

SAFMC SEDAR Projects

March 2023

This update includes information for stocks managed by the SAFMC. To see the full list of SEDAR projects, please visit [SEDAR's website](#).

Ongoing Projects

SEDAR 79 Southeastern US Mutton Snapper, Benchmark

SEDAR Contact: Julie A. Neer

Summary: The Benchmark assessment for SE US Mutton Snapper is underway. The terminal year of data for the assessment will be 2020. Data Scoping was held August 2021, with a Data Workshop scheduled for January 31-February 4, 2022. Due to ongoing uncertainties surrounding COVID-19, and the request from the SAFMC and GMFMC to prioritize a Yellowtail Snapper update, the early 2022 Data Workshop was postponed.

The State of Florida has decided to halt the work on SEDAR 79 SE US Mutton Snapper for 2022. The plan is to begin the assessment in 2023, with a Data workshop to be held in August 2023. The rationale is that the delay will allow the Terminal Year of the assessment to be 2022, instead of 2020, and to all time for the SRFS Transition discussions to be completed so that data may be considered for the assessment.

SEDAR 76 South Atlantic Black Sea Bass, Operational Assessment

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

Summary: The Terms of Reference for the South Atlantic Black Sea Bass Operational Assessment were approved by the SAFMC in June 2020. The original Project Schedule and participants list were approved by the SAFMC in September 2020. Due to a delay brought on by Covid-19, the schedule was adjusted to start data scoping in May 2022. The updated schedule was reviewed by the SAFMC in March 2021. The terminal year of data is 2020. The Assessment process will occur over a series of webinars May 2022 through February 2023. The scheduled completion date is March 2023 and will be presented to the SSC in April and Council in June.

SEDAR 82 South Atlantic Gray Triggerfish, Research Track

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

Summary: Planning for the South Atlantic Gray Triggerfish Research Track Assessment is currently underway. The planning team convened 4 times between May – October 2021. The Project Schedule, Terms of Reference, and participant list went to the SAFMC for final approval in December 2021. The Data process had a series of webinars from May 2022 to January 2023 with an in-person workshop September 19-23, 2022. The Assessment process is scheduled to be a series of webinars from March 2023 to September 2023. The review workshop is scheduled for October 2023. The assessment is scheduled to be completed in December 2023.

SEDAR 86 South Atlantic Red Grouper, Operational Assessment

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

Summary: The South Atlantic Red Grouper Operational Assessment is currently underway. The draft Terms of Reference and schedule were approved by the SAFMC in December 2021. No Topical Working Groups are being organized for this assessment. The assessment is scheduled to be completed in December 2023.

Future Projects

SEDAR 92 Atlantic Blueline Tilefish, Operational Assessment

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

Summary: Planning for the 2024 Atlantic Blueline Tilefish Operational Assessment is currently underway. The assessment was originally scheduled for 2022 however, in October 2020 the SEDAR Steering Committee requested that the assessment be postponed until 2024 to allow for the terminal year of 2022. The draft Terms of Reference were reviewed by the SSC for approval in April 2022 and will go to the SAFMC for approval in December 2022. Terms of reference and participants are being considered at the March 2023 SAFMC Meeting.

SEDAR 89 Tilefish, Operational Assessment

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

Summary: Planning for the 2024 South Atlantic Tilefish Operational Assessment is currently underway. A scope of work was provided to the NMFS in 2021 and no changes were recommended. Terms of reference and participants are being considered at the March 2023 SAFMC Meeting.

SEDAR ## Red Snapper, Research Track Assessment

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

Summary: Planning for the 2024 South Atlantic Red Snapper Operational Assessment is currently underway. A planning team has started to meet to develop terms of reference for the assessment.

Other Assessment Related Analysis Items

SEDAR 78 South Atlantic Spanish Mackerel, Operational Assessment

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

Summary: The Terms of Reference and Project Schedule were approved in September 2020. The terminal year for the assessment is 2020. Data scoping was held in June 2021. The Assessment process occurred over a series of webinars held November 2021 through March 2022. The scheduled completion date was April 2022. After a request from the lead analyst, the completion date was delayed to May 2022. The Operational Assessment of South Atlantic Spanish Mackerel was presented to the SSC in August 2022; however, additional modifications have been requested. The SSC provided a list

of additional analyses including: using a more contemporary natural mortality estimate, a different distribution for natural mortality, sensitivity to the 2020 MRIP data point, and using recent average recruitment instead of model-derived stock-recruitment relationship. Additional analyses are expected to be presented to the SSC at their April 2023 meeting.

SEDAR 68 OA, Atlantic Scamp and Yellowmouth, Operational Assessment

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

Summary: The Atlantic Scamp Operational Assessment is underway. The Terms of Reference and Schedule were approved by the SAFMC in December 2021. The Assessment was reviewed by the SSC at their January 2023 Webinar. Staff has requested additional analyses for a base run with the F_{MSY} proxy set at F30% Spawner per recruit and guidance to develop T_{min} for the Scamp/Yellowmouth Complex. Additional analyses are expected for the SSC's April 2023 meeting.

South Atlantic Vermilion Snapper, Interim Analysis

Summary: The Terms of Reference and Schedule for an Operational Assessment were approved by the SAFMC in December 2021. The Assessment was scheduled to be completed in September 2023. The terminal year for the previous assessment was 2016. At the May 2022 SEDAR Steering Committee Meeting, the assessment was recommended to be changed to an interim analysis with updated indices.

SEDAR Procedural Workshop 8, Fishery Independent Index Development Under Changing Survey Design

SEDAR Contact: Julie Neer

Summary: SEDAR Procedural Workshop 8 was convened to improve the quality of fishery-independent data inputs and streamline future stock assessments by defining best practices for generating indices of relative abundance and size composition that incorporate data from multiple surveys and/or account for survey changes through time. A series of webinars have been held starting in May 2021 with additional meetings occurring through October 2022. An in-person workshop was held November 2-4, 2022, in Tampa, Florida. The findings of the workshop panel is scheduled to be available May 2023.