

## **SEDAR Steering Committee**

### **Projects Report**

September 2021

### **Completed Projects, May 2021 – September 2021**

#### **1 project assessing 1 stock**

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

**SEDAR contact:** Julie A. Neer

**Summary:** The final Stock Assessment Report for Gulf of Mexico Gag Grouper was released on 27 August 2021. The report was reviewed by the GMFMC SSC at its September 2021 meeting.

### **Projects in Progress**

#### **6 projects addressing 10 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 SEDAR 68 Review Workshop was held via webinar August 30-Sept 3, 2021. Overall, the assessments were well received, though the RW Panel did request modifications that resulted in new base model configurations for both assessments. The final Stock Assessment Reports are on track to be released by the October 1, 2021 deadline.

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

**SEDAR contact:** Julie A. Neer

**Summary:**

The Stock ID Process held a Scoping webinar in November 2020, and three Stock ID discussion webinars were held between May and July 2021. The final Stock ID Report was released on August 20<sup>th</sup>. After the release of the report, the SEFSC requested that additional discussions be held to clarify the consensus recommendation of the CPUE/Landings workshop that was stated in the report. An additional webinar will be held on October 6<sup>th</sup> to discuss this issue.

The Data Workshop was scheduled to be held in-person November 1-5, 2021. Given the inability of NMFS staff to travel, and the high proportion of other virtual attendees, it was the Gulf Council's request that this workshop be moved to the earliest convenient date in 2022 to better facilitate a greater proportion of in-person attendance. With red snapper

being one of the most socially and economically important species in the Gulf of Mexico, the Gulf Council felt it only best to try to bolster the in-person attendance by both scientists and fishermen.

The SEFSC reviewed the current activities schedule and determined that the Data Workshop will be rescheduled for May 2-6, 2022. The assessment is now slated to be completed in May 2023.

#### SEDAR 77 HMS Hammerhead Sharks, Research Track (4 Stocks)

**SEDAR Contact:** Kathleen Howington

**Summary:** The HMS Hammerheads Sharks Research Track assessment is currently underway. The Stock ID process has been completed and the report will be released September 2021. The Data process is currently underway and should be completed in January 2022 following a virtual workshop in December 2021. The Assessment webinars are scheduled for May 2022 through November 2022. The Review Workshop is scheduled for March 2023. The assessment is now scheduled to be released to NOAA: HMS April 2023.

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

**SEDAR Contact:** Kathleen Howington

**Summary:** The Operational Assessment of South Atlantic Spanish Mackerel is underway. The Terms of Reference and Project Schedule were approved in September 2020. The terminal year for the assessment is 2020. Data scoping was held in June 2021. The Assessment process will occur over a series of webinars held November 2021 through February 2022. The scheduled completion date is April 2022

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

**SEDAR Contact:** Julie A. 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 was held August 2021, with a Data Workshop scheduled for January 31-February 4, 2022. The assessment should be completed by February 2023.

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

**SEDAR contact:** Julie A. 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 to review life history information, discuss the possibility of developing

an index of abundance, and 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**

### **9 projects addressing at least 9 stocks**

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

**SEDAR contact:** Julie A. Neer

**Summary:** The Gulf of Mexico Gray Snapper Operational Assessment was originally scheduled to begin in November 2020 and to be completed November 2021. During the October 2020 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.

There will be two Topical Working Groups. The Life History TWG Data Scoping is slated for December 2021, with an additional webinar scheduled for June 2022. Unprocessed data is due January 2022, with final analytical products due April 2022. The Shore Mode TWG will meet via webinar in June and July 2022. The assessment should be completed by November 2022.

#### **SEDAR 68 OA, Gulf of Mexico Scamp, Operational Assessment**

**SEDAR contact:** Julie A. Neer

**Summary:** The Gulf of Mexico Scamp Operational Assessment is in the planning stages. Terms of Reference will be reviewed by the GMFMC SSC after their review of the Research Track assessment in January 2022. The OA will take place between January and August 2022.

#### **SEDAR 68 OA, Atlantic Scamp, Operational Assessment**

**SEDAR Contact:** Kathleen Howington

**Summary:** The Atlantic Scamp Operational Assessment is in the planning stages. Terms of Reference will be reviewed by the SAFMC SSC after their review of the Research Track assessment in October 2021. The OA will take place between January and November 2022.

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

**SEDAR Contact:** Kathleen Howington

**Summary:** The Terms of Reference for the South Atlantic Black Sea Bass Operational Assessment were approved by the SAFMC in June 2020. The original Project 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 81 Gulf of Mexico Spanish Mackerel, Operational Assessment

**SEDAR Contact:** Julie A. Neer

**Summary:** Planning for the 2022 Gulf of Mexico Spanish mackerel Operational Assessment is currently underway. Terms of Reference were reviewed by the GMFMC SSC at their September 2021 meeting. No Topical Working Groups are being organized for this assessment. The assessment is scheduled to be completed February 2023.

#### 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 convened 4 times between May – October 2021. The Project Schedule, Terms of Reference, and participant list are going to be presented to the South Atlantic SSC in October 2021, and to the SAFMC for final approval in December 2021.

#### SEDAR 83 South Atlantic Vermilion Snapper, Operational Assessment

**SEDAR Contact:** Kathleen Howington

**Summary:** Planning for the 2023 South Atlantic Vermilion Snapper Operational Assessment is currently underway. The draft Terms of Reference were approved by the South Atlantic SSC in October 2020, and will go to the SAFMC for approval in December 2021.

#### SEDAR 86 South Atlantic Red Grouper, Operational Assessment

**SEDAR Contact:** Kathleen Howington

**Summary:** Planning for the 2023 South Atlantic Red Grouper Operational Assessment is currently underway. The draft Terms of Reference were approved by the South Atlantic SSC in October 2020 and will go to the SAFMC for approval in December 2021.

## SEDAR ## Atlantic Blueline Tilefish, Operational Assessment

**SEDAR Contact:** Kathleen Howington

**Summary:** Planning for the 2024 Atlantic Blueline Tilefish Operational Assessment is currently underway. The assessment was originally scheduled for 2022 however, in October 2020 the SEDAR Steering Committee requested that the assessment be postponed until 2024 to allow for a terminal year of 2022. The draft Terms of Reference were approved by the South Atlantic SSC in October 2020 and will go to the SAFMC for approval in December 2022.