

SAFMC SEDAR Committee

SEDAR Activities Report

June 2019

Projects in Progress

SAFMC SSC MRIP Concerns Impacts

The SAFMC SSC raised concerns about the current MRIP data and its usage in ongoing assessments. The SAFMC has supported an SSC request to hold a workshop dedicated to addressing MRIP concerns and determining how to move ahead in using MRIP data for assessments and management recommendations for unassessed stocks. The SSC has convened a steering committee to develop workshop plans. The Workshop will be held August 19-21 in Charleston. SAFMC assessments of Red Porgy, Greater Amberjack, and Tilefish are currently on hold until these issues are resolved.

SEDAR 58 Atlantic Cobia, Benchmark

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

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 was delayed in 2018, by approximately six weeks, to allow for inclusion of the fully calibrated MRIP data.

SHUTDOWN IMPACTS

The Cobia Data Workshop was held April 1 - 5, 2019. The rest of the schedule was updated to have the review workshop scheduled for November 19-21, 2019 with the completed SAR available to the Cooperators in January 2020.

SEDAR 59 South Atlantic Greater Amberjack, Standard

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

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 allowing 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 was pushed back a few months, to a completion date in late June. This allowed the assessment to be considered by the SAFMC SSC in October 2019 and avoided any changes to the Council's timing of actions.

However, the SAFMC SSC raised concerns with the revised MRIP catch estimates and the FES survey on which they are based and recommended that work on ongoing assessments be halted until those issues are resolved in a dedicated workshop as detailed above.

This project is on hold, pending SAFMC SSC workshop.

SEDAR 60 South Atlantic Red Porgy, Standard

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

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

Based on the planning group recommendation to cancel the in-person workshop, the Red Porgy assessment would be pushed back a few months, to a completion date in late

August. 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. However, due to concerns raised subsequently by the SAFMC regarding the MRIP estimates, the Council rejected eliminating the in-person workshop. Additionally, the SAFMC SSC raised concerns with the revised MRIP catch estimates and the FES survey on which they are based and recommended that work on ongoing assessments be halted until those issues are resolved in a dedicated workshop as detailed above.

This project is on hold, pending SAFMC SSC workshop.

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 Review Workshop is now scheduled for February 25-27, 2020, with the completed SAR available to the Cooperators in March 2020.

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

SEDAR Contact: Julie A Neer

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 met 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 2019. Currently, the Data Workshop will be held in March 2020, with assessment webinars between July and October 2020. The Review Workshop is tentatively scheduled for

March 2021, with an operational assessment in late 2021, but that will depend on the progress of the assessment.

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

SEDAR Contact: Julie Neer

Summary: The Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic King Mackerel Update assessments are underway. TORs were approved by the GMFMC in January 2019, and by the SAFMC in March 2019.

SHUTDOWN IMPACTS

The King Mackerel assessment will be pushed back to a completion date in March 2020.

Upcoming Projects – Planning Underway

SEDAR 69 ASMFC Atlantic Menhaden, Review

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

Summary: The Atlantic Menhaden review workshop is scheduled for November 4-8th, 2019. The terminal year for the assessment is 2017. The completion date of the assessment is December 2019.

SEDAR 66 South Atlantic Tilefish, Standard

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

Summary: The South Atlantic Tilefish standard assessment is in the planning stages. The TORs were approved by SAFMC in December 2017. The terminal year for data is 2018. The completion date is April 2020.

This project is on hold, pending SAFMC SSC workshop.

SEDAR 36 South Atlantic Snowy Grouper, Update

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

Summary: The South Atlantic snowy Grouper update assessment is in the planning stages. The TORs were approved by the SAFMC in December 2018. The terminal year for data is 2018. The completion date is April 2020.

This project is on hold, pending SAFMC SSC workshop.

SEDAR Steering Committee – SAFMC Highlights

The SEDAR Steering Committee met May 16-17, 2019 in Charleston, SC to discuss SEDAR scheduling and process issues.

The Steering Committee modified assessment priorities and timing to address the 2018/19 government shutdown impacts. Changes to project schedules are noted under each project in the preceding sections and summarized in the table below, excerpted from the Steering Committee Draft Report.

The Committee received an update from the SEFSC on opportunities for updating the Wreckfish assessment. A concern raised is that the US fishery only accesses a portion of the stock. Data-limited assessment methods may be appropriate for this stock. The SEFSC will report its recommendations to the SSC at the next SSC meeting in October.

The next meeting of the Steering Committee will be late September 2019, via webinar. At that time the Committee will review initial assessment priorities for 2024 and beyond.

Table 2 from SEDAR STEERING COMMITTEE DRAFT REPORT, May 16-17, 2019.

Showing SEDAR assessment projects, approved and pending, for 2019-2023.

		2019 Schedule revisions, approved					FUTURE Requests							
		2020/21 Approved Projects					2021 Preliminary Projects - to be finalized Fall 2019.							
SEDAR SCHEDULE OVERVIEW - MAY 2019 SEDAR Steering Committee Approved - 5/17/2019														
YEAR	SA Team				Gulf/Caribbean Team					HMS Team		FL FWCC	ASMFC GSMFC	CMP
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	1	2			
2019		COBIA B TY17			Red Grp Std	Gray Trig Std							ATL Menhaden Review	
			GAJ Std 17	Red Prgy Std 17		Cobia U	Vermilion S			Spiny Lobster				YTS Bench
2020	Scamp RT	Snowy Grp u 18	gag OA	tilefish OA 18	Scamp RT	GAJ OA 2018	Gag OA 2019			Queen Trig PR-StX-STT	Atl Blktip Bench			
2021	Scamp OA	RS RT+OA	black sea bass, red grp oa	spanish OA	Scamp OA		gray trig, Gray Snap, gulf hog	Red Snp RT + OA		Lane@PR, Queen Snap@PR, Redtail Parrot@STX, Yellowtail Snapr@STX	Hammerheads - RT	Mutton Benchmark		
2022			gray trigger RT			Red Grouper RT, Red Drum RT						Atlantic hogfish		
2023			White Grunt RT											

Table 1. SAFMC SEDAR Priorities by Year, 2019-2023.

Plan Year	SEDAR #	Stocks	Approach	Terminal Data	SSC Review	Lead Agency
2019	58	Atlantic Cobia	Benchmark	2017	NA-ASMFC	SEFSC
	59	Greater Amberjack	Standard	2017		SEFSC
	60	Red Porgy	Standard	2017		SEFSC
	TBD	King Mackerel	Update	2017 FY	Apr-20	SEFSC
	64	Yellowtail Snapper	Benchmark	2017		FL FWCC
2020	U	Snowy Grouper	Update	2018		SEFSC
	66	golden Tilefish	Standard	2018		SEFSC
	68	Scamp, Gulf + SA	Research Track			SEFSC
		Gag	Operational			SEFSC
2021		Spanish Mackerel	Operational			SEFSC
		Scamp (cont.)	RT/Operational			SEFSC
		Red Snapper	Research Track			
FUTURE SAFMC PRIORITIES						
2021		Black Sea Bass	Operational			SEFSC
		Red Grouper	Operational			SEFSC
		Mutton Snapper	Benchmark			FL FWCC
2022		Gray Trigger	Research Track			SEFSC
		Red Snapper (cont.)	RT/Operational			SEFSC
		1-2 stocks (by 09/19) ²	Operational			
		Atlantic Hogfish				SEFSC
2023		White Grunt	Research Track			SEFSC
		2-3 stocks (by 09/20) ²	Operational			

1. By 2020, all SEDAR Assessments will use the Research Track and Operational project categories.
2. The Steering Committee will finalize 2022 assessments in May 2020 and 2023 assessments in May 2021. Identifying SAFMC priorities by the date listed allows time for the SSC to review assessment scopes of work (SOW) (in October), and the SAFMC to review the SOWs (in December), before the SOWs are due to the SEFSC on March 1 annually.