

# **SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

## **SEDAR COMMITTEE**

**Town and Country Inn  
Charleston, S.C.**

**September 15, 2022**

### **Transcript**

#### **Committee Members**

Mel Bell, Chairman  
Robert Beal  
Kerry Marhefka  
Trish Murphey

Dr. Carolyn Belcher, Vice Chair  
Tim Griner  
Jessica McCawley  
Andy Strelcheck

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Julia Byrd  
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Dr. Judd Curtis  
Kathleen Howington  
Kim Iverson  
Dr. Julie Neer  
Dr. Mike Schmidtke  
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#### **Attendees and Other Participants**

Rick DeVictor  
Frank Helies  
Jamal Ingram  
LT Pat O'Shaughnessy  
Monica Smit-Brunello

Dale Diaz  
Dewey Hemilright  
Dr. Jack McGovern  
Dr. Clay Porch  
Meg Withers

Additional attendees and other participants attached.

The SEDAR Committee of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council convened at the Town and Country Inn, Charleston, South Carolina, on Thursday, September 15, 2022, and was called to order by Chairman Mel Bell.

MR. BELL: Let's go ahead and we will call the SEDAR Committee into session here, and the first item is Approval of the Agenda. Are there any modifications to the agenda necessary? Chip.

DR. COLLIER: I think it would be good to have a discussion of the SEDAR planning grid on there.

MR. BELL: Okay, and so we'll add that to Other Business. Anything else? All right. Then any objection to approval of the agenda as modified? Seeing none, then the agenda is approved. Next is approval of the committee transcript from the March 2022 meeting. Any edits necessary to the minutes, or the transcript? I don't see any hands. Any objection to approval of the -- The transcript is approved. That takes us to our first item, the SEDAR Committee Report, and that would be Chip.

DR. COLLIER: Thank you. This is a little bit different than how we've done this in the past. Typically, you guys have been updated shortly after the SEDAR Steering Committee has met. This time, you're going to get a report shortly before the SEDAR Steering Committee is meeting, and so this is primarily a reminder for the SEDAR Steering Committee members, and so they can be informed, and you guys can be informing your representatives, which is the Council Chair as well as the Council Executive Director, informing them on what you would like to see for the SEDAR planning grid as well as some discussions at the committee.

Getting into the report, they met in May of 2022. As usual, they discussed several different things related to SEDAR projects, SEDAR process, and the assessment schedules. One part that was discussed at the May meeting is there was a delay in the Spanish mackerel assessment, and there were some process issues that were coming up, and so they talked about that, how to address it, to prevent that from happening in the future, and so hopefully we're going to stay on top of that, to prevent it.

Another thing that came up, during the beginning, was talking about the benchmark assessment for mutton snapper, and this is an assessment being done by FWC, and that one was delayed due to the pandemic, and I will give you an updated schedule for that in the second -- In your second agenda item, under SEDAR Projects Updates.

Some of the important things that the SEDAR Steering Committee discussed, at least relative to the South Atlantic schedule, was discussion of the SEDAR process and review as well as the topical working groups for operational assessments, research track assessment technical chair, and then the SEDAR role in management strategy evaluations, and you've heard Clay talk about that a couple of different times, and there are different levels of management strategy evaluations, and so that's going to be an important topic, not only discussed at the previous SEDAR Steering Committee, but it's going to be discussed at this next one as well.

Getting into some of the details, the Southeast Fisheries Science Center indicated that topical working groups for operational assessments could lead to delays in operational assessments. However, the committee, overall, was a little bit concerned with this. This is an opportunity to

address some of the issues that are in a stock assessment, and they wanted some of these -- They wanted a little bit more discussion, and so they're going to be talking about these topical working groups at the next SEDAR Steering Committee meeting in September.

Another issue is research track assessment process, and it's been pretty difficult to find technical chairs for some of the workshops with the research track assessments, and they have three different workshops, a data workshop, an assessment workshop, and a review workshop, and it's been a challenge to find somebody to be the technical chair for the data and the assessment workshop, and it was approved to have the SEDAR coordinators as potential backups as technical chairs for that.

The management strategy evaluations, we have not really done these in the South Atlantic region, and, Clay, if you want me to stop, and if you have any comments, go ahead and let me know. Management strategies really haven't been used in the South Atlantic region yet, and so the SEDAR Steering Committee is recommending that SEDAR should have a role in some of these, to vet management procedures, with harvest control rules particularly, when developed for the first time. The SEDAR review process is the preferred approach for reviewing first application of the tool, and, once again, the SEDAR Steering Committee is going to be discussing this further at their September meeting.

Next up is operational assessments. At this meeting, they talked about operational assessments for South Atlantic red grouper and scamp grouper and a research track assessment for gray triggerfish, and this is for the South Atlantic region. They did talk about all the other regions as well and the assessments that they do.

Next week, we are going to be holding SEDAR 82, the gray triggerfish research track assessment, here in Charleston, and so that's going to be an exciting thing for gray triggerfish, and hopefully we're going to get that assessment through this time, and there's an important deviation from the SEDAR schedule that you guys had seen at your March committee meeting, and this is changing the operational assessment for vermilion snapper into an interim analysis, and that's going to be done by updating the indices of abundance, to mainly serve as a health check for this stock.

Then the SEDAR Steering Committee recommended putting the gray triggerfish, tilefish, and blueline tilefish on the SEDAR schedule, and that had to be approved by the Science Center, as far as part of their workload, and this is going to be something that we need to talk about under the SEDAR planning grid, under Other Business, because blueline tilefish and tilefish were talked about as being removed from the SEDAR schedule, from the SEDAR planning grid, and we're going to have to see how to fit those in as part of their next assessments.

Under Other Business, the SEDAR Steering Committee was briefed on updates, Science Center updates, and discussed the terminal year for assessments. They discussed the independent indices procedural workshop, the website transition, the standard operating procedural policies development, as well as the best scientific information regional plan. I will note that, similar to the council's website, the SEDAR website got an upgrade, and that went live yesterday, and so, if you look at it today, it's going to have a new look. It is -- From what I see in it, it's an improved look, and there is much better search features. You can find stock assessments very easy, as well as some of the important working papers that go into the stock assessments.

There is no action for this, and this is mainly an update for the SEDAR Committee here, as well as the council, and then, if there's any feedback to provide to the Chair, the Council Chair, for the upcoming SEDAR Steering Committee.

MR. BELL: All right. You heard what we're looking for. Are there comments or questions at this point, or things that we can take to the next meeting? I am not seeing a lot of hands. Okay, and so we're good. All right. Dewey.

MR. HEMILRIGHT: At what point in this report are you going to be putting up the schedule? Is it further down, under Other Business, the planning grid?

MR. BELL: Yes.

MR. HEMILRIGHT: Okay. All right. I will ask my questions then. Thank you.

MR. BELL: All right. Anything else? Julie.

DR. NEER: I just wanted to introduce myself. I'm Julie Neer, and I'm the SEDAR Program Manager. I haven't met all of you, and some of you I know from before COVID, and some of you are since COVID, and so, since I'm here, hi. I mainly coordinate the projects in the Gulf of Mexico and the Florida ones. Kathleen Howington is our other coordinator, and she normally does the South Atlantic ones, but I'm always available if you have any questions, and my contact information is on the fabulous new website.

MR. BELL: Thanks, Julie. Yes, she's a real person, and she actually exists. All right. Okay. Jessica.

MS. MCCAWLEY: A couple of things. I was going to talk a little bit about the SEDAR process playing a role in the MSEs, and it seemed like there were some questions about that in the committee report, the Steering Committee report, and I think that SEDAR should play a role in those MSE processes, and then my question was about vermilion.

In the past, I know that, on the South Atlantic side, and not on the Gulf side, but on the South Atlantic, we had some questions about interim assessments, and I think, when maybe John Walter was here, he talked about how there weren't a lot of long-term datasets, over here in the South Atlantic, in order to conduct the same type of interim analyses that they're conducting in the Gulf, but yet the document talked about conducting one of these for vermilion over here on the South Atlantic. I guess my question is what has changed, and is there enough information to conduct this for vermilion?

MR. BELL: Clay, do you want to take a shot at that?

DR. PORCH: We actually have a decent time series in the video trap data. For an interim analysis, arguably, you need at least five years, so you can kind of establish a baseline for a couple of years and then use the two most recent years, and has the stock increased or decreased in that timeframe, and so I think we've got it. We'll look at it some more, and the SSC will have a chance to review the whole process, and so I think there's just some work that needs to be done, but I think the data is there. Then the other thing we have, although I don't know how many vermilion we get, is our

new South Atlantic deepwater longline survey, and so that may be useful for some other stocks in a few years, and so we're making good progress.

MR. BELL: Chip.

DR. COLLIER: Just to build on that a little bit, the SSC is going to get a presentation on potential interim analysis methods and how to incorporate those and the benefits of them at their October meeting.

MR. BELL: All right. Nothing else on that topic? Then we'll shift to the next topic, which would be SEDAR Projects Update, and that will be Chip.

DR. COLLIER: This one is Attachment 2 in the briefing book, and we have several projects going on, and I do have SEDAR 78, which is the Spanish mackerel stock assessment that you guys just talked about, and it is completed, as far as it's been submitted to the SSC and to the council, but there might be some revisions to it, and so I didn't know if it was completed or ongoing, and so I just left it as ongoing.

We will talk about the next one in the list, SEDAR 79, which is the mutton snapper benchmark, and this is a benchmark stock assessment being conducted by FWC. As I had mentioned, it was delayed due to COVID, as well as a request from the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Councils to prioritize yellowtail snapper for an update interim analysis, and so the data for -- The data workshop from early 2022 was postponed, and there is going to be the data workshop in 2023, and that's going to be in August of 2023.

With that, the rationale is that the delay will allow for the terminal year of the assessment to be in 2022, as opposed to 2020, and everybody felt like that was an important piece of information, that we were going to get the most recent fishery information for that population.

Going onto SEDAR 68, the scamp operational assessment, this is on track to be completed in November of 2022. If you guys remember, we had the research track stock assessment for scamp that was completed and presented to you guys in December of last year, December of 2021. SEDAR 76, that is the black sea bass operational assessment, and this one was delayed due to COVID as well, and it has -- The schedule was updated in March of 2021, and there is a terminal year of 2020 for this stock assessment, and it's going to be completed over a series of webinars from May through January, and its scheduled completion date is 2023.

SEDAR 82 is the gray triggerfish research track assessment, and I just talked about that, and that one is going to be in-person here next week, and the schedule is to have a review workshop in November of 2023, with the stock assessment to be presented to the council potentially in December of 2023.

SEDAR 86 is the red grouper operational assessment, and the planning is underway for that assessment, and the assessment is scheduled to be completed in December of 2023. I also have listed in here Atlantic blueline tilefish, and this one is going to change, as far as the current schedule for it, and so I'm not going to really go over that, and we also have a red snapper research track assessment, and the schedule for this one is going to be changing as well, and so I'm not going to

be discussing that, and then tilefish is going to be -- The schedule is going to be changing, and we'll be talking about all these during the SEDAR planning grid discussion.

Other assessment-related analyses items that are occurring, as we mentioned, the vermilion snapper interim analysis is going to be conducted, and it was scheduled at the May 2022 SEDAR Steering Committee meeting, and the assessment is recommended to be changed -- Was recommended to be changed to an interim analysis with updated indices.

Then, finally, an item that Julie's been working on for a while now, it seems like, is the Procedural Workshop Number 8, and it's the fishery-independent index development under changing survey design, and that one has been ongoing, and it started in May of 2021, and it's been ongoing through October, and then they're going to have an in-person workshop next month, in Tampa, and hopefully the findings will be available in January of 2023. With that, that's a focus on South Atlantic projects, and there are projects that go on in the Gulf of Mexico, and there's projects related to HMS and Atlantic States, with some of the menhaden species, HMS, and so there's a bunch going on within SEDAR, but I figured that I would just concentrate on the projects related to the South Atlantic Council.

MR. BELL: All right. Any questions? Monica.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: I think this was discussed, but would you remind me of when the South Atlantic vermilion interim analysis is going to be finished? I see, in the document, it says, when it was an operational assessment, it was going to be in September of 2023, and is that the same time period for completion now?

DR. COLLIER: So, once it became an interim analysis -- Julie was giving me hand signals there. Okay. When it became an interim analysis, it's no longer part of the SEDAR process, and so it's not really on the SEDAR schedule, and so it's up to the Science Center on the completion of that, and so Clay may have an update on when it can be available.

DR. PORCH: I think we're still doing it in about the same timeslot.

MR. BELL: Any other questions? Okay. I don't see any. All right. We'll move on, and we have three statements of work that we need to look at. Chip.

DR. COLLIER: So we'll start off on Attachment 3a, which is gag grouper statements of work, and, before we dive into these statements of work, let me explain a little bit what they are. Once again, these are fairly new to the South Atlantic Council. What this is it's the initial statement of work, and it's pre-terms of reference for a stock assessment, and so this is kind of our wish list on what -- Or the council's wish list, as well as the SSC's wish list, on what they would like to see investigated in an upcoming stock assessment.

These are done -- This was done in April of this year, and it was reviewed by the SSC in April of this year, in order to make sure that we had time, that the council had time, to review this at the SEDAR Committee. What's going to happen, or what we're asking to happen, for this statement of work is the previous assessment, SEDAR 71, was an operational assessment, and it had a terminal year of 2019, and then, under the operational assessment, it should have a terminal year of 2024, and that's what we're asking for in this statement of work.

The requests, general requests, are to include any new and updated information on life history and discard mortality and steepness and then explore CVs, appropriate CVs, for landings to capture the uncertainty in the model results, and then potential modifications to previous assessment, and these came from the SSC, and it was to incorporate methods to characterize length and age of gag grouper observed on videos from SERFS fishery-independent surveys from other research track assessments, and the trap sampling of gag was limited, and potentially biased, due to selectivity of gear.

The second item that they recommended including was include abundance and catch time series to inform projection timeframes, specifically looking at autocorrelation and partial autocorrelation functions, and then, finally, they recommended -- They had a working group look at the catch level projections, and they had a series of eight recommendations that came out of that. I am not going to go through all of those recommendations, and it's pretty detailed, looking at some of the distributions and different things, but it was recommended by the SSC to incorporate those into the review of the operational assessments.

The SSC also recommended having two working groups, one to investigate potential sources of recruitment declines in gag grouper, and this has been a species that was a little bit of concern when the SSC last reviewed this stock assessment, and they were seeing a continual decline in the recruitment of gag grouper over the past ten years, and they didn't know whether it was due to overharvest or environmental factors, and so they recommended looking into some non-traditional datasets, such as inshore estuarine surveys, the larval bridge net survey, and this is in hopes to better characterize the population dynamics.

Topic 2 is better characterize the reproductive dynamics of gag, including sex ratio, maturity schedule, batch fecundity, spawning seasonality, spawning frequency, as well as the potential for sperm limitation, and I believe that Dale brought this up earlier, the potential for sperm limitation of the gag stock. That is what is being recommended, as far as the statement of work for gag grouper, and what we would be looking for, from the council committee, is any recommended changes from this, any additions, for approval as a statement of work, or we could do all three at the end, depending on how you would like to do it.

MR. BELL: Laurilee.

MS. THOMPSON: I just wanted to comment and thank you for including the residency in estuaries in the work, because I think it's really, really important.

MR. BELL: The topical working groups, there is two topics, two different groups, because of the two different subject matters?

DR. COLLIER: Yes. In all likelihood, it would be two different groups. There might be some overlap between individuals, just because some of this seems like it would be the same person that would cover some of the information, but maybe not all of it.

I will jump onto the next one, and this is Attachment 3b in the briefing book, and this is a statement of work for king mackerel. The prior assessment was the SEDAR 38 update, and the terminal year was the fishing year 2017-2018. The operational assessment, we're asking for a terminal year of



2024, and this would be adding six additional years of data, and this stock assessment is being done using SS3, and so it would be done using the most updated version of SS3.

Similar to gag, we would be recommending these first two bullet items, which is include any additional information on life history, discards, and steepness, and, also, capture the uncertainty related to landings estimates. When the SSC last reviewed this stock assessment, they did identify some potential uncertainties and some issues with the stock assessment, and so they have a fairly detailed list here, and I can go through all of this, if you would like me to, or do you want to just see the list as it is?

MR. BELL: What's your preference?

DR. COLLIER: All right, and so we'll go into the next part of this, and there is not a scheduled topical working group, and there are a lot of items in this, and so a topical working group might be needed, but the SSC did not recommend one. A lot of these are looking at including sensitivities and looking at some of the outputs from the stock assessment model, and so it could potentially be done in-house, and it might not need a topical working group, but this could be one of the pieces of negotiation that we have with the Science Center, and this is why we present it to them in November, and then they will provide comments to us by February.

MR. BELL: Okay. Clay.

DR. PORCH: Just for the benefit of the council, one of the other things that we're going to try and do and introduce at the next Steering Committee meeting is some metrics for how long these sorts of things will take, and that might help people get an idea of how many assessments can be done, because, obviously, the longer the list, and the more complicated it is, the more time it will take, which means fewer overall assessments, and so there is sort of a balance between throughput and how thorough you want to be. What we're going to try and do is map that a little more carefully, so you can kind of see it as you're looking at these and we do our planning and we say this is going to take X amount of time, and so you will get Y number of assessments. If you simplified it in this way, and maybe drop these items, then you could get Y plus however many assessments.

MR. BELL: All right. Thanks.

DR. COLLIER: All right. We'll go on to Attachment 3c, and this is red pogy. The previous stock assessment was SEDAR 60, and that had a terminal year of 2017, and the terminal year for the operational assessment would be 2024, and so this would be adding seven more years of data. This assessment is done through BAM.

Similar to the rest, update life history, discard mortality, and steepness, explore appropriate CVs for the landings data, and, similar to gag, this one also has discussion of investigate potential factors that may be contributing to low recruitment of red pogy, and this stock has been overfished for a long time, and not responding to management, and so it could be a recruitment or overharvesting issue.

Similar to the other ones, they said to include abundance catch time series to inform projections. Looking at the auto and partial correlation functions, and they also suggested looking at the

negative correlations with red snapper abundance, as well as red lionfish abundance. Then, finally, they recommend going through the catch level projection workgroup topics, to make sure that those are all addressed. There is no topical working group for this one, and so those are the three that we have.

MR. BELL: All right, and what we would need would be a motion to approve all three of these for submission to National Marine Fisheries Service. Andy.

MR. STRELCHECK: I'm not making a motion, but I guess a couple of comments. With gag grouper in the Gulf of Mexico, the SSC recently recommended a higher benchmark for fishing mortality of F 40 percent SPR, based on literature and the biology of the stock, and so I don't know if it's appropriate to address that in SEDAR, or if it could be done with the SSC, but it seems like that makes sense that we at least look at alternative benchmarks for gag grouper and the appropriateness of those in this next assessment.

Then, because both red porgy and gag -- We're going to investigate the kind of causal factors that potentially are leading to low recruitment, I'm just wondering if there's an efficiency to be gained, in terms of trying to combine that topical working group for multiple species or if it needs to be species-specific, and so I will just toss that out there, and it seems like there's an opportunity there to look at more than just one species.

MR. BELL: Yes, and that's a good point. If you're going to look at one, and they're all down there, why not look at multiple? Chip.

DR. COLLIER: The Science Center does have a post-doc working on that issue, and so it might be able to be addressed through that. They might not need a topical working group for gag. There is some work going on, and I think they had a presentation at the latest AFS meeting, American Fisheries Society, and I believe they had a presentation that was provided there, and I don't know if Clay has more on that or -- We're talking about the low recruitment of some of these winter spawners.

MR. BELL: Clay.

DR. PORCH: I mean, we have been doing research along those lines. I'm not sure how close it is to completion, but I imagine that it would be able to inform this.

MR. BELL: All right. Any other comments about any of these three at this point or suggestions or input?

DR. COLLIER: Andy, did you want that added as a bullet, the alternative reference points?

MR. STRELCHECK: Yes, I would recommend that.

MR. BELL: All right. Any other possible additions to any of these, or tweaks? All right. I don't see any. Then we're looking for a motion to accept all three, the statements of work for gag grouper, red porgy, and king mackerel. Kerry.

MS. MARHEFKA: **So moved.**

MR. BELL: All right. Motion by Kerry and second from Trish. All right. Any discussion of that? **Any objection to that motion?** Okay. **The motion carries.** Thank you. That takes us to looking at the planning -- The Steering Committee planning grid. More pretty colors.

DR. COLLIER: Yes, more pretty colors, and what we're going to be focusing on here is the left side of this, and these first five slots are for the South Atlantic team, and, if you're looking for it, it's going to be Attachment 4 in your recent documents, SEDAR Attachment 4, and it's probably going to be a little bit easier to read, and it's going to be different than that, and so we're going to have a variety of these.

This first one is starting at what was presented to the SEDAR Steering Committee in May of 2022, and you can see everything was how you guys had discussed it in March. The one thing that came up was vermilion snapper is now going to be an interim analysis, and that's going to be with that prohibition there, and the next thing that we had talked about for this planning grid was moving the Atlantic migratory cobia into the snowy grouper slot, and the reason for that is the information for Atlantic migratory cobia -- The terminal year for that assessment was 2017, and we're still working on some of the snowy grouper management measures and just trying to make sure that we can get those management measures in place before the next stock assessment occurs. This is going to result in pushing snowy grouper back one year, to 2026, and then our friend white grunt is on its road down.

Now the outcome of the SEDAR 2022, and this is after the SEDAR Steering Committee had discussed it, what could be done, and so, once again, you're going to see that the vermilion snapper is gone from 2023, and you will see that the gray triggerfish operational assessment has been added, as it was pending scheduling by the Southeast Fisheries Science Center, as well as the tilefish assessment and blueline tilefish assessment. Atlantic migratory cobia was added in that slot for snowy grouper, and, once again, those other two actions had occurred. The other item that we had added in here was the dolphin management procedure, and that's part of the MSE process.

Since the SEDAR Steering Committee meeting, since they had met, they have had the scheduling, the Southeast Fisheries Science Center scheduling meeting, and what came out of that was recommending the red snapper research track assessment start in 2023, remove tilefish operational assessment and blueline tilefish operational assessment, and so this is what it's currently looking like, with all the movements in place, and you will see that what we're going to be doing is moving red porgy into the slot where snowy grouper is, in order to accommodate a blueline tilefish operational assessment in 2025. That will move down the gag grouper operational assessment to incorporate the tilefish operational assessment in 2025.

Then snowy grouper gets bumped back another year, and white grunt gets bumped back another year, and then we were also discussing a potential research track for Spanish mackerel. If that were to be put in here, we're going to have to bump some other items around. Most likely, greater amberjack would probably be a good fit for that.

MR. BELL: So you see what happens when you touch something. Any comments on that, or thoughts on that? I mean, obviously, you have to readjust if you start moving things around. Dewey.

MR. HEMILRIGHT: I don't like all these arrows. So where -- Where is blue line under this scenario of looking at this? Is it 2025 or 2026?

DR. COLLIER: It would be 2025 would be blue line tilefish.

MR. HEMILRIGHT: All right, and so that means, at the best, thinking out loud, from my memory and just from personal observation, it's probably 2027 before any management decisions would come out of here, and it ain't like I've got a whole bunch of things to do, but that's just -- I mean, it ain't no good. I mean, we've got -- Is there anything in the interim, because of the abundance, that can be looked at, through the catches, and you're having reduced catch, and the catch limit is getting caught quick, and we have two years of preliminary deepwater survey to analyze, or is there some way that we can kick this back to the SSC to look and say, hey, we can give you 30,000 or 40,000 more pounds or something, while we're hanging out waiting for this stuff?

I mean, the last assessment for blue line tilefish was 2017, and was that right, and so nine years, or ten years, but I guess it's just because we're low on the totem pole, but, I mean, you've got a species that's healthy, and you've been managed, and you've shut down the ocean because of it, in the 240-fathom closure for speckled hind and warsaw that sent fishermen somewhere else, and fishermen need to do a little bit better than ten years of waiting for something, and so there's probably not a whole lot that can be done, and it's probably me just talking with my mouth, but this is -- This is frustrating as hell for the fishermen in North Carolina that's been having to go through this, let alone it took this council five or six years to rectify the overages of the recreational industry on a 50/50 fishery, and so this is just simply no good, and I wish there was something, instead of bumping all this around, that we were able to do to increase the quota for fishermen in this area, however small it may be, until -- Instead of waiting for ten years.

MR. BELL: Okay. Understood. Chip.

DR. COLLIER: At the last SEDAR Steering Committee meeting, what was recommended by the South Atlantic group was starting the red snapper research track assessment in late 2024, and maybe that would be enough time to get an operational assessment for blue line tilefish, and maybe not.

The statement of work had been approved for that species, but it's -- The research track got moved up for red snapper, into the 2023 slot, which we felt was a little bit early, given the information coming from the abundance estimate for red snapper, and we felt like, in late 2024, most of the data streams would be recognized, and maybe not the data being finalized, but they would know what would be available and how to potentially incorporate that into the stock assessment. If potentially moving red snapper back to late 2024 could get us another stock assessment, maybe that could work, and maybe that's direction to Carolyn and John to fight for at the SEDAR Steering Committee.

MR. BELL: We could give that a try, and we could certainly ask the Steering Committee and talk about it. Again, I mean, unfortunately, this just -- We keep talking about this, but we have limited capacity to run these things through, and you get the schedule set, and something changes, and then there's a domino effect, and I understand your frustration, Dewey. I really do.

MR. HEMILRIGHT: You feel my pain.

MR. BELL: I'm feeling a little bit of it. Trish.

MS. MURPHEY: So I was looking at you've got, under Team 5, analyst in training, and so, once they get trained, would there be a chance that some of those stock assessments would shift over?

MR. BELL: Clay.

DR. PORCH: Certainly we plan to hire somebody to help fill one of those vacant slots, but that's not generally the bottleneck for us right now, and it's all the data provision. That's been the real challenges, and so it's always been a little misleading when we show the slots, and even though, verbally, we say it's not the slots, and it's the data provision, which we've been trying to beef up, but the problem is, as I've added staff, we've also had more and more partners contributing more and more data, which makes it harder and harder to manage, and so that's where the challenge really lies.

The other thing I want to say, while I have the mic, is to Dewey's point, and that's exactly why we started the South Atlantic deepwater longline survey, so that we would have a time series abundance for things like blueline tilefish. The problem is we only got our first full year last year, and so we're not going to have a lot of contrast soon, and, again, I think we need at least five years before we could use that for an interim analysis.

MR. BELL: All right. Thanks, Clay. Chip.

DR. COLLIER: I do want to point out that blueline tilefish is a surplus production model, and so it's not the typical age-based model that we have. It does have a component up in the Mid-Atlantic region, and so we need to talk with our Mid-Atlantic partners about that, and that Mid-Atlantic portion is done through the data-limited toolkit.

MR. BELL: All right, and so we'll have some discussion of that at the Steering Committee meeting, I guess. Okay. Any other comments on the rearrangement and shuffling the boxes around? Bob.

MR. BEAL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I guess I'm having like an identity crisis, and there's no ASMFC column here, but I will get over that, and ASMFC has a spot on the Steering Committee, the SEDAR Steering Committee, and, just for full disclosure, the thing that we'll be asking for, and supporting, is the notion of the Atlantic migratory group for cobia in the 2025 slot, and, as Chip said, it will be eight years from the 2017 terminal year to when this gets done, and that's a stock that's also showing a lot of signs of climate change impacts, and, if people have gone on any fishery blogs, you will see that cobia fishing in New Jersey and New York, on Long Island, was going crazy, and so, you know, we need to see what's going on with that stock.

Then the other conversation earlier today, obviously, on Spanish mackerel is something that the commission will support, moving that forward, or finding a slot, I guess is the best way to put it, for a benchmark assessment for Spanish mackerel, because there's a lot going on in there in climate change, and just I think those two species are sort of the bellwether for a lot of things on climate change, that are moving from this region up the coast, and, you know, it's difficult to assess at this

point, and so benchmarks are probably needed, and so I just wanted to -- Sort of full disclosure on where the ASMFC is going to be -- What they're going to be supporting at the Steering Committee.

MR. BELL: Right. Thanks, and definitely you're on there. All right. Any other comments or suggestions? Anything with the plan? I don't see any hands. What else do you need?

DR. COLLIER: That was it. We usually go through SEDAR pretty quick. Thank you, guys, for your time.

MR. BELL: Okay. Thanks, everybody. Thanks for your patience. All right. Well, that's the end of SEDAR.

(Whereupon, the meeting adjourned on September 15, 2022.)

- - -

Certified By \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Transcribed By  
Amanda Thomas  
October 31, 2022

SEDAR Cmte  
Thursday, 9/15/22  
2:30pm - 3:30pm

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
2022 COMMITTEE MEMBERS continued

SEDAR Cmte  
Thursday, 9/15/22  
2:30pm - 3:30pm

**MACKEREL COBIA**

Spud Woodward, Chair  
Tom Roller, Vice Chair  
Robert Beal  
Carolyn Belcher  
Mel Bell  
Chester Brewer  
Gary Borland  
LT Cameron Box  
Tim Griner  
Judy Helmey  
Kerry Marhefka  
Jessica McCawley  
Trish Murphey  
Andy Strelcheck  
Laurilee Thompson  
Mid-Atlantic:  
Dewey Hemilright/Joe Cimino  
Staff contact: Christina Wiegand

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Kerry Marhefka, Vice Chair  
Robert Beal  
Carolyn Belcher  
Mel Bell  
Chester Brewer  
Gary Borland  
LT Cameron Box  
Tim Griner  
Judy Helmey  
Trish Murphey  
Tom Roller  
Andy Strelcheck  
Laurilee Thompson  
Spud Woodward  
Mid-Atlantic:  
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Staff Contact: Mike Schmidtke

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Tim Griner  
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Andy Strelcheck  
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Andy Strelcheck  
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Staff: Christina Wiegand

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*Dewey Hemilright*  
*Frank Belie*  
*Meg Wether*  
*Jamal Ingram*

**SNAPPER GROUPER**



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

SEDAK Cmtc  
Tuesday, 9/15/22  
2:30-3:30 pm

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Representative  
TBD

# SAFMC September Council

## Attendee Report: Meeting (9/12/22 - 9/16/22)

Report Generated:

09/17/2022 04:09 PM EDT

**Webinar ID**

734-573-171

**Actual Start Date/Time**

09/15/2022 08:11 AM EDT

**Duration**

10 hours 21 minutes

### Attendee Details

<b>Attended</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>
Yes	Addis	Dustin
Yes	Allen	Shanae
Yes	Bailey	Adam
Yes	Barbieri	Luiz
Yes	Barrineau	Marina
Yes	Batsavage	Chris
Yes	Beal	Bob
Yes	Berry	james
Yes	Bianchi	Alan
Yes	Borland	Gary
Yes	Box	Cameron
Yes	Brennan	Ken
Yes	Brouwer	Myra
Yes	Bublely	Walter
Yes	Buckel	Jeff
Yes	Burgess	Erika
Yes	Byrd	01Julia
Yes	Campfield	Patrick
Yes	Caycedo	Mario
Yes	Cheshire	Rob
Yes	Cimino	Joseph
Yes	Cody	Richard
Yes	Coleman	Heather
Yes	Conklin	The Real Chris
Yes	Corey	Morgan
Yes	Cox	Derek
Yes	Cox	Jack
Yes	Crosson	Scott
Yes	Curtis	Judd
Yes	Dale	Diaz
Yes	Dale (NMFS SERO)	David
Yes	Dathe	Michael

Yes	David	Andrew
Yes	DeVictor	Rick
Yes	Dingle	Julie
Yes	Dixon	Michael
Yes	Dunlap	Matt
Yes	Duval	Michelle
Yes	Edmonds	Melissa
Yes	Fifer	Jocelyn
Yes	Finch	Margaret
Yes	Fitzpatrick	Eric
Yes	Flowers	Jared
Yes	Foss	Kristin
Yes	Franke	Emilie
Yes	Freeman	Matt
Yes	French	Patrick
Yes	Friedrich	Tony
Yes	Glazier	Ed
Yes	Goldsmith	Willy
Yes	Good	Caroline
Yes	Gore	Karla
Yes	Gray	Alisha
Yes	Guyas	Martha
Yes	Harrison	BeBe Dalton
Yes	Harrison	Alana
Yes	Hart	Hannah
Yes	Hawes	Rachel
Yes	Helies	Frank
Yes	Helmey	Judy
Yes	Hemilright	Dewey
Yes	Herrera	John
Yes	Hildreth	Delaine
Yes	Howington	Kathleen
Yes	Iverson	Kim
Yes	Jones	Carlisle
Yes	Karazsia	Jocelyn
Yes	Kellison	Todd
Yes	Keppler	Blaik
Yes	Kerns	Toni
Yes	Kramer	Rob
Yes	Labocetta	Mark
Yes	Laks	Ira
Yes	Larkin	Michael
Yes	Lazarre	Dominique
Yes	Lee	Jennifer
Yes	Li	Yan
Yes	Lorenzen	Kai
Yes	Malinowski	Rich

Yes	Marinko	Jeff
Yes	Martinez	Adrian
Yes	Masi	Michelle
Yes	McCoy	Sherylanne
Yes	McGovern	Jack
Yes	McManus	Brian
Yes	McRae	G
Yes	Mehta	Nikhil
Yes	Merrifield	Mike
Yes	Merrifield	Jeanna
Yes	Morrell	Nick
Yes	Murphey	Trish
Yes	Neer	Julie
Yes	Newman	Thomas
Yes	OShaughnessy	Patrick
Yes	Patrick	Donald
Yes	Pellicer	Joseph
Yes	Perkinson	Matt
Yes	Poholek	Ariel
Yes	Poston	Will
Yes	Powell	Jessica
Yes	Pugliese	01Roger
Yes	Rapp	Greg
Yes	Records	David
Yes	Reed	John
Yes	Reeder	Kelly
Yes	Reichert	Marcel
Yes	Renchen	Jeff
Yes	Reynolds	Jon
Yes	Roller	00Tom
Yes	Schwanger	Chuck
Yes	Sedberry	George
Yes	Seward	McLean
Yes	Shervanick	Kara
Yes	Siegfried	Katie
Yes	Sinkus	Wiley
Yes	Sitton	Brent
Yes	Smarrito	Michael
Yes	Spurgin	Kali
Yes	Spurlock	Zack
Yes	Sramek	Mark
Yes	Stam	Monica
Yes	Stam	Geoff
Yes	Stemle	Adam
Yes	Stephen	Jessica
Yes	Surrency	Ron
Yes	Swanson	Chris

Yes	Sweetman	CJ
Yes	Switzer	Ted
Yes	Takade-Heumacher	Helen
Yes	Thompson	00 Laurilee
Yes	Tibulle	Sébastien
Yes	Torres-Pabon	Jashira
Yes	Travis	Michael
Yes	Vecchio	Julie
Yes	Venker	Ted
Yes	Waine	Mike
Yes	Walia	Matthew
Yes	Walter	John
Yes	Wamer	David
Yes	Whitaker	David
Yes	White	Geoff
Yes	Wilber	Pace
Yes	Williams	Erik
Yes	Withers	Meg
Yes	Wolfe	Wes
Yes	Wyanski	David
Yes	Zoodsma	Barb
Yes	blough	heather
Yes	brewer	00chester
Yes	buie	jay
Yes	collier	chip
Yes	moss	david
Yes	thomas	suz
Yes	thomas	suz
Yes	usina	ken
Yes	vara	mary