

SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Atlantic Beach, North Carolina

December 7-11, 2015

SUMMARY OF APPROVED COUNCIL MOTIONS

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

(http://safmc.net/meetings/03_2016SAFMCMeetingBriefingBook).

SNAPPER GROUPER

Amendment 37 (Hogfish)

MOTION #1: APPROVE SUGGESTED EDIT TO PURPOSE AND NEED

Purpose for Actions

The purpose of this amendment is to modify the management unit for hogfish, specify fishing levels based on the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee recommendations for the Georgia-North Carolina and Florida Keys/East Florida stocks of hogfish, and modify or establish management measures. For the Florida Keys/East Florida stock of hogfish, this amendment would establish a rebuilding plan to increase hogfish biomass to sustainable levels within a specified time period based on results of the recent stock assessment.

MOTION #2: APPROVE SUGGESTED EDITS TO ACTION 1

Action 1. Modify the Fishery Management Unit (FMU) for hogfish

Alternative 1 (No action). There is a Gulf of Mexico stock and South Atlantic stock of hogfish separated at the jurisdictional boundary between the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council:...

MOTION #3: APPROVE SUGGESTED EDITS TO ACTION 2

Action 2. Specify Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) for the Georgia through North Carolina (GA-NC) and the Florida Keys/East Florida (FLK/EFL) stocks of hogfish

Alternative 1 (No Action). Currently, the maximum sustainable yield (MSY) equals the yield produced by F_{MSY} . $F_{30\%SPR}$ is used as the F_{MSY} proxy for hogfish in the South Atlantic.

MOTION #4: APPROVE SUGGESTED EDITS TO ACTION 3

Action 3. Specify Minimum Stock Size Threshold (MSST) for the Georgia through North Carolina (GA-NC) and the Florida Keys/East Florida (FLK/EFL) stocks of hogfish

Alternative 1 (No Action). Minimum stock size threshold (MSST) for hogfish in the South Atlantic is equal to $SSB_{MSY} ((1-M) \text{ or } 0.5, \text{ whichever is greater})$.

Alternative 2. $MSST = SSB_{MSY} ((1-M) \text{ or } 0.5, \text{ whichever is greater})$.

Sub-alternative 2a. For the GA-NC stock of hogfish.

Sub-alternative 2b. For the FLK/EFL stock of hogfish.

Alternative 3. $MSST = 50\%$ of SSB_{MSY}

Sub-alternative 3a. For the GA-NC stock of hogfish.

Sub-alternative 3b. For the FLK/EFL stock of hogfish.

Preferred Alternative 4. $MSST = 75\%$ of SSB_{MSY}

Preferred Sub-alternative 4a. For the GA-NC stock of hogfish.

Preferred Sub-alternative 4b. For the FLK/EFL stock of hogfish.

MOTION #5: APPROVE SUGGESTED EDITS TO ACTION 4

Action 4. Establish Annual Catch Limits (ACLs) for the Georgia through North Carolina (GA-NC) stock of hogfish

Alternative 1 (No action). The current acceptable biological catch (ABC) for the entire stock of hogfish is 134,824 lbs ww and $ACL = \text{optimum yield (OY)} = ABC$. The commercial $ACL = 49,469$ lbs ww (36.69%) and the recreational $ACL = 85,355$ lbs ww (63.31%).

MOTION #6: ACCEPT SUGGESTED EDITS TO ACTION 5

Action 5. Establish a rebuilding plan for the Florida Keys/East Florida (FLK/EFL) stock of hogfish

Alternative 1 (No Action). The current Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) for the entire stock of hogfish is 134,824 lbs ww. There is no rebuilding plan in place for hogfish in the South Atlantic.

Refer to Decision Document for remainder of suggested edits

MOTION #7: APPROVE SUGGESTED EDITS TO ACTION 6

Action 6. Establish Annual Catch Limits (ACLs) for the Florida Keys/East Florida (FLK/EFL) stock of hogfish

Alternative 1 (No action). The current acceptable biological catch (ABC) for the entire stock of hogfish is 134,824 lbs ww and $ACL = \text{optimum yield (OY)} = ABC$. The commercial annual catch limit ($ACL = 49,469$ lbs ww (36.69%) and the recreational $ACL = 85,355$ lbs ww (63.31%).

Preferred Alternative 2. Establish ACLs for the FLK/EFL stock of hogfish. Specify commercial and recreational ACLs for 2017-2027. ACLs will not increase automatically in a subsequent year if present year projected catch has exceeded the total ACL. Specify commercial and recreational ACLs using re-calculated sector allocations based on proposed modifications to the management unit (9.63% commercial and 90.37% recreational).

Sub-alternative 2a. $ACL = OY = ABC$

Preferred Sub-alternative 2b. $ACL = OY = 95\% ABC$

Sub-alternative 2c. $ACL = OY = 90\% ABC$

MOTION #8: ACCEPT SUGGESTED EDITS TO ACTION 7

Action 7. Establish a recreational Annual Catch Target (ACT) for the Georgia through North Carolina (GA-NC) and the Florida Keys/East Florida (FLK/EFL) stocks of hogfish

Alternative 1 (No Action). The current annual catch target (ACT) is 59,390 lbs ww and applies to hogfish throughout the South Atlantic Council's jurisdiction. The $ACT =$

recreational $ACL*(1-PSE)$ or $ACL*0.5$, whichever is greater, and where Percent Standard Error (PSE) = average PSE 2005-2009.

refer to Decision Document for remainder of suggested edits

MOTION #9: APPROVE SUGGESTED EDITS TO ACTION 8

Action 8. Increase the commercial and recreational minimum size limit for the Georgia through North Carolina (GA-NC) and the Florida Keys/East Florida (FLK/EFL) stocks of hogfish

Alternative 1 (No Action). The current minimum size limit for hogfish is 12 inches fork length (FL) for both the commercial and recreational sectors in federal waters of the South Atlantic Region, and state waters of South Carolina, North Carolina, and Florida. There is no minimum size limit for hogfish in state waters of Georgia.

Preferred Alternative 2. Increase the commercial and recreational minimum size limit for the GA-NC stock of hogfish in the South Atlantic Region.

Sub-alternative 2a. 16 inches FL

Preferred Sub-alternative 2b. 17 inches FL

Sub-alternative 2c. 18 inches FL

Sub-alternative 2d. 19 inches FL

Sub-alternative 2e. 20 inches FL

Sub-alternative 2f. Increase the minimum size limit from 12 inches FL to 15 inches FL in year 1, to 18 inches FL in year 2, and to 20 inches FL in year 3.

Preferred Alternative 3. Increase the commercial and recreational minimum size limit for the FLK/EFL stock of hogfish in the South Atlantic Region.

Sub-alternative 3a. 14 inches FL

Preferred Sub-alternative 3b. 15 inches FL

Sub-alternative 3c. 16 inches FL

Sub-alternative 3d. 17 inches FL

Sub-alternative 3e. Increase the minimum size limit from 12 inches FL to 14 inches FL in year 1 and to 16 inches FL in year 3.

MOTION #10: CHANGE CURRENT PREFERRED FOR FLK/EFL STOCK FROM SUB-ALTERNATIVE 3B (15 INCHES FL) TO SUB-ALTERNATIVE 3C (16 INCHES FL)

Action 8 (above)

Preferred Sub-alternative 3c. 16 inches FL

MOTION #11: APPROVE SUGGESTED EDITS TO ACTION 9

Action 9. Establish a commercial trip limit for the Georgia through North Carolina (GA-NC) and the Florida Keys/East Florida (FLK/EFL) stocks of hogfish

Alternative 1 (No Action). There is no commercial trip limit for hogfish in the South Atlantic region.

Preferred Alternative 2. Establish a commercial trip limit for the GA-NC stock of hogfish in the South Atlantic region.

Sub-alternative 2a. 100 lbs ww per trip.

Sub-alternative 2b. 250 lbs ww per trip.

Preferred Sub-alternative 2c. 500 lbs ww per trip.

Sub-alternative 2d. 750 lbs ww per trip.

Sub-alternative 2e. No trip limit

Preferred Alternative 3. Establish a commercial trip limit for the FLK/EFL stock of hogfish in the South Atlantic region.

Preferred Sub-alternative 3a. 25 lbs ww per trip.

Sub-alternative 3b. 50 lbs ww per trip.

Sub-alternative 3c. 100 lbs ww per trip.

Sub-alternative 3d. 150 lbs ww per trip.

Sub-alternative 3e. 200 lbs ww per trip.

Sub-alternative 3f. No trip limit

MOTION #12: APPROVE SUGGESTED EDITS TO ACTION 10

Action 10. *Modify and/or establish recreational bag limits for the Georgia through North Carolina (GA-NC) and the Florida Keys/East Florida (FLK/EFL) stocks of hogfish*

Alternative 1 (No Action). The recreational bag limit is 5 fish per person per day in federal waters off east Florida and there is no recreational bag limit in federal waters off Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina.

Preferred Alternative 2. Establish a recreational bag limit for the GA-NC stock of hogfish.

Preferred Sub-alternative 2a. 2 fish per person per day.

Sub-alternative 2b. 1 fish per person per day.

Sub-alternative 2c. 1 fish per vessel per day.

Preferred Alternative 3. Modify the recreational bag limit for the FLK/EFL stock of hogfish.

Sub-alternative 3a. 3 fish per person per day.

Sub-alternative 3b. 2 fish per person per day.

Preferred Sub-alternative 3c. 1 fish per person per day.

Sub-alternative 3d. 1 fish per vessel per day.

MOTION #13: ACCEPT SUGGESTED EDITS TO ACTION 11

Action 11. *Establish a recreational fishing season for the Florida Keys/East Florida (FLK/EFL) stock of hogfish*

Alternative 1 (No Action). There is no recreational fishing season for hogfish in the South Atlantic. The recreational fishing year for hogfish is January 1 through December 31.

Preferred Alternative 2. Establish a recreational fishing season for the FLK/EFL stock of hogfish in the South Atlantic region.

Sub-alternative 2a. May-June

Sub-alternative 2b. July-August

Preferred Sub-alternative 2c. July-September

MOTION #14: ADD SUB-ALTERNATIVE 2D TO ACTION 11 FOR A RECREATIONAL SEASON JULY THROUGH OCTOBER AND SELECT AS PREFERRED.

Action 11 (above)

Preferred Sub-alternative 2d. July-October

INTENT IS TO DE-SELECT PREVIOUS PREFERRED

MOTION #15: APPROVE SUGGESTED EDITS TO ACTION 12

Action 12. Establish commercial and recreational accountability measures (AMs) for the Georgia through North Carolina (GA-NC) and the Florida Keys/East Florida (FLK/EFL) stocks of hogfish

Alternative 1 (No Action). Current commercial and recreational AMs apply to hogfish throughout the South Atlantic Council's area of jurisdiction.

See Decision Document for remainder of suggested edits

MOTION #16: MOVE ALTERNATIVE 5 TO THE CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED APPENDIX

Alternative 5. If recreational landings exceed the recreational ACL for two consecutive fishing years, then during the following (*i.e.*, third) fishing year, recreational landings will be monitored for a persistence in increased landings. If necessary, NMFS would reduce the length of fishing season and the recreational ACL after two consecutive years of exceeding the recreational ACL in the following fishing year by the amount of the average annual recreational overage, only if the species is overfished and the total ACL (commercial ACL and recreational ACL) of the respective stock is exceeded. The length of the recreational season and recreational ACL will not be reduced if NMFS determines, using the best scientific information available, that a reduction is unnecessary.

Sub-alternative 5a. For the GA-NC stock of hogfish.

Sub-alternative 5b. For the FLK/EFL stock of hogfish.

Amendment 41 (Mutton snapper)

MOTION #17: MODIFY THE PURPOSE STATEMENT TO REMOVE “utilizing data through 2013” AND ACCEPT THE NEED STATEMENT AS PRESENTED

Purpose for Action

The purpose of this amendment is to update the acceptable biological catch, annual catch limit, maximum sustainable yield, minimum stock size threshold, optimum yield, and revise management measures for the mutton snapper component of the snapper grouper fishery based on the results of the most recent stock assessment.

Need for Action

The need for the amendment is to base mutton snapper management measures on the best scientific information available in order to achieve and maintain OY and to prevent overfishing while minimizing, to the extent practicable, adverse social and economic effects.

MOTION #18: ACCEPT SUGGESTED EDITS TO ACTION 1 AND SELECT ALTERNATIVE 2 AS PREFERRED

Action 1. Specify Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) for mutton snapper

Alternative 1 (No Action). The Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) for mutton snapper in the South Atlantic equals the yield produced by F_{MSY} . $F_{30\%SPR}$ is used as the F_{MSY} proxy. The value is not specified.

Alternative 2. Maximum sustainable yield (MSY) equals the yield produced by F_{MSY} or the F_{MSY} proxy. MSY and F_{MSY} are recommended by the most recent SEDAR/SSC.

MOTION #19: APPROVE SUGGESTED EDITS TO ACTION 2 AND SELECT ALTERNATIVE 3 AS PREFERRED

Action 2. Specify Minimum Stock Size Threshold (MSST) for mutton snapper

Alternative 1 (No Action). The minimum stock size threshold (MSST) for mutton snapper is $MSST = SSB_{MSY} ((1-M) \text{ or } 0.5, \text{ whichever is greater})$. The value is not specified.

Alternative 2. Minimum stock size threshold (MSST) = 50% of SSB_{MSY}

Alternative 3. Minimum stock size threshold (MSST) = 75% of SSB_{MSY}

MOTION #20: ACCEPT SUGGESTED EDITS TO ACTION 3 AND ADOPT STRUCTURE “A” FOR ALTERNATIVES UNDER ACTION 3

Action 3. Revise Annual Catch Limits (ACLs) and Optimum Yield (OY) for mutton snapper in the South Atlantic region

Alternative 1 (No action). The current ABC and OY for mutton snapper is 926,600 lbs ww. The current commercial ACL is 157,743 lbs ww and the recreational ACL is 768,857 lbs ww. (NOTE: The commercial allocation in the Comp ACL was 17.02% and the recreational allocation was 82.98%. However the ACLs that were implemented were calculated using this allocation to 6 decimal places instead of 2).

Alternative 2. The jurisdictional allocation for the South Atlantic is 82% of the acceptable biological catch (ABC). Specify annual catch limits (ACLs) and optimum yield (OY) for the South Atlantic using the existing sector allocations (17.02% commercial and 82.98% recreational) and specify the recreational ACL in numbers of fish. The ACLs specified for 2020 would remain in place until modified.

Sub-alternative 2a. $ACL = OY = ABC$.

Sub-alternative 2b. $ACL = OY = 95\% ABC$.

Sub-alternative 2c. $ACL = OY = 90\% ABC$.

NOTE: Since above motion passed, the preferred under the motion below becomes Sub-alternative 2a

MOTION #21: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 2 AS PREFERRED

Alternative 2. The jurisdictional allocation for the South Atlantic is 82% of the acceptable biological catch (ABC). Specify $ACL = OY = ABC$. Specify annual catch limits (ACLs) and optimum yield (OY) for the South Atlantic using the existing sector allocations (17.02% commercial and 82.98% recreational) and specify the recreational ACL in numbers of fish. The ACLs specified for 2020 would remain in place until modified.

Preferred Sub-alternative 2a. $ACL = OY = ABC$.

MOTION #22: APPROVE SUGGESTED EDITS TO ACTION 4

Action 4. Revise Recreational Annual Catch Target (ACT) for mutton snapper in the South Atlantic region

Alternative 1 (No Action). The current ACT is 668,906 lbs ww and applies to mutton snapper throughout the South Atlantic Council’s jurisdiction. The ACT = recreational $ACL*(1-PSE)$ or $ACL*0.5$, whichever is greater, and where Percent Standard Error (PSE) = 13% = average PSE 2005-2009 (for South Atlantic only).

Alternative 2. Revise the annual catch target (ACT) for mutton snapper for the recreational sector and specify the recreational ACT in numbers of fish. The ACT for 2020 would remain in place until modified.

Sub-alternative 2a. ACT = recreational $ACL*(1-PSE)$ or $ACL*0.5$, whichever is greater.

Sub-alternative 2b. ACT = 85% recreational ACL.

Sub-alternative 2c. ACT = 75% recreational ACL.

NOTE: Based on selected structure under Action 3, the preferred under the motion below becomes Sub-alternative 2b

MOTION #23: SELECT NEW ALTERNATIVE 3 (ACT =85% recreational ACL) AS PREFERRED UNDER ACTION 4

Action 4. *Revise Recreational Annual Catch Target (ACT) for mutton snapper in the South Atlantic region*

Alternative 1 (No Action). The current ACT is 668,906 lbs ww and applies to mutton snapper throughout the South Atlantic Council’s jurisdiction. The ACT = recreational $ACL*(1-PSE)$ or $ACL*0.5$, whichever is greater, and where Percent Standard Error (PSE) = 13% = average PSE 2005-2009 (for South Atlantic only).

Alternative 2. ACT = recreational $ACL*(1-PSE)$ or $ACL*0.5$, whichever is greater.

Preferred Alternative 3. ACT =85% recreational ACL.

Alternative 4. ACT = 75% recreational ACL.

MOTION #24: MOVE SUB-ALTERNATIVES 2C AND 2E UNDER ACTION 5 (Sub-alternative 2c: June-July; Sub-alternative 2e: May-August) TO THE CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED APPENDIX

Action 5. *Designate spawning season during which commercial and recreational management measures for mutton snapper should apply*

Alternative 1 (No Action). The spawning season for mutton snapper is designated as May-June.

Alternative 2. For regulatory purposes, designate the following as “spawning months”. The remainder of the year would be the “regular season.”

Sub-alternative 2a. April-June

Sub-alternative 2b. April-July

Sub-alternative 2c. June-July

Sub-alternative 2d. May-July

Sub-alternative 2e. May-August

MOTION #25: ACCEPT SUGGESTED EDITS TO ACTION 6

Action 6. *Modify Mutton Snapper Recreational Bag Limit in the South Atlantic*

Alternative 1 (No Action). Mutton snapper is part of the aggregate 10 snapper bag limit in the South Atlantic. In the South Atlantic, the 10 snapper-per-person aggregate

includes all snapper species in the snapper grouper management unit except red snapper and vermilion snapper. Cubera snapper less than 30 inches total length (TL) are included in the 10 fish bag limit. The aggregate 10 snapper bag limit includes a maximum of 2 cubera snapper per person (not to exceed 2 per/vessel) for fish 30 inches TL or larger off Florida. Note: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council and the State of Florida regulations include mutton snapper in the 10 snapper bag limit.

Alternative 2. Retain mutton snapper within the recreational 10 snapper aggregate bag limit in the South Atlantic, but specify a bag limit for mutton snapper during the “regular season” (i.e., non-spawning months)

Sub-alternative 2a. 4 fish/person/day

Sub-alternative 2b. 5 fish/person/day

Sub-alternative 2c. 10 fish/person/day

Alternative 3. Retain mutton snapper within the recreational 10 snapper aggregate bag limit in the South Atlantic, but specify bag/vessel limits for mutton snapper during the “spawning months”

Sub-alternative 3a. 2 fish/person/day

Sub-alternative 3b. 2 fish/vessel/day

Sub-alternative 3c. 5 fish/vessel/day

Sub-alternative 3d. 10 fish/vessel/day

Sub-alternative 3e. 12 fish/vessel/day

Alternative 4. Retain mutton snapper within the recreational 10 snapper aggregate bag limit in the South Atlantic, but specify bag limits for mutton snapper within the aggregate bag limit year round.

Sub-alternative 4a. 2 fish/person/day.

Sub-alternative 4b. 3 fish/person/day.

Sub-alternative 4c. 5 fish/person/day.

MOTION #26: MOVE SUB-ALTERNATIVES 3B AND 3C (Sub-alternative 3b: 2 fish/vessel/day; Sub-alternative 3c: 5 fish/vessel/day) TO THE CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED APPENDIX

MOTION #27: ADD NEW SUB-ALTERNATIVES UNDER ALTERNATIVE 3 FOR NO RETENTION AND 3 FISH/PERSON/DAY

MOTION #28: ACCEPT SUGGESTED EDITS TO ALTERNATIVES UNDER ACTION 7

Action 7. Modify Mutton Snapper Commercial Trip Limit in the South Atlantic

Alternative 1 (No Action). During May-June the commercial sector in the South Atlantic is restricted to 10 mutton snapper per day or 10 mutton snapper per trip, whichever is more restrictive, and sale is allowed. There is no trip limit for the commercial sector in the Gulf or South Atlantic from July through April.

Alternative 2. Establish a commercial trip limit for mutton snapper during the “regular season” (i.e., non-spawning months) in the South Atlantic.

Sub-alternative 2a. 300 pounds

Sub-alternative 2b. 400 pounds

Sub-alternative 2c. 500 pounds

Alternative 3. Specify a commercial trip limit for mutton snapper during the “spawning months” in the South Atlantic.

Sub-alternative 3a. 2 fish/person/day

Sub-alternative 3b. 5 fish/person/day

Sub-alternative 3c. 2 fish/vessel/day

Sub-alternative 3d. 5 fish/vessel/day

Sub-alternative 3e. 10 fish/vessel/day

Sub-alternative 3f. 12 fish/vessel/day

MOTION #29: MOVE SUB-ALTERNATIVES 3B, 3C, AND 3D UNDER ACTION 7 TO THE CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED APPENDIX

Sub-alternative 3b. 5 fish/person/day

Sub-alternative 3c. 2 fish/vessel/day

Sub-alternative 3d. 5 fish/vessel/day

MOTION #30: ADD SUB-ALTERNATIVES FOR NO RETENTION AND 3 FISH/PERSON/DAY TO ALTERNATIVE 3

MOTION #31: ADD ACTION TO AMENDMENT 41 TO MODIFY THE MUTTON SNAPPER MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT

MOTION #32: ADD ALTERNATIVES FOR 17” TL, 18” TL, 19” TL AND 20” TL TO THE NEW ACTION.

Oculina Experimental Closed Area Evaluation Report

MOTION #33: NEXT REVIEW OF THE OECA IN 2019 WITH THE SCOPE INCLUDING SCIENCE, SIZE, CONFIGURATION, AND REGULATIONS AND APPROVAL OF THE REPORT.

System Management Plan for Deepwater MPAs

MOTION #34: APPROVE THE SYSTEM MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR AMENDMENT 14 DEEPWATER MPAS AND TIMING FOR THE REVIEW IN 2021 WITH EDITORIAL CHANGES APPROVED BY CHAIR.

Amendment 36 (Spawning Special Management Zones)

MOTION #35: APPROVE THE CORRECTIONS TO THE SIZE OF SUB-ALTERNATIVES 2A, 3A, AND 3B, ALTERNATIVE 4, AND PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE 5 FOR ACTION 3.

Action 3. Establish New Spawning Special Management Zones (Spawning SMZ) off North Carolina

Alternative 1. No Action. There are no Spawning SMZs off North Carolina.

Alternative 2. Establish a Spawning SMZ in the Malchase Wreck area that prohibits fishing for, harvest, and/or possession of species in the snapper grouper fishery management unit year-round.

Sub-alternative 2a. Malchase Wreck (2.42 square miles)

Sub-alternative 2b. Malchase Wreck (1.00 square mile)

Alternative 3. Establish a Spawning SMZ in the 780 Bottom area that prohibits fishing for, harvest, and/or possession of species in the snapper grouper fishery management unit year-round.

Sub-alternative 3a. 780 Bottom (5.14 square miles)

Sub-alternative 3b. 780 Bottom (3.11 square miles)

Alternative 4. Establish a Spawning SMZ in the NC Deep Wreck (3.20 square miles) that prohibits fishing for, harvest, and/or possession of species in the snapper grouper fishery management unit year-round.

Preferred Alternative 5. Establish a Spawning SMZ in the South Cape Lookout (5.10 square miles) that prohibits fishing for, harvest, and/or possession of species in the snapper grouper fishery management unit year-round.

MOTION #36: APPROVE THE CORRECTIONS TO THE SIZE OF SUB-ALTERNATIVES 2A, 2B, 2C, 2E, AND 2F FOR ACTION 4.

Action 4. Establish New Spawning Special Management Zones (Spawning SMZ) off South Carolina

Alternative 1. No Action. There are no Spawning SMZs off South Carolina.

Preferred Alternative 2. Establish a Spawning SMZs in the Devil's Hole/Georgetown Hole area that prohibits fishing for, harvest, and/or possession of species in the snapper grouper fishery management unit year-round.

Sub-alternative 2a. Devil's Hole/Georgetown Hole (12.57 square miles)

Sub-alternative 2b. Devil's Hole/Georgetown Hole (4.62 square miles)

Sub-alternative 2c. Devil's Hole/Georgetown Hole (1.75 square mile)

Sub-alternative 2d. Devil's Hole/Georgetown Hole (15.20 square miles)

Sub-alternative 2e. SC South (7.90 square miles) (Alternative to Devil's Hole)

Preferred Sub-alternative 2f. Devil's Hole/Georgetown Hole (3.03 square miles)

Preferred Alternative 3. Establish a Spawning SMZ in the Area 51 site that prohibits fishing for, harvest, and/or possession of species in the snapper grouper fishery management unit year-round (2.99 square miles).

Preferred Alternative 4. Establish a Spawning SMZ in the Area 53 site that prohibits fishing for, harvest, and/or possession of species in the snapper grouper fishery management unit year-round (2.99 square miles).

MOTION #37: APPROVE THE CORRECTIONS TO THE SIZE OF SUB-ALTERNATIVES 2A, 2B, AND 2C FOR ACTION 5.

Action 5. Establish New Spawning Special Management Zones (Spawning SMZs) off Georgia

Preferred Alternative 1. No Action. There are no Spawning SMZs off Georgia.

Alternative 2. Establish a Spawning SMZ in the St. Simons area that prohibits fishing for, harvest, and/or possession of species in the snapper grouper fishery management unit year-round.

Sub-alternative 2a. St. Simons Area (14.32 square miles)

Sub-alternative 2b. St. Simons Area (8.89 square miles)

Sub-alternative 2c. St. Simons Area (3.80 square miles)

MOTION #38: APPROVE THE CORRECTIONS TO THE SIZE OF SUB-ALTERNATIVES 2A, 2B, 2C, 3A, 3B, AND 3C FOR ACTION 6.

Action 6. Establish New Spawning Special Management Zones (Spawning SMZs) off Florida

Alternative 1. No Action. There are no Spawning SMZs off Florida.

Preferred Alternative 2. Establish a Spawning SMZ in the Warsaw Hole area that prohibits fishing for, harvest, and/or possession of species in the snapper grouper fishery management unit year-round.

Sub-alternative 2a. Warsaw Hole (1.80 square miles)

Sub-alternative 2b. Warsaw Hole (0.90 square miles)

Preferred Sub-alternative 2c. Warsaw Hole (3.60 square miles)

Alternative 3. Establish a Spawning SMZ in the Daytona Steeples area that prohibits fishing for, harvest, and/or possession of species in the snapper grouper fishery management unit year-round.

Sub-alternative 3a. Daytona Steeples (6.53 square miles) area of apparent high relief in the 27 square mile footprint.

Sub-alternative 3b. Daytona Steeples (13.30 square miles)

Sub-alternative 3c. Daytona Steeples (6.68 square miles)

Note: The Warsaw Hole is also known as the 50 Fathom Hole.

DIRECTION TO STAFF:

1. Correct spelling of graysby in Table S-19 (Spawning SMZ target species) and ensure it is included in Table 2.9.1.1.
2. Work with Monica to ensure all the necessary gear stowage requirements are included in the codified text.

MOTION #39: APPROVE SNAPPER GROUPE AMENDMENT 36 FOR 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.

MOTION #40: TIMING AND TASKS

- Prepare Amendment 36 for formal review (including guidance to staff above)
- Prepare Amendment 37 for approval at the June SEPTEMBER 2016 Council meeting
- Conduct as much of the analysis as possible on Amendment 41 and provide to FWC in late March/early April to refine their preferred alternatives.
- Request that Paul Rudershausen give the presentation on black sea bass pot selectivity study to the SG AP at their April 2016 meeting.
- Distribute the approved Oculina Review Report
- Distribute the approved System Management Plan for Amendment 14 MPAs
- Distribute the approved System Management Plan for Spawning SMZs
- Prepare draft options with analyses for red snapper management for the June Council meeting

MACKEREL

Amendment 26 (King mackerel ACLs and stock boundary)

MOTION #1: APPROVE THE IPT-PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE PURPOSE AND NEED.

PURPOSE AND NEED

The purpose of this amendment is to modify the stock boundary and revise the ACLs for Atlantic and Gulf migratory group king mackerel; to modify the commercial zone quotas for Gulf migratory king mackerel; to review recreational and commercial allocations for Gulf migratory king mackerel; to increase the recreational bag limit for Gulf migratory king mackerel; to create an incidental catch allowance of Atlantic migratory king mackerel for the shark gillnet fishery; and to revise or create management measures for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel in the Atlantic Southern Zone.

MOTION #2: CHANGE THE PREFERRED IN ACTION 2-2 FROM ALTERNATIVE 3 TO ALTERNATIVE 2.

Action 2-2. Revise the ACLs, Commercial Quotas, and Recreational ACT for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel

Alternative 2: Revise the ACL and recreational ACT based on the ABC levels selected under Action 2-1. ACL = OY = ABC, recreational ACT = [0.5 or (1-PSE), whichever is greater].

MOTION #3: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 3, OPTION 3B AS THE PREFERRED IN ACTION 5.

MOTION #4: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 4/OPTION 4A AS THE PREFERRED IN ACTION 5.

Action 5. Establish trip limits for the Atlantic Southern Zone

Preferred Alternative 3: In the Southern Zone, the trip limit north of the Flagler/Volusia county line is 3,500 lbs. For the area south of the Flagler/Volusia county line, establish a trip limit of 50 fish from March 1- March 31, and 75 fish for the remainder of season 1 (as designated in Action 4).

Preferred Option 3b. At any time during season 1, if 75% of the season 1 quota has been taken, the trip limit will be 50 fish.

Preferred Alternative 4: In the Southern Zone, the trip limit north of the Flagler/Volusia county line is 3,500 lbs. For the area south of the Flagler/Volusia county line, establish a trip limit of 50 fish for season 2 (as designated in Action 4).

Preferred Option 4a. Beginning on February 1 and continuing through the end of February--

(1) If 70 % or more of the season 2 quota has been taken, the trip limit is 50 fish.

(2) If less than 70 % of the season 2 quota has been taken, the trip limit is 75 fish.

MOTION #5: ADOPT ALTERNATIVE 4 AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE IN ACTION 7.

Action 7. Revise the Commercial Zone Quotas for Gulf Migratory Group King Mackerel

South Atlantic/Gulf Council Preferred Alternative 4: Revise the commercial zone quotas for Gulf migratory group king mackerel as follows: 40% for the Western Zone; 18% for the Northern Zone; 21% for the Southern Zone Handline component; and 21% for the Southern Zone Gillnet component.

MOTION #6: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 1 AS THE PREFERRED FOR ACTION 8.

Action 8. Revise the Recreational and Commercial Allocations of Gulf Migratory Group King Mackerel

South Atlantic/Gulf Council Preferred Alternative 1: No action – Maintain the current recreational and commercial allocations for Gulf migratory group king mackerel (68% recreational, 32% commercial).

MOTION #7: DESELECT ALTERNATIVE 3 AS THE PREFERRED AND SELECT ALTERNATIVE 2 AS THE PREFERRED IN ACTION 9.

Action 9. Modify the Recreational Bag Limit for Gulf Migratory Group King Mackerel

South Atlantic/Gulf Council Preferred Alternative 2: Increase the bag limit to three fish per person per day.

MOTION #8: APPROVE COASTAL MIGRATORY PELAGICS AMENDMENT 26 FOR 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.

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MOTION #9: DIRECT STAFF TO LOOK AT VESSEL LIMITS FOR 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 AND 6 FISH.

MOTION #10: LOOK AT A COMBINED RECREATIONAL VESSEL LIMIT DECREASE WITH INCREASED MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT.

- 33-39 INCHES FORK IN 1-INCH INCREMENTS
- 1-6 FISH VESSEL LIMIT.

MOTION #11: LOOK AT A 1/PERSON BAG LIMIT FOR COBIA.

MOTION #12: LOOK AT COMBINED BAG LIMIT OPTIONS WITH INCREASED MIN SIZE LIMIT.

- 33-39 INCHES FORK IN 1-INCH INCREMENTS
- 1/PERSON BAG LIMIT
- 2/PERSON BAG LIMIT

MOTION #13: DIRECT STAFF TO LOOK AT CHANGING START OF RECREATIONAL FISHING YEAR TO MAY 1.

MOTION #14: EXPLORE MODIFYING THE RECREATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES:

If recreational landings, as estimated by the Science and Research Director, exceed the recreational ACL, then during the following fishing year, recreational landings will be monitored for a persistence in increased landings.

If necessary, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the length of fishing season and the recreational ACL in the following fishing year by the amount of the recreational overage, only if the species, or one or more species in a species complex, is overfished and the total ACL (commercial ACL and recreational ACL) is exceeded. The length of the recreational season and recreational ACL will not be reduced if the Regional Administrator determines, using the best scientific information available, that a reduction is unnecessary.

MOTION #15: FOR COMMERCIAL ATLANTIC COBIA SECTOR, CONTINUE TO FISH AT 2 FISH PER PERSON UNTIL 75% OF THE COMMERCIAL ACL HAS BEEN CAUGHT, THEN DECREASE TO 1 FISH PER PERSON.

DIRECTION TO STAFF: ADD OPTIONS FOR DATES AFTER WHICH A STEP-DOWN WOULD NOT OCCUR.

MOTION #16: DRAFT A LETTER FROM THE COUNCIL TO THE ASMFC POLICY BOARD TO REQUEST CONSIDERATION OF JOINT MANAGEMENT OF ATLANTIC COBIA.

Other Business

MOTION #17: ESTABLISH MARCH 11, 2016 AS A CONTROL DATE FOR THE FOR-HIRE SECTOR (HEADBOATS AND CHARTER VESSELS) IN THE FOLLOWING FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS:

1. COASTAL MIGRATORY PELAGIC (KING MACKEREL, SPANISH MACKEREL, AND COBIA) FMP
2. SNAPPER GROUPER FMP
3. DOLPHIN WAHOO FMP

MOTION #18: TABLE THE DISCUSSION.

MOTION #19: REQUEST THAT THE COUNCIL CHAIR ADD A DISCUSSION ABOUT LIMITED ENTRY FOR THE FOR-HIRE PERMITS IN SNAPPER GROUPER, CMP AND DOLPHIN WAHOO TO A FUTURE MEETING'S AGENDA.

MOTION #20: ADOPT THE TIMING AND TASK ITEMS AS PRESENTED:

1. PREPARE DRAFT AMENDMENT 26 FOR GULF COUNCIL MEETING IN APRIL 2016.
2. UPON APPROVAL BY THE GULF COUNCIL, PREPARE AMENDMENT 26 FOR SUBMISSION TO THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE.
3. STAFF TO DEVELOP ACTIONS AND ALTERNATIVES FOR THE COBIA FRAMEWORK AMENDMENT FOR COMMITTEE REVIEW IN JUNE 2016.
4. DRAFT A LETTER TO THE ASMFC POLICY BOARD TO CONSIDER JOINT MANAGEMENT OF ATLANTIC COBIA.

LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE

The Council did not approve any Law Enforcement motions.

JOINT DOLPHIN WAHOO/SNAPPER GROUPEr COMMITTEE

MOTION #1: CONSIDER A SINGLE ACL FOR DOLPHIN AND YELLOWTAIL SNAPPER AS AN ACTION FOR DW10/SG44.

MOTION #2: CONSIDER FOR SCOPING GEAR TYPE ALLOCATION FOR THE COMMERCIAL FISHERY FOR DOLPHIN.

MOTION #3: IN JUNE THE JOINT DOLPHIN WAHOO/SNAPPER GROUPEr COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE TO SEE ALL OF THE ITEMS THEY APPROVED FOR SCOPING AT THE MARCH 2016 MEETING, PLUS A LISTING OF THE OTHER ADDITIONAL DOLPHIN MANAGEMENT ACTIONS IN THE DECEMBER 2015 WHITE PAPER.

PROTECTED RESOURCES COMMITTEE

MOTION #1: APPROVE THE ESA/MSA INTEGRATION AGREEMENT

SEDAR COMMITTEE

MOTION #1: Move to appoint the following to the SEDAR Blueline Tilefish Stock ID Workshop:

- Jan Mcdowell, Tanya Darden, David Wyanski, Joey Ballenger, George Sedberry, Churchill Grimes, Marcel Reichert, Fred Serchuk, Myra Brouwer, Mike Errigo, John Boreman, Cynthia Jones, Tom Miller, and Jason Didden

MOTION #2: Move to appoint to the SEDAR AP the MAFMC appointees to SEDAR 50 (blueline tilefish) data, assessment and review panels.

DATA COMMITTEE

MOTION #1: MOVE TO ACCEPT THE IPTs RECOMMENDED CHANGES. (FOR THE NEED)

The *need* for this action is to improve charter vessel and headboat fishery data used for management and to improve monitoring and compliance of federally permitted for-hire vessels in the South Atlantic managed fisheries

MOTION #2: MOVE TO ACCEPT THE IPTs RECOMMENDED CHANGES. (FOR ACTION 1, PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE 2)

Preferred Alternative 2: Require that federally permitted charter vessels, while operating as a charter vessel, submit fishing records for each trip to the SRD weekly, or at intervals shorter than a week if notified by the SRD, via electronic reporting (via NMFS approved hardware/software). Electronic reports would be due by Tuesday following the week that ends on Sunday.

MOTION #3: MOVE TO SPECIFY CORE DATA ELEMENTS.
(INTENT TO INCLUDE IN THE AMENDMENT)

MOTION #4: MOVE UNDER ACTION 2 ALTERNATIVE 2 TO ACCEPT THE IPTS RECOMMENDED CHANGES.

Preferred Alternative 2. Require that headboats, while operating as a headboat, submit fishing records to the SRD weekly or at intervals shorter than a week if notified by the SRD via electronic reporting (via NMFS approved hardware/software). Electronic reports would be due by Tuesday following each week that ends on Sunday, instead of reports being due on Sunday. Weekly = Tuesday following each fishing week.

MOTION #5: MOVE TO DELAY FINAL APPROVAL UNTIL AT LEAST SEPTEMBER.

MOTION #6: Move to direct staff to:

- Develop an action to specify core data elements, including alternatives to enable future changes through framework, for consideration by the Council in June
- Inform the GMFMC of the delay in final approval.

AP SELECTION COMMITTEE

MOTION #1: REAPPOINT DAVID NEILSON AND HOWARD RAU AND APPOINT TIM MCGURL TO THE GOLDEN CRAB AP.

MOTION #2: APPOINT TIM SARTWELL AND DAVID BUSH TO THE HABITAT AP.

MOTION #3: REAPPOINT SCOTT BAKER TO THE INFORMATION AND EDUCATION AP.

MOTION #4: APPOINT GREG PERALTA TO THE MACKEREL AP.

MOTION #5: READVERTISE 1 NGO SEAT AND 3 OPEN SEATS ON THE MACKEREL AP.

MOTION #6: APPOINT DAVE FORCINITO TO THE MACKEREL AP.

MOTION #7: APPOINT RYAN HOWARD TO THE MACKEREL AP.

MOTION #8: APPOINT MICHAEL FREEMAN TO THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AP.

MOTION #9: REAPPOINT FRED DOCKERY AND RICHARD VENDETTI TO THE SHRIMP AP.

MOTION #10: REAPPOINT ROBERT JOHNSON AND APPOINT MANNY HERRERA TO THE SNAPPER GROUPER AP.

MOTION #11: APPOINT DEIDRA JEFFCOAT TO THE SNAPPER GROUPER AP AND READVERTISE A GA OPEN SEAT.

MOTION #12: APPOINT DEWEY HEMILRIGHT TO THE SEDAR POOL AP.

MOTION #13: APPOINT TERRI BEIDEMAN TO THE SEDAR POOL AP.

MOTION #14: HAVE STAFF DEVELOP OPTIONS TO ALLOW FOR FISHING REPRESENTATION ON THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AP AND THE INFORMATION & EDUCATION AP (FOR JUNE).

MOTION #15: THE CHAIR OF THE AP MAY SERVE AS CHAIR FOR A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS WITH THE OPTION FOR REAPPOINTMENT.

MOTION #16: CHANGE THE NAME OF THE KING AND SPANISH MACKEREL AP TO THE COASTAL MIGRATORY PELAGICS AP.

EXECUTIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE

MOTION #1: COUNCIL SEND A LETTER TO EILEEN SOBECK, ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR FISHERIES, INDICATING THE NEED FOR FUNDING TO THE SERO/SEFSC TO IMPLEMENT HEADBOAT, CHARTER VESSEL, AND COMMERCIAL ELECTRONIC REPORTING AND REQUESTING CLARIFICATION ON HOW MUCH OF THE \$7 MILLION FUNDS FOR ELECTRONIC MONITORING/REPORTING WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR WORK IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL'S AREA

MOTION #2: COUNCIL SEND A LETTER TO ALAN RISENHOOVER, DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES, COMMENTING ON THE CATCH SHARE PROGRAM REVIEW GUIDANCE

MOTION #3: ALLOW STAFF TO MODIFY ALTERNATIVE 1 (NO ACTION) FOR ALL ACTIONS IN ALL AMENDMENTS AS NECESSARY TO REFLECT THE TRUE STATUS QUO WITHOUT REQUIRING COUNCIL APPROVAL FOR EACH CHANGE.

MOTION #4: DIRECT STAFF TO LOOK AT SEPARATE SEASONALITY AND RETENTION AMENDMENTS.

DIRECTION TO STAFF: WHEN LOOKING AT A SEASONALITY AMENDMENT SEE HOW BEGINNING AND ENDING DATES CAN BE ESTABLISHED AHEAD OF TIME. ASK STAFF FOR RECOMMENDATION ON WHETHER TWO AMENDMENTS OR JUST ONE ADDRESSING THE ISSUES WOULD BE MORE EFFICIENT.

COUNCIL SESSION (OTHER MOTIONS)

The Council did not approve any other motions during the Council session.