

**SEDAR Steering Committee**

**Projects Report**

April 2021

**Completed Projects, October 2020 – April 2021**

**6 projects assessing 6 stocks**

**SEDAR 36 South Atlantic Snowy Grouper, 2020 Update**

**SEDAR Contact:** Kathleen Howington

**Summary:** The final Stock Assessment Report was disseminated on November 3, 2020. It was reviewed by the SAFMC SSC in January 2021.

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

**SEDAR Contact:** Kathleen Howington

**Summary:** The final Stock Assessment Report was disseminated to HMS on December 8, 2020.

**SEDAR 66 South Atlantic Tilefish, Operational**

**SEDAR Contact:** Kathleen Howington

**Summary:** The final Stock Assessment Report was disseminated on April 6, 2021. It was reviewed by the SAFMC SSC in April 2021.

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

**SEDAR Contact:** Julie Neer

**Summary:** The final Stock Assessment Report was disseminated on October 29, 2020. It was reviewed by the GMFMC SSC in January 2021.

**SEDAR 71 South Atlantic Gag Grouper, Operational**

**SEDAR Contact:** Kathleen Howington

**Summary:** The final Stock Assessment Report is scheduled to be disseminated on April 19, 2021. It was reviewed by the SAFMC SSC in April 2021.

**SEDAR 73 South Atlantic Red Snapper, Operational**

**SEDAR Contact:** Kathleen Howington

**Summary:** The final Stock Assessment Report was disseminated on March 26, 2021. It

was reviewed by the SAFMC SSC in April 2021.

## **Projects in Progress**

### **4 projects addressing 5 stocks and 3 management units**

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

**SEDAR Contact:** Julie A Neer

##### **Summary:**

The assessment webinars are currently underway and should be completed in May 2021. The Review Workshop was originally scheduled for June 2021; however, it was postponed to August 30-September 3, 2021 due to the delay in receiving final data. The assessment is now scheduled to be released to the Councils on 1 October 2021. The assessment will likely be reviewed by the SAFMC SSC in October 2021, and by the GMFMC SSC in January 2022. The schedule of Operational Assessments for scamp have not yet rescheduled since the delay in completion but will likely begin in Spring 2022.

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

**SEDAR contact:** Julie Neer

**Summary:** The Gulf of Mexico gag grouper operational assessment held a virtual data/assessment workshop is scheduled for February 9-11, 2021. On 22 February 2021, the SEFCS informed the Council that they would need an additional 2 months to complete the assessment due to delays in data delivery. Assessment webinars are underway and should be completed by July 2021. The assessment is now scheduled to be completed in September 2021.

#### **SEDAR 74 Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper, Research Track**

**SEDAR contact:** Julie Neer

##### **Summary:**

The SEDAR 74 Planning Team recommended participants for Assessment Development Team and the other stages of the assessment to the Gulf Council and the Council is in the process of making those appointments.

The Stock ID Process held a Scoping webinar in November 2020, and the Working Groups are currently working in preparation for the first STOCK ID webinar, scheduled for 7 May 2021. The second Stock ID webinar will be held in June 2021, and the final Stock ID report should be completed by late July 2021.

A Data Scoping webinar for the research Track assessment will be in August 2021, and an in-person Data Workshop is scheduled for November 1-5, 2021 in New Orleans, LA.

The assessment is currently scheduled to be completed January 2023, with the Operational Assessment slated to begin in Spring 2023.

#### SEDAR 80 Caribbean Queen Triggerfish, Operational Assessment (3 management units)

**SEDAR contact:** Julie Neer

**Summary:** The Operational Assessment of Caribbean Queen triggerfish is underway. The Terms of Reference and Project Schedule were approved in December 2020. The terminal year of data for the assessment will be 2019. There will be three Topical Working Groups: 1) to review life history information, discuss the possibility of developing an index of abundance, and a TWG to discuss the effect of regulations and economy on fishing behavior/selectivity, retention, and catchability.

A Life History TWG Data Scoping webinar was held 10 February 2021, where the group was informed that the ageing data is not yet complete and would not be available until 30 September 2021. As this data is a critical touch point for the assessment, this delay has required a shift in the overall project schedule by ~7 months. The assessment is now expected to be completed April 2022.

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

#### **6 projects addressing at least 6 stocks**

#### SEDAR 75 Gulf of Mexico Gray Snapper, Operational Assessment

**SEDAR contact:** Julie Neer

**Summary:** The Gulf of Mexico gray snapper operational assessment was originally scheduled to be conducted beginning in November 2020 and completed November 2021. During the October 2021 SEDAR Steering Committee, the SEFSC notified the Committee that due to various impacts of the ongoing pandemic, several assessments needed to be delayed one year. The S75 assessment was identified as the GMFMC assessment to be delayed until 2021.

Data Scoping is slated for November 2021. Unprocessed data is due January 2022, with final analytical products are due May 2022. An in-person workshop is scheduled for June 28-30, 2022. The assessment should be completed by November 2022.

#### SEDAR 76 South Atlantic Black Sea Bass, Operational Assessment

**SEDAR Contact:** Kathleen Howington

**Summary:** The TORs for the South Atlantic Black Sea Bass operational assessment were approved by the SAFMC in June 2020. The original schedule and participants list were approved by the SAFMC in September 2020. Due to a delay brought on by Covid-19 the schedule was adjusted to start with data scoping in May 2022. The updated schedule was reviewed by the SAFMC in March 2021. The terminal year of data is 2020. The

assessment process will occur over a series of webinars October 2022 through January 2023. The scheduled completion date is March 2023.

#### SEDAR 77 HMS Hammerhead Sharks, Research Track

**SEDAR Contact:** Kathleen Howington

**Summary:** The HMS Hammerheads Sharks Research Track assessment is in the planning stages. The Planning team was convened in September 2020 and have met 6 times since. The schedule, stock ID participants and stock id ToRs were approved by HMS in February 2021. The stock ID process is scheduled to begin in May of 2021, the rest of the TORs and participant list are under development and are scheduled to be approved in May of 2021. The number of stocks that will be assessed will be determined during the Stock ID and Data Scoping portions of the assessment.

#### SEDAR 78 South Atlantic Spanish Mackerel, Operational Assessment

**SEDAR Contact:** Kathleen Howington

**Summary:** The TORs, project schedule and participants list for the South Atlantic Spanish Mackerel operational assessment were approved by the SAFMC in September 2020. The year for the assessment is 2020. The assessment is scheduled to begin with data scoping in June 2021. The assessment process will occur over a series of webinars November 2021 through February 2022. The scheduled completion date is April 2022

#### SEDAR 79 Southeastern US Mutton Snapper, Benchmark

**SEDAR Contact:** Julie Neer

**Summary:** The Terms of Reference and Project Schedule for the SE US benchmark assessment of mutton snapper were approved by the GMFMC and SAFMC in December 2020 and March 2021, respectively. The terminal year of data for the assessment will be 2020. Data Scoping is slated for August 2021, with a Data Workshop January 31-February 4, 2022. The assessment should be completed by February 2023.

#### SEDAR 81 Gulf of Mexico Spanish Mackerel, Operational Assessment

**SEDAR Contact:** Julie Neer

**Summary:** Planning for the 2022 Gulf of Mexico Spanish mackerel Operational Assessment is currently underway. The Statement of Work for this assessment was approved in May 2020. The draft Project Schedule and Terms of Reference are currently being review by the SEFSC. Once approved by the SEFSC, the Project Schedule and ToRs will be provided to the GMFMC for review Fall of 2021.

#### SEDAR 82 South Atlantic Gray Triggerfish, Research Track

**SEDAR Contact:** Kathleen Howington

**Summary:** The South Atlantic Gray Triggerfish Research Track assessment is in the planning stages. The Planning team is scheduled to convene in May 2021. The schedule, TORs, and participant list are under development.