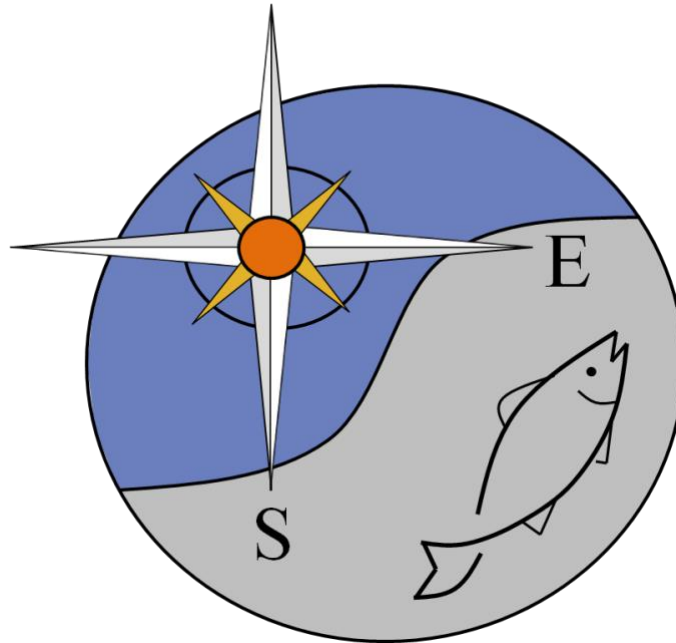


# SEDAR



## **SEDAR Steering Committee**

### **Meeting Brief**

**October 3, 2023**

**Meeting via Webinar**

Webinar link:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5940017443133392215>

**Version: BB**

**9/19/2023**

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Attachment 2: SEDAR Projects Update August 2023

Attachment 3: SEDAR Projects List

Attachment 4: Modifications to the Project Planning Grid from the May 2023 Steering Committee Summary

Attachment 5a: Potential Impacts of FES Pilot Survey Results on Upcoming Assessments Discussion Document: Cooperator Feedback

Attachment 5b: Potential Impacts of FES Pilot Survey Results on Upcoming Assessments Discussion Document: SEFSC Feedback

Attachment 6: Research Track/Benchmark/Operational Assessment/Topical Working Group Guidance Document

Attachment 7: Summary of SEDAR Grant Funding

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Documents

- Agenda
- Attachment 1. May 2023 Draft Meeting Summary

## 1.2 Action

- Introduction
- Review and Approve Agenda
- Approve Meeting Summary

# 2 SEDAR Projects Report

## 2.1 Documents

Attachment 2. SEDAR Projects Update August 2023

## 2.2 Summary

The projects report (Attachment 2) provides a summary of current and recently completed SEDAR assessment projects.

Highlighted project developments:

SEDAR 74 – Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper: The assessment development stage has required more time than was originally scheduled and the analytic team requested several additional webinars to complete the assessment modeling work. The Review Workshop (originally scheduled for April 2023, then July 31- August 4, 2023, then November 6-10, 2023), will now be held December 12-15, 2023, with the final report scheduled for release in January 2024.

SEDAR 82 – South Atlantic Gray Triggerfish: 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 and Stoplight Parrotfish: The Data Workshop was scheduled for October 25-27, 2023, but issues with data availability, and complications in finding a hotel for the meeting, has caused the workshop to be 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: 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: The assessment is underway. No Topical Working Groups were organized for this assessment. The SEFSC submitted a request to the South Atlantic SSC to discuss changing the spatial structure of the model. The assessment was scheduled to be completed in December 2023 but will have to be delayed due to the recommendation to transition the operational assessment to a Benchmark to accommodate the Center request.

### 2.3 Action

- Informational; none required

## 3 Assessment Schedule Review

### 3.1 Documents

Attachment 3. SEDAR Projects List

Attachment 4. Modifications to the Project Planning Grid from the May 2023 Steering Committee Summary

Attachment 5a: Potential Impacts of FES Pilot Survey Results on Upcoming Assessments Discussion Document – Cooperator Feedback

Attachment 5b: Potential Impacts of FES Pilot Survey Results on Upcoming Assessments Discussion Document – SEFSC Feedback

### 3.2 Summary

#### Potential Impacts of FES Pilot Survey Results on Upcoming Assessments

The NOAA Office of Science and Technology released a report entitled “Evaluating Measurement Error in the MRIP Fishing Effort Survey” in May 2023, in which they discuss possible bias in the FES estimates. The potential impacts of the pilot study results, along with the follow-up study to be conducted in 2024, may require shifts in the upcoming SEDAR assessment schedule. Attachments 5a and 5b summarize the status of current and near term scheduled SEDAR projects, along with recommendations on a suggested plan for the timing of those assessments from the Cooperators (5a) and the SEFSC (5b).

#### Process/Schedule Update for Atlantic Migratory Cobia/Red porgy:

From the Summary Report of the Spring 2023 Steering Committee Report:

“Atlantic Migratory Cobia was supposed to be conducted in 2025 but the SEFSC expressed concerns with moving forward with this assessment as an OA because the data sources are changing, and the distribution of the stock has largely shifted outside of the Southeast region. The SEFSC suggested the assessment slot could be used to conduct a data triage and discuss alternative management approaches in light of the changes in distribution. It was also suggested that SEDAR may not be the proper vehicle for conducting this assessment. The Center and ASMFC will continue this discussion and report back to the Committee in Fall.

It was suggested that a Red Porgy OA may be considered for 2025 if ASMFC Atlantic Migratory Cobia cannot be accommodated. The SEFSC and ASMFC will discuss options and report back to the Committee in Fall.”

The SEFSC and ASFMC will provide the Committee with an update on the progress in these discussions.

#### Update of 2024/2025 Project Priorities and Scheduling:

- The Committee should discuss possible modifications to the SEDAR assessment schedule considering potential impacts of the FES study to be conducted in 2024.

#### 3.3 Action

- Consider any needed modifications to the 2024 and 2025 Projects
- Discuss Future Project Requests (2026-2028)

## 4 SEDAR Process Review and Discussion

### 4.1 Documents

Attachment 6: Research Track/Benchmark/Operational Assessment/Topical Working Group Guidance Document

### 4.2 Summary

- Review of Research Track/Benchmark/Operational Assessment Guidance Document

During the May 2023 Steering Committee meeting, the Committee recommended to reinstate the Benchmark Assessment as an option for Cooperators to consider when requesting assessments. It was noted that, Benchmark assessments will produce management advice at the conclusion of the process, thus removing some of the planning issues that arise with the RT/OA process.

SEDAR Staff were instructed to update the Guidance Document to include details for the Benchmark Assessment category (Attachment 6). SEDAR Staff would like the Committee to provide feedback on the following components of the Benchmark Process:

- 1) Planning Team: A small group of individuals who work during the initial planning stages of the process tasked to develop the initial Terms of References, draft Project Schedule, and list of Suggested Participants. This component of the Research Track (RT) has functioned well, and SEDAR Staff recommend incorporating it into the Benchmark process.
- 2) Assessment Development Team (ADT): Group of SSC representatives appointed to participate in both the Data and Assessment stages of the RT, to aid in maintaining consistency in decisions throughout the process. While the concept of the ADT was well received, it has proven to be a difficult concept to implement. It has impacted the ability

of Cooperators to identify individuals willing to serve on the ADT, either due to the length of the time commitment, or the feeling that they could not provide guidance on to both stages of the process. SEDAR Staff does not recommend implementing the ADT for Benchmark assessments.

- 3) **Benchmark Review Process:** The original Benchmark process included an in-person independent peer review workshop, with a Review Panel consisting of CIE and SSC reviewers. During the May 2023 meeting, the Committee discussed providing an option to allow the Cooperator to determine whether they desired either a dedicated review workshop as part of the SEDAR process, or a review conducted by the SSC. SEDAR Staff recommends that Benchmark Assessments require a Review workshop as part of the SEDAR process. This is due to the assumption that if there are enough modifications/explorations required to require a Benchmark Assessment, then an independent review including CIE reviewers will be needed.

#### 4.3 Action

- Provide feedback on the updated Guidance Document and provide guidance on components of the Benchmark process.

## 5 Other Business

### 5.1 Documents

Attachment 7: Summary of SEDAR Grant Funding

### 5.2 Summary

- Update on Right-Sizing Assessments: Data Triage Status

The Committee received a presentation by the SEFSC during the May 2023 meeting which discussed the concept of “right-sizing” requested assessments to help with increasing throughput. From the May 2023 Summary report:

- It was acknowledged that SEDAR was never intended to fulfill all the stock assessment needs for all the Cooperators in the region. It was also noted that efficiency is not the main goal of SEDAR. The focus has always been on thoroughness and transparency.
- The Center stated they could work with the Cooperators to update and refine the prioritized species lists using a data triage approach like what was produced for the Caribbean Council.

The SEFSC will provide the Committee an update on the data triage process.

- Discussion of Current SEDAR Grant Funding/Potential Carryover

The current grant cycle for SEDAR funding will be ending in 2024. Due to travel restrictions in 2020-2022, much of the budget usually spent on in-person meetings was not

utilized. Staff will provide the Committee an update on SEDAR funding for the current grant cycle, and initiate discussions on possible carryover plans. (Attachment 7)

- Update on the BSIA Framework for the Southeast Region

NMFS Science Center/SERO representatives will provide an update on the status and timing of this document.

- Update on the Procedural Workshop 8: Fishery Independent Index Development Under Changing Survey Design

SEDAR Staff meet with Procedural Workshop leads and discussed a plan to complete the report. Workshop Leads will provide a current report draft to SEDAR Staff, along with identifying individuals who have outstanding assignments. SEDAR Staff will reach out to those individuals to determine how to complete the tasks. The goal is to complete the report by the end of 2023.

- SEDAR Website Improvements: Archive Materials

SEDAR Staff recently completed a project to make all archive SEDAR Steering Committee Briefing Book materials accessible on the SEDAR website. The archived briefing materials may be found on the SEDAR Steering Committee page of the website.

- Introduction of New SEDAR Coordinator

Please welcome the new SEDAR Coordinator, Meisha Key. Meisha came to us from Boone, NC where she had her own business as a personal and professional development coach and facilitator for the past 7 years. She also worked with the Pacific Fishery Management Council as a contractor to populate a research and data needs database and facilitated a management strategy evaluation workshop for Sablefish. Prior, Meisha had several roles with the California Department of Fish and Game where she conducted stock assessments, served as a member of PFMC SSC (chair and vice-chair), facilitated workshops at ports to gather input to develop a restricted access program for the Nearshore Fishery Management Plan, and assisted in the design and development of the CA Recreational Fisheries Survey.

- Discussion Regarding the Timing of Future SEDAR Steering Committee Meetings

The SEDAR Steering Committee typically meets twice a year, with one in-person and one virtual, held in May and September/October. It has become increasingly difficult to find dates in those months when the entire Committee is available, as those months contain a variety of other meetings (Council, CCC, SSC, etc.). SEDAR Staff recommends that the meetings be shifted to months without as many known conflicts: February and July.

If the meeting dates are shifted, then the deadlines for Statements of Work would need to be shifted as well.

<b>Event</b>	<b>Current Deadline</b>	<b>Proposed Deadline</b>
Draft SoWs Submitted to SEFSC	November 1 <sup>st</sup>	July 1 <sup>st</sup>
SEFSC provides feedback to Cooperators	February 1 <sup>st</sup>	October 1 <sup>st</sup>
Final SoWs provided to SEDAR	April 1 <sup>st</sup>	December 1 <sup>st</sup>
Steering Committee finalizes schedule	Spring Meeting	Winter Meeting

**5.3 Action**

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

**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 person in February 2024.



Table 1: SEDAR Project Planning Grid – October 2023 SEDAR Steering Committee Discussion Draft

Table Color Legend:

Steering Committee Approved and SEFSC Scheduled Projects	FUTURE Requests
Steering Committee Approved, PENDING SEFSC SCHEDULING	2025 Preliminary Projects – To Be Finalized at the Spring 2023 Meeting

SEDAR SCHEDULE OVERVIEW – May 2023 SEDAR Steering Committee Outcome

YEAR	SA Team				Gulf Team					Caribbean Team	HMS Team		FL FWCC	Menhaden/ RW only	CMP
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	1	1	2			
2023		S82 Gray Triggerfish RT	S86 Red Grouper OA			S85 Yellowedge Grouper OA	S74 Red Snapper RT	S74 Red Snapper RT	S81 Spanish Mackerel OA		S80 Queen Trigger – STX OA	S77 Hammerheads RT	S79 Mutton Snapper Benchmark		
2024				S89 Tilefish OA	S88 Red Grouper OA				S87 Shrimp RT	S84 Yellowtail Snapper (PR & STT) Stoplight Parrotfish (STX) Benchmark				S94 Hogfish Benchmark	S93 ASFMC Red Drum (RW) Gulf Menhaden OA
2025	S90 Red snapper RT	S82OA Grey Triggerfish	S92 Blueline Tilefish OA				S74OA Red Snapper	S74OA Red Snapper				S91 Spiny Lobster Benchmark (all islands)	S77OA Hammerheads		
2026		Gag Grouper OA	Atl Migratory Cobia?	Red Porgy OA					Gray Triggerfish OA	Cobia OA?	Gag Grouper OA	S87 OA Shrimp		Bull, Spinner, Tiger, Finetooth Sharks RT	Atl Menhaden (RW only)
2027			Snowy Grouper OA	Dolphin MP? RW Only?	GAJ Benchmark						Hogfish (PR) Red Hind (USVI) Benchmark		Black Grouper Benchmark /MSE?		
2028	Red Snapper OA	GAJ Benchmark?	White Grunt RT												
2029	Vermilion OA							Gray Snapper OA	Vermilion Snapper OA				TBD?		

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.