

SAFMC SEDAR Projects Report

December 2018

Projects in Progress

SEDAR 58 Atlantic Cobia, Benchmark

SEDAR Contact: Julia Byrd

Summary:

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. Cooperators made workshop appointments for the Stock ID process in December 2018. The Stock ID Workshop was held April 10-12, 2018; the Stock ID Review Workshop was held June 5-7, 2018; the Joint Cooperator Technical Review was held July 30, 2018 via webinar; and the Science and Management Leadership Call was canceled due to guidance from the SEDAR Steering Committee which indicated this call was not necessary if there was not a change in the stock boundary. The final Cobia Stock ID Process Compiled Report was distributed August 17, 2018.

The ASMFC and SAFMC approved the assessment ToRs and schedule in May and June 2018, respectively. Appointments were made by both Cooperators in June 2018. The terminal year of the assessment is 2017. The schedule has been delayed approximately six weeks to allow for inclusion of the fully calibrated MRIP data. The current schedule includes a Data Workshop January 14-18, 2019 in Charleston, SC; Assessment webinars from April – August 2019; and a Review Workshop September 10-12, 2019 in the Beaufort, NC area. The assessment is scheduled to be complete in October 2019.

SEDAR 59 South Atlantic Greater Amberjack, Standard

SEDAR Contact: Julia Byrd

Summary:

A standard assessment was requested to allow consideration of video and headboat at-sea indices, to reconsider the use of age and length composition data, and to incorporate the latest BAM model configurations and updates to data calculation methodologies. The terminal year of the assessment was 2016, but due to delays in the fully calibrated MRIP data for use in assessments, the terminal year was advanced to 2017. The Council made appointments and approved the schedule and terms of reference in December 2017. A Data Scoping webinar was held on March 30, 2018. The original schedule included a data deadline for updated data of May 25, 2018; a series of Assessment webinars from June – October 2018; and was scheduled to be complete in December 2018, and review by the SSC in Spring 2019.

On the Data Scoping webinar, there was discussion on the availability and inclusion of the fully calibrated MRIP estimates into SEDAR 59. Further discussions noted that availability of the fully calibrated MRIP data would affect all 2018 SEDAR Projects. The SEDAR 59 schedule was delayed to allow for the inclusion of fully calibrated MRIP data and for the advancement of the terminal year. The current schedule includes an updated data deadline of November 2, 2018 and a series of Assessment webinars from December 2018 – March 2019. The assessment is scheduled to be complete in mid-May 2019.

SEDAR 60 South Atlantic Red Porgy, Standard

SEDAR Contact: Julia Byrd

Summary:

A standard assessment was requested to allow consideration of new video index data, reconsider the use of age and length composition data, and to incorporate the latest BAM model configurations and updates to data calculation methodologies. The terminal year of the assessment is 2017. The Council made appointments and approved the schedule and terms of reference in December 2017. The original schedule included an updated data deadline of August 10, 2018; a series of webinars from June 2018 – January 2019; and was scheduled to be complete in March 2019.

To allow for inclusion of the fully calibrated MRIP data, the SEDAR 60 schedule was delayed. The current schedule includes a Data Scoping webinar which was held June 29, 2018; an in-person workshop February 5-7, 2019 in the Beaufort, NC area; and a series of webinars from January – April 2019. The assessment is scheduled to be complete in June 2019.

Upcoming Projects – Planning Underway

SEDAR 64 Southeastern US Yellowtail Snapper, Benchmark

SEDAR Contact: Julie Neer

Summary: The State of Florida is taking the lead on the assessment of Southeastern US Yellowtail Snapper. SEDAR Staff worked with FWRI to produce a Project Schedule and Terms of Reference, which were approved by both Councils in June 2018. The Project Schedule has the assessment getting underway late 2018, with a raw data deadline in December 2018. The terminal year of data is 2017. The Data Workshop will be held February 25-27, 2019, assessment webinars are scheduled for April – July 2019, and the Review Workshop will be held October 8-10, 2019.

MRIP Revision Assessments

Species: South Atlantic: Red Grouper, Blueline Tilefish, Black Seabass, Vermilion Snapper

SEDAR Contact: South Atlantic: Julia Byrd

Summary: Revision assessments will include an update of the MRIP data, based on calibrations applied to address the effort survey change. No additional changes or data will be considered, and the terminal year of the assessment will not be advanced. Revision assessments were initially scheduled for development in late 2017 for SSC review in April 2018. The MRIP Transition Team recommended delaying assessment revisions until 2018, due to delays in the calibration processes and to include the full 3 years of side by side survey information (2015-2017). Revised data, addressing calibrations for both the effort and access point survey changes, were available through MRIP July 9, 2018. The SEFSC will need more time to complete additional adjustments so that data are ready for use in assessment.

Revision assessments were reviewed by the SSC at its October 15-17, 2018 meeting. In general, the SSC raised concerns that the large change in recreational landings observed for some stocks may have negatively affected overall model fit across all the data sources and questioned the treatment of Monroe County data in the revised estimates and the ratio approach used to develop the revised estimates. The SSC noted that the report submitted to address the revision assessments was insufficiently detailed and therefore prevented them from fully evaluating the revised assessments. Therefore, the SSC requested that the SEFSC provide complete assessment reports, and that the SSC meet via webinar in early 2019 to fully review the revision assessments. The SSC will then consider ABC recommendations based on the revision assessments at the Spring 2019 meeting.

SEDAR 66 South Atlantic Tilefish, Standard

SEDAR Contact: Julia Byrd

Summary: A standard assessment was requested to incorporate the latest BAM model configurations and updates to data calculation methodologies, to reconsider the error distributions for fitting age and length composition data, to examine evidence for changing selectivity in input data sources, and to investigate the potential use of two new data sources. The terminal year of the assessment is 2018. The preliminary schedule includes a series of webinars from May 2019 – February 2020 and an in-person workshop in January 14-16, 2020. The SAFMC will be asked to review and approve the schedule and terms of reference and make initial appointments in December 2018.

SEDAR 68 Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Scamp, Research Track (1 or 2 stocks)

SEDAR Contact: Julia Byrd

Summary: 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. A planning team met via webinar October 10, 2018 to develop a project milestone schedule and Terms of Reference (ToR). A Joint SAFMC and GMFMC SSC Sub-Panel is scheduled to meet via webinar on November 27, 2018 to review the draft ToRs and schedule which will then be provided for review and approval by the Gulf and South Atlantic Council's.

The preliminary schedule includes a Stock ID Process via webinars in Spring 2019, a Data Workshop in late October 2019, an Assessment Process via webinars in Spring/Summer 2020, and a Review Workshop in October 2020. The SAFMC will be asked to review and approve the ToRs/Schedule and appoint Stock ID participants at their December 2018 meeting.

SEDAR 36 South Atlantic Snowy Grouper, Update

SEDAR Contact: Julia Byrd

Summary: The Snowy Grouper update assessment is scheduled to be complete in September 2020. The terminal year of the assessment is 2018. The SAFMC will be asked to review and approve terms of reference in December 2018.

SEDAR 38 Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic King Mackerel, Update

SEDAR Contact: Julie Neer

Summary: Planning is underway for the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic King Mackerel Update assessments. The SAFMC will be asked to review and approve terms of reference before or at their March 2019 meeting. Because the TORs were not available for SSC review at their October meeting, they will be reviewed by the SSC during a webinar planned for January 2019 to review the MRIP revision assessments. The TORs will then be offered to the Council for review using the process for making approvals outside of regular meetings, in which the Council Chair, Committee Chair, and Council ED are asked to approve the document.

The Committee is asked at this meeting to indicate any specific concerns with King Mackerel for consideration in the update assessment.

2020 SEDAR Projects

In 2020 the SEDAR Steering Committee will fully move to the Research Track – Operational Assessment approach. To help the Committee plan the SEDAR workload, the SEFSC is now considering the time necessary to compile data for assessment projects, and the current assessment request SEDAR-wide exceeds the SEFSC data delivery capabilities for 2020. Additionally, as future operational assessments will range in complexity and may be similar to a current standard or update assessment, the SEFSC has asked that each SEDAR Cooperator provide preliminary information on the scope of future operational assessments. This will allow the SEFSC to more accurately determine data delivery needs and 2020 assessment capabilities.

For the 2020 assessments, this information is desired by March 1, 2019. South Atlantic Operational Assessments planned for 2020 include Spanish Mackerel and Gag. Preliminary topics to be discussed in these assessments are listed below, based on comments and research recommendations provided in the Stock Assessment and SSC reports. Recommendations from the SSC, based on their review at the October 2018 meeting, are included.

2020 Assessment Scope of Work

Spanish Mackerel

Model and Additional Data Years

- Update the Atlantic Spanish Mackerel SEDAR 28 BAM model, terminal year 2011. (This will add 7-8 years of new data, depending on the chosen terminal year.)
- Apply the current BAM configuration incorporating approved improvements developed since SEDAR 28

Data updates

- Update growth and reproductive models if additional samples are available for fish below 275 mm
- If available, include any improved information on steepness for similar pelagic species.
- Consider a sensitivity run to evaluate the impacts of the revised MRIP data.

Process

- Convene a panel of several SSC representatives to meet via webinar, as needed to review model development and provide guidance.
- Given the lack of specific assessment issues noted through reviews by both the SSC and the RW, this should be a straight forward OA that operates similar to a current update assessment.

Gag

Model and Additional Data Years

- Update the South Atlantic Gag update assessment from 2014, terminal year 2012. (This will add 6-7 years of new data, depending on the chosen terminal year.)
- Apply the current BAM configuration incorporating approved improvements developed since the 2014 update.
- Evaluate whether the model is able to reliably estimate steepness at this time.

Data updates

- Consider including the SERFS video index to address the need for additional fishery independent information.
- Evaluate how the species identification issues raised during the prior Black Grouper assessment attempt affect Gag.
- Consider a sensitivity run to evaluate the impacts of the revised MRIP data.

Process

- Convene a panel of several SSC representatives to meet via webinar, as needed to review model development and provide guidance.
- Based on the SSC suggestions that the next assessment should be a standard, and should evaluate the fixed steepness assumption and consider including the video index, this project will likely resemble a current standard assessment.

Table 2. SAFMC SEDAR Priorities

Plan Year	SEDAR #	Stocks	Approach	Terminal Data	Assessment Complete	Lead Agency
2018	58	Atlantic Cobia	Benchmark	2017	Late 2019	SEFSC
	59	Greater Amberjack	Standard	2017	May 2019	SEFSC
	60	Red Porgy	Standard	2017	Jun 2019	SEFSC
	NA	MRIP Revisions ¹	Revision	varies	Oct 2018	SEFSC
	TBD	King Mackerel	Update	2017 FY	Dec 2019	SEFSC
2019	64	Yellowtail Snapper	Benchmark	2017	Nov 2019	FL FWCC
	TBD	Snowy Grouper	Update	2018	Sept 2020	SEFSC
	TBD	Golden Tilefish	Standard	2018	April 2020	SEFSC
	TBD	Scamp, Gulf + SA	Research Track	TBD	Mid-2020	SEFSC
FUTURE PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED BY SAFMC						
2020 ²		Red Snapper	Research Track			SEFSC
		Spanish Mackerel	Operational			SEFSC
		Gag	Operational			SEFSC
		Scamp (cont.)	RT/Operational			SEFSC
2021		Gray Triggerfish	Research Track			SEFSC
		Black Sea Bass	Operational			SEFSC
		Red Grouper	Operational			SEFSC
		Red Snapper (cont.)	RT/Operational			SEFSC
		Mutton Snapper	Operational			FL FWCC
2022		White Grunt	Research Track			SEFSC
		Gray Triggerfish (cont.)	RT/Operational			SEFSC
		TBD by Spring 2020				
		TBD by Spring 2020				

1. MRIP Revision Priorities: Red Grouper, Black Sea Bass, Vermilion Snapper, Blueline Tilefish
2. By 2020, all SEDAR Assessments will use the Research Track and Operational project categories.