

SAFMC SEDAR Committee
SEDAR Projects & Priorities Update

March 2018

I. ONGOING SAFMC SEDAR PROJECTS SUMMARY

SEDAR 55 South Atlantic Vermilion Snapper, Standard

SEDAR Contact: Julia Byrd

Summary: Vermilion Snapper was last assessed in 2012, in an update including data through 2011. A standard assessment is underway with a terminal year of 2016. The assessment will consider new video index data and alternative error distributions for fitting age and length composition data, an alternative method to estimate recreational historic data, and incorporation of new batch fecundity estimates. The Project Schedule and Terms of Reference were approved, and appointments made, in June 2017. A data scoping call was held in August 2017. The SEDAR 55 data deadline was September 18, 2017. There were several delays in data submissions due to impacts from Hurricane Irma and a revised schedule extending the assessment timeline approximately one month was approved. Assessment Scoping webinars were held in October and November 2017 and a series of Assessment Webinars will be held from January 2018 through March 2018. The assessment is scheduled to be complete by mid-April 2018 and is still on track to be considered by the South Atlantic SSC at its meeting of May 1-3, 2018. Recommendations will be provided to the Council in June 2018.

SEDAR 56 South Atlantic Black Seabass, Standard

SEDAR Contact: Julia Byrd

Summary: Black Sea Bass was last assessed in 2013, in an update with data through 2012. A standard assessment is underway to include data through 2016 and to allow consideration of new video data and to reconsider the use of length and age data. The assessment originally had a terminal year of 2015 and was scheduled to occur over a series of webinars between February and August 2017. On May 1, 2017, the analytical team requested a six-week delay in the assessment due to late data submissions. The request was reviewed by the SEDAR Steering Committee and the SAFMC, and the extension was granted along with an expansion of the terminal year to 2016. The schedule was revised, extending the series of webinars through February 2018. The assessment is on track, and scheduled to be complete at the beginning of April 2018, to be considered by the South Atlantic SSC at its meeting of May 1-3, 2018, and recommendations will be provided to the Council in June 2018.

SEDAR 58 Atlantic Cobia, Benchmark

SEDAR Contact: Julia Byrd

Summary: Cobia were last assessed as a Benchmark through SEDAR 28, including data through 2011. Atlantic Cobia was originally scheduled as a Research Track assessment. However, at their May 2017 meeting, the SEDAR Steering Committee recommended conducting cobia as a Benchmark assessment, including a Stock ID evaluation based on the process developed by the Steering Committee in September 2016. Planning is underway for the Stock ID portion of the assessment; the SAFMC made workshop appointments for the Stock ID process at the December 2018 meeting. The Stock ID Workshop will be held in April 2018 and the Stock ID Review Workshop in June 2018, with the final Stock ID resolution complete by the end of August 2018. Planning for the remaining stages for this assessment (Data, Assessment and Review) will get underway in early 2018. The SSC will be asked to approve a schedule and Terms of Reference at its May 2018 meeting, and the SAFMC will be asked to make appointments and approvals at the June 2018 meeting.

SEDAR 59 South Atlantic Greater Amberjack, Standard

SEDAR Contact: Julia Byrd

Summary: Greater Amberjack were last assessed as a Benchmark, through SEDAR 15 using data through 2006. The current assessment is a standard, including data through 2016 and revised MRIP estimates, and also considering new video index data, potential development of headboat at sea observer index, and updates to data calculations methodologies. The assessment is scheduled for completion in December 2018, and review by the SSC in Spring 2019. The Council made appointments and approvals in December 2017.

SEDAR 60 South Atlantic Red Porgy, Standard

SEDAR Contact: Julia Byrd

Summary: Red Porgy were last assessed as an update, including data through 2011. The current assessment is a standard assessment, to include data through 2017 and revised MRIP estimates and considering new video index data and updates to data calculation methodologies. It is scheduled to be completed in March 2019 and reviewed by the SSC in Spring 2019. The Council made appointments and approvals in December 2017.

SEDAR 64: Southeastern US Yellowtail Snapper, Benchmark

SEDAR Contact: Julie Neer

Summary: Yellowtail Snapper was last assessed as a benchmark, including data through 2010. The State of Florida is the lead analytical agency, and workshops are planned to

occur in 2019. The SSC will be asked to review a project schedule and TORs at its May 2018 meeting, and the Council asked to make appointments and approvals at its June 2018 meeting.

Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Scamp, Research Track (1 or 2 stocks)

SEDAR Contact: Julia Byrd

Summary: No prior scamp assessments have been completed through SEDAR. A Scamp Research Track assessment was preliminarily scheduled to start the first quarter of 2018. At their May 2017 meeting, the SEDAR Steering Committee delayed the start of the Scamp Research Track assessment until 2019 due to the Research Track process not being adequately described. Because the project statement of work, addressing the research track approach, has not yet been provided by the SEFSC, the timing of this project is currently unknown. Further discussion is anticipated at the Spring 2018 SEDAR Steering Committee meeting.

Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic King Mackerel

SEDAR Contact: Julie Neer

Summary: King Mackerel were last assessed as a Benchmark in SEDAR 38, including data through 2013. The SEFSC has been working cooperatively with scientists from Mexico to enable them to observe the assessment process and assist them in preparing their data; however, only US data will be included in this assessment. Given current workload commitments, this project may begin sometime in 2019 at the earliest.

II. List of Current and Planned Projects and Future Requests

Plan Year	SEDAR #	Stocks	Approach	Terminal Data	Assessment Complete	Lead Agency
2017	55	Vermilion Snapper	Standard	2016	April 2018	SEFSC
	56	Black Sea Bass	Standard	2016	April 2018	SEFSC
2018	58	Atlantic Cobia	Benchmark	2017	Late 2019	SEFSC
	59	Greater Amberjack	Standard	2016	Dec 2018	SEFSC
	60	Red Porgy	Standard	2017	Mar 2019	SEFSC
	NA	MRIP Revisions ¹	Revision	varies	TBD	SEFSC
	TBD	King Mackerel	Benchmark	TBD	TBD	SEFSC
2019	64	Yellowtail Snapper	Benchmark	TBD	Fall 2019	FL FWCC
	TBD	Snowy Grouper	Standard	TBD	TBD	SEFSC
	TBD	Golden Tilefish	Standard	TBD	TBD	SEFSC
	TBD	Scamp, Gulf + SA	Research Track	TBD	Mid-2020	SEFSC
FUTURE PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED BY SAFMC						
2020		Red Snapper	Benchmark			
		Spanish Mackerel	Standard			
		Gag	Standard			
		Scamp – Continued/Operational	Research Track			
2021		Gray Triggerfish	Benchmark			
		Black Sea Bass	Update			
		Red Grouper	Standard			
		Open – TBD Fall 2019				
2022		White Grunt	Benchmark			

1. MRIP Revisions: Red Grouper, Blueline Tilefish, Black Sea Bass, Vermilion Snapper

III. Future Priorities

A. Existing Assessments – Stocks that are not addressed in the schedule above, to be considered for update or standard assessments at the next opportunity.

Stock	Terminal Year
Black Grouper*	2008
Spiny lobster *	2010
Wreckfish [^]	2010
Hogfish* (South Florida)	2012
Mutton Snapper*	2012
Blueline Tilefish	2016

* Denotes stocks assessed by the Florida FWCC – priorities and timing established by FWCC.

[^] Denotes stock assessments conducted outside of the SEDAR process. Wreckfish was conducted by an outside contractor and reviewed by the SAFMC SSC. The SAFMC has requested that the SEFSC provide guidance on approaches to update the Wreckfish assessment.

B. Unassessed Stocks: Candidates for future Benchmark Assessments

SAFMC Ranking¹	NMFS Ranking²	STOCK	Notes
1	4	White Grunt	Planned 2022
1	6	Gray Triggerfish	Planned 2021; 2 attempts
1	8	Scamp	Planned 2019
1	9	Dolphin	SEDAR not appropriate venue ³
1	14	GA-NC Hogfish	1 attempt
2	5	Lane Snapper	
2	11	Almaco Jack	
2	13	Knobbed Porgy	
2	18	Silk Snapper	
2	19	Red Hind	
2	-	Atlantic Spadefish	
2	-	Banded Rudderfish	
2	-	Bar Jack	
2	-	Penaeid Shrimp	
2	-	Rock Hind	
2	-	Tomtate	#1 in SERFS in 2016
3	15	Speckled Hind	ABC = 0
3	16	Goliath Grouper	3 attempts
3	21	Warsaw Grouper	ABC = 0
3	-	Golden Crab	
3	-	Nassau Grouper	ABC = 0

1. SAFMC Ranking: Priorities established in the SAFMC Research Plan. 1=Primary, 2=Secondary, 3="Special" (due to data or management imposed limitations).
2. NMFS Ranking: Based on the NMFS Prioritization Tool, as applied by the SAFMC and SEFSC.
3. SEDAR Steering Committee requested that SEFSC evaluate possible international assessment opportunities, such as ICCAT.