

SAFMC SEDAR Projects Report

March 2019

Projects in Progress

Impacts of the December 22, 2018 – January 25, 2019 Federal Government Shutdown.

The Federal government shutdown impacted all SEDAR projects currently underway. A complete listing of the affected SEDAR activities is provided in Appendix 1. From the perspective of final project completion, as measured by the timing of SSC review, the current SAFMC projects of Red Porgy and Greater Amberjack will not be negatively affected. Joint projects including the King Mackerel update and the FL FWCC led benchmark of Yellowtail Snapper will likely be delayed several months. The Scamp research track will be delayed, with the data workshop likely to be held in early 2020 rather than late 2019.

SEFSC and SEDAR staff met on February 13 to reschedule the major milestones and activities, including data deliveries, workshops, and webinars. The changes agreed to on the call are noted under each project. **Items requiring Council guidance are bolded.**

SEDAR Coordinators are now working with cooperators and participants to fully update the project schedules.

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.

SHUTDOWN IMPACTS

The Cobia Data Workshop will be rescheduled for April 1 - 5, 2019. The SEFSC was able to hold this workshop in March, but options were limited by hotel availability and

noticing requirements. The rest of the schedule will be modified, with the intent of completing the project by the close of CY 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 including fully calibrated MRIP data and advancing the terminal year. The original schedule included an updated data deadline of November 2, 2018 and a series of Assessment webinars from December 2018 – March 2019, and completion in mid-May 2019.

SHUTDOWN IMPACTS

The Greater Amberjack assessment will be pushed back a few months, to a completion date in late June. This will still allow the assessment to be considered by the SAFMC SSC in October 2019 and will therefore not result in any changes to the Council's timing of actions.

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 revised schedule included a Data Scoping webinar which was held June 29, 2018; an in-person workshop planned for February 5-7, 2019 in the Beaufort, NC area; and a series of webinars from January – April 2019. The assessment was scheduled to be complete in June 2019.

SHUTDOWN IMPACTS

The Red Porgy assessment will be pushed back a few months, to a completion date in late August. **This timing is contingent upon Council approval of cancelling the planned in-person workshop and conducting the assessment via webinar meetings.**

Completing the assessment by late August will allow the assessment to be considered by the SAFMC SSC in October 2019 and will therefore not result in any changes to the Council's timing of actions.

The SAFMC SSC requested the in-person workshop due to concerns over the elapsed time since the last assessment and the impacts of the revised MRIP data on assessment performance. As other projects were scheduled, particularly those that involved hotel meeting space subject to financial penalties, it became apparent that there was no window when this workshop could be scheduled during April – June. Further delaying this project would have two consequences: 1) the South Atlantic Golden Tilefish would be delayed, and not available to the SSC in April 2020 as planned, and 2) the Red Porgy assessment would not likely be completed for SSC review in October.

GUIDANCE:

Does the Committee support cancelling the in-person DW/AW?

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 scheduled for February 25-27, 2019 was postponed due to the shutdown. The assessment was originally scheduled for completion in October 2019.

SHUTDOWN IMPACTS

The Yellowtail Snapper assessment will be pushed back approximately 4 months. Due to hotel availability, the Data Workshop will be held June 25-27, 2019. The remainder of the project will be delayed as a result. A final completion date is not yet identified and will be determined once SEDAR and FWCC staff can develop a new project timeline.

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 Councils.

SHUTDOWN IMPACTS

The Scamp Research Track will be delayed significantly as a result of the shutdown. SEDAR and SEFSC staff agreed that completing the other ongoing projects were a higher priority in the recovery effort. The Scamp planning group will meet in late February to update the project plan. Some of the milestones preliminarily agreed to include an aging workshop in early August 2019 and stock ID webinars in August and September. It is likely that research track completion will be pushed back to 2021, with operational assessment completion in late 2021.

Upcoming Projects – Planning UnderwaySEDAR 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 included a series of webinars from May 2019 – February 2020, an in-person workshop in January 14-16, 2020, and project completion to enable review by the SSC in April 2020.

SHUTDOWN IMPACTS

Unless the Red Porgy in-person workshop is required, completion of this project will not be affected by the shutdown. A slight delay in data delivery can be accommodated.

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.

SHUTDOWN IMPACTS

None.

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. TORs were reviewed by the SSC via email in December 2018. TORS, including SSC comments, are offered for review and included as Appendix 2.

SHUTDOWN IMPACTS

The King Mackerel assessment will be pushed back to a completion date in March 2020, for possible review at the Spring 2020 SAFMC SSC meeting. There was discussion of a coordinated review effort by the GMFMC and SAFMC SSCs.

The delay in the completion date removed the need to ask the Council to approve the Terms of Reference for this assessment via the expedited process. They are provided here for review and approval.

GUIDANCE:

Does the Committee support staff attempting to organize a joint review effort, by the SAFMC and GMFMC SSCs, at the Spring 2020 SAFMC SSC meeting?

Consider approval of the Terms of Reference.

2020 SEDAR Projects

South Atlantic Operational Assessments planned for 2020 include Spanish Mackerel and Gag. The SEDAR Steering Committee will be discussing the 2020 workplan at the May 2019 meeting.

Table 1. SAFMC SEDAR Priorities

Plan Year	SEDAR #	Stocks	Approach	Terminal Data	SSC Review	Lead Agency
2018	58	Atlantic Cobia	Benchmark	2017	NA	SEFSC
	59	Greater Amberjack	Standard	2017	Oct 2019	SEFSC
	60	Red Porgy	Standard	2017	Oct 2019	SEFSC
	TBD	King Mackerel	Update	2017 FY	Apr 2020	SEFSC
2019	64	Yellowtail Snapper	Benchmark	2017	TBD	FL FWCC
	U	Snowy Grouper	Update	2018	Oct 2020	SEFSC
	66	Golden Tilefish	Standard	2018	April 2020	SEFSC
	68	Scamp, Gulf + SA	Research Track	TBD	TBD	SEFSC
	68OA	Scamp, Gulf + SA	Research Track	TBD	TBD	SEFSC
FUTURE PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED BY SAFMC						
2020 ¹		Spanish Mackerel	Operational			SEFSC
		Red Snapper	Research Track			SEFC
		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. By 2020, all SEDAR Assessments will use the Research Track and Operational project categories.

SEDAR IMPACTS**2018 – 2019 GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN**

Shutdown Period 12/22/2018 – 1/25/2019

AFFECTED ACTIVITIES – BY SEDAR PROJECT

As of 2/12/2019

SEDAR – All Projects - Global Planning Call POSTPONED

When: 1/10/2019

Participants: –SEDAR *Master Scheduling Group* - SEDAR staff, SEFSC Assessment team leads & Data leads

Subj: The intent of this call was to update the planning spreadsheet with revised data delivery and timing for 2019 projects, to address data delivery delays in late 2018.

SEDAR Task: Monitoring project schedules and deadlines, cancelling activities as required, and informing participants of changes.

SEDAR 57 Caribbean Spiny Lobster - CFMC**Review Workshop POSTPONED**

When: 1/29 – 1/31/2019

Participants: SEFSC analysts, CIE and Council Reviewers

Subj: Review workshop. Postponed, will need to coordinate with CIE to reschedule. Extended delay could lead to need to obtain new reviewers.

SEDAR Task: Working with CIE reps to determine how much advance time is needed for rescheduling, and how the length of delay necessary to trigger new reviewer appointments.

Report was due to the Council on March 1. **Will not be met.**

SEDAR 58 ATL Cobia - ASFMC**Data Workshop – Work Group Leader Planning Call POSTPONED**

When: 1/7/2019

Participants: SEDAR Coordinator, SEDAR 58 WG leads (all SEFSC) & ad-hoc group leads (mix of state and university)

Subj: Review S58 DW agenda and prep for Data Workshop

Data Workshop POSTPONED

When: 1/14-18/2019

Participants: SEDAR Coordinator, SEDAR 58 DW Panel (includes SEFSC, SERO, SSC, state agency, university, AP members, Council members, fishermen)

Subj: Data Workshop – data review, evaluation, and recommendations

Post-Data Workshop Webinar **POSTPONED**

When: 1/23/2019 at 1pm

Participants: SEDAR Coordinator, SEDAR 58 DW Panel (includes SEFSC, SERO, SSC, state agency, university, AP members, Council members, fishermen)

Subj: Post-DW Webinar – to finalize recommendations from the DW, as necessary

Final Data Deadline **POSTPONED**

When: January 25

Subj: Will not be met. Status of datasets unknown. Rescheduled in coordination with rescheduling of the DW.

SEDAR 59 South Atlantic Greater Amberjack - SAFMC

Data Delivery Deadline: Complete Status unknown

When: 11/2/2019

SUBJ: Some data were late as of the December 2018 SAFMC meeting. Discussions were held with SEFSC staff and during the assessment scoping webinar December 14; at the time, ‘moderate’ delays were not expected to result in the inability to complete the project for the October 2019 SAFMC SSC.

Assessment Scoping Webinar II - **POSTPONED**

When: 1/29/2019

Participants: SEDAR Coordinator, SEDAR 59 Panel and appointed observers (includes SEFSC, SERO, SSC, state agency, university, AP members, Council members, fishermen)

Subj: Assessment scoping webinar II; planning to finalize data review and continue to discuss model development. Status of missing datasets unknown.

SEDAR 60 SA Red Porgy - SAFMC

Data Delivery/Working Papers Deadline **Complete Status unknown**

When: Data delivery 11/30/2018 and working papers 12/17/2018.

Subj: Delays in data delivery were known prior to shutdown, although SEDAR did not receive an official status update on all the inputs prior to the shutdown. Discussion and update was planned for the Jan 9 webinar (postponed, below).

Assessment Scoping Webinar **POSTPONED**

When: 1/9/2019

Participants: SEDAR Coordinator, SEDAR 60 Panel and appointed observers (includes SEFSC, SERO, SSC, state agency, university, AP members, Council members, fishermen)

Subj: Anticipated discussing status of data delivery and impact on assessment schedule. Issues were identified with the aging data that could not likely to be fully resolved within a reasonable amount of time, as reevaluation of thousands of age structures may be required. Therefore, discussion was planned on potential alternative solutions (proxies or continuing to use increment ages). Also issues with analysis of MARMAP collected data, as mid-year funding cuts to MARMAP left it unable to complete items typically addressed in the past. At the SAFMC December meeting, SEFSC staff indicated they would work with MARMAP and determine whether SEFSC could complete some of the work.

Data/Assessment Workshop **POSTPONED**

When: 2/5-7/2019

Participants: SEDAR Coordinator, SEDAR 60 Panel & Appointed Observers (includes SEFSC, SERO, SSC, state agency, university, AP members, Council members, fishermen)

Subj: Data/Assessment Workshop – data review/evaluation/recommendations & model development; known issues with late data delivery for this assessment so shutdown exacerbated these issues – both late data delivery & shutdown impacted decision to postpone

SEDAR 61 Gulf red grouper - GMFMC

Assessment Webinar II **POSTPONED**

When: 1/10/2019

Participants: SEDAR Coordinator, SEDAR 61 Panel and appointed observers (includes SEFSC, SERO, SSC, state agency, university, industry)

SUBJ: Second assessment webinar; discussing modeling to date.

Assessment Webinar III **POSTPONED**

When: Was TBD, week of February 11.

Participants: SEDAR Coordinator, SEDAR 61 Panel and appointed observers (includes SEFSC, SERO, SSC, state agency, university, industry)

SUBJ: Third assessment webinar; discussing modeling to date. Not noticed; Poll to pick date went out after the shutdown.

Final Report

Scheduled to be to the Council on June 24, 2019. **May not be met.**

SEDAR 62 Gulf Gray Trigger - GMFMC

Data Deadline – status unknown

When: 12/14/2018

Participants: SEFSC data providers

SUBJ: Deadline for submitting datasets. SEDAR does not know what was provided to the analytical team as of that date. Data deliveries were running several weeks behind in December 2018.

Data Webinar,

When: Was TBD, week of February 18. A webinar was rescheduled for February 27, to provide participants an update on the project and address recovering from the shutdown.

Participants: SEDAR Coordinator, SEDAR 62 Panel and appointed observers (includes SEFSC, SERO, SSC, state agency, university, industry)

SUBJ: data webinar; discussing data sets and preliminary analysis prior to in-person workshop in March. Not noticed; Poll to pick date went out after the shutdown.

SEDAR 63 Gulf Menhaden - GSMFMC

Status: Review Workshop was held early November. Final review reports, and CIE reviewer reports, were provided to SEDAR just prior to the shutdown.

The shutdown did not result in any impacts to this SEDAR project.

SEDAR 64 Atlantic/Gulf Yellowtail Snapper – GMFMC+SAFMC, FWCC LEDData Webinar

When: 1/10/2019

Participants: Data providers and Workshop participants (state, federal, university, industry)

SUBJ: Held, but reduced effectiveness due to lack of fed participation. Intended to address status of data deliveries for upcoming data workshop, ensure all datasets are covered and delivery is on track. Webinar went forward but without Federal personnel who hold key data sets.

Working Papers and Data Deadlines Approaching

When: DW working papers 2/8; MRIP data 2/11.

SUBJ: Do not anticipate these deadlines being met.

Data Workshop – **POSTPONED**

When: 2/25 – 2/28, 2019

Participants: Data providers and Workshop participants (state, federal, university, industry)

SUBJ: Data workshop. Postponed due to uncertainty in availability of federal datasets, participation by federal data providers in the workshop. Overall preparations significantly behind as of late January, and no information on when data can be provided. FWCC recommended postponing the workshop.

SEDAR 65 Atlantic Blacktip Shark Benchmark – HMS

Approval of Terms of Reference and Project Schedule - **POSTPONED**

Slated to be completed January 2019

Appointment of Panelists – **likely POSTPONED**

Slated to be completed February 2019

Data Scoping Call **POSTPONED**

When: February 2019

Impact: Initial call to discuss available data, will be rescheduled as appropriate to accommodate the revised project plan.

Participants: SEDAR Coordinator, SEDAR 65 Panel and appointed observers (includes SEFSC, HMS, state agency, university, industry)

Project Impacts: As this project was just getting underway, it is reasonable to assume that the entire project schedule will need to be adjusted to accommodate the delay in the initial steps. Additionally, the Data Workshop was scheduled to accommodate the ICCAT schedule, as the lead analysts are also working on an ICCAT Assessment. Revising this project schedule will need to take those constraints into account.

SEDAR 67 Gulf Vermilion Snapper - GMFMC

Status: Data scoping call scheduled for the week of April 22nd. Data due June 2019. No direct impacts, but project deadline will need to be revised.

SEDAR 68 Scamp Research Track - Gulf and South Atlantic

Aging Workshop **POSTPONED**

When: scheduled for January 2019; rescheduled for May 2019, due in large part to hurricane impacts; unsure whether shutdown may cause further delay

Participants: SEFSC life history staff (Beaufort, Panama City); SC DNR MARMAP Life History staff. To be organized by SEFSC, Panama City.

SUBJ: Address QA/QC for age determinations, critical requirement to ensure validity and consistency across aging labs. Delay would impact age sample processing.

Plans were in place for structure exchanges between labs during the shutdown period, to prepare for a May 2019 aging workshop. Delay in the exchanges could lead to further delay in the age workshop.

Planning Team Recommendations for Workshop Participants **POSTPONED**

When: target early-February 2019 (flexible deadline; was not determined prior to shutdown)

Participants: Scamp project planning team – SSC, SEFSC, SEDAR, Council Staff. SEFSC assessment leads are critical participants

SUBJ: Provide recommendations for individuals requested for workshop appointments, and areas of expertise to be covered by DW-AW appointments. Delay has affected SEDAR staff's development of the potential participant list, and may delay requests to Councils (Gulf and South Atlantic) to make appointments

Other Activities

Stock ID data scoping webinar planned for early March 2019. Unprocessed Stock ID data due April 10; Seems likely to be delayed due the overall schedule push caused by the shutdown.

Gulf Cobia Update - GMFMC

Status: Data due August 2019. No known direct impacts, but project deadline may need to be revised. Life history (age) work likely delayed.

King Mackerel Update – SAFMC+GMFMC

Status: Data due March 2019. No known direct impacts, but project deadline will need to be revised. Life history (age) work likely delayed.

RECOVERY OUTLOOK

Due to the impacts the shutdown will have on all data preparations and model development, the entire SEDAR schedule will have to be updated.

The first step from the SEDAR perspective will be to convene the Master Scheduling Group to determine where data deliveries stand and which deadlines can still be met. SEFSC will need time to conduct an internal status review prior to the call.

Depending on the severity of the delays, the SEDAR steering committee may need to weigh in on changes in project order and priorities.

Some of the “hidden” consequences to consider include impacts on:

- Age sample evaluations
- Model development and preparation
- Survey video evaluation
- Index preparation and development

Many of the administrative and planning tasks that the Coordinators should have been working on during the shutdown have not been completed since communication with federal partners could not occur.



SEDAR Update Assessment

Atlantic King Mackerel

Terms of Reference

1. Update the approved SEDAR 38 Gulf of Mexico king mackerel base model with data through 2017-2018 fishing year.
2. Document any changes or corrections made to model and input datasets and provide updated input data tables. Provide commercial and recreational landings and discards in pounds and numbers, when possible.
3. Update model parameter estimates and their variances, model uncertainties, estimates of stock status and management benchmarks, and provide the probability of overfishing occurring at specified future harvest and exploitation levels.
4. Develop a stock assessment update report to address these TORS and fully document the input data and results of the stock assessment update.

NOTE: The intent of update assessments is to expedite appraisals of stock status by using only the methods and data sets used in the base model and approved during the preceding SEDAR assessment of that stock. Accordingly, it is not the intent of this update to resolve any outstanding issues identified in the initial SEDAR 38 assessment.

