

SEDAR Steering Committee

Projects Report

August 2023

Completed Projects, May – August 2023

1 Project addressing 1 Stock

SEDAR 81 Gulf of Mexico Spanish Mackerel, Operational Assessment

SEDAR Contact: Julie A. Neer

Summary: This assessment did not have any Topical Working Groups, so no webinars were held. The project was scheduled to be completed in February 2023, but the SEFSC requested more time to complete it. The assessment was released July 2023.

Projects in Progress

10 projects addressing 16 stocks and 3 management units

SEDAR 74 Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper, Research Track

SEDAR Contact: Julie A. Neer

Summary: Assessment webinars were slated to be held between September 2022 and April 2023, and the Review Workshop is slated for July 31 – August 4, 2023. The Analytic Team determined it needed more time to complete the assessment, so the Review Workshop was rescheduled to November 2023. Further additional work was required so webinars continued through July 2023. The Review Workshop is now scheduled for December 12-15, 2023, and the report should be released January 2024.

SEDAR 77 HMS Hammerhead Sharks, Research Track (4 Stocks)

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

Summary: The HMS Hammerheads Sharks Research Track assessment is currently underway. The Data process and Assessment processes have been completed. The report was released in April 2022 and June 2023. The Review Workshop has occurred August 2023. The assessment is scheduled to be completed October 2023.

SEDAR 79 Southeastern US Mutton Snapper, Benchmark

SEDAR Contact: Julie A. Neer

Summary: The Benchmark assessment for SE US Mutton Snapper has been rescheduled for 2023. The terminal year of data for the assessment will be 2022. The Data Workshop was held August 21-25, 2023. Assessment webinars will be held from November 2023 to

April 2024. The Review Workshop is scheduled for July 9-11, 2024, though it may be delayed to allow for the inclusion of three years of the SRFs survey.

SEDAR 80 Caribbean Queen Triggerfish, Operational Assessment (3 management units)

SEDAR Contact: Julie A. Neer

Summary: The Operational Assessment of Caribbean Queen triggerfish is partially complete.

The Final Stock Assessment Report for Queen Triggerfish in St. Thomas/St. John was released October of 2022 and presented at the December 2022 SSC meeting. The SEFSC continues to work with the Caribbean SSC to refine the model.

The Final Stock Assessment Report for Queen Triggerfish in St. Croix has not yet been released.

SEDAR 82 South Atlantic Gray Triggerfish, Research Track

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

Summary: 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, so the workshop is now scheduled for early 2024. The assessment completion date is to be determined at a later time.

SEDAR 84 Caribbean Yellowtail Snapper (Puerto Rico & St. Thomas/St. John) and Stoplight Parrotfish (St. Croix) Benchmark

SEDAR contact: Julie A. Neer

Summary: The Terms of Reference for the Benchmark assessment of Caribbean yellowtail snapper (Puerto Rico and St. Thomas/St. John) and stoplight parrotfish (St. Croix) were approved in December 2022. Cooperator appointments were completed in June 2023. A Data Scoping webinar was scheduled for July 2023 and a Data Workshop is scheduled for October 25-27, 2023. Given issues with data availability, delays in appointments, and complications in finding a hotel for the Data Workshop, the DW has been postponed to January 2024. Assessment webinars will now be held April – August 2024. The Review Workshop is scheduled for December 2024 and the assessment should be completed in March 2025.

SEDAR 85 Gulf of Mexico Yellowedge Grouper, Operational Assessment

SEDAR Contact: Julie A. Neer

Summary: Terms of Reference for the Gulf of Mexico yellowedge grouper Operational Assessment were approved in March 2022. No Topical Working Groups were originally scheduled for this assessment, however, the analysts discovered issues that they would

like to receive feedback on from the SSC before completing the assessment, so a Topical Working Group was appointed in July 2023. The assessment was scheduled to be completed in September 2023, but will now be released in November 2023.

SEDAR 86 South Atlantic Red Grouper, Operational Assessment

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

Summary: The assessment is underway. No Topical Working Groups are currently being organized for this assessment. The SEFSC has submitted a request to the South Atlantic SSC to discuss model changes. Currently, the assessment is scheduled to be completed in December 2023 pending SSC input.

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

SEDAR contact: Julie A. Neer

Summary: The Terms of Reference for the Research Track were reviewed by the GMFMC SSC in March 2023 and approved in April 2023. Cooperator appointments were also completed in April 2023. A Data Scoping webinar was held July 2023 and a Data Workshop is scheduled for September 18-22, 2023. Assessment webinars will be held April – October 2024. The Review Workshop is scheduled for March 2025 and the assessment should be completed in May 2025.

SEDAR 88 Gulf of Mexico Red Grouper, Operational Assessment

SEDAR contact: Julie A. Neer

Summary: The Terms of Reference for the Operational Assessment of Gulf of Mexico red grouper were reviewed by the GMFMC SSC in March 2023 and approved in April 2023. Cooperator appointments were also completed in April 2023. Two Topical Working Groups will be convened: 1) Red Tide and 2) SRFS Age and Length Composition. A Scoping Webinar for each TWG will be held in October 2023. The assessment is slated to be completed in August 2024.

Upcoming Projects – Planning Underway

9 projects addressing 9 species and 3 management units

SEDAR 89 South Atlantic Tilefish, Operational Assessment

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

Summary: The Terms of Reference were approved by the SAFMC SSC in October 2022. The schedule, potential participants, and Terms of Reference were approved by the council in March 2023. The assessment is scheduled to begin November 2023.

SEDAR 90 South Atlantic Red Snapper, Research Track Assessment

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

Summary: Planning for the research track is underway. The planning team has met four times and have drafted terms of reference and a schedule. The search for participants is ongoing. The schedule, terms of reference and list of participants will be brought before the SSC in October 2023.

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

SEDAR Contact: Julie A. Neer

Summary: Planning for the Benchmark assessment for Caribbean spiny lobster is underway. Terms of Reference were approved by the Caribbean Fishery Management Council at their August meeting. The project schedule has also been finalized.

SEDAR 92 Atlantic Blueline Tilefish, Operational Assessment

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

Summary: The draft Terms of Reference were approved by the SAFMC SSC in July 2022. The updated schedule, potential participants, and Terms of Reference were approved by the SAFMC March 2023. The assessment is scheduled to begin April 2024.

SEDAR 93 Atlantic Red Drum, Review Workshop

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

Summary: Planning for the review workshop is underway. A schedule has been drafted and approved.

SEDAR 94 Southeastern Hogfish Snapper, Benchmark

SEDAR Contact: Julie A. Neer

Summary: Planning for the Benchmark assessment for SE hogfish is underway. The Planning Team members has met several times to produce draft schedules and Terms of Reference. The Terms of Reference should go to the Gulf and South Atlantic Councils for approval Fall 2023.

SEDAR ## South Atlantic Gag Grouper

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

Summary: Planning for the assessment is underway. A schedule and terms of reference have been drafted and SEFSC feedback has been received. The Terms of reference and Schedule will go to the October SSC meeting for approval in Fall 2023.

SEDAR ## South Atlantic Red Porgy

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

Summary: Planning for the assessment is underway. The terms of reference have been drafted and submitted for SEFSC feedback. No schedule has been drafted.

SEDAR ## Atlantic Cobia

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

Summary: Planning for the Assessment is underway. The SEFSC and ASMFC are negotiating the Terms of Reference and draft schedule.