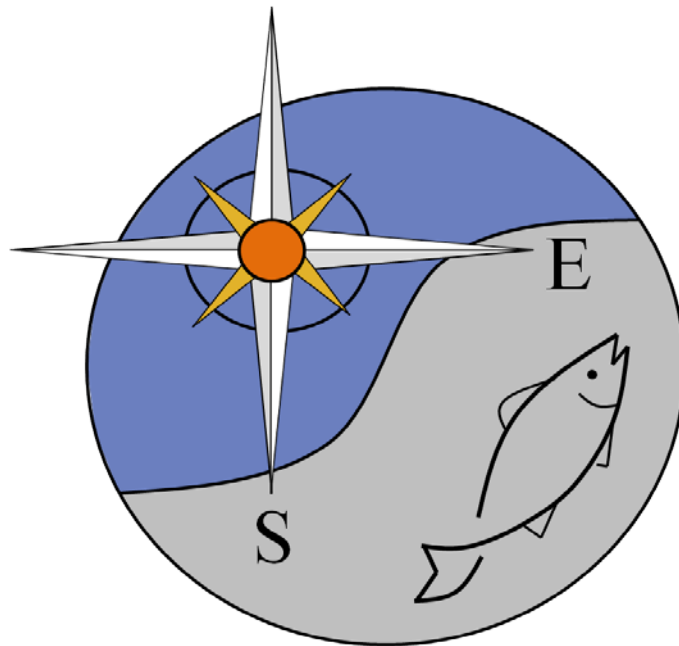


# **SEDAR**



**SEDAR Steering Committee**

**Final Meeting Summary**

**October 3, 2012**

**Meeting Via Webinar**

## PURPOSE

This meeting is convened to:

- Finalize 2014 work plan
- Recommend 2015 and Beyond Priorities
- Review assessment categories

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## Documents

Attachment 1. May 2012 Meeting Summary  
Attachment 2. August 2012 Meeting Summary  
Attachment 3. SEDAR Assessment Schedule  
Attachment 4. 2013 Project Schedule  
Attachment 5. SEDAR Guidelines

## ACCESS:

Reserve your Webinar seat at:

<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/969295762>

**Title:** *SEDAR Steering Committee meeting*

**Date:** Wednesday, October 3, 2012

**Time:** 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM EDT

After registering you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the Webinar.



**ATTENDANCE****COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Bonnie Ponwith, SEFSC, Chair  
Bob Beal, ASMFC  
Steve Bortone, GMFMC  
Douglass Boyd, GMFMC  
Karyl Brewster-Geisz, HMS  
Roy Crabtree, SERO  
David Cupka, SAFMC  
Carlos Farchete, CFMC  
Bob Mahood, SAFMC  
Miguel Rolon, CFMC  
Larry Simpson, GSMFC

**OBSERVERS**

Graciela Garcia Moliner  
Kyle Shertzer  
Eric Fitzpatrick  
Marcel Reichert  
David Wyanski  
Joseph Ballenger  
Russell Hudson  
Katie Andrews  
Frank Helies  
Rich Malinowski  
Peter Barile

**SEDAR STAFF**

Julia Byrd  
John Carmichael  
Andrea Grabman  
Julie Neer  
Ryan Rindone

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1. Documents

Agenda  
Attachment 1. May 2012 Meeting Summary  
Attachment 2. August 2012 Meeting Summary

### 1.2. Action

Introductions  
Review and Approve Agenda  
Approve May 2012 and August 2012 Meeting Summaries

### OUTCOME:

The Committee approved the May 2012 and August 2012 summaries.

## 2. Activities Update

### 2.1. Documents

Attachment 3. SEDAR Assessment Schedule  
Attachment 4. 2013 Project Schedule

### 2.2. 2011 Projects

#### 2.2.1. Yellowtail Snapper Review

**Stocks:** Southeast Yellowtail snapper

**Coordinator:** Julie A. Neer

**Progress Summary: Completed:** The CIE review of the yellowtail snapper has been concluded. The assessment will be reviewed by the Gulf of Mexico SSC, along with a subset of the South Atlantic SSC, in October.

**Action Items:** None

### 2.3. 2012 Projects

#### 2.3.1. SEDAR 28 Benchmark

**Stocks:** Gulf and South Atlantic Spanish mackerel and cobia

**Coordinator:** Ryan Rindone

**Progress Summary:** Underway. The Data Workshop was held February 6-10 in Charleston, SC; the Assessment Workshop May 7-11 in Miami, FL; and the Review Workshop will be held October 29 - November 2 in Atlanta, GA. The Data Workshop report was released on July 23, 2012. Numerous webinars were held after the AW in May of 2012 to complete the assessment analysis.

During the final webinar on September 12th, the AW panel agreed that the Gulf of Mexico stock assessments were not ready for submission to the Review Workshop. The Atlantic stocks will proceed to the RW as planned, while the Gulf stock assessments will undergo a

separate review. A desk review by CIE reviewers will be solicited for the Gulf Stocks, beginning in January 2013. Next, SSC reviewers appointed by the Gulf SSC will consider the assessments and CIE reviewer comments, likely in March 2013, and develop a review consensus summary to conclude the SEDAR reports and provide guidance for the full Gulf SSC.

**Action Items: Approve the modified review approach for the Gulf stocks.**

2.3.2. SEDAR 29 Standard

**Stocks:** HMS Gulf of Mexico blacktip shark

**Coordinator:** Julie Neer

**Progress Summary: Completed:** The CIE desk review of the assessment has been completed and the reports, along with the assessment itself, are available on the SEDAR website.

2.3.3. SEDAR 30 Benchmark

**Stocks:** Caribbean blue tang and queen triggerfish

**Coordinator:** Julie Neer

**Progress Summary: Underway**– The Data Scoping trip was conducted in July and was very successful. The AW will be held in Miami, October 16-18, 2012, and the RW will be held February 4-7, 2013, in San Juan.

2.3.4. SEDAR 31 Benchmark

**Stocks:** Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper

**Coordinator:** Ryan Rindone

**Progress Summary:** Underway. The Data Workshop was held August 20-24<sup>th</sup>, 2012, in Pensacola; the Assessment Workshop will be held January 28<sup>th</sup> to February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013, in Miami; and the Review Workshop will be held April 29<sup>th</sup> to May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013, in Gulfport. Reports from working groups are being distributed to the DW panel for review. The DW report will be distributed on October 5th, 2012.

2.3.5. South Atlantic Updates

**Stocks:** South Atlantic vermilion snapper and red porgy

**SEDAR Contact:** Julia Byrd

**Progress Summary:** The assessments will be available for SSC review at the SSC meeting scheduled for October 23-25, 2012.

2.3.6. FL FWCC Updates

**Stocks:** Mutton Snapper

**SEDAR Contact:** Julie Neer

**Progress Summary: Underway:** The State of Florida is proceeding with an Update assessment for Florida Mutton Snapper in 2012. The update assessment is scheduled to be available to the Councils by June 2013.

#### 2.3.7. Episodic Events Workshop

**Coordinator:** Ryan Rindone

**Progress summary:** Attendees have been identified and notified, and those who have confirmed their interest have been formally invited. Travel orders were distributed along with an agenda approved by the planning committee for the workshop. Presenters have been instructed on the nature of the material they are to present, and are completing those tasks now. Materials are being posted to the workshop's FTP site as they become available/are identified. The workshop will be held from November 13-15, 2012 at the Hyatt in the French Quarter, New Orleans.

#### 2.4. **2013 Projects**

##### 2.4.1. SEDAR 32 SA gray triggerfish and blueline tilefish benchmark

**Coordinator:** Julia Byrd

**Progress summary:** Planning: Schedule and appointments approved at September SA Council meeting. Terms of Reference to be reviewed by SSC in October and submitted for Council approval at December 2012 meeting. The Data Workshop will be held February 11-16 2013, the assessment webinars will be held between April and July, and the RW will take place August 26-29, 2012.

##### 2.4.2. SEDAR 33 GMFMC gag and greater amberjack benchmark

**Coordinator:** Ryan Rindone

**Progress summary:** Terms of reference and the schedule have been approved by the SEFSC, and will move to the Gulf SSC for approval at their October 9-11 meeting in Tampa. The Gulf SSC will solicit their membership for volunteers for the respective workshops at the same meeting. Other panelists and observers will be identified at that time also. Once the schedule and TORs are approved by the Gulf SSC, they (along with the participant list) will be sent to the Gulf Council Chair and Executive Director for approval.

##### 2.4.3. SEDAR 34 HMS Bonnethead and Atlantic sharpnose Standard

**Coordinator:** Julie Neer

**Progress summary: Planning:** Initial project schedule has the in-person workshop being held in June, 2013 with the assessment to be complete Fall 2013, although this timing may shift slightly depending on the lead analyst's ICCAT responsibilities.

##### 2.4.4. SEDAR 35 CFMC Parrotfish and White Grunt Benchmark

**Coordinator:** Julie Neer

**Progress summary: Planning:** The preliminary schedule has data scoping in June, assessment webinars in September and October, and a review in early 2014.

2.4.5. SEDAR 36 SAFMC Snowy Grouper Standard

**Coordinator:** Julia Byrd

**Progress summary: Planning:** Schedule and Terms of Reference are in development for review at the SA SSC meeting in October 2012. The assessment should be available to the Council at its December 2013 meeting.

**Action Items:** None

2.4.6. SEDAR 37 King Mackerel Benchmark

**Coordinator:** Julie Neer

**Progress summary: Planning:** Discussions regarding this project have not yet begun beyond the decision to hold the Data Workshop in November 2013. The project should be completed by late summer/early Fall 2014.

2.4.7. SEDAR 32A Gulf Menhaden Review

**Coordinator:** Julie Neer/Julia Byrd

**Progress summary: Underway:** The Gulf of Mexico menhaden assessment was reviewed as part of SEDAR 27 but was not deemed acceptable by the Review Panel. The analyst is working on improving the assessment following the suggestions of the reviewers. Staff recommends that the updated assessment will be reviewed along with the SEDAR 32 species (SA blueline tilefish and gray triggerfish) in August 2013.

**Action Items: Request approval to include Gulf of Mexico menhaden to the review workshop of SEDAR 32 (SA blueline tilefish and gray triggerfish).**

2.4.8. SAFMC updates, Black Sea Bass

**Coordinator:** Julia Byrd

**Progress summary: Planning:** Schedule and Terms of Reference are currently being developed to be reviewed at the SA SSC meeting in October 2012. The assessment should be available to the Council at its June 2013 meeting.

As directed at the last meeting, SEFSC and MARMAP staff evaluated the assessment work plan with particular attention to ageing structures. The SAFMC discussed this update in September and state agencies agreed to provide assistance as needed. It was agreed that the update could be completed for submission to the SAFMC SSC in April 2013. A conference



call will be held on Friday, September 21, with key data providers and the analytical team to develop milestone dates.

**Action Items:** Approve Timing

## 2.5. ACTION SUMMARY

- Approve modified Review for Gulf Cobia and Spanish, SEDAR 28
- Inclusion of Gulf Menhaden as a stock to review during SEDAR 32 RW
- Approve SA Black sea bass update completion date of the April 2013 SAFMC SSC meeting.

### OUTCOME:

The Committee approved the modified review approach for the Gulf stocks of SEDAR 28, inclusion of gulf menhaden in the SEDAR 32 Review Workshop, and the completion date for Atlantic sea bass.

## 3. SEDAR Assessment Schedule

### 3.1. Documents

### 3.2. Overview

A preliminary project list for 2014 was developed at the previous meeting. The Committee is asked to finalize 2014 projects so that project schedules can be developed with input from analysts and data providers.

The South Atlantic Council reduced the requested assessments for 2014 in response to changes made at the last steering committee meeting. FL FWC also indicated species and completion dates for the assessments they will complete in 2013 and 2014. These recommendations are summarized in Table 1.

The Committee is asked to prioritize stocks for 2015 consistent with the number of anticipated assessment slots so that any data impediments can be identified and life history work can be initiated.

### 3.3. ACTIONS

- Approve Assessment work plan for 2014.
- Identify priority stocks for 2015 and 2016

OUTCOME: The approved 2014 workplan and future priorities are shown in the table below.

YEAR	SAFMC/Commission (Beaufort)		GMFMC/CFMC (Miami)		HMS (SEFSC/PC)	FL FWC
	SAFMC	Commissions	GMFMC	CFMC		
2013 FINAL	1.Gray triggerfish B 2. Blueline Tile B 3. Snowy STD 4.Black Sea Bass U	5. GOM Menhaden	1. & 2 Red Snapper (aug Council meet) 3. Gag B 4. GAJ B 5. King mackerel B	6. <i>Red hind B</i> <i>Conditional</i> 7. white grunt B	1. ATL Sharpnose STD 2. Bonnethead STD	1. Hogfish B <i>Yellowtail</i> <i>Snapper</i> <i>Update?</i>
2014 Prelim	1. Red Snapper B 2. <i>Red porgy B</i> 3. Gag U 4. GAJ U	5. ATL menhaden (Review)	1.King Mack 2. data poor 3. data poor 4. Red Snapper U 5. Red Grouper B ( <i>scamp/gray trig or</i> <i>snapper vs data poor</i> )	6.Queen conch 7.Spiny lobster <i>Fishery</i> <i>Independent</i> <i>Data Evaluation</i>	1. Smoothhound B 2. Finetooth B	1.Black Grouper U <i>Spiny</i> <i>Lobster?</i>
2015 TBD	1. gray snapper B 2. Dolphin B 3. Wahoo B 4. Tilefish U 5. Red grouper U Vermilion U? Red Porgy U?	ATL Red Drum (Review)	1. <i>Red Porgy B</i> 2.Vermilion TBD 3. Gray Trigger B 4.Snowy Grouper B 5. Scamp B yellowedge U	6. 7.	1. 2.	1. <i>Yellowtail</i> <i>Snapper U?</i>
2016 TBD	white grunt B Speckled Hind B Warsaw grouper B wreckfish B Red Snapper U Snowy U Blueline U		King Mackerel U? Gag U GAJ U Gray Snapper B Red Snapper U Speckled Hind B Warsaw B			
2017 TBD	Red Porgy U + Black Sea Bass U (rebuild target 2016) Gag U					

## Workplan and Schedule Notes:

### 2013

Caribbean The Committee supports the CFMC request to assess red hind rather than parrotfish. No new data are available for parrotfish, while it is expected that data to assess red hind are available. The condition is based on the parrotfish Biological Opinion, which requires assessments at specific intervals. CFMC staff will consult the Biological Opinion to determine when a parrotfish assessment is required.

Florida FWC: There was discussion of Florida FWC considering an update of Yellowtail Snapper to incorporate revised MRIP values in 2013.

### 2014

South Atlantic: Red porgy benchmark suggested, if necessary, due to possible issues with the recent update. The SAFMC SSC will be asked to comment on the next assessment of red porgy at its October 2012 meeting.

Gulf of Mexico: Data poor stocks may include speckled hind, Warsaw grouper, and snowy grouper. The Council and its SSC will discuss the possible data poor stocks, including what outcomes are expected from this project, at their meetings in October 2012. If the data poor stocks are not pursued, benchmarks will be considered of scamp and gray triggerfish or gray snapper. The Steering Committee supports either option. The Gulf Council will inform the Steering Committee of its 2014 assessment requests following further discussion at the Council meeting in October.

FL FWC: There was discussion of future Atlantic/Gulf Spiny lobster assessments. FL FWC will be consulted to determine if an assessment is feasible or planned. It was noted that a region-wide assessment was suggested in the prior review of Caribbean and SE US spiny lobster stocks.

Caribbean: The Council is interested in a Fishery Independent Data Evaluation workshop. If not through SEDAR, it may be pursued through other routes.

### 2015

South Atlantic: SEFSC suggested priorities included gray snapper, dolphin and wahoo benchmarks, and red grouper and tilefish updates.

Gulf of Mexico: Priorities for 2015 are contingent upon finalizing 2014 plans. Red porgy benchmark is contingent upon Council decision on adding the stock to the FMU.

HMS: Stocks for 2015 will be determined in Spring 2014.

## **4. Review of Assessment Categories**

### **4.1. Documents**

Attachment 5. SEDAR Guidelines

#### 4.2. **Overview**

The following text extracted from Section 6 of the SEDAR guidelines, as approved in May 2011, describes the current SEDAR assessment categories

##### Benchmark Assessments

- Benchmark SEDAR assessments are required for the first assessment of a species.
- Subsequent benchmarks will be conducted when necessary to consider new information or techniques, or other evaluation of a prior benchmark as determined by the Steering Committee.
- Each managed stock shall be benchmark assessed before standard or update assessments are considered.
- One SEDAR benchmark project (SEDAR XX) may have 2-3 related/similar species assessed concurrently.
- During benchmark assessments all datasets and decisions are evaluated. Multiple models are evaluated, with the goal of working down to one model ‘package’ that will be applied to develop management advice and determine stock status.
- All models initially evaluated need not be carried through to the Review Panel and SSC review (e.g. working papers should suffice to confirm simpler models give similar results to “base” model).
- Benchmark assessments involve a three-part workshop process: data, assessment, and review; each workshop may be up to one week long, allowing for multiple species to be accommodated in one workshop.
- Each workshop panel is responsible for determining if the assessment is ready to move forward to the next step in the process.
- Additional meetings, held via conference call, teleconference, or webinar, may be necessary to complete data, assessment or review workshop tasks.
- Workshop tasks and goals are governed by the approved Terms of Reference.
- Benchmark assessments will be reviewed by an independent review panel. The Steering Committee shall determine the make-up of SEDAR review panels.
- Benchmark assessments are anticipated to be 9 month processes.

##### Standard Assessments

- Standard assessments are intended to update prior assessments with recent information and address issues supported by new data or other advancements as feasible within the approved benchmark model approach. New model classifications may not be developed using the standard assessment procedures.
- A single model will be developed based on the accepted model from the previous benchmark. Those data streams used in the prior assessment will be included in the standard configuration, unless there is a specific reason to doubt the data and the issue is noted in TORs.

- The SSC or equivalent shall be consulted when considering modifications to the benchmark framework and shall recommend to the Cooperator whether the desired changes may result in the need for a benchmark rather than a standard assessment.
- Limited flexibility is allowed for deviations from the benchmark model. The lead assessment agency and Cooperator technical body shall determine what is appropriate and designate the appropriate additions and modification in the project TORs. The types of changes that may be considered are as follows:
  - May incorporate technical advances approved through other SEDAR benchmark assessments or SEDAR intercessional workshops.
  - New datasets reviewed and developed through a SEDAR intercessional workshop may be included if feasible given the model structure.
  - Data-provider revisions to original datasets may be incorporated (e.g., revised catch estimates provided by an agency.)
  - Errors may be corrected in input datasets or model configuration.
  - Supporting models, such as growth relationships, may be updated based on new age and growth information.
  - Biological parameters and assumptions may be updated if there is new supporting research and the updates are consistent with the model structure.
  - May consider new model configurations if necessary to address new data or output needs.
  - May consider alternative software packages that accommodate the benchmark model type.
- Terms of Reference will specify data and modeling issues that will be considered.
  - The lead assessment agency and the SSC (or Cooperator's equivalent) will identify issues to consider.
  - The lead assessment agency shall draft the preliminary TORs for consideration by the Cooperator.
  - The TORs will specify any modifications or additions considered acceptable by the Cooperator and lead assessment agency.
- Standard assessments will have one workshop combining data and assessment discussions. Workshop length will depend upon the number of species and complexity of issues to be addressed in the TORs.
- Teleconference, conference call, and webinar approaches will be utilized as needed and appropriate in the data and assessment process.
- Standard assessments adhere to the same administrative policies, record keeping, and support requirements as benchmark assessments.
- Peer review of the standard assessment is provided by the SSC or Cooperator equivalent. The SSC (or equivalent) shall develop the peer review report and forward it to SEDAR staff for inclusion on the SEDAR website in association with the assessment report.

- Standard assessments are anticipated to be a 4 month process.

### Assessment Updates

- The basic benchmark framework is utilized for the update.
- Assessment updates are restricted to incorporation of additional years of observations to those datasets incorporated in the prior benchmark or standard assessment, with limited exceptions:
  - New datasets reviewed and developed through a SEDAR intercessional workshop may be included if feasible given the model structure. (For example, CPUE from a new independent survey may be added if the model accommodates such measures and the index was evaluated for the stock in another SEDAR workshop.)
  - Data-provider revisions to original datasets may be incorporated (e.g., revised catch estimates provided by an agency.)
  - Errors may be corrected in input datasets or model configuration.
  - Supporting models, such as growth relationships, may be updated based on new age and growth information.
  - Biological parameters and assumptions may be updated if there is new supporting research and the updates are consistent with the model structure.
- The lead assessment agency and SSC (or equivalent) will be involved in evaluating if an update is feasible, or if the stock needs to be assessed via a SEDAR standard or benchmark assessment. Recommendations on assessment type will be provided to the SEDAR Steering Committee for consideration.
- The update process is managed through the lead assessment agency and Cooperator directly.
- The SEDAR Steering Committee will schedule update assessments as part of the overall regional workload management. Specific timing of deliverables will be addressed by the assessment agency and Cooperator.
- Update assessments are conducted directly by the lead assessment agency. No data or assessment panels are convened and no SEDAR workshops are held.
- Data are solicited by the analyst and submitted directly to the analyst for use in the update.
- Upon completion of the update assessment, the lead assessment agency shall provide SEDAR a copy of the final assessment report for inclusion in the administrative record and posting on the SEDAR website.
- Peer review of the update assessment is provided by the SSC or Cooperator equivalent. The peer review body shall develop the peer review report and forward it to SEDAR staff for inclusion on the SEDAR website in association with the update assessment report.
- Updates are anticipated to be a 2 month process, depending on season and staff work load.

#### 4.3. ACTIONS

- As necessary

#### OUTCOME

The Committee requested a discussion and evaluation of assessment categories at the next in-person meeting. Consideration will be given to eliminating the standard category and expanding the allowance for flexibility in the update category.

### 5. Other Business

- Julia Byrd was hired to replace Kari Fenske as a SEDAR Coordinator.
- SEDAR Workshop Scheduling (GMFMC request)  
The Gulf Council requested a discussion of workshop scheduling. A brief overview of the scheduling process follows:
  1. Steering Committee finalizes Projects (Fall 2012 for 2014)
  2. SEDAR staff coordinates with data and analytical leads to develop initial project timing (completed early Spring 2013 for 2014 projects)  
Factors: data deadline separation, DW-AW interval, Council and SSC meetings, other priorities (e.g., ICCAT, AFS)
  3. Workshop plan reviewed by the SEDAR Technical Committee and Steering Committee (Spring 2013 for 2014).
  4. Workshop plan provided to Coordinators to develop detailed plans (Summer 2013 for 2014).
  5. Detailed plans reviewed and approved at the Council level: SSC and Council, per each Council's procedures (Fall/Winter 2013 for 2014).  
Factors: Council schedule, personnel availability, project type, expected workload.

### 6. Next Meetings

1. May 2013, in-person with CCC or webinar.  
2014 work plan schedule  
Preliminary 2015 work plan
2. October 2013, in person or webinar.  
finalize 2015 assessment work plan

Next Meeting Note: One of the 2013 meetings will be in-person. If timing allows the meeting to be held in conjunction with the Spring CCC meeting, it will be the May meeting. If this is not feasible, the October meeting will be in-person.

### 7. Adjourn

## Attendance

MEMBERS	
Bonnie Ponwith	SEFSC
Roy Crabtree	SERO
Bob Mahood	SAFMC
David Cupka	SAFMC
Doug Boyd	GMFMC
Steve Bortone	GMFMC
Miguel Rolon	CFMC
Carlos Farchete	CFMC
Karyl Brewster-Geisz	HMS
Larry Simpson	GSMFC
STAFF	
John Carmichael	SEDAR
Ryan Rindone	SEDAR
Julie Neer	SEDAR
Julia Byrd	SEDAR
Andrea Grabman	SEDAR
OTHERS	
Kyle Shertzer	SEFSC
Eric Fitzpatrick	SEFSC
Katie Andrews	SEFSC
Dave Wyanski	MARMAP
Marcel Reichert	MARMAP
Joey Ballenger	MARMAP
Rich Malinowski	SERO
Rusty Hudson	
Frank Helies	
Peter Barile	