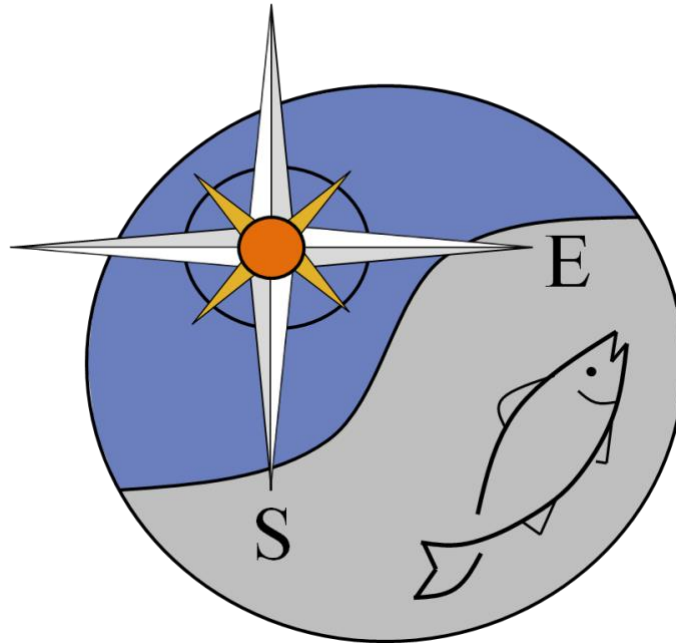


SEDAR



SEDAR Steering Committee

Meeting Brief

October 13, 2021

Meeting via Webinar

Webinar link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/7889795691615424783>

Version: BB

9/27/2021

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DOCUMENTS

Attachment 1: May 2021 Draft Meeting Summary

Attachment 2: SEDAR Projects Update October 2021

Attachment 3: Research Track/Operational Assessment/Topical Working Group Guidance Document

Attachment 4: SEDAR Projects List

Attachment 5: Modifications to the Project Planning Grid from the October 2020 Steering Committee Summary and Follow-Up

1 Introduction

1.1 Documents

- Agenda
- Attachment 1. May 2021 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 September 2021

2.2 Summary

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

Highlighted project developments:

- SEDAR 68 – Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Scamp: The SEDAR 68 Review Workshop was held virtually August 30-Sept 3, 2021. Overall, the assessments were well received, though the RW Panel did request modifications that resulted in new base model configurations for both assessments. The final Stock Assessment Reports are on track to be released by the October 1, 2021, deadline.
- SEDAR 72 - Gulf of Mexico Gag Grouper: The final Stock Assessment Report for Gulf of Mexico Gag Grouper was released on 27 August 2021. The report was reviewed by the GMFMC SSC at its September 2021 meeting.
- SEDAR 74 -Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper: The Stock ID Process held a Scoping webinar in November 2020, and three Stock ID discussion webinars were held between May and July 2021. The final Stock ID Report was released on August 20th. After the release of the report, the SEFSC requested that additional discussions be held to clarify the consensus recommendation of the CPUE/Landings workshop that was stated in the report. An additional webinar will be held on October 6th to discuss this issue.
- COVID-19 Impacts to ongoing projects:
 - SEDAR 74 -Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper: The Data Workshop for S74 was scheduled to be held in-person November 1-5, 2021. Given the inability of NMFS staff to travel, and the high proportion of other virtual attendees, it was the Gulf Council's request that this workshop be moved to the earliest convenient date in 2022 to better facilitate a greater proportion of in-person attendance. With red snapper being one of the most socially and economically important species in

the Gulf of Mexico, the Gulf Council felt it only best to try to bolster the in-person attendance by both scientists and fishermen.

The SEFSC reviewed the current activities schedule and determined that the Data Workshop will be rescheduled for May 2-6, 2022. The assessment is now slated to be completed in May 2023.

- SEDAR 77 – HMS Hammerhead Sharks: The Data Workshop for S77 was scheduled to be held as an in-person meeting in Charleston, SC December 13-17, 2021. Given the rise in COVID cases and the inability of NMFS staff to travel to attend, the DW has been moved to a virtual format to be held the original week. This should not impact the overall Project Schedule.

2.3 Action

- Informational; none required

3 SEDAR Process Review and Discussion

3.1 Documents

Attachment 3. Research Track/Operational Assessment/Topical Working Group Guidance Document

3.2 Summary

- The SEDAR 68 Scamp Review Workshop was held via webinar August 30-September 3, 2021. Overall, the assessments were well received, though the RW Panel did request modifications that resulted in new base model configurations for both assessments. The reports are on track to be released by the 1 October 2021 deadline. Once released, this will be the completion of the Pilot Research Track.
- During discussions between the Review Panel and the Analytic Team, there appeared to be a lack of clarity regarding what was expected during the Review Process, what product should result, and what analyses and modifications could be explored during the Operational Assessment component to follow.

According to the Guidance document:

- The goal of a Research Track assessment is to produce a robust assessment tool that is thoroughly documented and independently peer-reviewed. The Review Panel is tasked with recommending a base configuration for review by the Cooperator's technical body. The base configuration serves as the foundation for subsequent Operational Assessments.
- The purpose of an OA is to provide analyses to support management advice with up-to-date data. The previously peer-reviewed assessment model is applied to the most recent data. Requests to incorporate compelling new information must be included in specific ToRs. A brief report should be provided that provides management quantities and addresses the TORs.

- In the case of OAs that immediately follow an RT, any departures from the approved RT should be rare and include only the most compelling recommendations made during the CIE or SSC reviews.
 - There is no Statement of Work (SoW) for this process. The corresponding ToRs should be negotiated between the Cooperators and lead analytic agency immediately following the SSC review.
 - This OA should be completed within 6 months, though it may take slightly longer for first time assessments.

The Committee is asked to discuss if changes to this approach need to be considered.

3.3 Action

- Discussion of the Research Track and Operational Assessment Process

4 Assessment Schedule Review

4.1 Documents

Attachment 4. SEDAR Projects List

Attachment 5. Modifications to the Project Planning Grid from the May 2021 Steering Committee report

Attachment 6: SOWs

4.2 Summary

- The Master Scheduling meeting with SEDAR and SESFC for 2023 planning was held in July 2021.
 - All assessments identified by the Steering Committee to be held in 2023 were successfully added to the schedule.
 - The OAs for S68 Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Scamp needed to be fit into the 2022 schedule. That was challenging as most of the available time was already allocated to the 2022 assessments. The Gulf of Mexico Scamp OA will take place between January and August 2022. The Atlantic Scamp OA is scheduled to occur between January and November 2022. Both OA schedules are outside the guidance for timing of OAs following a Research Track that was provided to the Committee at the May 2021 meeting:

Discussion regarding the timing of an OA which immediately follows a RT clarified that the OA should be completed within 4-6 months of the Cooperator's technical body review. It was acknowledged that it may take longer for a first-time assessment, as there may be more topics to address once the feedback from the Review Panel and Cooperator technical body is received. It was also noted

that it may not be possible to address every issue raised by the review bodies in that time frame.

- CFMC: The SEFSC and the CFMC determined that a Benchmark assessment for Puerto Rico Yellowtail Snapper and USVI Stoplight Parrotfish can be conducted in 2023, and that was added to the schedule during the Master Scheduling call.
- GMFMC Schedule Update: The GMFMC requested that the Southeast Fisheries Science Center complete a data triage on the three species of tilefish currently included in the Council's tilefishes complex: golden tilefish, blueline tilefish, and goldface tilefish. This data triage should determine whether the three species should be assessed together, or whether the data available can support assessments on the three species individually. Given the need to complete this data triage prior to moving forward with the next tilefish assessment, the GMFMC will request moving the assessment to 2025 in order to accommodate the timeliness of this request and benefit all parties involved.
- SAFMC Schedule Update: The SAFMC requests that a Red Snapper Research Track assessment be prioritized to begin in 2025. This will likely require the White Grunt RT be postponed.
- HMS Schedule Update: The HMS Division requests a Research Track assessment for Spinner, Bull, Tiger, and Finetooth sharks, to begin in 2024.
- Chair Porch will provide the Committee an update on the ongoing Gulf of Mexico Shrimp Working Groups.
- The Committee is asked to review the project schedule for 2024 and provide priorities for 2025 and beyond.

4.3 Action

- Consider any needed modifications to the 2023 Projects
- Review 2024 Priorities
- Consider long-term priorities (2025/2026)

5 Other Business

- Potential Rise in Travel Expenses and its Impact on the SEDAR Budget Outlook

During the May 2021 Steering Committee meeting, the Committee requested that SEDAR Staff, working with SAFMC Staff, provide information on the potential increase in travel expenses. It was assumed that several meetings would be well in the planning stages for Fall 2021, and Staff would have data to inform this discussion. As the global pandemic continues to hamper our ability to meet in person, those Fall meetings have been postponed or moved to virtual.

With that information in mind SA Council Staff pulled together the following table for your consideration:

Budget Year		Travel Est.		% of Budget
2021		149,449		25%
2022		162,233		27%

This is assuming that the SEDAR budget remains level at \$600,00

Overall, it appears that the estimated travel expenses are in line with the budgeted amounts for 2022.

- Update on Fishery- Independent Indices Procedural Workshop In-Person workshop options

SEDAR Staff convened the Steering Committee for PW08 to discuss options for the January meeting given the current concerns that NOAA has regarding SEFSC staff’s ability to travel. The Committee suggested we explore options to postpone the in-person workshop to April 2022 as a final attempt to hold an in-person workshop with as many in-person attendees as possible. The meeting has been rescheduled to April 19-21, 2022. If the meeting is not able to be held in-person at that time, the meeting will be held virtually.

5.1 Action

- None

6 Next Meeting

The Committee is asked to make scheduling recommendations and suggest topics for the next meeting. Based on past practices, the next meeting would be a webinar-based meeting in May 2022.

Table 1: SEDAR Project Planning Grid – October 2021 SEDAR Steering Committee Discussion Draft

Table Color Legend:

Steering Committee Approved and SEFSC Scheduled Projects					FUTURE Requests									
Steering Committee Approved, PENDING SEFSC SCHEDULING					2024 Preliminary Projects – To Be Finalized at the May 2022 Meeting									
SEDAR SCHEDULE OVERVIEW – October 2021 SEDAR Steering Committee Discussion														
YEAR	SA Team				Gulf Team				Caribbean Team	HMS Team		FL FWCC	ASMFC GSMFC	CMP/ Shrimp
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4		1	2			
2021	Scamp RT	Red Snapper OA	Gag Grouper OA	Tilefish OA	Scamp RT	Gag Grouper OA			Queen Trigger PR-STX-STT OA				Gulf Menhaden OA	
2022	Scamp OA		Spanish Mackerel OA		Scamp OA	Gray Snapper OA	Red Snapper RT	Red Snapper RT		Hammerheads RT		Mutton Snapper Bench	ASFMC Menhaden OA	
		Gray Triggerfish RT	Black Sea Bass OA											Gulf Spanish Mackerel OA
2023	Vermilion OA			Red Grouper OA	Yellowedge OA				Yellowtail (PR); Stoplight Parrotfish (USVI)					
						Red Snapper OA	Red Snapper OA			HH OA	HH OA			
2024	White Grunt RT		Tilefish OA	Blueline Tilefish OA	Red Grouper OA		Tilefish or Blueline OA	Vermilion OA	Spiny Lobster OA (all islands)			Hogfish Bench	ASFMC Red Drum (RW)/ Gulf Menhaden OA	Gulf Shrimp
2025		Snowy Grouper OA	Red Porgy OA	GAJ OA/RT	Gray Triggerfish RT		Lane Snapper OA	Cobia OA	Caribbean Hogfish					King Mackerel OA (SA & Gulf)
2026	Gag Grouper OA	GAJ OA/RT										Black Grouper Bench?		
2027			Red snapper RT											

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.