

## SEDAR Steering Committee

### Projects Report

August 2025

### Completed Projects, February 2025 - July 2025

#### **3 Projects addressing 3 Stocks**

#### SEDAR 88 Gulf of Mexico Red Grouper, Operational Assessment

**SEDAR contact:** Julie A. Neer

**Summary:** The final SAR for SEDAR 88 was released on 5 February 2025 and was reviewed by the Gulf SSC at its February 2025 meeting.

#### SEDAR 92 Atlantic Blueline Tilefish, Operational Assessment

**SEDAR Contact:** Julie A Neer

**Summary:** A Landings Stream Topical Working Group met via webinars from April–July 2024. During those webinars, it was determined that an addition Life History TWG was needed to review new age information. That group met via webinar October 2024 - January 2025. The addition of the second TWG caused a delay in the completion of the assessment (originally scheduled for November 2024). The SAR for the Atlantic Blueline Tilefish was released 30 March 2025. The assessment was reviewed by the South Atlantic SSC in May 2025.

#### SEDAR 96 Florida Yellowtail Snapper, Operational Assessment

**SEDAR Contact:** Julie A. Neer

**Summary:** The SAR for Florida yellowtail snapper was released on 31 January 2025. The assessment was reviewed during a meeting of a subset of both the Gulf and South Atlantic SSCs in February 2025.

### Projects in Progress

#### **12 projects addressing 16 species, and five 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 84 Caribbean Yellowtail Snapper (Puerto Rico & St. Thomas/St. John) and Stoplight Parrotfish (St. Croix) Benchmark

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

**Summary:** The Review Workshop for this project was scheduled for February 2025 but was postponed until July 15-18, 2025, to allow the analytic team time to expand on the report and potentially add to the review Terms of Reference to maximize the feedback from the review. The final stock assessment should be completed in fall 2025.

SEDAR 87 Gulf of Mexico Brown, Pink, and White Shrimp, Research Track

**SEDAR contact:** Julie A. Neer

**Summary:** The Review Workshop was held June 23-27, 2025, in Tampa, Florida. The assessments were received favorably, and the final assessment report should be completed by August 2025.

SEDAR 90 South Atlantic Red Snapper, Benchmark Assessment

**SEDAR Contact:** Emily Ott

**Summary:** The assessment began in November 2024 and is slated to be completed in November 2026. The data stage of this assessment included data webinars November-April 2025, a Data Workshop April 28<sup>th</sup>-May 2nd, 2025, and a series of post-DW webinars May-August 2025. A series of assessment webinars are scheduled for September 2025–April 2026 followed by a Review Workshop in September 2026. Additionally, there is an integration plan to evaluate and consider using SARSRP data in this assessment.

SEDAR 91 Caribbean Spiny Lobster, Benchmark Assessment (3 management units)

**SEDAR Contact:** Emily Ott

**Summary:** Data webinars were completed June-October 2024, followed by an in-person Data Workshop held November 13-15, 2024. A series of assessment webinars were held January-April 2025. A Review Workshop was slated for August 2025; however, has been cancelled because of the CIE contract not receiving approval. The Caribbean SSC will be the review body for this assessment. The final assessment report should be completed August 2025.

#### SEDAR 94 Southeastern Hogfish Snapper, Benchmark

**SEDAR Contact:** Julie A. Neer

**Summary:** 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. A data scoping and pre-DW webinar were held in April and May 2025. The Data Workshop is scheduled for July 28 – August 1, 2025, a series of assessment webinars from December 2025–April 2026 and Review Workshop from July 14-17, 2026.

#### SEDAR 95 Atlantic Cobia, Benchmark

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

**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 is an expectation of the assessment resuming in 2026, though the scope of the assessment is unclear as of this report.

#### SEDAR 98 Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper, Benchmark

**SEDAR Contact:** Julie A. Neer

**Summary:** The assessment began with Data Scoping in August 2024 and is scheduled to be completed in April 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 October 2025. A Review Workshop to be held in April 2026.

#### SEDAR 99 Gulf of Mexico King Mackerel

**SEDAR Contact:** Julie A. Neer

**Summary:** The Terms of Reference and Project Schedule for this assessment were approved October 2024. There will be two Topical Working Groups (TWGs) for this assessment. Initial Data scoping will be held via email to the appointees and Interested Parties. Additional TWG webinars will be held during the process, likely in Fall 2025 and Spring 2026. The final assessment report should be completed in June 2026.

#### SEDAR 100 Gulf of Mexico Gray Triggerfish

**SEDAR Contact:** Julie A. Neer

**Summary:** The data scoping webinar was held in May 2025, and a pre-DW webinar in July. The Data Workshop is scheduled for August 19-22, 2025, a series of

assessment webinars March-September 2026 and a Review Workshop to be held February 2027.

#### 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 in March 2025. Discussions regarding resuming the process are underway.

#### SEDAR 102 ASMFC Menhaden (Review Workshop only)

**SEDAR Contact:** Emily Ott

**Summary:** The ASMFC is the lead for this assessment, with SEDAR only providing logistical support for the Review Workshop. The Terms of Reference and Project Schedule for this assessment were approved February 2025. The Review Workshop will be held August 11-15, 2025. The final assessment report should be completed in October 2025.

### Upcoming Projects – Planning Underway

3 projects

#### SEDAR 103 Caribbean Application of Alternate Assessment Methods

**SEDAR contact:** Emily Ott

**Summary:** There has been a planning team established for this assessment that will have webinars from July-August 2025. The Project Schedule should be finalized by the end of the planning team calls in August 2025 and the pre-workshop webinars are tentatively scheduled to start in Fall 2025. and Terms of Reference is slated to be finalized after the Caribbean Fishery Management Council Meeting in December 2025. The goal of this assessment is to develop guidance for future data-limited Caribbean stock assessments to better inform management.

#### SEDAR 104 South Atlantic Dolphinfin MSE (Review Workshop Only)

**SEDAR contact:** Julie A. Neer

**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 early 2026.

SEDAR XX 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 is slated to begin early 2026.