminal year.)
- Apply the current BAM configuration incorporating approved improvements developed since SEDAR 28

Data updates

- Update growth and reproductive models if additional samples are available for fish below 275 mm
- If available, include any improved information on steepness for similar pelagic species.

Process

- Convene a panel of several SSC representatives to meet via webinar, as needed to review model development and provide guidance.
- Given the lack of specific assessment issues noted through reviews by both the SSC and the RW, this should be a straight forward OA that operates similar to a current update assessment.

Gag

Model and Additional Data Years

- Update the South Atlantic Gag update assessment from 2014, terminal year 2012. (This will add 6-7 years of new data, depending on the chosen terminal year.)
- Apply the current BAM configuration incorporating approved improvements developed since the 2014 update.

- Evaluate whether the model is able to reliably estimate steepness at this time.

Data updates

- Consider including the SERFS video index to address the need for additional fishery independent information.
- Consider additional recent discard mortality information.

Process

- Convene a panel of several SSC representatives to meet via webinar, as needed to review model development and provide guidance.
- Based on the SSC suggestions that the next assessment should be a standard, and should evaluate the fixed steepness assumption and consider including the video index, this project will likely resemble a current standard assessment.