

SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Atlantic Beach, South Carolina

December 4-8, 2017

REVISED SUMMARY OF APPROVED COUNCIL MOTIONS

Note: These summary motions show the wording of the actions/alternatives as modified by the motions. For details of what was changed, see the Final Committee Reports available from the Council's website in the folder named Committee Reports:

<http://safmc.net/briefing-books/briefing-book-december-2017-council-meeting/>

SNAPPER GROUPE

Amendment 46 (red snapper, recreational reporting, and powerhead regulation)

MOTION #1: REMOVE ACTIONS 1-8 AND 12 FROM AMENDMENT 46.

1. Revise Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) for Red Snapper in the South Atlantic Region
2. Specify Minimum Stock Size Threshold (MSST) for Red Snapper in the South Atlantic Region
3. Revise Annual Catch Limits (ACLs) for Red Snapper in the South Atlantic Region
4. Establish a Recreational Annual Catch Target (ACT) for Red Snapper in the South Atlantic Region
5. Revise Optimum Yield (OY) for Red Snapper in the South Atlantic Region
6. Establish Closed Areas to Reduce Red Snapper Bycatch and Mortality
7. Modify or Establish Management Measures for the Commercial Sector to Allow For Restricted Harvest While Ending Overfishing of Red Snapper in the South Atlantic Region.
8. Modify or Establish Management Measures for the Recreational Sector to Allow For Restricted Harvest While Ending Overfishing of Red Snapper in the South Atlantic Region.
12. Revise Accountability Measures and Establish Adaptive Management for Red Snapper in the South Atlantic Region

MOTION #2: REMOVE ALTERNATIVE 4 ACTION 9 FROM AMENDMENT 46
Action 9. Establish a Private Recreational Snapper Grouper Permit or Tag Program for Recreational Fishermen to Fish For, Harvest, or Possess Red Snapper in the South Atlantic Region.

Alternative 4. Require a harvest tag for recreational fishermen to fish for, harvest, or possess red snapper federal waters.

MOTION #3: REMOVE SUB-ALTERNATIVE 2B UNDER ACTION 9 FROM AMENDMENT 46.

Action 9. Establish a Private Recreational Snapper Grouper Permit or Tag Program for Recreational Fishermen to Fish For, Harvest, or Possess Red Snapper in the South Atlantic Region.

Alternative 2. Require a federal recreational permit in the South Atlantic Region (federal waters only) for recreational fishermen to fish for, harvest, or possess:

Sub-alternative 2b. snapper grouper species associated with red snapper habitat.

MOTION #4: ADD AN ALTERNATIVE IN ACTION 9 FOR A VESSEL PERMIT.

The Committee provided guidance to staff to revise Action 9 to focus on a snapper grouper permit designed to improve recreational effort estimates that can eventually be used to improve landings estimates. Include all or a sub-set of snapper grouper species.

MOTION #5: REMOVE ACTION 10 FROM AMENDMENT 46.

Action 10. Modify Reporting Requirements for Private Recreational Fishermen.

MOTION #6: ADD REVISED ACTION 10 TO AMENDMENT 46.

Action 10. Modify Reporting Requirements for Private Recreational Fishermen.

Alternative 1 (No Action). There is no reporting requirement for recreational anglers although the Council approved an action which would require owner or operator to complete fishing records if selected by the Science and Research Director (SAFMC 2008).

Alternative 2. Require private recreational anglers to complete electronic logbooks. This would require selected (Council to specify % selected based on SSC and other technical input) fishermen with a recreational snapper grouper permit **to report all catch and discards electronically** each week when fishing for or catching species listed in the **Action 9**.

Alternative 3. Promote voluntarily electronic reporting by private recreational fishermen.

***DIRECTION TO INCLUDE AN ALTERNATIVE SIMILAR TO ALTERNATIVE 2 THAT APPLIES TO VESSELS INSTEAD OF INDIVIDUAL ANGLERS.

GUIDANCE TO ALSO EXPLORE RENTAL VESSELS & CONSULTATION WITH STATISTICIANS TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE ON PERCENTAGE OF ANGLERS OR VESSELS TO BE SELECTED FOR REPORTING*

MOTION #7: ADD ALTERNATIVE TO ACTION 11 ALTERNATIVE 4 TO REMOVE CIRCLE HOOK REQUIREMENT FROM A) COMMERCIAL AND B) RECREATIONAL FISHERIES.

Action 11. Require Use of Best Fishing Practices When Fishing for Snapper Grouper Species With Hook-and-Line Gear to Reduce Mortality and Bycatch of Red Snapper.

Alternative 4. Modify requirement for the use of non-stainless-steel circle hooks when fishing for snapper grouper species with hook and line gear north of 28 degrees (approximately 25 miles south of Cape Canaveral, FL). The circle hook requirement applies only to natural baits.

Vision Blueprint Regulatory Amendment 26 (Recreational)

MOTION #8: APPROVE PURPOSE & NEED STATEMENT AS MODIFIED BELOW:

Purpose for Actions

Address recreational stakeholder input to increase access and predictability for the recreational component of the snapper grouper fishery, minimize regulatory discards, and improve regulatory compliance and consistency.

Need for Actions

Achieve efficient management Improve management of the recreational component of the snapper grouper fishery to achieve optimum yield, while minimizing, to the extent practicable, adverse socio-economic effects for recreational fishermen in the South Atlantic region.

MOTION #9: REMOVE ACTION 1 FROM CONSIDERATION IN REGULATORY AMENDMENT 26

Action 1. Remove sand tilefish from the Deep-Water Complex and revise the annual catch limits, optimum yield, and recreational annual catch target

MOTION #10: REMOVE ALTERNATIVE 2 UNDER ACTION 2 TO THE CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED APPENDIX

Action 2. Modify the species composition of the recreational aggregates

Alternative 2. Remove the recreational Snapper Grouper aggregate groupings that are in place in the South Atlantic Region.

MOTION #11: MOVE ALTERNATIVE 4 UNDER ACTION 2 TO THE CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED APPENDIX

Action 2. Modify the species composition of the recreational aggregates

Alternative 4. Modify existing Snapper Grouper aggregates to establish a Deep-water Species Aggregate, Shallow-water Species Aggregate, and an Other Snapper Grouper Species Aggregate

MOTION #12: INCLUDE AN ALTERNATIVE UNDER ACTION 2 THAT EXCLUDES THE FOLLOWING SPECIES FROM THE OTHER SHALLOW-WATER

SPECIES AGGREGATE: BLACK SEA BASS, VERMILION SNAPPER, GREATER AMBERJACK, RED PORGY, AND HOGFISH.

DIRECTION TO CONTINUE TO EXCLUDE TOMTATE FROM BAG LIMIT SPECIFICATION

DIRECTION TO EXCLUDE RED SNAPPER FROM RECREATIONAL AGGREGATES

MOTION #13: UNDER ACTION 2, ADD AN ALTERNATIVE TO SPECIFY FOUR RECREATIONAL AGGREGATES: DEEP-WATER SPECIES, SHALLOW WATER GROUPERS, SHALLOW-WATER SNAPPERS, & OTHER SHALLOW-WATER SPECIES WITH SUB-ALTERNATIVES FOR THE OTHER SHALLOW WATER SPECIES AGGREGATE TO INCLUDE/EXCLUDE BLACK SEA BASS, RED PORGY, VERMILION SNAPPER, GREATER AMBERJACK, AND HOGFISH.

MOTION #14: MOVE ALTERNATIVE 5 UNDER ACTION 2 TO THE CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED APPENDIX

Alternative 5: Modify existing Snapper Grouper aggregates to establish a Deep-water Species Aggregate and an Other Snapper Grouper Species Aggregate:

Deep-water Species Aggregate: queen snapper, blackfin snapper, silk snapper, snowy grouper, misty grouper, yellowedge grouper, blueline tilefish, golden tilefish, and wreckfish.

Other Snapper Grouper Aggregate: all other species

MOTION #15: MOVE ALTERNATIVE 2 UNDER SUB-ACTION 4.1 TO THE CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED APPENDIX

Sub-action 4.1. Specify the recreational season for the proposed shallow-water grouper aggregate

Alternative 2. Allow recreational possession of species included in the proposed shallow-water grouper aggregate annually from January 1 through December 31.

MOTION #16: MOVE ALTERNATIVE 3 UNDER SUB-ACTION 4.1 TO THE CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED APPENDIX

Sub-action 4.1. Specify the recreational season for the proposed shallow-water grouper aggregate

Alternative 3. Maintain seasonal prohibition on recreational possession of shallow-water grouper aggregate annually from January 1 to April 30 north of 28 degrees North latitude. Prohibit recreational harvest and possession of shallow-water grouper species (gag, scamp, red grouper, yellowfin grouper, yellowmouth grouper, red hind, rock hind,

graysby, and coney) (excluding black grouper) south of 28° North latitude (approximately off Palm Bay, Florida):

Sub-alternative 3a. January – March (three months)

Sub-alternative 3b. February – March (two months)

Sub-alternative 3c. February – April (three months)

Sub-alternative 3d. February – May (four months)

MOTION #17: MOVE ALTERNATIVE 4 UNDER SUB-ACTION 4.1 TO THE CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED APPENDIX

Sub-action 4.1. Specify the recreational season for the proposed shallow-water grouper aggregate

Alternative 4. Maintain seasonal prohibition on recreational possession of shallow-water grouper aggregate annually from January 1 to April 30 north of 28 degrees North latitude. Prohibit recreational harvest and possession? of black grouper in the Exclusive Economic Zone south of 28 degrees north latitude.

Sub-alternative 4a. January – March (three months)

Sub-alternative 4b. January

Sub-alternative 4c. February

Sub-alternative 4d. March

MOTION #18: MOVE SUB-ALTERNATIVES 2E AND 2F UNDER SUB-ACTION 4.2 TO THE CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED APPENDIX

Sub-action 4.2. Specify the aggregate bag limit for the proposed shallow-water grouper aggregate

Alternative 2. Specify bag limits for proposed shallow-water grouper aggregate

Sub-alternative 2e. Four fish per person per day.

Sub-alternative 2f. Four fish per person per day with existing restrictions on gag and black grouper.

MOTION #19: ADD SUB-ALTERNATIVE THAT WOULD SPECIFY A 1 FISH PER PERSON PER DAY FOR RED GROUPER WITHIN THE AGGREGATE

MOTION #20: ADD SUB-ALTERNATIVE THAT WOULD SPECIFY A 1 FISH PER VESSEL PER DAY FOR RED GROUPER IN THE EEZ NORTH OF THE GA/FL STATE LINE

DIRECTION TO WORK WITH NOAA GC TO MAKE LANGUAGE CONSISTENT THROUGHOUT THE DOCUMENT REGARDING OPEN VS CLOSED MONTHS WHEN SPECIFYING RECREATIONAL SEASONS

***DIRECTION TO MODIFY ALTERNATIVES UNDER ACTION 5 AS FOLLOWS AND INCLUDE A CLARIFYING NOTE THAT ALTERNATIVES DEPEND ON SELECTION OF PREFERRED UNDER ACTION 2 OF THE AMENDMENT:

Action 5. Specify management measures for the proposed other shallow-water species aggregate

Sub-action 5.1. Specify the aggregate bag limit for the proposed other shallow-water species aggregate

Alternative 2. Specify a 20-fish daily maximum per person per day for the other shallow-water species aggregate. Retain 10 snappers within the aggregate (lane snapper, yellowtail snapper, gray snapper, and cubera snapper) and existing individual species' bag limits (black sea bass, vermilion snapper, greater amberjack, red porgy, mutton snapper, and hogfish).

Alternative 3. Specify a 20-fish daily maximum per person per day for the other shallow-water species aggregate where NO MORE THAN 10 fish can be gray triggerfish. Retain 10 snappers within the aggregate (lane snapper, yellowtail snapper, gray snapper, and cubera snapper) and existing individual species' bag limits (black sea bass, vermilion snapper, greater amberjack, red porgy, mutton snapper, and hogfish).

Alternative 4. Specify a 20-fish daily maximum per person per day for the other shallow-water species aggregate where 10 fish can be gray triggerfish and 10 can be Atlantic spadefish. Retain 10 snappers within the aggregate (lane snapper, yellowtail snapper, gray snapper, and cubera snapper) and existing individual species' bag limits (black sea bass, vermilion snapper, greater amberjack, red porgy, and mutton snapper, hogfish).

Alternative 5. Specify a 10-fish daily maximum per person per day for the other shallow-water species aggregate. Retain 10 snappers within the aggregate (lane snapper, yellowtail snapper, gray snapper, and cubera snapper) and existing individual species' bag limits (black sea bass, vermilion snapper, greater amberjack, red porgy, mutton snapper, and hogfish).***

MOTION #21: ADD AN ALTERNATIVE:

Alternative x. Specify a 20-fish daily maximum per person per day for the other shallow-water species aggregate. NO MORE THAN 10 FISH CAN BE snappers within the aggregate (lane snapper, yellowtail snapper, gray snapper, and cubera snapper) and no more than 10 fish of any individual non-snapper species. Retain the 5-mutton snapper limit.

GUIDANCE TO RETAIN THE 5 MUTTON LIMIT THROUGHOUT ACTION

MOTION #22: UNDER ACTION 5, INCLUDE ALTERNATIVE(S) TO SPECIFY A BAG LIMIT FOR GRAY TRIGGERFISH AND/OR A 10-FISH MAXIMUM OF ANY ONE SPECIES WITHIN THE OTHER SHALLOW-WATER SPECIES AGGREGATE.

MOTION #23: ADD ALTERNATIVE 3 TO ACTION 6 AS SUGGESTED BY THE IPT

Action 6. Specify the aggregate bag limit for the proposed snapper grouper species aggregate

Alternative 3. Specify a 20-fish daily maximum per person maintaining current restrictions for individual species (black sea bass, vermilion snapper, greater amberjack, red porgy, hogfish, wreckfish, mutton snapper, and red snapper) and maintain current aggregate limits (10 snappers; 3 groupers with restrictions for gag, black grouper, snowy grouper, and golden tilefish; and 20 fish of species without a bag limit, excluding tomate?).

Sub-Alternative 3a. Specify only 10 fish can be gray triggerfish

Sub-Alternative 3b. Specify only 10 fish can be Atlantic spadefish.

Vision Blueprint Regulatory Amendment 27 (Commercial)

MOTION #24: APPROVE THE PURPOSE AND NEED AS MODIFIED:

Purpose

The purpose of this amendment is to address commercial stakeholder input to increased commercial access enable equitable access for fishermen participating in the snapper grouper fishery to the snapper grouper fishery, and to minimize discards.

Need

The need for this amendment is to more efficiently IMPROVE management OF the commercial sector of the snapper grouper fishery to achieve optimum yield, while minimizing, to the extent practicable, adverse socio-economic effects for commercial fishermen in the South Atlantic Region.

MOTION #25: MOVE SUB-ALTERNATIVE 3C UNDER ACTION 1 TO THE CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED APPENDIX:

Action 1. Establish a commercial split season and modify the commercial trip limit for blueline tilefish

Alternative 3. Retain the January 1 through December 31 commercial fishing year for blueline tilefish in the South Atlantic exclusive economic zone. Modify the commercial trip for blueline tilefish:

Sub-alternative 3c. 100 pounds gutted weight from January 1 through April 30 and 400 pounds gutted weight from May 1 through December 31.

***DIRECTION TO ACCEPT SUGGESTED EDITS TO ACTIONS/ALTERNATIVES UNDER ACTIONS 1-6 & 8 ***

MOTION #26: ADD ALTERNATIVE UNDER ACTION 3 FOR A YEAR-ROUND SEASON WITH TRIP LIMIT SUB-ALTERNATIVES OF 1,000 POUNDS AND 800 POUNDS

Action 3. Establish a commercial split season and modify the commercial trip limit for greater amberjack

MOTION #27: MODIFY ALTERNATIVES 2 AND 3 UNDER ACTION 3 TO REMOVE THE TRIP-LIMIT STEP DOWNS

Action 3. Establish a commercial split season and modify the commercial trip limit for greater amberjack

Alternative 2. Specify two commercial fishing seasons for greater amberjack. Allocate the commercial annual catch limit for greater amberjack into two quotas: 50% to the period March 1 through August 31 and 50% to the period September 1 through the end of February. Any remaining quota from Season 1 would transfer to Season 2. Any remaining quota from Season 2 would not be carried forward. During April each year, no person may sell or purchase a greater amberjack harvested from the South Atlantic exclusive economic zone.

Sub-alternative 2a. Season 1 trip limit equals 1,200 pounds whole weight, Season 2 trip limit equals 1,000 pounds whole weight. Season 2 would include a trip limit reduction to 750 pounds whole weight when 75% of the seasonal quota is met or projected to be met. A trip limit reduction would not occur in Season 2 unless 75% of the seasonal quota is met or is projected to be met on _____.

Sub-alternative 2b. Season 1 trip limit equals 1,200 pounds whole weight, Season 2 trip limit equals 1,000 pounds whole weight. Season 2 would include a trip limit reduction to 500 pounds whole weight when 75% of the seasonal quota is met or projected to be met. A trip limit reduction would not occur in Season 2 unless 75% of the seasonal quota is met or is projected to be met on _____.

Sub-alternative 2c. Trip limit equals 1,000 pounds whole weight in both seasons. A trip limit reduction to 500 pounds whole weight would occur in each season once 75% of the seasonal quota is met or projected to be met. A trip limit reduction would not occur in Season 1 unless 75% of the seasonal quota is met or is projected to be met on _____. A trip limit reduction would not occur in Season 2 unless 75% of the seasonal quota is met or is projected to be met on _____.

Alternative 3. Specify two commercial fishing seasons for greater amberjack. Allocate the commercial annual catch limit for greater amberjack into two quotas: 60% to the period March 1 through August 31 and 40% to the period September 1 through the end of February. Any remaining quota from Season 1 would transfer to Season 2. Any remaining quota from Season 2 would not be carried forward. During April each year, no person may sell or purchase a greater amberjack harvested from the South Atlantic exclusive economic zone.

Sub-alternative 3a. Season 1 trip limit equals 1,200 pounds whole weight,

Season 2 trip limit equals 1,000 pounds whole weight. Season 2 would include a trip limit reduction to 750 pounds whole weight when 75% of the seasonal quota is met or projected to be met. A trip limit reduction would not occur in Season 2 unless 75% of the seasonal quota is met or is projected to be met on _____.

Sub-alternative 3b. Season 1 trip limit equals 1,200 pounds whole weight, Season 2 trip limit equals 1,000 pounds whole weight. Season 2 would include a trip limit reduction to 500 pounds whole weight when 75% of the seasonal quota is met or projected to be met. A trip limit reduction would not occur in Season 2 unless 75% of the seasonal quota is met or is projected to be met on _____.

Sub-alternative 3c. Trip limit equals 1,000 pounds whole weight in both seasons. A trip limit reduction to 500 pounds whole weight would occur in each season once 75% of the ACL is met or projected to be met. A trip limit reduction would not occur in Season 1 if 75% of the season's quota is met or is projected to be met on _____. A trip limit reduction would not occur in Season 2 unless 75% of the seasonal quota is met or is projected to be met on _____.

MOTION #28: ADD SUB-ALTERNATIVES TO ALTERNATIVES 2 AND 3 UNDER ACTION 3 TO CONSIDER A 1,000 POUND TRIP LIMIT IN SEASON 1 AND 800 POUND TRIP LIMIT IN SEASON 2

Action 3. Establish a commercial split season and modify the commercial trip limit for greater amberjack

DIRECTION TO STAFF TO ADD TABLES WITH LANDINGS VALUES PRESENTED IN VARIOUS FIGURES THROUGHOUT THE DOCUMENT

MOTION #29: INCLUDE THE ALTERNATIVE RECOMMENDED BY THE SNAPPER GROUPER AP FOR GREATER AMBERJACK:

Sub-alternative 2c. Trip limit = 1,000 pounds whole weight in both seasons. A trip limit step-down to 500 pounds whole weight would occur in each season once 75% of the seasonal quota is met or projected to be met. A trip step down would not occur in Season 2 unless 75% of the season's quota is met or is projected to be met on January 31.

MOTION #30: ADD ALTERNATIVES TO ACTION 5 FOR COMMERCIAL TRIP LIMITS OF 1,000, 850, AND 700 POUNDS FOR EACH SEASON WITH NO TRIP LIMIT REDUCTIONS

Action 5. Modify the commercial trip limit for vermilion snapper

MOTION #31: REMOVE ALTERNATIVE 4 UNDER ACTION 5 AND MODIFY ALTERNATIVE 2 TO REMOVE THE TRIP LIMIT REDUCTION

Action 5. Modify the commercial trip limit for vermilion snapper

Alternative 2. Retain the commercial trip limit and trip limit reduction in Season 1 (January 1 through June 30). For Season 2 (July 1 through December 31), modify the commercial trip limit to 750 gutted weight and retain the trip limit reduction to 500 gutted weight when 75% of the seasonal quota is met or projected to be met. Any remaining quota from Season 1 transfers to Season 2. Any remaining quota from Season 2 is not carried forward.

Alternative 4. Change Modify the commercial trip limits for both seasons (January 1 through June 30; July 1 through December 31) to 750 lbs gw gutted weight and remove the Season Two trip limit step-down trip limit reduction in Season 2. when 75% of the seasonal quota is met or projected to be met. Any remaining quota from Season 1 transfers to Season 2. Any remaining quota from Season 2 is not carried forward.

THE COUNCIL CLARIFIED REMOVE STEP-DOWN IN SEASON 2

MOTION #32: ADD ALTERNATIVE 3 TO ACTION 6 AS SUGGESTED BY IPT
Action 6. Implement a commercial trip limit for the Other Jacks Complex

Alternative 3. Establish a commercial trip limit for the Other Jacks Complex.

Sub-alternative 3a. 500 pounds gutted weight

Sub-alternative 3b. 400 pounds gutted weight.

Sub-alternative 3c. 300 pounds gutted weight

DIRECTION TO STAFF TO RE-ARRANGE ACTIONS 6 AND 7, IF NECESSARY, TO CAPTURE THE EXPECTED COMBINED EFFECTS OF SPECIFYING A MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT FOR ALMACO JACK (ACTION 7) AND IMPLEMENTING A TRIP LIMIT FOR THE OTHER JACKS COMPLEX (ACTION 6). BRING THIS ANALYSIS TO THE COUNCIL IN MARCH 2018.

Action 6. Implement a commercial trip limit for the Other Jacks Complex

Action 7. Implement a minimum size limit for almaco jack for the commercial sector

MOTION #33: REMOVE ALTERNATIVES 2, 3 & 4 FROM ACTION 8

Action 8. Modify the seasonal prohibition on commercial harvest and possession of shallow-water groupers

Alternative 2. Maintain seasonal prohibition on sale and purchase of shallow-water groupers annually from January 1 to April 30 north of 28° North latitude. Prohibit sale and purchase of shallow-water grouper species (gag, scamp, red grouper, yellowfin grouper, yellowmouth grouper, red hind, rock hind, graysby, and coney) (excluding black grouper) south of 28° North latitude (approximately off Palm Bay, Florida):

Sub-alternative 2a. January – March (three months)

Sub-alternative 2b. February – March (two months)

Sub-alternative 2c. February – April (three months)

Sub-alternative 2d. February – May (four months)

Alternative 3. Maintain seasonal prohibition on sale and purchase of shallow-water groupers annually from January 1 to April 30 north of 28° North latitude. Prohibit sale and purchase of **black grouper** in the exclusive economic zone south of 28° North Latitude:

Sub-alternative 4a. January – March (three months)

Sub-alternative 4b. January

Sub-alternative 4c. February

Sub-alternative 4d. March

Alternative 4. Exclude gag from the prohibition on sale and purchase of shallow water groupers annually from April 1 through April 30. Specify a trip limit for gag during April:

Sub-alternative 3a. 100 pounds gutted weight

Sub-alternative 3b. 200 pounds gutted weight

Sub-alternative 3c. 300 pounds gutted weight

INTENT IS TO BE CONSISTENT WITH CHANGES THAT WERE MADE TO THE SAME ACTION IN REGULATORY AMENDMENT 26

For-Hire Moratorium Amendment

GUIDANCE TO STAFF TO PREPARE A SIMPLIFIED VERSION OF THE OPTIONS PAPER (SIMILAR TO WHAT WAS DONE FOR SCOPING DOC FOR AM 43) FOR THE MARCH 2018 MEETING

Red grouper

MOTION #34: APPROVE SNAPPER GROUPER ABBREVIATED FRAMEWORK AMENDMENT 1 FOR FORMAL SECRETARIAL REVIEW AND DEEM THE CODIFIED TEXT AS NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE. GIVE STAFF EDITORIAL LICENSE TO MAKE ANY NECESSARY EDITORIAL CHANGES TO THE DOCUMENT/CODIFIED TEXT AND GIVE THE COUNCIL CHAIR AUTHORITY TO APPROVE THE REVISIONS AND RE-DEEM THE CODIFIED TEXT.

Golden Tilefish

MOTION #35: DIRECT STAFF TO PREPARE A DRAFT FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT FOR THE MARCH 2018 MEETING TO ADJUST THE GOLDEN TILEFISH ACL AND CONSIDER MODIFICATION TO TRIP LIMITS.

**** INTENT TO APPROVE FOR FINAL REVIEW AT JUNE 2018 MEETING.
GUIDANCE TO ADD PREVIOUSLY CONSIDERED ACTIONS/ALTERANTIVES
TO EXTEND THE SEASON*****

Timing and Task:

MOTION #36: Direct staff to do the following:

1. Request that SERO analyst deliver a presentation to the SSC at their upcoming meeting on methodology used to conduct analyses for Vision Blueprint Regulatory Amendment 27.
2. Prepare “heat maps” depicting commercial landings of blueline tilefish, snowy grouper, and amberjack based on commercial logbook grid for March 2018 meeting.
3. Conduct/complete analyses for Vision Blueprint Amendments (Regulatory Amendments 26 & 27) for March 2018 meeting.
4. Initiate development of framework amendment to revise catch levels of golden tilefish and consider modifications to management measures.
5. Prepare simplified options paper on for-hire moratorium for March 2018 meeting.

*****GUIDANCE TO INCLUDE ITEM TO SG COMMITTEE AGENDA FOR MARCH
2018 MEETING TO DISCUSS MRIP ISSUES*****

MACKEREL COBIA

CMP Amendment 31

MOTION #1: ACCEPT THE PURPOSE AND NEED AS MODIFIED

The **purpose** is to reduce complexity of management and facilitate improved coordination of state and federal management of Atlantic cobia.

The **need** is to provide for effective management and fair and equitable access to Atlantic Cobia harvest opportunities without reducing protection to the stock.

MOTION #2: ACCEPT THE IPT’S RECOMMENDATION TO MOVE ALTERNATIVE 5 TO THE CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED APPENDIX.

Action 1. Revise the management system for Atlantic cobia.

Alternative 5. Remove Atlantic cobia from the CMP FMP after the stock assessment is complete.

The Committee directed staff to accept the IPT’s recommended wording changes for Alternatives 1 through 4 and include bullet points explaining the intent of Alternatives 3 and 4:

Alternative 1 (No Action). Continue the current management of Atlantic cobia via the Fishery Management Plan for Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic regions (CMP FMP).

Alternative 2. Remove Atlantic cobia from the CMP FMP.

Alternative 3. Establish a policy in the CMP FMP for complimentary management of Atlantic cobia with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC).

Alternative 4. Establish a framework procedure in the CMP FMP for an enhanced cooperative management system with the ASMFC that allows changes to Atlantic cobia management through NMFS rulemaking.

MOTION # 3: SELECT ALTERNATIVE TWO AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

MOTION # 4: APPROVE COASTAL MIGRATORY PELAGICS AMENDMENT 31 FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS

The Committee directed Council staff to seek input during public hearings on when Final Action on CMP Amendment 31 should be taken relative to the Cobia Stock ID Workshop and subsequent Benchmark Assessment.

CMP Framework Amendment 6 (Atlantic King Mackerel Trip Limits)

MOTION # 5: APPROVE SUGGESTED LANGUAGE FOR PURPOSE AND NEED.

The **purpose** is to modify the commercial trip limit for Atlantic king mackerel in the Atlantic Southern Zone.

The **need** is to provide anglers with a trip limit sufficient to support fishing activity while constraining harvest to the ACL and providing for year-round access.

MOTION # 6: ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDED WORDING FOR ALTERNATIVES 1 THROUGH 4.

Action 1. Modify the commercial trip limit for Atlantic king mackerel:

Alternative 1 (No Action): The commercial trip limits for Atlantic king mackerel:

- Season 1
 - March 1 – March 31
 - North of the Flagler/Volusia line: 3,500 lbs
 - South of the Flagler/Volusia line: 50 fish
 - April 1 – September 30
 - North of the Flagler/Volusia line: 3,500 lbs
 - South of the Flagler/Volusia line: 75 fish until 75% of the Season 1 quota is met, and then the trip limit is 50 fish until Sept 30
- Season 2
 - October 1 – End of February

- North of the Flagler/Volusia line: 3,500 lbs
- South of the Flagler/Volusia line: 50 fish
 - Starting February 1 through the end of February, if less than 70% of the Season 2 quota has been met, the trip limit increases to 75 fish.

Alternative 2: Adjust the commercial trip limits for Atlantic king mackerel in the Atlantic Southern Zone for Season 1:

- Season 1
 - March 1- March 31
 - North of Flagler/Volusia line: 3,500 lbs
 - South of Flagler/Volusia line: 50 fish
 - April 1 – September 30
 - North of Volusia/Brevard line: 3,500 lbs
 - South of Volusia/Brevard line: 75 fish until 75% of the Season 1 quota is met, and then the trip limit is 50 fish until Sept 30

Alternative 3: Adjust the commercial trip limits for Atlantic king mackerel in the Atlantic Southern Zone for Season 1:

- Season 1
 - March 1- March 31
 - North of Flagler/Volusia line: 3,500 lbs
 - South of Flagler/Volusia line: 75 fish
 - April 1 – September 30
 - North of Volusia/Brevard line: 3,500 lbs
 - South of Volusia/Brevard line: 75 fish until 75% of the Season 1 quota is met, and then the trip limit is 50 fish until Sept 30

Alternative 4: Adjust the commercial trip limits for Atlantic king mackerel in the Atlantic Southern Zone for Season 1:

- Season 1 (Mar – Sept)
 - North of Volusia/Brevard line: 3,500 lbs
 - South of Volusia/Brevard line:
 - March 1- March 30: 50 fish
 - April 1 – September 30: 75 fish until 75% of the Season 1 quota is met, and then the trip limit is 50 fish until September 30

MOTION # 7: APPROVE COASTAL MIGRATORY PELAGICS FRAMEWORK AMENDMENT 6 FOR SCOPING AT MARCH 2018 MEETING.

Timing and Task(s)

MOTION # 8: ADOPT THE FOLLOWING TIMING AND TASKS:

- Prepare Coastal Migratory Pelagic Amendment 31 for web-based public hearings and for the March Council meeting.
- Hold public hearing webinars for Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 31.
- Prepare Coastal Migratory Pelagics Framework Amendment 6 for scoping at the March 2018 Council meeting.

SPINY LOBSTER

Spiny Lobster Amendment 13

MOTION # 1: ACCEPT THE IPT’S RECOMMENDED WORDING FOR PURPOSE AND NEED.

The **purpose** of this action is to conform federal regulations for spiny lobster that apply to the exclusive economic zone off Florida with recently adopted Florida state regulations, and to re-establish the procedure for the protocol for an enhanced cooperative management system.

The **need** for this action is to establish consistent state and federal regulations to effectively manage and enforce the harvest of spiny lobster off Florida to prevent overfishing while achieving optimum yield.

MOTION # 2: ACCEPT THE IPT’S RECOMMENDED WORDING FOR ACTION 1, ALTERNATIVES 1 THROUGH 2.

Action 1 – Establish an endorsement, marking, and gear prohibitions for bully net gear in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) off Florida

Alternative 1: No Action. Do not establish an endorsement for bully net gear or regulations related to bully nets for spiny lobster commercial harvesters in the EEZ off Florida in the Gulf of Mexico (Gulf) and the South Atlantic.

Alternative 2: Establish an endorsement for bully nets and align federal regulations to be consistent with Florida regulations for spiny lobster commercial harvesters using bully net gear by implementing the following:

- Require commercial bully net vessels in the EEZ off Florida to have a bully net endorsement from Florida
- Require that the vessel be marked with the harvester’s bully net endorsement number using reflective paint or other reflective material
- Prohibit commercial bully net vessels from having trap pullers onboard
- Prohibit the simultaneous possession of a bully net and any underwater breathing apparatus (not including dive masks or snorkels) onboard a vessel used to harvest or transport spiny lobster for commercial purposes.

MOTION # 3: MODIFY ACTION 2, ALTERNATIVE 2 TO COMBINE BOTH THE PROTOCOL AND THE PROCEDURE INTO ONE DOCUMENT.

Action 2: Establish a cooperative management procedure for the protocol for roles of federal and State of Florida agencies for the management of spiny lobster

Alternative 2. Establish a procedure for an enhanced cooperative management system that allows changes to the Spiny Lobster FMP through NMFS rulemaking. Following is the proposed language for the procedure to be added to the existing protocol

MOTION # 4: INCORPORATE BAG LIMITS, DEGRADABLE PANELS IN TRAPS, AND DEFINITION OF ARTIFICIAL HABITATS INTO SPINY LOBSTER AMENDMENT 13.

Direction to staff to ensure the technical edits to the CFR as noted by FWC are made to the CFR.

MOTION # 5: APPROVE SPINY LOBSTER AMENDMENT 13 FOR SCOPING.

Note: Scoping webinars are scheduled for January 8-9, 2017.

Timing and Task(s)

MOTION #6: ADOPT THE FOLLOWING TIMING AND TASKS:

- Revise language of the enhanced cooperative management protocol and procedure to reflect how the State of Florida currently promulgates regulations.
- Combine the enhanced cooperative management protocol and procedure into one document for Action 2, Alternative 2.
- Work with Gulf Council staff to incorporate the following in Spiny Lobster Amendment 13: bag limits, degradable panels, and the definition of artificial habitats.
- Conduct scoping webinars for Spiny Lobster Amendment 13.

SEDAR

MOTION 1: MOVE TO APPOINT PANELISTS AS LISTED TO THE SEDAR 59 ASSESSMENT OF GREATER AMBERJACK.

MOTION 2: MOVE TO APPOINT CHRIS CONKLIN AS THE COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE TO SEDAR 59.

SEDAR 59 – Greater Amberjack Appointments. (Motions 1-2)	
Affiliation	Name
SSC	Anne Lange
	Fred Serchuk
ACCSP	Julie DeFilippi
MARMAP	Adam Lytton
	Kevin Kolmos
	Tracey Smart
NC DMF	Alan Bianchi
Snapper Grouper AP & Constituents	Andy Piland
	Paul Nelson
SERO	Mike Larkin
SAFMC	Mike Errigo
Council Member	Chris Conklin
Data Providers (will not attend workshop)	Steve Brown
	Julie Califf
	Amanda Tong
	Amy Dukes & Eric Hiltz
	Chris Wilson
	Bev Sauls & Dominique Lazzare

MOTION 3: MOVE TO APPOINT PANELISTS AS LISTED IN THE RED PORGY TABLE TO THE SEDAR 60 ASSESSMENT OF RED PORGY.

SEDAR 60 – Red Porgy Appointments. (Motion 3)	
Affiliation	Name
SSC	Fred Scharf
	Marcel Reichert
	Scott Crosson
	George Sedberry
ACCSP	Julie DeFilippi
MARMAP	Dave Wyanski
	Joe Evans
	Wally Bubley
NC DMF	Amanda Tong
Snapper Grouper AP	Robert Johnson
SERO	Nick Farmer
SAFMC	Mike Errigo
Council Member	Mark Brown
Data Providers (will not attend workshop)	Steve Brown
	Julie Califf
	Alan Bianchi
	Amy Dukes & Eric Hiltz
	Chris Wilson
	Bev Sauls & Dominique Lazzare

MOTION 4: MOVE TO APPOINT THE DATA PROVIDERS AND TECHNICAL EXPERTS FOR THE COBIA STOCK ID WORKSHOP AS LISTED IN THE TABLE.

MOTION 5: MOVE TO APPOINT THE SSC REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE COBIA STOCK ID PROCESS AS LISTED IN THE TABLE.

MOTION 6: MOVE TO APPOINT BILL GORHAM TO THE COBIA STOCK ID WORKSHOP AND PEER REVIEW.

MOTION 7: MOVE TO APPOINT IRA LAKS TO THE COBIA STOCK ID WORKSHOP AND PEER REVIEW.

MOTION 8: MOVE TO APPOINT ANNA BECKWITH TO THE COBIA STOCK ID WORKSHOP AND PEER REVIEW.

Cobia Stock ID Process. (Motions 4-8)				
Name	Affiliation	Stock ID	Peer Review	Tech Review
Data Providers and Technical Experts				
Jan McDowell	VIMS	X		
Tanya Darden	SCDNR	X		
Joy Young or Jim Whittington	FL FWCC	X		
Lisa Kerr	GMRI	X		
Chris Wilson	NC DMF	X		
SSC Representatives				
Jeff Buckel	NC State / SSC	X		
George Sedberry	SSC	X		
Churchill Grimes	SSC		X	
John Boreman	SSC			X
Eric Johnson	SSC			X
Constituent and Advisory Panel Representatives				
Bill Gorham	NC	X	X	
Ira Laks	FL	X	X	
Council Observer				
Anna Beckwith		X	X	X

MOTION 9: MOVE TO APPROVE THE SCHEDULE AND TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR GREATER AMBERJACK AND RED PORGY.

HABITAT & ECOSYSTEM

Timing and Task(s)

MOTION #1. ADOPT THE FOLLOWING TIMING AND TASK(S):

- 1) Staff will coordinate with members to further refine the FEP II Implementation Plan and develop a draft Roadmap summarizing the Plan and specifying possible actions the Council, or Council in cooperation with state and regional partners will initiate or complete over the next two years. The FEP II Implementation Plan and Road map will be completed for consideration and approval at the March 2018 Council meeting.
- 2) Staff will further refine and enhance the format and capabilities of the FEP II Dashboard and finalize remaining FEP II Sections for activation on the Dashboard.
- 3) Staff will continue to provide oversight of the South Atlantic Ecosystem Modeling Workgroup activities supporting completion of the next generation Ecopath model during winter 2018.

CITIZEN SCIENCE

Address policy on Citizen Science AP Pool and Action Team Appointments

MOTION #1. ADD THE CITIZEN SCIENCE AP POOL TO THE AP APPOINTMENT POLICY IN THE SOPPS.

SOPPs

Review Policies for Inclusion in SOPPs and/or Handbook

MOTION#1: IF AN AP MEETS IN PERSON MEMBERS PARTICIPATING REMOTELY CAN VOTE.

MOTION #2: APPROVE THE CHANGES TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE HANDBOOK.

Timing and Task(s)

MOTION #3. ADOPT THE FOLLOWING TIMING AND TASK(S):

- 1) Distribute word version of the Revised Handbook and the SOPPs to the SOPPs Committee after the December 2017 meeting.
- 2) Revise the Handbook for the March 2018 meeting and include any suggestions from the SOPPs Committee.
- 3) Revise the SOPPs, as needed, for the March 2018 meeting and include any suggestions from the SOPPs Committee.
- 4) Work with NOAA GC to clarify how State representatives can participate on interdisciplinary plan development teams as outlined in the handbook.

EXECUTIVE FINANCE

Council Follow-up and Priorities

The Council discussed priorities and provided the following guidance to staff for the top 4 priorities:

- Commercial Visioning
- Recreational Visioning
- Snapper Grouper Amendment 46
- CMP 31 Cobia Management Transfer

In March 2018, the Council is expected to discuss:

- For-Hire Permit Moratorium Options Paper
- Wreckfish ITQ Review
- Modifications of recreational AMs

Staff will be working on other items as time permits:

- Yellowtail Snapper – consider how to evaluate combining ACLs
- ABC Control Rule Amendment

Timing and Task(s)

MOTION #1. ADOPT THE FOLLOWING TIMING AND TASK(S):

- 1) If comments on Reauthorization are requested, staff is to develop a draft response and circulate to all Council members before finalization.
- 2) Directed staff to prepare the Draft 2018 Budget using the cost savings identified.
- 3) Revise the Priorities based on guidance received.
- 4) Distribute Staff Presentations to Council members after each Council meeting.
- 5) Email Council members when the late documents are posted.
- 6) For future briefing books, if we know ahead of time that a new document will be produced, don't include a draft document in the first Briefing Book.
- 7) Include Outlier EFP Requests to the February CCC meeting agenda and provide the requested input by December 11, 2017.
- 8) Provide the process to evaluate regulations for removal to NMFS by the end of December 2017.
- 9) Prepare a draft list of regulations for removal for the March 2018 meeting, and coordinate with NMFS and NOAA GC.

COUNCIL SESSION

No other motions.