

FINAL
SUMMARY REPORT
SEDAR COMMITTEE
SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
December 7, 2023

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

SEDAR Steering Committee Report

The Committee was updated on the SEDAR Steering Committee from October 2023. Staff described the changes to the SEDAR Project Schedule due to the pilot FES study. SAFMC representatives at the meeting recommended delaying projects with high private recreational catch. The Committee discussed potential delays in Golden Tilefish and Blueline Tilefish due to the lack of an index of abundance. Staff from SEFSC will review data available for the tilefish species to check on the available data. The Committee will be updated in March 2024 on the information available for the two species.

Yellowtail Snapper has been requested to be added into the SEDAR Project Schedule in 2024 to evaluate the use of Florida's State Reef Fish Survey to estimate recreational catch. This will result in a delay for the SEDAR 94 (Hogfish) Benchmark Assessment.

The Committee was briefed on the revised process for benchmark assessment as it gets reincorporated into NOAA Fisheries assessments, "Right Sizing" assessments, carryover funds for SEDAR, Best Scientific Information Available framework, Procedural Workshop 8, and changing of the Steering Committee meeting timing.

SEDAR 94 (Hogfish) Terms of Reference

The Committee was presented terms of reference for SEDAR 94 that has been reviewed by Gulf and South Atlantic Scientific and Statistical Committees. Due to the delay in SEDAR 94 to accommodate a Yellowtail Snapper Assessment, an additional year of data may be requested from the data providers.

MOTION: APPROVE SEDAR 94 TERMS OF REFERENCE
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Clarification that terminal year may change to 2024 depending on start of the assessment

SEDAR Schedule

The Committee was briefed on changes to the 2026 SEDAR projects. The projects originally approved in September 2023 due to the issues identified with incorporating stock assessments using FES into management. The 2026 projects include operational assessments Gag, Snowy Grouper, and King Mackerel and a benchmark assessment for Red Grouper.

SEDAR Proposed Projects for 2027

The Committee discussed SEDAR projects for 2027. The Committee wanted to review the project schedule in March 2024 after the data review for Tilefish and Blueline Tilefish could be completed. The Committee recommended a draft schedule if the SEDAR Steering Committee

meets before the next SAFMC Meeting. For the SEDAR 2027 Project Slots, the Committee recommended:

- develop a statement of work for a Red Porgy Operational Assessment,
- add a Red Snapper follow-up operational assessment, and
- add a Greater Amberjack benchmark assessment.

The Committee will review these recommendations at the March 2024 Meeting.

UPDATE: SEDAR STEERING COMMITTEE WILL MEET AFTER THE MARCH 2024 MEETING.

Timing and Tasks: