

# SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Charleston, South Carolina

September 25-29, 2017

## 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-september-2017-council-meeting/>

### MONDAY COUNCIL SESSION

#### RED SNAPPER

##### Emergency Action Request

**MOTION #1:** REQUEST EMERGENCY ACTION FOR RED SNAPPER IN 2017 FISHING YEAR WITH ALTERNATIVE 4 AS THE PREFERRED.

**ROLL CALL VOTE: MOTION CARRIES 12-1**

**Preferred Alternative 4.** Temporarily allow limited harvest of red snapper in 2017 and specify a total annual catch limit equal to 42,510 fish. Commercial annual catch limit equals 124,815 pounds (whole weight) and recreational annual catch limit equals 29,656 fish.

##### Snapper Grouper Amendment 43

**MOTION #2:** APPROVE THE IPT'S SUGGESTED EDITS TO THE PURPOSE AND NEED STATEMENT

The *purpose* of Snapper Grouper Amendment 43 is to revise annual catch limits for red snapper **to provide fishing access.**

The *need* for **Snapper Grouper Amendment 43** ~~the amendment~~ is to prevent overfishing, **and continue to** rebuild the red snapper stock, **and, to the extent practicable, reduce adverse social and economic effects as per the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.** ~~provide access to the red snapper fishery, and, to the extent practicable, avoid adverse social and economic effects.~~

**MOTION #3:** ACCEPT IPTS SUGGESTED EDITS TO ACTION 1 AND ALTERNATIVES.

**Action 1. Revise the Process to Determine the Annual Catch Limits (ACL) for Red Snapper.**

**Alternative 1 (No Action).** The commercial and recreational ACLs for red snapper are zero. The process and formula established in Amendment 28 to the Fishery Management Plan of the Snapper Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region (Amendment 28) specifies current fishing year annual catch limits if the National Marine Fisheries Service determines that the previous year's estimated red snapper landings and dead discards are less than the acceptable biological catch.

**Alternative 2.** Remove the process and equation used to determine the red snapper ACL as specified in Snapper Grouper Amendment 28. Specify a total annual catch limit equal to 23,623 fish. Commercial annual catch limit equals 69,360 pounds (whole weight) and recreational annual catch limit equals 16,480 fish.

**Alternative 3.** Remove the process and equation used to determine the red snapper ACL as specified in Snapper Grouper Amendment 28. Specify a total annual catch limit equal to 44,411 fish. Commercial annual catch limit equals 130,396 pounds (whole weight) and recreational annual catch limit equals 30,982 fish.

**Alternative 4.** Remove the process and equation used to determine the red snapper ACL as specified in Snapper Grouper Amendment 28. Specify a total annual catch limit equal to 42,510 fish. Commercial annual catch limit equals 124,815 pounds (whole weight) and recreational annual catch limit equals 29,656 fish.

**Alternative 5.** Remove the process and equation used to determine the red snapper ACL as specified in Snapper Grouper Amendment 28. Specify a total annual catch limit equal to 79,919 fish. Commercial annual catch limit equals 234,652 pounds (whole weight) and recreational annual catch limit equals 55,753 fish.

**Note:** In Alternatives 2 through 5, the sector annual catch limits were calculated using the Council's established allocation from the Comprehensive Annual Catch Limit (ACL) Amendment to the Fishery Management Plan of the Snapper Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region (Comprehensive ACL Amendment, SAFMC 2011b). The allocation is 28.07% commercial and 71.93% recreational.

NMFS would announce the pre-determined commercial and recreational fishing year start dates. The commercial red snapper season would close when the commercial sector ACL is met or projected to be met. The end of the recreational red snapper season would be projected and announced before the start of the recreational season. The NMFS Regional Administrator has the authority to delay the opening of red snapper fishing seasons in the event of a tropical storm or hurricane affecting the South Atlantic Council's area of authority.

**MOTION #4:** SELECT ALTERNATIVE 5 AS PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** ADOPT ALTERNATIVE 4 AS PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** SUBTITUTE MOTION CARRIES 7-5

**MAIN MOTION CARRIES 7-5**

**Alternative 4.** Remove the process and equation used to determine the red snapper ACL as specified in Snapper Grouper Amendment 28. Specify a total annual catch limit equal to 42,510 fish. Commercial annual catch limit equals 124,815 pounds (whole weight) and recreational annual catch limit equals 29,656 fish.

**MOTION #5:** SEND AMENDMENT 43 TO SSC FOR REVIEW WITH INTENT TO COME BACK TO COUNCIL IN DECEMBER

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** APPROVE SNAPPER GROUPER AMENDMENT 43 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.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION CARRIES 10-2**

**ROLL CALL VOTE: MAIN MOTION CARRIES 12-1**

**THURSDAY-FRIDAY COUNCIL SESSION**  
**SNAPPER GROUPER**

**Vision Blueprint Regulatory Amendment 26 (Recreational)**

**MOTION #1:** ADOPT ALTERNATIVE APPROACH AS MODIFIED BY THE COMMITTEE IN SEPTEMBER 2017 AND DIRECT STAFF TO PROCEED WITH DEVELOPMENT OF THE AMENDMENT ACCORDINGLY

**MOTION #2:** APPROVE TIMING BELOW FOR VISION BLUEPRINT REGULATORY AMENDMENT 26:

- DECEMBER 2017 – REVIEW/FINALIZE ACTIONS/ALTERNATIVES AND PURPOSE AND NEED
- MARCH 2018 – REVIEW ANALYSES, SELECT PREFERRED ALTERNATIVES, AND APPROVE FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS
- JUNE 2018 – REVIEW PUBLIC COMMENT, MODIFY DOCUMENT AS APPROPRIATE, AND APPROVE ALL ACTIONS
- SEPTEMBER 2018 – REVIEW AND APPROVE FOR FORMAL REVIEW

**MOTION #3:** APPROVE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO INCLUDE IN PURPOSE AND NEED STATEMENT:

- STABILIZE RECREATIONAL ACCESS
- STABILITY IN THE FISHERY
- ENSURE THAT “ACCESS” IS PROPERLY CHARACTERIZED (I.E. “INCREASE” VS. “FACILITATE”, “MAINTAIN”, “IMPROVE”?)
- REGULATORY DISCARDS
- INCLUDE PHRASE THAT INDICATES PURPOSE IS TO RESPOND TO STAKEHOLDER CONCERNS
- SIMPLIFICATION OF REGULATIONS
- PREDICTABILITY
- LOOK AT DRAFT P&N FROM DECEMBER 2016
- CLARIFY/REWORD “COMPATIBLE REGULATIONS” IN NEED STATEMENT (PROMOTE ANGLER UNDERSTANDING AND ADHERENCE TO THE REGULATIONS)

**MOTION #4:** MODIFY ALTERNATIVES AS PRESENTED UNDER ACTION 1 (ALTERNATIVE 3 AND ITS SUB-ALTERNATIVES) IN DECISION DOCUMENT TO INCLUDE WRECKFISH IN THE DEEP-WATER SPECIES AGGREGATE AND MODIFY THE COMPOSITION OF THE DEEPWATER COMPLEX TO EXCLUDE SAND TILEFISH AND PLACE IT IN AN APPROPRIATE SHALLOW-WATER COMPLEX

*Action 1. Modify the species composition of the recreational aggregates*

**Alternative 3.** Modify existing aggregates to establish a deep-water species aggregate including:

**Sub-alternative 3a.** Snappers only: queen snapper, blackfin snapper, and silk snapper

**Sub-alternative 3b.** Groupers and tilefishes only: snowy grouper, misty grouper, yellowedge grouper, blueline tilefish, and golden tilefish.

**Sub-alternative 3c.** Snappers, groupers, and tilefishes, combined: queen snapper, blackfin snapper, silk snapper, snowy grouper, misty grouper, yellowedge grouper, blueline tilefish, and golden tilefish.

NOTE: The Committee acknowledged that changes to the composition of a species complex cannot be accomplished through a regulatory amendment. Hence, a plan amendment would be prepared. Council clarified intent to only modify composition of aggregates for bag limit specifications at this time. Modification of complexes for tracking ACLs would also affect commercial ACLs (and consideration should be given to species that are under rebuilding plans).

**MOTION # 5:** INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN ALTERNATIVES FOR A DEEP-WATER SPECIES SEASON:

- MAY 1 TO AUGUST 31 (CURRENT SEASON FOR SNOWY AND BLUELINE)
- MAY 1 TO JUNE 30
- JULY 1 TO AUGUST 31
- JULY 1 TO OCTOBER 31

**MOTION # 6:** INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN ALTERNATIVES FOR A DEEP-WATER SPECIES AGGREGATE BAG LIMIT (INCLUDING SUB-ALTERNATIVES FOR EACH TO MAINTAIN EXISTING RESTRICTIONS FOR GOLDEN TILEFISH, SNOWY GROUPE, AND WRECKFISH)

- ONE FISH PER PERSON PER DAY
- TWO FISH PER PERSON PER DAY
- THREE PER PERSON PER DAY

The Committee provided guidance to retain alternatives in the Decision Document to consider changes to minimum size limits and gear requirements for deep-water species:

*Remove recreational minimum size limits for deep-water species*

**Alternative 1 (No Action).** The recreational minimum size limit for queen snapper, silk snapper, and blackfin snapper in the South Atlantic Exclusive Economic Zone is 12 inches total length.

**Alternative 2.** Remove the 12-inch total length recreational minimum size limit for queen snapper, silk snapper, and blackfin snapper in the South Atlantic Exclusive Economic Zone.

*Specify gear requirements for deep-water species*

**Alternative 1 (No Action).** There are no gear requirements to target deep-water species (golden tilefish, queen snapper, silk snapper, blackfin snapper, misty grouper, and yellowedge grouper).

**Alternative 2.** Require single-hook rigs when targeting deep-water species (golden tilefish, queen snapper, silk snapper, blackfin snapper, misty grouper, and yellowedge grouper)

Note: Based on Committee guidance above (motion #4), appropriate modifications would be made to the alternatives above to include wreckfish and snowy grouper.

The Committee provided guidance to allow the IPT to suggest an appropriate range of alternatives to establish a Shallow-Water Grouper Aggregate.

**MOTION #7: INCLUDE ALTERNATIVES TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING SEASONS FOR THE SHALLOW-WATER GROUPEr AGGREGATE AND INCLUDE ALTERNATIVES 2, 3 AND 4 FROM THE DECISION DOCUMENT:**

- MAY 1 TO DECEMBER 31 (CURRENT SEASON)
- **Alternative 2.** Maintain seasonal prohibition on recreational harvest of shallow-water groupers 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 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 recreational harvest of shallow-water groupers annually from January 1 to April 30 north of 28 degrees North latitude. Prohibit recreational harvest and possession of black grouper in the federal waters Exclusive Economic Zone south of 28 degrees north latitude
  - Sub-alternative 3a.** January – March (three months)
  - Sub-alternative 3b.** January
  - Sub-alternative 3c.** February
  - Sub-alternative 3d.** March

- **Alternative 4.** Maintain seasonal prohibition on recreational harvest of shallow-water groupers annually from January 1 to April 30 in the Exclusive Economic Zone off Georgia and east Florida. Prohibit recreational harvest and possession of red grouper in federal waters the Exclusive Economic Zone off North Carolina and South Carolina
  - Sub-alternative 4a.** January – May (five months)
  - Sub-alternative 4b.** February – May (four months)
  - Sub-alternative 4c.** March – June (four months)

**MOTION #8:** INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ALTERNATIVES FOR AGGREGATE BAG LIMITS FOR THE SHALLOW-WATER GROUPER AGGREGATE:

- Two per person per day.
- Two per person per day with existing restrictions on gag and black grouper.
- Three per person per day.
- Three per person per day with existing restrictions on gag and black grouper.
- Four per person per day.
- Four per person per day with existing restrictions on gag and black grouper.

The Committee provided guidance to remove consideration of minimum size limit modifications for the Shallow-Water Grouper Aggregate and discuss consideration of gear restrictions once Amendment 46 actions and alternatives have been further developed.

**MOTION #9:** DIRECT STAFF TO ADD AN ACTION TO ESTABLISH A 20-FISH MAXIMUM DAILY RECREATIONAL BAG LIMIT THAT WOULD MAINTAIN ALL EXISTING INDIVIDUAL AND AGGREGATE BAG LIMITS WITH SUB-ALTERNATIVES TO 1) INCLUDE DEEP-WATER SPECIES AND 2) EXCLUDE DEEP-WATER SPECIES

**MOTION #10:** DEVELOP ALTERNATIVES TO ESTABLISH AN “OTHER SHALLOW-WATER SPECIES” AGGREGATE THAT:

1. INCLUDES SPECIES OUTSIDE THE EXISTING AGGREGATES (I.E., BLACK SEA BASS, VERMILION, ETC.) AND INCLUDE ALTERNATIVES TO RETAIN EXISTING BAG LIMITS FOR THOSE SPECIES WITHIN THE AGGREGATE AND INCLUDE SUB-ALTERNATIVES FROM ACTION 2/ALTERNATIVE 5 IN DECISION DOCUMENT
2. EXCLUDES SPECIES OUTSIDE EXISTING AGGREGATES (I.E., BSB, VS, RP, AJ, ETC) AND INCLUDE SUB-ALTERNATIVES FROM ACTION 2/ALTERNATIVE 5 IN DECISION DOCUMENT

The Committee provided guidance to exclude consideration of a recreational season for the Other Shallow-Water Species Aggregate and wait until the December meeting to consider any gear restriction alternatives.

**MOTION #11:** MOVE ACTION TO REDUCE THE BLACK SEA BASS MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT TO THE CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED APPENDIX

**MOTION #12:** REMOVE ACTION ON POWERHEADS FROM VISION BLUEPRINT REGULATORY AMENDMENT 26 AND MOVE TO AMENDMENT 46.

Council provided guidance to approve editorial changes to actions and alternatives as presented in the Decision Document.

**Vision Blueprint Regulatory Amendment 27 (Commercial)**

**MOTION #13:** ACCEPT IPT'S SUGGESTED EDITS TO THE PURPOSE AND NEED AND APPROVE

Purpose: The purpose of this amendment is to increase commercial access to the snapper grouper fishery, minimize discards, and simplify regulations.

Need: The need for this amendment is to achieve optimum yield from the commercial component of the snapper grouper fishery and improve regulatory compliance and consistency to aid enforcement.

**MOTION #14:** CHANGE ACTION 1, ALTERNATIVE 2 ACL PERCENTAGES TO 40%/60% AND REMOVE SUB-ALTERNATIVE 2B.

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

**Alternative 2.** Specify two commercial fishing seasons for blueline tilefish. Allocate the blueline tilefish commercial ACL into two quotas: 60% to the period January 1 through June 30 and 40% to the period July 1 through December 31. Any remaining quota from Season One would transfer to Season Two. Any remaining quota from Season Two would not be carried forward.

**Sub-alternative 2a.** Season 1 trip limit = 100 lbs gw, Season 2 trip limit = 300 lbs gw.

**Sub-alternative 2b.** Season 1 trip limit = 300 lbs gw, Season 2 trip limit = 100 lbs gw  
MODIFY SUB-ALTERNATIVE 2C AS FOLLOWS:

**Sub-alternative 2c.** Season 1 trip limit = 150 lbs gw, Season 2 trip limit = 300 lbs gw

**MOTION #15:** MOVE ACTION 1, ALTERNATIVE 3 TO CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED APPENDIX

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



**Alternative 3.** Specify two commercial fishing seasons for blueline tilefish. Allocate the blueline tilefish commercial ACL into two quotas: XX% to the period January 1 through \_\_\_\_\_ and YY% to the period \_\_\_\_\_ through December 31. Any remaining quota from Season One would transfer to Season Two. Any remaining quota from Season Two would not be carried forward.

**MOTION #16:** ADD SUB-ALTERNATIVE TO ACTION 1, ALTERNATIVE 4 TO CONSIDER 100 POUNDS JANUARY-JUNE AND 300 POUNDS JULY-DECEMBER  
*Action 1. Establish a commercial split season and modify the commercial trip limit for blueline tilefish*

**Alternative 4.** Modify the commercial trip for blueline tilefish:

**Sub-alternative 4a.** 100 lbs gw from January 1 through April 30 and 300 lbs gw from May 1 through December 31

**Sub-alternative 4b.** 150 lbs gw from January 1 through April 30 and 300 lbs gw from May 1 through December 31

**Sub-alternative 4c.** 100 lbs gw from January 1 through April 30 and 400 lbs gw from May 1 through December 31

**MOTION #17:** MODIFY ACTION 2, ALTERNATIVE 3 AS FOLLOWS:

*Action 2. Establish a commercial split season for snowy grouper*

**Alternative 3.** Specify two commercial fishing seasons for snowy grouper. Allocate the snowy grouper commercial ACL into two quotas: 70% to the period January 1 through June 30 and 30% to the period July 1 through December 31. Any remaining quota from Season 1 would transfer to Season 2. Any remaining quota from Season 2 would not be carried forward.

**MOTION #18:** MODIFY ACTION 3, SUB-ALTERNATIVE 2C TO INCLUDE A 1,000 TRIP LIMIT IN BOTH SEASONS WITH A STEP-DOWN TO 500 POUNDS WHEN 75% OF THE COMMERCIAL ACL HAS BEEN MET IN EACH SEASON

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

The Committee provided guidance to include language in the appropriate sub-alternatives that would specify that a step-down would not occur if 75% of the ACL was harvested close to the end of the fishing season.

**MOTION #19:** ALLOCATE THE COMMERCIAL ACL 50/50 TO EACH SEASON UNDER ACTION 3, ALTERNATIVE 2.

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

**Alternative 2.** Specify two commercial fishing seasons for greater amberjack. Allocate the commercial ACL for greater amberjack into two quotas: XX% to the period March 1 through August 31 and XX% to the period September 1 through the end of February. Any remaining quota from Season One would transfer to Season Two. Any remaining quota from Season Two would not be carried forward.

**MOTION #20:** ADD ALTERNATIVE 3 TO ACTION 3 TO CONSIDER A 60/40 SPLIT OF THE COMMERCIAL ACL BETWEEN SEASONS WITH THE SAME SUB-ALTERNATIVES AS UNDER ALTERNATIVE 2

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

**Sub-alternative 3a.** Season 1 trip limit = 1,200 lbs ww, Season 2 trip limit = 1,000 lbs ww. Season 2 would include a trip limit step-down to 750 lbs ww when 75% of the ACL is met or projected to be met.

**Sub-alternative 3b.** Season 1 trip limit = 1,200 lbs ww, Season 2 trip limit = 1,000 lbs ww. Season 2 would include a trip limit step-down to 500 lbs ww when 75% of the ACL is met or projected to be met.

**Sub-alternative 3c.** Season 1 trip limit = 1,000 lbs ww, Season 2 trip limit = 1,000 lbs ww. Both seasons would include a trip limit step-down to 500 lbs ww when 75% of the ACL is met or projected to be met.

(Note: this sub-alternative included per guidance under motion #18)

**MOTION #21:** MOVE ALTERNATIVE 2 UNDER ACTION 4 TO THE CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED APPENDIX

*Action 4. Establish a commercial split season and modify commercial trip limit for red porgy*

**Alternative 2.** Maintain the annual January 1 to April 30 seasonal harvest limit for red porgy.

**Sub-Alternative 2a.** Allocate the directed commercial red porgy ACL into two quotas: 50% to the period January 1 through June 30 and 50% to the period July 1 through December 31. Any remaining quota from Season One would transfer to Season Two. Any remaining quota from Season Two would not be carried forward.

**Sub-alternative 2b.** Allocate the directed commercial red porgy ACL into two quotas: XX% to the period January 1 through \_\_\_\_\_ and YY% to the period \_\_\_\_ through December 31. Any remaining quota from Season One would transfer to Season Two. Any remaining quota from Season Two would not be carried forward.

**MOTION #22:** MODIFY ALTERNATIVE 3 UNDER ACTION 4 AS FOLLOWS:

**Alternative 3.** Specify two commercial fishing seasons for red porgy. Allocate the commercial red porgy ACL into two quotas: 30% to the period January 1 through April

30 and 70% to the period May 1 through December 31. Any remaining quota from Season One would transfer to Season Two. Any remaining quota from Season Two would not be carried forward. Modify the annual January 1 to April 30 seasonal harvest limit for red porgy.

**Sub-alternative 3a.** 30 fish

**Sub-alternative 3b.** 45 fish

**Sub-alternative 3d.** 60 fish

**MOTION #23:** ADD ALTERNATIVE ACTION 4 TO SPLIT COMMERCIAL ACL 50/50 JANUARY-APRIL AND MAY-DECEMBER AND ADD SUB-ALTERNATIVES OF 30, 60, AND 120 FISH FOR JAN-APRIL.

**MOTION #24:** ACCEPT THE IPT'S SUGGESTED EDITS TO THE ALTERNATIVES UNDER ACTION 5

*Action 5. Modify the commercial trip limit for vermilion snapper in the second season*

**Alternative 1 (No Action).** The commercial trip limit for vermilion snapper in the South Atlantic Exclusive Economic Zone is 1,000 pounds gutted weight (lbs gw) and the commercial annual catch limit is split equally between two 6-month seasons. For both seasons, when 75% of the vermilion snapper seasonal quota is met or is projected to be met, the trip limit is reduced to 500 lbs gw. Any remaining quota from Season One transfers to Season Two. Any remaining quota from Season Two is not carried forward.

**Alternative 2.** Retain the management measures in the first season (January 1 through June 30). For the second season (July 1 through December 31), change the commercial trip limit to 750 lbs gw and retain the trip limit step down to 500 lbs gw when 75% of the second season quota is met or projected to be met.

**Alternative 3.** the management measures in the first season (January 1 through June 30). For the second season (July 1 through December 31), change the commercial trip limit to 500 lbs gw and remove the trip limit step down to 500 lbs gw when 75% of the seasonal quota is met or projected to be met.

**Alternative 4.** Change the commercial trip limits for both seasons (January 1 through June 30; July 1 through December 31) to 750 lbs gw and remove the Season Two trip limit step-down when 75% of the seasonal quota is met or projected to be met.

**MOTION #25:** ACCEPT THE IPT'S SUGGESTED EDITS TO THE ALTERNATIVES UNDER ACTION 6

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

**Alternative 1 (No Action).** There is no commercial trip limit for the Other Jacks Complex (lesser amberjack, almaco jack, and banded rudderfish).

**Alternative 2.** Establish a commercial trip limit for the Other Jacks Complex.

**Sub-alternative 2a.** 500 pounds gutted weight

**Sub-alternative 2b.** 400 pounds gutted weight

**Sub-alternative 2c.** 300 pounds gutted weight

**Alternative 3.** Establish a commercial trip limit for almaco jack only.

**Sub-alternative 3a.** 500 pounds gutted weight

**Sub-alternative 3b.** 400 pounds gutted weight

**Sub-alternative 3c.** 300 pounds gutted weight

**MOTION #26:** UNDER EACH SUB-ALTERNATIVE OF ALTERNATIVE 2 (Action 6) INCLUDE A TRIP LIMIT STEP DOWN TO 50% OF THE TRIP LIMIT ONCE 75% OF THE ACL HAS BEEN MET

**MOTION #27:** MOVE ALTERNATIVE 3 UNDER ACTION 6 TO THE CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED APPENDIX

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

**Alternative 3.** Establish a commercial trip limit for almaco jack only.

**Sub-alternative 3a.** 500 pounds gutted weight

**Sub-alternative 3b.** 400 pounds gutted weight

**Sub-alternative 3c.** 300 pounds gutted weight

**MOTION #28:** ADD AN ACTION TO IMPLEMENT A MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT FOR ALMACO JACK. INCLUDE RANGE OF 20-26 INCHES FORK LENGTH

\*\*\*GUIDANCE FOR IPT TO ASSIST WITH RANGE\*\*\*

**MOTION #29:** MODIFY ALTERNATIVE 3 UNDER ACTION 7 AS FOLLOWS:

*Action 7. Modify the seasonal prohibition on commercial harvest and possession of shallow-water groupers*

**Alternative 3.** Maintain seasonal prohibition on commercial harvest of shallow-water groupers (excluding gag) annually from January 1 through April 30. Commercial harvest of gag is prohibited from January 1 through March 31 each year. Specify a trip limit for gag during April in the South Atlantic Exclusive Economic Zone south of 28 degrees North Latitude:

**Sub-alternative 3a.** 100 pounds gutted weight

**Sub-alternative 3b.** 200 pounds gutted weight

**Sub-alternative 3c.** 300 pounds gutted weight

The Committee provided guidance to change the order of the alternatives (place alternative 4 following alternative 2) and include a map to show the 28-degree N Lat. boundary.

**MOTION #30: ACCEPT THE IPT’S SUGGESTED EDITS TO THE ALTERNATIVES UNDER ACTION 8**

*Action 8. Remove the commercial minimum size limits for certain deep-water species*

**Alternative 1 (No Action).** The commercial minimum size limit for queen snapper, silk snapper, and blackfin snapper in the South Atlantic federal waters Exclusive Economic Zone is 12 inches (TL) total length.

**Alternative 2.** Remove the 12-inch (TL) total length commercial minimum size limit for queen snapper, silk snapper, and blackfin snapper in the South Atlantic federal waters Exclusive Economic Zone.

**MOTION #31: ACCEPT THE IPT’S SUGGESTED EDITS TO ACTION 9 AND ITS ALTERNATIVES**

*Action 9. Decrease Reduce the commercial minimum size limit for gray triggerfish in federal waters the Exclusive Economic Zone off the east coast of Florida*

**Alternative 1 (No Action).** The commercial minimum size limit for gray triggerfish in South Atlantic federal waters off the east coast of Florida is 14 inches fork length. The recreational minimum size limit for gray triggerfish in federal waters the Exclusive Economic Zone off Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina is 12 inches FL fork length.

**Preferred Alternative 2.** Reduce the COMMERCIAL minimum size limit for gray triggerfish in federal waters the Exclusive Economic Zone off the east coast of Florida to 12 inches FL fork length.

**MOTION #32: REMOVE ACTION 10 FROM THE VISION BLUEPRINT REGULATORY AMENDMENT 27 AND MOVE TO AMENDMENT 46**

*Action 10. Remove the commercial prohibition on the use of powerheads in the Exclusive Economic Zone off South Carolina*

**MOTION #33: APPROVE THE SAME TIMING FOR VISION BLUEPRINT REGULATORY AMENDMENT 27 AS THAT FOR VISION BLUEPRINT REGULATORY AMENDMENT 26 (FINAL APPROVAL IN SEPTEMBER 2018) (see motion #2)**

**MOTION# 34:** Direct staff to conduct the following:

1. CONTINUE WORK ON VISIONING AMENDMENTS 26 & 27 AND PREPARE FOR THE DECEMBER MEETING
2. PREPARE EXPEDITED FRAMEWORK TO ADJUST RED GROUPER ABC & ACL USING “LOW RECRUITMENT” PROJECTIONS
3. OBTAIN SSC INPUT ON RED GROUPER ABC TO IMPLEMENT A REBUILDING PLAN

4. OBTAIN SSC INPUT ON ABC CONTROL RULE MODIFICATIONS
5. CONSIDER HOLDING A MEETING VIA WEBINAR BETWEEN THE OCTOBER SSC MEETING AND DECEMBER COUNCIL MEETING TO DISCUSS THE CONTROL RULE IN DETAIL.

## **MACKEREL COBIA**

### **CMP Amendment 31**

#### **MOTION # 1. ACCEPT IPT LANGUAGE FOR PURPOSE AND NEED.**

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 of Atlantic Cobia without reducing protection to the stock.

#### **MOTION # 2. APPROVE ALTERNATIVES 1 THROUGH 5 IN DRAFT CMP AMENDMENT 31.**

**Alternative 1 (No Action):** Retain Atlantic cobia in 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. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) would manage cobia through the interstate management plan.

**Alternative 3:** Do not remove Atlantic cobia from the CMP FMP. Establish process for complementary management of Atlantic cobia with the ASMFC.

- NMFS would continue to apply the mandated annual catch limit (ACL) for Atlantic cobia and implement accountability measures, as necessary. The South Atlantic Council would establish the ACLs and AMs through the CMP FMP.
- ASMFC would establish management measures for cobia harvest in state waters. Harvest would be subject to the Atlantic cobia ACL.
- South Atlantic Council would update the CMP FMP to provide consistent regulations for cobia harvest in federal waters through the amendment process, with Gulf Council approval of actions not suitable for a framework amendment.

**Alternative 4:** Do not remove Atlantic cobia from the CMP FMP. Establish process for complementary management of Atlantic cobia with the ASMFC.

- South Atlantic Council would establish a process in which NMFS would update the federal regulations to be consistent with the ASMFC plan, without action by the Council(s).

**Alternative 5:** Remove Atlantic cobia from the CMP FMP after the stock assessment is complete. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) would manage cobia through the interstate management plan.

**Framework to Adjust Atlantic King Mackerel Trip Limits**

**MOTION #3.** DIRECT STAFF TO START WORK ON A FRAMEWORK AMENDMENT AND APPROVE ALTERNATIVES 1-3, WITH AN OPTION FOR 75 FISH FROM MARCH 1-31.

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

- North of Flagler/Volusia line: 3,500 lbs year-round
- South of Flagler/Volusia line:
  - Season 1 (Mar - Sept)
    - Mar 1-Mar 31: 50 fish
    - Apr 1: 75 fish until 75% of the Season 1 quota is met, and then the trip limit is 50 fish until Sept 30
  - Season 2 (Oct-Feb): 50 fish
  - Starting Feb 1 through the end of Feb, 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
  - 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

**Timing and Task(s)**

**MOTION # 4.** ADOPT THE FOLLOWING TIMING AND TASKS:

1. Send a letter to MRIP requesting a timeline for re-calculated 2015 and 2016 Atlantic cobia recreational landings, and for evaluation of alternative estimation approaches for situation where MRIP data is not sufficient.
2. Develop draft Amendment 31 with approved alternatives for management of Atlantic cobia to be approved for public hearings in December 2017.

**HABITAT & ECOSYSTEM**

**EFH Policy Statement on Artificial Reefs**

**MOTION #1.** APPROVE THE EFH POLICY STATEMENT ON ARTIFICIAL REEFS

**MOTION #2.** ADOPT THE FOLLOWING TIMING AND TASK(S):

Staff will:

- 1) Finalize the Artificial Reef EFH Policy Statement and post on the FEP II Dashboard.
- 2) Revise Draft FEP II Implementation Plan based on Council member and Core Team input and drawing on the plan, develop a draft roadmap for review during the November Habitat Ecosystem Advisory Panel meeting and completion for consideration and possible approval at the December Council meeting.
- 3) Continue to refine format, evaluate capabilities and operationalize FEP II Dashboard and finalize Sections for approval during December Council meeting.
- 4) Ongoing- Work with South Atlantic Ecosystem Modeling Workgroup to support completion and presentation of a first iteration of the next generation South Atlantic Ecopath model during the October SSC meeting.
- 5) Ongoing - Work with FWRI to further expand detailed information presented in the EcoSpecies online system supporting FEP II.



**AP SELECTION**

**Review and Recommendations of Advisory Panel**

The Committee reviewed applications for the Dolphin Wahoo, Habitat, Law Enforcement, Mackerel Cobia, and Snapper Grouper Advisory Panels and approved the following motions as recommendations to the Council:

**MOTION #1:** APPOINT BRICE BARR TO THE DOLPHIN WAHOO ADVISORY PANEL.

**MOTION #2:** APPOINT JEFF SOSS TO THE HABITAT ADVISORY PANEL.

**MOTION #3:** REAPPOINT NICKEY MAXEY TO THE LAW ENFORCEMENT ADVISORY PANEL.

**MOTION #4:** APPOINT BOB JONES TO THE LAW ENFORCEMENT ADVISORY PANEL.

**MOTION #5:** APPOINT HOWARD ELLIS TO THE LAW ENFORCEMENT ADVISORY PANEL.

**MOTION #6:** APPOINT PATRICK LINK TO THE COBIA SUB-PANEL SEAT ON THE MACKEREL COBIA ADVISORY PANEL.

**MOTION #7:** APPOINT RANDY MCKINNLEY TO THE MACKEREL COBIA ADVISORY PANEL.

**MOTION #8:** APPOINT DR. CHRIS ELKINS TO THE MACKEREL COBIA ADVISORY PANEL.

Note: this is for an NGO seat.

**MOTION #9:** REAPPOINT KERRY O'MALLEY-MARHEFKA TO THE SNAPPER GROUPE ADVISORY PANEL.

**MOTION #10:** APPOINT JACK COX TO THE NC SEAT ON THE SNAPPER GROUPE ADVISORY PANEL.

**MOTION #11:** APPOINT GARY MANIGAULT, SR. TO THE SC SEAT ON THE SNAPPER GROUPE ADVISORY PANEL.

**MOTION #12:** APPOINT JIM MORING TO THE SC SEAT ON THE SNAPPER GROUPEr ADVISORY PANEL.

**MOTION #13:** APPOINT VINCENT BONURA AND RICHARD GOMEZ TO THE SNAPPER GROUPEr ADVISORY PANEL.

**MOTION #14:** APPOINT JYNESSA DUTKA-GIANELLI TO THE CITIZEN SCIENCE POOL.

**MOTION #15:** ADOPT THE FOLLOWING TIMING AND TASK(S):

1. Have staff continue to provide summary tables in the meeting Agenda/ Overview and include the Wufoo Summary table as part of the briefing book materials. Include attendance records for reapplicants.
2. Readvertise the SC Open Seat on the Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel.
3. Advertise open seats on the advisory panels as needed for appointments at the March 2018 meeting.

## **SEDAR**

### **Guidance to the SEDAR Steering Committee**

**MOTION #1:** MOVE TO MODIFY ASSESSMENT PRIORITIES AS FOLLOWS:

- MOVE RED GROUPEr TO 2021 (STANDARD)
- ADD BLACK SEA BASS IN 2021 (UPDATE)
- CONDUCT SPANISH MACKEREL AS A STANDARD (2020)
- MOVE WHITE GRUNT TO 2022 (BENCHMARK)

**MOTION #2:** MOVE TO:

- 1) REQUEST THE SEFSC DEVELOP A PLAN FOR UPDATING THE WRECKFISH ASSESSMENT AND REPORT BACK TO THE COUNCIL IN DECEMBER 2017. IN THE EVENT THERE ARE IMPEDIMENTS TO UPDATING THE EXISTING ASSESSMENT, CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES THAT COULD BE USED TO PROVIDE THE COUNCIL INFORMATION ON STOCK STATUS, AND THE SSC INFORMATION TO PROVIDE AN UPDATED ABC RECOMMENDATION.
- 2) REQUEST THAT THE SSC DOCUMENT THE SPECIFIC CHANGES TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE NEXT GOLDEN TILEFISH ASSESSMENT THAT JUSTIFY THE STANDARD CATEGORY, AND CONSIDER WHETHER AN UPDATE WOULD BE ADEQUATE FOR SNOWY GROUPEr.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

## **EXECUTIVE FINANCE**

### **Report from Executive Finance Webinar Committee Meeting**

**MOTION#1:** APPROVE THE CCC DOCUMENT AS MODIFIED.

#### **Council Follow-up and Priorities**

Dr. Brian Chevront reviewed the priorities approved at the June Council meeting and presented some suggested changes to staff tasking. The Committee 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

Additionally, at the December 2017 meeting the Council is expecting to take final action on:

- Red Grouper Abbreviated Framework (ACL Revision)

In December, the Council is also expecting to discuss:

- For-Hire Permit Moratorium Options Paper
- Wreckfish ITQ Review

Staff will be working on other items as time permits:

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

#### **System Management Plan (SMP) Advisory Panel**

**MOTION #2:** SELECT REGIONAL WORKGROUP AS THE FORMAT FOR ADVISORY GROUP FOR SYSTEM MANAGEMENT PLANS AND CHANGE OTHER TO NGO SEAT.

#### **Timing and Task(s)**

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

- 1) Continue to work on MSA issues at the CCC level.
- 2) Revise the Priorities based on guidance received.
- 3) Explore options for meetings of the System Management Plan AP
- 4) Explore/implement the suggestions for improvements to Council meeting materials.
- 5) Develop options for addressing the budget issue.

## **COUNCIL SESSION**

### **Election of Officers**

Doug Haymans: It would be my honor and pleasure to nominate our current vice-chair, Mr. Charlie Phillips, to serve as our chair.

Zack Bowen: I will second the nomination, move that the floor be closed to nominations, and Mr. Charlie Phillips be appointed by acclamation.

Michelle Duval: Is there any objection to that motion? Hearing none, Mr. Charlie Phillips you're elected as our Chair.

Mel Bell: Mr. Chairman, it would be my honor and pleasure to nominate Mr. Mark Brown to serve as our Vice-Chair.

Chris Conklin: Mr. Chairman, I will second the nomination, move that the floor be closed to nominations, and Mr. Mark Brown be appointed by acclamation.

Charlie Phillips: Is there any objection to that motion? Hearing none, Mr. Mark Brown you're elected as our Vice-Chair.