

SEFSC Proposal for changes to 2021-2022 schedule 10/1/2020

The SEFSC proposes the following changes to the assessment schedule:

- 1) Move start of South Atlantic Spanish mackerel assessment to 2022
- 2) Move start of GOM gray snapper assessment to 2022
- 3) Move the terminal year for blueline tilefish from 2021 to a terminal year of 2020
- 4) Start Caribbean Queen trigger in early 2021, and completion within 2021

Rationale:

- workload for data providers (age estimates and catch statistics) has become highly challenging due to COVID and we have substantive backlogs of aging due to difficulties due to telework limitations (can't grind and polish otoliths at home). Hence we must prioritize aging of the highest profile species (red snapper in SA and GOM gag)
- Frameshifting gray snapper in the GOM and SATL Spanish mackerel has the least effect on the entire schedule and allows work on in-progress species (scamp (both regions), gag (both regions), red snapper (SA) and highest-profile upcoming species (gray triggerfish research track and data intensive vermilion snapper assessments).
- Other species could be considered for delaying; SA (black sea bass or red grouper), but both species may be in greater need of management advice given their poor stock status.

New proposed schedule:

Steering Committee Approved and SEFSC Scheduled Projects										Steering Committee Approved, PENDING SEFSC SCHEDULING					2022 Proposed Projects				
YEAR	SA Team				Gulf/Caribbean Team					HMS Team		FL FWCC	ASMFC GSMFC	CMP					
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	1	2								
2020	Scamp RT	Snowy Grouper U	Gag Grouper OA	Tilefish OA	Scamp RT	GAJ OA	Vermilion OA	Cobia U		Atlantic Blacktip Benchmark				King U					
2021		Red Snapper OA						Queen Trigger PR-STX-STT OA	Red Snapper RT		Red Snapper RT	Gag Grouper OA							
2022	Scamp OA	Red Grouper OA	Black Sea Bass OA	Spanish Mackerel OA	Scamp OA	Queen snap@PR, retail parrot@STX	Red Snapper OA	Red Snapper OA		Gray Snapper OA			Hammerheads RT	Mutton Bench		Gulf Menhaden OA			
2023	Gray Triggerfish RT	Vermilion OA	Blueline Tilefish OA		Yellowedge OA												Hogfish Bench		
2024		White Grunt RT		Snowy Grouper/ Tilefish	Lane Snapper OA?	Lane@PR,, YTS	Tilefish Complex OA?	Vermilion OA	Gray Triggerfish RT			Black Grouper Bench?	ASFMC Red Drum (RW)/ Gulf Menhaden OA						
2025																			
2026																			

Timing of projects shown in this table is approximate and is intended for SEDAR Steering Committee workload planning purposes only. Please consult individual project schedules for specific start and end dates.