

# FY16 Completed/Planned Assessments

Region	Q1 – Completed	Q2 – Planned	Q3 – Planned	Q4 - Planned	Total
NE	19	0	1	21	41
SE	10	2	3	9	24
NW/SW	2	66	0	0	68
SW	0	0	1	0	1
AK	59	1	4	5	69
PI	0	19	0	9	28
PI/SW	0	0	4	1	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>236</b>

# Assessments this Quarter

**During Quarter 4, 39 stocks were assessed, including 31 FSSI and 8 non-FSSI stocks.**

During Quarter 4, 31 assessments were completed for FSSI stocks and stock complexes, bringing the number of FSSI assessments completed during FY2015 to 88. In addition, 8 assessments were completed for non-FSSI stocks and stock complexes, bringing the number of non-FSSI assessments completed during FY2015 to 106. The total number of FSSI and non-FSSI assessments completed during FY2015 is 194 (see Table 1).

Key FSSI assessments completed during Quarter 4 include benchmark assessments for Gulf of Mexico gray triggerfish, three benchmark assessments for Pacific coast groundfish, full updates for Western Pacific territory bottomfish multi-species complexes, and 24 assessments for New England and Mid-Atlantic fish stocks.

Key non-FSSI stock assessments completed this quarter include annual updates for Alaskan salmon stocks, a new indicator-based assessment for Pacific shortfin mako shark, a full update for western and central Pacific striped marlin and a benchmark assessment for Pacific coast China rockfish.

There were 16 assessments expected to be completed by the end of FY2015 that were delayed due to a variety of reasons including concerns highlighted during the peer review process, delays in data availability, and changes in regional assessment schedules. The majority of these delayed assessments will be completed during Q1 of FY16.

At the end of FY15, the percentage of FSSI stocks with adequate assessments increased to an all-time high of 64.8% (129/199).

**Table 1. FY2015 Completed Assessments**

Science Center(s)	Quarter 1		Quarter 2		Quarter 3		Quarter 4	
	FSSI	Non-FSSI	FSSI	Non-FSSI	FSSI	Non-FSSI	FSSI	Non-FSSI
Northeast	4	0	0	0	1	0	24	0
Southeast	3	3	1	2	1	0	1	0
Northwest and Southwest <sup>1</sup>	0	0	2	64	6	0	3	1
Southwest	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Alaska	34	23	1	0	1	3	0	5
Pacific Islands	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	0
Southwest and Pacific Islands <sup>2</sup>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2

Footnotes:

<sup>1</sup>The Northwest and Southwest Fisheries Science Centers jointly conduct assessments for Pacific coast groundfish and Pacific coast salmon.

<sup>2</sup>The Southwest and Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Centers jointly conduct assessments for U.S. West Coast Fisheries for Highly Migratory Species and Pacific Pelagic Fisheries of the Western Pacific Region Ecosystem.

# Upcoming Assessments & Survey Activity

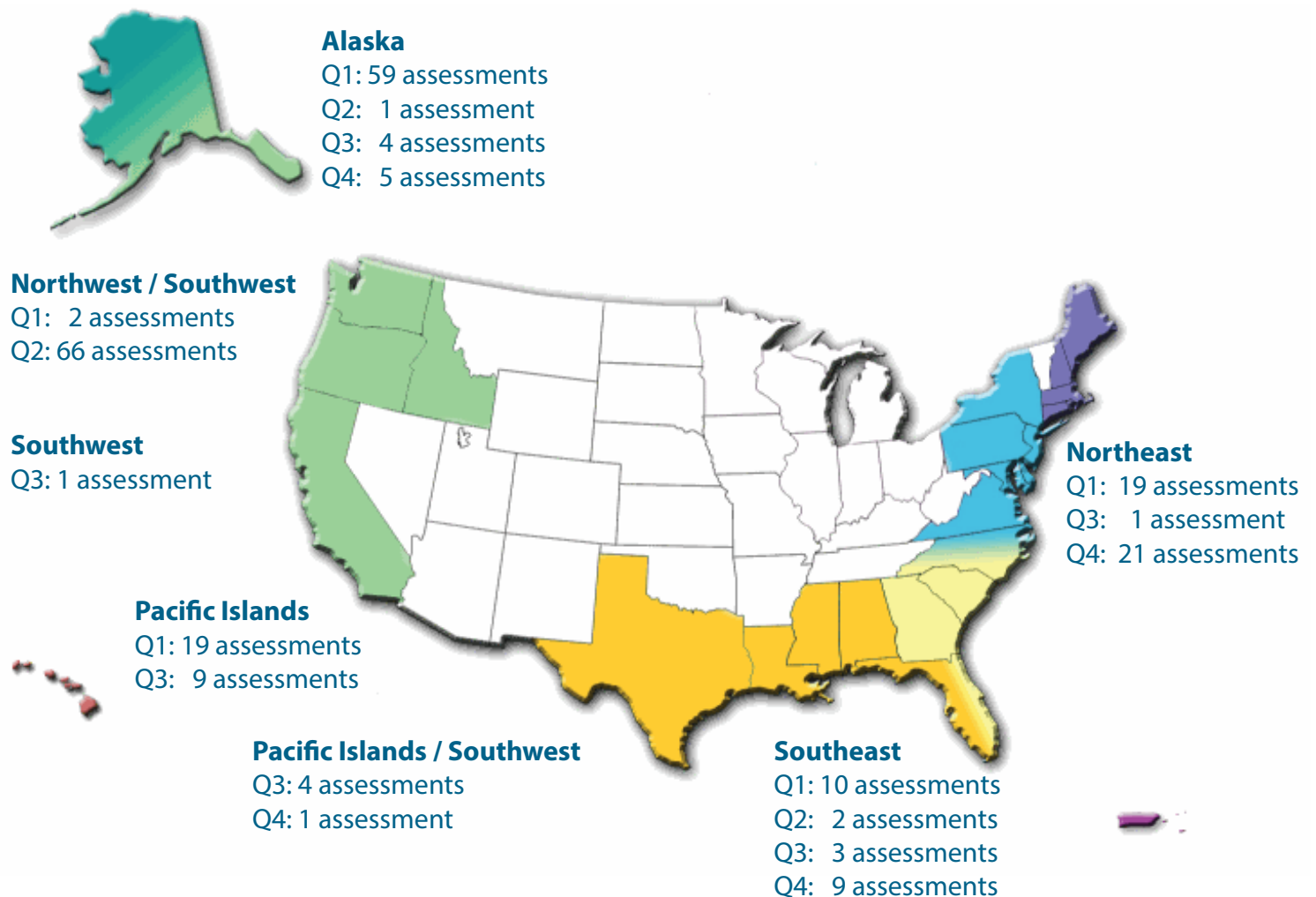
During FY2016 NOAA Fisheries plans to complete 104 assessments of FSSI stocks and 132 assessments of non-FSSI stocks. Many of these assessments will be completed during Q1 including assessment updates for Alaskan groundfish stocks, New England groundfish stocks and shrimp stocks in the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico. Benchmark assessments will be completed for Pacific coast black rockfish stocks, Pacific Island reef fish and Atlantic highly migratory stocks including blue shark and bigeye tuna.

The total number of assessments planned to be completed during FY2016 for FSSI and non-FSSI stocks is shown below. Detailed information for assessments completed in FY2015 and planned for FY2016 can be found in the supporting appendices of this report. Appendix A includes FY2015 completed assessments for FSSI stocks. Appendix B includes FY2015 completed assessments for non-FSSI stocks. Appendix C includes a list of all assessments planned for FY2016, including

both FSSI and non-FSSI stocks. Appendix D provides the assessment status of FSSI stocks. The information in these appendices represents the best available at the time of reporting and is subject to change.

NOAA Fisheries plans to complete 49 fishery-independent surveys during FY2016. While many surveys span multiple quarters, a majority of the planned surveys are scheduled for the second half of the fiscal year (April - September). The abundance and biological data collected during the year will go through extensive processing and analysis to become important inputs for future stock assessments.

For more information on assessment activities, including the assessment status for all FSSI stocks, please visit the NOAA Fisheries National Stock Assessment Enterprise website at <http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/stock-assessment/reports>.



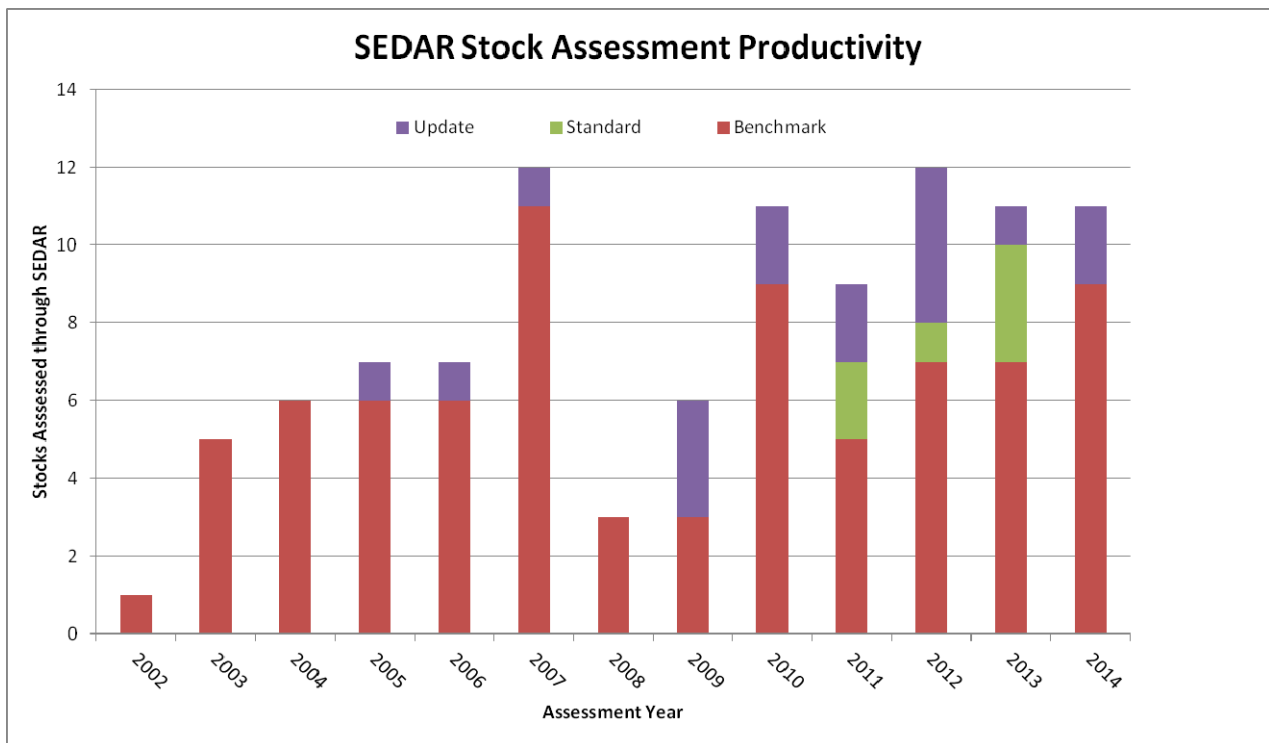
## SEDAR ASSESSMENT PRODUCTIVITY

September, 2013

SEDAR began in 2002 as a joint endeavor between the South Atlantic Council and the Southeast Fisheries Science Center. At that time there were no dedicated staff and limited assessment resources available in the region, so assessment output was low. Much of the work of the first few assessments was completed through joint efforts of state, university and federal scientists. Over the years the program has grown through hiring dedicated staff; expanding the scope to include all three Councils in the Southeast Region, the Highly Migratory Species Division of NOAA Fisheries and the Gulf and Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission; increasing assessment staff at the Southeast Center; and the contributions of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in assessing regional stocks.

The program now averages over 10 stock assessments per year (Figure 1). Assessment productivity has increased steadily over time, reaching an annual peak of 12 assessments in 2007 and 2012. From 2002 through 2013, 54 individual stocks were assessed, from one to four times each, for a total of 92 assessments prepared. An additional eleven assessments are planned in 2014, including one stock not previously assessed. A summary of assessed stocks, showing when and how often each was assessed, is provided in Table 1.

Figure 1. SEDAR assessment productivity by year and type.



Species	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Mean yrs between assessments
Black grouper								B						X				8.5
Cobia											B							17.0
Gag				B			U					B			P			4.3
Goliath grouper		R							B					X				5.7
Gray snapper																	P	17.0
Gray triggerfish				B					U				S					5.7
Greater amberjack				B					U			B			P			4.3
Hogfish		R										R						8.5
King mackerel		B					B					B						5.7
Menhaden									R		R							8.5
Mutton snapper					R							U						8.5
Red grouper				B			U						B					5.7
Red snapper			B				U				B	U				P		3.4
Scamp																	P	17.0
Spanish mackerel											B							17.0
Spiny lobster			R					U										8.5
Tilefish									B									17.0
Vermilion snapper				B					U					X				5.7
Yellowedge grouper								B									P	8.5
Yellowtail snapper	B									B						P		5.7

Data Poor Species:

Almaco jack																		X
Lane snapper																		X
Lesser amberjack																		X
Red drum																		X
Speckled hind																		X
Snowy grouper																		X
Wenchman																		X
Yellowmouth grouper																		X

B - Benchmark assessment  
 P - Proposed assessment  
 R - Review assessment  
 S - Standard assessment  
 U - Update assessment  
 X - Scheduled assessment