

**Process by which the Center/Council Prioritizes Stocks  
For Full (Benchmark) Assessment and for Update Assessments**

Extract from: " SEDAR Description and Background" SEDAR, May 2012:

2. Oversight and Administration

2.1 Oversight

Oversight of the SEDAR process and operations schedule is provided by the SEDAR Steering Committee. The Steering Committee is composed of the NOAA Fisheries Southeast Science Center Director; NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Administrator; Executive Directors of the South Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils; Chairs of the South Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils; and the Executive Directors of the Atlantic and Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commissions. Designees may attend Steering Committee meetings in place of these individuals. The Steering Committee shall elect a Chair and vice-Chair from its membership. Steering Committee officers shall serve 2 year terms. Officers may serve successive terms without limit.

Policy decisions, approval of SEDAR guidelines, determination of species to be assessed, and assessment project timing are established by the SEDAR Steering Committee. The SEDAR Steering Committee will meet at least twice annually to schedule specific species that will be assessed through the SEDAR process and consider any other issues associated with the SEDAR process. Assessments are scheduled a minimum of three years in advance and potential species are identified out several additional years. Such long-term advanced planning is intended to allow researchers to develop updated inputs and assess appropriate techniques and models for use in assessments. The committee also reviews progress on SEDAR assessments and recommends modifications of the SEDAR Process. SEDAR staff support steering committee activities.