

# Overview

## Snapper Grouper Committee

Key West Marriott Beachside Hotel  
3841 N. Roosevelt Blvd.  
Key West, FL

The Snapper Grouper Committee will: (A) receive reports from SERO staff on the status of commercial and recreational catches versus the respective quotas for snapper grouper species under quota management; (B) receive a report from SSC chair Dr. Carolyn Belcher on the SSC's April 2011 meeting; (C) receive a report from the Snapper Grouper AP Chair (or his designee); (D) receive an update from SERO staff on the status of Regulatory Amendment 9; (E) receive a presentation from SERO staff on analyses conducted to date for Regulatory Amendment 11, review the amendment and provide guidance to staff; (F) review the Comprehensive ACL Amendment, receive a presentation from Council staff on proposed AMs, provide guidance to staff and give final approval; (G) receive a presentation from SERO staff on economic analyses for Amendment 24, review the amendment and approve for public hearings; and (H) receive status reports from SERO and Council staff on Amendments 18A, 20, 21, and 22.

### **Oculina Reports**

No research or new outreach activity has taken place.

**REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:** None.

### **A. Status of landings for quota-managed snapper grouper species (*Attachment 1*)**

The Committee will receive an update on the status of landings (commercial and recreational) for quota-managed snapper grouper species.

### **B. SSC Reports (*Attachments 2a and 2b*)**

The SSC met on April 7-9, 2011 in Charleston to discuss the following items pertaining to snapper grouper: the Comprehensive ACL Amendment, red grouper projections, MSST recommendation, and Regulatory Amendment 11. Dr. Belcher will provide the Committee with an overview of the SSC's recommendations.

Also included in the briefing book is the recently released Only Reliable Catch Stocks (ORCS) report. Some members of the SSC participated in the ORCS Workgroup whose task was to define methodologies to calculate ABC for "data poor" stocks. The report has not been reviewed by the SSC hence Dr. Belcher will not cover it as part of her presentation. The SSC intends to

review the report at a future meeting and determine whether to include the proposed methodology as part of level 4 of their ABC Control Rule.

**REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:** Take action as necessary.

**C. Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel Report (*Attachments 3*)**

The Snapper Grouper AP met in Charleston on April 13-14, 2011. The AP reviewed the Comprehensive ACL amendment and provided recommendations. The AP also discussed Regulatory Amendment 11 and Amendment 24. Don DeMaria, AP Chair (or his designee) will go over the AP's discussions and recommendations.

**REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:** Take action as necessary.

**D. Regulatory Amendment 9**

Regulatory Amendment 9 was submitted to NMFS on April 6, 2011. The amendment includes implementation of harvest management measures for black sea bass, including a bag limit reduction, and trip limits for gag, vermilion snapper and greater amberjack. The Council requested that NMFS expedite the submission and review process to ensure that regulations are implemented on June 1, the start of the black seas bass fishing year.

**REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:** Take action as necessary.

**E. Regulatory Amendment 11 (*Attachments 4a & 4b*)**

Regulatory Amendment 11 contains management actions to modify or repeal the 240-ft closure implemented through Amendment 17B. The Committee received a presentation from SERO staff on preliminary analyses during the March 2011 meeting. The Committee also requested that the presentation be provided to the SSC for their review. Further analyses have been conducted (*Attachment 4a*) that the Committee needs to review. The Committee will review actions in the amendment (*Attachment 4b*), address SSC comments, review/modify the purpose & need, and provide guidance to staff on how to proceed (actions & timing).

**REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:** Take action as necessary.

**F. Comprehensive ACL Amendment (*Attachments 5a-d*)**

During the March 2011 meeting, the Committee reviewed public hearing input on the amendment (*Attachment 5a*) and provided guidance on actions and alternatives, and developed new alternatives that needed to be analyzed. Council staff will review the changes to the document since the March 2011 meeting and recommendations from the Dolphin/Wahoo AP. Council staff will also present alternatives for jurisdictional allocations for mutton snapper (*Attachment 5c*) and examples of how the proposed AMs triggers would work using select species included in the amendment (*Attachment 5d*). The Committee should modify the document as necessary and give final approval. The Council will meet again in Charleston on August 9, 2011 at a special 1-day Council meeting to review the DEIS comments and approve the document for submission to the Secretary. Note: If new actions and/or alternatives are

added during the June 2011 meeting, this timing will not be met and approval of the Comprehensive ACL Amendment will be deferred until the September 2011 meeting.

**REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:** Review the Comprehensive ACL Amendment, modify the document as necessary, and give final approval.

**G. Amendment 24 (Attachments 6a & 6b)**

This amendment (*Attachment 6a*) is under a statutory deadline and contains actions to address overfishing of red grouper. The amendment would establish MSY, OY, ACLs, AMs, a rebuilding schedule and a rebuilding strategy for the red grouper stock in the South Atlantic. In addition, the Committee directed staff to add an action to do away with the aggregate gag/black grouper/red grouper ACL that was established through Amendment 17B. Economic analyses completed to date (*Attachment 6b*) will be presented to the Committee.

**REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:** Review and modify the amendment as necessary and approve for public hearings.

**H. Amendments 18A (Attachments 7), 20 (Attachment 8a & 8b), 21 & 22.**

Council and SERO staff will provide a brief overview of the content and status of Amendments 18A (*Attachment 7*), 20 (*Attachment 8a*), 21 and 22 as well as a current timeline for each. Scoping comments were taken on Amendments 21, 22 and 24 during scoping meetings held January 31 – February 3. Scoping comments on Amendments 21 and 24 were presented to the Committee in March 2011. The Committee will receive an overview of the scoping comments received on Amendment 22. The Committee will review an options paper for shareholding adjustment in the wreckfish fishery (*Attachment 8b*), and other potential changes to the wreckfish ITQ program (currently under Amendment 20). The paper consists of options to eliminate inactive shares; redistribute shares; and provisions for program maintenance.

**REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:** Provide guidance as necessary.