SEDAR Steering Committee

Projects Report

May 2019

Completed Projects, September 2018 – April 2019

1 project assessing 1 stock

SEDAR 63 Gulf of Mexico Menhaden, Review

SEDAR Contact: Julie Neer

Summary: The Gulf of Mexico Menhaden Review Workshop was held November 6-7, 2018 in New Orleans, LA. The final Stock Assessment Report was released December 2018.

Projects in Progress

10 projects addressing 10 stocks

2019 Federal Government Shutdown Impacts

The summary information listed under each project indicates the original project plan, prior to the shutdown. There is an additional entry that details how this original plan was modified to address shutdown impacts. Providing both allows the Committee to easily see how the shutdown affected each assessment.

SAFMC SSC MRIP Concerns Impacts

The SAFMC SSC raised concerns about the current MRIP data and its usage in ongoing assessments. The SAFMC has supported an SSC request to hold a workshop dedicated to addressing MRIP concerns and determining how to move ahead in using MRIP data for assessments and management recommendations for unassessed stocks. SAFMC assessments of Red Porgy, Greater Amberjack, and Tilefish are currently on hold until these issues are resolved.

SEDAR 57: Caribbean Spiny Lobster, Benchmark

SEDAR Contact: Julie Neer

Summary: The Terms of Reference and Project Schedule for this assessment were originally approved in July 2017, with the Data Workshop scheduled for January 23-25, 2018 in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Unfortunately, the damage from the hurricanes in September 2017 required that the assessment be put on hold until conditions improved. The updated Project schedule included a Data Workshop June 20-22, 2018 in San Juan, Puerto Rico; Assessment webinars September – November 2018; and the Review Workshop in Miami, FL January 29-31, 2019. The assessment should be completed March 2019.

SHUTDOWN IMPACTS

The Caribbean spiny lobster Review Workshop had to be postponed due to the shutdown. Due to issues regarding hotel and participant availability, the Review Workshop was postponed several months. The RW will be held July 9-11, 2019, with the completed SAR available to the Cooperator in August 2019.

SEDAR 58 Atlantic Cobia, Benchmark

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

Summary: Atlantic Cobia was originally scheduled as a Research Track assessment. However, at their May 2017 meeting, the SEDAR Steering Committee recommended conducting cobia as a Benchmark assessment, including a Stock ID evaluation based on the process developed by the Steering Committee in September 2016. Cooperators made workshop appointments for the Stock ID process in December 2018. The Stock ID Workshop was held April 10-12, 2018; the Stock ID Review Workshop was held June 5-7, 2018; the Joint Cooperator Technical Review was held July 30, 2018 via webinar; and the Science and Management Leadership Call was canceled due to guidance from the SEDAR Steering Committee which indicated this call was not necessary if there was not a change in the stock boundary. The final Cobia Stock ID Process Compiled Report was distributed August 17, 2018.

The ASMFC and SAFMC approved the assessment ToRs and schedule in May and June 2018, respectively. Appointments were made by both Cooperators in June 2018. The terminal year of the assessment is 2017. The schedule has been delayed approximately six weeks to allow for inclusion of the fully calibrated MRIP data.

SHUTDOWN IMPACTS

The Cobia Data Workshop was held April 1 - 5, 2019. The rest of the schedule was updated to have the review workshop scheduled for November 19-21, 2019 with the completed SAR available to the Cooperators in January 2020.

SEDAR 59 South Atlantic Greater Amberjack, Standard

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

Summary: A standard assessment was requested to allow consideration of video and headboat at-sea indices, to reconsider the use of age and length composition data, and to incorporate the latest BAM model configurations and updates to data calculation methodologies. The terminal year of the assessment was 2016, but due to delays in the fully calibrated MRIP data for use in assessments, the terminal year was advanced to 2017. The Council made appointments and approved the schedule and terms of reference in December 2017. A Data Scoping webinar was held on March 30, 2018. The original schedule included a data deadline for updated data of May 25, 2018; a series of Assessment webinars from June – October 2018; and was scheduled to be complete in December 2018, and review by the SSC in Spring 2019.

On the Data Scoping webinar, there was discussion on the availability and inclusion of the fully calibrated MRIP estimates into SEDAR 59. Further discussions noted that availability of the fully calibrated MRIP data would affect all 2018 SEDAR Projects. The SEDAR 59 schedule was delayed allowing for the including fully calibrated MRIP data

and advancing the terminal year. The original schedule included an updated data deadline of November 2, 2018 and a series of Assessment webinars from December 2018 – March 2019, and completion in mid-May 2019.

SHUTDOWN IMPACTS

The Greater Amberjack assessment will be pushed back a few months, to a completion date in late June. This will still allow the assessment to be considered by the SAFMC SSC in October 2019 and will therefore not result in any changes to the Council's timing of actions.

This project is on hold, pending SAFMC SSC workshop.

SEDAR 60 South Atlantic Red Porgy, Standard

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

Summary: A standard assessment was requested to allow consideration of new video index data, reconsider the use of age and length composition data, and to incorporate the latest BAM model configurations and updates to data calculation methodologies. The terminal year of the assessment is 2017. The Council made appointments and approved the schedule and terms of reference in December 2017. The original schedule included an updated data deadline of August 10, 2018; a series of webinars from June 2018 – January 2019; and was scheduled to be complete in March 2019.

To allow for inclusion of the fully calibrated MRIP data, the SEDAR 60 schedule was delayed. The revised schedule included a Data Scoping webinar which was held June 29, 2018; an in-person workshop planned for February 5-7, 2019 in the Beaufort, NC area; and a series of webinars from January – April 2019. The assessment was scheduled to be complete in June 2019.

SHUTDOWN IMPACTS

Based on the planning group recommendation to cancel the in-person workshop, the Red Porgy assessment would be pushed back a few months, to a completion date in late August. Completing the assessment by late August will allow the assessment to be considered by the SAFMC SSC in October 2019 and will therefore not result in any changes to the Council's timing of actions. However, due to concerns raised subsequently by the SAFMC regarding the MRIP estimates, the Council rejected eliminating the in-person workshop.

This project is on hold, pending SAFMC SSC workshop.

SEDAR 61 Gulf of Mexico Red Grouper, Standard

SEDAR Contact: Julie Neer

Summary: An assessment following a Standard approach is underway for Gulf of Mexico red grouper, last assessed as a benchmark in SEDAR 42. The terminal year of this assessment was 2016, but due to delays in the fully calibrated MRIP data for use in assessment, the terminal year was advanced to 2017. The Terms of Reference and Project Schedule for this assessment were approved in December 2017. The Data deadline was pushed back until 17 August, 2018 and an in-person workshop has been scheduled for September 11-13, 2018 in St.

Petersburg, FL. Assessment webinars are scheduled for November 2018 through April 2019, and the assessment should be completed June 2019.

SHUTDOWN IMPACTS

The red grouper assessment was minimally impacted by the shutdown, missing only one assessment webinar in January 2019. Given that, the assessment will now be available to the Cooperator in July 2019.

SEDAR 62 Gulf of Mexico Gray Triggerfish, Standard

SEDAR Contact: Julie Neer

Summary: An assessment following a Standard approach is underway for Gulf of Mexico gray triggerfish, last assessed as a Standard in SEDAR 43. The terminal year of this assessment was 2016, but due to delays in the fully calibrated MRIP data for use in assessment, the terminal year was advanced to 2017. The Terms of Reference and Project Schedule for this assessment were approved in January 2018. The Data deadline for updated data was scheduled for July 13, 2018 and an in-person workshop has been scheduled for October 16-18, 2018 in Miami, FL but both scheduled items were postponed due to the MRIP calibration adjustments required by the SEFSC. The new deadline for the unprocessed data is September 21st, 2019, and the final data is due December 14th, 2019. The in-person workshop has been rescheduled to March 19-21. 2019 in Miami, Florida. Assessment webinars are now scheduled for April – June 2019, and the assessment should be completed August 2019.

SHUTDOWN IMPACTS

The Gray Triggerfish assessment will be pushed back approximately 2 months. Due to hotel availability, the In-person Workshop will now be held May 20-22, 2019. Assessment webinars will be held June-September 2019, with the completed SAR available to the Cooperator in October 2019.

SEDAR 64: Southeastern US Yellowtail Snapper, Benchmark

SEDAR Contact: Julie Neer

Summary: The State of Florida is taking the lead on the assessment of Southeastern US Yellowtail Snapper. SEDAR Staff worked with FWRI to produce a Project Schedule and Terms of Reference, which were approved by both Councils in June 2018. The Project Schedule has the assessment getting underway late 2018, with a raw data deadline in December 2018. The terminal year of data is 2017. The Data Workshop scheduled for February 25-27, 2019 was postponed due to the shutdown. The assessment was originally scheduled for completion in October 2019.

SHUTDOWN IMPACTS

The Yellowtail Snapper assessment will be pushed back approximately 4 months. Due to hotel availability, the Data Workshop will be held June 25-27, 2019. The Review Workshop is now scheduled for February 25-27, 2020, with the completed SAR available to the Cooperators in March 2020.

SEDAR 65 HMS Atlantic Blacktip Shark, Benchmark

SEDAR Contact: Julie Neer

Summary: The benchmark assessment of Atlantic blacktip shark is just getting underway. The Project schedule and Terms of Reference were approved in April 2019. Participants are in the process of being appointed. Several Data Webinars will be held between May and September 2019. The Data Workshop is scheduled to be held October 29-November 1, 2019 in Charleston, SC. Assessment webinars will be held between March and June 2020, with a Review Workshop scheduled for November 3-5, 2020 in Panama City, Florida.

SEDAR 67 Gulf of Mexico Vermilion Snapper, Standard

SEDAR Contact: Julie Neer

Summary: An assessment following a Standard approach is underway for Gulf of Mexico vermilion snapper, last assessed as a Standard in SEDAR 45. The terminal year of this assessment is 2017. The Terms of Reference and Project Schedule for this assessment were approved in January 2019. A data scoping call will beheld in late April 2019. An in-person workshop is scheduled for November 13-15, 2019 in Miami, FL. Assessment webinars are scheduled for December 2019 through January 2020, and the assessment should be completed March 2020.

SEDAR 68: Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Scamp, Research Track (1 or 2 stocks)

SEDAR Contact: Julie A Neer

Summary: A Scamp Research Track assessment was preliminarily scheduled to start the first quarter of 2018. At their May 2017 meeting, the SEDAR Steering Committee delayed the start of the Scamp Research Track assessment until 2019 due to the Research Track process not being adequately described. A planning team met via webinar October 10, 2018 to develop a project milestone schedule and Terms of Reference (ToR). A Joint SAFMC and GMFMC SSC Sub-Panel is scheduled to meet via webinar on November 27, 2018 to review the draft ToRs and schedule which will them be provided for review and approval by the Gulf and South Atlantic Councils.

SHUTDOWN IMPACTS

The Scamp Research Track will be delayed significantly as a result of the shutdown. SEDAR and SEFSC staff agreed that completing the other ongoing projects were a higher priority in the recovery effort. The Scamp planning group met in late February to update the project plan. Some of the milestones preliminarily agreed to include an aging workshop in early August 2019 and stock ID webinars in August and September 2019. Currently, the Data Workshop will be held in March 2020, with assessment webinars between July and October 2020. The Review Workshop is tentatively scheduled for March 2021, with an operational assessment in late 2021, but that will depend on the progress of the assessment.

SEDAR 38 Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic King Mackerel, Update

SEDAR Contact: Julie Neer

Summary: The Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic King Mackerel Update assessments are underway. TORs were approved by the GMFMC in January 2019, and by the SAFMC in March 2019.

SHUTDOWN IMPACTS

The King Mackerel assessment will be pushed back to a completion date in March 2020.

Upcoming Projects – Planning Underway

4 projects addressing 4 stocks

SEDAR 69 ASMFC Atlantic Menhaden, Review

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

Summary: The Atlantic Menhaden review workshop is scheduled for November 4-8th, 2019. The terminal year for the assessment is 2017. The completion date of the assessment is December 2019.

SEDAR 28 Gulf of Mexico Cobia, Update

SEDAR Contact: Julie Neer

Summary: The Gulf of Mexico Update assessment of cobia is in the planning stages. TORs were approved by the GMFMC in January 2019. The completion date is scheduled for April 2020.

SEDAR 66 South Atlantic Tilefish, Standard

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

Summary: The South Atlantic Tilefish standard assessment is in the planning stages. The TORs were approved by SAFMC in December 2017. The terminal year for data is 2018. The completion date is April, 2020.
This project is on hold, pending SAFMC SSC workshop.

SEDAR 36 South Atlantic Snowy Grouper, Update

SEDAR Contact: Kathleen Howington

Summary: The South Atlantic snowy Grouper update assessment is in the planning stages. The TORs were approved by the SAFMC in December 2018**.** The terminal year for data is 2018. The completion date is April 2020.
This project is on hold, pending SAFMC SSC workshop.

2020 SAFMC SEDAR Operational Assessment Scope of Work

Spanish Mackerel

Model and Additional Data Years

- Update the Atlantic Spanish Mackerel SEDAR 28 BAM model, terminal year 2011. (This will add 7-8 years of new data, depending on the chosen terminal year.)
- Apply the current BAM configuration incorporating approved improvements developed since SEDAR 28

Data updates

- Update growth and reproductive models if additional samples are available for fish below 275 mm
- If available, include any improved information on steepness for similar pelagic species.
- Consider a sensitivity run to evaluate the impacts of the revised MRIP data.

Process

- Convene a panel of several SSC representatives to meet via webinar, as needed to review model development and provide guidance.
- Given the lack of specific assessment issues noted through reviews by both the SSC and the RW, this should be a straight forward OA that operates similar to a current update assessment.

Gag

Model and Additional Data Years

- Update the South Atlantic Gag update assessment from 2014, terminal year 2012. (This will add 6-7 years of new data, depending on the chosen terminal year.)
- Apply the current BAM configuration incorporating approved improvements developed since the 2014 update.
- Evaluate whether the model is able to reliably estimate steepness at this time.

Data updates

- Consider including the SERFS video index to address the need for additional fishery independent information.
- Evaluate how the species identification issues raised during the prior Black Grouper assessment attempt affect Gag.
- Consider a sensitivity run to evaluate the impacts of the revised MRIP data.

Process

- Convene a panel of several SSC representatives to meet via webinar, as needed to review model development and provide guidance.
- Based on the SSC suggestions that the next assessment should be a standard and should evaluate the fixed steepness assumption and consider including the video index, this project will likely resemble a current standard assessment.

SEDAR XX: Gulf of Mexico Gag Grouper
Operational Assessment DRAFT Terms of Reference
3 October 2018

1. Update the approved SEDAR 33 Update Gulf of Mexico gag grouper base model with data through 2019.

2. Document any changes or corrections made to model and input datasets and provide updated input data tables.
   - Re-evaluate the potential effects of red tide on gag, with consideration of past red tide events through 2018.
   - Document changes in MRIP data, both pre- and post-recalibration, in terms of the magnitude of changes to catch and effort.

3. 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 and numbers.
   - Examine spawning stock biomass with respect to females only, and males and females combined, as the data allow.
   - Use the following status determination criteria (SDC) adopted in Amendment 30B:
     - MSY proxy = yield at F_{MAX}
     - MSST = $0.5*B_{MAX}$
     - MFMT = F_{MAX}
     - If different SDC ae recommended, provide outputs for both the current 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.
   - Provide yield streams for the overfishing limit and acceptable biological catch in pounds:
     - Annually for five years
     - Under a "constant catch" scenario for both three and five years
     - For the equilibrium yield at F_{MSY}, when estimable

4. Develop a stock assessment report to address these TORS and fully document the input data and results of the stock assessment and the comparison model.

SEDAR XX: Gulf of Mexico Greater Amberjack
Operational Assessment DRAFT Terms of Reference
3 October 2018

1. Update the approved SEDAR 33 Update Gulf of Mexico greater amberjack base model with data through 2017.

2. Document any changes or corrections made to model and input datasets and provide updated input data tables. Document changes in MRIP data, both pre- and post-recalibration, in terms of the magnitude of changes to catch and effort.

3. 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 and numbers.
   - Use the following status determination criteria (SDC):
     - MSY proxy = yield at $F_{SPR\ 30\%}$ or $F_{Rebuild}$ (if overfished)
     - MSST = $0.5*B_{SPR\ 30\%}$
     - MFMT = $F_{SPR\ 30\%}$ or $F_{Rebuild}$ (if overfished)
     - If different SDC ae recommended, provide outputs for both the current 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.
   - Provide yield streams for the overfishing limit and acceptable biological catch in pounds:
     - Annually for five years
     - Under a "constant catch" scenario for both three and five years
     - For the equilibrium yield at F_{MSY}, when estimable

4. Develop a secondary model, such as a surplus production model (e.g., Just Another Bayesian Biomass Assessment model [Winker et al. 2018]) to perform a side-by-side comparison with the proposed base model from Stock Synthesis.

5. Develop a stock assessment report to address these TORS and fully document the input data and results of the stock assessment and the comparison model.