



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Trish Murphey, Chair | Jessica McCawley, Vice Chair
John Carmichael, Executive Director

AGENDA

SEDAR Committee

North Charleston Marriott
4770 Goer Drive
North Charleston, SC 29406

Thursday, September 18, 2025, 3:45 PM – 5:30 PM

The Committees will approve the agenda for the September 2025 SEDAR Committee meeting and approve the minutes from the March 2025 meeting.

[March 2025 Committee Report](#)

1. SEDAR Steering Committee Update (*Attachments 1a and 1b*)
 - a. Overview – Chip Collier
 - b. **Committee Action:** None
2. SEDAR Process changes (*Attachment 2*)
 - a. Overview – Council and SEDAR Staff
 - b. **Committee Action:** Discuss concerns with the revised approach for assessments and provide guidance to the SAFMC Representatives on the SEDAR Steering Committee.
3. Statements of work for upcoming assessments (*Attachment 3*)
 - a. Overview – Judd Curtis
 - b. **Committee Action:** Review and discuss any modifications to the components and review process for the 2027-2028 stock assessments.
4. Review of species selected for 2025-2029 assessments (*Attachment 4*)
 - a. Overview – Chip Collier
 - b. **Committee Action:** Provide recommendations for 2029 stock assessments conducted through SEDAR.
5. Other Business

Adjourn

Committee Members:

Trish Murphey, Chair
Jessica McCawley, Vice Chair
Robert Beal
Carolyn Belcher
Amy Dukes
Jimmy Hull
Kerry Marhefka
Charlie Phillips
Andy Strelcheck

Attachments:

Attachment 1a: SEDAR Steering Committee Draft Meeting Summary, February 2025

Attachment 1b: SEDAR Steering Committee Overview, August 2025

Attachment 2: SEDAR Modifications

Attachment 3: Statements of Work for 2027-2028 Stocks

Attachment 4: SEDAR Assessment Schedule and Other Ongoing Projects

Staff Lead: Chip Collier (chip.collier@safmc.net)

OVERVIEW

SEDAR Committee

The Committee will approve the minutes from March 2025 and the agenda for the September 2025 Committee meeting.

1. SEDAR Steering Committee update (*Attachments 1a and 1b*)

Description: The SEDAR Steering Committee (STC) convened in Charleston, SC on February 4-5 and via webinar on August 4. The focus of both meetings has been on modifications to the SEDAR Process and revising the SEDAR Project Schedule based on available resources. The meetings included a review of current projects, project status, and other administrative items. Staff will provide a brief overview of meeting outcomes.

Committee Action: None

2. SEDAR Process changes (*Attachment 2*)

Description: The SEDAR process is a multi-stage process designed to support the best possible stock assessments, with stages for stock identification, compiling data, assessment development, and reviewing the final product. Not all stages are required for every assessment, particularly for updates of previous assessments, and the type of meeting needed to address the issues for a stage can vary. To improve efficiency, SEDAR and NOAA Fisheries staff, under the SEDAR Steering Committee's direction, developed a more streamlined approach. Key proposed changes include replacing the traditional assessment panel with a technical team using a workgroup model and enabling NOAA Fisheries to conduct agency-led assessments outside the SEDAR process. The presentation will provide an overview of SEDAR and describe the revised stock assessment process.

Committee Action: Discuss concerns with the revised approach for assessments and provide guidance to the SAFMC Representatives on the SEDAR Steering Committee.

3. Statements of work for upcoming assessments (2027-2028) (*Attachment 3*)

Description: The proposed 2027–2028 SEDAR stock assessment schedule for South Atlantic species includes Greater Amberjack, Red Porgy, and Spanish Mackerel. Statements of Work (SoW) for these assessments will help estimate the workload required and ensure the results align with the Council's needs. Staff recommendations include a Data Workshop and topical workgroups for Greater Amberjack to incorporate recent findings, data webinars and topical workgroups for Spanish Mackerel to account for information from areas north of North Carolina, and a topical workgroup for Red Porgy to evaluate potential changes in life history characteristics. Council staff will review the information used to shape these recommendations, and the Committee is asked to identify the assessment components they would like included in the SoW that will be provided to NOAA Fisheries.

Committee Action: Review the SoWs and recommend components for the stock assessment.

4. Review of species selected for 2025-2029 assessments (*Attachment 4*)

Description: Planning the SEDAR assessment schedule starts years in advance to give data providers and analysts the time needed to complete essential background work. At this

meeting, staff will review ongoing projects, discuss potential options for assessments in 2029, and provide updates on related projects taking place outside of SEDAR. The Council Chair and Executive Director will provide these recommendations to the SEDAR Steering Committee for consideration.

Committee Action: Review the assessment planning grid and provide recommendations for stocks to consider for 2029.

5. Other Business