

# South Atlantic Update



Published for fishermen and others interested in marine resource conservation issues Summer 2012

## Limited Red Snapper Harvest Allowed as Stock Rebuilds

*Recreational weekend and commercial "mini-season" in 2012; future tag program*

Council members received good news from NOAA Fisheries Service during its June meeting regarding red snapper - "the estimated levels of mortality were below the projected levels in the Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR) stock assessment". Loosely translated - for the first time since January 2010, fishermen will be allowed to harvest a limited number of red snapper this year. The challenge? To determine a way to allow the harvest of 13,067 fish, the annual catch limit determined for 2012, by the end of the year.

The answer came in the form of an Emergency Rule request by the Council to NOAA Fisheries to open the recreational fishery over three-day weekends (Fri/Sat/Sun) and to allow a commercial "mini-season" this year. The current allocation for red snapper is 72% recreational and 28% commercial. In discussions, Council members emphasized the need to closely monitor the landings during the brief openings to keep from exceeding the limits. Both NOAA Fisheries and state representatives on the Council agreed to work collaboratively to utilize resources and personnel in order to intercept recreational anglers and provide estimates of effort and landings.

In addition to allowing harvest, the 2012 opening will allow for fishery dependent data to be collected. The Council requested that biological sampling be conducted in conjunction with the openings. NOAA Fisheries is coordinating with state marine resources agencies to increase personnel on hand during the openings and utilize sampling stations and freezer drop-off facilities for data collection purposes.

### Tag Program

The Council has also proposed development of a tag program for red snapper beginning in 2013. The tag program will allow better tracking of the landings of red snapper for long-term management as harvest continues. The Council will review options for a tag program in draft Amendment 22 to the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan in September. The Council has sought public input on development of a recreational tag



Courtesy of Mark Brown, Teaser2 Charters

### Red Snapper Harvest for 2012

In order to allow harvest of the 2012 ACL of 13,067 fish, NOAA Fisheries has announced the following openings:

- **Recreational: September 14-16 and September 21-23**
  - 3-day weekend harvest allowed
  - Bag limit: 1 per person/day
  - Size limit: none
  - Recreational 2012 ACL= 9,399 fish
- **Commercial: Beginning September 17**
  - 7-day "mini-season"
  - 50 lb. (gutted weight) trip limit
  - Size limit: none
  - Commercial 2012 ACL = 20,818 lbs.gw (3,668 fish)
- **Note:** The opening dates are subject to weather conditions as determined by NOAA Fisheries Service.

program for deepwater snapper grouper species (snowy grouper, golden tilefish and wreckfish) during public scoping and may consider options again in September. Copies of the Options Paper for Amendment 22 is available in the September Council meeting briefing book materials at [www.safmc.net](http://www.safmc.net).

### September 10-14, 2012 Council Meeting Charleston, SC



See page 7 for details

Informal Q&A Session

Wednesday, September 12 - 5:30 PM

Formal Public Comment

Thursday, September 13- 2:00 PM

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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.

A publication of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Pursuant to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Award No. NA10NMF4410012.



## **New Council Members Appointed**

### *Secretary of Commerce Announces New Appointments*

The U.S. Department of Commerce announced the appointment of 30 new and returning members to the eight regional fishery management councils in June. Council members represent diverse groups, including commercial and recreational fishing industries, environmental interests and academia, and carry out the Magnuson-Stevens Act's requirements to end overfishing, rebuild fish stocks, and manage them sustainably. Council members serve 3-year terms and may serve up to 3 consecutive terms. Two new members have been appointed to the South Atlantic Council.



**Captain Steve Amick**

Captain Amick has been actively involved in a number of cooperative research projects, utilizing his knowledge and skills as a captain to provide long-term data in cooperation with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. The data was incorporated into the discard estimates for SEDAR 24, the most recent stock assessment for red snapper. He has also provided red snapper biological samples, including otoliths for age estimates for NOAA Fisheries and fin clip samples as part of a cooperative study with Texas A&M in 2009.

The owner of Amick's Deepsea Fishing Charters, Steve lives in Savannah with his wife Sophie and three children. When he's not on the water, he is an avid hunter, targeting big game from white-tailed deer in Georgia to cape buffalo in Africa.

**Anna Beckwith** of Morehead City, North Carolina was also recently appointed to serve on the Council as an At-large member. An avid recreational fisher with a background in biological oceanography and marine policy, Anna also currently serves as Vice-Chair of the North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission.

"I was honored when Governor Perdue sent my name forward to help represent North Carolina on the Council and I intend on being a dedicated advocate," said Anna upon being appointed. "My job, as I see it, is to consider the resource first and make those resources available to our fishermen in a sustainable way."

Since 2007, Anna and her husband George, have operated Down East Guide Service, specializing in recreational fishing trips in North Carolina, Costa Rica, Argentina, and Belize.



**Anna Beckwith**

### **A Warm Farewell**

In June, Council members gave a standing ovation to honor **Benjamin "Mac" Currin**, of Raleigh, NC and **Duane Harris** of St. Simons Island, Georgia for their long-term service to the Council. Both Mac and Duane were required to relinquish their seats on the Council after serving three consecutive terms.

As Chairman of the Snapper Grouper Committee, Mac provided steadfast guidance to Council members and staff during often long and deliberative committee meetings leading to decisions impacting management of the snapper grouper fishery.

Duane Harris served the Council as a representative for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources for many years before his appointment to the At-large seat. As Council Chairman during his At-large term, he led the Council in meeting the mandates of the Magnuson-Stevens Act to end overfishing and rebuild stocks.



## In the News:

### Recreational Black Sea Bass Fishery Closes

NOAA Fisheries Service has determined that the 2012-2013 recreational annual catch limit (ACL) of 409,000 pounds for black sea bass has been reached. As a result, the recreational sector for black sea bass in federal waters of the South Atlantic from the latitude of Cape Hatteras, NC to Key West, FL **closes effective 12:01 a.m. (local time) September 4, 2012 through June 1, 2013.**

For vessels with a valid federal charter vessel/headboat permit for South Atlantic snapper grouper, the closure applies to state and federal waters.

Black sea bass are experiencing overfishing (rate of removal is too high). For the 2012-2013 fishing year the commercial ACL is 309,000 pounds and the recreational ACL is 409,000 pounds. Harvest levels must be kept below these levels to prevent fish from being removed too quickly and to rebuild the black sea bass stock. An update to the black sea bass stock assessment is scheduled for 2013. Visit <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov> for more information.

## Marine Protected Area Workshops Completed in August

Council will consider use of MPAs for speckled hind and warsaw grouper

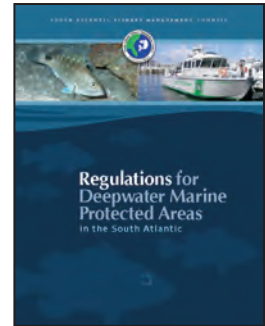
A series of Marine Protected Area Workshops continued in August in conjunction with public hearings held in North Carolina and Florida. The Council decided during its June meeting to continue to solicit public input on the possible use of MPAs to help reduce bycatch of speckled hind and warsaw grouper. Members of the public were asked to provide information on occurrence of the two species, associated habitats, and possible spawning locations.

The MPA Workshop series began in April and included an MPA Expert Workgroup meeting in Pooler, Georgia where scientists from around the country worked with fishermen from the region to provide recommendations to the Council. After reviewing recommendations from its Scientific and Statistical Committee, from the first two public workshops, and the MPA Expert Workgroup's report, the Council determined it would be helpful to continue the workshop series.

Both speckled hind and warsaw grouper are listed as overfished and

undergoing overfishing. Harvest of the two species is prohibited. In an effort to minimize bycatch, the Council had previously implemented restrictions for harvesting deepwater species in waters greater than 240 feet, but removed the restrictions earlier this year after determining the measures did not address the bycatch issue. In addition, economic impacts of the restrictions were greater than expected.

The Council will review comments from the latest workshops as well as previous recommendations, and determine how to proceed during its September meeting.



The Council will consider the benefits of current regulations in place, modifications to existing MPAs, and new MPAs to help reduce bycatch of speckled hind and warsaw grouper during its September meeting.

## Council Considers Management Options for Several Species

*Including king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, cobia, mutton snapper, greater amberjack, gray triggerfish and others*

### Framework Actions for the Commercial Atlantic King Mackerel Fishery

The percentage of quota reached by king mackerel commercial landings in the past few years has decreased. For example, for the 2010-2011 season, only 72% of the quota was taken. There is concern that the stock may be in decline and changes to regulations may be necessary.

#### Possible Options:

- Modify the size limit;
- Allow retention of 1 king mackerel greater than 40" in length;
- Spawning season closure;
- Trip limit changes
- Others??

The Council recently solicited public input on these options. It will review the public comments in September and determine if further action is needed. Note that the framework process allows the Council to take action more quickly if necessary. If the Council decides to make any changes to the trip limits, size limits, or establish a spawning season closure, measures could go into effect in early 2013.



Commercial mackerel vessels dock at Port Solerno, FL.

### Actions for King Mackerel, Spanish Mackerel, and Cobia

*Amendments 19 and 20 to the Coastal Migratory Pelagics Fishery Management Plan*  
Working jointly with the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, a broad range of management alternatives are being considered in the two amendments.

#### Actions address:

- Sale of bag limit king and Spanish mackerel;
- Sale of cobia and permit requirements;
- Tournament sale of king mackerel;
- Elimination of latent Gulf gillnet endorsements;
- Elimination of latent commercial king mackerel permits;
- Federal regulatory compliance;

- Modifications to income requirements for commercial permits;
- Atlantic group Spanish mackerel gillnet endorsements;
- Modifications to sub-zones;
- Changes to cobia annual catch limits; etc.

Additional measures are included in Amendment 20. Copies of the draft amendments are available in the briefing book materials for the September Council meeting.

Public hearings on the amendments will be held in early 2013.

### Greater Amberjack, Mutton Snapper, Gray Triggerfish and More...

*Regulatory Amendment 14 to the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan*

In June, the Council began discussion of possible management measures for five species in the snapper grouper management unit. An options paper will be reviewed during the September meeting.

*(Continued page 6)*



# Annual Catch Limits at a Glance

Keeping track of Annual Catch Limits (ACLs) and allocations set for species managed by the Council can get confusing on a good day. Some of the limits were established several years ago through various amendments to fishery management plans. More recently, in April of this year the Comprehensive ACL Amendment became effective, meeting the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and changing the way species in the Snapper Grouper Management Unit are managed. Some species were removed from the management unit, some designated as “ecosystem component species” (schoolmaster, cottonwick, ocean triggerfish, bank sea bass, rock sea bass, and longspine porgy). Others were grouped and assigned aggregate ACLs (see below).

On the right is a summary table for individual species that have been assigned ACLs and allocations. (Note: all weights are whole weights unless otherwise noted.)



Courtesy of Chris Page

**The Council will consider adjustments to ACLs and allocations within the next year. Current landings information is available from NOAA Fisheries Service at: <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>.**

Species	Commercial ACL (lbs.)	Allocation% Comm/Rec	Recreational ACL (lbs.)
<b>Snapper Grouper</b>			
atlantic spadefish	36,476	13/87	246,365
bar jack	6,686	33/67	13,834
black grouper	90,575	37/63	155,020
black sea bass	309,000 gw	43/57	409,000 gw
blue runner	188,329	15/85	1,101,612
gag	352,940 gw	51/49	340,060 gw
goliath/Nassau grouper	0	n/a	n/a
gray triggerfish	305,262	45/55	367,303
greater amberjack	800,163	41/59	1,167,837
hogfish	48,772	33/67	98,866
mutton snapper	157,743	17/83	768,857
red grouper (2012)	284,680	44/56	362,320
red porgy	190,050 gw	50/50	197,652
red snapper (2012)	20,818 gw	28/72	9,399 fish
scamp	341,636	69/31	150,936
snowy grouper	82,900 gw	95/5	523 fish
speckled hind/warsaw grouper	0 (landings)	n/a	0 (landings)
vermilion snapper	*315,523 & 302,523 gw	67/33	307,315 gw
yellowtail snapper	1,142,589	53/47	1,031,286
wreckfish	223,250	95/5	11,750
<b>Other Species</b>			
dolphin	1,065,524	7/93	13,530,692
wahoo	64,147	4/96	1,427,638
golden crab	2 million	100% commercial	n/a
king mackerel	3,880,000	37/63	6,580,000
Spanish mackerel	3,130,000	55/45	2,560,000
cobia	125,712	8/92	1,445,687

\* Split season

**Note:** Federal permits are required for for-hire or commercial vessels harvesting these species in federal waters. A federal commercial snapper grouper permit is required to sell species within the snapper grouper management unit, including ecosystem species.

## Snapper Grouper Species Groupings and ACLs

Complex 1 Deepwater	Complex 2 Jacks	Complex 3 Snappers	Complex 4 Grunts	Complex 5 Shallow-water Grouper	Complex 6 Porgies
Black snapper Blackfin snapper Blueline tilefish Misty grouper Queen snapper Sand tilefish Silk snapper Yellowedge grouper  Commercial: 343,869 lbs.  Recreational: 332,039 lbs.	Almaco jack Banded rudderfish Lesser amberjack  Commercial: 193,999 lbs.  Recreational: 261,490 lbs.	Cubera snapper Dog snapper Gray snapper Lane snapper Mahogany snapper  Commercial: 204,552 lbs.  Recreational: 882,388 lbs.	Margate Tomtate Sailors choice White grunt  Commercial: 214,624 lbs.  Recreational: 562,151 lbs.	Coney Graysby Red hind Rock hind Yellowfin grouper Yellowmouth grouper  Commercial: 49,488 lbs.  Recreational: 48,329 lbs.	Jolthead porgy Knobbed porgy Saucereye porgy Scup Whitebone porgy  Commercial: 35,129 lbs.  Recreational: 112,485 lbs.



## Measures Proposed to Improve Tracking Annual Catch Limits

### Councils consider changes to reporting requirements; VMS for commercial snapper grouper fishery

Monitoring annual catch limits (ACLs) for a large number of species can be a daunting task. NOAA Fisheries Service is the agency charged with tracking ACLs since they were implemented beginning in 2010. For commercial fisheries, the agency must rely on the logbooks completed by commercial fishermen and the reports required from federally permitted seafood dealers.

The lack of timely and accurate dealer reporting has resulted in many ACLs being exceeded. For example, the golden tilefish commercial ACL has been exceeded every year since 2006. In 2012, the commercial fishery exceeded the ACL of 282,819 pounds by 29%. The scenario is similar for black sea bass, where the commercial fishery was exceeded by over 100% for the past two fishing seasons. Both black sea bass and golden tilefish have relatively low ACLs and recent commercial seasons have been short, lasting only a few weeks.

#### Improvements for Seafood Dealer Reporting



The South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Councils are working jointly to improve seafood dealer reporting through the development of a Generic Seafood Dealer Amendment. The amendment includes measures to increase the number of species that

require a federal dealer permit in order to purchase or sell, increase the frequency of reporting, and require federal dealers to maintain timely and accurate reports in order to retain a federal permit.

Currently, dealers with Gulf of Mexico reef fish permits, South Atlantic snapper grouper permits, or dealers with records of king or Spanish mackerel landings the previous year, or those selected by the Science and Research Director (SRD) must submit reports through the electronic trip ticket program authorized in each state or through the SAFIS web application. Reports must be submitted two times per month. Dealers holding permits for South Atlantic rock shrimp, South Atlantic golden crab, Atlantic dolphin/wahoo, Gulf shrimp, Gulf red drum and other coastal pelagics must submit monthly trip ticket reports.

The Councils are proposing weekly dealer reporting via computer or the internet to improve the timeliness and accuracy of reporting, and requiring all federal dealers to comply with the reporting requirements in order to maintain their permits. In addition, the amendment includes alternatives to include all species managed under each council's jurisdiction within the dealer reporting requirements, with the exception of penaeid (brown, white and pink) shrimp, coral, and South Atlantic Sargassum. Options for allowing a single federal dealer permit between the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic regions are also being discussed between the two councils.

#### Proposed Changes:

##### Gulf and South Atlantic

- Increase the number of species that require a federal seafood dealer permit
- Increase the frequency of reporting for seafood dealers
- Require the use of electronic reporting (via computer or web-based reporting)
- Require timeliness and accuracy in reporting in order to maintain federal dealer permit
- Options for a single federal dealer permit for both South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico regions

##### South Atlantic For-Hire and Commercial Fisheries

- Require the use of electronic reporting
- Increase frequency in reporting landings and use of "no fishing" forms
- Require the use of Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) for federally permitted commercial snapper grouper vessels.

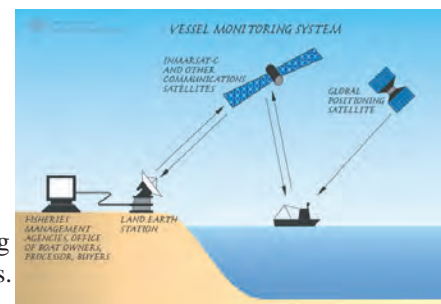
#### For-Hire and Commercial Reporting Requirements (CEBA 3)

Changes are also proposed for the for-hire (charter/headboat) and commercial sectors in the South Atlantic to help increase reliability and timing when tracking ACLs.

Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 3 includes alternatives

for reporting catches on a weekly basis using electronic reporting (via computer or internet), including "no fishing" forms to help track fishing inactivity. The amendment includes provisions to require accurate and timely reporting in order to maintain a federal permit. In addition, the Council is considering requiring Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) for vessels fishing under a federal Snapper Grouper Permit. VMS would greatly improve the biological understanding of the fishery and how fishing pressure is distributed in the region. VMS is currently required for vessels fishing under a Federal Reef Fish Permit in the Gulf of Mexico.

The South Atlantic Council will review public comments received during recent public hearings when it convenes September 10-14, 2012 and take additional public comment during the meeting. The amendments are currently scheduled for approval by the Council for submission to the Secretary of Commerce in September.



**Vessel Monitoring Systems are proposed for the commercial snapper grouper fishery.**

## Council Approves Changes for Commercial Golden Tilefish Fishery

Measures designed to help prevent overcapitalization; distribute effort

At its June meeting in Orlando, the Council voted unanimously to approve submission of Snapper Grouper Amendment 18B to the Secretary of Commerce. Under development since 2008, the amendment aims to limit participation in the golden tilefish fishery through an endorsement program for vessels targeting golden tilefish with longline gear. Golden tilefish fishermen originally proposed the endorsement program as a means to retain historical participation in the fishery. The amendment also includes measures to establish allocations between fishermen using longline gear and hook-and-line gear.

Derby conditions have increasingly plagued the fishery, resulting in the quota or annual catch limit (ACL) being met early in the year. In 2012 the commercial fishery closed after just seven weeks. The fishing year begins on January 1st and early closures make it difficult for fishermen in the Carolinas to participate in this fishery, since weather conditions in this region do not improve until late spring. By then, fishermen in Florida have landed the entire golden tilefish commercial quota. Hook-and-line fishermen have also been excluded from participating in the fishery in recent years because of early closures.

Amendment 18B includes eligibility criteria for longline endorsements, establishes transferability and appeals procedures, specifies separate ACLs for each gear group, and modifies trip limits. To qualify for a golden tilefish longline endorsement, an individual must have an average of 5,000 pounds (lbs) gutted weight (gw) of golden tilefish caught with longline gear for the best three years from 2006 through 2011. Under these criteria, 23 vessels in the South Atlantic qualify to obtain longline endorsements.

To address the distribution of effort between longline and hook and line fishermen, the amendment would allocate 75% of the commercial ACL to the longline sector and 25% to hook-and-line fishermen. The allocation does not reflect the current distribution of effort, but restores the make-up of the fishery to that of the early 1980s, before the longline fleet dominated the fishery.

In order to continue to allow profitable levels of harvest for commercial fishermen who do not qualify for a longline endorsement, the amendment would establish a 500-pound trip limit and remove the 300-pound limit that currently kicks in when 75% of the ACL is landed. The new trip limit, however, could only be harvested using hook-and-line gear. Longline fishermen with endorsements would continue to fish under a 4,000-pound trip limit and the 75% allocation.



Courtesy of Jeff Oden

**Longline fishermen display large deepwater golden tilefish. The mild, flaky fish is a favorite among chefs showcasing local seafood.**

### New Stock Assessment Allows for an Increase in Harvest of Golden Tilefish

In addition to the changes in management proposed in Amendment 18B, the Council also approved measures to increase the Annual Catch Limit (ACL) for golden tilefish. The increase is based on the 2011 stock assessment that shows the stock biomass is increasing and golden tilefish are no longer overfished or undergoing overfishing.

Regulatory Amendment 12 proposes an increase in the commercial golden tilefish ACL from 282,819 lbs to 541,295 lbs (gutted weight). Provided the approval process moves along as scheduled, the new ACL could go into place this fall, allowing the commercial fishery to reopen in 2012. The recreational ACL would also increase, but because the limit was exceeded in 2012, the recreational fishery will reopen again on January 1, 2013. The Council could consider a recreational tag program for deepwater species such as golden tilefish to better monitor catches and keep the ACL from being exceeded.

The National Marine Fisheries Service has solicited additional written comments for both Amendment 18B and Regulatory Amendment 12 as part of the approval process. A decision by the Secretary of Commerce is pending.



Don DeMaria

**Measures are being considered to help protect spawning aggregations of mutton snapper, a targeted species in the Florida Keys.**

**Management Options** (Continued from page 3)

### Possible Actions in Regulatory Amendment 14:

- Modify the fishing year and reduce the trip limit for greater amberjack;
- Implement additional regulations to protect mutton snapper during the spawning season;
- Modify the minimum size limit for gray triggerfish;
- Modify the commercial and recreational fishing years for black sea bass;
- Modify the commercial trip limit for vermilion snapper.

The Council will review these options in September. Public hearings for the amendment are scheduled for early 2013.





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## SAFMC Meeting Dates and Locations 2012 Schedule

**March 5-9, 2012**  
Savannah Hilton DeSoto  
15 East Liberty Street  
Savannah, GA 31401  
Phone: 1/877-280-0751

**September 10-14, 2012**  
Charleston Marriott Hotel  
170 Lockwood Boulevard  
Charleston, SC 29403  
Phone: 1/800-968-3000

**June 11-15, 2012**  
Renaissance Airport  
5445 Forbes Place  
Orlando, FL 32812  
Phone: 1/800-545-1985

**December 3-7, 2012**  
Hilton Riverside  
301 N. Water Street  
Wilmington, NC 28401  
Phone: 1/800-445-8667

## South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Meeting



### September 10-14, 2012

The Charleston Marriott Hotel  
170 Lockwood Boulevard  
Charleston, SC 29403

Phone: 800/968-3000 or 843/723-0276

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](http://www.safmc.net)

### 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  
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

### MEETING AGENDA

<b>Monday</b>	<b>1:30 - 3:00</b>	<b>Ecosystem-Based Mgmt. Committee</b>
	<b>3:00 - 4:00</b>	<b>Shrimp Committee</b>
	<b>4:00 - 5:30</b>	<b>SEDAR Committee</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>8:30 - 5:30</b>	<b>Snapper Grouper Committee</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>8:30 - 12:00</b>	<b>Ad Hoc Data Collection Committee</b>
	<b>1:30 - 5:00</b>	<b>Mackerel Committee</b>
	<b>5:30</b>	<b>Open informal public Q&amp;A session</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>8:30 - 9:30</b>	<b>Advisory Panel Selection Committee (Closed)</b>
	<b>9:30 - 11:00</b>	<b>Golden Crab Committee</b>
	<b>11:00 - 12:00</b>	<b>Executive Finance Committee</b>
	<b>1:30 - 5:30</b>	<b>Council Session</b>
	<b>2:00</b>	<b>Public comment: (1) Shrimp Amendment 9, (2) Joint South Atlantic and Gulf dealer permit action, (3) Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 3 (reporting requirements for for-hire and commercial sectors), (4) an Emergency Rule request to delay the start of the golden tilefish season, and (4) Golden Crab Amendment 6 (catch shares) followed by public comment regarding any other items on the Council agenda.</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>8:30 - 12:30</b>	<b>Council Session</b>

**Note! Watch the Council meeting live online**

To watch the Council meeting live from Charleston, SC choose a direct link for live video feed as the meeting occurs at [www.safmc.net](http://www.safmc.net).

**Mark your calendar...**

- October 16-17** *Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Meeting*  
Long Branch, NJ [www.mafmc.org](http://www.mafmc.org)
- October 21-25** *Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Meeting*  
Philadelphia, PA [www.asafc.org](http://www.asafc.org)
- October 18** *SAFMC Joint Coral and Deepwater Shrimp AP Meeting*  
Cape Canaveral, FL [www.safmc.net](http://www.safmc.net)
- October \*23 - 25** *SAFMC Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) Meeting + SSC SEP \*(10/22/12)*  
Charleston, SC [www.safmc.net](http://www.safmc.net)
- Oct 29-Nov 2** *Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Meeting*  
Gulfport, MS [www.gulfcouncil.org](http://www.gulfcouncil.org)
- November 7-8** *SAFMC Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel Meeting*  
Charleston, SC [www.safmc.net](http://www.safmc.net)



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