

SEDAR Steering Committee
Projects Report
September 2020

Completed Projects, May 2020 – September 2020

2 projects assessing 2 stocks

SEDAR 28 Gulf of Mexico Cobia, 2019 Update

SEDAR Contact: Julie Neer

Summary: The final Stock Assessment Report was disseminated on 1 July 2020. It was reviewed by the GMFMC SSC in July 2020.

SEDAR 38 Gulf of Mexico King Mackerel, 2019 Update

SEDAR Contact: Julie Neer

Summary: The final Stock Assessment Report was disseminated on 28 August 2020. It was reviewed by the GMFMC SSC in September 2020.

Projects in Progress

10 projects addressing 11 stocks

SEDAR 65 HMS Atlantic Blacktip Shark, Benchmark

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

Summary: The benchmark assessment of Atlantic Blacktip Shark is underway. The project schedule and Terms of Reference were approved in April 2019. Data Scoping Webinars were held between May and September 2019. The terminal year of data for this assessment is 2018. The Data Workshop was held October 29-November 1, 2019 in Charleston, SC. Assessment webinars were held between March and August 2020. An in-person workshop was scheduled for November 3-5, 2020 in Panama City, FL. However, given the difficulty of scheduling in-person meetings due to COVID-19 the workshop was changed to a series of webinars. The review workshop is scheduled to occur over five - 4 and a half hour long webinars held October 29, 30 and November 2, 4, and 5 of 2020. The scheduled completion date is December 11, 2020.

SEDAR 66 South Atlantic Tilefish, Operational

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

Summary: The TORs were approved by SAFMC in December 2018. The terminal year

for data is 2018. The schedule was postponed due to concerns raised by the SSC about the MRIP numbers. The assessment restarted with a data scoping webinar April 27, 2020. An in-person workshop was scheduled for November 16-19, 2020 in Beaufort, NC. However, given the difficulty of scheduling in-person meetings due to COVID-19 the workshop was changed to a series of webinars. The webinar workshop will occur over four 5-hour long webinars held November 16, 17, 18, and 19 of 2020. The assessment process will occur over a series of webinars from December, 2020 to April 2021. The completion date is April 7, 2021.

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

SEDAR Contact: Julie A Neer

Summary:

The Data Process for S68 is nearing completion. The Data Workshop was scheduled to be held March 16-20, 2020, but it was cancelled due to safety concerns regarding COVID-19. The process continued via a remote process, with individual working groups meeting to review the available data and come up with pre-decisional recommendations. Those pre-decision recommendations were presented on a publicly -noticed Data Process Plenary Webinars held in April, May, and September, where the entire Panel, as well as members of the public, were able to discuss them. The Assessment Development Team made final recommendations for a variety of data recommendations. The data providers are currently writing the Data Workshop report drafts, and finalizing and submitting final data inputs.

The assessment webinars are now scheduled to be held between December 2020 and March 2021. The Review Workshop is tentatively scheduled for June 2021, with an operational assessment likely in early 2022, but that will depend on the progress of the assessment.

SEDAR 70 Gulf of Mexico Greater Amberjack, Operational Assessment

SEDAR Contact: Julie Neer

Summary: An Operational assessment is underway for Gulf of Mexico greater amberjack snapper, last assessed in 2016 as an Update to SEDAR 33. The terminal year for data in this assessment is 2018. The Terms of Reference and Project Schedule for this assessment were approved in September 2019. The data scoping call was held in December 2019. A Data Review webinar was held early June 2020. Assessment webinars were conducted from June through September 2020. The original project schedule had the assessment completed by October 2020, but due to the need for additional time, the assessment will now be completed by November 2020. It should still go to the GMFMC SSC for review in January 2021, as originally scheduled.

SEDAR 71 South Atlantic Gag Grouper, Operational

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

Summary: The TORs were approved by the Council in December 2019. The terminal year for data for this assessment is 2019. The assessment began with a data scoping call on May 12, 2020. The Assessment process will occur over a series of webinars from October, 2020 to February 2021. The scheduled completion date is of March 31, 2021.

SEDAR 72 Gulf of Mexico Gag Grouper, Operational Assessment

SEDAR contact: Julie Neer

Summary: The Gulf of Mexico gag grouper operational assessment is underway. Data scoping was held in mid-June 2020. The in-person workshop is scheduled for February 9-11, 2021 and the assessment is scheduled to be completed in June 2021.

SEDAR 73 South Atlantic Red Snapper, Operational

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

Summary: The South Atlantic Red snapper operational assessment is underway. The TORS and Schedule were approved by SAFMC in in June of 2020. The terminal year of data is 2019. The assessment began with a data scoping call in July, 2020. An in-person workshop was scheduled for December 2-3, 2020 in Beaufort, NC. However, given the difficulty of scheduling in-person meetings due to Covid, the workshop was changed to a series of webinars. The webinar workshop will occur over four 4 hour long webinars held December 1, 2, 3, and 4 of 2020. The assessment process will occur via a series of webinars from December, 2020 through February, 2021. The scheduled completion date is April 6, 2021.

SEDAR 74 Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper, Research Track

SEDAR contact: Julie Neer

Summary: Planning for the Gulf of Mexico red snapper research track assessment is underway. The Planning Team met several times to develop a Milestone Schedule, recommend Terms of Reference for both stock ID and the Research Track Assessment, and recommend Stock ID participants. It will meet in October to recommend participants for the Assessment Development Team and the other stages of the assessment, as needed.

The Stock ID Terms of Reference, Assessment Terms of Reference, Milestone Project Schedule, and Stock ID participants were approved by the Gulf Council in September 2020.

SEDAR 75 Gulf of Mexico Gray Snapper, Operational Assessment

SEDAR contact: Julie Neer

Summary: The Gulf of Mexico gray snapper operational assessment is underway. The GMFMC SSC reviewed the Terms of Reference and Project Schedule at its September meeting. Data Scoping is slated for November 2020. Unprocessed data is due January

2021, with final analytical products are due May 2021. An in-person workshop is scheduled for June 29-30, 2021. The assessment should be completed by November 2021.

SEDAR 36 South Atlantic Snowy Grouper, 2020 Update

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

Summary: The TORs were approved by the SAFMC in December 2018. The terminal year for data is 2018. The completion date was postponed by a month due to complications discovered in the data process. The new completion date is October, 2020.

Upcoming Projects – Planning Underway

5 projects addressing at least 7 stocks

SEDAR76 South Atlantic Black Sea Bass

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

Summary: The South Atlantic Black Sea Bass operational assessment is in the planning stages. The TORs were approved by the SAFMC in June 2020. The schedule and participants list was approved by the SAFMC in September, 2020. The Terminal year of data is 2020. The assessment is scheduled to begin with data scoping in May, 2021. The assessment process will occur over a series of webinars October 2021 through January, 2022. The scheduled completion date is March 23, 2022

SEDAR 77 HMS Hammerhead Sharks, Research Track

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

Summary: The HMS Hammerheads Sharks Research Track assessment is in the planning stages. The Planning team was convened in September 2020 and are scheduled to meet again in November, 2020. The schedule, TORs, and participant list are under development. The number of stocks that will be assessed will be determined during the Stock ID and Data Scoping portions of the assessment.

SEDAR 78 South Atlantic Spanish Mackerel

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

Summary: The South Atlantic Spanish Mackerel operational assessment is in the planning stages. The TORs, project schedule and participants list were approved by the SAFMC in September, 2020. The terminal year for the assessment is 2020. The assessment is scheduled to begin with data scoping in May, 2021. The assessment process will occur over a series of webinars November 2021 through February, 2022. The scheduled completion date is April 13, 2022

SEDAR 79 Southeastern US Mutton Snapper, Benchmark

SEDAR contact: Julie Neer

Summary: Planning for the SE US benchmark assessment of mutton snapper is underway. The Terms of Reference and Project Schedule will be reviewed by the SAFMC SSC in October 2020 and the GMFMC SSC at its January 2021 meeting. The terminal year of data for the assessment will be 2020. Data Scoping is slated for August 2021, with a Data Workshop in late January/early February 2022. The assessment should be completed by February 2023.

SEDAR 80 Caribbean Queen Triggerfish, Operational Assessment

SEDAR contact: Julie Neer

Summary: Planning for the Operational Assessment of Caribbean Queen triggerfish is underway. The Terms of Reference and Project Schedule will be reviewed by the CFMC in Fall 2020. The terminal year of data for the assessment will be 2019. There will be both a Topical Working Group to review life history information, conducted via webinars, and an in-person workshop to discuss the effect of regulations and economy on fishing behavior/selectivity, retention, and catchability. The schedule is currently being discussed.