

SEDAR Steering Committee

Projects Report

September 2018

Completed Projects, May 2018 –August 2018

1 project assessing 1 stock

HMS Gulf Blacktip Shark, Update

SEDAR Contact: Julie Neer

Summary: The Gulf of Mexico blacktip shark update to SEDAR 29 is complete, with a terminal year of 2016. The data deadline was April 8th, 2018 and the final SAR was disseminated on 31 July 2018.

Projects in Progress

7 projects addressing 7 stocks

SEDAR 57: Caribbean Spiny Lobster, Benchmark

SEDAR Contact: Julie Neer

Summary: The Terms of Reference and Project Schedule for this assessment were originally approved in July 2017, with the Data Workshop scheduled for January 23-25, 2018 in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Unfortunately, the damage from the hurricanes in September 2017 required that the assessment be put on hold until conditions improved. The updated Project schedule includes a Data Workshop held June 20-22, 2018 in San Juan, Puerto Rico; Assessment webinars September – November 2018; and the Review Workshop in Miami, FL January 29-31, 2019. The assessment should be completed March 2019.

SEDAR 58 Atlantic Cobia, Benchmark

SEDAR Contact: Julia Byrd

Summary: Atlantic Cobia was originally scheduled as a Research Track assessment. However, at their May 2017 meeting, the SEDAR Steering Committee recommended conducting cobia as a Benchmark assessment, including a Stock ID evaluation based on the process developed by the Steering Committee in September 2016. Cooperators made workshop appointments for the Stock ID process in December 2018. The Stock ID Workshop was held April 10-12, 2018; the Stock ID Review Workshop was held June 5-7, 2018; the Joint Cooperator Technical Review was held July 30, 2018 via webinar; and the Science and Management Leadership Call was canceled due to guidance from the SEDAR Steering Committee which indicated this call was not necessary if there was not a change in the stock boundary. The final Cobia Stock ID Process Compiled Report was distributed August 17, 2018.

The ASMFC and SAFMC approved the assessment ToRs and schedule in May and June 2018, respectively. Appointments were made by both Cooperators in June 2018. The terminal year of the assessment is 2017. The schedule has been delayed approximately six weeks to allow for inclusion of the fully calibrated MRIP data. The current schedule includes a Data Workshop January 14-18, 2019 in Charleston, SC; Assessment webinars from April – August 2019; and a Review Workshop September 10-12, 2019 in the Beaufort, NC area. The assessment is scheduled to be complete in October 2019.

SEDAR 59 South Atlantic Greater Amberjack, Standard

SEDAR Contact: Julia Byrd

Summary: A standard assessment was requested to allow consideration of video and headboat at-sea indices, to reconsider the use of age and length composition data, and to incorporate the latest BAM model configurations and updates to data calculation methodologies. The terminal year of the assessment was 2016, but due to delays in the fully calibrated MRIP data for use in assessments, the terminal year was advanced to 2017. The Council made appointments and approved the schedule and terms of reference in December 2017. A Data Scoping webinar was held on March 30, 2018. The original schedule included a data deadline for updated data of May 25, 2018; a series of Assessment webinars from June – October 2018; and was scheduled to be complete in December 2018, and review by the SSC in Spring 2019.

On the Data Scoping webinar, there was discussion on the availability and inclusion of the fully calibrated MRIP estimates into SEDAR 59. Further discussions noted that availability of the fully calibrated MRIP data would affect all 2018 SEDAR Projects. The SEDAR 59 schedule was delayed to allow for the inclusion of fully calibrated MRIP data and for the advancement of the terminal year. The current schedule includes an updated data deadline of November 2, 2018 and a series of Assessment webinars from December 2018 – March 2019. The assessment is scheduled to be complete in mid-May 2019.

SEDAR 60 South Atlantic Red Porgy, Standard

SEDAR Contact: Julia Byrd

Summary: A standard assessment was requested to allow consideration of new video index data, reconsider the use of age and length composition data, and to incorporate the latest BAM model configurations and updates to data calculation methodologies. The terminal year of the assessment is 2017. The Council made appointments and approved the schedule and terms of reference in December 2017. The original schedule included an updated data deadline of August 10, 2018; a series of webinars from June 2018 – January 2019; and was scheduled to be complete in March 2019.

To allow for inclusion of the fully calibrated MRIP data, the SEDAR 60 schedule was delayed. The current schedule includes a Data Scoping webinar which was held June 29, 2018; an in-person workshop February 5-7, 2019 in the Beaufort, NC area; and a series of webinars from January – April 2019. The assessment is scheduled to be complete in June 2019.

SEDAR 61 Gulf of Mexico Red Grouper, Standard

SEDAR Contact: Julie Neer

Summary: An assessment following a Standard approach is underway for Gulf of Mexico red grouper, last assessed as a benchmark in SEDAR 42. The terminal year of this assessment was 2016, but due to delays in the fully calibrated MRIP data for use in assessment, the terminal year was advanced to 2017. The Terms of Reference and Project Schedule for this assessment were approved in December 2017. The Data deadline was pushed back until 17 August, 2018 and an in-person workshop has been scheduled for September 11-13, 2018 in St. Petersburg, FL. Assessment webinars are scheduled for November 2018 through and April 2019, and the assessment should be completed June 2019.

SEDAR 62 Gulf of Mexico Gray Triggerfish, Standard

SEDAR Contact: Julie Neer

Summary: An assessment following a Standard approach is underway for Gulf of Mexico gray triggerfish, last assessed as a Standard in SEDAR 43. The terminal year of this assessment was 2016, but due to delays in the fully calibrated MRIP data for use in assessment, the terminal year was advanced to 2017. The Terms of Reference and Project Schedule for this assessment were approved in January 2018. The Data deadline for updated data was scheduled for July 13, 2018 and an in-person workshop has been scheduled for October 16-18, 2018 in Miami, FL but both scheduled items were postponed due to the MRIP calibration adjustments required by the SEFSC. The new deadline for the unprocessed data is September 21st, 2019, and the final data is due December 14th, 2019. The in-person workshop has been rescheduled to March 19-21, 2019 in Miami, Florida. Assessment webinars are now scheduled for April – June 2019, and the assessment should be completed August 2019.

SEDAR 63 Gulf of Mexico Menhaden, Review

SEDAR Contact: Julia Byrd

Summary: The Gulf of Mexico Menhaden Review Workshop will be held November 6-7, 2018 in New Orleans, LA. Review Workshop Terms of Reference and project schedule are posted to the SEDAR website. The final Stock Assessment Report is scheduled to be available December 2018.

Upcoming Projects – Planning Underway

2 projects addressing 2 stocks

SEDAR 64: Southeastern US Yellowtail Snapper, Benchmark

SEDAR Contact: Julie Neer

Summary: The State of Florida will be taking the lead on the assessment of Southeastern US Yellowtail Snapper. SEDAR Staff has worked with FWRI to produce a Project Schedule and Terms of Reference, which were approved by both Councils in June 2018. The Project Schedule has the assessment getting underway late 2018, with a raw data deadline in December 2018.

SEDAR 68: Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Scamp, Research Track (1 or 2 stocks)

SEDAR Contact: Julia Byrd

Summary: A Scamp Research Track assessment was preliminarily scheduled to start the first quarter of 2018. At their May 2017 meeting, the SEDAR Steering Committee delayed the start of the Scamp Research Track assessment until 2019 due to the Research Track process not being adequately described. Because the project statement of work, addressing the research track approach, has not yet been provided by the SEFSC, the timing of this project is currently unknown. A planning team is scheduled to meet September 28, 2018 to develop a project schedule and Terms of Reference for review and approval by the Gulf and South Atlantic Councils.

MRIP Revision Assessments

Species: South Atlantic: Red Grouper, Blueline Tilefish, Black Seabass, Vermilion Snapper

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, were available July 9, 2018. The SEFSC will need more time to do additional adjustments so that data are ready for use in assessment.

Revision assessments are planned for 2018, although specific timing depends on when the revised, fully calibrated MRIP data are available and can be provided to the analytical teams.

SEFSC staff are currently preparing the South Atlantic MRIP Revision assessments and they are scheduled to be available for SAFMC SSC review at their October 2018 meeting.

2019 SEDAR Projects

A list of the 2019 SEDAR projects is below with the relevant Coordinator in parentheses. SEFSC staff are currently developing a data deadline schedule for these projects. Once this is complete, SEDAR and SEFSC staff will hold a call to finalize data deadlines and workshop weeks. Planning for individual projects will get underway after this call which is currently scheduled for late September 2018.

South Atlantic Tilefish Standard Assessment (Julia Byrd)

South Atlantic Snowy Grouper Update Assessment (Julia Byrd)

South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico King Mackerel Update Assessment (Julie Neer)

Gulf of Mexico Cobia Update Assessment (Julie Neer)

Gulf of Mexico Vermilion Snapper Standard Assessment (Julie Neer)

HMS Atlantic Blacktip Benchmark Assessment (Julie Neer)

Atlantic Menhaden Review (Julia Byrd)