



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Trish Murphey, Chair | Jessica McCawley, Vice Chair
John Carmichael, Executive Director

AGENDA SEDAR Committee

Villas by the Sea
1175 Beachview Drive
Jekyll Island, GA 31527

Thursday, March 6, 2025, 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm (Times are subject to change)

Approve Agenda

Approve minutes (December 2024)

1. SEDAR Steering Committee Update (*Attachment 1*)
 - a. Overview – Chip Collier
 - b. **Committee Action:** No action is needed.
2. Statements of Work for 2027 Stocks (*Attachment 2*)
 - a. Overview – Chip Collier
 - b. **Committee Action:** Review and revise the statements of work and recommend proceeding with negotiations with the Southeast Fishery Science Center (SEFSC) and review by Scientific and Statistical Committee.

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3. Identifying Key Stocks (*Attachments 3a and 3b*)
 - a. Overview – Chip Collier
 - b. NMFS SEDAR Process Changes – Shannon Cass-Calay, SEFSC
 - c. Identifying Key Stocks – Chip Collier
 - d. **Committee Action:** Provide recommendations for key stocks.
4. Committee Charge and Name Modification (*Attachment 4*)
 - a. Overview – Chip Collier
 - b. **Committee Action:** Describe a charge for the Committee and rename.

Other Business

Adjourn

Committee Members

Trish Murphey, Chair
Jessica McCawley, Vice Chair
Robert Beal
Dr. Carolyn Belcher
Amy Dukes
Tim Griner
Jimmy Hull
Kerry Marhefka
Charlie Phillips
Andy Strelcheck

Attachments:

Attachment 1: SEDAR Steering Committee Overview
Attachment 2: Statements of Work for 2027 Stocks
Attachment 3a: SEDAR Process Changes
Attachment 3b: Identifying Key Stocks
Attachment 4: Committee Charge and Name Change

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

OVERVIEW

SEDAR Committee

The Committee will approve the December 2024 minutes and the agenda for the March 2025 meeting.

1. SEDAR Steering Committee Overview (*Attachment 1*)

Description: The SEDAR Steering Committee (STC) convened in Charleston, SC, on February 4-5 to discuss revisions to the assessment process and outline the stock assessment schedule for the years 2026 through 2029. The key outcomes of the meeting included developing procedures for stock assessments with varying levels of involvement, replacing assessment panels with a working group to discuss issues and help assessment development, as needed, and adjusting the South Atlantic assessment timetable to align with existing resources. A Black Sea Bass update assessment is expected in April 2025 and assessments for King Mackerel and Gag will start in 2026.

Committee Action: No action is necessary.

2. Statements of Work for 2027 Stocks (*Attachment 2*)

Description: Stocks scheduled to start in 2027 include Red Grouper, Snowy Grouper, and Vermilion Snapper. Red Grouper is currently under a rebuilding plan, but there is a recommendation to develop a stock assessment(s) based on recent work describing the potential for two stocks in the South Atlantic region. The new Red Grouper assessment will need a continuity run to inform the Council on the progress of the rebuilding plan, as well as a two-stock model or two separate models depending on data availability. To accommodate this process, a data workshop with stock identification will be needed. The Snowy Grouper assessment will be updated with recent landings, age, length, and index data and include a topical working group to incorporate the South Atlantic Deepwater Longline Survey (SADLS) into the assessment. The assessment for Vermilion Snapper will be updated with more recent landings, age, length, and index data.

Committee Action: Review and revise the statements of work and recommend proceeding with negotiations with the Southeast Fishery Science Center (SEFSC) and review by Scientific and Statistical Committee.

3. Identifying Key Stocks (*Attachments 3a and 3b*)

Description: At the December 2024 Committee meeting, the Committee requested additional information on how different types of assessments, analyses, or control rules could be used to provide the basis for setting catch limits. The SEFSC developed a presentation on the changes to the SEDAR process that will be used for future stock assessments (Attachment 3a). Staff continued to develop a document to help the Committee select key stocks (Attachment 3b). However, more work is needed to better describe how species not assessed through SEDAR will receive updated catch advice.

Committee Action: Provide guidance on which species should be assessed through SEDAR as key stocks and the frequency of these assessments.

4. Committee Charge and Name Modification (*Attachment 4*)

Description: At the December 2024 meeting, the Committee requested a change in the charge for the SEDAR Committee to expand so that the Committee could be better informed on process and schedule for assessments, analyses, or control rules to update catch for South Atlantic managed stocks. Staff developed a list of assessments, analyses, or control rules for how catch levels could be developed and a brief description of the methods or processes. Staff also included a list of potential names to consider for the Committee to reflect its change in charge.

Committee Action: Describe a charge for the Committee and rename

Other Business

Adjourn