



South Atlantic Update

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

Council Meets Congressional Mandates to End and Prevent Overfishing *Meeting the deadlines of the Magnuson-Stevens Act has lead to tough decisions*

When the deadlines for implementing mandates of the reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Conservation and Management Act were established, fishery managers were just beginning to understand the terms Annual Catch Limits, Annual Catch Targets, and Accountability Measures. President George W. Bush signed

"Any Fishery Management Plan which is prepared by any Council shall establish a mechanism for specifying ACLs in the Fishery Management Plan, implementing regulations, or annual specifications, at a level such that overfishing does not occur in the fishery, including measures to ensure accountability... this requirement takes effect in fishing year 2010, for fisheries determined subject to overfishing, and in fishing year 2011, for all other fisheries." Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions - National Standard Guidelines

the Reauthorized Act into law on January 12, 2007. At that time, the deadlines seemed a bit distant and the implications of the mandates to end overfishing under strict deadlines were yet to be realized. Five years later, the eight regional management councils have met the deadlines of the Nation's federal fishery law. Regulations to end overfishing have been established and measures to set Annual

Catch Limits (ACLs) and Accountability Measures (AMs) have been submitted to NOAA Fisheries Service and the Secretary of Commerce for final approval and implementation.

For members of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, meeting the statutory deadlines to end overfishing and implement ACLs and AMs has meant making some tough decisions. Nine species within the snapper grouper management complex were listed as undergoing overfishing, including red snapper. Ending overfishing for red snapper led



Courtesy of Ed Killer

The reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act required regional fishery management councils to end overfishing and establish Annual Catch Limits and Accountability Measures to ensure overfishing does not occur. These limits must be based on scientific input. For species such as black sea bass, regulations are working to end overfishing and the stock continues to rebuild according to the most recent stock assessment completed in 2011. However, strict measures have led to shorter fishing seasons for both commercial and recreational fishermen. See Page 4 for an overview of regulatory measures approved by the South Atlantic Council to meet the Congressional mandates.

to a closure of the fishery beginning on January 4, 2010 for both commercial and recreational fishermen. The prohibition on harvest, coupled with a proposed large area closure where all fishing for snapper grouper species would have been prohibited, resulted in what has arguably been one of the most controversial issues ever faced by the Council. A new stock assessment in 2010 indicated that the area closure was not necessary, but the red snapper fishery remains closed as the stock continues to rebuild. An updated assessment is expected in 2013. (Continued page 4)

March 5-9, 2012 Council Meeting Savannah, Georgia

See page 7 for details



Informal Q&A Session

Wednesday, March 7 - 5:30 PM

Formal Public Comment

Thursday, March 8 - 5:30 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.

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Marine Recreational Information Program *New calculations may trigger management changes...*

(From NOAA Press Release - January 25, 2012)

NOAA unveils improved way to estimate saltwater recreational fishing

Method improves accuracy of recreational fishing catch statistics

On January 25, 2012 NOAA announced it has begun to use an improved method to estimate the amount of fish caught by saltwater anglers, which will allow rules that fishermen follow to be based on more accurate information. The method is part of an overall effort to improve the accuracy of recreational catch data collected by the Marine Recreational Information Program, and was developed by a team of NOAA scientists and outside experts.



The Council will receive presentations from NOAA Fisheries regarding the revised MRIP catch estimates during its March 2012 meeting in Savannah. The presentations are scheduled during the SEDAR Committee meeting on Wednesday, March 7th beginning at 1:30 PM. Additional information regarding the meeting is available at www.safmc.net.

the revised method, go to:

<http://www.CountMyFish.noaa.gov>.

Using these new estimates, NOAA will now work with the regional fishery management councils, the states, and other stakeholders to integrate these results into fisheries science and management. Beginning this year, NOAA will use the new method to calculate estimates for the Atlantic coast and Gulf of Mexico for use in fishery management and stock assessment by NOAA, regional fishery management councils and states.

The improved methodology addresses a key issue identified in the 2006 report by the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences. The study, commissioned by NOAA, identified a series of untested assumptions the agency was using to generate estimates based on information gathered from anglers. Some of those assumptions included the average amount of fish anglers were catching at different locations and the amount of fishing anglers were doing during different times of the day.

“The new estimation method is a fundamental change that better reflects what is happening on the water and within the recreational fishing community,” said Eric Schwaab, NOAA’s acting assistant secretary of commerce for conservation and management. “Better, more accurate estimates can only be a plus for the saltwater recreational fishing industry, which provides jobs for many Americans and contributes to the economic vitality of our coastal communities.”

The agency released recalculated estimates going back to 2004 using the new method. There were no overall trends in terms of size or direction of the new estimates; catch estimates for some species go up, some go down, and some remain about the same. To view comparisons of recreational catch estimates using the previous method and

In the News:

New Regulations Impact Special Management Zones off of SC

Effective January 30, 2012, commercial fishermen fishing off the coast of South Carolina will have additional restrictions when targeting species in areas designated as Special Management Zones (SMZs). The harvest and possession of species in the snapper grouper management complex as well as coastal migratory pelagics (king mackerel, Spanish mackerel and cobia) will be limited to the recreational bag limit.

Artificial reefs in SC are built and managed by the SC Department of Natural Resources to promote recreational fishing opportunities. Construction is funded mostly by the recreational community through licenses and the Sportfish Restoration Program. SCDNR can request that the Council designate an artificial reef and surrounding area as an SMZ in order to prohibit or restrain the use of specific types of fishing gear and other measures.

The new measure is included in the Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 3. A copy of the amendment is available at www.safmc.net.

Good News for Golden Tilefish - New Assessment Shows Stock Not Overfished - Overfishing Ended

Council members received good news in December regarding a new stock assessment for golden tilefish. The stock is not overfished nor undergoing overfishing and the stock biomass has increased since the last assessment in 2004.

Golden tilefish is a deepwater species harvested primarily by commercial fishermen off the east coast of Florida. Strict management measures, including a large reduction in the commercial quota, were put into effect in 2006 after the stock was identified as undergoing overfishing. Recreational bag limits were also reduced.

The new assessment, conducted through the Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR) process, will allow for a substantial increase in the Annual Catch Limit for golden tilefish. The Council may adjust the ACL through Regulatory Amendment 12 to the Snapper Grouper



A vintage poster from the U.S. Bureau of Fisheries promotes tilefish as a “new food fish”. The Bureau of Fisheries was incorporated into the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in 1940. Golden tilefish have become a popular substitute for grouper as regulations have become more stringent. A 2011 stock assessment shows the stock improving and allows for an increase in the Annual Catch Limit. The Council will address this during its March meeting in Savannah, GA (see p. 7).

Fishery Management Plan after receiving public comment on the proposed increases in March.

Council Awards First Annual Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Officer Clay McDonough Honored

Members of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council awarded its first ever Law Enforcement Officer of the Year award to Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Officer Clay L. McDonough. Officer McDonough was presented the prestigious award by Council Chairman David Cupka during the Council's December meeting in Raleigh, NC.

The award recognizes distinctive service, professionalism and dedication to enforcing fisheries regulations in the South Atlantic region, and acknowledges service above and beyond duty requirements. Nominees may be submitted from each of the southeastern state law enforcement agencies, the U.S. Coast Guard and NOAA Fisheries. The Council's Law Enforcement Advisory Panel provided a final list of nominees for consideration by the Council.

“The Council has long appreciated the role that law enforcement plays in the management and conservation of natural resources in both state and federal waters,” said Council Chairman David Cupka during the award ceremony.

“Officer McDonough and all of the nominees well deserve this recognition.” The Council has been a strong supporter of the Joint Law Enforcement Agreement that allows state wildlife law enforcement officers jurisdiction in both state and federal waters.

Officer McDonough has been in marine law enforcement for 13 years and enforces public safety and natural resource regulations in the Daytona Beach area. His knowledge and experience is exceptional, and he is considered an expert in fish species identification. He provides classroom training to other enforcement personnel and has created an electronic federal case packet to help increase convictions.

Working closely with NOAA Office for Law Enforcement on joint surveillance and inspection details, Officer McDonough's federal cases to date have accrued over \$52,000 in fines



Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Officer Clay McDonough (left) accepts the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year award from Council Chairman David Cupka.

assessed against both commercial and recreational vessels.

“This is really amazing,” exclaimed Officer McDonough as he accepted his award from the Council. “I never expected this. To be nominated for the award is such an honor. I accept this on behalf of enforcement officers who go above and beyond their duties to help protect natural resources each day.”

Tough Decisions

Meeting the deadlines has also meant the development and approval by the Council of an unprecedented number of amendments to existing fishery management plans over

Annual Catch Limit (ACL) – The amount of a particular fish species, stock or stock complex that can be caught in a given year (usually measured in weight). In order to end overfishing in U.S. waters, the reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act required that managers implement ACLs by December 31, 2010 on all stocks subject to overfishing, and for all remaining stocks by December 31, 2011.

for the remaining species not listed as undergoing overfishing has also been a challenge. The Comprehensive Annual Catch Limit Amendment, one of the largest amendments ever developed by the Council, sets ACLs and AMs for the remaining species in the snapper grouper management complex (with the exception of red grouper), as well as dolphin, wahoo, cobia, golden crab and sargassum. The amendment also includes other measures including removal of some species from the snapper grouper management complex and prohibition of the sale of dolphin by for-hire (charter) vessels. Joint amendments with the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council have established ACLs and AMs for king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, and spiny lobster.

the past four years. In 2009, the Council approved Snapper Grouper Amendment 17A to end overfishing of red snapper and Amendment 17B to address overfishing of the remaining eight species, including black sea bass, vermilion snapper, snowy grouper, and black grouper. Setting ACLs and AMs

The reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act also emphasizes the need for science-based decision making and increasing the role of the Council's Scientific and Statistical



Committee. The SSC is responsible for setting the Acceptable Biological Catch for each species or species group. The ABC establishes the baseline from which managers then set the ACLs and AMs. The scientists have worked diligently over the past four years to provide values to the Council for setting the ACLs, often emphasizing the need for improved fisheries data, additional stock assessments, and improvements for quota monitoring. Stock assessments are conducted through the Southeast Data, Assessment and Review (SEDAR) stock assessment process. NOAA Fisheries Service is responsible for monitoring both commercial and recreational ACLs.

The Council continues to seek solutions for obtaining additional data in a timely manner and recently established an AdHoc Data Collection Committee to specifically address the issue. The Council is currently looking at options to require the use of electronic logbooks for both commercial and for-hire vessels, changes to requirements for dealer reporting, and other measures to help improve data collection.

Management Measures to End Overfishing

An overview of regulations implemented as a result of the reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act

The mandates of the Magnuson-Stevens Act to end overfishing and establish Annual Catch Limits and Accountability Measures to ensure overfishing does not occur have led to numerous changes to management measures and subsequent fishing regulations over the past five years. Some of these measures are highlighted below. Note that not all of the actions for each amendment are listed in this summary.

Snapper Grouper Amendment 16 – End overfishing for gag and vermilion snapper - Effective July 19, 2009

- **Annual shallow water grouper spawning season closure January - April** (gag, black grouper, red grouper, scamp, red hind, rock hind, coney, graysby, yellowfin grouper, yellowmouth grouper and tiger grouper)
- **Aggregate grouper bag limit reduced from 5 to 3 per person/day** (Existing bag limit reduced from 2 gag or black grouper to 1 gag or black grouper)
- **Vermilion snapper bag limit reduced from 10 to 5 per person/day.**
- **Annual recreational closed season for vermilion snapper November – March**
- **Established a split-season commercial quota for vermilion snapper:** 315,523 lbs. (guttled weight) Jan-June and 302,523 lbs. (gw) July-December
- **Dehooking tools required when fishing for species in snapper grouper management complex.**

Snapper Grouper Amendment 17A (and Interim Rule) - End overfishing of red snapper

- **Interim rule prohibits commercial and recreational harvest of red snapper - Implemented January 4, 2010**
- **Amendment 17A extends harvest prohibition of red snapper - Implemented December 3, 2010**
Note: A *proposed* large area closure prohibiting the harvest of all species in the snapper grouper complex is withdrawn (via Regulatory Amendment 10) following an updated red snapper stock assessment in 2010.
- **The use of non-stainless steel circle hooks is required when fishing for species in the snapper grouper complex north of 28 degrees N. latitude - Effective March 3, 2011**



Snapper Grouper Amendment 17B – Establishes ACLs and AMs for other species listed as undergoing overfishing - Effective January 31, 2011

- Prohibits harvest of speckled hind and warsaw grouper
- Prohibits harvest or possession of deepwater species (snowy grouper, blueline tilefish, yellowedge grouper, misty grouper, queen snapper, and silk snapper) seaward of 240 feet.
- Snowy grouper bag limit reduced to 1 per vessel/ per trip. Commercial ACL set at 82,000 lbs. and recreational ACL = 523 fish.
- Establishes ACLs for: black sea bass, golden tilefish, snowy grouper, speckled hind, warsaw grouper, gag, and vermilion snapper



Courtesy of Capt. Mark Brown

Fishing seasons for some species, such as black sea bass, have become shorter for both commercial and recreational fishermen with implementation of ACLs and subsequent Accountability Measures. Regulations to reduce harvest and help extend fishing seasons continue to be developed.

Snapper Grouper Regulatory Amendment 9

Help to extend the fishing season for black sea bass, gag and vermilion snapper - Council approved in March 2011

- Reduces the recreational bag limit for black sea bass from 15 to 5 fish per person/day - Effective June 22, 2011
- Establishes commercial trip limits for vermilion snapper (1500 lbs.) and gag (1,000 lbs.) and increases the trip limit for greater amberjack - Effective July 15, 2011.

Comprehensive ACL Amendment – Establishes ACLs and AMs for snapper grouper species not listed as undergoing overfishing plus dolphin, wahoo, and golden crab.

Approved by the Secretary of Commerce in January 2012. The Final Rule implementing measures is still pending.

- Removes 13 species from the snapper grouper fishery management unit and creates six species groupings for management purposes.
- Establishes allocations, ACLs and AMs for: Atlantic spadefish, bar jack, blue runner, goliath and Nassau grouper, gray triggerfish, greater amberjack, hogfish, scamp, red porgy, yellowtail snapper, mutton snapper, black grouper, and wreckfish. Also establishes values for dolphin, wahoo, and golden crab.
- Prohibits the bag-limit sale of dolphin (mahi-mahi) by for-hire/charter captains.



Measures to set ACLs and AMs for species managed jointly with the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council:

Coastal Migratory Pelagic FMP Amendment 18

Sets ACLs and AMs for king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, and cobia Effective January 30, 2012

- Sets Allocations, ACLs, and AMs for king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, and cobia
- Establishes 2 migratory groups for cobia - Gulf and South Atlantic, for management purposes. (No regulation changes. Cobia limit remains 2 per person/day for both recreational and commercial fisheries. 1 per person/day in Florida state waters)

Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 2

Addresses ACLs for octocorals under the Coral FMP

Effective January 30, 2012

- Removes octocorals off of Florida from the fishery management unit; establishes ACL of zero off NC, SC and GA

Spiny Lobster Amendment 10

Effective January 3, 2012

- Removes 4 species of lobster from the fishery management unit
- Establishes ACLs and AMs for Caribbean spiny lobster



Approved by Council - Under Secretarial Review

Measures have not been implemented to date

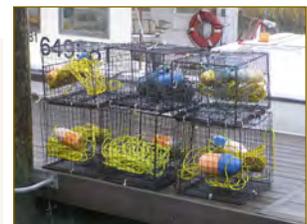
Once an amendment is approved by the Council for submission to the Secretary of Commerce, the amendment goes through a review process that includes NOAA Fisheries Service. The Secretary can approve, partially approve, or disapprove the amendment. The following amendments are in the review process:

Snapper Grouper Amendment 18A

Measures to extend the fishing season for black sea bass

Council approved December 2011

- Establishes an endorsement program to limit the commercial black sea bass pot fishery and other commercial measures
- Increases the minimum size limit for black sea bass: commercial increase from 10" to 11" TL; recreational from 12" to 13" TL
- Measures to improve data collection and reporting



Comment Period Now Open

NOAA Fisheries Service is accepting public comment on Amendment 18A until April 2, 2012. Visit: <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov> for details.

(Continued page 6)

Public Hearings and Scoping Meetings Held In Early 2012

Council will address management measures during March meeting

Both Council members and staff hit the road in late January and early February this year for the annual series of public hearings and scoping meetings held from New Bern, North Carolina to Key Largo, Florida. The Council held public hearings to gather input on regulations proposed for spiny lobster, golden tilefish, and golden crab. Scoping comments were solicited for a variety of options under consideration in the draft Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 3 (CEBA 3) and Shrimp Amendment 9. Attendance at the meetings varied by location, with the highest attendance at Cocoa Beach, FL.

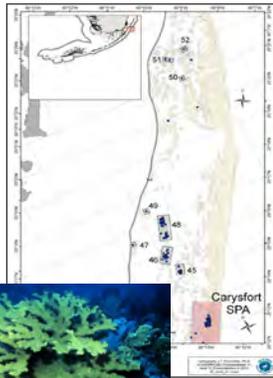
The Council will review both oral and written comments prior to its March meeting. The Council is scheduled to approve Spiny Lobster Amendment 11, Snapper Grouper Amendment 18B and Golden Crab Amendment 6 for submission to the Secretary of Commerce.

Spiny Lobster Amendment 11

Developed jointly with the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, the amendment proposes a series of 54 area closures to help protect threatened elkhorn and staghorn coral species from impacts associated with the lobster fishery off the Florida Keys.

The two Councils have worked closely with the commercial fishing industry, Florida Fish and Wildlife Institute, NOAA Fisheries Service, and the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary to develop the management options in the amendment to aid in the conservation and recovery of threatened and endangered species, including sea turtles, small-tooth sawfish, and coral colonies while working to minimize impacts to lobster fishermen.

The amendment also includes alternatives for requiring trap line markings to help identify entanglement of protected species encountered should they occur. The line marking requirement may be deferred until a later date to allow for additional input.



Proposed area closures would help protect elkhorn corals

Measures to End Overfishing—(Continued from page 5)

Snapper Grouper Amendment 24 – End overfishing for red grouper - Council approved December 2011

- Ends overfishing, establishes a rebuilding plan and sets ACLs and AMs for red grouper
- Eliminates the aggregate ACL for gag, red grouper and black grouper

Snapper Grouper Amendment 20A – Modifications to the Individual Transferable Quota (ITQ) program for wreckfish
Council approved December 2011

- Revokes inactive shares
- Redistributes shares, sets a cap, and establishes an appeals process

Comment Period Now Open

NOAA Fisheries Service is accepting public comment on Amendment 20A until **March 12, 2012**. Visit: <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov> for details.

Snapper Grouper Amendment 18B

Amendment 18B contains measures that impact the commercial fishery for golden tilefish. As restrictions in harvest for species of grouper and snapper have increased, there is concern that effort may shift to the golden tilefish fishery.

The amendment would limit participation in the commercial fishery through establishment of longline and hook-and-line endorsements. The amendment also contains alternatives to change the fishing year, allocate the commercial ACL between gear groups, modify existing or establish new trip limits, and update the ACL and other values based on the most recent stock assessment.



Golden Crab Amendment 6

The deepwater golden crab fishery occurs primarily off the southeast coast of Florida. The specialized commercial trap fishery involves a relatively small number of vessels and experienced fishermen. Working with members of the Council's Golden Crab Advisory Panel, the Council is moving forward to develop a catch share program to help ensure the continued stability of the unique fishery.

Amendments for Scoping:

Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 3

The draft amendment explores several management options including:

- Restrictions for the use of powerhead gear by divers
- Expanding deepwater coral Habitat Areas of Particular Concern
- Using marine protected areas to help protect speckled hind and warsaw grouper
- Designation of a new marine protected area known as the "Snapper Ledge" in the Florida Keys
- Increasing the minimum size limit for hogfish and changing the bag and size limits for gray triggerfish
- Modifying commercial and for-hire permits and reporting requirements

Scoping comments are solicited on management options *before* the Council determines if they will move forward to take action. Public hearings and formal written comments are taken on amendments further along in the management development process, after management actions and alternatives have been determined.

Shrimp Amendment 9

The amendment would modify the current protocol used by states to request concurrent closures of federal waters during severe weather in order to expedite the closure process. The ability to respond more rapidly to close both federal and state waters will help protect overwintering shrimp. The amendment also includes options to change the Minimum Stock Size Threshold (MSST) proxy for pink shrimp.



Copies of public hearing and scoping documents will be included in the briefing book materials for the March 2012 Council meeting and available at www.safmc.net or by contacting the Council office.



March 5-9, 2012 Council Meeting

Thursday, March 8th at 5:30 PM
Public Comment Session

Snapper Grouper Amendment 18B (black sea bass), Snapper Grouper Regulatory Amendment 11 (deepwater closure), Snapper Grouper Regulatory Amendment 12 (golden tilefish ACL), Golden Crab Amendment 6 (catch shares), and Spiny Lobster Amendment 11 (area closures and gear marking)

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: 1/800-968-3569
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June 11-15, 2012 Renaissance Airport 5445 Forbes Place Orlando, FL 32812 Phone: 1/800-545-1985	December 3-7, 2012 Sheraton Atlantic Beach 2717 W. Ft. Macon Road Atlantic Beach, NC 28512 Phone: 1/800-624-8875
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South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Meeting



March 5-9, 2012

Savannah Hilton DeSoto
15 East Liberty Street
Savannah, GA 31401

Phone: 877/280-0751 or 912/232-9000

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

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

MEETING AGENDA

Monday	1:30 - 5:00	Law Enforcement Advisory Panel Meeting -Concurrent Session-
	1:30 - 5:00	Ad Hoc Data Collection Committee Meeting
Tuesday	8:30 - 9:30	Law Enforcement Committee Meeting
	9:30 - 10:30	Spiny Lobster Committee Meeting
	10:30 - 3:00	Ecosystem-Based Mgmt. Committee Meeting
	3:00 - 5:00	Mackerel Committee Meeting
Wednesday	8:30 - 10:00	Shrimp Committee Meeting
	10:00 - 11:00	Info. and Education Committee Meeting
	11:00 - 12:00	Executive Finance Committee Meeting
	1:30 - 3:30	SEDAR Committee Meeting
	3:30 - 5:30	Golden Crab Committee Meeting <i>Open informal public Q&A session</i>
Thursday	8:30 - 10:00	Catch Shares Committee Meeting
	10:00 - 5:00	Snapper Grouper Committee Meeting <i>Public Comment Session</i>
	5:30	
Friday	8:30 - 1:30	Council Session

Note! Watch the Council meeting live online

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



Mark your calendar...

- April 10-12** *Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Meeting*
Duck, NC www.mafmc.org
- April 16-20** *Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Meeting*
Corpus Christi, TX www.gulfcouncil.org
- April 18 - 19** *SAFMC Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel Meeting*
Charleston, SC www.safmc.net
- April 20** *SAFMC Shrimp/Deepwater Shrimp AP Meeting*
Charleston, SC www.safmc.net
- April 30 - May 3** *Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Meeting*
Alexandria, VA www.asmfc.org
- May 9 - 10** *SAFMC Coral Advisory Panel Meeting*
Charleston, SC www.safmc.net



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