

FINAL
SUMMARY REPORT
SEDAR COMMITTEE
SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
March 2025

The Committee approved minutes from the December 2024 meeting and the agenda.

SEDAR Steering Committee Update

Council Staff provided an update on the SEDAR Steering Committee meeting held in February 2025. The Committee was briefed on the changes to the SEDAR schedule for species managed by the Council. Due to an analyst leaving the Southeast Fishery Science Center (SEFSC) and a hiring freeze, there is a reduced number of staff available for future stock assessments. As a result, the Red Grouper assessment, originally requested for 2026, was moved 2027. New stock assessments added to the schedule included an update assessment for Black Sea Bass Update in 2025 and a King Mackerel assessment in 2026. Changes to the SEDAR process were provided under the Key Stocks presentation.

Statements of Work for 2027 Stocks

The Committee discussed statements of work for 2027 stocks. They recommended moving forward with a stock assessment for Red Grouper that had a data workshop with stock identification. They also recommended a stock assessment for Snowy Grouper with a workgroup to help incorporate the South Atlantic Deepwater Longline Survey. In both cases, the Committee recommended including a request for a range of the spawning potential ratio and separating catch by sector before removing discards. They requested additional time to consider a third species for consideration.

Key Stocks

Dr. Shannon Cass-Calay, SEFSC, gave a presentation on modifications to the SEDAR Process. She explained the timeline for stock assessments had expanded under the Research Track Process, and the South Atlantic and Gulf Councils wanted more timely assessments. More timely assessments would be accomplished by having the SEFSC control scheduling during the assessment phase of the process. During this phase, the analysts could ask questions to a Council approved technical workgroup, if needed. Additionally, the analyst could provide updates on assessment progress to the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and request input on certain issues identified during assessment development. The Committee supported the revised process but wanted to get feedback from the SSC before approving the new process. Due to these changes in the process, the Committee was told the Key Stocks did not need to be selected.

Committee Charge and Name Modification

The Committee revised the charge for the SEDAR Committee to encompass the review of schedules and terms of reference for various methods to develop catch advice or assess stocks. The Committee added data collection into the charge, which will be beneficial for discussions related to data collection such as Standard Bycatch Reporting Methodology review. The Committee changed the name to the Data, Assessment, and Catch Advice Committee (DACA).