

## SEDAR Steering Committee

### Projects Report

January 2026

#### **Completed Projects, August 2025 - January 2026**

##### **Four projects addressing seven species, and six management units**

#### **SEDAR 87 Gulf White, Pink and Brown Shrimp**

**SEDAR Contact:** Julie A. Neer

**Summary:** The SAR for Gulf White, Pink and Brown Shrimp was released on 14 August 2025. The assessment was scheduled to be reviewed during the October 2025 Gulf SSC meeting but had to be postponed due to the government shutdown. It will now be reviewed at the February 2026 SSC meeting.

#### **SEDAR 84 Caribbean Yellowtail Snapper and Stoplight Parrotfish (3 management units)**

**SEDAR Contact:** Emily Ott

**Summary:** The SAR for Caribbean Yellowtail Snapper and Stoplight Parrotfish was released on 15 August 2025. The assessment was reviewed during a Caribbean SSC meeting in September 2025.

#### **SEDAR 91 Caribbean Spiny Lobster (3 management units)**

**SEDAR Contact:** Emily Ott

**Summary:** The SAR for Caribbean Spiny Lobster was released on 5 September 2025. The assessment was reviewed during a Caribbean SSC meeting in September 2025.

#### **SEDAR 102 ASMFC Atlantic Menhaden and Ecological Reference Points**

**SEDAR contact:** Emily Ott

**Summary:** The SAR for Atlantic Menhaden and Ecological Reference Points was released on 9 October 2025. SEDAR only organized the review for this project. The assessment was reviewed during an ASMFC meeting in October 2025.

#### **Projects in Progress**

##### **Nine projects addressing ten 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. It is unclear if they will be produced, or if another form of assessment will be used to provide

management advice.

#### 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 end date for this assessment is unclear. The data stage of this assessment included data webinars November-April 2025, a Data Workshop April 28-May 2, 2025, and a series of post-DW webinars May-August 2025. A series of assessment webinars began in September 2025 and will be held through late 2026. Additionally, there is an integration plan to evaluate and consider using SARSRP data in this assessment in spring of 2026. A Review Workshop will be held for this assessment most likely in late 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 began in December 2025 and will be held through April 2026. A Review Workshop is slated for July 14-17, 2026.

#### SEDAR 95 Atlantic Cobia

**SEDAR Contact:** Julie A Neer/Emily Ott

**Summary:** A Data Scoping webinar was held in March 2024, and three data webinars have been conducted (one each for Removals, Indices, and Life History). A second data webinar for each topic was held in July and August 2024. Assessment webinars were scheduled for April 2024–September 2025; however, due to staffing changes, the assessment was postponed in Fall of 2024. There was an expectation of the assessment resuming in 2026, though it was determined that the S95 process should be halted and a new process started as S107, given the modification to the data and the process.

#### SEDAR 98 Gulf 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 unclear. 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 early 2026. A Review Workshop will likely be held in late 2026.

#### SEDAR 99 Gulf 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 will be an Assessment webinar in April 2026. The final assessment report should be completed in June 2026.

SEDAR 100 Gulf 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. The assessment stage will be conducted by SEFSC internally with input from a technical team. A Review Workshop is slated for August 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 Agency personnel issues, the Data Workshop was postponed until December 2025. Because of the 2025 government shutdown, the December 2025 Data Workshop was postponed until April 21-24, 2026. The final assessment report should be 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. Because of the government shut down, this start date is postponed until January 2026. There will be a series of Data Webinars held from February through May 2026 followed by Development Workshop in summer 2026. There will be a series of assessment application webinars held from July through October 2026 followed by a Review Workshop in early 2027. The final assessment report should be completed in 2027.

**Upcoming Projects – Planning Underway**

**Seven projects are in various stages of planning.**

SEDAR 104 South Atlantic Dolphinfinch 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 Terms of Reference for this review are under development. The Review Workshop will be held in summer 2026.

SEDAR 105 Gulf Gag Grouper

**SEDAR contact:** Julie A. Neer

**Summary:** The Terms of Reference were finalized October 2025. The project schedule is being developed and will include Life History and Red Tide mortality Topical Working Groups. This assessment was slated to begin early 2026 but has been postponed because of the 2025 government shutdown.

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 because of the 2025 government shutdown.

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 is expected to resume in 2026 with SEDAR coordinating a Review Workshop in 2027.

SEDAR XX Florida Black Grouper MSE (Review Workshop Only)

**SEDAR contact:** Julie A. Neer

**Summary:** The State of Florida has requested that SEDAR provide logistical support for a review of the MSE approach.. The Review Workshop is slated for 2026.

SEDAR XX South Atlantic Black Sea Bass (Review Workshop Only)

**SEDAR contact:** Emily Ott

**Summary:** The SEFSC is the lead for this assessment, with SEDAR only providing logistical support for the Review Workshop. The Review Workshop is slated for 2026.

SEDAR XX South Atlantic King Mackerel

**SEDAR contact:** Emily Ott

**Summary:** The Terms of Reference for this review are under development. Because of South Atlantic staffing losses, an analyst from the Gulf Branch will be the lead for this assessment. This assessment is slated to begin in late 2026. The assessment is slated to be completed in early 2027.