

SEDAR Steering Committee

Projects Report

May 2017

Completed Projects, September 2016 –April 2017.

4 projects assessing 11 stocks (includes 8 data limited, of which 1 was accepted as adequate for management advice)

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 were held June through September 2016, and the Review Workshop was held November 1-3, 2016 in Miami. The SAR was disseminated on 6 December 2017. The Gulf Council SSC reviewed the assessment results at their March 2017 meeting and determined the assessment for Lane Snapper provided information appropriate for providing management advice. The assessments for three additional species (Wenchman, Almaco jack, and lesser amberjack) were determined to require further development before being useful for management. The remaining species (red drum, Yellowmouth grouper, speckled hind, and snowy grouper) were not able to be fully evaluated due to data issues and limitations.

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 Assessment webinars were held from October 2016 through January 2017. The final Stock Assessment Report was disseminated 22 February 2017. The assessment will be considered by the South Atlantic SSC in April 2017 and recommendations provided to the SAFMC in June 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. The assessment was completed in March 2017 and reviewed by the Gulf Council SSC at its March meeting.

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. The assessment was completed December 2016 and the Gulf SSC reviewed it at its January 2017 meeting.

Projects in Progress

5 projects addressing 5 stocks

SEDAR 48 Florida Black Grouper, Benchmark

NOTE: Recommended to stop following the data workshop.

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 will be prepared, documenting the state of the data through the post-DW webinar. That report, along with a smaller working paper describing the issues, will be provided to both Council SSCs for their review.

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 will be 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 will be 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 will be held 24-28 April 2017 in Tampa, Florida. Assessment webinars will be held June through October 2017, and the Review Workshop is to be held February 13-15, 2018 in Miami.

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. The deadline for updated data sets was 7 April, and working papers are due 15 May. Assessment webinars will be 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 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 terminal year is 2015 and the assessment will be developed through a series of five webinars held between February and August 2017. The assessment is scheduled to be complete at the end of September 2017, to be considered by the South Atlantic SSC in October 2017 and recommendations provided to the Council in December 2017.

Upcoming Projects – Planning Underway

5 projects addressing 4-5 stocks

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 has been scheduled for August 1, 2017 and an in-person workshop has been scheduled for November 29-December 1, 2017 in Miami, FL. Assessment webinars are scheduled for January and February 2018, and the assessment should be completed March 2018.

South Atlantic Vermilion Snapper, Update

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 terminal year will be 2016 and assessment webinars will be held in late 2017 and early 2018. Preliminary scheduling has the assessment complete in March 2018 which would provide it for SSC consideration in April 2018 and Council consideration in June 2018. The SAFMC will be asked to make appointments for the assessment panel and approve the schedule and TORs at the June 2017 meeting.

Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Scamp, Research Track (1 or 2 stocks)

SEDAR Contact: Julia Byrd

Summary: A Research Track assessment is tentatively scheduled to start the first quarter of 2018. Detailed planning for this project has not yet begun. Schedule and Terms of Reference will be developed in the upcoming months and sent to Cooperators in summer/fall 2017 for approval.

Atlantic Cobia, Research Track

SEDAR Contact: Julia Byrd

Summary: A Research Track assessment is tentatively scheduled to start the second quarter of 2018. Detailed planning for this project has not yet begun. Schedule and Terms of Reference will be developed in the upcoming months and sent to Cooperators in late summer/fall 2017 for approval.

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.

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.

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 2017 assessments
(13 April 2017)**

SEDAR 48 Southeastern Black Grouper (Benchmark)

Life History Data Deadline: 31 January 2017

Landings Data Deadline: 24 February 2017

DW: March 15-17, 2017 – St. Petersburg, FL

AW: June 27-29, 2017 - St. Petersburg, FL

Assessment webinars: May-September 2017

RW: November 14-16, 2017 – St. Petersburg, FL

Terminal Year of Data: 2015

Report Available to Council: January/February 2018

Coordinator: Julie

SEDAR 50 – SA Blueline Tilefish (Benchmark)

Stock ID Work Group Meeting: June 28-30, 2016

Ageing Workshop: August 29-31, 2016

Life History Data Deadline: 1 November 2016

Landings Data Deadline: 3 January 2017

DW: January 23-27, 2017 – Charleston

AW: May 23-26, 2017 – Beaufort, NC

Assessment webinars: March-July 2017

RW: August 29-31, 2017 – Beaufort, NC

Terminal Year of Data: 2015

Report Available to Council: October 2017

Coordinator: Julia

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 14-16, 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

Terminal Year of Data: 2016

Report Available to Council: March 2018

Coordinator: Julie

**Summary of SEDAR Project Schedules for 2017 assessments
(13 April 2017)**

SEDAR 53 – SA Red Grouper (Standard)

Data Deadline: 5 September 2016

Assessment webinars: November 2016 – January 2017

Terminal Year of Data: 2015

Report Available to Council: February 2017

Coordinator: Julia

SEDAR 54 – HMS Sandbar Shark (Standard)

Data Deadline: 7 April 2017

Assessment Webinars: May-August 2017

Terminal Year of Data: 2015

Report Available to Cooperator: January 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 (preliminary)

Terminal Year of Data: 2016

Report Available to Council: April 2018

Coordinator: Julia

SEDAR 56 – SA Black Sea Bass (Standard)

Data Deadline: 1 January 2017 (landings); 31 March 2017 (other data sets)

Assessment Webinars: February – August 2017

Terminal Year of Data: 2015

Report Available to Cooperator: October 2017

Coordinator: Julia

SEDAR 57 – Caribbean Spiny Lobster (Standard) ?

Data Deadline: ???

In-person workshop: ? – Puerto Rico

Assessment Webinars: ?

Terminal Year of Data: 2016

Report Available to Cooperator: January 2018

Coordinator: Julie

Other Assessments/data needs scheduled for 2017:

MRIP Catch Revisions – South Atlantic:

Species: Red snapper, red grouper, blueline tilefish, black seabass

**Summary of SEDAR Project Schedules for 2017 assessments
(13 April 2017)**

Terminal Year of Data: 2016

MRIP Catch Revisions – Gulf of Mexico:

Species: Greater amberjack, gag, vermilion snapper, Spanish mackerel

Terminal Year of Data: 2016

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

SEDAR Project	Data Deadline	Assessment Approach
SEDAR 56 – SA Black Seabass	1 January 2017 (Landings)	Standard
SEDAR 50 – Atlantic blueline tilefish	3 January 2017 (Landings)	Benchmark
SEDAR 51 – GoM gray snapper	30 January 2017 (Raw Life History and Length Comps)	Benchmark
SEDAR 48 – SE U.S. black grouper	31 January 2017 (Raw Life History and Length Comps)	Benchmark
SEDAR 48 – SE U.S. black grouper	24 February 2017 (Landings)	Benchmark
SEDAR 56 – SA Black Seabass	31 March 2017 (all other data sets)	Standard
SEDAR 51 – GoM gray snapper	3 April 2017 (Landings)	Benchmark
SEDAR 54 – HMS sandbar shark	7 April 2017	Standard
SEDAR 55 - SA vermilion snapper	30 June 2017 (Landings)	Standard
SEDAR 52 – GoM red snapper	1 August 2017	Standard
SEDAR 55 - SA vermilion snapper	18 September 2017 (All other data sets)	Standard

2017**SEDAR Master Project Schedule****January**

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1		3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15		17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

February

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19		21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

March

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
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April

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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30						

May

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28		30	31			

June

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
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25	26	27	28	29	30	

July

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

August

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

September

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

October

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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15		17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

November

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9		11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22		24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

December

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24		26	27	28	29	30
31						

Designed by Anny, www.annystudio.com

SEDAR 48 – SE Black Grouper

SEDAR 50 – SA Blueline Tilefish

SEDAR 51 – GoM Gray Snapper

SEDAR 52 – GoM Red Snapper (Standard)

SEDAR 54 – HMS Sandbar Shark (Standard)

SEDAR 55 – SA Vermilion Snapper (Standard)

SEDAR 56 – SA Black Sea Bass (Standard)

SEDAR 57 – Caribbean Spiny Lobster (PR) (STD)

SA and GoM MRIP Catch Revisions

Council Meetings

Federal Holidays

(Current as of 13 April 2017)