

SEDAR Steering Committee
Projects Report
December 2022

Completed Projects, May 2022 – December 2022

4 Project addressing 4 Stocks

SEDAR 68 OA, Gulf of Mexico Scamp, Operational Assessment

SEDAR Contact: Julie A. Neer

Summary: The Gulf of Mexico Scamp Operational Assessment was completed August 31, 2022. The assessment was reviewed by the GMFMC SSC at its September 2022 meeting.

SEDAR 68 OA, Atlantic Scamp, Operational Assessment

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

Summary: The Atlantic Scamp Operational Assessment was completed in December 2022. The Assessment is slated to be reviewed by the SAFMC SSC in their January 2023 meeting.

SEDAR 75 Gulf of Mexico Gray Snapper, Operational Assessment

SEDAR Contact: Julie A. Neer

Summary: The Gulf of Mexico Gray Snapper Operational Assessment was completed in December 2022. It is slated to be reviewed by the GMFMC SSC in January 2023.

SEDAR 78 South Atlantic Spanish Mackerel, Operational Assessment

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

Summary: The Operational Assessment of South Atlantic Spanish Mackerel was completed in May 2022. The Stock Assessment report was revised July 2022. The SAFMC SSC reviewed the assessment in August 2022.

Projects in Progress

8 projects addressing 11 stocks and 3 management units

SEDAR 74 Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper, Research Track

SEDAR Contact: Julie A. Neer

Summary: The Data Workshop was held in Gulfport, MS May 2-6, 2022. Additional data webinars were held May-August. Discard Mortality webinars were held before and after the Data Workshop and will be completed in October of 2022. Assessment webinars will be held between September 2022 and April 2023, and the Review Workshop is slated for July 31 – August 4, 2023. The assessment is scheduled to be completed in September 2023.

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 Data scoping webinar was held May 2022. More Assessment webinars were held September 2022 through December 2022. An additional webinar was requested by the analyst. Two more webinars will be held in January and February 2023. The updated scheduled completion date is April 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 Data process is completed and the report was released in April 2022. The Assessment process is underway with six webinars completed and three more scheduled for January through March 2023. Additional webinars were requested due to staffing and analysis complications. The Review Workshop was scheduled for March 2023 and has been postponed to August 2023. The assessment is scheduled to be released to NOAA: HMS October 2023.

SEDAR 79 Southeastern US Mutton Snapper, Benchmark

SEDAR Contact: Julie A. Neer

Summary: The Benchmark assessment for SE US Mutton Snapper has been rescheduled for 2023. The terminal year of data for the assessment will be 2022. Data Scoping will be held April 2023, with a Data Workshop scheduled for August 21-25, 2023. Assessment webinars will be held from November 2023 to April 2024. The Review Workshop is scheduled for July 9-11, 2024.

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

SEDAR Contact: Julie A. Neer

Summary: The Operational Assessment of Caribbean Queen triggerfish is partially complete. There were three Topical Working Groups (TWGs) 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.

The Final Stock Assessment Report for Queen Triggerfish in Puerto Rico was released on 20 July 2022. The CFMC SSC reviewed the assessment at their August 2022 meeting. The SSC had some concerns with the assessment and provided some guidance on ways to improve the assessment from their perspective. The SEFSC provided feedback to the SSC at their October meeting, where they received additional feedback. An updated assessment for Puerto Rico was presented at the December 2022 SSC meeting.

The Final Stock Assessment Report for Queen Triggerfish in St. Thomas/St. John was released October of 2022 and presented at the December 2022 SSC meeting. The analytic team received feedback on potential modifications and an updated assessment will be presented in 2023.

The Final Stock Assessment Report for Queen Triggerfish in St. Croix have not yet been released.

SEDAR 81 Gulf of Mexico Spanish Mackerel, Operational Assessment

SEDAR Contact: Julie A. Neer

Summary: Terms of Reference for the 2022 Gulf of Mexico Spanish mackerel Operational Assessment were approved in October 2021. No Topical Working Groups are being organized for this assessment. Final analytical products are due in October 2022. The assessment is scheduled to be completed in February 2023.

SEDAR 82 South Atlantic Gray Triggerfish, Research Track

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

Summary: Three Pre-Data Workshop webinars occurred between May and September 2022. The Data Workshop occurred September 19-23, 2022, with a series of follow up webinars between October and November. The Data Workshop report is scheduled to be released in January of 2023. The Assessment process is scheduled to be a series of webinars from March 2023 to September 2023. The Review Workshop is scheduled for November 2023. The assessment is scheduled to be completed in December 2023.

SEDAR 86 South Atlantic Red Grouper, Operational Assessment

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

Summary: The Terms of Reference and Schedule were approved by the SAFMC in December 2021. No Topical Working Groups are being organized for this assessment. The assessment is scheduled to be completed in December 2023.

Upcoming Projects – Planning Underway

3 projects addressing 5 stocks

SEDAR 87 Gulf of Mexico Shrimp, Research Track

SEDAR contact: Julie A. Neer

Summary:

The Planning Team for the 2023 Gulf of Mexico Shrimp Research Track held meetings in August, October, and December of 2022 to discuss the assessment approach. The next Planning Team meeting is scheduled for January 2023 when the group will discuss draft Terms of Reference, draft Project Schedule, and discuss potential participants. A Data Workshop is scheduled for September 18-22, 2023.

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 the terminal year of 2022. The draft Terms of Reference were approved by the SAFMC SSC in July 2022. The updated schedule, potential participants, and Terms of Reference will go to the SAFMC for approval in March 2023.

SEDAR ## South Atlantic Tilefish, Operational Assessment

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

Summary: Planning for the 2024 South Atlantic Tilefish Operational Assessment is currently underway. The draft Terms of Reference were approved by the SAFMC SSC in October 2022. The schedule, potential participants, and Terms of Reference will go to the Council for approval in March 2023.

Cancelled Projects - 1 project 1 stock

SEDAR 83 South Atlantic Vermilion Snapper, Operational Assessment

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

Summary: Planning for the 2023 South Atlantic Vermilion Snapper Operational Assessment was completed. The Terms of Reference and Schedule were approved by the SAFMC in December 2021. No Topical Working Groups were scheduled to be organized for this assessment. The Assessment was scheduled to be completed in September 2023.

At the May 2022 Steering Committee meeting the SEFSC gave feedback to SEDAR that the Operational assessment would need to be converted to an interim due to staffing issues. The SEDAR 83 assessment was subsequently cancelled.