



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Carolyn N. Belcher, Ph.D., Chair | Trish Murphey, Vice-Chair
John Carmichael, Executive Director

AGENDA

SEDAR Committee (**Partially Closed**)

Villas by the Sea Resort
1175 N. Beachview Drive
Jekyll Island, GA

Tuesday, March 5, 2024 **10:00 am to Noon (Times subject to change)**

Open Session:

Adoption of agenda

Approval of minutes (December 2023)

- Update on SEDAR 89 (Tilefish) and 92 (Blueline Tilefish)
- 1. Terms of Reference for SEDAR 90 (Red Snapper) and SEDAR 96 (Yellowtail Snapper) (***Attachments 1a-1c***)
 - a. Overview
 - b. **Committee Action:** Approve Terms of Reference for upcoming stock assessments
- 2. SEDAR Projects Update (***Attachment 2***)
 - a. Overview
 - b. **Committee Action:** None
- 3. Review of Statements of Work for 2026 Species (***Attachments 3a and 3b***)
 - a. Overview
 - b. **Committee Action:** None
- 4. Review of 2027 Species for SEDAR Assessment Slots (***Attachment 4***)
 - a. Overview
 - b. **Committee Action:** Review current list of species and change recommendations as necessary

Closed Session:

- 5. System Management Plan Workgroup and SEDAR appointments

Open Session Attachments:

Attachment 1a: TOR SEDAR 90 Red Snapper Research Track

Attachment 1b: TOR SEDAR 90 Red Snapper Benchmark Assessment

Attachment 1c: TOR 96 Yellowtail Snapper Operational Assessment

Attachment 2: SEDAR Projects Update

Attachment 3a: 2026 Statements of Work Submitted

Attachment 3b: Comments by SEFSC on 2026 Statements of Work

Attachment 4: 2027 Projects for SEDAR Assessments Slots

Staff Lead: Chip Collier (chip.collier@safmc.net)

OVERVIEW

SEDAR Committee (Open Session)

Update on SEDAR 89 (Tilefish) and SEDAR 92 (Blueline Tilefish) (*No Attachment*)

Description: The Committee was briefed in December 2023 that the Scientific and Statistical Committee did not recommend the use of the South Atlantic Deepwater Longline Survey results until 5 years of data would be available (available for use in 2026). The Committee wanted more information to determine if the assessments should be paused until the survey could be incorporated into the operational assessments. The Center is gathering data for the assessments and will provide an update after the data deadlines: April 2024 for SEDAR 89 and August 2024 for SEDAR 92.

Required Council Action: No action is required.

1. Terms of Reference for SEDAR 90 (Red Snapper) and SEDAR 96 (Yellowtail Snapper) (*Attachments 1a-1c*)

Description: Upcoming assessments for Red Snapper (SEDAR 90) and Yellowtail Snapper (SEDAR 96) are in the final approval stages before the assessments start. Terms of Reference are basically a contract to ensure certain topics are addressed in the assessment will include the needed information for review and subsequent management advice (not Research Track Assessments). The Committee will review the terms of reference for the assessments. For SEDAR 90, currently planned as a Research Track Assessment, the Committee is asked to consider if they would prefer to have the assessment changed to a Benchmark Assessment. Staff will review the differences between the assessment types and potential changes to the terms of reference.

Required Council Action: Provide guidance on the assessment type for Red Snapper and approve terms of reference for SEDAR 90 and 96.

2. SEDAR Projects Update (*Attachment 2*)

Description: Council staff will provide an update on ongoing South Atlantic SEDAR projects and SEDAR projects in the planning stages.

Required Council Action: No action is required.

3. Statements of Work for 2026 SEDAR Projects (*Attachments 3a and 3b*)

Description: Statements of work for 2026 SEDAR Projects were submitted to the Center October 1, 2023. The Center has provided a response letter indicating no significant changes to the statements of work.

Required Council Action: No action is required.

4. SEDAR Projects for 2027 (*Attachment 4*)

Description: In December 2023, the Committee requested another opportunity to review project slots for 2027. The Committee had recommended adding a Red Porgy Operational Assessment, a follow-up Operational Assessment for Red Snapper, and a Benchmark Assessment for Greater Amberjack. The Committee wanted to review the schedule again to consider the impact of SEDAR 89 and SEDAR 92 to 2026 or 2027. The Scientific and Statistical Committee reviewed projections for Black Sea Bass in February 2024 and recommended a next assessment in 2026 or 2027. Additionally, if the Red Snapper

Assessment is changed to a benchmark assessment, then a different species may be considered to fill the 2027 slot. However, it should be expected that if the Red Snapper Assessment is changed to a benchmark assessment, more time may be needed to incorporate data from the South Atlantic Red Snapper Research Project into the assessment.

Required Council Action: Provide guidance on species for assessments in 2027.