

Projects/Species For 2026 SEDAR Slots

At the May 2023 SEDAR Steering Committee (STC) Meeting, the STC will be discussing species/project to develop scopes of work in the fall of 2023. Below is list of staff recommendations for the 2026 schedule. **Table 1** provides a draft of SEDAR Assessments for SAFMC managed species out to 2028. **Table 2** provides the SAFMC Assessment Priorities list from the SAFMC Research and Monitoring Plan.

Staff Recommendations:

Snowy Grouper Operational Assessment - The SAFMC had Snowy Grouper to be reassessed in 2025 to track changes in abundance since the stock is overfished and overfishing was occurring. However to accommodate, ASMFC reassessing Atlantic Cobia, the Snowy Grouper Operational Assessment had to moved back one year. The terminal year of the last assessment was 2018.

Greater Amberjack Research Track Assessment – The Greater Amberjack Research Project will be completed by 2025 and data should be available for use in 2026. Much of the data from the project will be new for Greater Amberjack and a Research Track Assessment is recommended. Although the recent stock assessment indicated the stock is sustainable, some stakeholders have indicated the population is declining. The terminal year for the last stock assessment was 2017.

Dolphin Management Procedure/Management Strategy Evaluation – A management strategy evaluation (MSE) is being conducted currently for Dolphin. MSEs have not been used in the South Atlantic to develop catch level recommendations. Staff are recommending SEDAR be used to review inputs and conclusions from the management procedure. Dolphin are currently using third highest to set catch level recommendations and some stakeholders have indicated the stock needs a more robust method to set catch levels.

Placeholder

Spanish Mackerel Research Track Assessment – The Scientific and Statistical Committee requested additional analyses be conducted for Spanish Mackerel; however, it is not known if the analyses will be sufficient for the SSC to approve the assessment for use in management. If the SSC does not accept the assessment for use in management, which assessment/project from the list above should be replaced with Spanish Mackerel? The terminal year of the current assessment being reviewed was 2019 but the terminal year for the previous assessment was 2011.

Table 1. SEDAR Project Planning Grid – February 2023 Steering Committee Discussion

Green – Approved by STC and SEFSC Scheduled Project
 Orange – Approved by STC and SEFSC Tentatively Scheduled
 Yellow – 2025 Preliminary Projects – to be Finalized at Spring 2023 Meeting
 Blue – Future Requests

| Year | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | CMP | FL FWCC |
|------|----------------|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2022 | Scamp OA | | | | | Mutton Snapper Benchmark |
| 2023 | | Gray Triggerfish RT | Black Sea Bass OA | Red Grouper OA | | |
| 2024 | | Gray Triggerfish OA | Tilefish OA | Blueline Tilefish OA | | Hogfish Benchmark |
| 2025 | Red Snapper RT | | Atlantic Cobia OA | Red Porgy OA | King Mackerel OA (Gulf and SA) | |
| 2026 | | Gag Grouper OA | | | | Black Grouper Benchmark? |
| | | Greater Amberjack RT | Snowy Grouper OA | Dolphin MP/MSE | | |
| 2027 | Red Snapper OA | | | | | |
| 2028 | Vermilion OA | Greater Amberjack OA | White Grunt RT | | | |
| | | | | | | |

Table 2. SAFMC Assessment Priorities. Years are anticipated start years. **Bold** indicates approved by SEDAR Steering Committee, finalized at Spring 2023 Meeting, or ongoing. Blue indicates proposed for 2026.

| Stock | Level** | Current or Upcoming Assessment; Previous Assessment (S#) and Terminal Year (TY) |
|--------------------|---------|---|
| Black Grouper | 1 | 2017 Benchmark attempt, data issues with Gag |
| Black Sea Bass | 1 | S76 2023 Operational – ongoing; S56 TY - 2016 |
| Blueline Tilefish | 1 | S92 2024 Operational; S50 TY - 2015 |
| Dolphin | 1 | MSE is in development and 2026 review for setting catch levels |
| FLK/EFL Hogfish | 1 | 2024 FWC Benchmark; S37 TY - 2012 |
| Gag | 1 | 2025 Operational; S71 TY - 2019 |
| GA-NC Hogfish | 1 | 2014 Benchmark (failed review), Data issues limit future assessment |
| golden Tilefish | 1 | 2024 Operational; S66 TY - 2018 |
| Gray Triggerfish | 1 | 2022/23 Research Track - ongoing |
| Greater Amberjack | 1 | 2026 Research Track Assessment; S59 TY - 2016 |
| King Mackerel | 1 | 2025 Operational; S38 Update TY – 17/18 |
| Mutton Snapper | 1 | 2022/2023 FWC Benchmark; S15A Update TY - 2011 |
| Red Grouper | 1 | 2023 Operational; S53 TY - 2015 |
| Red Porgy | 1 | 2025 Standard; S60 TY - 2017 |
| Red Snapper | 1 | 2025 Research Track; S73 TY - 2019 |
| Scamp | 1 | S68 TY – 2021 – Additional Analyses Requested |
| Snowy Grouper | 1 | 2026 Operational; S36 Update TY - 2018 |
| Spanish Mackerel | 1 | S78 TY - 2020 – Additional Analyses Requested; S28 TY - 2011 |
| Spiny Lobster | 1 | not scheduled at this time |
| Vermilion Snapper | 1 | 2023 Interim Analysis; S55 TY - 2016 |
| White Grunt | 1 | 2027/28 Research Track candidate; stock ID concern |
| Yellowtail Snapper | 1 | S64 TY – 2017 / 2022 Interim Analysis TY - 2020 |
| Almaco Jack | 2 | not scheduled at this time, ID issues with Greater Amberjack |
| Atlantic Spadefish | 2 | not scheduled at this time |
| Banded Rudderfish | 2 | not scheduled at this time |
| Bar Jack | 2 | not scheduled at this time |

SEDAR Committee
A4 Project/Species for 2026 SEDAR Slots

| | | |
|-----------------|---|------------------------------------|
| Knobbed Porgy | 2 | not scheduled at this time |
| Lane Snapper | 2 | not scheduled at this time |
| Red Hind | 2 | not scheduled at this time |
| Silk Snapper | 2 | not scheduled at this time |
| Tomtate | 2 | not scheduled at this time |
| Wahoo | 2 | not scheduled at this time |
| Penaeid Shrimp | 2 | not scheduled at this time |
| Golden Crab | 3 | not scheduled at this time |
| Goliath Grouper | 3 | 2016 attempt, multiple data issues |
| Nassau Grouper | 3 | not scheduled at this time |
| Speckled Hind | 3 | not scheduled at this time |
| Warsaw Grouper | 3 | not scheduled at this time |
| Wreckfish | 3 | 2014 industry funded assessment |

Level 1: High data collection priority, age-based assessment goal

Level 2: High data collection priority, data limited or non age-based assessment goal

Level 3: Management actions or biological traits impede typical assessment approaches