



Modifications to Recreational Accountability Measures for the Snapper Grouper & Dolphin Wahoo Fisheries

Scoping

January 2019

Council Process- *Fishery Management Plan Amendment*

FISHERY ISSUE:
Management need identified



SCOPING:
Public provides comments on ways to address management need



Council reviews input/develops management actions and alternatives

PUBLIC HEARINGS:
Public provides comments on management actions and alternatives



Council reviews input/modifies amendment and selects preferred alternatives

FINAL APPROVAL:
Last chance for public input at Council meeting



Scoping document

- A copy of the Scoping document for this amendment can be downloaded here:
 - <http://safmc.net/safmc-meetings/public-hearings-scoping-meetings/>
- The issues brought up in this presentation for you to consider are also in the Scoping document.



Modification of Recreational AMs

- **MSA requires that there be accountability measures (AMs)**
- **Considering changes to in season AMs**
 - Most common is to stop fishing for the rest of the year to prevent overfishing
 - SAFMC is interested in modifying in season AMs to try to prevent in season closures



Modification of Recreational AMs

- **Considering changes to post season AMs**
 - Reduce the length of the next fishing season
 - Reduce future bag limits
- **Issues:**
 - How do you think AMs should be modified?
 - What is most important in modifying AMs?
 - What criteria should the Council use for changing AMs?



Specific Issues About AMs

- The Council would like your input on these issues:
 - Should the Council eliminate in season AMs?
 - What post season AMs should the Council use to address annual catch limit (ACL) overages?
 - How should landings estimate reliability factor into how/which AMs to apply?
 - What suggestions do you have for ways to modify AMs?
 - Should AMs only apply if the Total ACL is exceeded?



- Should the Council consider AMs modifications for other species such as mackerels and cobia?
- Should the Council only consider AM modifications for species whose recreational sector ACLs are routinely being met?
- Are there advantages for seeking consistency in AMs across species?
- Should AMs be applied only when the stock is overfished?



Announcing fishing season length

- Council has been asked to consider announcing the beginning and the end of a fishing season BEFORE a season begins.
 - This is already done for black sea bass and red snapper
 - Pros:
 - Helps fishermen with planning
 - Cons:
 - Could result in early closure before ACL is taken, low bag limits to avoid exceeding the ACL, etc.
- **Issues:**
 - Should the Council consider doing this?
 - What other species should the Council consider for this?
 - Do the potential Pros outweigh the potential Cons?



Tracking ACL in lbs or # of fish?

- Currently a few species are tracked in numbers of fish. The rest are tracked in pounds.
 - Pros for tracking in numbers of fish:
 - Easier for fishers to understand, fewer data conversions
 - Pros for tracking in pounds of fish:
 - Uses same measurements as the commercial fishery
- **Issue:**
 - Should all species be tracked the same way?



Proposed timing of the Amendment

Process Steps	Dates
Scoping webinar hearings	January 2019
Council reviews scoping comments and create actions/alternatives	March 2019
Review and revise action/alternatives	June 2019
Approval for public hearings	June 2019
Public hearings	Summer 2019
Review public hearing comments and approve all actions/alternatives	September 2019
Final action to approve for secretarial review	December 2019



How do I comment?

- **Online Scoping Webinar:**
 - January 23rd and 24th at 6 pm
 - You must pre-register (free) before you can listen in or participate
 - You can register for either webinar here:
 - <http://safmc.net/safmc-meetings/public-hearings-scoping-meetings/>



How do I comment?

- **Online** (preferred method):
 - <https://safmc.wufoo.com/forms/z1tvkzeq0vom65t/>
- **Fax:** 843/769-4520
- **Mail:**
 - Send written comments to Gregg Waugh, Executive Director, SAFMC, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, N. Charleston, SC 29405
- All comments must be received by 5:00 PM on **February 1, 2019**

