

Agenda Item IV: Update on MRIP-Fishing Effort Survey (FES) Pilot Results

Timeline Status: Information and Feedback

Council Input and Next Steps: Dr. Richard Cody (NOAA S&T) will provide the Committee with an update on the 2026 pilot results of the MRIP Fishing Effort Survey (FES) and timing for the release of the calibrated historical time series by species. The SSC also received this information during its February 2026 meeting and the Committee will receive SSC comments. The Committee should ask any clarifying questions and consider the timing of the release of the calibrated historical time series for planning and scheduling of stock assessments and management needs in the short term. The Committee should provide feedback to the SSC and staff as appropriate regarding any long-term concerns.

Agenda Items V: SEDAR Steering Committee Assessment Schedule Updates and Meeting Outcomes

Timeline Status: Review and Feedback

Council Input and Next Steps: Council staff will provide an overview of the outcomes from the SEDAR Steering Committee meeting held in February 11-12, 2026, in Charleston, South Carolina (**Tab I, No. 5a**). The summary presentation and draft SEDAR Steering Committee report provide information on stock assessment delays due to the 2025 government shutdown; implications to the schedule due to the timing and release of the 2026 MRIP-FES pilot study results; Gulf assessment requests for 2027 and beyond, and other agenda items discussed by the Committee in other business. Next, Council staff will provide a detailed update on the Gulf stock assessment schedule based on SEDAR Steering Committee discussions and requests (**Tab I, No. 5b**). The Committee should ask questions and provide input on the updated SEDAR schedule including stocks they would like to see added to the 2028 schedule and beyond.