

**FINAL
SUMMARY REPORT
SEDAR COMMITTEE
SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
March 2026**

The Committee approved the agenda for the March 2026 meeting and minutes from the September 2025 meeting.

SEDAR Steering Committee Meeting Updates

The SEDAR Steering Committee (STC) convened in Charleston, SC, on February 11-12. The focus of this meeting was to review the SEDAR standard operating policies and procedures (SOPPs) and to revise the SEDAR Project Schedule based on available resources and impacts from the 2025 government shutdown. The SEDAR Committee received an update on topics discussed at the STC meeting and the impacts of the 2025 Government shutdown on the SEDAR schedule for ongoing assessments.

SEDAR Process Updates

The SEDAR Committee received a preview of several assessment infographics and visual materials that have been developed to aid in detailing the various components of the stock assessment process, the timelines associated with assessment development, and spreadsheets for tracking the status of assessment components. The Committee expressed its gratitude for the provision of these products and suggested that these visual infographics be incorporated into the Council member information binders once materials have been finalized.

Scopes of Work for Upcoming Assessments

Council staff presented the scopes of work for the upcoming assessments of Black Sea Bass and Vermilion Snapper, which included a list of scientific uncertainties identified from the previous assessment review and a preliminary timeline for completion of the next assessments.

The next Black Sea Bass assessment will be conducted internally by the Southeast Fishery Science Center (SEFSC). Terms of reference for this assessment will be reviewed by the SSC in April, with final approval using an expedited process through the Council Chair, Vice-Chair, and Snapper-Grouper Committee Chair. Assuming completion of the MRIP-FES calibrations by August 31, the final assessment report will be submitted to the Cooperator by November 1. A review of this assessment will be conducted by an SSC subgroup prior to full SSC review and setting catch level recommendations that will be provided to the Council in March 2027.

The Vermilion Snapper assessment will also be conducted internally by the SEFSC. Terms of reference for this assessment will be reviewed by the SSC in April and presented to the Council for approval during the next SEDAR committee meeting in September. The assessment is scheduled to begin in Fall 2027. The Committee recommended utilizing an SSC check-in on assessment development before final review by the SSC and setting catch level recommendations that will be provided to the Council in June 2028.

Terms of Reference for Upcoming Assessments

Council staff presented the terms of reference for the upcoming assessments of Atlantic Spanish Mackerel, South Atlantic King Mackerel, and the Dolphin Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) Review Workshop. The Committee made the following minor revisions to the terms of reference for these assessments:

- South Atlantic King Mackerel, TOR#3d: *Explore the inclusion of FISHstory data, including length compositions, where feasible.*
- Dolphin MSE, TOR#1: Evaluate the types and ranges of uncertainty used in the MSE. Explicitly consider uncertainty in data, life history, process error, nonstationarity (*i.e., environmental variability and oceanographic changes*), and if appropriate, fishery dynamics.

The Committee then made the following motion:

MOTION 1: APPROVE THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE ATLANTIC SPANISH MACKEREL STOCK ASSESSMENT, THE SOUTH ATLANTIC KING MACKEREL STOCK ASSESSMENT, AND THE DOLPHIN MSE REVIEW WORKSHOP. ALLOW THE COMMITTEE CHAIR TO APPROVE ANY SUBSEQUENT EDITS RECOMMENDED BY THE COMMITTEE.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

SEDAR Committee Scope and Name Change

The Committee reviewed the new scope of the SEDAR Committee to encompass the variety of analytical products being used to produce management advice (e.g., SEDAR stock assessments, MSE, Management Procedures, SEFSC internally led assessments, etc.). The Committee discussed new name options to reflect this re-envisioned role in the expanded process and passed the following motion:

MOTION 2: APPROVE NAME CHANGE OF THE SEDAR COMMITTEE TO: SEDAR, CATCH ADVICE, AND DATA COMMITTEE (SECAD).

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL