

## SEDAR Steering Committee

### Projects Report

September 2019

#### **Completed Projects, May 2019 – August 2019**

##### **2 projects assessing 2 stocks (4 fishery management groups)**

###### **SEDAR 57: Caribbean Spiny Lobster, Benchmark**

**SEDAR Contact:** Julie Neer

**Summary:** The Review Workshop was held July 9-11, 2019 in Miami, FL. The final Stock Assessment Report was disseminated on 14 August 2019.

###### **SEDAR 61 Gulf of Mexico Red Grouper, Standard**

**SEDAR Contact:** Julie Neer

**Summary:** The final Stock Assessment Report was disseminated on 22 July 2019.

#### **Projects in Progress**

##### **11 projects addressing 12-13 stocks**

###### **SAFMC SSC MRIP Concerns Impacts**

The SAFMC SSC raised concerns about the current MRIP data and its usage in ongoing assessments. The SAFMC supported an SSC request to hold a workshop dedicated to addressing MRIP concerns and determining how to move ahead in using MRIP data for assessments and management recommendations for unassessed stocks. The workshop was held August 19-21 of 2019. The SSC determined that FES was best available science and SAFMC assessments of Red Porgy, Greater Amberjack, and Tilefish will restart.

###### **SEDAR 58 Atlantic Cobia, Benchmark**

**SEDAR Contact:** Kathleen Howington

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 Cobia Data Workshop was held April 1 - 5, 2019. The pre-assessment webinar and Assessment webinars 1 and 2 were held between June and August 2019. Remaining webinars will be held through October. The Review Workshop is scheduled for November 19-21, 2019 with the completed SAR available to the Cooperators in January 2020.

Management of Atlantic cobia was recently transferred from the South Atlantic Council to ASFMC. Since this assessment was underway before this transfer was finalized, the assessment will be completed following the SEDAR Process without further involvement by the SAFMC and its SSC.

#### SEDAR 59 South Atlantic Greater Amberjack, Standard

**SEDAR Contact:** Kathleen Howington

**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. The SEDAR 59 schedule was again delayed allowing for including fully calibrated MRIP data and advancing the terminal year. Due to the government shutdown in early 2019, the Greater Amberjack assessment was pushed back a few months, to a completion date in late June with consideration by the SAFMC SSC in October 2019 and no changes to the Council's timing of actions.

In Spring 2019, due to the concerns raised by the SFAMC SSC about MRIP estimates, the schedule was again postponed. The current scheduled completion date is March 2020, with the completed SAR available to the cooperator in April of 2020.

#### SEDAR 60 South Atlantic Red Porgy, Standard

**SEDAR Contact:** Kathleen Howington

**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 revised schedule included a Data Scoping webinar which was held June 29, 2018; an in-person workshop planned for February 5-7, 2019 in the Beaufort, NC area; and a series of webinars from January – April 2019. The assessment was scheduled to be complete in June 2019.

To address the 2019 Federal Government shutdown, the SEFSC-SEDAR planning group recommendation was to cancel the in-person workshop, and to delay the Red Porgy assessment a few months to a completion date in late August 2019 for consideration by the SAFMC SSC in October 2019. However, due to concerns raised subsequently by the SAFMC SSC regarding the MRIP estimates, in March 2019 the Council rejected eliminating the in-person workshop and in April 2019 the project was put on hold to accommodate the SAFMC SSC MRIP Workshop.

The in-person workshop is now scheduled for Beaufort, NC December 10-12, 2019. The scheduled completion date is March of 2020, with the completed SAR available in April 2020.

#### 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 In-person workshop was held in Miami, FL May 20-22, 2019. Assessment webinars are currently underway, scheduled for June – October 2019, and the assessment should be completed December 2019.

#### SEDAR 64: Southeastern US Yellowtail Snapper, Benchmark

**SEDAR Contact:** Julie Neer

**Summary:** The State of Florida is taking the lead on the assessment of Southeastern US Yellowtail Snapper. The terminal year of data for this assessment is 2017. The Data Workshop was held June 25-27, 2019 in St. Petersburg, Florida. Assessment webinars will be held September-December 2019. The Review Workshop is scheduled for February 25-27, 2020. It will be held in St. Petersburg, Florida. The assessment is scheduled for completion in March 2020.

#### SEDAR 65 HMS Atlantic Blacktip Shark, Benchmark

**SEDAR Contact:** Kathleen Howington

**Summary:** The benchmark assessment of Atlantic blacktip shark is just getting underway. The project schedule and Terms of Reference were approved in April 2019.

Data Scoping Webinars will be held between May and September 2019. The terminal year of data for this assessment is 2018. The Data Workshop is scheduled to be held October 29-November 1, 2019 in Charleston, SC. Assessment webinars will be held between March and June 2020, with a Review Workshop scheduled for November 3-5, 2020 in Panama City, Florida.

#### SEDAR 67 Gulf of Mexico Vermilion Snapper, Standard

**SEDAR Contact:** Julie Neer

**Summary:** An assessment following a Standard approach is underway for Gulf of Mexico vermilion snapper, last assessed as a Standard in SEDAR 45. The terminal year for data in this assessment is 2017. The Terms of Reference and Project Schedule for this assessment were approved in January 2019. The data scoping call was held in May 2019. A series of Data Review webinars will be held November 12-14, 2019 in Miami, FL. Assessment webinars are scheduled for December 2019 through January 2020, and the assessment should be completed March 2020.

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

**SEDAR Contact:** Julie A Neer

**Summary:** The Stock ID webinars were held August and September 2019. The preliminary recommendation from the Stock ID Panel is to move forward with two assessment stocks, split at the current Council boundary between the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico. A Data Scoping webinar is scheduled for October 10, 2019. The terminal year for the Research Track assessment is 2017. The Data Workshop will be held in March 16-20, 2020, with assessment webinars between July and October 2020. The Review Workshop is tentatively scheduled for March 2021, with an operational assessment in late 2021, but that will depend on the progress of the assessment.

#### SEDAR 69 ASMFC Atlantic Menhaden, Review

**SEDAR Contact:** Kathleen Howington

**Summary:** The Atlantic Menhaden review workshop is scheduled for November 4-8<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The terminal year for the assessment is 2017. The completion date of the assessment is December 2019.

#### SEDAR 38 Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic King Mackerel, Update

**SEDAR Contact:** Julie Neer

**Summary:** The Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic King Mackerel Update assessments are underway. TORs were approved by the GMFMC in January 2019, and by the SAFMC in March 2019. The terminal year of data for the Atlantic component is 2017/2018 FY. The terminal year of data for the Gulf of Mexico assessment is 2016/2017 FY. The King Mackerel assessments have a completion date in March 2020.

#### SEDAR 28 Gulf of Mexico Cobia, Update

**SEDAR Contact:** Julie Neer

**Summary:** The Gulf of Mexico Update assessment of cobia is scheduled. TORs were approved by the GMFMC in January 2019. The terminal year of data for this assessment is 2018. Final analytical products are due November 2019. The completion date is scheduled for April 2020.

### **Upcoming Projects – Planning Underway**

#### **8 projects addressing 8 stocks**

#### **SEDAR 66 South Atlantic Tilefish, Operational**

**SEDAR Contact:** Kathleen Howington

**Summary:** The South Atlantic Tilefish operational assessment is in the planning stages. The TORs were approved by SAFMC in December 2017. The terminal year for data is 2018. The schedule was postponed due to concerns raised by the SSC about the MRIP numbers. The assessment is scheduled to restart in April 2020 and the completion date is April 2021.

#### **SEDAR 36 South Atlantic Snowy Grouper, Update**

**SEDAR Contact:** Kathleen Howington

**Summary:** The South Atlantic snowy Grouper update assessment is in the planning stages. The TORs were approved by the SAFMC in December 2018. The terminal year for data is 2018. The completion date is September 2020.

#### **SEDAR 70 Gulf of Mexico Greater Amberjack, Operational**

**SEDAR contact:** Julie A. Neer

**Summary:** The Gulf of Mexico greater amberjack operational assessment is getting underway. The TORs and Project Schedule are scheduled to be reviewed in September 2019 by the Gulf Council SSC. The terminal year for data for this assessment is 2018. The assessment is scheduled to be completed in October 2020.

#### **SEDAR 71 Gag Grouper, Operational**

**SEDAR Contact:** Kathleen Howington

**Summary:** The South Atlantic Gag Grouper operational assessment is in the planning stages. The TORs and schedule are scheduled to be reviewed in October 2019 by the SSC. The terminal year for data for this assessment is 2019. The completion date is March 2021.

#### **SEDAR 72 Gulf of Mexico Gag Grouper, Operational**

**SEDAR contact:** Julie Neer

**Summary:** The Gulf of Mexico gag grouper operational assessment is getting underway. The TORs and Project Schedule are scheduled to be reviewed in September 2019 by the Gulf Council SSC. The terminal year for data is 2019. The assessment is scheduled to be completed in June 2021.

SEDAR # South Atlantic Spanish Mackerel

**SEDAR Contact:** Kathleen Howington

**Summary:** The South Atlantic Spanish Mackerel operational assessment is in the planning stages. The TORs are scheduled to be reviewed by the SSC in October 2019.

SEDAR # South Atlantic Black Sea Bass

**SEDAR Contact:** Kathleen Howington

**Summary:** The South Atlantic Black Sea Bass operational assessment is in the planning stages. The TORs are scheduled to be reviewed by the SSC in October 2019.

SEDAR # South Atlantic Red Grouper

**SEDAR Contact:** Kathleen Howington

**Summary:** The South Atlantic Red Grouper operational assessment is in the planning stages. The TORs are scheduled to be reviewed by the SSC in October 2019.