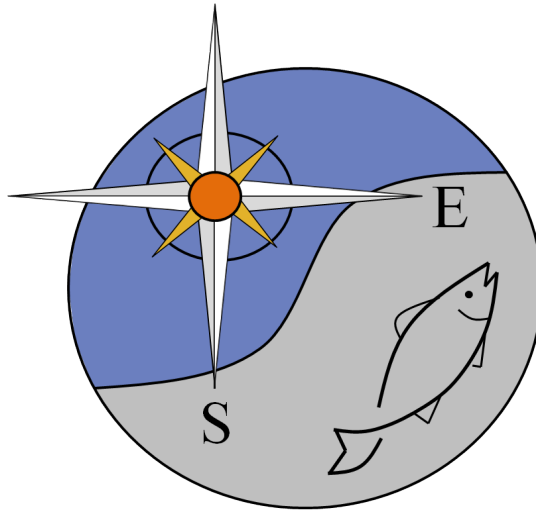


SEDAR



SEDAR Steering Committee

Meeting Summary

July 29, 2024

Meeting via Webinar

Report Content Note:

To provide context for recommendations and maintain the full record, this document combines the briefing summary provided to the Committee for consideration during the meeting as well as summary of Committee discussion points and recommendations.

Outcomes from the meeting are found under the section headers “Meeting Outcome” for each relevant section and are italicized throughout the report.

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Attachment 1: May 2024 Draft Check-in Meeting Summary

Attachment 2: SEDAR Projects Update June 2024

Attachment 3: SEFSC Process Update Presentation

Attachment 4: SEDAR Projects List

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Meeting Outcomes Summary

This Meeting Outcomes Summary highlights the major decisions of the Committee during the meeting. Additional details can be found under the heading “Meeting Outcome” for each relevant section and are italicized throughout the report.

Introduction

Due to several potential conflicts, Chair Porch requested that Dr. Luiz Barbieri chair the webinar. The Committee adopted the agenda and approved the May 2024 Check-In Draft Meeting Summary.

SEDAR Process Review and Discussion

SEFSC Update on Process Recommendations:

The Committee received a presentation from Shannon Cass-Calay on the SEFSC’s proposal to meet the objectives of the Cooperators, while also meeting some Center objectives.

The Center has a desire to eliminate the ad hoc 2-year planning calendar approach so that projects may be more predictable.

- *Cooperators are concerned about the terminal year of the previous assessment more than the year that the assessment was completed. It would be helpful to have that information listed on these draft calendars.*
- *Having a predictable calendar for 8-10 years will likely aid in planning but limits the Cooperators ability to handle changes and be climate resilient.*

- *It was noted that the proposed schedules reduce overall assessment throughput. Additional work on the process and scheduling is needed to achieve the goal of providing “net more information” through these process changes and the key stocks concept.*
- *There was a request that the Center continue to develop these draft calendars and bring updated versions to the next meeting. Those updates should include the Cooperators not currently represented.*

The Committee had some discussion regarding whether all data sets need to be included in an updated assessment to provide management advice.

- *Cooperators will likely benefit with more frequent management advice, which may include not having all data included, and using simpler methods to provide advice.*

SEDAR Staff will work with Agency Staff to produce a draft document outlining the suggested revised process for the Committee’s review at the next Committee meeting.

SEDAR Staff mentioned the importance of terminology and pointed out the difference between Procedural Workshops vs SEDAR Projects.

Participant Roles and Terminology Discussion:

The Committee discussed the two levels of participation currently available as possible components for the new process.

- *It is important to highlight that Panelists participate in all parts of the process for which they are appointed (e.g. data, assessment, review), while TWG participants have a more specific role, only focusing on one small piece of the assessment,*
- *The Committee indicated that both Panels and TWGs should be available as component options in the revised process.*

The Committee discussed the role of Panels in the SEDAR process moving forward.

- *The Center noted that the SEDAR process is advisory, and the Agency is ultimately responsible for the assessments conducted in support of the management of federal fisheries.*
- *It was noted that the original process was designed around a consensus building structure, allowing all Panelists to take ownership and support the assessment.*
 - *Concern was expressed that by referring to SEDAR as advisory, the Agency was asserting that it would no longer strive to achieve consensus.*
 - *The Center responded that the intent is still to reach a consensus, but in cases where a consensus is not achieved, the Agency is not required to concede all decisions to the majority will of the panel.*

- *Some Cooperators felt this clarification of the roles of Cooperator-appointed participants and the Agency in the SEDAR process may require a change in the information we provide to the participants regarding their role in the process*

The Committee discussed how Topical Working Groups function.

- *It is important to identify the need for TWGs during the discussion about the structure of an assessment and define what components will be included.*
- *Participants to a TWG are appointed following the same process as for appointing individuals to a Panel:*

The Committee discussed the continued need for Statements of Work and Terms of Reference.

- *Statements of Work may not be needed for every assessment.*
- *All assessments will need Terms of Reference.*

Assessment Schedule Review

South Atlantic: *The final recommendations for 2026 were: red snapper (continued), gag grouper, red grouper.*

Gulf of Mexico: *The red snapper assessment will begin in late 2024 and carry through to 2026. Shrimp will continue into 2025. King mackerel will begin in 2025. The final recommendations for 2026 were: cobia (update), greater amberjack (late 2026 start date), gag grouper, and gray triggerfish.*

Caribbean: *Yellowtail snapper and stoplight parrotfish (SEDAR 84), and spiny lobster (SEDAR 91) will be completed in 2025. Hogfish and Red hind are slated to begin in 2025.*

HMS: *Bull and sandbar sharks will begin in 2025 and run through 2026.*

Florida FWC: *Hogfish will begin Spring 2025 and be completed in 2026. A black grouper MSE, organized by FWC, is currently underway. SEDAR may provide a peer review of the product in late 2025 or early 2026.*

ASMFC: *The ASMFC menhaden review workshop is slated for 2025.*

Table 1: SEDAR Project Planning Grid – July 2024 SEDAR Steering Committee Outcome

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 Summer 2024 Meeting																					
SEDAR SCHEDULE OVERVIEW – March 2024 SEDAR Steering Committee Outcome																															
YEAR	<u>SA Team</u>				<u>Gulf Team</u>					<u>Caribbean Team</u>		<u>HMS Team</u>		<u>FL FWCC</u>		<u>Menhaden/ RW only</u>															
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	1	2																		
2024		S82 Gray Triggerfish RT		S89 Tilefish OA	S88 Red Grouper OA	S87 White, Pink, and Brown Shrimp Benchmark			S87 White, Pink, and Brown Shrimp Benchmark	S84 Yellowtail Snapper (PR & STT/STJ) and Stoplight Parrotfish (STX) Benchmark				S79 Mutton Snapper Benchmark	S96 YTS OA																
		S95 Atlantic Migratory Cobia Benchmark	S92 Blueline Tilefish OA																												
2025	S90 Red Snapper Benchmark	S95 Atlantic Migratory Cobia Benchmark		S90 Red Snapper Benchmark	King Mackerel	S87 White, Pink, and Brown Shrimp Benchmark	S98 Red Snapper Benchmark	S98 Red Snapper Benchmark	S87 White, Pink, and Brown Shrimp Benchmark	S84 Yellowtail Snapper (PR & STT/STJ) and Stoplight Parrotfish (STX) Benchmark	S91 Spiny Lobster (all islands) Benchmark	S77OA Hammerhead Sharks	S79 Mutton Snapper Benchmark	S96 YTS OA	S93 ASMFC Red Drum (RW)																
			Dolphin MP RW																												
																													S97 GSMFC Menhaden OA		
2026	S90 Red Snapper Benchmark	S95 Atlantic Migratory Cobia Benchmark		S90 Red Snapper Benchmark	King Mackerel	S87 White, Pink, and Brown Shrimp Benchmark	S98 Red Snapper Benchmark	S98 Red Snapper Benchmark	S87 White, Pink, and Brown Shrimp Benchmark	S84 Yellowtail Snapper (PR & STT/STJ) and Stoplight Parrotfish (STX) Benchmark	S91 Spiny Lobster (all islands) Benchmark	S77OA Hammerhead Sharks	S79 Mutton Snapper Benchmark	S96 YTS OA	S93 ASMFC Red Drum (RW)	S97 GSMFC Menhaden OA															
2027	S90 Red Snapper Benchmark	S95 Atlantic Migratory Cobia Benchmark		S90 Red Snapper Benchmark	King Mackerel	S87 White, Pink, and Brown Shrimp Benchmark	S98 Red Snapper Benchmark	S98 Red Snapper Benchmark	S87 White, Pink, and Brown Shrimp Benchmark	S84 Yellowtail Snapper (PR & STT/STJ) and Stoplight Parrotfish (STX) Benchmark	S91 Spiny Lobster (all islands) Benchmark	S77OA Hammerhead Sharks	S79 Mutton Snapper Benchmark	S96 YTS OA	S93 ASMFC Red Drum (RW)	S97 GSMFC Menhaden OA															
2028	S90 Red Snapper Benchmark	S95 Atlantic Migratory Cobia Benchmark		S90 Red Snapper Benchmark	King Mackerel	S87 White, Pink, and Brown Shrimp Benchmark	S98 Red Snapper Benchmark	S98 Red Snapper Benchmark	S87 White, Pink, and Brown Shrimp Benchmark	S84 Yellowtail Snapper (PR & STT/STJ) and Stoplight Parrotfish (STX) Benchmark	S91 Spiny Lobster (all islands) Benchmark	S77OA Hammerhead Sharks	S79 Mutton Snapper Benchmark	S96 YTS OA	S93 ASMFC Red Drum (RW)	S97 GSMFC Menhaden OA															
2029	S90 Red Snapper Benchmark	S95 Atlantic Migratory Cobia Benchmark		S90 Red Snapper Benchmark	King Mackerel	S87 White, Pink, and Brown Shrimp Benchmark	S98 Red Snapper Benchmark	S98 Red Snapper Benchmark	S87 White, Pink, and Brown Shrimp Benchmark	S84 Yellowtail Snapper (PR & STT/STJ) and Stoplight Parrotfish (STX) Benchmark	S91 Spiny Lobster (all islands) Benchmark	S77OA Hammerhead Sharks	S79 Mutton Snapper Benchmark	S96 YTS OA	S93 ASMFC Red Drum (RW)	S97 GSMFC Menhaden OA															
2030	S90 Red Snapper Benchmark	S95 Atlantic Migratory Cobia Benchmark		S90 Red Snapper Benchmark	King Mackerel	S87 White, Pink, and Brown Shrimp Benchmark	S98 Red Snapper Benchmark	S98 Red Snapper Benchmark	S87 White, Pink, and Brown Shrimp Benchmark	S84 Yellowtail Snapper (PR & STT/STJ) and Stoplight Parrotfish (STX) Benchmark	S91 Spiny Lobster (all islands) Benchmark	S77OA Hammerhead Sharks	S79 Mutton Snapper Benchmark	S96 YTS OA	S93 ASMFC Red Drum (RW)	S97 GSMFC Menhaden OA															

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.

1 Introduction

1.1 Documents

- Agenda
- Attachment 1. May 2024 Draft Meeting Summary

1.2 Action

- Introduction
- Review and Approve Agenda
- Approve Meeting Summary

MEETING OUTCOME

Due to several potential conflicts, Chair Porch requested that Dr. Luiz Barbieri chair the webinar. The Committee adopted the agenda and approved the May 2024 Check-In Draft 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 87 - Gulf of Mexico Brown, Pink, and White Shrimp. The Data Workshop was held September 18-22, 2023. A variety of issues with the commercial landing streams caused significant delays in completing the data preparation. The Data Workshop Report is scheduled to be completed in August 2024. Assessment webinars have been postponed to September 2024 – February 2025. The Review Workshop is now scheduled for June 2025 and the assessment should be completed in August 2025.

SEDAR 92 – Atlantic Blueline Tilefish. A Landings Stream Topical Working Group met via webinars from April–July 2024. During those webinars, the Landings Stream TWG recommended that an additional Life History TWG be convened to review new age information and SAFMC Staff requested this group be convened by the SEFSC. The Life History group will meet via webinar in August/September 2024. The addition of the second TWG will cause a delay in the completion of the assessment (originally scheduled

for November 2024). The new completion date is being discussed.

2.3 Action

- Informational; none required

MEETING OUTCOME

The Committee had no questions or recommendations on the Project Updates.

3 SEDAR Process Review and Discussion

3.1 Documents

Attachment 3: SEFSC Process Update Presentation

3.1 Summary

SEFSC Update on Process Recommendations:

The SEFSC will provide an update on their work toward a consensus document outlining the proposed modifications to the SEDAR process.

Participant Roles and Terminology Discussion:

- 1) **Participation:** The existing SEDAR process has two levels at which individuals may actively participate: Panels or Topical Working Groups.

Panels: Individuals appointed by a Cooperator to a workshop Panel. Responsible for participating in workshop discussions, deliberations, consensus building, and documentation. May also be responsible for submitting data and analyses in support of the assessment.

Topical Working Groups (TWGs): Small working groups assembled to discuss specific topics identified in the Statements of Work for a given SEDAR Operational Assessment. They provide feedback and recommendations to the analytic team conducting the assessment. The scope of their feedback is limited to the specific topic.

The Committee is asked to discuss these options for stakeholder roles and participation.

- 2) **Terms of Reference vs. Statements of Work:** There is a difference between these phrases and what they represent but they are sometimes used interchangeably which has caused confusion.

Statements of Work (SoW): These were associated with the Operational assessments. They were requested from the Cooperators by the SEFSC as a planning tool. Some

Cooperators produced them through discussions with their technical bodies while others also include their Councils/management bodies. They represented a proposal of what the Cooperators wanted done for a particular assessment project. They were a starting point for negotiations and a precursor to the development of Terms of Reference.

Terms of Reference (ToR): These were associated with every assessment and represent a contract for what is expected from the assessment. They are produced in conjunction with the lead analytic agency and the Cooperator, with involvement by both the technical and management bodies. They are more formal in nature than SoW and are part of the Administrative Record for a project.

The Committee is asked to discuss the need for both items and clarify how they will be utilized in the modified process.

3.1 Action

- Provide feedback on the possible changes to the SEDAR process.
- Provide feedback on options for stakeholder roles and participation.
- Discuss the need for Statements of Work and Terms of Reference and clarify terminology.

MEETING OUTCOME

The Committee received a presentation from Shannon Cass-Calay on the SEFSC's proposal to meet the objectives of the Cooperators, while also meeting some Center objectives.

The Center has a desire to eliminate the ad hoc 2-year planning calendar approach so that projects may be more predictable.

- *They provided draft proposals for how calendars built around key stocks may look. These draft calendars were developed for the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Cooperators and included timing for "Update Management Advice" (UA).*
- *These UAs could be accomplished in a variety of ways including an interim analysis process, a management procedure that has been MSE-tested, updating projections, or updating a stock assessment.*
- *The preparation of data, indices and the availability and timing of various indices for the assessment process were discussed.*
- *It was noted that updated age compositions may not always be available for inclusion in the UA processes. It would depend on the species being requested and the overall workload.*
- *In the draft calendars provided, D = data, A = assessment development, and R = the assessment report available to the Cooperator.*

- *The “D” on these figures represents the time from data scoping to the final data deadline. It does not represent all the time needed for data provision for some data pieces. Some of this work starts months to years before what is in the draft calendars.*
- *If an external peer review is included in a project schedule, then several months will be added to the length of that project schedule as it is presented in the draft calendars.*
- *It was noted that the analytic teams continue to support assessments after the assessment report is final as those assessments go thorough technical review and management development.*

Committee Feedback:

- *The individual Cooperator calendars would be a good vehicle for tracking all the analytical products that the Center provides to support management advice.*
- *Cooperators are concerned about the terminal year of the previous assessment more than the year that the assessment was completed. It would be helpful to have that information listed on these draft calendars.*
- *Lags in data availability, particularly in the age composition and catch data, continue to present problems with assessment timeliness.*
- *The need to involve the SSCs in the development of the process, including the calendars, is critically important to the success of the new process.*
- *Time to transition to a new process may be significant.*
 - *The Councils will need to transition to a different approach.*
 - *The SSC will have to transition to less or different information to support their catch level recommendations.*
 - *The Center will need to transition into supporting different types of information.*
- *What are the ageing capabilities of the Center? This information is needed so the Cooperators can determine how many stocks can realistically be supported for age-based assessments. The age information is of particular concern to the South Atlantic Cooperator, due to the lack of indices to track juvenile abundance.*
- *Having a predictable calendar for 8-10 years will likely aid in planning but limits the Cooperators ability to handle changes and be climate resilient.*
- *It was noted that the proposed schedules reduce overall assessment throughput. Additional work on the process and scheduling is needed to achieve the goal of providing “net more information” through these process changes and the key stocks concept.*
- *The need to build in some flexibility in the calendars should be addressed.*
- *As the Center supports all SEDAR Cooperators to varying degrees, information regarding how similar calendars for HMS, Caribbean, FWC, and Commission assessment and data provision needs are being accounted for is required.*
- *There was a request that the Center continue to develop these draft calendars and bring updated versions to the next meeting. Those updates should include the Cooperators not currently represented.*

The Committee had some discussion regarding whether all data sets need to be included in an updated assessment to provide management advice.

- *Need to be deliberate in accepting that every piece of data may not be updated for UAs.*
- *Not every species needs to have the most up-to date age information.*
- *Unless something has happened to change the selectivity of the fishery, updating the age composition may not be as critical to update as the catch and an index of abundance.*
- *The assumption that age composition does not need to be updated if selectivity has not changed needs to be validated. Further research needs to be conducted into this topic so stakeholders (Councils, SSC, fisherman) will be comfortable.*
- *It is important to enforce data deadlines to implement an efficient schedule.*
- *If there is a desire to move forward with an assessment without data sets that are late, it would be helpful for the SEFSC to provide some guidance to the Committee regarding which data sets can be left out, and which must be included, even if that results in a delay in the schedule.*
- *Cooperators will likely benefit with more frequent management advice, which may include not having all data included, and using simpler methods to provide advice.*

SEDAR Staff will work with Agency Staff to produce a draft document outlining the suggested revised process for the Committee's review at the next Committee meeting.

SEDAR Staff mentioned the importance of terminology and pointed out the difference between Procedural Workshops vs SEDAR Projects. Procedural Workshops reach across the SEDAR Program, focusing on topic of interest to multiple Cooperators (e.g., Catchability, Indices Development, Best Practices). SEDAR Projects are focused on one species (or less commonly several species with similar data components) that are Cooperator specific.

The Committee discussed the two levels of participation currently available as possible components for the new process.

- *It is important to highlight that Panelists participate in all parts of the process for which they are appointed (e.g. data, assessment, review), while TWG participants have a more specific role, only focusing on one small piece of the assessment,*
- *Using existing terminology whenever possible will be helpful as this process develops.*
- *Any new items should be clearly defined, along with information regarding how it differs from existing procedures.*
- *The definitions of Panels and Topical Working Groups (TWGs) need to be updated to reflect current practices.*
- *The definition of TWGs needs to remove the reference to Operational Assessment and Statements of Work, as those will no longer exist in the proposed new process.*

- *Statement regarding “participating in discussions, deliberations, consensus building, and documentation” and “responsible for submitting data and analyses in support of the assessment” may need to be added to the TWG roles.*
- *The Committee indicated that both Panels and TWGs should be available as component options in the revised process.*

The Committee discussed the role of Panels in the SEDAR process moving forward.

- *The Center noted that the SEDAR process is advisory, and the Agency is ultimately responsible for the assessments conducted in support of the management of federal fisheries.*
 - *In some cases, Center analytic leads have followed the recommendations of the Panels whether they believed that was a wise course of action or not.*
 - *Recently, Center analysts have been given guidance that if there is a scientifically defensible rationale for a decision, then they should not simply provide a list of options to the panel and defer to their judgement. Rather, the analysts should state their rationale in support of a preferred option and strive to achieve consensus.*
 - *If Agency scientists receive a Panel recommendation that they do not believe is scientifically defensible, then they should not feel obligated to implement it.*
 - *May need to identify who among the Panel is qualified to make decisions.*
- *The Assessment Development Team (ADT) component of the Research Track restricted who was part of the consensus building process. It was successful in limiting the number of individuals involved in that process but created tension in some cases between the data providers and those on the ADT. The Committee did not recommend continuing the ADT when it recommended abandoning the Research Track approach.*
- *It was noted that the original process was designed around a consensus building structure, allowing all Panelists to take ownership and support the assessment.*
 - *Concern was expressed that by referring to SEDAR as advisory, the Agency was asserting that it would no longer strive to achieve consensus.*
 - *The Center responded that the intent is still to reach a consensus, but in cases where a consensus is not achieved, the Agency is not required to concede all decisions to the majority will of the panel.*
- *Some Cooperators felt this clarification of the roles of Cooperator-appointed participants and the Agency in the SEDAR process may require a change in the information we provide to the participants regarding their role in the process*
 - *The Committee should consider a change to the authorship of the assessment documents. Listing the SEDAR Panels as coauthors may no longer appropriate if Agency analysts are not required to follow the recommendation of the Panels*
 - *Clarifying the advisory role may have an impact on those who are willing to participate in the process. The updated language will require careful crafting.*

The Committee discussed how Topical Working Groups function.

- *The need for TWGs is supposed to be identified during the discussions of the Statements of Work for an Operational Assessment.*
- *Recently, there have been assessments where additional TWGs were requested after the process was underway.*
- *Having to add TWGs after a project has begun can impact the timing of that assessment, as well as other assessments on the schedule.*
- *It is important to identify the need for TWGs during the discussion about the structure of an assessment and define what components will be included.*
- *In the future, if an additional TWG is deemed necessary, the Cooperator should send a memo to the lead analytic agency requesting the additional TWG, along with the justification for the request.*
- *Participants to a TWG are appointed following the same process as for appointing individuals to a Panel: SEDAR sends a memo requesting appointees, and the Cooperator sends a memo to SEDAR indicating who they have appointed.*

The Committee discussed the continued need for Statements of Work and Terms of Reference.

- *Under the revised process, discussions between the Cooperator and the lead analytic agency will be required to discuss what components will be included for an assessment.*
- *If a Cooperator wishes to maintain a formal process with some review by your technical or management bodies of what component you would like to have included for a particular assessment, then that document should be referred to as a Statement of Work.*
- *Statements of Work may not be needed for every assessment.*
- *All assessments will need Terms of Reference.*

4 Assessment Schedule Review

4.1 Documents

Attachment 4: SEDAR Projects List

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 2025 Projects
- Finalize the 2026 Projects Schedule
- Discuss Future Project Requests (2027-2029)

MEETING OUTCOME

The following scheduling recommendations/requests were discussed:

South Atlantic: Calendars for 2024 and 2025 remained unchanged. The final recommendations for 2026 were: red snapper (continued), gag grouper, red grouper.

Notes:

- *It was noted that there are currently 4 assessment leads in the South Atlantic, including one who works primarily on Atlantic and Gulf menhaden. To ensure resiliency and continuity of operations, the Center has assigned two analysts for SEDAR 90 South Atlantic red snapper. That only leaves two others for the 2026 assessments. The Center has prioritized filling the vacancy left by Lew Coggins' departure. The appropriate paperwork has been completed but it is unclear when that might happen.*
- *Red grouper will require a stock ID process to explore the suggested change to a two-stock model. A one-stock continuity model will be required as the current rebuilding plan is for the one-stock model. If the two-stock model is recommended from the stock ID process, then an independent peer review will likely be needed.*
- *King mackerel is suggested for 2027. It will take time as the Center has indicated that the assessment needs to transition from SS to BAM. This change was not recommended by the Cooperator. If there is no strong objection, the Center would prefer to conduct that assessment in BAM because some results the SATL SSC expects (e.g. MCBE) are not available in SS at this time. It was suggested that during the next assessment, time is spent to determine if king mackerel needs an age-based approach or if some other, simpler model might be acceptable.*
- *The SAFMC dropped the Gray triggerfish OA from the schedule, given the guidance that the Center cannot provide fully updated age-composition data at this time, and it seems unwise to add this assessment to the existing list of assessments which require age data.*

Gulf of Mexico: The red snapper assessment will begin in late 2024 and carry through to 2026. Shrimp will continue into 2025. King mackerel will begin in 2025. The final recommendations for 2026 were: cobia (update), greater amberjack (late 2026 start date), gag grouper, and gray triggerfish.

Notes:

- *Cobia process will be managed between the Center and the Gulf of Mexico Council with no SEDAR involvement.*
- *The greater amberjack absolute abundance study needs to be completed for consideration in the assessment.*
- *There are concerns about using the state survey data or MRIP in the 2024/2025 assessments given the new 2024 MRIP-FES pilot study information that will be available in 2026.*
- *The new shrimp bycatch estimation methodology will impact many species.*
- *It may be possible to start the gray triggerfish assessment in late 2025, depending on data availability. The Center will investigate what options might be available, though given the MRIP-FES issues, starting before 2026 may not be advisable.*

Caribbean: *Yellowtail snapper and stoplight parrotfish (SEDAR 84), and spiny lobster (SEDAR 91) will be completed in 2025. Hogfish and Red hind are slated to begin in 2025.*

Notes:

- *It might be necessary to postpone hogfish and assess red hind for all three islands in 2025 due to data availability. This needs to be discussed with the Caribbean Branch Chief soon.*
- *No species were recommended for 2026.*

HMS: *The operational assessment for SEDAR 77 hammerhead sharks will be completed in 2024. Bull and sandbar sharks will begin in 2025 and run through 2026.*

Florida FWC: *Mutton snapper and yellowtail snapper will both be completed in 2024. Hogfish will begin Spring 2025 and be completed in 2026. No additional SEDAR assessments were recommended for 2026 or beyond at this time.*

A black grouper MSE, organized by FWC, is currently underway. Data review and discussions regarding management procedures will occur in 2024. In 2025, MSE model development will begin. SEDAR may provide a peer review of the product in late 2025 or early 2026.

ASMFC: *SEDAR 93 red drum review is scheduled for August 2024. The ASMFC menhaden review workshop is slated for 2025.*

GSMFC: *SEDAR 97 (menhaden) is being conducted in-house and will be completed in 2024.*

5 Other Business

5.1 Documents

None

5.2 Summary

- Introduction of New SEDAR Coordinator

Please welcome the new SEDAR Coordinator, Emily Ott. Emily recently received her Master of Marine and Environmental Sciences from Nicholls State University, where NSF-funded research focused on spotted gar. Since graduating she has been working as the Program Advisor with Marine Quest in Wilmington, NC as well as interning with the North Carolina Coastal Federation. Her experiences as an educator, coordinator, and scientist will all serve her well in this position.

5.3 Action

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

MEETING OUTCOME

The Committee had no questions or recommendations on the Other Business.

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 in Charleston, SC, in February 2025.

MEETING OUTCOME

The Committee had no questions or recommendations on the next meeting.

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

Table Color Legend:

[illegible]

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.