



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, North Charleston SC 29405
 Call: (843) 571-4366 | Toll-Free: (866) SAFMC-10 | Fax: (843) 769-4520 | Connect: www.safmc.net

Charlie Phillips, Chair | Captain Mark Brown, Vice Chair
 Gregg T. Waugh, Executive Director

JUNE 10-15, 2018 COUNCIL MEETING REPORT FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA

The following summary highlights the major issues discussed and actions taken at the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council’s June 2018 meeting in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Briefing materials, presentations, and public comments are available on the Council’s website at:

<http://safmc.net/safmc-meetings/council-meetings/>

Final Committee Reports contain more details of what was accomplished for each committee and are located on the June 2018 briefing book page. In addition, the Summary of Motions on the Council’s website includes all motions from the meeting. Read further details and see images and other links at the March 2018 Council Meeting Round-up Story Map:

<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=a88e097b4bcd4a289251d0a59303a1de>

The Meeting News Release is available at: <http://safmc.net/news-releases/06-15-18-safmc-news-release/>

Issue:	Action Taken:	Schedule:
Red Snapper	<p>Amendment 43 is currently under review by NMFS. The amendment was sent to NMFS on November 20, 2017. Comments on the proposed rule are due by June 18, 2018.</p> <p>The Council provided guidance on actions to include in Amendment 46:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private Recreational Permit • Private Recreational Electronic Reporting <p>The Council provided guidance on Regulatory Amendment 29:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require use of Best Fishing Practices (e.g., descending devices, venting, hook type) • Adjust Powerhead Prohibitions in the South Atlantic (allow in the EEZ off SC or prohibit use of powerheads in entire EEZ) 	<p>If approved, the 2018 recreational and commercial seasons would begin sometime in August. [In future years, the recreational season would begin on July 13, 2018 (2nd Friday) and the commercial season on July 9, 2018.] Recreational bag = 1 with no size limit. Commercial trip limit = 75 pounds gutted weight with no size limit.</p> <p>Approved for scoping.</p> <p>Approved for scoping in August.</p>

Issue:	Action Taken:	Schedule:
Recreational Visioning Amendment	<p>Regulatory Amendment 26: reviewed comments and simplified document:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Deep-water species aggregate to include snowy grouper, misty grouper, golden tilefish, blueline tilefish, wreckfish, and yellowedge grouper •Removal of minimum size limits for the three deep-water snappers (queen snapper, blackfin snapper, silk snapper) •Season and aggregate bag limit for deep-water species aggregate •Recreational bag limits for the current 20-Fish Aggregate species (the Council can select some or all of these) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ no more than 10 gray triggerfish ○ no more than 10 Atlantic spadefish ○ no more than 10 of any one species •Gray triggerfish minimum size limit (so that folks in FL will match the rest of the South Atlantic region) 	Review/modify document and approve all actions in September 2018. Review and approve for formal review in December 2018.
Commercial Visioning Amendment	Regulatory Amendment 27: reviewed comments and provided guidance. Approved all actions.	Review and approve for formal review in September 2018.
For-Hire Moratorium Amendment	Reviewed the scoping document and provided guidance on what to include.	Approved for webinar scoping in August with additional scoping in September and October. Review and provide guidance at September meeting.
Golden Tilefish	The Council discussed the conversion factor for whole weight to gutted weight and decided to use the factor included in the stock assessment that results in a slightly higher ACL. The Council approved all action and approved for formal review.	The document will be revised and sent for formal review so that the new ACL can be in place by January 1, 2019. The Council also requested and extension of the interim rule for an additional 186 days.
Red Grouper	The Council added actions to the amendment and approved for public hearings.	Hold public hearing at the September meeting and approve for formal review.
Yellowtail Snapper	The Council is proposing to modify the accountability measure as a short-term solution to the early closure of the commercial fishery.	Approved for scoping in August. Review at September meeting.
Modifications to Sea Turtle Release Gear	The Council reviewed scoping comments and provided guidance on actions and alternatives to include.	Review at a future meeting.
Vermilion Snapper & Black Sea Bass	The Council directed staff to begin an abbreviated framework document to increase the ACL for vermilion and reduce the ACL for black sea bass.	Public hearing at September meeting and approve for formal review.

Issue:	Action Taken:	Schedule:
Mackerel Cobia	<p>The Council approved CMP Amendment 31 (Atlantic Cobia) for formal review and retained Alternative 2 as preferred: Remove Atlantic cobia from the CMP Fishery Management Plan.</p> <p>The Council retained Preferred Alternative 3 in the framework amendment to change the Atlantic king mackerel commercial trip limit.</p>	<p>The Gulf Council is scheduled to take final action at their June 18-21, 2018 meeting.</p> <p>The Council approved the document for a public hearing at the September meeting and they will consider final action then also.</p>
Spiny Lobster	The Council revised the Actions & Alternatives to be analyzed in Spiny Lobster Amendment 13 (Modifications to Gear Requirements & Cooperative Management Procedure).	This is a joint Amendment with the Gulf Council. Public hearings are expected in July/August with final approval by the Gulf in August and the South Atlantic in September.
Habitat and Ecosystem Based Management	The Council reviewed the AP report and Habitat Dashboard.	Support completion of Ecopath model for the fall SSC meeting.
Citizen Science Program	The Council made appointments to the Operations Team and received updates on the program and research needs.	Work will continue on the pilot and the program infrastructure.
For-Hire Recreational Reporting	<p>The Council received an update on the amendment: the Amendment was approved on June 12, 2018 and the Final Rule is expected to publish in August.</p> <p>Council staff conducted a training session at the meeting.</p>	<p>Regulations are likely to be effective 1/1/19 to give individuals time to become familiar with the program.</p> <p>For-Hire reporting training and outreach will continue in 2018.</p>
MyFishCount	Council staff gave a presentation at a local store on Wednesday and for the Council on Friday.	The app is now available and Council staff will be working with private recreational fishermen to have them report. This experience will be used by the Council as they continue to work on a permitting and reporting amendment.

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SEDAR	Dr. Clay Porch, SEFSC Director, participated during the meeting this week. The Council made appointments to SEDAR 64 (Yellowtail), SEDAR 58 (Cobia), Cobia Stock ID, Red Porgy Assessment, and to the SEDAR AP. The Council also approved the terms of reference and schedule for the yellowtail and cobia stock assessments.	The Council approved the schedules for upcoming stock assessments.
ABC Control Rule & Accountability Measures	The Council provided directions to staff.	Review at a future meeting.
Highly Migratory Pelagics	The Council reviewed the issue of pelagic longline gear in spawning special management zones and the process for reviewing the pelagic longline EFP.	Letters will be sent on both topics.
Golden Crab, Habitat, Shrimp	The Council reviewed recommendations from the advisory panels and approved development of an amendment to review alternatives to modify fishing areas.	Conduct scoping later this year and review at a future meeting.
SSC Selection	The Council approved appointments to the Scientific and Statistical Committee.	