



# SEDAR

*SouthEast Data, Assessment, and Review*

4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, North Charleston, SC 29405

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Carrie Simmons, Executive Director, GMFMC  
FROM: Julie A. Neer, SEDAR Coordinator  
DATE: February 12, 2024  
RE: Request for Approval of Terms of Reference for SEDAR 96, Florida Yellowtail Snapper

Enclosed are draft Terms of Reference for the SEDAR 96 Florida yellowtail snapper assessment process. These Terms of Reference have been produced in consultation with the SEDAR 96 FWC analytical team and recommended by the SAFMC's SSC. Please review this information, modify if necessary, and approve according to Gulf of Mexico Council SEDAR procedures.

SEDAR 96 will have one Topical Working Group to discuss recreational landings. The group will meet over two or three webinars between May and September 2024. The assessment should be completed late 2024/early 2025. The draft detailed project schedule is included for your information.

I would appreciate it if these Terms of Reference could be included for discussion and approval at your earliest convenience. Please inform me of the results of your consideration via a memo indicating your decision by March 31, 2024.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

cc  
Ryan Rindone





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## SEDAR 96: Southeastern US Yellowtail Snapper Operational Assessment Terms of Reference DRAFT: February 2024

1. Update the SEDAR 64 Southeastern U.S. Yellowtail Snapper base model (including modifications approved in the 2022 Interim analysis) with data through 2023.
  - Explore the State of Florida's State Reef Fish Survey (SRFS) to inform private recreational landings data and consider its use in the current assessment.
  - Document any changes or corrections made to model and input datasets and provide updated input data tables.
  - Update life history data (e.g., growth, reproduction, natural mortality) if warranted.
2. Update model parameter estimates and their variances, model uncertainties, estimates of stock status and management benchmarks, and provide the probability of overfishing occurring at specified future harvest and exploitation levels. Provide commercial and recreational landings and discards in pounds (whole weight) and numbers.
  - Use the following status determination criteria (SDC):
    - $MSY = \text{yield at } F_{MSY} \text{ (or proxy)}$
    - $MSST = 0.75 * SSB_{MSY}$
    - $MFMT = F_{MSY} \text{ (or proxy) and } F_{Rebuild} \text{ (if overfished)}$
    - $OY = ABC$ , based on the SAFMC ABC control rule
    - If different SDC are recommended, provide outputs for both the requested and recommended SDC.
  - Unless otherwise recommended, use the geometric mean of the previous three years' fishing mortality to determine  $F_{Current}$ . If an alternative approach is recommended, provide justification and outputs for the current and alternative approach.
  - Once projections are parameterized and the scientific uncertainty evaluated, provide yield and spawning stock biomass streams for the overfishing limit and acceptable biological catch in pounds (whole weight):
    - Annually for five years using constant  $F$
    - Under a "constant catch" scenario for both three and five years
    - For the equilibrium yield at  $F_{MSY}$ , when estimable
3. Develop a stock assessment report to address these terms of reference and fully document the input data, methods, and results of the analyses.





**SEDAR 96  
SE US Yellowtail Snapper  
Operational Assessment  
Schedule of Events**

**Draft: February 2024**

Terms of Reference Approved.....	April 2024
Workshop Appointments Final.....	March 2024
Deadline for Management History .....	April 2024
Recreational Landings Topical Working Group Scoping Webinar.....	<i>week of 20 May 2024</i>
<i>Review topics to be investigated and request analysis</i>	
Deadline for Unprocessed Data (raw age & length data).....	21 June 2024
Deadline for MRIP catch, SRHS and commercial landings.....	12 July 2024
Deadline for submission of final analytical data .....	2 August 2024
Working paper submission to SEDAR Staff .....	9 August 2024
Recreational Landings Topical Working Group Webinar I.....	<i>week of 26 August 2024</i>
<i>Review analysis and modeling to date; make recommendations</i>	
Recreational Landings Topical Working Group Webinar II (if needed).....	<i>week of 23 September 2024</i>
<i>Review analysis and make recommendations</i>	
Assessment Report to SEDAR staff: .....	18 November 2024
Complete Assessment Report Submitted to Council:.....	27 November 2024

<sup>1</sup>These are primary data milestones. See the data delivery timeline for specific details on when specific data components are due.

Assessment Information and Contacts

Prior Assessment: SEDAR 64

Terminal year of prior assessment: 2018

Terminal year for this assessment: 2023

Lead Analyst and Agency: Chris Swanson (chris.swanson@MyFWC.com)

Data Manager: TBD

SEDAR Coordinator: Julie Neer (Julie.neer@safmc.net)

SEDAR Cooperator: Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils