



THE SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

SEDAR Revisions and Key Stocks

September 2024

PROPOSED SEDAR CHANGES

- Eliminate the Research Track approach
- Eliminate Assessment nomenclature and schedule “slots”
- Identify and prioritize “Key Stocks”
- Assess remaining (non-key) stocks with less intensive approaches



Current Scheduling & Slots

Steering Committee Approved and SEFSC Scheduled Projects										FUTURE Requests						
Steering Committee Approved, PENDING SEFSC SCHEDULING										2026 Preliminary Projects – To Be Finalized at the Summer 2024 Meeting						
SEDAR SCHEDULE OVERVIEW – March 2024 SEDAR Steering Committee Outcome																
YEAR	SA Team				Gulf Team					Caribbean Team		HMS Team		FL FWCC		Menhaden/ RW only
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	1	2			
2024		S82 Gray Triggerfish RT		S89 Tilefish OA	S88 Red Grouper OA	S87 White, Pink, and Brown Shrimp Benchmark			S87 White, Pink, and Brown Shrimp Benchmark	S84 Yellowtail Snapper (PR & STT/STJ) and Stoplight Parrotfish (STX) Benchmark				S79 Mutton Snapper Benchmark	S96 YTS OA	S93 ASMFC Red Drum (RW)
2025	S90 Red Snapper Benchmark	S95 Atlantic Migratory Cobia Benchmark	Dolphin MP RW	S90 Red Snapper Benchmark	King Mackerel		S98 Red Snapper Benchmark	S98 Red Snapper Benchmark			S91 Spiny Lobster (all islands) Benchmark	S77OA Hammerhead Sharks			Black Grouper MSE (24/25)	S97 GSMFC Menhaden OA
2026		Gag Grouper	Red Grouper –single stock continuity -External Peer Review			Gray Triggerfish			Gag Grouper	Hogfish? (PR) and Red Hind (USVI)		Bull and Sandbar Sharks		S94 Hogfish		
2027	Snowy Grouper	Vermilion	BSB	SA King Mackerel	Greater Amberjack		Tilefish Complex?	Gray Snapper								GSMFC Menhaden
2028	Red Porgy	Greater Amberjack	Spanish Mackerel				Vermilion					Dolphin/Wahoo (MP?)				ASMFC Menhaden
2029								Cobia, Lane, Spanish								
2030									Scamp							

Timing of projects shown in this table is approximate and is intended for SEDAR Steering Committee workload planning purposes only. Please consult individual project schedules for specific start and end dates.

South Atlantic Highlights

YEAR	<u>SA Team</u>			
	1	2	3	4
2024		S82 Gray Triggerfish RT		S89 Tilefish OA
		S95 Atlantic Migratory Cobia Benchmark	S92 Blueline Tilefish OA	
2025	S90 Red Snapper Benchmark	S95 Atlantic Migratory Cobia Benchmark	Dolphin MP RW	S90 Red Snapper Benchmark
2026		Gag Grouper	Red Grouper -single stock continuity -External Peer Review	
2027	Snowy Grouper	Vermilion	BSB	SA King Mackerel
2028	Red Porgy	Greater Amberjack	Spanish Mackerel	

- 4 “slots” per Year
 - Ideal, not always realized
 - 4 underway ≠ 4 completed
- Typical project timing
 - Research Track: 2y
 - Operational: .5 to 1y
 - Prior “Benchmark”: 1.5y
- Timing
 - Preliminary 3-5 yrs out
 - Request 3y out
 - Finalize 2y out
 - Finalize 2026 by mid-2024

Key Stocks (A2a)

- Key Stocks: Intent is to represent those stocks that ‘drive’ the fishery and provide a subset that can indicate conditions of the fishery and stocks in a larger complex (eg SG)
- Discussion going back to 2008 with identification of primary data collection stocks for age-based assessments
- Refined following the 2015 Tech Memo “Prioritizing Fish Stock Assessments”; “Key Stocks” coined to deal with the reality that not all SG stocks can be assessed

Criteria for proposed Key Stocks

- Stock is a level 1 priority for the Council
 - Age-based assessment desired
- Stock is assessed successfully
 - Stocks selected for assessment in the past are clear priorities given there has never been a surplus of assessment capability.
 - Some assessments have been attempted but not passed peer review or have not been operationalized.
 - GA-NC Hogfish, Black Grouper, Goliath
 - Gray Triggerfish
- Stock is overfished
 - Rebuilding plans need regular evaluation

Proposed Key Stocks

SEFSC Assessed (14)

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Black Sea Bass | 8. Red Porgy |
| 2. Blueline Tilefish | 9. Red Snapper |
| 3. Gag | 10. Scamp |
| 4. Golden Tilefish | 11. Snowy Grouper |
| 5. Greater Amberjack | 12. Spanish Mackerel |
| 6. King Mackerel | 13. Vermilion Snapper |
| 7. Red Grouper | 14. Dolphin |

FL FWC Assessed (5)

- | |
|-----------------------|
| 1. Black Grouper |
| 2. FLK/EFL Hogfish |
| 3. Mutton Snapper |
| 4. Yellowtail Snapper |
| 5. Spiny Lobster |

How Many Key Stocks can be Supported?

- More Stocks = More Time Between Assessments
- Age structure evaluation is a significant bottleneck; remains unclear how many age-based assessments can be supported on a regular and recurring basis as envisioned
- SEFSC Example (SEDAR Steering Committee July 2024 Attachment 3) included 14 stocks with 6 years between assessments, 2 completed per year initially, possibly increasing to 3 in later years
 - SSC provides ABC (projections) for 5y out
- Historic SEDAR planning has targeted around 12 primary stocks: 4 per year and 3y between assessments



SEFSC Key Stocks Fixed Scheduling

Preliminary SATL Calendar

	2024				2025				2026				2027				2028				2029				2030				2031				2032			
South Atlantic	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Tilefish	D*	A	R												UM										D	A	R									
Blueline Tilefish		D	D	A	R											UM											D	A	R							
Cobia			D	D	A	A	A	R									UM											D	A	A	R					
Red Snapper				D	D	D	A	A	A	A	R									UM								D	D	A	A	A	R			
Gray Triggerfish ★	A	R						D	D	A	A	R											UM									D	A	A		
King Mackerel										D	D	A	A	R												UM									D	
Snowy Grouper												D	A	A	R												UM									
Gag Grouper												D	D	A	A	R												UM								
Red Grouper														D	D	A	A	R												UM						
Red Porgy																	D	A	A	R											UM					
Greater Amberjack																		D	A	A	R											UM				
Vermilion																				D	A	A	R										UM			
Scamp																					D	A	A	R											UM	
Spanish Mackerel																						D	A	A	R											

SEDAR Steering Committee, July 2024, Attachment 3; ★To be replaced with Black Sea Bass

Again, how many Key Stocks?

Scenario	Assess/Year	Interval	Key Stocks
Historic3	4	3	12
Historic4	4	4	16
SEFSC proposal near term	2	6	12
SEFSC proposal, future	3	6(?)	UNK

Perspective, FMPs: 55 SG stocks, 2 DW stocks, 2 CMP stocks, 1 Golden Crab stock = 60 stocks total

Other FMPs not included – Coral, Sargassum, and Shrimp (4 species)

Council input

- Support identifying key stocks for regular assessment scheduling?
 - essentially doing this now to set schedule priorities without using the term
 - If so, what are the key stocks?
- Support fixed, long-term scheduling of key stocks?

Refining Key Stocks?

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Black Sea Bass | 8. Red Porgy |
| 2. Blueline Tilefish | 9. Red Snapper |
| 3. Gag | 10. Scamp |
| 4. Golden Tilefish | 11. Snowy Grouper |
| 5. Greater Amberjack | 12. Spanish Mackerel |
| 6. King Mackerel | 13. Vermilion Snapper |
| 7. Red Grouper | 14. Dolphin |

- Starting with 14 stocks
- Drop Dolphin from SEDAR (MSE underway)
 - 13
- Any others to consider dropping to get to 12?
 - Scamp, once rebuilt?
 - Blueline Tilefish – non-age model more compatible with stock-wide data?
- Others to be considered
 - Gray Triggerfish dropped from Operational in response to current workload concerns
 - Wreckfish
 - Other FMPs – shrimp, golden crab

Next Steps

- December 2024: Further discussion of SEDAR process
- Spring 2025: SEDAR Steering Committee, further discussion of process changes based on Council input
 - Revision of SAFMC proposed long term schedule
 - Addressing the “non key” stocks
- 2025 – SSC review of SEDAR process changes
- Finalize SEDAR process changes – TBD
- Transition scheduling - 2027