

SEDAR Committee
Projects Update Report
September 2023

The below summaries describe ongoing and upcoming projects requested by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. There are 10 projects addressing stocks managed by the SAFMC that are scheduled or expected to start by 2025.

Projects – Ongoing

SEDAR 79 Southeastern US Mutton Snapper, Benchmark

SEDAR Contact: Julie A. Neer

Summary: The Benchmark assessment for SE US Mutton Snapper has been rescheduled for 2023. The terminal year of data for the assessment will be 2022. The Data Workshop was held August 21-25, 2023. Assessment webinars will be held from November 2023 to April 2024. The Review Workshop is scheduled for July 9-11, 2024.

SEDAR 82 South Atlantic Gray Triggerfish, Research Track

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

Summary: The Data Workshop report was released in January of 2023. The Assessment process is ongoing with a series of webinars scheduled from March 2023 to November 2023. The Review Workshop was scheduled for October 2023, however the lead analyst requested additional webinars. The workshop is now scheduled for early 2024. The assessment completion date is to be determined at a later time.

SEDAR 86 South Atlantic Red Grouper, Operational Assessment

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

Summary: The assessment is underway. No Topical Working Groups are currently being organized for this assessment. The SEFSC has submitted a request to the South Atlantic SSC to discuss model changes. Currently, the assessment is scheduled to be completed in December 2023 pending SSC input.

Upcoming Projects – Planning Underway

SEDAR 89 South Atlantic Tilefish, Operational Assessment

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

Summary: The Terms of Reference were approved by the SAFMC SSC in October 2022. The schedule, potential participants, and Terms of Reference were approved by the

Council in March 2023. The assessment is scheduled to begin November 2023.

SEDAR 90 South Atlantic Red Snapper, Research Track Assessment

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

Summary: Planning for the research track is underway. The planning team has met four times and has drafted Terms of Reference and a schedule. The search for participants is ongoing. The schedule, Terms of Reference and list of participants will be brought before the SSC in October 2023.

2024 Benchmark/Operational Assessments

SEDAR 92 Atlantic Blueline Tilefish, Operational Assessment

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

Summary: The draft Terms of Reference were approved by the SAFMC SSC in July 2022. The updated schedule, potential participants, and Terms of Reference were approved by the SAFMC March 2023. The assessment is scheduled to begin April 2024.

SEDAR 94 Southeastern Hogfish Snapper, Benchmark

SEDAR Contact: Julie A. Neer

Summary: Planning for the Benchmark assessment for SE hogfish is underway. The Planning Team members has met several times to produce draft schedules and Terms of Reference. The Terms of Reference should go to the Gulf and South Atlantic Councils for approval Fall 2023.

2025 Benchmark/Operational Assessments

SEDAR ## South Atlantic Gag Grouper

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

Summary: Planning for the assessment is underway. A schedule and Terms of Reference have been drafted and SEFSC feedback has been received. The Terms of Reference and Schedule will go to the October SSC meeting for approval in Fall 2023.

SEDAR ## South Atlantic King Mackerel

SEDAR Contact: Julie Neer

Summary: Planning for the assessment is underway. A schedule and terms of reference have been drafted and submitted for SEFSC feedback.

SEDAR ## South Atlantic Red Porgy

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

Summary: Planning for the assessment is underway. The Terms of Reference have been drafted and submitted for SEFSC feedback. No schedule has been drafted. This

assessment might be delayed if there are not sufficient resources to conduct Atlantic Cobia and Red Porgy assessments.

SEDAR ## Atlantic Cobia

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

Summary: Planning for the Assessment is underway. The SEFSC and ASMFC are negotiating the Terms of Reference and draft schedule. The plan will be discussed during SEDAR Steering Committee meeting in October 2023.

Other Assessment Related Items

South Atlantic Vermilion Snapper, Interim Analysis

Summary: The Terms of Reference and Schedule for an Operational Assessment were approved by the SAFMC in December 2021. The Assessment was scheduled to be completed in September 2023. The terminal year for the previous assessment was 2016. At the May 2022 SEDAR Steering Committee Meeting, the assessment was recommended to be changed to an interim analysis with updated indices.

SEDAR Procedural Workshop 8, Fishery Independent Index Development Under Changing Survey Design

SEDAR Contact: Julie Neer

Summary: SEDAR Procedural Workshop 8 was convened to improve the quality of fishery-independent data inputs and streamline future stock assessments by defining best practices for generating indices of relative abundance and size composition that incorporate data from multiple surveys and/or account for survey changes through time. A series of webinars have been held starting in May 2021 with additional meetings occurring through October 2022. An in-person workshop was held November 2-4, 2022, in Tampa, Florida. The findings of the workshop panel are scheduled to be available in 2023.