

FINAL
SUMMARY REPORT
SEDAR COMMITTEE
SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
Beaufort, North Carolina
December 9, 2021

The Committee approved minutes from the September 2021 meeting and the agenda.

SEDAR Steering Committee Report

The Committee discussed the summary of the SEDAR Steering Committee Report. The Council expressed concern that SEDAR 78 (Spanish Mackerel) was going to be delayed from April to May 2022. This will lead to a ripple effect through the SAFMC management process as well as the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC). The Committee then discussed a future assessment for Atlantic Migratory Group Cobia. The ASMFC indicated they would like the species assessed in 2024 or 2025. The Committee requested consideration of adding Cobia to the CMP slot in 2024 or 2025 and not add them to one of the four SA assessment slots since these slots are filled for the near-term.

Revise SEDAR/SAFMC Process and Approvals

The Committee reviewed process and approvals for the SEDAR items. Statements of work (SoW) are a new item that has been added into the SEDAR process and the Committee discussed the level of involvement they would like in the development of the SoWs. The Committee indicated they would like to have an opportunity to comment early in the process to ensure issues important to the Council and SSC are considered in the development SoW. The Committee then discussed approval of the detailed SEDAR Schedules. Due to the limited schedule of SEFSC staff working on assessments, there was little flexibility in the timing of meetings and milestones but the Committee still has the ability to discuss the year when assessments would be considered.

The following motions were approved:

MOTION 1: SELECT OPTION 3 AS THE PREFERRED OPTION FOR STATEMENTS OF WORK. COUNCIL AND SSC WILL REVIEW PRE- AND POST- NEGOTIATED SOWS, COUNCIL CHANGES SEDAR COMMITTEE MEETINGS TO THE MARCH AND SEPTEMBER COUNCIL MEETINGS, AND REQUESTS SSC TO DEVELOP SOW WORKING GROUP.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION 2: SELECT OPTION 2 AS THE PREFERRED OPTION FOR REVIEWING SEDAR SCHEDULES. NO LONGER REQUIRE APPROVAL OF DETAILED SEDAR SCHEDULES.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVAL OF TERMS OF REFERENCE AND STATEMENTS OF WORK

The Committee was provided Terms of Reference for SEDAR 68 (Scamp) Operational Assessment, SEDAR 82 (Gray Triggerfish) Research Track Assessment, SEDAR 83 Vermilion Snapper Operational Assessment, and SEDAR 86 (Red Grouper) Operational Assessment as well as a Statement of Work for the 2024 golden Tilefish Operational Assessment. The Committee made minor modifications to the ToRs for SEDAR 68, 83, and 86 (listed below motion). The Committee was also briefed on each assessment schedule and it was noted that SEDAR 83 and 86 would not have public meetings.

The following motions were approved:

MOTION 3: APPROVE THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR SEDAR 68 (SCAMP) OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT AND TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR SEDAR 82 GRAY TRIGGERFISH RESEARCH TRACK ASSESSMENT, TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR SEDAR 83 VERMILION SNAPPER OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT AND TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR SEDAR 86 RED GROUPER OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT, AS MODIFIED, AND STATEMENT OF WORK FOR THE 2024 GOLDEN TILEFISH OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT.

SEDAR 68 Modification: ~~Explore time-varying catchability in the Chevron trap index.~~

SEDAR 83 and 86 Modification: Examine and describe impacts on model performance and estimates of the data limitations in 2020 and beyond and **the change from estimating recreational landings through MRIP using CHTS to FES units.**

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION: APPROVE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR SEDAR 82 GRAY TRIGGERFISH RESEARCH TRACK ASSESSMENT; TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR SEDAR 68 (SCAMP) OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT, TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR SEDAR 83 VERMILION SNAPPER OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT, AND TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR SEDAR 86 RED GROUPER OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT, AS MODIFIED; AND STATEMENT OF WORK FOR THE 2024 GOLDEN TILEFISH OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

STOCK PRIORITIZATION

The Committee then discussed the Stock Prioritization. The Committee did not make any recommended changes to the species listed for the SA assessment slots in 2025. The Committee recommended consider changing White Grunt from a potential age-based assessment to a more data-limited approach to enable fitting of other species into the limited assessment slots. Catch level advice for White Grunt and Dolphinfish could be developed for a management procedure approach. The Committee also wanted Wreckfish added into the grid.

Other Business

No other business was discussed by the Committee.

Note: Council staff drafts the timing and task motion based on Committee action. If points require clarification, they will be added to the draft motion. The Committee should review this wording carefully to be sure it accurately reflects their intent prior to making the motion.

Timing and Task(s)

There was not timing and task motions made.