

SEDAR Steering Committee

Projects Report

April 2020

Completed Projects, September 2019 – April 2020

7 projects assessing 7 stocks (Tally does not include SEDAR 62)

SEDAR 58 Atlantic Cobia, Benchmark

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

Summary: The Data Workshop was held April 1-5, 2019 in Charleston, SC. The Assessment Process was held via a series of webinars from June - October 2019 and the Review Workshop was held November 19-21, 2019 in Beaufort, NC. The final Stock Assessment Report was disseminated on January 6, 2019.

SEDAR 59 South Atlantic Greater Amberjack, Standard

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

Summary: Assessment webinars were held from March 2018 to January 2020. The final Stock Assessment Report was disseminated on March 31, 2020. It was reviewed by the SAFMC SSC in April 2020.

SEDAR 60 South Atlantic Red Porgy, Standard

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

Summary: The assessment process was held over a series of webinars from June 2018 to February 2020 and an in-person workshop held December 10-12, 2019 in Beaufort, NC. The final Stock Assessment Report was disseminated on April 9, 2020. It was reviewed by the SAFMC SSC in April 2020.

SEDAR 62 Gulf of Mexico Gray Triggerfish, Standard

SEDAR Contact: Julie Neer

Summary: An assessment following a Standard approach was begun for Gulf of Mexico gray triggerfish, last assessed as a Standard in SEDAR 43. The In-person workshop was held in Miami, FL May 20-22, 2019. Assessment webinars were held June 2019 – January 2020.

On 11 February 2020, SEDAR received a memo from the SEFSC stating the following: *“NOAA Fisheries – Southeast Fisheries Science Center has cancelled the*

ongoing SEDAR 62 Gray Triggerfish stock assessment. Our internal review process identified inaccuracies in essential data inputs that cannot easily be reconciled.” It was recommended that Gulf of Mexico gray triggerfish be added to the SEDAR schedule as a Research Track assessment as soon as practicable

SEDAR 64: Southeastern US Yellowtail Snapper, Benchmark

SEDAR Contact: Julie Neer

The Review Workshop was held February 24-26, 2020 in St. Petersburg, FL. The final Stock Assessment Report was disseminated on 19 March 2020. The assessment will be reviewed via a joint SAFMC-GMFMC SSC reviewed in July 2020.

SEDAR 67 Gulf of Mexico Vermilion Snapper, Standard

SEDAR Contact: Julie Neer

Summary: The final Stock Assessment Report was disseminated on 30 April 2019. It will be reviewed by the GMFMC SSC in July 2020.

SEDAR 69 ASMFC Atlantic Menhaden, Review

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

Summary: The Review Workshop was held November 4 - 8, 2019 in Charleston, SC. The final Stock Assessment Report was disseminated on January 21, 2020.

SEDAR 38 South Atlantic King Mackerel, 2019 Update

SEDAR Contact: Julie Neer

Summary: The final Stock Assessment Report was disseminated on 15 April 2020. It will be reviewed by the SAFMC SSC in April 2020.

Projects in Progress

9 projects addressing 10 stocks

SEDAR 65 HMS Atlantic Blacktip Shark, Benchmark

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

Summary: The benchmark assessment of Atlantic blacktip shark is underway. The project schedule and Terms of Reference were approved in April 2019. Data Scoping Webinars were held between May and September 2019. The terminal year of data for this assessment is 2018. The Data Workshop was held October 29-November 1, 2019 in

Charleston, SC. Assessment webinars will be held between March and July 2020, with a Review Workshop scheduled for November 3-5, 2020 in Panama City, Florida.

SEDAR 66 South Atlantic Tilefish, Operational

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

Summary: The South Atlantic Tilefish operational assessment is just getting started. 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 with a data scoping webinar April 27, 2020. An In-person workshop will be held November 17-19, 2020 in Beaufort NC. The assessment process will occur over a series of webinars from December, 2020 to April 2021. The completion date is April 2021.

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

SEDAR Contact: Julie A Neer

Summary: The Stock ID final report was released in March 2020, with the recommendation of moving forward with two assessment stocks, split at the current Council boundary between the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico. The terminal year for the Research Track assessment is 2017.

The Data Workshop was scheduled to be held March 16-20, 2020, but it was cancelled due to safety concerns regarding COVID-19. Discussions were held between SEDAR and SEFSC staff, and it was determined that the process would continue via a remote process (webinars, Google handouts, MS Teams, etc.). The individual working groups have been meeting to review the available data and come up with pre-decisional recommendations. Those pre-decision recommendations were presented on a publicly-noticed Data Process Plenary Webinar held in April 2020, where the entire Panel, as well as members of the public, were able to discuss them. The Assessment Development Team made final recommendations for a variety of data recommendations. The need for additional work for some topics was identified on the webinar as well. A second Plenary webinar will be held in May 2020.

It is unclear at this point how this delay in reviewing and finalizing data may impact the overall schedule moving forward. Currently the assessment webinars are scheduled to be held 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 70 Gulf of Mexico Greater Amberjack, Operational

SEDAR Contact: Julie Neer

Summary: An Operational assessment is underway for Gulf of Mexico greater amberjack snapper, last assessed in 2016 as an Update to SEDAR 33. The terminal

year for data in this assessment is 2018. The Terms of Reference and Project Schedule for this assessment were approved in September 2019. The data scoping call was held in December 2019. A Data Review webinar will be held early June 2020. Assessment webinars are scheduled for June through August 2020, and the assessment should be completed October 2020.

SEDAR 71 South Atlantic Gag Grouper, Operational

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

Summary: The South Atlantic Gag Grouper operational assessment is just getting started. The TORs were approved by the Council in December 2019. The terminal year for data for this assessment is 2019. The assessment begins with a data scoping call on May 12, 2020 and a data webinar in October, 2020. The Assessment process will occur over a series of webinars from November, 2020 to February 2021. The scheduled completion date is of March 2021.

SEDAR 72 Gulf of Mexico Gag Grouper, Operational

SEDAR contact: Julie Neer

Summary: The Gulf of Mexico gag grouper operational assessment is underway. The TORs and Project Schedule were approved September 2019 by the Gulf Council SSC. The terminal year for data is 2019. Data scoping is set for week of June 22nd. The in-person workshop is scheduled for February 9-11, 2021 and the assessment is scheduled to be completed in June 2021.

SEDAR 28 Gulf of Mexico Cobia, 2019 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 June 2020.

SEDAR 36 South Atlantic Snowy Grouper, 2020 Update

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

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

SEDAR 38 Gulf of Mexico King Mackerel, 2019 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 Gulf of Mexico King Mackerel assessment has a completion date in June 2020.

Upcoming Projects – Planning Underway

4 projects addressing 4 stocks

SEDAR 73 South Atlantic Red Snapper, Operational

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

Summary: The South Atlantic Red snapper operational assessment is in the planning stages. The TORS were reviewed by the SSC in April of 2020.

SEDAR 74 Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper, Research Track

SEDAR contact: Julie Neer

Summary: Planning for the Gulf of Mexico red snapper research track assessment is underway. The Planning Team has been assembled and will be meeting early May 2020 to begin discussing the assessment. First steps will be drafting of Terms of Reference and recommending participants for the Stock ID Process.

SEDAR # South Atlantic Spanish Mackerel

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

Summary: The South Atlantic Spanish Mackerel operational assessment is in the planning stages. The TORs were reviewed by the SSC in April 2020.

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 were reviewed by the SSC in April 2020.