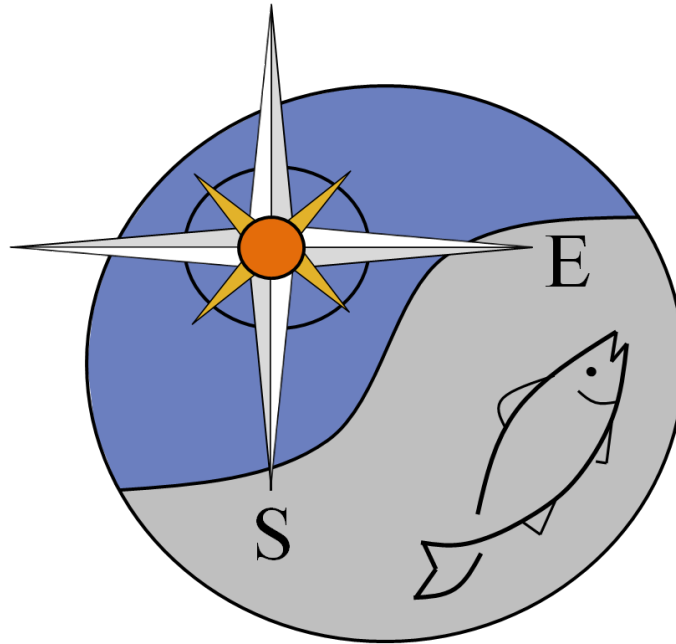


SEDAR



SEDAR Steering Committee Meeting Summary October 3, 2023

Report Content Note:

To provide context for recommendations and maintain the full record, this document combines the briefing summary provided to the Committee for consideration during the meeting as well as summary of Committee discussion points and recommendations.

Outcomes from the meeting are found under the section headers “Meeting Outcome”.

Version: Final

3/25/2024

Table of Contents

1	INTRODUCTION	8
2	SEDAR PROJECTS REPORT	8
3	ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE REVIEW.....	9
4	SEDAR PROCESS REVIEW AND DISCUSSION	12
5	OTHER BUSINESS.....	14
6	NEXT MEETING.....	17

DOCUMENTS

Attachment 1: May 2023 Draft Meeting Summary

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 – *Not Received*

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

Attachment 7: Summary of SEDAR Grant Funding

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Clay Porch, Chair, SEFSC

John Carmichael, SAFMC

Carolyn Belcher, SAFMC Chair

Carrie Simmons, GMFMC

Kevin Anson, GMFMC Chair

Miguel Rolón, GCFMC

Karyl Brewster-Geisz, HMS

Dave Donaldson, GSMFC

Pat Campfield, ASMFC

Andy Strelcheck, SERO

Luiz Barbieri, FWC/FWRI

Carlos Farchette, CFMC Chair

SEDAR STAFF

Julie A. Neer

Meisha Key

WEBINAR OBSERVERS

Dustin Addis, FWC

Kelly Adler, SEFSC

Lisa Ailloud, SEFSC

Myra Brouwer, SAFMC Staff

Julia Byrd, SAFMC Staff

Shannon Cass-Calay, SEFSC

Lew Coggins, SEFSC

Chip Collier, SAFMC Staff

Judd Curtis, SAFMC Staff

Mark Dube

Matt Damiano, NOAA

JD Dugas, GMFMC

Jared Flowers, GADNR

John Froeschke, GMFMC Staff

Bob Gill, GMFMC

David Gloeckner, SEFSC

Martha Guyas, ASA

Allie Iberlie, SAFMC Staff

Maria Kappos, FWC

Vivian Matter, SEFSC

Nikhil Mehta, NOAA

Matthew Nuttall, SEFSC

Adam Pollack, SEFSC

Ryan Rindone, GMFMC Staff

Skyler Sagarese, SEFSC

Mike Schmidtke, SAFMC Staff

Katie Siegfried, SEFSC

Carly Somerset, GMFMC Staff

Molly Stevens, SEFSC

Chelsea Tuohy, ASMFC

Steve Vanderkooy, GSMFC

Matthew Vincent, SEFSC

John F. Walter, SEFSC

Erik Williams, SEFSC

Meeting Outcomes Summary

This Meeting Outcomes Summary highlights the major decisions of the Committee during the meeting. Additional details can be found under the heading “Meeting Outcome” for each relevant section and are italicized throughout the report.

Assessment Schedule Review

The Committee received a presentation from the SEFSC examining how a change in the MRIP FES estimates may impact stock assessments and possibly impact management advice, using the recent Gulf of Mexico Scamp assessment as an example (SEDAR 68OA). It was noted that a constant adjustment in the FES estimates will likely act as a scalar for the result trends but will not likely change stock status. As long as ACL and ACT monitoring occurs in the same data units that are used in the assessment, then there is little expected impact on status.

- It was noted that for stocks which are close to crossing a status determination threshold, a change in data units could result in a change in status determination, thereby requiring action by the managing Cooperator under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA).*
- It was noted that the biggest issue with FES estimate modifications will be with regards to allocations.*

Atlantic Migratory Cobia Project Schedule Update:

- Recognized need for more State agency support for next assessment.*
- ASMFC and SEFSC have agreed to a timeline, with a data call starting in late 2023, and a final analysis and report by October 2025.*
- SEFSC will provide the lead modeler; SEDAR will host a Review Workshop in late 2025.*

The Committee reviewed the Project Planning Schedule grid from the May 2023 meeting and recommended the following changes:

South Atlantic Cooperator:

- S82 Grey Triggerfish RT and OA: Complete the RT as planned; delay the OA until the results of the new FES pilot study are available (2026)*
- Hold the Dolphin MSE (RW only) in 2025, given the Center has indicated it will be completed in 2024.*
- Gag grouper and Atlantic king mackerel OAs: move until 2026 when more information from the new FES study is available.*
- Red porgy OA and greater amberjack benchmark assessment: move to 2027.*
- Add a red grouper benchmark assessment to begin in 2026.*
- Remove white grunt from the assessment requests.*

Chair Porch mentioned that the South Atlantic Deepwater Longline Survey will not be able to produce an index for inclusion in an assessment for 2024, so the assessments for Tilefish and Blueline Tilefish may need to be reconsidered. It was noted that the SA Council will need to discuss this new information at its next meeting.

Gulf of Mexico Cooperator:

The Gulf of Mexico Council did not make any changes to their SEDAR project schedule though it was noted that the Gray Triggerfish assessment in 2024 may need to be a Benchmark. The SEFSC and Cooperator will discuss this further.

HMS Cooperator:

No changes were recommended during the meeting. It was noted that HMS will work with the SEFSC to review available data and modeling options to finalize the species to be assessed during the next HMS research track.

FWC:

Added a Yellowtail Snapper OA for late spring/early summer 2024 to include the Florida State Reef Fish Survey data, with a completion date of fall 2024. The addition of Yellowtail Snapper may impact the timing for S94 Hogfish.

SEDAR Process Review and Discussion

The Committee approved the inclusion of the Planning Team component currently in place for RTs for Benchmark Assessments. The Committee also agreed that the ADT component of RTs would not be included in the Benchmark process. Rather, Benchmark Assessments would have Panels for the various process stages (Data, Assessment, and Review), as was previously the case. It was noted that it would be ideal if some appointees could participate in data and assessment to provide some continuity.

The Committee discussed the need for an independent peer review process for Benchmark Assessments. It was determined that if an assessment had enough modifications or unique issues that it required a Benchmark process, then a Review Workshop, including the participation of CIE reviewers on the Review Panel, would also be needed to ensure the best scientific product possible.

Other Business

- *Update on Right-Sizing Assessments: Data Triage Status*

The SEFSC will continue to work with individual Cooperators to determine the best ways forward for each situation.

- *Discussion of Current SEDAR Grant Funding/Potential Carryover*

The Committee suggested several options to utilize the carryover funds.

- *Update on the BSIA Framework for the Southeast Region*

Chair Porch informed the Committee that the BSIA Framework for the Southeast Region is essentially complete. The document is past the point of wholesale changes, but the SEFSC would consider slight modifications/clarification from the SSC.

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

SEDAR Staff stated that the final report for Procedural Workshop 8 is still not complete.

- *Discussion Regarding the Timing of Future SEDAR Steering Committee Meetings*

The Committee agreed that shifting the timing of the SEDAR Steering Committee meetings would be beneficial to avoid holding multiple meetings in the same month.

The SEFSC noted that making the shift in timing would potentially cause issues with reviewing the SoWs for upcoming assessments. SEDAR Staff will determine the status of the SoWs for the 2026 OAs and provide that information to the Center to evaluate the feasibility of shifting the meeting timing beginning in 2024.

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

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			
2024			S92 Blueline Tilefish OA	S89 Tilefish OA	S88 Red Grouper OA				S87 Shrimp RT	S84 Yellowtail Snapper (PR & STT) Stoplight Parrotfish (STX) Benchmark			S79 Mutton Snapper Benchmark		
2025	S90 Red snapper RT		Atl Migratory Cobia RW Only	Dolphin MP RW Only			S74OA Red Snapper	S74OA Red Snapper			S91 Spiny Lobster Benchmark (all islands)	S77OA Hammerheads		S94 Hogfish Benchmark	S93 ASFMC Red Drum (RW) Gulf Menhaden OA
2026		S82OA Grey Triggerfish	Snowy Grouper OA	Dolphin MP RW Only				Gag Grouper OA	S87 OA Shrimp	Hogfish (PR) Red Hind (USVI) Benchmark		Bull, Spinner, Tiger, Finetooth Sharks RT		Atl Menhaden (RW only)	King Mackerel OA (Gulf)
2027	Red Snapper OA		Gag Grouper OA	Red Grouper Benchmark	GAJ Benchmark			Gray Triggerfish OA? Benchmark?					Black Grouper Benchmark /MSE?		King Mackerel OA (SA)
2028			Red Porgy OA					Cobia OA?	Tilefish Complex OA?	Scamp OA		Bull, Spinner, Tiger, Finetooth Sharks OA			
2029	Vermilion OA	GAJ Benchmark					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.

1 Introduction

1.1 Documents

- Agenda
- Attachment 1. May 2023 Draft Meeting Summary

1.2 Action

- Introduction
- Review and Approve Agenda
- Approve Meeting Summary

MEETING OUTCOME

The Committee adopted the agenda and approved the May 2023 Draft 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 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

MEETING OUTCOME

The Committee had no recommendations on the Project Updates.

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 (*Document Not Received*)

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)

MEETING OUTCOME

The Committee received a presentation from the SEFSC examining how a change in the MRIP FES estimates may impact stock assessments and possibly impact management advice, using the recent Gulf of Mexico Scamp assessment as an example (SEDAR 68OA). It was noted that a constant adjustment in the FES estimates will likely act as a scalar for the result trends but will not likely change stock status. As long as ACL and ACT monitoring occurs in the same data units that are used in the assessment, then there is little expected impact on status.

- *It was noted that for stocks which are close to crossing a status determination threshold, a change in data units could result in a change in status determination, thereby requiring action by the managing Cooperator under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA).*
- *It was noted that the biggest issue with FES estimate modifications will be with regards to allocations.*
- *Currently, stocks are managed under the MSA which uses hard ACLs and absolute poundages, and not free to follow trends and manage based on relative changes of F for different sectors.*

- *The Modern Fish Act does not authorize use of alternative fishery management measures in a recreational fishery, such as extraction rates, fishing mortality targets, and harvest control rules while meeting the requirements of MSA.*
- *When dealing with fisheries that have high discard rates, changes to these estimates may have a larger impact. It was noted that small changes in selectivity may alter reference points and change productivity for the fishery going forward.*
- *The need to be cautious moving forward was recognized, especially with regards to the timing of upcoming assessments and incorporating the results of the upcoming FES pilot study.*
- *Communication of any modifications to recreational FES estimates, or the impacts that those modifications may have on stock status or allocations, will have to be well thought out and clear.*

Atlantic Migratory Cobia Project Schedule Update:

- *Recognized need for more State agency support for next assessment and have secured commitments for a variety of data pieces and secondary analysis.*
- *SEFSC will provide the lead modeler.*
- *ASMFC and SEFSC have agreed to a timeline, with a data call starting in late 2023, and a final analysis and report by October 2025.*
- *SEDAR will host a Review Workshop in late 2025.*

The Committee reviewed the Project Planning Schedule grid from the last meeting and recommended the following changes:

South Atlantic Cooperator:

- *S82 Grey Triggerfish RT and OA: Complete the RT as planned; delay the OA until the results of the new FES pilot study are available (2026)*
- *Hold the Dolphin MSE (RW only) in 2025, given the Center has indicated it will be completed in 2024.*
- *Gag grouper OA: move until 2026 when more information from the new FES study is available.*
- *Atlantic king mackerel OA: move to 2026 until more information from the new FES study is available.*
- *Red porgy OA: moved until 2027*
- *Greater amberjack benchmark assessment: move to 2027*
- *Add a red grouper benchmark assessment to begin in 2026*
- *Remove white grunt from the assessment requests*

Chair Porch mentioned that the South Atlantic Deepwater Longline Survey will not be able to produce an index for inclusion in an assessment for 2024, so the assessments for Tilefish and Blueline Tilefish may need to be reconsidered. It was noted that the SA Council will need to discuss this new information at its next meeting.

Gulf of Mexico Cooperator:

The Gulf of Mexico Council did not make any changes to their SEDAR project schedule though it was noted that the Gray Triggerfish assessment in 2024 may need to be a Benchmark. The SEFSC and Cooperator will discuss this further.

Caribbean Cooperator:

The Caribbean Council did not make any changes to their SEDAR projects.

HMS Cooperator:

No changes were recommended during the meeting. It was noted that HMS will work with the SEFSC to review available data and modeling options to finalize the species to be assessed during the next HMS research track.

ASMFC Cooperator:

No changes were recommended during the meeting.

GSMFC Cooperator:

No changes were recommended during the meeting.

FWC:

Added a Yellowtail Snapper OA for late spring/early summer 2024 to include the Florida State Reef Fish Survey data, with a completion date of fall 2024. The addition of Yellowtail Snapper may impact the timing for S94 Hogfish.

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 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.

MEETING OUTCOME

The Committee approved the inclusion of the Planning Team component currently in place for RTs for Benchmark Assessments. The Committee also agreed that the ADT component of RTs would not be included in the Benchmark process. Rather, Benchmark Assessments would have Panels for the various process stages (Data, Assessment, and Review), as was previously the case. It was noted that it would be ideal if some appointees could participate in data and assessment to provide some continuity.

The Committee discussed the need for an independent peer review process for Benchmark Assessments. It was determined that if an assessment had enough modifications or unique issues that it required a Benchmark process, then a Review Workshop, including the participation of CIE reviewers on the Review Panel, would also be needed to ensure the best scientific product possible.

SEDAR Staff will incorporate these decisions into the Guidance document and distribute it as needed.

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.

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

5.3 Action

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

MEETING OUTCOME

- Update on Right-Sizing Assessments: Data Triage Status

The Committee received a presentation from the SEFSC entitled “Progress Toward Data Triage and Right-Sizing”, on potential ways to provide the Cooperators advice on which methods may be useful for different species depending on data availability and identify ways to maximize efficiency.

The SEFSC will continue to work with individual Cooperators to determine the best ways forward for each situation.

- *Discussion of Current SEDAR Grant Funding/Potential Carryover*

The Committee appreciated the update on SEDAR funding and suggested the following as possible carryover items:

- *SEDAR Projects that were scheduled for 2024 which may now roll into 2025*
- *Procedural Workshops (previous suggested topics were follow-up to Data Best Practices, Assessment Best Practices)*
- *Data triage and evaluation to help with right-sizing efforts*

- *Update on the BSIA Framework for the Southeast Region*

Chair Porch informed the Committee that the BSIA Framework for the Southeast Region is essentially complete. It was presented to the Gulf of Mexico Council’s SSC for comment at their September 2023 meeting and will be presented to the South Atlantic Council’s SSC at their October meeting. The document is past the point of wholesale changes, but the SEFSC would consider slight modifications/clarification from the SSC.

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

SEDAR Staff stated that the final report for Procedural Workshop 8 is still not complete. One of the lead coordinators from FWC now works for the SEFSC and it has been difficult to for them to find time to determine exactly what is outstanding. The SEDAR Coordinators are working with the leads to identify outstanding issues and determine the best way to complete the report.

- *Discussion Regarding the Timing of Future SEDAR Steering Committee Meetings*

The Committee agreed that shifting the timing of the SEDAR Steering Committee meetings would be beneficial to avoid holding multiple meetings in the same month. February seemed to be an acceptable alternative timing to the Spring (May) meeting, but there was less agreement on whether July or August would be preferable to the September/October meeting. It was noted that the summer options may be more acceptable if that was the virtual meeting, with the in-person meeting be held early in the year.

The SEFSC noted that making the shift in timing would potentially cause issues with reviewing the SoWs for upcoming assessments. SEDAR Staff will determine the status of the SoWs for the 2026 OAs and provide that information to the Center to evaluate the feasibility of shifting the meeting timing beginning in 2024.

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.

MEETING OUTCOME

The timing of the next meeting will be determined once the status of the 2026 OA SoWs is determined, and the Center can provide feedback on timing from their perspective.

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					S87 OA Shrimp	Hogfish (PR) Red Hind (USVI) Benchmark		Bull, Spinner, Tiger, Finetooth Sharks RT	Black Grouper Benchmark /MSE?	Atl Menhaden (RW only)	
2027			Snowy Grouper OA	Dolphin MP? RW Only?	GAJ Benchmark		Gray Triggerfish OA	Cobia OA?	Gag Grouper OA						
2028	Red Snapper OA	GAJ Benchmark?						Tilefish Complex OA?	Scamp OA			Bull, Spinner, Tiger, Finetooth Sharks OA			
2029	Vermilion OA		White Grunt RT				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.