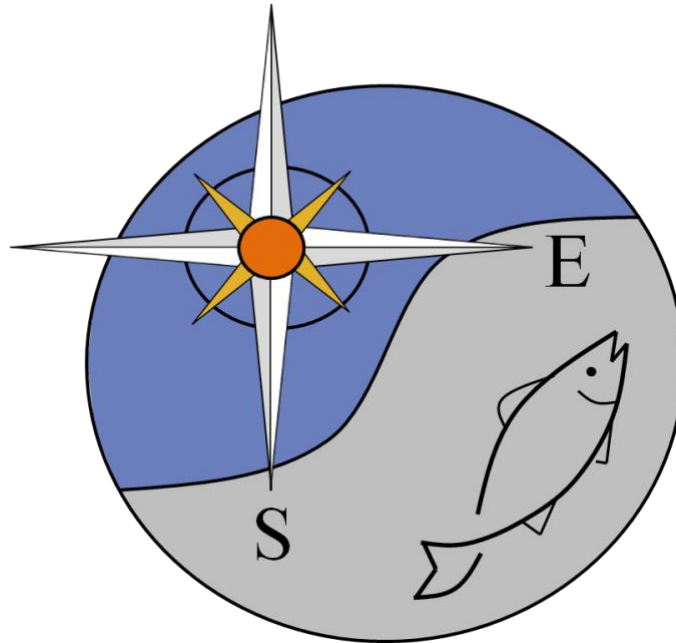


SEDAR



SEDAR Steering Committee

Meeting Brief

May 9, 2022

Meeting via Webinar

Webinar link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/7114745548699433744>

Version: BB

4/15/2022

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DOCUMENTS

Attachment 1: October 2021 Draft Meeting Summary

Attachment 2: SEDAR Projects Update April 2022

Attachment 3: Operational Assessments Topical Working Groups Process Summary

Attachment 4: Research Track/Operational Assessment/Topical Working Group Guidance
Document

Attachment 5: SEDAR Projects List

Attachment 6: Modifications to the Project Planning Grid from the October 2021 Steering
Committee Summary

Attachment 7: Statements of Work (Cooperator Requests and SEFSC Responses)

1 Introduction

1.1 Documents

- Agenda
- Attachment 1. October 2021 Draft Meeting Summary

1.2 Action

- Introduction
- Review and Approve Agenda
- Approve Meeting Summary

2 SEDAR Projects Report

2.1 Documents

Attachment 2. SEDAR Projects Update April 2022

2.2 Summary

The projects report (Attachment 2) provides a summary of current and recently completed SEDAR assessment projects.

Highlighted project developments:

SEDAR 79 – SE US Mutton Snapper: Data Scoping was held August 2021, with a Data Workshop scheduled for January 31-February 4, 2022. Due to ongoing uncertainties surrounding COVID-19, and the request from the SAFMC and GMFMC to prioritize a Yellowtail Snapper update, the early 2022 Data Workshop was postponed.

The State of Florida has decided to halt the work on SEDAR 79 SE US Mutton Snapper for 2022. The plan is to begin the assessment in early 2023, with a Data workshop to be held in Summer 2023.

2.3 Action

- Informational; none required

3 SEDAR Process Review and Discussion

3.1 Documents

Attachment 3. Operational Assessments Topical Working Groups Process Summary

Attachment 4: Research Track/Operational Assessment/Topical Working Group
Guidance Document

3.2 Summary

- Topical Working Groups Update

Several Operational Assessments with Topical Working Groups (TWGs) have now been completed or are underway. The switch from Assessment Panels to TWGs initially caused some confusion regarding process and procedures. To help clarify the process, SEDAR Staff produced a TWG Process Summary page (Attachment 3) which highlights the main points. The detailed process description can be found in the Research Track/Operational Assessment/Topical Working Group Guidance Document (Attachment 4).

- Research Track Technical Chair Discussion

During the May 2021 SEDAR Steering Committee Meeting, the Committee discussed Technical Chairs for Research Tracks Assessments:

Difficulty in Identifying Chairs for Research Track Assessments:

It was noted that it continues to be difficult to identify qualified individuals willing to serve as Chairs during the Data and Assessment portions of the RTs. While the lead agency is responsible for appointing a Chair, it will be necessary for all parties involved to work together to find appropriate individuals to serve. This remains an ongoing issue that everyone will need to continue to work on resolving.

This issue continues to exist. Chair Porch will discuss the option of shifting the responsibility of appointing the Technical Chair from the lead analytic agency to the Cooperator for an individual Research Track assessment.

From the Research Track Guidance Document:

Technical Chair: Scientist appointed by lead analytic agency who would ideally serve as Chair for both Data and Assessment stages. The technical chair is not a member of the ADT and need not come from the lead analytic agency.

- Discussion of the Role of SEDAR in Management Procedures/Management Strategy Evaluations

During several recent Council meetings, SEFCS Representatives have mentioned the possibility of using a Management Procedure as an alternative approach to traditional stock assessments to provide management advice. This potential new approach and what role, if any SEDAR, may have in these, needs to be defined.

Management procedures (MP) refers to the entire process of developing scientific advice from fisheries data, and then implementing it as fisheries management actions. The production of the actual management advice would be akin to the interim analyses which in practice would be done outside the SEDAR process. However, the stakeholder interactions and model development for the simulation tests needed to develop and test the performance of candidate MPs (known as Management Strategy Evaluations) could be very well served by the SEDAR process.

These alternative approaches may allow a shift from the current practice of trying to stitch together every piece of information, which is expensive and time consuming, to rely instead on the most accurate and timely information.

3.3 Action

- Discussion of the Research Track and Operational Assessment Process to determine if changes to the process need to be considered.
 - Technical Chair Appointments
 - Role of SEDAR in Management Procedures/Management Strategy Evaluations

4 Assessment Schedule Review

4.1 Documents

Attachment 5. SEDAR Projects List

Attachment 6. Modifications to the Project Planning Grid from the October 2021 Steering Committee report

Attachment 7: Statements of Work (Cooperator Requests and SEFSC Responses)

4.2 Summary

- There was no need to hold an additional Master Scheduling meeting with SEDAR and SESFC since the last Steering Committee meeting in October 2021 as all assessments identified by the Steering Committee to be held in 2023 were successfully added to the schedule during the call in Summer 2021.
- SAFMC Schedule Request: The SAFMC requests that an Atlantic Cobia Operational Assessment (OA) be prioritized to begin in 2025. This will require the Snowy Grouper OA be postponed until 2026. The White Grunt Research Track Assessment request has been removed and a Dolphin assessment is to be considered for 2026.
- The State of Florida has decided to halt the work on SEDAR 79 SE US Mutton Snapper for 2022. The plan is to begin the assessment in early 2023, with a Data workshop to be held in Summer 2023.
- The Committee is asked to finalize the project schedule for 2024 and provide priorities for 2025 and beyond.

4.3 Action

- Consider any needed modifications to the 2024 Projects
- Review 2025 Priorities
- Consider long-term priorities (2026/2027)

5 Other Business

- Southeast Fisheries Science Center Updates:

Chair Porch will provide the Committee an update on the following topics:

- Center Data Improvement Project
- Progress on Resolving the MRIP-SEFSC Catch-Weight Estimation Discrepancy
- Progress of the MRIP Transition Team report from Office of S&T with respect to state survey data for private vessels and integration into the stock assessment process
- NMFS White Paper Revisions and Timing
- Status of the SRFS calibration for use in alternative SEDAR 72 run (gag grouper): Timing and potential impacts on other SEDAR Assessments
- Describe what currency the recreational data will be in for SEDAR 74 (red snapper). Will the state surveys be integrated into the stock assessment? What is the process for conversion of projections from FES to state currencies for monitoring and management?

- Terminal Year of Data to Assessment Completion Discussion

Assessments are continuing to take more time from Data Scoping to assessment completion. Given this, the Terminal Year (TY) of a specific assessment is often two or more years old by the time the assessment is reviewed by the Cooperator's Technical bodies, and 3 or 4 years from the TY of the assessment to when the Cooperator's are implementing management advice. The Committee is asked to discuss ways to improve the timeliness of assessment availability, in relation to the Terminal Year of data included in the assessment.

- Update on Fishery- Independent Indices Procedural Workshop In-Person workshop

The in-person workshop for PW08 was scheduled to be held April 2022. SEDAR Staff convened the Organizing Committee for this Process in February 2022 and the group determined that, due to ongoing uncertainties regarding the availability of Federal partners to travel, the in-person meeting be postponed again. The workshop will now be held November 2-4, 2022, in Tampa, Florida.

- SEDAR Website Transition Update

In December 2021, SEDAR Staff were informed by our current website support staff that the current website platform (Drupal 7) was going to lose technical support in November 2022, meaning that the SEDARweb.org website would no longer be secure. Additionally, he informed SEDAR that he will no longer be able to serve as our website support staff. The SEDAR website will need to be upgraded to a new secure platform and a new website host will need to be identified.

In February 2022, SEDAR staff contacted nine different website developers that were suggested by various cooperators. Five of these companies declined the project and four submitted proposals. After reviewing the proposals and sending follow-up questions via email, SEDAR staff, along with the assistance of Kelly Klasnick, selected Happy Prime as our new Website Developer in charge of the platform upgrade and content migration of SEDARweb.org. Ongoing negotiations are occurring for web hosting services. The website project is projected to be completed prior to the November 2022 deadline, although complete migration of all the website documents might take longer.

- SOPPs Development and Review Plan

The last update and review of the SEDAR SOPPS was completed in 2015. Major revisions to the Program have been implemented since that time. SEDAR Staff has begun working on updating the SOPPs and plans to begin bringing the Committee sections for your review starting at the Fall 2022 meeting. The current focus will be on the General Program updates and the Research Track (RT) description and details. Staff feels most of the RT items have been finalized now that several RT assessments have been conducted/are underway. There are components of the Operational Assessments that are still being modified/finalized, and as such, those SOPPS sections will likely come to the Committee for review at the Spring 2023 meeting.

5.1 Action

- The Committee is asked to discuss how the extension of assessment projects is impacting the timeliness of advice being provided for management and explore possible ways to improve the timelines.

6 Next Meeting

The Committee is asked to make scheduling recommendations and suggest topics for the next meeting. Based on past practices, the next meeting would be in October 2022.

Table 1: SEDAR Project Planning Grid – May 2022 SEDAR Steering Committee Discussion Draft

Table Color Legend:

Steering Committee Approved and SEFSC Scheduled Projects										FUTURE Requests							
Steering Committee Approved, PENDING SEFSC SCHEDULING										2024 Preliminary Projects – To Be Finalized at the Spring 2022 Meeting							
SEDAR SCHEDULE OVERVIEW – May 2022 SEDAR Steering Committee Discussion																	
YEAR	SA Team					Gulf Team					Caribbean Team	HMS Team		FL FWCC	Menhaden/ RW only	CMP	
	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	1	2				
2022	Scamp OA		Spanish Mackerel OA		Analyst in Training	Scamp OA	Gray Snapper OA	Red Snapper RT	Red Snapper RT		Queen Trigger PR-STX-STT OA	Hammerheads RT			ASFMC Menhaden OA		
2023	Vermilion OA	Gray Triggerfish RT	Black Sea Bass OA	Red Grouper OA		Yellowedge Grouper OA					Gulf Spanish Mackerel OA	Yellowtail (PR); Stoplight Parrotfish (USVI)	HH OA		Mutton Snapper Benchmark		
								Red Snapper OA	Red Snapper OA								
	2024	Red snapper RT	Grey Triggerfish OA	Tilefish OA		Blueline Tilefish OA	Red Grouper OA		Cobia OA	Vermilion OA	Gulf Shrimp RT		Spiny Lobster OA (all islands)				
2025	Gag Grouper OA		Snowy Grouper OA	Red Porgy OA						Caribbean Hogfish		Bull, Spinner, Tiger, Finetooth Sharks RT		Hogfish Bench	Gulf Menhaden OA	King Mackerel OA (SA & Gulf)	
2026	Red Snapper OA	GAJ RT	White Grunt RT			GAJ RT	Gray Triggerfish OA	Tilefish or Blueline OA	Gag Grouper RT	Shrimp OA		Bull, Spinner, Tiger, Finetooth Sharks OA		Black Grouper Bench?			
2027	Atlantic Migratory Cobia OA										Gag Grouper OA						
2028																	

Timing of projects shown in this table is approximate and is intended for SEDAR Steering Committee workload planning purposes only. Please consult individual project schedules for specific start and end dates.