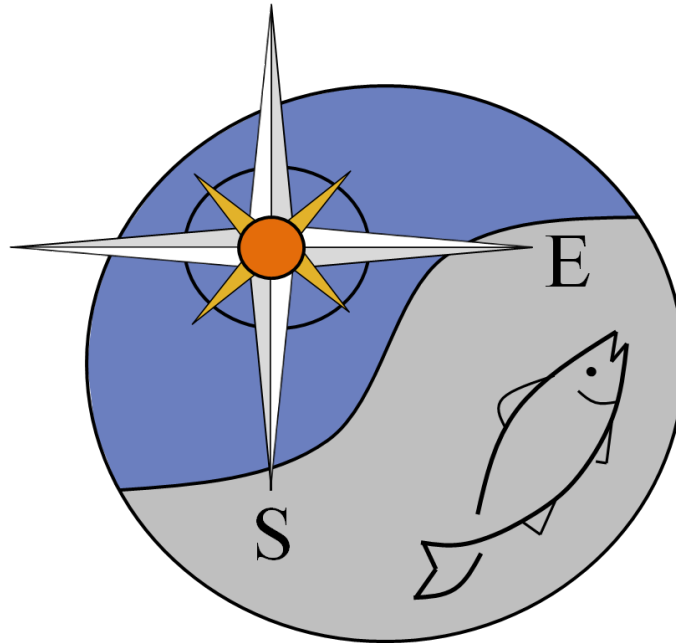


SEDAR



SEDAR Steering Committee

Meeting Brief

March 25-26, 2024

Charleston, SC

Webinar link:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2667142966869455455>

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3/11/2024

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DOCUMENTS

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Attachment 2: SEDAR Projects Update February 2024

Attachment 3: SEFSC Process Suggestions Presentation

Attachment 4: SEDAR Projects List

Attachment 5: Modifications to the Project Planning Grid from the October 2023 Steering Committee Summary

Attachment 6: SEFSC Data Provisioning Update Presentation

1 Introduction

1.1 Documents

- Agenda
- Attachment 1. October 2023 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 February 2024

2.2 Summary

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

Highlighted project developments:

SEDAR 82 – South Atlantic Gray Triggerfish: The Data Workshop report was released in January of 2023. The Assessment process is ongoing with a series of webinars scheduled from March 2023 to November 2023. The Review Workshop was scheduled for October 2023, however the lead analyst requested additional webinars. The Review Workshop will be held March 12-14, 2024. The assessment should be completed in May 2024.

SEDAR 94 – Florida Hogfish: The Benchmark assessment for SE hogfish was slated to begin in 2024 but has been postponed until 2025 to allow for a yellowtail snapper operational assessment to be conducted in 2024. The Terms of Reference have been approved by the Gulf and South Atlantic Councils, and some participants have been appointed. SEDAR will work with the Florida assessment team to revise the Project Schedule to accommodate this shift in timing. Once an updated schedule is developed, SEDAR will work with the appropriate Councils to update and finalize participants.

SEDAR 96 – Southeastern US Yellowtail Snapper: The Gulf and South Atlantic Councils requested that an operational assessment for yellowtail snapper be conducted as soon as possible once the information regarding the possible bias in the MRIP landings was reported. The Florida State Reef Fish Survey (SRFS) may provide more useful recreational landings estimates and the Councils wanted to explore the option through an updated assessment. Requests to approve the Terms of Reference and appoint participants were sent to both Councils in February 2024. The assessment is scheduled to have one Topical Working Group to review recreational catch information. Webinars will be held May – September 2024. The assessment is scheduled to be completed in late 2024.

2.3 Action

- Informational; none required

3 SEDAR Process Review and Discussion

3.1 Documents

Attachment 3: SEFSC Process Suggestions Presentation

3.1 Summary

Summary and Recommendations from SEFSC/Gulf and SA Council Staff Discussions Regarding Efficiency:

The Center will propose improvements to the Gulf and South Atlantic stock assessment processes, informed by discussions with Council Staff. These recommendations may be of interest to other SEDAR cooperators. Decision points may include:

- 1) Identification of "key stocks" and assignment of these stocks to a permanent rotating calendar.
- 2) Appropriate frequency of SEDAR stock assessments
- 3) Approaches to update management advice between full assessments, and their timing
- 4) The potential for extra-SEDAR assessments to address emergent concerns
- 5) Recommendations to improve the timeliness of stock assessment advice
- 6) Implications for 2026 stock assessment calendar

Discussion of SEDAR Policy on Virtual Public Comment at In-person Meetings:

At the May 2023 meeting, Committee agreed to broadcast data and review workshop plenary sessions. This will be a broadcast-only feature and will not be configured for remote participation. This change would allow individuals not in attendance to observe the proceedings.

The Committee did not specifically discuss or provide guidance on allowing virtual public comment during the data or review workshops. During the SEDAR 74 Gulf of Mexico Snapper review workshop, the topic of allowing virtual public comment was raised. Given the guidance that had been provided stating that the broadcasts were being offered to allow observation but not participation, virtual public comment was not allowed.

SEDAR Staff prepared the following statement that was read into the record at the beginning of each Public Comment session during the workshop:

Beginning in 2023, SEDAR began broadcasting the plenary sessions of in-person SEDAR meetings to allow individuals not able to attend the meeting the ability to observe the process. Individuals in attendance at the meeting may provide comment on the science of the stock assessment being considered during the public comment periods. Individuals not in attendance may make a comment at any time during the process using the online comment form found on the SEDAR website for the individual stock assessment.

Comments on management should be directed to the appropriate management body.

Current Assessment: SEDAR 74 Gulf of Mexico red snapper

The Committee is asked to discuss the approach taken and if modifications need to be considered.

Guidance for Operational Assessments without TWGs when issues arise during the assessment process:

The Committee has previously discussed the process for when the lead analyst for an Operational Assessment with no Topical Working Groups discovers issues during the assessment. The informal guidance provided a plan for the analyst to reach out to the Cooperator, to discuss how to move forward, often involving a discussion with the SSC. Several recent OAs have had this issue arise and how this issue was handled varied by Cooperator. The Committee is asked whether more formal guidance is needed.

3.1 Action

- Provide feedback on the possible changes to the SEDAR process, including guidance on virtual public comment during in-person meetings.

4 Assessment Schedule Review

4.1 Documents

Attachment 4: SEDAR Projects List

Attachment 5: Modifications to the Project Planning Grid from the October 2023 Steering Committee Summary

4.2 Summary

The SEFSC did not provide a draft 2026 schedule for discussion prior to the posting of the Briefing materials for this meeting. The development of the 2026 schedule may be influenced by the discussions the Committee during the Spring meeting.

4.3 Action

- Consider any needed modifications to the 2024 and 2025 Projects
- Finalize the 2026 Projects Schedule
- Discuss Future Project Requests (2027-2029)

5 Other Business

5.1 Documents

Attachment 6: SEFSC Data Provisioning Update Presentation

5.2 Summary

- Update on the status of SEFSC efforts to automate data provisioning

The Science Center will provide an update on the work to improve the automation and timeliness of data for use in stock assessment.

5.3 Action

- The Committee should discuss the issues and provide recommendations if needed.

6 Next Meeting

The Committee is asked to make scheduling recommendations and suggest topics for the next meeting. SEDAR Staff would suggest that the next meeting be held via webinar in July/August 2024.

Table 1: SEDAR Project Planning Grid – March 2024 SEDAR Steering Committee Discussion Draft

Table Color Legend:

Steering Committee Approved and SEFSC Scheduled Projects										FUTURE Requests							
Steering Committee Approved, PENDING SEFSC SCHEDULING										2026 Preliminary Projects – To Be Finalized at the Spring 2024 Meeting							
SEDAR SCHEDULE OVERVIEW – March 2024 SEDAR Steering Committee Outcome																	
YEAR	SA Team				Gulf Team					Caribbean Team	HMS Team		FL FWCC		Menhaden/ RW only	CMP	
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	1	1	2					
2024		S82 Gray Triggerfish RT		S89 Tilefish OA	S88 Red Grouper OA				S87 Shrimp RT (Switch to Bench-mark?)	S84 Yellowtail Snapper (PR & STT) Stoplight Parrotfish (STX) Benchmark			S79 Mutton Snapper Bench-mark	S96 YTS OA	S93 ASFMC Red Drum (RW)		
			S92 Blueline Tilefish OA				S74OA Red Snapper	S74OA Red Snapper				S77OA Hammerheads			S97 Gulf Menhaden OA		
2025	S90 Red Snapper Benchmark	Atlantic Migratory Cobia Benchmark							S87 Shrimp RT (Switch to Bench-mark?)		S91 Spiny Lobster Benchmark (all islands)	Bull, Spinner, Tiger, Finetooth Sharks RT (Finalize Species Switch to Benchmark?)	S94 Hogfish Bench-mark		S93 ASFMC Red Drum (RW)		
2026	S90 Red Snapper Benchmark	Atlantic Migratory Cobia Benchmark							S87 Shrimp RT (Switch to Bench-mark?)		S91 Spiny Lobster Benchmark (all islands)	Bull, Spinner, Tiger, Finetooth Sharks RT (Finalize Species Switch to Benchmark?)	S94 Hogfish Bench-mark		S93 ASFMC Red Drum (RW)		
2027	S90 Red Snapper Benchmark	Atlantic Migratory Cobia Benchmark							S87 Shrimp RT (Switch to Bench-mark?)		S91 Spiny Lobster Benchmark (all islands)	Bull, Spinner, Tiger, Finetooth Sharks RT (Finalize Species Switch to Benchmark?)	S94 Hogfish Bench-mark		S93 ASFMC Red Drum (RW)		
2028	S90 Red Snapper Benchmark	Atlantic Migratory Cobia Benchmark							S87 Shrimp RT (Switch to Bench-mark?)		S91 Spiny Lobster Benchmark (all islands)	Bull, Spinner, Tiger, Finetooth Sharks RT (Finalize Species Switch to Benchmark?)	S94 Hogfish Bench-mark		S93 ASFMC Red Drum (RW)		
2029	S90 Red Snapper Benchmark	Atlantic Migratory Cobia Benchmark							S87 Shrimp RT (Switch to Bench-mark?)		S91 Spiny Lobster Benchmark (all islands)	Bull, Spinner, Tiger, Finetooth Sharks RT (Finalize Species Switch to Benchmark?)	S94 Hogfish Bench-mark		S93 ASFMC Red Drum (RW)		
2030	S90 Red Snapper Benchmark	Atlantic Migratory Cobia Benchmark							S87 Shrimp RT (Switch to Bench-mark?)		S91 Spiny Lobster Benchmark (all islands)	Bull, Spinner, Tiger, Finetooth Sharks RT (Finalize Species Switch to Benchmark?)	S94 Hogfish Bench-mark		S93 ASFMC Red Drum (RW)		

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.