

South Atlantic and Florida SEDAR Projects Summary
February 2024

SEDAR 79 Southeastern US Mutton Snapper, Benchmark

SEDAR Contact: Julie A. Neer

Summary: The Data Workshop for the SE US Mutton Snapper assessment was held August 21-25, 2023. Assessment webinars will be held from November 2023 to July 2024. The terminal year of data was originally 2022, but as the completion of the assessment has been delayed until September 2024 to allow time to consider the use of the SRFS in place of MRIP, the analytical team requested data be provided through 2023. It is unclear if all data sets will be able to provide the 2023 data.

SEDAR 86 South Atlantic Red Grouper, Benchmark Assessment

SEDAR Contact: Meisha Key

Summary: This assessment was originally assigned to be conducted as an Operational Assessment, which does not allow model changes. The SEFSC determined Red Grouper needs to be modeled as two stocks, so this assessment is currently on hold until it can be rescheduled as a Benchmark assessment.

SEDAR 82 South Atlantic Gray Triggerfish, Research Track

SEDAR Contact: Meisha Key

Summary: The Assessment process is complete, after a series of 9 webinars from March 2023 to January 2024. The Review Workshop is being held in Atlantic Beach, NC (DoubleTree) March 12-14, 2024. The completed assessment report will be available in May 2024.

SEDAR 89 South Atlantic Tilefish, Operational Assessment

SEDAR Contact: Meisha Key

Summary: A Life History Topical Working Group was developed for this assessment to address specific items in the terms of reference. This group held a series of webinars from November 2023–February 2024 to discuss and address these items. Findings from these webinars will be included in the final assessment report, which will be available in July 2024.

SEDAR 90 South Atlantic Red Snapper, Research Track Assessment

SEDAR Contact: Meisha Key

Summary: The schedule, terms of reference and list of participants were reviewed during the SSC webinar in February 2024 and have been sent to the Council for approval at their March 2024 meeting. The SSC supported this assessment be changed to a Benchmark assessment to allow the opportunity to provide management advice, which will also be discussed at the Councils March meeting.

The assessment is currently scheduled to begin in November 2024 and to be completed in November 2026. The process includes a data workshop to be held in April 2025, a series

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of assessment webinars from September 2025–April 2026, and a review workshop to be held in September 2026. Additionally, there is an integration plan to evaluate and consider using SARSRP data in this assessment.

SEDAR 92 Atlantic Blueline Tilefish, Operational Assessment

SEDAR Contact: Meisha Key

Summary: A Landings Stream Topical Working Group was developed for this assessment. There will be a series of webinars from April–July 2024 and the assessment should be completed in November 2024.

SEDAR 93 Atlantic Red Drum, Benchmark (Review Workshop only)

SEDAR Contact: Meisha Key

Summary: The ASMFC is the lead for this assessment, with SEDRA only providing logistical support for the Review Workshop. The schedule and terms of reference for the review workshop have been approved. The review will be held August 12-16, 2024. The assessment should be completed in October 2024.

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. The Terms of Reference have been approved by the Gulf and South Atlantic Councils, and some participants have been appointed. SEDAR will work with the Florida assessment team to revise the Project Schedule to accommodate this shift in timing. Once an updated schedule is developed, SEDAR will work with the appropriate Councils to update and finalize participants.

SEDAR 95 Atlantic Cobia, Benchmark

SEDAR Contact: Meisha Key

Summary: The terms of reference and schedule have been approved. Data scoping is scheduled for March 18, 2024. There will be a series of Data Webinars from June–August 2024 and Assessment Webinars from April–September 2025. The review workshop is scheduled for October 2025 and the assessment will be completed in November 2025.

SEDAR 96 Florida Yellowtail Snapper, Operational Assessment

SEDAR Contact: Julie A. Neer

Summary: The Gulf and South Atlantic Councils requested that an operational assessment for yellowtail snapper be conducted as soon as possible once the information regarding the possible bias in the MRIP landings was reported. The Florida State Reef

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Fish Survey (SRFS) may provide more useful recreational landings estimates and the Councils wanted to explore the option through an updated assessment. Requests to approve the Terms of Reference and appoint participants were sent to both Councils in February 2024. The assessment is schedule to have one Topical Working Group to review recreational catch information. Webinars will be held May – September 2024. The assessment is scheduled to be completed in late 2024.