

SEDAR Steering Committee

Projects Report

July 2026

Completed Projects, February - June 2026

No projects were completed during this timeframe

Projects in Progress

Twelve projects addressing eleven species and two management units

SEDAR 77OA HMS Hammerhead Sharks

SEDAR Contact: Julie A. Neer

Summary: The Operational Assessment to SEDAR 77 was slated to be completed in December 2024. The HMS Assessment Division was substantially impacted by Agency RIFs in early 2025 and so the operational assessments have not been completed as of this report.

The SEFSC determined that the SEDAR 77 assessment for Smooth Hammerhead shark is not able to be used to provide management advice without significant revision, which is more than can be accomplished in the Operational assessment structure. It is unclear at this time if the assessments for scalloped and great hammerhead sharks will be able to provide management advice, or if another form of assessment will be needed.

SEDAR 90 South Atlantic Red Snapper

SEDAR Contact: Emily Ott

Summary: The assessment began in November 2024 and was originally slated to be completed in September 2026; however, due to assessment delays from the government shutdown and loss of a lead analyst, the assessment is now slated to be completed in February 2027. The data stage of this assessment included data webinars November-April 2025, a Data Workshop April 28-May 2, 2025, held in Charleston, SC, and a series of post-DW webinars May-August 2025. A series of assessment webinars began in September 2025 and will be held through September 2026. The series of assessment webinars will address an integration plan to evaluate and consider using SARRP data in this assessment. A Review Workshop is slated for in December 15-18, 2026.

SEDAR 94 Southeastern Hogfish Snapper

SEDAR Contact: Julie A. Neer

Summary: The Benchmark assessment for SE hogfish was slated to begin in 2024 but was postponed until 2025 to allow for a yellowtail snapper operational assessment to be conducted in 2024. A data scoping and pre-DW webinar were held in April and May 2025. The Data Workshop was held July 28 – August 1, 2025, in Tampa, FL. A series of assessment webinars were held between December 2025 and April 2026. A Review Workshop is slated for July 14-17, 2026.

SEDAR 98 Gulf of America Red Snapper

SEDAR Contact: Julie A. Neer

Summary: The assessment began with Data Scoping in August 2024 and was originally slated to be completed in April 2026; however, due to assessment delays from the government shutdown the end date for this assessment is now slated to be completed October 2026. The Data Workshop was held in Mobile, AL December 10-13, 2024. A series of assessment webinars began in May 2025 and will be held through June 2026. The Review Workshop will be held September 21-24, 2026.

SEDAR 99 Gulf of America King Mackerel

SEDAR Contact: Julie A. Neer

Summary: The Terms of Reference and Project Schedule for this assessment were approved October 2024. Initial Data scoping was held via email to the appointees and Interested Parties. There was a Data webinar in September 2025, and two assessment webinars held in May and June 2026. In June 2026, the Gulf Council received a presentation from the SEFSC regarding obtaining Mexican landings and length composition data, and their desire to include that information in the SEDAR 99 assessment. Additionally, the Council has requested that SEDAR conduct a Review Workshop to review the assessment once complete. A new project schedule is being produced, with a new completion date likely mid-2027.

SEDAR 100 Gulf of America Gray Triggerfish

SEDAR Contact: Julie A. Neer

Summary: The data scoping webinar was held in May 2025, and a pre-DW webinar in July 2025. The Data Workshop was held August 19-22, 2025, in Tampa, FL. The assessment stage will be conducted by SEFSC internally. The Review Workshop is slated for August 11-14, 2026.

SEDAR 101 Highly Migratory Species Sandbar Sharks

SEDAR Contact: Emily Ott

Summary: The Project Schedule and Terms of Reference were finalized in February 2025. The data scoping webinar was held in March 2025, and the Data Workshop was slated for May 2025. Due to loss of agency personnel and the 2025 government shutdown, the Data Workshop was postponed until April 21-24, 2026, in Charleston, SC. The assessment stage will be conducted by SEFSC internally. The CIE Desk Review is slated for March 2027 with the final assessment report completed in April 2027.

SEDAR 103 Caribbean Application of Alternate Assessment Methods

SEDAR Contact: Emily Ott

Summary: The Project Schedule and Terms of Reference were finalized in August 2025. The assessment was slated to start in October 2025 with a Data scoping webinar; however, because of the 2025 government shut down, this start date was postponed until January 2026. A series of Data Webinars began in February 2026 and will be held

through July 2026 followed by Development Workshop August 17-21, 2026 in Miami, FL. There will be a series of assessment application webinars held from November 2026 through February 2027 followed by a Review Workshop in May 2027. The final assessment report should be completed in summer 2027.

SEDAR 104 South Atlantic Dolphinfish MSE (Review Workshop Only)

SEDAR Contact: Emily Ott

Summary: The SEFSSC is the lead for this assessment, with SEDAR only providing logistical support for the Review Workshop. The Project Schedule and Terms of Reference were finalized in March 2026. The Review Workshop will be held July 28-31, 2026, in Charleston, SC. The final assessment report should be completed in September 2026.

SEDAR 105 Gulf Gag Grouper

SEDAR Contact: Julie A. Neer

Summary: The Terms of Reference were finalized October 2025. The Project Schedule has been finalized and will include Life History and Red Tide Mortality Topical Working Groups. An analyst from the State of Florida was added to the assessment team in Spring 2026 to serve as a co-lead for the assessment, in preparation for FWC to lead this assessment in the future. Webinars will be held between March and September 2026. This assessment was originally to be completed September 2026 but is now slated to be completed January 2027.

SEDAR 108 South Atlantic Black Sea Bass

SEDAR Contact: Emily Ott

Summary: The Project Schedule and Terms of Reference were finalized in spring 2026. SEFSC is the lead for this assessment, with SEDAR only coordinating an introduction webinar in June 2026. The assessment is slated to be completed in 2026..

SEDAR 107 Atlantic Cobia

SEDAR Contact: Emily Ott

Summary: This assessment began as SEDAR 95 and has been given a new number of SEDAR 107. The SEDAR 95 Atlantic Cobia assessment started in March 2024; however, work on this assessment was paused in Fall of 2024 due to staffing changes. This SEDAR assessment number was changed due to extensive developments in the data and process. This assessment was resumed in 2026 with SEDAR coordinating a Review Workshop in May 2027.

Upcoming Projects – Planning Underway

Three projects are in various stages of planning.

SEDAR 106 South Atlantic Gag Grouper

SEDAR Contact: Emily Ott

Summary: The Terms of Reference were finalized June 2025. The Project Schedule is being developed and will include a Reproductive Dynamics Topical Working Group. This assessment was slated to begin early 2026 but has been postponed until 2027 because of the 2025 government shutdown.

SEDAR XX South Atlantic Red Grouper

SEDAR Contact: Emily Ott

Summary: The Terms of Reference and Project Schedule are being developed and are expected to be finalized in summer 2026. The project schedule will include a Stock ID Workshop, Data Workshop and Review Workshop. This assessment is slated to begin in 2027 and be completed in 2028.

SEDAR XX South Atlantic Spanish Mackerel

SEDAR Contact: Emily Ott

Summary: The Terms of Reference were finalized March 2026. The Project Schedule is being developed and will include Topical Working Groups for natural mortality and northern catches. This assessment is slated to begin and be completed in 2027.