

SEDAR Steering Committee

Projects Report

September 2016

Completed Projects, May 2016 –August 2016.

2 projects assessing 2 stocks

SEDAR 47 Florida Goliath Grouper, Benchmark Review

SEDAR Contact: Julie Neer

Summary: Florida FWC was the lead assessment team for this assessment, with SEDAR managing the Review portion of the assessment. The Review Workshop (RW) was held May 17-19, 2016. The final Stock Assessment Report was disseminated on 14 June 2016.

HMS Dusky Shark, Update

SEDAR Contact: Julie Neer

Summary: An update to SEDAR 21 – HMS Dusky Shark was conducted in 2016. The final update report was received and disseminated by SEDAR in July 2016

Projects in Progress

6 projects addressing 13 stocks

SEDAR 49 Gulf of Mexico Data-limited Species, Benchmark of 8 stocks

Species to consider: Red Drum, Lane Snapper, Wenchman, Yellowmouth Grouper, Speckled Hind, Snowy Grouper, Almaco Jack, Lesser Amberjack

SEDAR Contact: Julie Neer

Summary: A data scoping call was held in March 2016, and a Data Webinar was held in April 2016. The Data Workshop was held 2-6 May 2016 in New Orleans. Assessment webinars will be held June through September 2016, and the Review Workshop is to be held November 1-3, 2016 in Miami.

SEDAR 50 South Atlantic Blueline Tilefish, Benchmark

SEDAR Contact: Julia Byrd

Summary: SEDAR 50 will be a joint assessment with the Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, and Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Councils with SEDAR/SEFSC/SAFMC having lead. In late June 2016, a Blueline Tilefish ageing issue was identified. The Life History and Analytical teams determined that an Ageing Workshop was necessary to resolve the issue and many age samples may need to be re-examined. An Ageing Workshop was scheduled for late July 2016 and the SEDAR 50 schedule was delayed ~3 months to accommodate this issue with the Data Workshop rescheduled for January 2017; the Assessment workshop for May 2017; and the Review Workshop for August 2017.

A Stock ID work group meeting was held June 28-30, 2016 in Raleigh, NC. The Work Group recommended that Blueline Tilefish from the Gulf of Mexico and along the entire Atlantic seaboard be considered a single biological population unit and should be included in the SEDAR 50 assessment. With the addition of Gulf of Mexico data, the SEDAR 50 schedule will be delayed further. The Ageing Workshop was rescheduled for August 29-31, 2016 in Beaufort, NC. SEDAR staff and key data and assessment personnel will hold a call after the Ageing Workshop to further discuss the SEDAR 50 schedule and its potential impact on the 2017 SEDAR schedule. An update will be provided at the SEDAR Steering Committee meeting.

SEDAR 51 Gulf of Mexico Gray Snapper, Benchmark

SEDAR Contact: Julie Neer

Summary: The Stock ID Process for gray snapper will be conducted via webinars in late 2016. A data scoping call will be held in January 2017, and a Data Webinar in February 2017. The Data Workshop will be held 24-28 April 2017 in a location to be determined. Assessment webinars will be held June through September 2017, and the Review Workshop is to be held November 14-16, 2017 in Miami.

SEDAR 53 South Atlantic Red Grouper, Standard

SEDAR Contact: Julia Byrd

Summary: The South Atlantic Red Grouper Assessment was changed to a Standard in order to consider inclusion of the SERFS video index. A Data Scoping webinar was held in August 2016 and the Assessment will take place over a series of webinars from October 2016 through January 2017. The assessment is scheduled to be complete at the end of February 2017.

Gulf of Mexico Greater Amberjack, Update

SEDAR Contact: Julie Neer

Summary: The Terms of Reference are to be reviewed by the Gulf SSC at their June 2016 meeting. The data deadline is set for 31 August 2016, and the assessment is scheduled to be completed by February 2017.

Gulf of Mexico Gag, Update

SEDAR Contact: Julie Neer

Summary: The Terms of Reference are to be reviewed by the Gulf SSC at their June 2016 meeting. The data deadline was set for 15 July 2016, and the assessment is scheduled to be completed by January 2017.

Upcoming Projects – Planning Underway

5 projects addressing 5 stocks and 1 special topics workshop

SEDAR 48 Florida Black Grouper, Benchmark Review

SEDAR Contact: Julie Neer

Summary: Florida FWC will be the lead assessment team for this assessment, with SEDAR managing the Review portion of the assessment. The Review Workshop (RW) was originally scheduled for November 2016, however due to staffing issues at FWC, they have indicated that the assessment needs to be postponed. They now plan to have the assessment complete in Spring 2017. The South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Councils will need to review the revised schedule and RW Terms of Reference and make appointments for SSC participation once they are available.

SEDAR 52 Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper, Standard

SEDAR Contact: Julie Neer

Summary: Detailed planning for this project has not yet begun but the Data deadline has been scheduled for August 1, 2017 and an in-person workshop has been scheduled for November 29-December 1, 2017 in Miami, FL. The Terms of Reference, Project Schedule and a Request for Appointments will be sent to the Cooperator in early 2017.

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. Staff is currently working with SEFSC personnel to finalize the Project Schedule and the Terms of Reference.

South Atlantic Vermilion Snapper, Update

SEDAR Contact: Julia Byrd

Summary: Data deadlines have been scheduled for June 30, 2017 (landings) and September 18, 2017 (all other datasets). The assessment is scheduled to be complete in April 2018. Staff will work with SEFSC personnel and the SAFMC to finalize the Terms of Reference in spring 2017.

HMS Blacktip Shark, Update

SEDAR Contact: Julie Neer

Summary: Detailed planning for this project has not yet begun but the Data deadline has been scheduled for September 15, 2017. The assessment is scheduled to be complete in April 2018. The Terms of Reference will be sent to the Cooperator in early 2017 for approval.

Stock ID and Meristics Procedural Workshop

SEDAR Contact: Julia Byrd

Summary: Planning is underway for the Stock ID & Meristics Procedural Workshop. The workshop will be held in Atlanta, GA in late 2017 (exact date TBD). The Organizing Committee has met via webinar twice to develop Terms of Reference and recommendations on species to include in this workshop. More details can be found in the Stock ID & Meristics Overview document (attachment XX).



Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

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September 6, 2016

Dr. Julie Neer
SEDAR Coordinator
Science and Statistics Program
South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201
North Charleston, SC 29405

Dear Dr. Neer,

I'm writing to request that the SEDAR 48 South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Black Grouper benchmark stock assessment scheduled for completion in April 2017 be postponed to December 2017.

I recognize this is our second request for a deadline extension. However, a number of factors continue to impact our ability to abide by the completion timeline: (1) two of our stock assessment staff are new and still in training, which adds to the rest of the team's workload; (2) FWC is upgrading its stock assessment modeling framework to Stock Synthesis (SS3), and there is a steep learning curve involved; and (3) feedback from recent SEDAR Review Panels have indicated that FWC stock assessments would benefit from adherence to the standard SEDAR process—i.e., benchmark assessments would also involve the conduct of data and assessment workshops instead of just review workshops. We agree this added structure would be beneficial to FWC's participation in SEDAR assessments and, therefore, request the following:

- A deadline extension to December 2017 for completion of the assessment
- SEDAR logistical and financial support for the organization and conduct of data and assessment workshops for Black Grouper. We would prefer to have the DW as an in-person workshop and the AW as webinars.

Thanks again for all the help getting this issue addressed and please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Luiz R. Barbieri, Ph.D.
Program Administrator
Marine Fisheries Research Program