

SEDAR Steering Committee

Projects Report

September 2017

Completed Projects, May 2017 –August 2017

1 project assessing 1 stock

SEDAR 48 Florida Black Grouper, Benchmark

SEDAR Contact: Julie Neer

Summary: A benchmark assessment of Black Grouper was scheduled be prepared during 2017 with Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission providing the analytical team. This is a jointly managed stock with the GMFMC so both Councils made appointments and approved the schedule and Terms of Reference. The SAFMC made appointments and provided approvals in December 2016. The Data Workshop was held March 15-17, 2017 in St. Petersburg, FL. A variety of issues were identified during the data stage of this process and the FWC decided to halt the development of the assessment at that point. A Data Workshop report has been prepared, documenting the state of the data through the post- DW webinar. That report will be provided to both Council SSCs for their review. The Gulf Council SSC will review it in September 2017, and the South Atlantic Council SSC will receive it in October 2017.

Projects in Progress

7 projects addressing 7 stocks

SEDAR 50 Atlantic Blueline Tilefish, Benchmark

SEDAR Contact: Julia Byrd

Summary: A benchmark assessment has been underway since mid-2016. Significant events to date include 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 assessment will be considered by the South Atlantic SSC in October 2017 and recommendations provided to the Council in December 2017.

SEDAR 51 Gulf of Mexico Gray Snapper, Benchmark

SEDAR Contact: Julie Neer

Summary: The Stock ID process for gray snapper was conducted via webinars in late 2016. A data scoping call was held in January 2017, and a Data Webinar in February 2017. The Data Workshop was held 24-28 April 2017 in Tampa, Florida. Assessment webinars are being held June through October 2017, and the Review Workshop is to be held February 13-15, 2018 in Miami.

SEDAR 52 Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper, Standard

SEDAR Contact: Julie Neer

Summary: The Terms of Reference and Project Schedule for this assessment were approved in April 2017. The Data deadline was August 1, 2017 and an in-person workshop has been scheduled for November 29-December 1, 2017 in Miami, FL. An Assessment Scoping webinar is scheduled for September 2017. Assessment webinars are scheduled for January and February 2018, and the assessment should be completed March 2018.

SEDAR 54 HMS Sandbar Shark, Standard

Coordinator: Julie Neer

Summary: An assessment following a Standard-track approach for HMS Sandbar Shark will be conducted in 2017. The Project Schedule and the Terms of Reference were finalized in December 2016. A data scoping call was held February 2017, and a data webinar was held in March 2017. Assessment webinars are being conducted May-August, and a CIE desk review will be conducted in October 2017. The assessment is scheduled to be completed by December 2017.

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 finalized in June 2017 and the terminal year of the assessment will be 2016. A data scoping call was held in August 2017. An Assessment Scoping webinar will be held in October 2017 and a series of Assessment Webinars will be held from November 2017 through February 2018. The assessment is scheduled to be complete at the end of March 2018, to be considered by the South Atlantic SSC in late April 2018, and recommendations 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 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. With the requested delay, the SEDAR 56 assessment would not be available for review at the October 2017 SAFMC SSC meeting. The SEDAR Steering Committee discussed the requested delay at their May 2017 meeting, approving the delay but requesting the SEFSC report back on the feasibility of advancing the terminal year of the assessment. After consultation with the SEFSC and other data providers, the terminal year for the assessment was advanced to 2016 and the schedule was revised extending the series of webinars through February 2018. The assessment is now scheduled to be complete at the beginning of April 2018, to be considered by the South Atlantic SSC in late April 2018, and recommendations provided to the Council in June 2018.

SEDAR 57: Caribbean Spiny Lobster, Benchmark

SEDAR Contact: Julie Neer

Summary: The Terms of Reference and Project Schedule for this assessment were approved in July 2017. The Council is currently working on making Panel appointments. An Unprocessed Data deadline is scheduled for 8 December 2017. The Data Workshop is scheduled for January 23-25, 2018 in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Assessment webinars will be conducted April – June 2017, and the Review Workshop will be held in Miami, FL July 31- August 1, 2018 the assessment should be completed August 2018.

Upcoming Projects – Planning Underway

5 projects addressing 5 stocks

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 have been working with FWRI to produce a Project Schedule, which will be provided to the SEDAR Steering Committee as part of the draft work plan for the assessment. Once approved, SEDAR Staff and FWRI Personnel will work to develop Terms of Reference, which along with the Project Schedule will be provided to the Councils for approval. The draft Project Schedule indicates that the assessment will get underway in late 2018.

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. Planning is underway for the Stock ID portion of the assessment. A Cobia Stock ID Organizing Committee was established. Members were appointed by their relevant SEDAR Steering Committee representatives and include representatives from the SEFSC, SERO, and staff from the SAFMC, GMFMC, ASMFC, and SEDAR. The Cobia Stock ID Organizing Committee has held three webinar meetings thus far and has developed draft Stock ID Terms of Reference

and a Stock ID Project Schedule for the SEDAR Steering Committee's consideration. The preliminary schedule has the Stock ID Workshop being held in April 2018 and the Stock ID Review Workshop in June 2018 with the final Stock ID resolution complete by August 2018. Planning for the remaining stages for this assessment (Data, Assessment and Review) will get underway in early 2018.

SEDAR 59 South Atlantic Greater Amberjack, Standard

SEDAR Contact: Julia Byrd

Summary: Planning is underway for the South Atlantic Greater Amberjack assessment. A standard assessment was requested to allow consideration of new video index data. The terminal year will be 2016 and the assessment is scheduled to be complete in December 2018. SEDAR staff are working with the SEFSC to develop draft Terms of Reference and a detailed Project Schedule.

SEDAR 60 South Atlantic Red Porgy, Standard

SEDAR Contact: Julia Byrd

Summary: Planning is underway for the South Atlantic Red Porgy assessment. A standard assessment was requested to allow consideration of new video index data. The terminal year will be 2017 and the assessment is scheduled to be complete in March 2019. SEDAR staff are working with the SEFSC to develop draft Terms of Reference and a detailed Project Schedule.

SEDAR 64 Gulf of Mexico Menhaden, Review

SEDAR Contact: Julia Byrd

Summary: Initial planning has started for the Gulf of Mexico Menhaden Review Workshop. The workshop will be held in November 2018 in New Orleans, LA. SEDAR staff will work with GSMFC in the upcoming months to develop Review Workshop Terms of Reference and a Project Schedule.

Postponed Projects

MRIP Revision Assessments

Species: South Atlantic: Red Snapper, Red Grouper, Blueline Tilefish, Black Seabass Gulf of Mexico: Greater Amberjack, Gag, Vermilion Snapper, Spanish Mackerel

SEDAR Contact: South Atlantic: Julia Byrd; Gulf of Mexico: Julie Neer

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 in mid 2018.

A Peer Review of the calibration methods for the revised effort survey was held June 26-30. As of preparation of this document, the peer review report was not available. It will be provided to the Committee once it is available. A conference call of the MRIP transition team is scheduled for Monday, September 18th to provide that group an update on the peer review. Revision assessments are planned for 2018, although specific timing depends on when the revised data are available.

HMS Blacktip Shark, Update

SEDAR Contact: Julie Neer

Summary: During the last Steering Committee meeting, it was determined that this assessment would be pushed back until 2018, due to staffing issues and the desire to have the updated MRIP numbers included in the assessment.

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. As such the Cooperators were not in the position to make the necessary approvals required to support an early 2018 project start.

Stock ID and Meristics Procedural Workshop

SEDAR Contact: Julia Byrd

Summary: Postponed Indefinitely. The Data Best Practices workshop in 2015 recommended a workshop devoted to addressing Stock ID and Meristics issues for upcoming assessments. Initial planning began in 2016 for a workshop and independent peer review in 2017. However, due to budget concerns for 2017, this workshop was cancelled in December 2016. Stock ID for upcoming research track assessments of Gulf of Mexico/South Atlantic Scamp and Atlantic Cobia will be addressed through the Research Track Process.

Given that stock ID has become particularly challenging with recent assessments, and there is considerable confusion regarding how such decisions should be made and for which stocks past decisions should be reconsidered, a general discussion of stock ID determinations, including both the process and the stocks to review, is under consideration for a possible joint meeting of the SAFMC and GMFMC SSCs.

**Summary of SEDAR Project Schedules for 2018 assessments
(14 August 2017)**

SEDAR 51 – Gulf of Mexico Gray Snapper (Benchmark)

Gray Snapper Stock ID Webinars – November 2016

Raw Life History and Length Comp Data Deadline: 30 January 2017

Landings Data Deadline: 3 April 2017

DW: April 24-28, 2017 - Tampa

Assessment webinars: June – September 2017

RW: February 13-15, 2018 – Miami, FL

Terminal Year of Data: 2015

Report Available to Council: April 2018

Coordinator: Julie

SEDAR 52 – Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper (Standard)

Data Deadline: 1 August 2017

In-person workshop: November 29- December 1, 2017– Miami, FL

Assessment webinars: January – February 2018

Terminal Year of Data: 2016

Report Available to Council: March 2018

Coordinator: Julie

SEDAR 55 – SA Vermilion Snapper (Standard)

Data Deadlines: 30 June 2017 (landings); 18 September 2017 (other data sets)

Assessment webinars: August 2017 – February 2018

Terminal Year of Data: 2016

Report Available to Council: April 2018

Coordinator: Julia

SEDAR 56 – SA Black Sea Bass (Standard)

Data Deadline: October 13, 2017

Assessment Webinars: November 2017 – February 2018

Terminal Year of Data: 2016

Report Available to Cooperator: April 2018

Coordinator: Julia

SEDAR 57 – Caribbean Spiny Lobster

Raw Life History and Length Comp Data Deadline: 22 December 2017

Landings Data Deadline:

DW: January 23-25, 2018 - ???

Assessment webinars: April – June 2018

RW: July 31-August 2, 2018 – Miami, FL

Terminal Year of Data: 2016

Report Available to Council: September 2018

**Summary of SEDAR Project Schedules for 2018 assessments
(14 August 2017)**

Coordinator: Julie

SEDAR 58 Atlantic Cobia (Benchmark)

Stock ID Data Deadline (some datasets may be preliminary): 2 March 2018

Stock ID Work Group Meeting: April 10-12, 2018 - TBD

Stock ID Review Workshop: June 5-7, 2018 - TBD

Raw Life History and Length Comp Data Deadline: 14 September 2018

Landings Data Deadline: 13 November 2018

DW: November 27-30, 2018 – Charleston

AW: ???

Assessment webinars: ???

RW: ??? – Beaufort, NC

Terminal Year of Data: 2017

Report Available to Council: late 2019

Coordinator: Julia

SEDAR 59 – SA Greater Amberjack (Standard)

SFD Deadline (Recreational landings, discards, size comps, etc.): 23 March 2018

Main Data Deadline: 25 May 2018

Assessment webinars: TBD

Terminal Year of Data: 2016 (Council requested 2017)

Report Available to Council: December 2018

Coordinator: Julia

SEDAR 60 – SA Red Porgy (Standard)

Data Deadlines: 10 August 2018

Assessment webinars: ???

Terminal Year of Data: 2017

Report Available to Council: March 2019

Coordinator: Julia

SEDAR 61 – Gulf Red Grouper (Standard)

Data Deadlines: 1 June 2018

DW/Assessment Workshop: September 11-13, 2018 – Miami, FL

Assessment webinars:

Terminal Year of Data: 2016

Report Available to Council: February 2019

Coordinator: Julie

**Summary of SEDAR Project Schedules for 2018 assessments
(14 August 2017)**

SEDAR 62 – Gulf Gray Triggerfish (Standard)

Data Deadlines: 13 July 2018

DW/Assessment Workshop: October 16-18, 2018 – Miami, FL

Assessment webinars:

Terminal Year of Data: 2016

Report Available to Council: March 2019

Coordinator: Julie

SEDAR 63 – Gulf of Mexico Menhaden (Review Only)

RW: November 6 - 8, 2018

Report Available to Commission: December 2018

Coordinator: Julia

Other Assessments/data needs scheduled for 2018:

HMS Gulf of Mexico Blacktip Shark Update:

Data Deadline: 6 April 2018

Terminal Year of Data: 2016

Report Available to Council: October 2018

Coordinator: Julie

MRIP Catch Revisions – South Atlantic:

Species: Red grouper, blueline tilefish, black seabass

Terminal Year of Data: 2017

MRIP Catch Revisions – Gulf of Mexico:

Species: Greater amberjack, gag, cobia, Spanish mackerel

Terminal Year of Data: 2017

**Summary of SEDAR Project Schedules for 2018 assessments
(14 August 2017)**

Data Deadlines Summary Table (arranged in chronological order by data deadline)

SEDAR Project	Data Deadline	Assessment Approach
SEDAR 58 – Atlantic Cobia	2 March 2018 (Stock ID Data)	Benchmark
SEDAR 59 – SA Greater Amberjack	23 March 2018 (SFD data deadline)	Standard
HMS Gulf Blacktip Shark	6 April 2018	Update
SEDAR 59 – SA Greater Amberjack	25 May 2018 (All other data)	Standard
SEDAR 61 – Gulf Red Grouper	1 June 2018	Standard
SEDAR 62 – Gulf Gray Triggerfish	13 July 2018	Standard
SEDAR 60 – SA Red Porgy	10 August 2018	Standard
SEDAR 58 – Atlantic Cobia	14 September (raw LH and Length data)	Benchmark
SEDAR 58 – Atlantic Cobia	13 November 2018 (landings data)	Benchmark

Note: Please refer to the individual SEDAR Project Schedules to determine if more specific data deadlines exist.