

FINAL
SUMMARY REPORT
SEDAR COMMITTEE
SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
March 8, 2023

The Committee approved the minutes from the September 2022 meeting and the agenda for the March 2023 meeting.

SEDAR 92 (Blueline Tilefish) and SEDAR 89 Tilefish (Golden) Terms of Reference

Council staff presented the terms of reference for SEDAR 92 and 89 for the operational assessment in 2024. The Committee discussed the assessment type for SEDAR 92 and recommended that the topical working group for catch and landings north of Cape Hatteras also explore whether information could be used to develop higher level assessment approach. No changes were recommended for SEDAR 89. The Committee made the following motion regarding the terms of reference:

MOTION 1: APPROVE SEDAR 92 ATLANTIC BLUELINE TILEFISH OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT TERMS OF REFERENCE AS MODIFIED.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION 2: APPROVE SEDAR 89 ATLANTIC TILEFISH OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT TERMS OF REFERENCE.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

SEDAR Steering Committee Updates

The Committee was provided an update on the SEDAR Steering Committee meetings from September 2022 and February 2023. The Councils requests to start operational assessments in 2024 for Blueline Tilefish (now SEDAR 92) and Tilefish (now SEDAR 89) as well as a research track assessment for Red Snapper was approved by the SEDAR Steering Committee at their September meeting. The February SEDAR Steering Committee meeting discussed SEDAR process items. Upcoming Research Track Assessment Review Workshops as well as portions of the Data Workshops will be able to be streamed, providing additional access to those who cannot attend in-person.

Update on SEDAR Projects

Staff provided the Committee on SEDAR projects occurring in the South Atlantic region. Currently there are four ongoing assessments in the South Atlantic region: benchmark assessment for Mutton Snapper, operational assessments for Black Sea Bass and Red Grouper, and research track assessment for Gray Triggerfish. 2024 assessments included operational assessments for Blueline Tilefish and Tilefish. Other projects outside of stock assessments included additional analyses for SEDAR 78 (Spanish Mackerel) and SEDAR 68 (Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper), interim analysis for Vermilion Snapper, and SEDAR Procedural Workshop 8 on fishery independent index development.

Project/Species for 2026 slots

Staff provided a list of assessments/projects for consideration for the 2026 SEDAR Project Slots. The Committee was briefed on the need for an operational assessment for Snowy Grouper, research track assessments for Spanish Mackerel and Greater Amberjack, and management strategy and management procedure for Dolphin. The Committee recommended removing White Grunt from the SEDAR schedule in 2027 and 2028. The Committee delayed providing recommendations for assessments and projects for 2026 until after the Mackerel Cobia Committee discussed the Spanish Mackerel assessment.

Other Business

The Committee was briefed on changes to the scopes of work for the 2025 stock assessments. Staff described the information included in the revised version of the scopes of work (Attachment 5c). In addition to the changes included in 5c, the Committee recommended considering data sets for estimation for commercial discards based on on-board observers, estimates of for-hire catch through the SEFHIER Program, Florida State Reef Fish Survey for Gag, and size distribution from Release for Gag to be included in the assessment updated information. The Committee recommended including a SEDAR Procedural Workshop to better understand the low recruitment for Gag, Red Porgy, and Scamp as well as for considering Red Grouper in the scopes of work for Gag and Red Porgy. The Committee recommended a topical working group on reproductive dynamics for Gag but recognized a workgroup might not be needed if no additional information is available.

**MOTION 3: APPROVE SCOPES OF WORK FOR RED PORGY, GAG, AND KING MACKEREL IN 2025, AS MODIFIED.
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE
APPROVED BY COUNCIL**

Timing and Tasks:

No timing and tasks motions were made.