

**Gulf SEDAR Committee Report  
April 7, 2026  
Mr. JD Dugas – Chair**

The Committee adopted the agenda (**Tab I, No. 1**) and approved the minutes (**Tab I, No. 2**) of the August 2025 meeting as written.

*Update on MRIP-Fishing Effort Survey (FES) Pilot Results (Tab I, No. 4)*

Dr. Richard Cody (NOAA Office of Science and Technology) provided an update on the 2026 pilot results of the Marine Recreational Information Program Fishing Effort Survey (MRIP-FES) and timing for the release of the calibrated historical time series by species. A Council member asked how the updated calibration ratios would be used to correct historical landings data. Dr. Cody replied that the ratios would be applied to each species by area and time. Mr. Trevor Moncrief (Scientific and Statistical Committee Chair [SSC]) reviewed SSC discussions about the same presentation from the SSC's February 2026 meeting, which focused on differences in observed results between states, months, and other strata. Dr. Cody then reviewed the Recreational Angler Partnership Improvement Directive (RAPID). This is a re-envisioned partnership between federal and regional data collection partners for collecting recreational fishing data that is more partner-driven, as opposed to federally-driven.

*SEDAR Steering Committee Assessment Schedule Updates and Meeting Outcomes (Tab I, No. 5)*

Council staff reviewed the outcomes from the SEDAR Steering Committee meeting held in February 11-12, 2026 in Charleston, South Carolina, and a detailed update on the Gulf stock assessment schedule based on SEDAR Steering Committee discussions and requests.

A Council member asked about the king mackerel assessment, specifically about limiting factors for conducting an operational versus a benchmark assessment. The Council member identified concerns about start date and shrimp bycatch. The Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC) replied that the stated concerns were either being discussed, or could be discussed, as topical working groups of the current stock assessment effort. The Council member offered to make a list of his concerns for the SEFSC.

A Committee member asked about assessing other deepwater grouper species, like snowy grouper in 2029. The SEFSC replied that it was investigating the data available to evaluate Council-managed species and that snowy grouper may need to continue to be part of a complex, but that evaluation would better inform the right path forward.

*Other Business*

There was no other business discussed.

This concludes my report.