

South Atlantic Update



Published for fishermen and others interested in marine resource conservation issues

Fall 2011

Council to Take Action on Black Sea Bass, Red Grouper and Wreckfish

New assessment for black sea bass will be reviewed during December meeting; final public hearing

Both commercial and recreational fishermen who target black sea bass are acutely aware of the shortened seasons this fishing year. The commercial fishery reached its Annual Catch Limit (ACL) of 309,000 pounds in just 6 weeks after the fishery opened on June 1st. Recreational fishermen, including charter and head boat captains, were taken by surprise when NOAA Fisheries Service announced a reduction of the 409,000 pound recreational ACL and a few days later closed the recreational fishery effect October 17, 2011.

"I'm all for conservation, but this doesn't make sense," said Rosemary Knight, owner of Lady Stuart Charters with two party boats specializing in deep sea fishing in Ft. Pierce and Stuart, Florida. "I can understand the grouper restrictions, but not this black sea bass closure - and on top of the vermilion snapper closure [annual recreational closure November 1 - March 31]."

"We're seeing sea bass and vermilion everywhere," exclaimed Knight after learning about the early closure. "We rely on locals and snowbirds, not just tourists, and people need to understand the pain this is causing."

Annual Catch Limits were established in 2010 by the Council for black sea bass to help end overfishing and rebuild the stock as required by the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Accountability measures were also put into place to help ensure that if the ACLs were exceeded, action would be taken to keep the stock on its rebuilding schedule. Those measures include reducing the ACL by any overages.

For the 2010/2011 fishing year, NOAA Fisheries Service estimates recreational fishermen exceeded their limit by 67,253 pounds, and as a result, reduced the ACL to 341,747 pounds. Recreational estimates are made using data from NOAA Fisheries Service. The commercial ACL of 309,000 pounds was met within the first six weeks of the season opening on June 1, 2011 and the commercial fishery is also closed until June 1, 2012.

Looking for the latest regulations?

Download summaries (commercial and recreational) of updated regulations for species in the snapper grouper management complex in the "Fish ID and Regs" section of the Council's website at www.safmc.net.

Next Council Meeting
December 5-9, 2011 Council Meeting
Raleigh, NC
See page 7 for details



Courtesy of Lady Stuart Fishing Charters

Anglers on a recent party boat trip off the coast of Florida show their catch of triggerfish, vermilion snapper, black sea bass and yellowtail snapper. The recreational black sea bass fishery was closed on October 17th after reaching its Annual Catch Limit. The Council is considering increasing the current 12" minimum size limit for black sea bass in order to help extend the fishing season. The fishery will reopen June 1, 2012. There is an annual recreational seasonal closure for vermilion snapper from November 1st through March 31st. The commercial fishery for black sea bass and vermilion snapper is currently closed.

Amendment 18A - Black Sea Bass

Additional changes may be in store for regulations affecting the harvest of black sea bass. The Council is scheduled to approve Amendment 18A to the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan when it meets December 5-9, 2011 in Raleigh, NC. The amendment is designed to address overcapacity in the commercial pot fishery and reduce the rate of harvest by both commercial and recreational fishermen.

(Continued page 4)

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Deputy Director

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Editor's Note

The South Atlantic Update is published by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. Its purpose is to report developments in fisheries management that would be of interest to its readers. Please credit the Council when reprinting articles used in this newsletter. Anyone wishing to submit information or articles pertaining to fishing or fisheries management, or letters to the editor on a pertinent issue, is invited and encouraged to do so. Submissions may be mailed to Kim Iverson, Editor, *South Atlantic Update*, 4055 Faber Place Dr., Suite 201, N. Charleston, SC 29405, or may be sent via the internet; Email address: kim.iverson@safmc.net.

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Council Re-elects Chairman, New Vice Chair

In September, the Council voted unanimously to reappoint **David Cupka** to serve as Council Chairman for a second term. Chairman Cupka served as Council representative for the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, Division of Marine Fisheries beginning in 1993 and currently serves as an At-Large member after retiring from the agency. He



Chairman David Cupka

served as Chairman of the Council from 1995-1996 and again from 2002-2004. David was elected to serve as Council Chairman in September 2010 - the first Council member appointed to serve three separate times as Chairman. In his most recent role as Council Chairman, he led the the Council through the often-times difficult decisions in meeting the mandates of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery

Conservation and Management Act to end overfishing and rebuild stocks. "I believe that our first responsibility is to manage and conserve our marine resources and the habitat which supports them. Without the resource base we cannot carry out the second responsibility, which is to maximize the benefits which these resources provide to the commercial and recreational fisheries they support, as well as non consumptive users of the resource."

Florida representative **Ben Hartig** has been elected to serve as Vice-Chairman of the Council. A commercial fisherman from Hobe Sound, Florida, Ben has served on the Council for three terms. He was appointed in 1993 as an At-Large member and served two terms. During that time he served as Council Chairman.



Vice-Chairman Ben Hartig

After leaving the Council in 1999, Ben continued his involvement in fisheries management by serving on the Council's advisory panels. He has also participated in several stock assessments for king mackerel and Spanish mackerel conducted through the Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR) process, bringing his fishing experience and marine science background to the table. Ben was most recently appointed to the Council in 2009.



In the News:

Deepwater Grouper Closure Update

Plans to eliminate the current restrictions in place for harvest of some deepwater species in the Snapper Grouper management complex in waters greater than 240' is currently under Secretarial review. According to NOAA Fisheries, the restrictions may be removed by Spring of 2011. Species restricted from harvest include bluefin tilefish and snowy grouper.

In August, the Council approved Regulatory Amendment 11 to the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan, requesting the restrictions be removed. The management measures were implemented initially to help reduce the bycatch of speckled hind and warsaw grouper, two species listed as undergoing overfishing and overfished. After reviewing additional data relative to the cooccurrence of the two species with other deepwater snapper grouper species, the Council decided to remove the closure. The Council will consider other measures to help reduce interactions with speckled hind and warsaw grouper in December.



Bill Whipple

were in the midst of retirement. As owner and operator of the F/V *Lady Mary*, Bill worked tirelessly to make his business a success. He brought that same dedication and tenacity to his work on the Golden Crab Advisory Panel. As Chairman, Bill was a strong advocate for the small, specialized fishery and recognized the importance of working collaboratively with both fishermen and managers. His quiet, professional manner and insight regarding fishing and his life experiences will be missed.

Pioneer Golden Crab Fisherman Bill Whipple Remembered

Council members and staff were saddened by the news that Bill Whipple, Chairman of the Council's Golden Crab Advisory Panel and longtime fisherman, passed away on November 1, 2011. Truly a gentleman and a scholar, Bill was a graduate of Princeton University, Class of 1953. He continued his graduate studies at Boston University, where he met his future wife, Helen. They were married for over 50 years.

An avid sailor, Bill started a charter yacht service in the Caribbean, then moved back to his hometown of Wesport, Massachusetts where he continued his maritime career as a pioneer of the offshore commercial trap fishing industry. He carried that knowledge and experience with him when he moved to South Florida, fishing for golden crab in the deepwaters off of Ft. Lauderdale at an age when his peers



Golden crab are retrieved from a deepwater trap.

Social Media Workshop Brings Together Regional Approaches to Tools

Council partners with SC Sea Grant Consortium to host first workshop in Charleston, SC

Do you Tweet? Post on Facebook? Read the latest fishing blog or check YouTube for a favorite video? If so, you are not alone. If Facebook were a country it would be the world's 3rd largest and 2 times the size of the U.S. population.

The world of social media is growing exponentially. Social media tools such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, LinkedIn and others are being utilized by state and federal agencies and others involved in natural resource issues.

The Council recently partnered with South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium to host a regional workshop to learn more about how these tools are being used by various agencies and organizations in the Southeast. The workshop, held in conjunction with a meeting of the Council's Information and Education Advisory Panel in October, included presentations, panel discussions, and open forums.

"People want to share," said Jennifer Strickland, Media Specialist with the US Fish and Wildlife Service during her presentation on blogging. We are stronger together than as individuals." She pointed to blogging as a useful tool for informal

communication. "Scientists will generally write in plain english when writing about their work in a blog." The USFWS recently launched a new campaign using blogs to highlight the impacts of climate change in each of the 50 US states.

"Not everyone is on Facebook or surfing the web," pointed out Kate Dittloff, Public Relations Manager with the SC Aquarium during her presentation on the effective use of Twitter. In addition to using Facebook, the aquarium averages about 6 "tweets" each day regarding upcoming programs, events, promotions and discounts.

Cathy Sakas with Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary spoke about the Sanctuary Program's use of YouTube. "There is nothing more powerful than visuals. One minute of video equals 1.8 million words."

Alicia Wellman, Manager of Social Media and Creative Services with the



Participants at the Social Media workshop shared their experiences with Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and other tools. The Council will receive a report from the workshop during its December meeting for consideration.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission provided examples of how the Commission is utilizing YouTube to highlight real-time activities being conducted by field biologists, showing video of a recent cougar tagging as it occurred.

"Looking for updates to fishing regulations? There's an App for that," explained Emily Muehlstein, Outreach Specialist with the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. The Council recently released a downloadable application for smart phones. "Instead of having a lawyer onboard, you have a smart phone."

Council Approves Amendments (continued from page 1)

In 2006, measures were implemented to reduce the harvest of black sea bass in order to end overfishing and rebuild the stock. Measures included a step-down reduction in the commercial quota and the recreational allocation, an increase in the recreational minimum size limit over a 2-year period from 10 inches to 12 inches, and a decrease in the recreational bag limit from 20 fish to 15 fish per person per day. An allocation of 43% commercial and 57% recreational was also established. In June 2011, the bag limit was further reduced to 5 fish per person per day to help extend the fishing year.

Black sea bass are in Year 5 of a 10-year rebuilding schedule. As the stock continues to rebuild, fishermen are encountering more fish and the average size is increasing. A rebuilding stock, combined with effort shifts into the fishery for black sea bass have caused the commercial quota (ACL) to be met earlier and earlier each fishing season. Amendment 17B to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper Grouper Fishery established strict accountability measures (AMs) for black sea bass that



The majority (87%) of black sea bass harvested commercially are captured using pots. The pot fishery is concentrated in North Carolina, but effort has increased in recent years throughout the Carolinas, Georgia and northern Florida as regulations on other species have become more restricted. The Council is proposing an endorsement program and other measures to reduce the pot fishery and help extend the commercial fishing season. Black sea bass pots are prohibited south of St. Lucie County, Florida.

close the fishery when the commercial ACL is met or projected to be met. Recreational landings are tracked and the fishery closed if annual catch limits are met and the stock is determined to be overfished.

The majority (89%) of commercially harvested black sea bass are landed by fishermen using pots. A federal Commercial Snapper Grouper Permit is required in order to fish the pots. In 2010, 51 permitted fishermen use pots, primarily in North Carolina. Prior to the early closures of the fishing year, fishermen traditionally fished pots in the winter months. Amendment 18A would limit participation in the fishery by creating an endorsement program. Endorsements would be issued based on annual average landings between 1999 and 2010. Based on the Council's preferred management alternative, endorsements would be issued to 21 permit holders, limiting participation to individuals who have traditionally fished pots. The endorsement program would include an appeals process and endorsements would be transferable. The amendment also includes proposed measures to limit the number of pots that can be used on an annual basis, and require fishermen to retrieve pots at the end of each fishing trip. These measures are expected to help reduce bycatch and interactions with protected species such as right whales.

Actions in Amendment 18A – Black Sea Bass

- For the commercial sea bass pot fishery:
 - Limit participation through an endorsement program and create an appeals process
 - Limit the number of pots used at one time during the permit year (Council's preferred is 35 per vessel)
 - Retrieval requirements for pots (preferred is to retrieve at the end of each trip)
- Establish a commercial trip limit for all gear types (preferred = 1,250 pounds gutted weight)
- Increase the minimum size limit for both commercial and recreational fisheries
- Modify the current rebuilding strategy to allow for increases in harvest as the stock rebuilds
- Improve data reporting by commercial and for-hire fishermen

The Council is also considering increasing the minimum size limits for black sea bass. Alternatives in the amendment include increasing the 10" commercial limit to 11" or 12" and the recreational limit from 12" to 13" total length. Increasing the size limit would further restrict harvest, helping to increase the length of the fishing season. Although increasing the size limit could lead to increased discards, the survival rate of released black sea bass is relatively high. The estimated release mortality rate is 7% for hook and line and 1% for the pot fishery. The Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee supports the use of minimum size limits for black sea bass.

Amendment 18A includes actions to improve both commercial and for-hire data reporting. With accountability measures in place that close fisheries if the Annual Catch Limit is exceeded, the need for timely and accurate data reporting is imperative. Commercial snapper grouper fishermen have been required to report landings using paper logbooks since 1990. Alternatives under consideration for the commercial fishery include the use of electronic logbooks and dealer reporting, and participation in the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program's Standard Atlantic Fisheries Information System (SAFIS). SAFIS is a real-time, web-based reporting system and is currently being used on the Atlantic coast from North Carolina northward (www.accsp.org). Charter captains fishing under a federal for-hire permit are currently monitored through the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) and logbooks are not required. Amendment 18A includes alternatives requiring electronic reporting if vessels are selected (the Council's preferred) as well as mandatory reporting through

The Council held a series of public hearings beginning November 14th in South Carolina, Georgia and Florida. Public input was taken on **Amendments 18A (black sea bass), 20A (wreckfish) and 24 (red grouper)** to the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan.

A final public hearing will be held on Tuesday, December 6, 2011 at 5:30 PM in Raleigh, North Carolina as part of the December Council meeting. The Council is expected to take final action to approve the amendments for submission to the Secretary of Commerce in December.

Copies of the Public Hearing Documents for each amendment is available from the Council's website at www.safmc.net.

(Continued next page)

SAFIS. There are currently 1690 vessels with for-hire permits in the South Atlantic and 224 with both for-hire and commercial permits. The majority, about 66%, are home-ported in



NOAA Ocean Explorer

The only known spawning ground of wreckfish in the western Atlantic is the Charleston Bump, located 80 to 100 miles southeast of Charleston, SC. The Bump is a deepwater bank that rises up from the Blake Plateau at depths of over 2,300 feet to 1,230 feet. From there, the bottom plunges 410 feet in a series of steep slopes with rocky cliffs, overhangs, and caves.

help preserve the fishery's economic viability, and a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) was set at 2 million pounds.

The fishery has changed significantly over the past two decades. While the effort of active share holders account for all of the current landings, their shares represent only 60% of the total shares in the ITQ program. Under the Comprehensive ACL Amendment, the 2012 ACL for wreckfish is expected to be reduced to 250,000 pounds. With a new 5% recreational allocation, the commercial quota will be 237,500 pounds – an 87% decrease. Active share holders, captains, crew, and dealers that depend on a certain level of wreckfish production to

Florida.

Amendment 20A - Wreckfish

Wreckfish is a deepwater species currently harvested under an Individual Transferable Quota (ITQ) system. The specialized fishery began in 1987 with two vessels fishing off of South Carolina. By 1990, over 80 vessels were fishing for wreckfish and prices began to decline. The Council implemented the ITQ program in 1992 to

maintain their operations will particularly be impacted by the new ACL.

Amendment 20A includes actions to allow managers to identify and revert inactive wreckfish shares for redistribution among remaining shareholders, and establish a share cap and appeals process. These actions are necessary to allow the commercial fishery to maximize harvest potential within the constraints of the ACL.

Amendment 24 – Red Grouper

A 2010 stock assessment for red grouper in the South Atlantic found the stock overfished and undergoing overfishing. Amendment 24 is being developed to meet the requirements to implement a rebuilding plan to end overfishing and rebuild the spawning stock of red grouper. This includes establishing ACLs and accountability measures.

There is currently an aggregate recreational ACL of 648,663 pounds for black grouper, gag, and red grouper and an aggregate commercial ACL of 662,403 pounds. Amendment 24 would eliminate the aggregate and proposes an ACL for red grouper based on the latest stock assessment of 647,000 pounds (whole weight) with an allocation of 44% (284,680 lbs.) for the commercial fishery and 56% (362,320 lbs.) for the recreational fishery. ACLs for gag and black grouper are specified in the Comprehensive ACL Amendment (see page 6).

As the red grouper stock assessment was being completed, a four-month spawning season closure for gag grouper and shallow water groupers (including red grouper) was implemented by NOAA Fisheries Service beginning in January 2010. Based on the 2010 red grouper catch data, current management measures may be sufficient to limit recreational landings below the ACL proposed in the amendment; however, the commercial ACL is expected to be exceeded before the end of the year once implemented in 2012.

New Benchmark Stock Assessment for Black Sea Bass May Bring Management Changes



Courtesy of Mark Brown, Teaser II Charters

The Council is considering modifying the rebuilding strategy for black sea bass that may allow for an increase in harvest as the stock continues to rebuild. Under the current strategy, harvest is not allowed to increase as the stock biomass improves. As a result, fishermen are catching more fish and larger fish within a shorter period of time, leading to early closures when Annual Catch Limits are met early in the fishing season. Based on the new stock assessment, the catch limits may be allowed to increase over time. The Council is also considering increasing size limits to help reduce harvest rates and increase the fishing season.

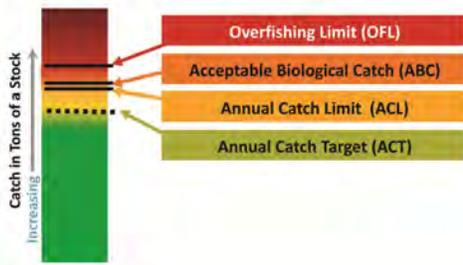
Black sea bass are no longer considered overfished (the population is too small), but under the current rebuilding program, the stock is undergoing slight overfishing (fish are being removed from the population too quickly). The stock is still rebuilding and the targeted biomass must be reached within the mandated 10-year period, ending with the 2015-2016 fishing season.

These are the preliminary conclusions of a new stock assessment for black sea bass completed through the Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR) stock assessment program. Reviewed by the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee in early November, SEDAR 25 will be presented to the Council during its December 5-9 meeting in Raleigh, NC.

What does this mean for fishermen? Any changes to management will be determined by the Council after reviewing the stock assessment and recommendations from its Scientific and Statistical Committee and Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel. Amendment 18A allows the Council to modify its current strategy for rebuilding the stock, with changes that would allow for an increase in the Annual Catch Limit as the stock continues to rebuild. Currently, if fishermen exceed the ACL within the fishing year, the overages are taken from the following year's allowable catch. Recreational overages for the 2011-2012 fishing season have not been calculated by NOAA Fisheries Service. If the new stock assessment is accepted for management purposes and the stock is determined "not overfished", accountability measures may also be modified.

Council Approves Annual Catch Limits for Secretarial Review

Reference Points OFL > ABC > ACL > ACT



Nine species in the South Atlantic, all within the snapper grouper management complex, were listed as undergoing overfishing. The Council met the 2010 deadline, approving Amendments 17A and 17B to the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan measures to end overfishing and set ACLs. Measures to end overfishing include a closure of the red snapper fishery, a recreational seasonal closure for vermilion snapper, and a spawning season closure for shallow-water grouper. For species such as black sea bass, stricter catch limits and accountability measures have led to much shorter fishing seasons.

In order to meet the 2011 deadline for the remaining species managed by the Council, including those in the snapper grouper management unit, dolphin, wahoo, mackerel, golden crab, and spiny lobster, the Council has developed and approved three amendments. Two were developed jointly with the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council: Mackerel Amendment 18 will establish ACLs and AMs for king mackerel, Spanish mackerel and cobia; Amendment 10 to the Spiny Lobster Fishery Management Plan will do the same for spiny lobster in both the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico. The joint amendments are currently under review by NOAA Fisheries.

Comprehensive ACL Amendment

In September, the Council approved the Comprehensive Annual Catch Limit Amendment after reviewing adjustments to calculations used to establish allocations between commercial and recreational sectors. The amendment is considered “comprehensive” because it amends more than one fishery management plan.

In addition to setting ACLs, ACTs and accountability measures, the amend-

If you have followed federal fisheries management issues over the past few years, odds are that you have seen the diagram to the left on more than one occasion. When Congress reauthorized the Magnuson-Stevens Act in 2006, regional fishery management councils across the country were given specific deadlines to end overfishing by 2010. Annual Catch Limits (ACLs) had to be established based on scientific recommendations to ensure that overfishing did not continue. For species listed as overfished, rebuilding plans for the stocks had to be in place. By the end of 2011, ACLs must be specified for *all* species managed by the councils and accountability measures (AMs) in place to make sure the limits are not exceeded.

ment sets allocations between commercial and recreational sectors (see table).

The amendment also proposes removing some species from the snapper grouper management unit. Slated for removal are species more often encountered in state waters such as sheephead, and others with little or no landings in federal waters, including tiger grouper, porkfish and puddingwife. A total of 13 species would be removed.

The amendment would create six

“groupings” for other species in the snapper grouper management unit that are less commonly targeted for harvest. Each group would have an aggregate ACL.

The Comprehensive ACL Amendment is currently under review by NOAA Fisheries. Copies of the amendment and summary are available in the Library section of the Council’s website at www.safmc.net.

Species	ACL (lbs.)	Allocation Comm%/Rec%	Recreational ACT (lbs.)
Comp ACL Amendment			
atlantic spadefish	282,841	13/87	177,382
bar jack	20,520	33/67	9,936
blue runner	1,289,941	15/85	892,305
goliath/Nassau grouper	0	n/a	n/a
gray triggerfish	672,565	45/55	312,208
greater amberjack	1,968,000	44/56	936,027
hogfish	147,638	33/67	71,184
scamp	492,572	69/31	96,599
red porgy	395,304	50/50	160,098
yellowtail snapper	2,173,875	53/47	897,160
mutton snapper	926,600	17/83	668,906
black grouper	245,595	37/63	94,562
wreckfish	250,000	95/5	none
dolphin	14,596,216	7/93	11,595,803
wahoo	1,481,785	4/96	1,149,249
golden crab	2 million	100% commercial	n/a
Mackerel Amendment 18			
king mackerel	10,460,000	37.1/62.9	6,110,000
Spanish mackerel	5,690,000	55/45	2,320,000
cobia	1,571,399	8/82	1,184,688

Annual Catch Limits (in pounds), Allocations between commercial and recreational sectors, and Recreational Annual Catch Targets as specified for individual species within the Comprehensive ACL Amendment. The table also includes values for the South Atlantic region as specified in Amendment 18 to the Coastal Migratory Pelagic (Mackerel) Fishery Management Plan, developed jointly with the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. Copies of the amendments that include specified accountability measures are available from the South Atlantic Council’s website at www.safmc.net.

Note!

December Council Meeting - Public Comment Sessions

Tuesday, December 6

5:30 pm

PUBLIC HEARING: Snapper Grouper Amendments 18A (black sea bass, 20A (wreckfish) and 24 red grouper

Wednesday, December 7

5:30 pm

Informal Q&A with Regional Administrator Dr. Roy Crabtree and Council Chairman David Cupka

Thursday, December 8

2:00 pm

Formal public comment on any agenda item

**SAFMC Meeting Dates and Locations
2011 Schedule**

March 7-11, 2011

Sea Palms Conf. Center
5445 Frederica Road
St. Simons Island, GA 31522
Phone: 1/800-841-6268

September 12-16, 2011

Charleston Marriott Hotel
170 Lockwood Boulevard
Charleston, SC 29403
Phone: 1/800-968-3569

June 13-17, 2011

Marriott Beachside Hotel
3841 N. Roosevelt Blvd.
Key West Florida 33040
Phone: 1/800-546-0885

Dec 5-9, 2011

Holiday Inn Brownstone
1707 Hillsborough St.
Raleigh, NC 27605
Phone: 1/800/331-7919

August 9, 2011

Charleston Marriott Hotel
170 Lockwood Boulevard
Charleston, SC 29403
Phone: 1/800-968-3569

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Meeting

December 5-9, 2011



Holiday Inn Brownstone Hotel
1707 Hillsborough Street
Raleigh, NC 27605

Phone: 800/331-7919 or 919/828-0811

For a detailed agenda contact the Council office toll free at 1-866 SAFMC-10 or 843/571-4366. The agenda is also available on the Council's web site www.safmc.net

MEETING AGENDA

Monday	1:30 - 3:00	Spiny Lobster Committee
	3:00 -4:00	Law Enforcement Committee
	4:00 -5:30	Ecosystem-Based Mgmt Committee
Tuesday	8:30 - 9:30	Advisory Panel Selection Committee <i>(Closed Session)</i>
	9:30 - 11:00	Information & Education Committee
	11:00 -11:30	Executive Finance Committee
	11:30 -12:00	Personnel Committee <i>(Closed Session)</i>
	1:30 - 3:00	Mackerel Committee
	3:00 - 5:00	SEDAR Committee
	5:30 PM	Public Hearing - Snapper Grouper Amendments 18A, 20A and 24 and Emergency Action to modify the ACL for wreckfish
Wednesday	8:30 - 10:00	Golden Crab Committee
	10:00 - 5:00	Snapper Grouper Committee
		Informal Public Q & A Session - 5:30 PM
Thursday	8:30 - 12:00	Snapper Grouper Committee Meeting <i>(continued)</i>
	1:30 - 5:30	- Council Session -
		Public Comment on agenda items begins at 2:00 pm
Friday	8:30 - 12:00	- Council Session -

Acronyms

- ABC - Allowable Biological Catch
- ACCSP - Atlantic Coast Cooperative Statistics Program
- ACL - Annual Catch Limit
- AM - Accountability Measure
- ACT - Annual Catch Target
- AP - Advisory Panel
- ASMFC - Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
- BRD - Bycatch Reduction Device
- EEZ - Exclusive Economic Zone
- EFH - Essential Fish Habitat
- EFH/HAPC - Essential Fish Habitat/Habitat Area of Particular Concern
- FMP - Fishery Management Plan
- HMS - Highly Migratory Species
- ITQ - Individual Transferable Quota
- LAPP - Limited Access Privilege Program
- MSY - Maximum Sustainable Yield
- MRFSS - Marine Recreational Fishing Statistics Survey
- NMFS - National Marine Fisheries Service
- OY - Optimum Yield
- SEDAR - Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review (stock assessment process)
- SSC - Scientific & Statistical Committee
- SFA - Sustainable Fisheries Act
- TAC - Total Allowable Catch
- VMS - Vessel Monitoring System

Watch the Council meeting LIVE online!

To watch the Council meeting live from Raleigh, NC, choose a direct link for live video feed as the meeting occurs at www.safmc.net.

Mark your calendar...

- December 5-9** *South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Meeting*
Raleigh, NC www.safmc.net
- December 13-15** *Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Meeting*
Williamsburg, VA www.mafmc.org
- Jan. 30 - Feb. 3** *Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Meeting*
Mobile, AL www.gulfcouncil.org
- February 7-9** *Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Meeting*
Alexandria, VA www.asmfmc.org



2011/2012

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National Oceanic And Atmospheric Administration

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