



# SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201

North Charleston, SC 29405

TEL 843/571-4366 FAX 843/769-4520

Toll Free: 1-866-SAFMC-10

email: safmc@safmc.net Web site: www.safmc.net

Duane Harris, Chairman  
David Cupka, Vice Chairman

Robert K. Mahood, Executive Director  
Gregg Waugh, Deputy Executive Director

## SSC Roadmap

Hutchinson Island Marriott  
Stuart, Florida

**June 7 – 9, 2009**

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- Attachment 25: Headboat landings by port (CONFIDENTIAL)
- Attachment 26: Red Snapper Assessment Comments

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1. Documents

Agenda.  
Attachment 1. March 2009 Minutes

### 1.2. Presentations

None

### 1.3. Actions

- 1) Adopt agenda
- 2) Approve minutes

## 2. SEDAR Steering Committee Report

### 2.1. Documents:

Attachment 2. STC Summary May 2009  
(Attachment 2 will be distributed in the second briefing book)

### 2.2. Overview:

The Steering Committee will meet May 18 2009. Issues to be addressed include procedural changes and assessment scheduling. A meeting summary will be provided prior to the SSC meeting.

### 2.3. Actions:

TBD

## 3. SSC Selection Committee Report

### 3.1. Documents:

Attachment 3. SSC Selection Committee Report, March 2009

### 3.2. Overview:

The SAFMC SSC Selection Committee met in March 2009 to discuss procedural issues related to the SSC. The following is an excerpt from the attached committee report, highlighting items related to SSC operations:

#### *Conduct of business*

The committee encourages the SSC to move toward consensus building with less reliance on motions and voting. This change is intended to foster SSC recommendations that provide more complete advice and guidance.

*SSC Meeting Times*

The committee agreed that the SSC may be better served by meeting outside of Council meetings. This will provide additional scheduling flexibility, additional meeting time, and increase time available for the SSC to prepare a written report. Staff was directed to consider scheduling that accommodates meeting preparation and other council activities. Meetings in June and December 2009 will continue as scheduled.

*Length of Appointment*

The committee recommended that SSC membership terms be set at 3 years, with 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the membership reviewed each year. Staff was directed to develop a schedule of membership review based on time served, with the longest serving third of the membership reviewed in 2009.

*Social-Economic Sub-Panel*

The committee recommended establishment of a Social-Economic technical advisory panel as a sub-panel of the SSC to address social and economic issues. This will allow the council to establish a larger panel of social and economic experts without incurring excessive additional costs, while providing social and economic scientists a dedicated forum to address social and economic issues related to council actions and develop advice and recommendations related to social and economic analyses presented to the Council. This panel will be chaired by an SSC member and will develop guidance for consideration by the Council and SSC.

*SSC role in SSC applicant review*

The Committee considered whether SSC members should play a role in reviewing applicants and filling SSC seats. Selection committee members expressed satisfaction with the current approach and noted that the SSC chair or other members could be brought in as needed during membership reviews. No changes to the policy were recommended.

*Public Input at the SSC*

The Committee considered whether a formal public comment period should be established for SSC meetings. Members did not note any problems with the current system which allows the chair discretion to call on observers as necessary. The committee was advised that the MSRA specifies that oral or written comment must be allowed on agenda items, and encouraged greater use of written comment regarding SSC agenda items.

The Selection Committee also directed staff to advertise for SSC applicants. Applications will be reviewed at the June meeting of the Selection Committee, along with those currently serving members who were placed in the first group as described above under 'Length of Appointment'.

### 3.3. Actions:

Review and Comment

Forward any procedural recommendations for consideration by the Selection Committee.

## 4. FMP and Amendments Update

### 4.1. Snapper-Grouper Amendment 13A

Ongoing Activity: Develop an Evaluation Plan for the Experimental Closed Area with needed research and monitoring studies and an enforcement/outreach program - to be completed within 1 year of implementation of Snapper Grouper Amendment 13A.

Documents:

Attachment 4: Status Review of the Oculina Evaluation Team Report

Staff Contact: Myra Brouwer

ACTION:

Review and comment on evaluation report

### 4.2. Snapper Grouper 15B

Amendment 15B was approved by the Council and submitted on 7/30/08. The SEFSC certified the amendment as based on best available science on 8/26/08. Awaiting NMFS declaration of transmit date.

Staff Contact: Rick DeVictor

### 4.3. Snapper Grouper 16

Amendment 16 was approved by the Council and submitted on 10/21/08. NMFS declared the transmit date as 12/17/08. The amendment was partially approved on 3/25/09, now awaiting final rule.

Staff Contact: Rick DeVictor

### 4.4. Snapper Grouper 18

The new Amendment 18 will include some of the actions formerly in Amendment 17 as well as some new actions including:

- Limit participation and effort in the golden tilefish fishery (possibly endorsements or limited access program);
- Extend the range of the snapper grouper fishery management plan north and designate EFH in the new areas;
- Separate the snowy grouper quota into regions/states;
- Separate the gag recreational ACL into region/state ACTs;
- Changes to the Wreckfish ITQ Program;
- Changes to the Golden Tilefish fishing year; and
- Changes to improve data collection.

Documents:

Attachment 5: Draft Snapper Grouper Amendment 18

Amendment Schedule

NOI ..... 1/28/09

Approve for Scoping.....	Dec 2008
Scoping Complete.....	Feb 2009
Council review options & make recommendations .....	March – June 2009
AP review options & make recommendations.....	April 2009
SSC first review .....	June 2009
Council review & approve for Public Hearing .....	Sept. 2009
Public Hearings.....	Nov. 2009
SSC Final review .....	Dec 2009
Council Approval.....	Dec 2009

Presentations:

Overview and Update: Kate Quigley

Staff Contact: Kate Quigley

Action

Review and Comment.

4.5. FEP

The Fishery Ecosystem Plan (SAFMC 2007) updates Essential Fish Habitat information in the Habitat Plan (SAFMC 1998a) and presents refined information on habitat requirements (by life stage where information exists) for species managed by the Council. Available information on environmental and habitat variables that control or limit distribution, abundance, reproduction, growth, survival, and productivity of the managed species is included.

Schedule

NOI .....	2005?
Scoping Complete.....	2005
AP & Council review options & make recommendations.....	2005-2007
Council review & select preferred alternatives.....	Dec 2007 – March 2008
SSC first review .....	Dec 2007
Council & Committee approve for Public Hearing I.....	March 2008
Public Hearings.....	May 2008
SSC second review .....	June 2008
Council Approval for Public Hearing II .....	Dec 2008
Public Hearings II .....	Jan 2009
SSC final review .....	June 2009
Council final approval as a source document .....	Dec 2008

Staff Contact: Roger Pugliese

Presentations

UPDATE: Gregg Waugh

Action

None - Information update only.

4.6. Comprehensive Ecosystem Based Amendment 1

Documents

Attachment 6. Draft CE-BA

Amendment Schedule

NOI .....	05/23/2005
Scoping Complete.....	2005
Council review options & make recommendations .....	2005- 2007
SSC First Review.....	Dec 2007
Council review & approve for Public Hearing .....	Mar 2008
Public Hearings.....	Mar 2008
SSC Second Review .....	June 2008
Council Approval Hearings II.....	Dec 2008
Public Hearings II .....	Feb 2009
Final Review & Submission .....	Sept 2009
Regulations implemented.....	TBD

Staff Contact: Myra Brouwer

Presentations:

Overview and Update: Gregg Waugh

SSC Action:

Review and Comment

4.7. Comprehensive Ecosystem Based Amendment 2

Documents

Attachment 7. CE-BA 2 Options Paper

Amendment Schedule

NOI .....	TBD
Scoping Complete.....	Jan 2009
Council review options & make recommendations .....	June 2009
SSC First Review.....	June 2009
Council review & approve for Public Hearing .....	TBD
Public Hearings.....	TBD
SSC Second Review .....	TBD
Final Review & Submission .....	TBD
Regulations implemented.....	TBD

Staff Contact: Myra Brouwer

Presentations:

Overview and Update: Gregg Waugh

SSC Action:

Review and Comment

4.8. Mackerel 18

Mackerel 18 began in 2007. In June 2007 the SAFMC deferred action until after SEDAR 16 was completed. In March 2008 SAFMC authorized a joint amendment with GMFMC to address MSRA requirements. Potential actions for SAFMC include:

- Specify OFL and ABC for Atlantic group king mackerel and Spanish mackerel, and Atlantic cobia;
- Specify ACL for Atlantic group king mackerel and Spanish mackerel, and Atlantic cobia ;
- Specify measures to prevent exceeding ACL

Amendment Schedule

NOI .....	1/22/2008
Scoping Complete .....	August 2009
Council review options & make recommendations .....	Sept 2007 – June 2009
SSC first review .....	June 2009
Council review & approve for Public Hearing .....	TBD
Public Hearings .....	TBD
SSC Final review .....	TBD
Council Approval .....	Dec 2011
Regulations implemented .....	TBD

Action

None - Information update only.

4.9. Comprehensive ACL (DeVictor)

The Comprehensive ACL amendment will address fishing level recommendations and MSRA requirements for all managed stocks that are not overfished or experiencing overfishing. The Act specifies that regulations addressing catch limits and accountability measures be implemented 2011.

Documents

Attachment 8: ACL Amendment

Amendment Schedule

NOI .....	1/16/09
Scoping Complete .....	Feb 2009
Council review options & make recommendations .....	March – June 2009
SSC first review .....	Dec 2009



SSC provide ABC recommendations.....	April 2010
Council review & approve for Public Hearing .....	TBD
Public Hearings.....	TBD
SSC Final review .....	TBD
Council Approval.....	TBD
Final Review & Submission .....	TBD
Regulations implemented.....	Fishing Year 2011

### Presentations

Overview: Rick DeVictor

### SSC Action:

Review and Comment

## **5. SAFMC Annual Monitoring Plan**

### 5.1. Documents:

Attachment 9. SAFMC 2009 Monitoring Plan

### 5.2. Overview:

The MSRA directs Councils to annually prepare and submit monitoring plans describing long term and short term research and monitoring needs. SAFMC plans are reviewed by the SSC in June, approved by the Council in September, and submitted to NOAA Fisheries by October 1.

### 5.3. Presentations

Overview of 2009 Monitoring Plan: John Carmichael

### 5.4. ACTIONS

Approve Monitoring Plan

## **6. ABC Control Rule**

### 6.1. Documents

Attachment 10. Draft ABC Control Rule  
 Attachment 11. Expert Working Group Report on using PSA in Setting Catch Limits  
 Attachment 12. Expert Working Group PSA Methods and SA Results  
 Attachment 13. NMFS PSA Evaluation

### 6.2. Overview

The SSC met in a special session in March 2009 to develop an ABC control rule. The framework devised at that meeting is described in the draft ABC control rule document and was reviewed by the SSC through email over the last several months.

The SSC will consider approval of the control rule for submission to Council at this meeting.

### 6.3. Presentations

Pew/Lenfest PSA Approach: Robert O'Boyle  
NMFS PSA Approach: Wes Patrick

### 6.4. ACTIONS

Finalize ABC Control Rule and Document  
Submit for Consideration by Council

## 7. Control Rule Application

### 7.1. Documents:

Attachment 14: MSY probability distribution for golden tilefish  
Attachment 15: MSY probability distribution for gag and vermilion snapper

### 7.2. Overview

### 7.3. Presentations

NMFS PSA

### 7.4. ACTIONS

Recommend ABC for Amendment 17 Stocks  
Recommend ABC for wreckfish and Golden Crab

## 8. Snapper Grouper Amendment 17

### 8.1. Documents

Attachment 16: Amendment 17 (Draft)  
Attachment 17: Snapper-Grouper Committee Report, December 2008  
Attachment 18: Snapper-Grouper Committee Report, March 2009  
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Attachment 26: Headboat landings by port (CONFIDENTIAL)  
Attachment 27: Red Snapper Assessment Comments

### 8.2. Overview

Snapper Grouper Amendment 17 addresses the Snapper-Grouper FMP stocks that are currently overfished or experiencing overfishing. The Council's intent is to

approve this Amendment in 2009 so that regulations are implemented during the 2010 fishing year as mandated in the MSRA.

Recent activities on Amendment 17 are summarized in the Snapper-Grouper Committee reports from recent meetings. Reports from December and March are provided for review.

At the March meeting the full Council approved a motion requesting that the SSC comment on the use of 30% vs 40% SPR as a proxy for Fmsy, and whether the recommendation of 40% for recent stocks (e.g., red snapper) represents a decision on behalf of the SSC to move 40% SPR as the preferred reference when Fmsy is unavailable. The approved motion from March 2009 is the following:

“TASK THE SSC TO INVESTIGATE THE 30% VS. 40% SPR ON A BROAD OVERARCHING LEVEL.”

8.3. Amendment 17 Schedule:

Approve Scoping Document/Issues.....	Dec 2007
Scoping Complete.....	Feb 2008
Council review options and make recommendations .....	March 2008
SSC first review .....	June 2008
AP review options & make recommendations.....	June 2008
Council review .....	June 2008 – June 2009
SSC Review .....	June 2009
Council & Committee approve for public hearings.....	Sept. 2009
Public hearings.....	TBD
SSC final review .....	TBD
Council final approval.....	TBD
Regulations implemented.....	FY 2011

Amendment 17 Actions:

- Specify Annual Catch Limits (ACL), Annual Catch Targets (ACT), and Accountability Measures (AM) for 10 species undergoing overfishing;
- Modify management measures to limit landings to the ACT.
- Specify a rebuilding plan for red snapper.

8.4. Presentations

Overview and Status: Rick DeVictor  
 Amendment 17 management action evaluations  
     Impacts of recent regulations (SERO)  
     Closed area evaluation 1 (SAFMC)  
     Closed area evaluation 2 (SERO)  
 Red snapper monitoring plan (SEFSC)  
 Social and Economic analyses (SERO)  
 Red Snapper Assessment Comments: Frank Hester

## 8.5. ACTIONS

- Address Council motion pertaining to SPR levels
- Review and Comment on approaches to evaluating effects of A17 actions
- Review and Comment on approaches to evaluating effects of recent amendments on A17 stocks.
- Review and comment on social and economic analyses
- Review and comment on the red snapper monitoring plan
- Review and comment on the red snapper assessment critique by Hester
- Consider approval of amendment as best available science

## 9. Future Meetings

### 9.1. December 2009

#### 9.1.1. Time and Place

- December 6 – 8, 2009.
- Sheraton Atlantic Beach
- Atlantic Beach, NC

#### 9.1.2. Probable discussion items

1. Comprehensive ACL Amendment.
2. Snapper Grouper A18. Final review.
3. Mackerel A18. Final Review
4. SEDAR 19 Progress Report.
5. Unassessed Stocks MSY estimates Progress Report
6. National SSC Workshop II Report
7. National Standards Updates

#### 9.1.3. Action

1. List discussion items to add for next meeting.
2. List presentations requested for next meeting.
3. List supporting documentation requested for next meeting.

### 9.2. Spring 2010

#### 9.2.1. Time and Place

- Dates TBD, likely late April;
- Charleston, SC

#### 9.2.2. Probable discussion items

1. Comprehensive ACL Amendment: Recommend ABC for all stocks
2. SEDAR 19 Review (black and red grouper)

9.3. Fall 2010

9.3.1. Time and Place

Date TBD, likely mid-October.  
Charleston, SC.

9.3.2. Probable discussion items

**10. Other Business**

**11. Adjourn**