

SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

GOLDEN CRAB COMMITTEE

**Sea Palms Resort and Conference Center
St. Simons Island, GA**

March 8, 2011

SUMMARY MINUTES

Golden Crab Committee

David Cupka, Chair
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Mark Robson

Mac Currin
Charlie Phillips
Tom Swatzel

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George Geiger
Ben Hartig
Doug Haymans

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Julie O'Dell

Gregg Waugh
Mike Collins
Dr. Kari MacLauchlin
Kate Quigley
Kim Iverson

Observers/Participants:

Dr. Bonnie Ponwith
Jessica McCawley

Monica Smit-Brunello
Bob Gill

Other Participants Attached

The Golden Crab Committee of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council convened in the Sea Palms Resort and Conference Center, St. Simons Island, Georgia, March 8, 2011, and was called to order at 9:30 o'clock a.m. by Chairman David Cupka.

MR. CUPKA: All right, we're going to convene the meeting of the Golden Crab Committee. The committee members are Wilson Laney, Tom Swatzel, Mac Currin, Charlie Phillips, Mark Robson and myself. The first order of business is the approval of the agenda. Are there any corrections, additions or deletions to the agenda? Seeing none, then the agenda is approved.

The next order of business is approval of the minutes from December 2010. Are there any corrections, additions or deletions to the minutes? Seeing none, then the minutes are approved. That brings us down to our Amendment 5 Scoping Document. The first order of business is to get a summary of the scoping comments, which are behind Attachment 1, but Kate is going to go over those for us.

MS. QUIGLEY: In all the council received four letters in support of Golden Crab Amendment 5; one letter that was against the document; and also suggested a new action for experimental fishing on the Charleston Bump. We received 1,115 form letters or a petition from individuals and most of those were in favor of Golden Crab Amendment, but there were a few against, a handful, five to ten.

MR. CUPKA: Thank you, Kate; any question for Kate on the scoping comments? Seeing none, that brings us down to our next order of business which is changes to Golden Crab Amendment 5. You've all seen this Amendment 5 before. There haven't been changes made since the last time we looked at it.

I guess what I'll do is see if anyone wants to make any changes to that document based on the public input that we've received to date. All of you should have received the scoping meeting minutes and you know what comments were submitted. There weren't that many. I think more importantly, before we move ahead with this document, the next step will be to do some analysis and actually look at where we are before we really start making changes to the document.

I'm going to ask Kate to make a few comments on that. I understand that we are at the point where we could start some analysis. I know the fishermen are very interested in seeing some of these analyses done before we start adding or taking away from the document. Kate, do you want to add anything?

MS. QUIGLEY: The first step is to go through the eligibility and initial allocation actions and to get the permit data aligned with the logbook data. We have that data already. We have run some of those analyses about a year ago. We just need to update those analyses and to do it by permit history and to do it by vessel history. I know there are a lot of alternatives there, but we've done it before and it didn't take much time.

We can run all of those eligibility analyses and initial analyses again. The fishermen have told us that they really need to see all of those analyses in order to decide what they actually prefer,

what the AP prefers. It's doing five versus doing twenty is really not much of a difference at all. We can go ahead and do that and we're prepared to do that.

MR. CUPKA: Questions for Kate? I guess I'd ask Kate how long do you think it would take to do the analyses; when would we see some of those in the document?

MS. QUIGLEY: Well, I've run Actions 1, 2 and 3, eligibility analysis and initial allocation analyses, before within three days. If we do it by permit history and by vessel history, I think we can do it again before the next meeting. I think we can have it prepared for the next meeting. It should take a week for me to do it and someone to check my work; a couple of people to check my work at the National Marine Fisheries Service.

MS. CUPKA: And have you given any thought to an AP meeting; would that be before or after the June meeting?

MS. QUIGLEY: I think what we had talked about before is running the eligibility and initial allocation analyses and any other analyses that we can and coming back to the subpanel of the Golden Crab AP and presenting them with those analyses. I think we should probably schedule something for after June just to give us a sufficient amount of time to check our work; so sometime after June we are thinking, and I think that's already written into the schedule to have the Subpanel AP meeting that was looking at catch shares.

MR. CUPKA: All right, other questions for Kate? Well, we gave it a high priority so we want to move ahead and try and get something implemented on this. Okay, if there are no other questions or comments that brings us down to other business. I have no other business. The timing and task, I guess timing and task would be for staff to move ahead and do the preliminary analyses relative to Amendment 5 and bring that back to us at the June meeting. Does someone with to make that in the form of a motion? Mac.

MR. CURRIN: David, I would move that we approve the timing and task motion to ask the staff to conduct the analyses in Amendment 5 and bring it back to us in June.

MR. CUPKA: We have a motion and a second by Mark. Is there any discussion on the motion? Any objection? Seeing none, then that motion is approved. All right, then we are ready to adjourn. We didn't this meeting would take long, but there are some other committees that are probably going to need the time.

(Whereupon, the meeting was adjourned at 9:37 o'clock a.m., March 8, 2011.)

Certified By: _____ Date: _____

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PLEASE SIGN IN

So that we will have a record of your attendance at each meeting and so that your name may be included in the minutes, we ask that you sign this sheet for the meeting shown below.

GOLDEN CRAB COMMITTEE MEETING March 8, 2011 St. Simons Island, GA

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