

FINAL
SUMMARY REPORT
SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
MARCH 4, 2024

SEDAR Committee
(Open Session)

The Council approved the agenda for the meeting and the minutes from December 2023.

Update on SEDAR 89 (Tilefish) and SEDAR 92 (Blueline Tilefish)

Staff updated the Committee on SEDAR 89 and 92. Data will be reviewed after data scoping has been completed. Staff will brief the Committee when more information becomes available.

Terms of Reference for SEDAR 90 (Red Snapper) and SEDAR 96 (Yellowtail Snapper)

Staff presented the terms of reference for SEDAR 90 as a Research Track Assessment and described how the terms of reference would need to change for a Benchmark Assessment. The Committee discussed the pros and cons of changing the Research Track Assessment to a Benchmark Assessment. The Committee recommended changing SEDAR 90 to a Benchmark Assessment. Staff will bring a revised terms of reference back to the Committee in June 2024 for a Benchmark Assessment that will include recommended changes for the Research Track Assessment Terms of Reference.

MOTION 1: CHANGE SEDAR 90 TO A BENCHMARK ASSESSMENT.
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Staff then presented the Terms of Reference for SEDAR 96 Operational Assessment. This assessment will include a topical working group to explore the Florida State Reef Fish Survey to inform private recreational landings for Yellowtail Snapper. The Committee approved the Terms of Reference.

MOTION 2: APPROVE SEDAR 96 TERMS OF REFERENCE
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

SEDAR Projects Update

Staff provided an update on ongoing South Atlantic and Florida SEDAR projects and SEDAR projects in the planning stages.

Statements of Work for 2026 SEDAR Projects

Statements of Work for Gag, King Mackerel, and Snowy Grouper were submitted to NMFS for 2026 SEDAR Project slots. The agency did not have any recommended changes but did advise the Council that

- The Snowy Grouper Operational Assessment would benefit from the inclusion of the South Atlantic Deepwater Longline Survey which may result in starting the assessment late in 2026
- MRIP FES study may result in delays for Gag and King Mackerel
- King Mackerel would be changed from Stock Synthesis to the Beaufort Assessment Model

The Committee discussed the need to continue to move forward with these assessments and the King Mackerel Assessment may need a bridging exercise to demonstrate the change of assessment model is not resulting in changes in assessment findings.

SEDAR Projects for 2027

The Committee was briefed on the proposed SEDAR projects for 2027. Due to changing Red Snapper to a Benchmark Assessment, an assessment for Black Sea Bass may be possible in 2027. However, the Red Snapper Benchmark Assessment will consider several new data sources including the South Atlantic Red Snapper Research Project. This may result in taking additional time to complete the assessment. The current SEDAR projects for 2027 are Greater Amberjack (benchmark), Red Porgy (operational), and Black Sea Bass (operational, time permitting).

The Council recommends a Black Sea Bass Interim Analysis in 2025.

SEDAR Committee

(Closed Session)

During the closed session, the committee reviewed participants for SEDAR 90 and 96. Due to the changing of SEDAR 90 to a benchmark assessment, the Committee will approve participants in June 2024. The Committee recommended reaching out to the SEDAR Pool and Advisory Panel members to recruit participants for SEDAR 90.

The Committee recommended Jim Gartland, Kai Lorenzen, Steve Turner, Bev Sauls and Tiffany Cross to the topical working group for SEDAR 96.

**MOTION 1: APPOINT JIM GARTLAND, KAI LORENZEN, STEVE TURNER, BEV SAULS AND TIFFANY CROSS TO THE TOPICAL WORKING GROUP FOR SEDAR 96.
APPROVED BY COUNCIL**

The Committee also reviewed participants in the System Management Plan Workgroup. There has been turnover in some of the state seats. The Committee recommended Garland Yopp to replace Jason Walker, Jess Keller to replace Alejandro Acosta, and Ryan Yaden to replace Bob

Martore to the system management plan workgroup. The Committee recommended filing empty seats for the commercial South Carolina seat and coral biologist in June 2024.

MOTION 2: APPOINT GARLAND YOPP, JESS KELLER, AND RYAN YADEN TO THE SYSTEM MANAGEMENT PLAN WORKGROUP.
APPROVED BY COUNCIL