



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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

AGENDA

SECAD Committee

Drury Plaza Hotel North Charleston
2934 West Montague
North Charleston, SC 29418

Tuesday, September 15, 2026 10:45 AM – 3:30 PM

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes (March 2026)

March 2026 Committee Report

1. SEDAR Steering Committee July 2026 Meeting Report (*Attachment 1*)
 - a. Overview – Council Staff
 - b. **Committee Action:** Provide guidance to the SAFMC Representatives on the SEDAR Steering Committee.
2. Assessment Updates and SEDAR Schedule (*Attachment 2*)
 - a. Overview – Council Staff
 - b. **Committee Action:** Provide guidance on stock assessment schedule for 2028-2029 and propose stocks for assessment in 2030.
3. ABC Control Rule Stock Risk Ratings (*Attachments 3a and 3b*)
 - a. Overview – Judd Curtis
 - b. **Committee Action:** Approve stock risk ratings for selected species.
4. Terms of Reference for Upcoming Assessments (*Attachments 4a-4c*)
 - a. Overview – Judd Curtis
 - b. **Committee Action:** Approve Terms of Reference for upcoming scheduled assessments.
5. Standardized Bycatch Reduction Methodology (*Attachments 5a and 5b*)
 - a. Overview – Council Staff
 - b. **Committee Action:** Approve SBRM plan, outline, and timeline.
6. Southeast Reef Fish Survey and Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program Update (*Attachment 6a, 6b*)
 - a. Overview – SCDNR Staff
 - b. **Committee Action:** None.
7. 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 1. STC Meeting Summary July 2026
Attachment 2. Assessment Updates and SEDAR Schedule
Attachment 3a. ABC-CR Stock Risk Ratings Intro
Attachment 3b. Stock Risk Ratings
Attachment 4a. Terms of Reference for Red Grouper
Attachment 4b. Terms of Reference for Snowy Grouper
Attachment 4c. Terms of Reference for Vermilion Snapper
Attachment 5a. Standardized Bycatch Reduction Methodology Plan Outline
Attachment 5b. Dec 2021 Standardized Bycatch Reduction Methodology Review
Attachment 6a. SERFS/SEAMAP Presentation
Attachment 6b. SERFS/SEAMAP Trends Report 2025

Staff Lead: Judd Curtis (judd.curtis@safmc.net)

OVERVIEW

SECAD Committee

The Committee will approve the agenda for the September 2026 and minutes from the March 2026 Committee meeting.

1. SEDAR Steering Committee July 2026 Meeting Report (*Attachment 1*)

Description: The SEDAR Steering Committee (STC) convened via webinar on July 20, 2026. The Committee discussed current and ongoing SEDAR projects and reviewed various SEDAR processes and operating procedures. The meeting included a review of current projects, project status, and other administrative items. Staff will provide a summary of the meeting and relevant outcomes.

Committee Action: Provide guidance to the SAFMC Representatives on the SEDAR Steering Committee.

2. Assessment Updates and SEDAR Schedule (*Attachment 2*)

Description: Council staff will provide status updates on current and upcoming stock assessments and management strategy evaluation projects including timelines and key decision points. They will also review the current SEDAR schedule for South Atlantic stocks. Future requests for stock assessments have been made through 2029 – Red Porgy and Greater Amberjack are scheduled for 2028, and Tilefishes and Scamp scheduled for 2029. The Council should discuss the requests for 2028-2029 and propose stocks for 2030 to be considered for stock assessments.

Committee Action: Provide guidance on stock assessment schedule for 2028-2029 and propose stocks for assessment in 2030.

3. ABC Control Rule Stock Risk Ratings (*Attachments 3a and 3b*)

Description: The Acceptable Biological Catch Control Rule (ABC-CR) categorizes stocks based on the available information and scientific uncertainty evaluation and incorporates the Council's risk tolerance policy through an accepted probability of overfishing (P*). The Council will specify the P* based on the relative stock biomass output from an updated stock assessment and a stock risk rating that is developed using a variety of biological, social, economic, and environmental indicators. The stock risk rating matrix is compiled from SSC and Advisory Panel input based on available information from SEDAR stock assessment reports, commercial and recreational databases, fishery performance reports, and social and economic indicators. The scoring matrix recommendations from the SSC and AP are compiled and then presented to the Council for approval to inform the ABC. The Council will receive a refresher on the stock risk ratings process under the new ABC-CR and approve the stock risk rating metrics for Florida Hogfish (FLK/EFL), Black Grouper, and Gag Grouper.

Committee Action: Approve stock risk ratings for selected species.

4. Terms of Reference for Upcoming Assessments (*Attachments 4a-4c*)

Description: The upcoming SEDAR stock assessment schedule for South Atlantic species includes Red Grouper, Snowy Grouper, and Vermilion Snapper. Vermilion Snapper is being conducted internally by the NOAA Southeast Fishery Science Center. Snowy and

Red Grouper will be conducted through the SEDAR process. Snowy Grouper will include a Topical Working Group to integrate the South Atlantic Deepwater Longline Survey (SADL) as an index of abundance. Red Grouper will include a Stock Identification workshop followed by Data and Review Workshops. The SSC reviewed and made recommendations on the three Terms of Reference for the upcoming South Atlantic stock assessments during their August webinar meeting. Comments and recommendations have been integrated into the current drafts. Terms of Reference are drafted by SAFMC Staff using recommendations from the approved Statements of Work, SAFMC Research and Monitoring Plan, prior assessment panel recommendations, and SSC review of the prior stock assessment. The Council should review and provide additional edits or comments to the draft terms of reference before final approval and submittal to the Science Center.

Committee Action: Approve Terms of Reference for upcoming scheduled assessments.

5. Standardized Bycatch Reduction Methodology (*Attachments 5a and 5b*)

Description: The Council will receive a presentation on the planning, objectives, and timeline for the Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM) Review. SBRMs are required for every federal fishery management plan. A final rule requiring review of SBRMs every five years was published in February 2017, and the most recent SBRM review was completed in December 2021 (Attachment 5b). The SBRM document will be reviewed by the SSC during their October 2026 meeting and presented to the Council for final approval during the December 2026 Council meeting.

Committee Action: Approve SBRM plan, outline, and timeline.

6. Southeast Reef Fish Survey and Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program Update (*Attachments 6a and 6b*)

Description: The Southeast Reef Fish Survey (SERFS) annual trends report is intended to serve as an overview of catches and abundance trends of selected species from a collaborative fishery-independent survey using standardized gears. Abundance indices developed for this report are standardized to account for factors that may affect abundance and may have varied over the years such as temperature, depth of sampled stations, location, etc. This report presents a summary of the fishery-independent monitoring and analyses for 20 species in the region derived from chevron-video trap (CVT) catch data collected from 1990 through 2025 by the three monitoring programs (MARMAP, SEAMAP-SA, and SEFIS) involved in SERFS. Species distribution maps and annual length information of captured fish are also provided. Data presented in this report are based on a database maintained by SCDNR. The Council will receive an update on the sampling efforts and results of the SERFS sampling program through 2025.

Committee Action: None.

7. Other Business