

SAFMC SEDAR Projects Report

May 2018

I. Ongoing Projects

Completed Projects, December 2017 – May 2018

SEDAR 50 Atlantic Blueline Tilefish, Benchmark

SEDAR Contact: Julia Byrd

Summary: A benchmark assessment began in mid-2016. Significant events during the project included a recommendation from the August 2016 Age Workshop that age determinations are not reliable and should not be used in the assessment; and a recommendation from the June 2016 Stock ID workshop that the biological stock extends from the Mid-Atlantic through the Gulf of Mexico. Following discussion of the stock ID recommendation, the SEDAR Steering Committee recommended a joint SSC review of the stock ID findings; this review was held October 28, 2016. The Steering Committee recommended a regional science and management leadership level review of the joint SSC findings to provide TOR guidance, conducted during a conference call on November 14, 2016. The Council-Agency leadership group recommended conducting the SEDAR 50 assessment with a Gulf-South Atlantic stock dividing line at the Gulf-South Atlantic Council boundary. The SAFMC passed a motion in December 2016 to modify the TORs in accordance with this recommendation. The Data Workshop was held January 23-27, 2017, the Assessment Process consisted of a combination of an in-person workshop on May 23-26, 2017 and a series of webinars held between April and July 2017, and the Review Workshop was held August 29-31, 2017. The final Stock Assessment Report was distributed in October 2017.

The assessment was reviewed by the South Atlantic SSC in October 2017 and recommendations for South of Cape Hatteras were provided to the SAFMC in December 2017. A sub-panel of SSC members from the MAFMC and SAFMC SSCs was convened to develop recommendations for North of Hatteras. These recommendations were reviewed by the MAFMC SSC in March 2018 and the SAFMC SSC in May 2018.

SEDAR 55 South Atlantic Vermilion Snapper, Standard

SEDAR Contact: Julia Byrd

Summary: A standard assessment was requested to allow consideration of new video index data and to reconsider error distributions for fitting age and length composition data. The Project Schedule and Terms of Reference were approved, and appointments made, in June 2017. The terminal year of the assessment is 2016. 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 were held from January 2018 through March 2018. The final Stock Assessment Report was disseminated in April 2018. The South Atlantic SSC considered this assessment at their May 2018 meeting and recommendations will be provided to the Council in June 2018.

SEDAR 56 South Atlantic Black Seabass, Standard

SEDAR Contact: Julia Byrd

Summary: A standard assessment was requested to allow consideration of new video data, to reconsider the use of length and age data, and consider new studies and data available on discard mortality. 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 March 2018. The final Stock Assessment Report was disseminated in April 2018. The South Atlantic SSC considered this assessment at their May 2018 meeting and recommendations will be provided to the Council in June 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 will be held June 5-7, 2018; the Joint Cooperator Technical Review will be held via webinar in late July/August 2018; and the Science and Management Leadership Call will be held in August 2018. The final Stock ID resolution will be complete by the end of August 2018.

Planning for the remaining stages of this assessment (Data, Assessment and Review) is underway now. The SAFMC and ASMFC will be asked to make appointments and approvals in the upcoming months. The preliminary schedule includes a Data Workshop the week of November 27th, a series of Assessment webinars from March – June 2019, and a Review Workshop July 30-August 1, 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 is 2016. 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. An Assessment Scoping webinar is scheduled for late June and a series of Assessment webinars are scheduled from August 2018 – October 2018. An in-person workshop may potentially be added to the project schedule in late September 2018 if the SEDAR 59 Panel feels it is needed to complete the assessment. The assessment is scheduled for completion in December 2018, and review by the SSC in Spring 2019.

On the Data Scoping webinar, there was discussion on the inclusion of the fully calibrated MRIP estimates into SEDAR 59. MRIP will release calibrated data on July 1 and the SEFSC will need time to do an additional adjustment to account for the For-Hire Survey method change. SEFSC indicated the fully calibrated MRIP data for SEDAR 59 could be provided August 17, 2018 which mean final recreational data would be available ~ 2 weeks later (methods to estimate headboat discards, recreational historic catch, and recreational composition data are typically dependent on MRIP estimates). Including the fully calibrated MRIP data may cause a delay in the assessment completion. SEDAR staff are following up with the SEFSC and SAFMC regarding these latest developments.

The fully calibrated data availability was further modified at the Steering Committee meeting of May 14-15. To avoid a potential costly cancellation of the Gulf red grouper assessment, for which a workshop is already contracted, the SAFMC agreed to allow the SEFSC to prepare Gulf Red Grouper data prior to that for SAFMC Greater Amberjack. In return for additional delay in Greater Amberjack, the terminal year will be advanced to 2017. The estimated data delivery date provided at the Steering Committee was October 29, 2018. This will delay project completion until early summer 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 assessment will get underway with a Data Scoping webinar in late June 2018. An Assessment Scoping webinar is scheduled for October 2018. Assessment webinars are scheduled for November 2018 and January 2019 and an in-person workshop is scheduled for December 10-12, 2018. The assessment is scheduled to be complete in March 2019 and reviewed by the SSC in Spring 2019.

MRIP will release calibrated data on July 1 and in late March 2018, the SEFSC notified SEDAR more time would be needed to do an additional adjustment to account for the For-Hire Survey method change. SEFSC indicated the fully calibrated MRIP data for SEDAR 60 could be provided October 5, 2018 (original data deadline = August 10,

2018). Similar to SEDAR 59, including the fully calibrated MRIP data may cause a delay in the assessment completion. SEDAR staff will be following up with the SEFSC and SAFMC regarding these latest developments.

At the May 14-15, 2018 Steering Committee meeting the SEFSC MRIP data delivery for red porgy was delayed until October 31, 2018. This will delay final completion until early summer, 2019.

Upcoming Projects – Planning Underway

SEDAR 64: Southeastern US Yellowtail Snapper, Benchmark

SEDAR Contact: Julie Neer

Summary: The State of Florida will be taking the lead on the assessment of Southeastern US Yellowtail Snapper. SEDAR Staff has worked with FWRI to produce a Project Schedule and Terms of Reference. These have been provided to the Councils for their review and approval at the June meetings. The draft Project Schedule has the assessment getting underway late 2018, with a raw data deadline in December 2018.

MRIP Revision Assessments

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

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, are expected to be available July 1, 2018. The SEFSC will need more time to do an additional adjustment to account for the For-Hire Survey method change.

Revision assessments are planned for 2018, although specific timing depends on when the revised, fully calibrated MRIP data are available and can be provided to the analytical team.

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. 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 details are expected to be available following the May 14-15 SEDAR Steering Committee meeting.

Updated MRIP fully calibrated data delivery dates, and tentative revised project completion dates. Based on discussions at the May 2018 SEDAR Steering Committee meeting.

Project	Original Data Delivery	REVISED MRIP Fully Calibrated Data Delivery	Estimated Completion Date*	Terminal Year
SEDAR 29 Update: HMS GoM Blacktip Shark	4/6/2018	8/3/2018	No changes	
SEDAR 59: SA Greater Amberjack	5/25/2018	10/29/2018	5/1/2019	2017
SEDAR 61: GoM Red Grouper	6/1/2018	9/21/2018	4/1/2019	2017^
SEDAR 62: GoM Gray Triggerfish	7/13/2018	11/16/2018	6/19/2019	2017
SEDAR 60: SA Red Porgy	8/10/2018	10/31/2018	6/15/2019	2017
SEDAR 58: Atlantic Cobia	11/13/2018	11/20/2018	TBD	2017

SAFMC SEDAR Priorities

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	May 2019	SEFSC
	60	Red Porgy	Standard	2017	Jun 2019	SEFSC
	NA	MRIP Revisions ¹	Revision	varies	TBD	SEFSC
	TBD	King Mackerel	TBD	TBD	TBD	SEFSC
2019	64	Yellowtail Snapper	Benchmark	TBD	Fall 2019	FL FWCC
	TBD	Snowy Grouper	Standard	TBD	TBD	SEFSC
	TBD	Golden Tilefish ²	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 Revision Priorities: Red Grouper, Black Sea Bass, Vermilion Snapper, Blueline Tilefish
2. March 2018 request to begin golden Tilefish ASAP, in late 2018 if possible.