

SAFMC SEDAR Committee

SEDAR Activities Report

June 2020

South Atlantic Projects in Progress

SEDAR 66 South Atlantic Tilefish, Operational

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

Summary: The South Atlantic Tilefish operational assessment is in the beginning stages. The Terms of Reference (TORs) were approved by SAFMC in December 2017. The terminal year for data is 2018. The schedule was postponed due to concerns raised by the SSC about the MRIP numbers. The assessment is scheduled to restart with a data scoping webinar on April 27, 2020. An in-person workshop will be held November 17-19, 2020 in Beaufort NC. The assessment process will occur over a series of webinars from December 2020 to April 2021. The completion date is expected to be April 2021.

SEDAR 68: Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Scamp, Research Track (2 stocks)

SEDAR Contact: Julie A Neer

Summary: The Stock ID final report was released in March 2020, with the recommendation of moving forward with two assessment stocks, split at the current Council boundary between the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico. The terminal year for the Research Track assessment is 2017.

The Data Workshop was scheduled to be held March 16-20, 2020, but it was cancelled due to safety concerns regarding COVID-19. Discussions were held between SEDAR and SEFSC staff, and it was determined that the process would continue remotely (webinars, Google hangouts, MS Teams, etc.). The individual working groups have been meeting to review the available data and come up with pre-decisional recommendations. Those pre-decision recommendations were presented on a publicly-noticed Data Process Plenary Webinar held in April 2020, where the entire panel, as well as members of the public, were able to discuss them. The Assessment Development Team made final recommendations based on discussions during the plenary webinar. The need for additional work for some topics was identified on the webinar as well. A second plenary webinar will be held in May 2020.

It is unclear at this point how the delay in reviewing and finalizing data may impact the overall schedule moving forward. Currently, the assessment webinars are scheduled to be held between July and October 2020. The Review Workshop is tentatively scheduled for March 2021, with an operational assessment in late 2021, but that will depend on the progress of the assessment.

SEDAR 71 South Atlantic Gag Grouper, Operational

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

Summary: The South Atlantic Gag Grouper operational assessment is just getting started. The TORs were approved by the Council in December 2019. The terminal year for data for this assessment is 2019. The assessment begins with a data scoping call on May 12, 2020 and a data webinar in October 2020. The Assessment process will occur over a series of webinars from November 2020 to February 2021. The scheduled completion date is of March 2021.

SEDAR 36 South Atlantic Snowy Grouper, 2020 Update

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

Summary: The South Atlantic snowy Grouper update assessment is underway. The TORs were approved by the SAFMC in December 2018. The terminal year for data is 2018. The completion date is September 2020.

Upcoming South Atlantic Projects – Planning Underway

SEDAR 73 South Atlantic Red Snapper, Operational

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

Summary: The South Atlantic Red snapper operational assessment is in the planning stages. The TORS were reviewed by the SSC in April 2020.

SEDAR # South Atlantic Spanish Mackerel

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

Summary: The South Atlantic Spanish Mackerel operational assessment is in the planning stages. The TORs were reviewed by the SSC in April 2020.

SEDAR # South Atlantic Black Sea Bass

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

Summary: The South Atlantic Black Sea Bass operational assessment is in the planning stages. The TORs were reviewed by the SSC in April 2020.