

## SEDAR Assessment Schedule and Other Ongoing Projects

### September 2025

At the September 2024 Committee meeting, the Committee requested information be provided on a variety of ongoing projects. This will help with planning for reviewing information as well as understanding when management associated with the projects could be expected to start. This report includes information on SEDAR Projects in the South Atlantic region, ongoing projects occurring outside of SEDAR, and a table of all SEDAR Projects.

## SEDAR Projects

### 2025 Completed Projects

#### SEDAR 92 Atlantic Blueline Tilefish, Operational Assessment

**SEDAR Contact:** Julie A Neer

**Summary:** A Landings Stream Topical Working Group met via webinars from April–July 2024. During those webinars, it was determined that an addition Life History TWG was needed to review new age information. That group met via webinar October 2024 - January 2025. The addition of the second TWG caused a delay in the completion of the assessment (originally scheduled for November 2024). The SAR for the Atlantic Blueline Tilefish was released 30 March 2025. The assessment was reviewed by the South Atlantic SSC in May 2025.

#### SEDAR 96 Florida Yellowtail Snapper, Operational Assessment

**SEDAR Contact:** Julie A. Neer

**Summary:** The SAR for Florida yellowtail snapper was released on 31 January 2025. The assessment was reviewed during a meeting of a subset of both the Gulf and South Atlantic SSCs in February 2025.

### SEDAR Projects in Progress

#### SEDAR 90 South Atlantic Red Snapper, Benchmark Assessment

**SEDAR Contact:** Emily Ott

**Summary:** The assessment began in November 2024 and is slated to be completed in November 2026. The data stage of this assessment included data webinars November-April 2025, a Data Workshop April 28<sup>th</sup>-May 2nd, 2025, and a series of post-DW webinars May-August 2025. A series of assessment webinars are scheduled for September 2025–April 2026 followed by a Review Workshop in September 2026. Additionally, there is an integration plan to evaluate and consider using SARSRP data in this assessment.

#### SEDAR 94 Southeastern Hogfish Snapper, Benchmark

**SEDAR Contact:** Julie A. Neer

**Summary:** The Benchmark assessment for SE hogfish was slated to begin in 2024 but has been postponed until 2025 to allow for a yellowtail snapper operational assessment to be conducted in 2024. A data scoping and pre-DW webinar were held in April and May 2025. The Data Workshop occurred July 28 – August 1, 2025. A series of assessment webinars will be held from December 2025 through April 2026 and Review Workshop will be held July 14-17, 2026.

#### SEDAR 95 Atlantic Cobia, Benchmark

**SEDAR Contact:** Emily Ott/Julie A Neer

**Summary:** A Data Scoping webinar was held in March 2024, and three data webinars have been conducted (one each for Removals, Indices, and Life History). A second data webinar for each topic was held in July and August 2024. Assessment webinars were scheduled for April 2024–September 2025; however, due to staffing changes, the assessment was postponed in Fall of 2024. There is an expectation of the assessment resuming in 2026, though the scope of the assessment is unclear as of this report.

### Upcoming SEDAR Projects – Planning Underway

#### SEDAR 104 South Atlantic Dolphinfish Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE, Review Workshop Only)

**SEDAR contact:** Julie A. Neer

**Summary:** The SEFSSC is the lead for this assessment, with SEDAR only providing logistical support for the Review Workshop. The Terms of Reference for this review are under development. The Review Workshop will be held early 2026.

#### SEDAR XX South Atlantic Gag Grouper

**SEDAR contact:** Emily Ott

**Summary:** The Terms of Reference were finalized June 2025. The project schedule is being developed and will include a Reproductive Dynamics Topical Working Group. This assessment is slated to begin early 2026.

## Projects Outside of SEDAR

### Ongoing Projects

#### SAFMC Snapper Grouper MSE

**Contact:** Chip Collier

**Summary:** Blue Matter is refining the management strategy evaluation for the Snapper Grouper Fishery. A workgroup has been formed to help guide the MSE along in development. Additionally, the University of Florida is gathering stakeholder feedback to help gather information needed to develop the MSE. The project is expected to be completed in December 2027. NOTE: A review workshop is not being held for this MSE since it will not be providing catch level recommendations or determining stock status.

#### Black Grouper MSE

**Contact:** FWC

**Summary:** FWC is developing a management strategy evaluation for Black Grouper instead of developing a stock assessment due to data issues. The project is expected to be completed in October 2026.

#### Shrimp Futures Initiative

**Contact:** NOAA Fisheries

**Summary:** The Shrimp Futures Initiative is a project being developed by NOAA Fisheries to describe the economic and social conditions of the fishery, identify objectives for the fishery, identify pathways, impediments, and uncertainties for the objectives. More information can be found at the [Shrimp Futures Initiative webpage](#).

#### South Atlantic Ecopath with Ecosim and Ecospace Model

**Contact:** Chip Collier

**Summary:** The South Atlantic Ecopath with Ecosim and Ecospace Model is a reduced ecosystem model from previous versions used in the South Atlantic region. The model is being configured to investigate changes in Black Sea Bass distribution and potential causes for the change. The project is expected to be completed by October 2025.

#### South Atlantic Red Snapper Research Program

**Contact:** University of Florida

**Summary:** The South Atlantic Red Snapper Research Program is a multi-faceted approach to evaluate the condition and health of Red Snapper Population in the South Atlantic region. Two separate approaches are being used genetic close-kin mark recapture and Bayesian integrated modeling. The project will be reviewed by a panel of independent experts in November 2025. More information can be found at the [South Atlantic Red Snapper Research Program webpage](#).

#### Greater Amberjack Research Program

**Contact:** University of South Alabama

**Summary:** The Greater Amberjack Research Program is working to develop new data sources and estimate abundance of Greater Amberjack in the South Atlantic and Gulf regions. The end date for the program is February 2026. A review is

being planned for the project. More information can be found at the [Greater Amberjack Research Program webpage.](#)

**Table 1.** Project schedules for South Atlantic species/complexes. Green boxes indicate projects have been scheduled through SEDAR, orange projects are tentatively scheduled through SEDAR but a formal schedule has not been developed, blue projects are future SEDAR requests, purple are update assessments that will not be scheduled through SEDAR, peach are projects being conducted outside of the SEDAR process. Bolded species are led by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission staff.

Year	2025				2026				2027				2028				2029			
Quarter	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
South Atlantic Tilefish		SSC																		
Red Snapper		DW		AW	AW	AW		SSC												
Blueline Tilefish		SSC																		
<b>Florida Hogfish</b>			DW	AW	AW	AW	RW	SSC												
Gag																				
King Mackerel																				
Black Sea Bass		SSC																		
Red Grouper																				
Snowy Grouper																				
Vermilion Snapper																				
Red Porgy																				
Greater Amberjack																				
Spanish Mackerel																				
Scamp																				
Tilefish																				
Blueline Tilefish																				
Dolphin MSE																				
<b>Black Grouper MSE</b>			Proj end																	
Snapper Grouper MSE																				
Shrimp Futures																				
South Atlantic EwE Model Update				Proj ect End																
South Atlantic Red Snapper Research Program				Revi ew																
Greater Amberjack Research Program					Proj ect End															

**Table 2.** SEDAR Projects Grid based on the outcome of the August 2025 SEDAR Steering Committee Meeting. Highlighted are the South Atlantic projects.

Table Color Legend:																		
Steering Committee Approved and SEFSC Scheduled Projects										FUTURE Requests								
Steering Committee Approved, PENDING SEFSC SCHEDULING										No SEDAR Involvement								
SEDAR SCHEDULE OVERVIEW- August 2025 SEDAR Steering Committee OUTCOME																		
	South Atlantic Team				Gulf Team						Caribbean Team		HMS Team		Florida FWCC		Commission	
Year	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	1	2	1	2	RW only	
2025	S90 Red Snapper Benchmark	S92 Blueline Tilefish OA	S90 Red Snapper Benchmark		S88 Red Grouper OA		S98 Red Snapper Benchmark	S96 Red Snapper Benchmark	S87 White, Pink, and Brown Shrimp Benchmark		S84 Yellowtail Snapper (PR & STT/STJ) and Stoplight Parrotfish (STX) Benchmark	S81 Spiny Lobster (all islands) Benchmark	S77OA Hammerhead Sharks		S96 YTS OA			
2026																		
					S98 King Mackerel	S100 Gray Triggerfish					S103 Application of Alternate Assessment Methods				S94 Hogfish			
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South Atlantic Team				
Year	1	2	3	4
2025		S92 Blueline Tilefish OA BSB (Update)	S90 Red Snapper Benchmark	
2026	S90 Red Snapper Benchmark	Gag Grouper (TWG)	S104 Dolphin MSE RW	
2027	Red Grouper (DW/Stock ID)	Snowy Update /TWG	Spanish Mack (TWG)	Vermilion Update
2028	Red Porgy (TWG)	GAJ (TWG)		
2029		Scamp	Tilefishes	