

Overview of SEDAR Steering Committee Meeting Outcomes

February 4-5th, 2025
Charleston, SC



Overview



- Role of SEDAR in the Assessment Process
- Assessment Schedule Review
- Other Business Items

SEDAR Process Review



- SEFSC proposing to take responsibility for the assessment component of the SEDAR process.
 - Data and Review components remain unchanged
- Transparency was discussed:
 - Data Workshops or webinars public opportunity
 - Review workshops are currently open to the public

SEDAR Process Review continued



- SEFSC to provide updates during SSC meetings and gather feedback
 - Examples in Gulf are red grouper and yellowedge grouper SEDARs
- SSC will review key decision points and provide feedback
 - SEFSC will incorporate prior to assessment review
- Close coordination discussed and recommended several months in advance
- Discussed engaging fishermen and stakeholders during APs meetings

SEDAR Process Review continued



- SEFSC Leadership: potential cuts to budget and personnel
 - If budgets and/or staffing is greatly reduced, stock assessment process may change
- SEFSC Staff revisited process recommendations
 - Focus on Key Stocks concept and Cooperator-specific long-term calendars

SEDAR Process Review continued



- Key stocks: high priority and/or highly controversial species
- Key stock concept helps the analyst by identifying priorities
- Require age- or stage-structured assessments
- Scheduling of key stocks assessments on a set frequency
- Committee discussed utilizing “simpler” models for some species
- Reduce complexity, determine which data are most informative and excluding the rest

Assessment Schedule – Gulf Requests



- Red grouper was, and shrimp will be, completed in 2025
- Florida FWC: Yellowtail snapper and mutton snapper completed
- King mackerel; gray triggerfish; Gulf hogfish begin in 2025
- Florida FWC: black grouper management strategy evaluation, began in 2024, on hold due to funding constraints
- **Recommendations for 2026:**
 - tilefish complex,
 - gag grouper,
 - greater amberjack (late 2026 start date)

Other Business



- IRA Funded SEFSC Projects Update
- Location for the SEDAR Steering Committee
- Discussion of the 2026 MRIP/FES pilot results and next steps

Questions

