

SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

ST. SIMONS ISLAND, GEORGIA

MARCH 8, 2013

SUMMARY OF APPROVED COUNCIL MOTIONS

SNAPPER GROUPEL

The Council approved the following motions relative to Snapper Grouper:

Yellowtail Snapper

MOTION #1: REQUEST THAT NMFS EXTEND THE TEMPORARY RULE FOR YELLOWTAIL SNAPPER FOR AN ADDITIONAL 186 DAYS OR UNTIL REGULATORY AMENDMENT 15 IS IMPLEMENTED.

Snapper Grouper Amendment 30 (VMS)

MOTION #2: ACCEPT THE PURPOSE AND NEED AS REVISED.

Purpose for Action

Require commercial vessels harvesting snapper grouper stocks in the South Atlantic be equipped with a satellite communications (vessel monitoring system (VMS)) to monitor fishing activities.

Need for Action

Improve the following aspects of snapper grouper stocks.

- 1. Enforcement. There is a need to reduce illegal fishing activity and improve enforceability of regulations. Increased enforceability of area restrictions is needed to prevent incursions and excessive fishing pressure in protected areas that contain snapper grouper populations and habitat that supports these populations. There is also a need to more accurately track and monitor locations where vessels will land fish, specify harvest composition (e.g., harvest amounts, species), and identify gear possessed onboard.*
- 2. Science. There is a need to have a better understanding of snapper grouper populations by providing specific information on locations where fish are caught, and species composition of retained and discarded fish. VMS could serve as a means of verifying self-reported data.*
- 3. Management. There is a need to improve management efforts by providing fishery managers information that will help them implement regulations with greater biological protection to snapper grouper stocks, and reduced negative long-term socio-economic effects to fishermen and fishing communities. VMS would help to document impacts on the number of trips that would be affected.*

MOTION #3: EXPRESS THE COUNCIL'S INTENT THAT THE SAME REGULATIONS IN THE GULF OF MEXICO EEZ FOR VMS WOULD APPLY IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC EEZ.

MOTION #4: ACCEPT THE IPT’S WORDING FOR ALTERNATIVE 2 AND 3 WITH THE INSERTION OF “120 DAYS”.

Alternative 2. Require all commercial snapper grouper fishing vessels with a federal unlimited or trip-limited permit to be equipped with vessel monitoring systems. The purchase, installation, and maintenance of vessel monitoring system equipment must conform to the protocol established by National Marine Fisheries Service in the Federal Register. Purchase of VMS equipment will be reimbursed by the NOAA Office of Law Enforcement from the vessel monitoring system reimbursement account if funding is available. For vessel monitoring system units purchased on or after February 1, 2008, the maximum reimbursement amount for all fisheries is \$3,100 per vessel monitoring system unit. Installation, maintenance (including replacement of unit), and communication costs will be paid for or arranged by the permit holder. All approved units must be installed by a qualified marine technician and activated with National Marine Fisheries Service no later than 120 days following the publication of the final rule. An application for renewal or transfer of a commercial vessel permit for South Atlantic snapper grouper will not be considered complete until proof of purchase, installation, activation, and operational status of an approved vessel monitoring system for the vessel receiving the permit has been verified by National Marine Fisheries Service vessel monitoring system personnel

Alternative 3 (Preferred). Only if funding for vessel monitoring system equipment reimbursement is available from the vessel monitoring system reimbursement account, require all commercial snapper grouper fishing vessels with a federal unlimited or trip-limited permit to be equipped with vessel monitoring system. The purchase, installation, and maintenance of vessel monitoring system equipment must conform to the protocol established by National Marine Fisheries Service in the Federal Register. Purchase of vessel monitoring system equipment will be reimbursed by the NOAA Office of Law Enforcement from the vessel monitoring system reimbursement account. For vessel monitoring system units purchased on or after February 1, 2008, the maximum reimbursement amount for all fisheries is \$3,100 per vessel monitoring system unit. Installation, maintenance (including replacement of unit), and communication costs will be paid for or arranged by the permit holder. All approved units must be installed by a qualified marine technician and activated with the National Marine Fisheries Service no later than 120 days following the publication of the final rule. An application for renewal or transfer of a commercial vessel permit for South Atlantic snapper grouper will not be considered complete until proof of purchase, installation, activation, and operational status of an approved vessel monitoring system for the vessel receiving the permit has been verified by National Marine Fisheries Service vessel monitoring system personnel

MOTION #5: MOVE SUB-ALTERNATIVES 2A AND 3A AND 2B AND 3B TO THE CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED APPENDIX

Sub-alternatives 2a and 3a: VMS requirement only applies to federal trip-limit permit holders

Sub-alternatives 2b and 3b: VMS requirement only applies to federal unlimited permit holders.

MOTION #6: MOVE SUB-ALTERNATIVES 2C and 3C TO THE CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED APPENDIX.

Sub-alternative 2c and 3c: VMS requirement only applies to those federal snapper grouper permit holders when they are commercially fishing for and/or possessing snapper grouper species.

MOTION #7: MOVE SUB-ALTERNATIVES 2D & 3D TO THE CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED APPENDIX.

Sub-alternative 2d and 3d: VMS requirement only for those federal snapper grouper permit holders who have landed X amount of species in the snapper grouper fishery management unit annually.

MOTION #8: MOVE THE ALTERNATIVE REQUIRING FOR-HIRE FISHING VESSELS EQUIPPED WITH VMS TO THE CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED APPENDIX.

MOTION #9: MOVE SUB-ALTERNATIVE 5 TO THE CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED APPENDIX.

Sub-alternative 5 would require all headboat vessels with a federal permit to be equipped with VMS.

MOTION #10: MOVE ALTERNATIVE 6 TO THE CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED APPENDIX.

Alternative 6 would require the owner of vessels with a federal permit pay for all costs to be equipped with VMS.

MOTION #11: APPROVE AMENDMENT 30 FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS AND DEIS REVIEW.

Regulatory Amendment 18 (vermilion snapper and red porgy)

MOTION #12: ACCEPT THE IPT RECOMMENDATION FOR PURPOSE AND NEED
Purpose for Action

The purpose of Regulatory Amendment 18 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region (Regulatory Amendment 18) is to revise the vermilion snapper and red porgy ACLs, and the red porgy ACT based on the results of stock assessment updates completed in October 2012. Additionally, Regulatory Amendment 18 would modify commercial and recreational management measures for vermilion snapper to optimize utilization of the resource.

Need for Action

The need for this action is to update ACLs for vermilion snapper and red porgy based on results from recent stock assessment updates, ensure overfishing does not occur, prevent unnecessary negative socio-economic impacts that may otherwise be realized in the snapper grouper fishery and fishing community, and to ensure the use of best available science.

MOTION #13: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 2 UNDER ACTION 1 AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE.

Action 1: Revise the Annual Catch Limit (ACL, including sector ACLs) and Optimum Yield (OY) for Vermilion Snapper.

Alternative 2. Revise ACL (including sector ACLs) for vermilion snapper for 2013 through 2016 as shown below and set ACL=ABC=OY. The acceptable biological catch (ABC) and ACL values for 2013 onwards are based on landed catch only; discards are accounted for in specifying the ABC in terms of landed catch and not total kill. The values for 2016 would remain until modified.

Note: The values for Alternative 2 are shown in Table 2.1.1.

Year	ABC ww	Total ACL ww	Comm ACL ww	Rec ACL ww
2013	1,372,000	1,372,000	932,960	439,040
2014	1,312,000	1,312,000	892,160	419,840
2015	1,289,000	1,289,000	876,520	412,480
2016	1,269,000	1,269,000	862,920	406,080

MOTION #14: ADD NEW ALTERNATIVE 4 TO ACTION 2. FIRST SEASON TRIP LIMIT = 1,500 LBS AND SECOND SEASON TRIP LIMIT = 1,000 LBS. WHEN 75% OF THE COMMERCIAL ACL HAS BEEN MET OR PROJECTED TO BE MET, REDUCE THE COMMERCIAL TRIP LIMIT TO 500 LB GW

Action 2: Modify the commercial trip limit for vermilion snapper.

MOTION #15: MOVE NEW ALTERNATIVE 4 TO CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED APPENDIX.

MOTION #16: MAKE ALTERNATIVE 3 UNDER ACTION 2 THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE.

Alternative 3. Reduce the commercial trip limit for vermilion snapper to 1,000 lbs gw (1,110 lbs ww). When 75% of the commercial ACL has been met or projected to be met, reduce the commercial trip limit to 500 lbs gw (555 lbs ww).

MOTION #17: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 1 AS PREFERRED FOR ACTION 3 AND DIRECT STAFF TO ADD ACTION 3 TO REGULATORY AMENDMENT 14 AND ADD ADDITIONAL OPTIONS.

Action 3: Modify the commercial fishing seasons for vermilion snapper.

Alternative 1 (No Action). The commercial fishing year for vermilion snapper is split into two seasons of equal duration, each with its own ACL. The first season begins on January 1 and ends on June 30 (6 months). The second season begins on July 1 and ends on December 31 (6 months). The commercial ACL is split equally between the two seasons.

Note: The figures with the new commercial ACLs, assuming Alternative 2 is chosen for Action 1, split by the current seasons (Alternative 1, No Action) are shown in Table 2.3.1.

Year	ABC ww	Total ACL ww	Comm ACL ww	Comm ACL Jan-June ww	Comm ACL July-Dec ww
2013	1,372,000	1,372,000	932,960	466,480	466,480
2014	1,312,000	1,312,000	892,160	446,080	446,080
2015	1,289,000	1,289,000	876,520	438,260	438,260
2016	1,269,000	1,269,000	862,920	431,460	431,460

MOTION #18: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 2 UNDER ACTION 4 AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE.

Action 4: Modify the recreational closed season for vermilion snapper.

Alternative 2. Remove the recreational season closure for vermilion snapper.

MOTION #19: ADD NEW ALTERNATIVE 3 TO ACTION 5.

Action 5: Revise the Annual Catch Limit (ACL, including sector ACLs), Optimum Yield (OY), and Annual Catch Target (ACT) for Red Porgy.

Alternative 3. Revise the ACL (including sector ACLs) for red porgy for 2013 through 2015 as shown below using the $OY=ACL=ABC$ formula established in the Comprehensive ACL Amendment (SAFMC 2011b). The values for 2015 would remain until modified.

MOTION #20: SELECT NEW ALTERNATIVE 3 FOR ACTION 5 AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE.

Table 2.5.1. New ABC and ACLs for red porgy based on scenario 6 projection results from Table 24 of the red porgy assessment. Gutted weight determined with conversion factor of 1.04 from commercial logbooks.

Year	ABC ww	Total ACL ww	Comm ACL ww	Rec ACL ww	Rec ACT ww
2013	306,000	306,000	153,000	153,000	109,670
2014	309,000	309,000	154,500	154,500	110,746
2015	328,000	328,000	164,000	164,000	117,555
2016	354,000	354,000	177,000	177,000	126,874
2017	379,000	379,000	189,500	189,500	135,834
2018	401,000	401,000	200,500	200,500	143,718

MOTION #21: APPROVE REGULATORY AMENDMENT 18 TO BE SUBMITTED FOR FORMAL REVIEW.

MOTION #22: APPROVE THE CODIFIED TEXT FOR REGULATORY AMENDMENT 18 AS NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE.

MOTION #23: GIVE STAFF AND THE COUNCIL CHAIR EDITORIAL LICENSE TO MAKE CHANGES TO REGULATORY AMENDMENT 18 AND THE CODIFIED TEXT AND ALLOW THE COUNCIL CHAIR TO DEEM THE CODIFIED TEXT AS NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE.

Amendment 27

MOTION #24: APPROVE CHANGES TO PURPOSE AND NEED AS RECOMMENDED BY IPT.

The purpose of Amendment 27 is: (1) to establish the South Atlantic Council as the responsible entity for managing Nassau grouper throughout its range including federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico; (2) modify the crew member limit on vessels associated with both a South Atlantic Charter/Headboat Permit for Snapper Grouper, and a South Atlantic Unlimited or 225-Pound Permit for Snapper Grouper (referred to as “dual-permitted” vessels); (3) modify the current restriction on crew retention of bag limit quantities of snapper grouper species; (4) minimize regulatory delay when adjustments to snapper grouper species’ ABC, ACLs, and ACTs are needed as a result of new stock assessments; and (5) address harvest of blue runner by commercial fishermen who do not possess a South Atlantic Snapper Grouper Permit.

MOTION #25: APPROVE THE IPT’S SUGGESTED MODIFICATION TO PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE 2 UNDER ACTION 1.

Action 1. Extend the South Atlantic Council’s area of jurisdiction for management of Nassau grouper to include the Gulf of Mexico

Alternative 2 (preferred): The South Atlantic Council would extend its jurisdictional authority for management of Nassau grouper to include federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico. Harvest of Nassau grouper in the Gulf of Mexico EEZ and the South Atlantic EEZ would continue to be prohibited.

MOTION #26: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 3 AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE UNDER ACTION 2.

Action 2. Modify the crew size restriction for dual-permitted snapper grouper vessels.

Alternative 3. Increase the limit to 4 crew members for dual-permitted vessels.

MOTION #27: APPROVE THE IPT’S WORDING CHANGES TO ALTERNATIVES AND MAKE ALTERNATIVE 2 THE PREFERRED UNDER ACTION 3.

Action 3. Modify bag limit restriction on snapper grouper species for captain and crew of vessels with a South Atlantic Charter/Headboat Permit for Snapper Grouper

Alternative 2. Remove the snapper grouper species retention restrictions for captains and crew of vessels with a South Atlantic Charter/Headboat Permit for Snapper Grouper.

MOTION #28: SELECT OPTION 2 BELOW AS THE PREFERRED OPTION AND INCORPORATE IN LANGUAGE OF ALTERNATIVE 2 UNDER ACTION 4.

Action 4. Modify Section I of the Snapper Grouper FMP Framework procedure.

Option 2. Modify Section I of the Snapper Grouper Framework Procedure by adding a new Item #9 (and renumber the existing 9 as 10 and 10 as 11):

9. Adjustments to ABCs, ACLs, and ACTs according to the existing ABC Control Rule(s) and formulas for specifying ACLs and ACTs that have been approved by the Council and that were implemented in a fishery management plan amendment to the FMP. This abbreviated process is authorized as follows:

a. Following the Scientific and Statistical Committee's (SSC's) review of the stock assessment, the Council will determine if changes are needed to ABC, ACL, and/or ACT and will so advise the RA.

b. The Council will first hold a public hearing during the Council meeting during which they will review the stock assessment and the SSC's recommendations. In addition, the public will be advised prior to the meeting that the Council is considering potential changes to the ABC, ACL, and/or ACT and the Council will provide the public the opportunity to comment on the potential changes prior to and during the Council meeting.

c. If the Council then determines that modifications to the ABC, ACL, and/or ACT are necessary and appropriate, they will notify the RA of their recommendations in a letter with the Council's analysis of the relevant biological, economic, and social information necessary to support the Council's action.

d. The RA will review the Council's recommendations and supporting information. If the RA concurs that the Council's recommendations are consistent with the objectives of the FMP, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and all other applicable law, the RA is authorized to implement the Council's proposed action through publication of appropriate notification in the Federal Register, providing appropriate time for additional public comment as necessary.

e. If the Council chooses to deviate from the ABC control rule(s) and formulas for specifying ACLs and ACTs that the Council previously approved and that were implemented in a fishery management plan amendment to the FMP, this abbreviated process would not apply, and either the framework procedure would apply with the preparation of a regulatory amendment or a fishery management plan amendment would be prepared. Additionally, the Council may choose to prepare a regulatory amendment or a fishery management plan amendment even if they do not deviate from the previously approved ABC control rule(s) and formulas for specifying ACLs and ACTs.

MOTION #29: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 2 AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE UNDER ACTION 5.

Action 5. Modify placement of blue runner in a fishery management unit and/or modify management measures for blue runner.

Alternative 2. Remove blue runner from the Snapper Grouper FMP.

MOTION #30: APPROVE AMENDMENT 27 FOR FORMAL REVIEW.

MOTION #31: APPROVE THE CODIFIED TEXT FOR AMENDMENT 27 AS NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE.

MOTION #32: GIVE STAFF AND THE COUNCIL CHAIR EDITORIAL LICENSE TO MAKE CHANGES TO AM 27 AND THE CODIFIED TEXT AND ALLOW THE COUNCIL CHAIR TO DEEM THE CODIFIED TEXT AS NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE.

Regulatory Amendment 14 (multiple snapper grouper species)

MOTION #33: REMOVE ACTION 2 FROM REGULATORY AMENDMENT 14.

Action 2. Reduce the trip limit for greater amberjack.

MOTION #34: REMOVE ALL ACTIONS/ALTERNATIVES UNDER ACTION 3 RELATIVE TO MUTTON SNAPPER FROM REGULATORY AMENDMENT 14 AND FORWARD TO THE SOUTH FLORIDA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR THEIR CONSIDERATION.

Action 3. Implement additional regulations to protect mutton snapper during the spawning season.

MOTION #35: ACCEPT THE IPT'S SUGGESTION TO ADD ALTERNATIVE 3 UNDER ACTION 4.

Action 4. Change the measurement method for gray triggerfish to have consistency between state and federal waters.

Alternative 3. Specify the minimum size limit for gray triggerfish in inches fork length (FL) in federal waters off North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and east Florida.

MOTION #36: MOVE ACTION 6 TO A SEPARATE REGULATORY AMENDMENT.

Action 6. Revise the annual catch limit (ACL), including sector ACLs, optimum yield (OY), and annual catch target (ACT) for black sea bass.

MOTION #37: ADD ANOTHER ALTERNATIVE TO ACTION 7 TO MODIFY THE RECREATIONAL FISHING YEAR FOR BLACK SEA BASS TO BEGIN ON MAY 1 AND END ON APRIL 30.

Action 7. Modify the fishing year for the black sea bass recreational sector.

MOTION #38: REQUEST THAT THE SNAPPER GROUPE AP PROVIDE INPUT ON POSSIBLE REGIONAL RECREATIONAL FISHING YEAR START DATES FOR BLACK SEA BASS.

MOTION #39: ADD AN ALTERNATIVE TO ACTION 8 TO CONSIDER A CLOSED SEASON FOR THE BLACK SEA BASS POT FISHERY FROM NOVEMBER 15 THROUGH APRIL 15.

Action 8. Modify the fishing year for the black sea bass commercial sector.

MOTION #40: MODIFY ALTERNATIVE 3 UNDER ACTION 8 AS FPLLOWS:

Alternative 3. Open the black sea bass commercial season only to the hook and line sector on JANUARY 1, with a trip limit of 50 pounds. The trip limit ends with the opening of the black sea bass pot season.

MOTION #41: ADD AN ALTERNATIVE TO ACTION 8 TO MODIFY THE COMMERCIAL FISHING YEAR FOR BLACK SEA BASS TO BEGIN ON MAY 1 AND END ON APRIL 30.

MOTION #42: MOVE ACTION 9 TO THE CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED APPENDIX.

Action 9. Modify the recreational bag limit for vermilion snapper.

MOTION #43: REQUEST THAT STAFF DEVELOP A SUITE OF ALTERNATIVES FOR ACTION 10 THAT WOULD ASSIGN 100% OF THE ACL INCREASE TO THE SECOND SEASON AND CONSIDER CHANGES TO THE START DATE OF THE SECOND SEASON ON JUNE 1 AND MAY 1.

Action 10 (formerly Action 3 in Regulatory Amendment 18). Modify the commercial fishing seasons for vermilion snapper.

MOTION #44: REQUEST THAT STAFF DEVELOP A SUITE OF ALTERNATIVES FOR ACTION 10 THAT WOULD ASSIGN 25% OF THE ACL INCREASE IN THE FIRST SEASON AND 75% OF THE INCREASE IN THE SECOND SEASON AND CONSIDER CHANGES TO THE START DATE OF THE SECOND SEASON ON JUNE 1 AND MAY 1.

MOTION #45: ACCEPT THE IPT'S RECOMMENDATION TO MODIFY SUB-ALTERNATIVES 2A AND 2B IN ACTION 11 TO INCLUDE CLARIFICATION THAT THE BAG LIMIT FOR BLACK GROUPER WOULD REMAIN ONE FISH.

Action 11 (formerly Action 10 in this amendment). Modify the aggregate grouper bag limit.

MOTION #46: ADD AN ALTERNATIVE IN ACTION 11 TO NOT INCREASE THE AGGREGATE BAG LIMIT BUT ALLOW FOR RETENTION OF 2 GAG AND MAINTAIN BLACK GROUPER AT 1 FISH WITHIN THAT AGGREGATE.

MOTION #47: ADD AN ALTERNATIVE IN ACTION 11 TO CONSIDER AN ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURE THAT WOULD DECREASE THE BAG LIMIT OF GAG TO 1 FISH THE FOLLOWING SEASON SHOULD THE RECREATIONAL ACL BE EXCEEDED.

MOTION #48: DIRECT STAFF TO CONDUCT THE NECESSARY ANALYSIS TO ARRIVE AT AN APPROPRIATE DATE TO TRIGGER THE TRIP LIMIT STEP DOWN. ALSO CONSIDER A RANGE OF TRIP LIMIT OPTIONS IN ACTION 12.

Action 12 (formerly Action 11 in this amendment). Modify the accountability measure for the commercial sector for gag.

MOTION #49: ADD A NEW ALTERNATIVE 3 THAT RETAINS THE IN-SEASON CLOSURE AUTHORITY BUT REMOVES THE PAYBACK PROVISION IN ACTION 13.

Action 13. Modify the recreational accountability measure for vermilion snapper

MOTION #50: MOVE FORWARD WITH CONSIDERATION OF MODIFICATION TO THE VERMILION SNAPPER AM BUT CONSIDER CHANGES TO THE REG PORGY AM IN A FUTURE AMENDMENT.

MOTION #51: ADD AN ALTERNATIVE THAT TRACKS THE LANGUAGE OF AMS IN AMENDMENT 18 TO THE COASTAL MIGRATORY PELAGICS FMP (PAYBACK ONLY IF THE TOTAL ACL IS EXCEEDED AND THE STOCK IS OVERFISHED).

Regulatory Amendment 16

MOTION #52: APPROVE THE DRAFT PURPOSE AND NEED FOR REGULATORY AMENDMENT 16.

The purpose of Regulatory Amendment 16 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper Grouper Fishery is to: 1) ameliorate existing derby conditions in the commercial longline sector of the golden tilefish portion of the snapper grouper fishery; 2) lengthen the commercial longline fishing season; and 3) prevent market flooding.

The need for the amendment is to increase safety at sea while promoting biological benefits by distributing fishing effort over a longer period of time, and to promote socio-economic benefits.

MOTION #53: REQUEST THAT GOLDEN TILEFISH LONGLINE ENDORSEMENT HOLDERS BE BROUGHT TOGETHER TO DISCUSS LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT OF THE FISHERY ONCE THE ENDORSEMENT PROGRAM HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED AND AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE.

MPAs for Speckled Hind and Warsaw Grouper

MOTION #54: BRING THE MPA ISSUE BACK TO THE SNAPPER GROUPE COMMITTEE AT THE SEPTEMBER MEETING TO DEVELOP A PURPOSE AND NEED AND POTENTIALLY CONSIDER OPTIONS FOR RECONFIGURATIONS AND SPAWNING.

Other Business

MOTION #55: MOVE FORWARD WITH SCHEDULING AN ONLINE OR TELEPHONE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL TO CONSIDER THE NEW ABC AND SETTING ACLS FOR BLACK SEA BASS AS SOON AFTER THE STOCK ASSESSMENT UPDATE HAS BEEN REVIEWED BY THE SSC.

MOTION #56: DIRECT STAFF TO BEGIN PREPARATION OF A SNAPPER GROUPE PLAN AMENDMENT TO CONSIDER A RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES FOR SETTING GEAR GROUP ALLOCATIONS FOR THE BLACK SEA BASS COMMERCIAL ACL BASED ON HISTORIC LANDINGS:

- 15% HOOK-AND-LINE; 85% POTS
- 20% HOOK-AND-LINE; 80% POTS
- 25% HOOK-AND-LINE; 75% POTS

Timing and Tasks

MOTION #57: ADOPT THE TIMING AND TASKS BELOW:

1. SCHEDULE A COUNCIL MEETING VIA WEBINAR OR CONFERENCE CALL BEFORE THE JUNE 2013 MEETING TO DISCUSS ADJUSTMENT TO THE BLACK SEA BASS ABC/ACLs/ACT BASED ON RESULTS OF THE STOCK ASSESSMENT UPDATE. [Note: looking at the afternoon of Monday, May 13th or some day early that week.]
2. REQUEST THAT STAFF COMPILE DATA ON AVERAGE CATCH OF GRAY TRIGGERFISH IN COMMERCIAL LANDINGS.
3. STAFF SHOULD KEEP TRACK OF ANY ACTIONS THE COUNCIL MAY NEED TO CONSIDER IN AN AMENDMENT TO THE SNAPPER GROUPER FMP TO MANAGE GRAY TRIGGERFISH, I.E., TRIP LIMITS AND DIFFERENT LIMITS FOR DIFFERENT SEASONS, ETC.
4. THE SNAPPER GROUPER COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE TO CONSIDER RE-STRUCTURING OF THE SNAPPER GROUPER FMU TO REMOVE JACKS
5. REQUEST THAT THE SNAPPER GROUPER AP PROVIDE INPUT ON REGIONAL ALLOCATIONS FOR BLACK SEA BASS
6. CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR AM 30 IN THE APRIL/MAY TIMEFRAME [Note: looking at holding first hearing April 23 or 24 in North Charleston while the SG AP is in town for a meeting.]

DATA COLLECTION

The Council approved the following motions relative to data collection:

Joint South Atlantic/Gulf Generic Dealer Amendment

MOTION #1: APPROVE THE MODIFICATIONS TO THE DEALER AMENDMENT AND APPROVE THE AMENDMENT FOR FORMAL REVIEW AND DEEM THE CODIFIED TEXT AS NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE.

MOTION #2: GIVE STAFF AND THE COUNCIL CHAIR EDITORIAL LICENSE TO MAKE EDITORIAL CORRECTIONS TO THE AMENDMENT AND THE CODIFIED TEXT.

CE-BA 3

MOTION #3: ACCEPT THE IPT RECOMMENDATION FOR THE PURPOSE AND NEED FOR CE-BA 3.

Purpose for Action

CE-BA 3 would improve bycatch/discard data collection methods to better quantify all sources of fishing mortality in South Atlantic fisheries.

Need for Action

The need for CE-BA 3 is to improve data collection methods that will allow for a better quantification of the type and magnitude of bycatch, improve the quality of stock assessments, and allow for better management measures that will reduce bycatch in South Atlantic fisheries.

MOTION #4: ACCEPT THE IPT RECOMMENDATION TO RECOMMENDED LANGUAGE FOR ALTERNATIVES AND 2 AND 3.

Alternative 2. Require that commercial vessels with: a Commercial Atlantic Dolphin Wahoo Permit, a Spanish Mackerel Commercial Permit, King Mackerel Commercial Permit and a King Mackerel Commercial Gillnet Permit; for-hire vessels with a Charter/Headboat Permit for Dolphin/Wahoo, Charter/Headboat Permit for Coastal Migratory Pelagics (CMP); and private recreational vessels if fishing for dolphin/wahoo or CMP species in the EEZ, if selected, shall use observer coverage, logbooks, electronic logbooks, video monitoring, or any other method deemed necessary to measure bycatch by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

Alternative 3. Implement mandatory observer coverage as described by the ACCSP standards.

Sub-alternative 3a. Snapper-Grouper

Sub-alternative 3b. Coastal Migratory Pelagics

Sub-alternative 3c. Dolphin Wahoo

Sub-alternative 3d. Golden Crab

MOTION #5: REQUEST AN ANALYSIS FROM NOAA GENERAL COUNSEL TO IDENTIFY HOW THE SOUTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL IS MEETING ITS BYCATCH REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE MSA.

MOTION #6: POSTPONE FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF CE-BA 3 UNTIL RECEIPT OF ANALYSIS TO IDENTIFY HOW THE SOUTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL IS MEETING ITS BYCATCH REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE MSA FROM NOAA GC.

Joint SA/GM Generic Charter/Headboat Reporting in the South Atlantic Amendment

MOTION #7: APPROVE THE JOINT SOUTH ATLANTIC AND GULF COUNCIL GENERIC FOR-HIRE REPORTING AMENDMENT (SOUTH ATLANTIC ONLY) FOR FORMAL SECRETARIAL REVIEW AND DEEM THE CODIFIED TEXT AS NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE.

MOTION #8: GIVE STAFF AND COUNCIL CHAIR EDITORIAL LICENCE TO MAKE CHANGES TO THE AMENDMENT AND CODIFIED TEXT AS NECESSARY AND REDEEM THE CODIFIED TEXT.

Timing and Task

MOTION #9: APPROVE THE TASKS AND TIMING AS PRESENTED:

- 1. Make any necessary revisions to the Joint South Atlantic/Gulf of Mexico Generic Charter/Headboat Reporting in the South Atlantic Amendment and codified text and send for formal review prior to the June Council meeting.*
- 2. Schedule a NOAA GC presentation to identify how the South Atlantic Council is meeting the MSA requirement for a bycatch monitoring program at the September 2013 meeting.*

3. *Joint South Atlantic/Gulf of Mexico Generic Logbook Reporting Amendment:*
 - a. *Continue working with the Gulf Council to develop this amendment*
 - b. *Coordinate with the SEFSC on removal of several reporting items on the commercial logbook form and provide a status report at the June 2013 meeting*
 - c. *Work with the SEFSC to develop a schedule of meetings/workgroup with commercial fishermen in the Gulf and South Atlantic to work on developing the electronic logbook and bring back to the committee at the June 2013 meeting*
 - d. *Direct the IPT to work on the wording and structure of the action/alternatives and bring back to the committee at the June 2013 meeting*
4. *Coordinate with the Gulf Council to approve their regulatory amendment to the CMP FMP on Gulf Headboat Reporting.*
5. *Directed staff to keep the South Atlantic Council informed of progress on the Gulf Council's Generic Amendment addressing Charter Reporting*
 - a. *Schedule a presentation from MRIP on the Gulf Charterboat Pilot Study at the June 2013 meeting*
 - b. *Appoint a South Atlantic Council staff member to participate on the subcommittee working on coordinating potential changes to charterboat reporting with MRIP*
 - c. *Work with the Gulf Council on a generic amendment to address charterboat reporting*

MACKEREL

The Council approved the following motion relative to mackerel:

Amendment 19

MOTION #1: APPROVE THE WORDING IN ALTERNATIVES 2 AND 3 IN ACTION 1.

Action 1: Sale of king mackerel and Spanish mackerel.

Alternative 2: Prohibit sale of king mackerel caught under the bag limit, with the exception of for-hire trips in which the vessel also holds a federal king mackerel commercial permit.

Prohibit sale of Spanish mackerel caught under the bag limit, with the exception of for-hire trips in which the vessel also holds a federal Spanish mackerel commercial permit. All sales of king and Spanish mackerel during a commercial closure are prohibited.

Option a. The South Atlantic Council's jurisdiction

Option b. The Gulf Council's jurisdiction

Alternative 3 (Gulf Preferred): Prohibit sale of king and Spanish mackerel caught under the bag limit. For a person to sell king or Spanish mackerel in or from the EEZ of the Gulf of Mexico or Atlantic, those fish must have been harvested on a commercial trip aboard a vessel with a commercial vessel permit/endorsement. A king mackerel permit is required to sell king mackerel and a Spanish mackerel permit is required to sell Spanish mackerel.

Option a. The South Atlantic Council's jurisdiction

Option b. The Gulf Council's jurisdiction

MOTION #2: ADD "IN OR FROM THE EEZ OF THE GULF OF MEXICO OR ATLANTIC" TO ALTERNATIVES 1 AND 2 IN ACTION 1.

Alternative 1 (South Atlantic Preferred): No Action - No federal permit requirement to sell king and Spanish mackerel. Sale of king and Spanish mackerel harvested under the bag limit is allowed for persons that possess the necessary state permits. However, if a commercial closure has been implemented, the sale or purchase of king or Spanish mackerel of the closed species, migratory group, subzone, or gear type, is prohibited, including any king or Spanish mackerel taken under the bag limits.

Alternative 2: Prohibit sale of king mackerel caught under the bag limit, with the exception of for-hire trips in which the vessel also holds a federal king mackerel commercial permit. Prohibit sale of Spanish mackerel caught under the bag limit, with the exception of for-hire trips in which the vessel also holds a federal Spanish mackerel commercial permit. All sales of king and Spanish mackerel during a commercial closure are prohibited.

Option a. The South Atlantic Council's jurisdiction

Option b. The Gulf Council's jurisdiction

MOTION #3: ADD ALTERNATIVE 4 TO ACTION 1.

Alternative 4: Prohibit sale of king and Spanish mackerel caught under the bag limit with the exception of state-permitted tournaments. For a person to sell king or Spanish mackerel in or from the EEZ of the Gulf of Mexico or Atlantic, those fish must have been harvested on a commercial trip aboard a vessel with a commercial vessel permit/endorsement. A king mackerel permit is required to sell king mackerel and a Spanish mackerel permit is required to sell Spanish mackerel. King or Spanish mackerel caught during a tournament may be donated to a dealer in exchange for a charitable donation if the tournament organizers have a permit from a state to conduct that tournament, and transfer and reporting requirements are followed.

Option a. The South Atlantic Council's jurisdiction

Option b. The Gulf Council's jurisdiction

MOTION #4: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 4 UNDER ACTION 1 AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE.

MOTION #5: CHANGE THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE UNDER ACTION 2 TO ALTERNATIVE 1.

Action 2. Sale of Cobia

Alternative 1 (Gulf Preferred): No Action - No federal permit requirement to sell cobia. Sale of cobia harvested under the possession limit is allowed for persons that possess the necessary state permits. However, if a closure has been implemented, the sale or purchase of cobia of the migratory group, subzone, or gear type, is prohibited, including any cobia taken under the possession limit.

MOTION #6: MOVE ACTION 2, SALE OF COBIA, TO THE CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED APPENDIX.

MOTION #7: MOVE ALTERNATIVE 3 IN ACTION 3 TO THE CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED APPENDIX.

Action 3. Elimination of Latent King Mackerel Permits

Alternative 3: Renew commercial king mackerel permits only if the permit had reported landings in:

Option a. The fishing year ending September 30, 2010

Option b. At least one of the five years preceding the September 30, 2010 control date

Option c. At least two of the five years preceding the September 30, 2010 control date

MOTION #8: REMOVE SUB-OPTIONS i AND ii UNDER OPTION D UNDER ALTERNATIVES 2D, 4D, AND 4E IN ACTION 3.

Option d. The threshold for average reported landings would be:

Sub-option i. 1 lbs

Sub-option ii. 100 lbs

Sub-option iii. 500 lbs

Sub-option iv. 1,000 lbs.

MOTION #9: REMOVE OPTION C (FIVE YEARS 2006-2010) UNDER ALTERNATIVES 2 AND 4.

Option c. Five years (2006-2010)

Sub-option i. Average of all years

Sub-option ii. At least one of the five years

MOTION #10: CHANGE THE TIME SERIES IN ALTERNATIVES 2B AND 4B TO 2002-2011.

Option b. Ten years (2001-2010)

MOTION #11: ADD OPTION E TO ALTERNATIVE 2 AND MAKE THE SUB-OPTIONS FOR ALTERNATIVE 2E AND 4E : 1000, 5000 AND 10,000 LBS FOR FEDERALLY MANAGED SPECIES (SOUTH ATLANTIC, GULF OF MEXICO, MID-ATLANTIC, AND HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES).

Approved by Committee.

[NOTE: This committee motion was inadvertently omitted from the committee report and has not been approved by the Council.]

MOTION #12: REMOVE OPTION E FROM ALTERNATIVE 4.

Approved by Committee.

[NOTE: This committee motion was inadvertently omitted from the committee report and has not been approved by the Council.]

MOTION #13: ADD AN ALTERNATIVE UNDER ACTION 3 TO ALLOW FOR A 2-FOR-1 PERMIT REDUCTION IN THE KING MACKEREL FISHERY SIMILAR TO THE SNAPPER GROUPER SYSTEM.

Alternative 4 (NEW): Allow two-for-one permit reduction in the king mackerel commercial fishery similar to the system for Snapper Grouper Unlimited Permits.

MOTION #14: MOVE ACTION 4 TO THE CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED APPENDIX.

Action 4. Federal Regulatory Compliance

MOTION #15: ADD ALTERNATIVE 5 TO ACTION 5 AS FOLLOWS: TO OBTAIN OR RENEW A COMMERCIAL PERMIT FOR KING OR SPANISH MACKEREL, AT LEAST [OPTION A] 75% OR [OPTION B] 50% OF THE APPLICANT'S EARNED INCOME MUST HAVE BEEN DERIVED FROM COMMERCIAL FISHING OR FROM FOR-HIRE FISHING DURING ONE OF THE THREE CALENDAR YEARS PRECEDING THE APPLICATION.

Action 5. Modify or Eliminate Income Requirements for Gulf and South Atlantic Commercial Coastal Migratory Pelagic Permits

Amendment 20

MOTION#16: ADD IPT-SUGGESTED ALTERNATIVES UNDER ACTION 4.

Action 4: Establish Transit Provisions for Travel Through Areas That are Closed to King Mackerel Fishing

Alternative 5 (IPT): Establish a provision allowing transit through areas closed to king mackerel fishing for vessels possessing king mackerel that were legally harvested in the EEZ off areas open to king mackerel fishing.

Alternative 6 (IPT): Establish a provision allowing transit through the Florida west coast Northern Subzone when that area is closed for vessels possessing king mackerel that were legally harvested in the EEZ off Collier County.

MOTION #17: REMOVE OPTIONS B AND D UNDER ALTERNATIVES 2 AND 3 UNDER ACTION 5.

Action 5: Establish State Quotas for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel and Spanish Mackerel for North Carolina

Option b-the average of the proportion of landings in North Carolina from 2007 through 2012 plus the proportion of the unused quota equal to North Carolina's percentage of landings 2007-2012.

Option d-the average of the proportion of landings in North Carolina from 2003 through 2012 plus the proportion of the unused quota equal to North Carolina's percentage of landings 2003-2012.

MOTION #18: ADD ANOTHER OPTION UNDER ALTERNATIVES 2 AND 3 UNDER ACTION 5 TO LOOK AT THE AVERAGE PROPORTION OF LANDINGS FOR THE PAST 15 YEARS.

Option d (new)-the average of the proportion of landings in North Carolina from 1998 through 2012.

MOTION #19: ADD AN ALTERNATIVE UNDER ACTION 5 TO ALLOW FOR TRANSFER OF QUOTA BETWEEN GENERAL ATLANTIC GROUP KM/SM ACL AND NORTH CAROLINA KM/SM ACL.

Alternative 4 (new): Allow for transfer of quota between the General Atlantic Group king mackerel/ Spanish mackerel ACLs and North Carolina king mackerel/Spanish mackerel ACLs.

MOTION #20: SELECT ALTERNATIVES 2, 4, AND 5 UNDER ACTION 6 AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVES.

Action 6. Modify the Framework Procedure.

Alternative 2 (Gulf Preferred): Modify the framework procedure to include changes to ABCs, ABC/ACL control rules and, accountability measures (AMs) under the standard documentation process for open framework actions. Accountability measures that could be changed would include:

In season AMs:

- *Closures and closure procedures*
- *Trip limit reductions or increases*
- *Designation of an IFQ program as the AM for species in the IFQ program*
- *Implementation of gear restrictions*

Postseason AMs

- *Adjustment of season length*
- *Implementation of a closed season*
- *Adjustment or implementation of bag, trip, or possession limit*
- *Reduction of the ACL to account for the previous year overage*
- *Revoking a scheduled increase in the ACL if the ACL was exceeded in the previous year*
- *Implementation of gear restrictions*
- *Reporting and monitoring requirements*

Alternative 4 (Gulf Preferred): Modify the framework procedure to include designation of responsibility to each Council for setting regulations for the migratory groups of each species.

Responsibilities of Each Council:

1. *Recommendations with respect to the Atlantic migratory groups of king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, and cobia will be the responsibility of the South Atlantic Council, and*

those for the Gulf migratory groups of king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, and cobia will be the responsibility of the Gulf Council, with the following exceptions:

- a. The South Atlantic Council will have responsibility to set vessel trip limits, closed seasons or areas, or gear restrictions for (1) the Eastern Zone - East Coast Subzone for Gulf migratory group king mackerel and (2) the east coast of Florida including the Atlantic side of the Florida Keys for Gulf migratory group cobia.*
 - 2. For stocks where a stock assessment indicates a different boundary between the Gulf and Atlantic migratory groups than the management boundary, a portion of the ACL for one migratory group may be apportioned to the appropriate zone, but management measures for that zone will be the responsibility of the Council within whose management area that zone is located.*
 - 3. Both councils must concur on recommendations that affect both migratory groups.*
- Alternative 5 (Gulf Preferred). Make editorial changes to the framework procedure to reflect changes to the Council advisory committees and panels.*

MOTION #21: ADD ACTION 7: MODIFY THE GULF AND ATLANTIC MIGRATORY GROUP COBIA ABCS, ACLS AND ACTS.

Direction to staff: Include the following options under Alternative 3:

Alternative 3: The ACL = ABC for each migratory group. The ACL for each jurisdictional area would be determined as follows:

The Gulf migratory group cobia ACL (based on the ABC as determined by the SSC) would be divided into a Gulf jurisdictional ACL and an east coast of Florida ACL based on the options below.

Option a: Use 2002-2012 (10 yrs) landings to establish the percentage split for the Gulf ABC.*

Option b: Use 2008-2012 (5 yrs) landings to establish the percentage split for the Gulf ABC.

Option c: Use Boyles law (which years?) 50% of landings from 2002-2012 + 50% of landings from 2008-2012?

Option d: Use 1998-2012 (15 year)

Option e: based on yellowtail: 50% of average landings from 1993-2008 + 50% of average landings from 2006-2008 (75% SA and 25% Gulf)

Option f: based on mutton: 50% of average landings from 1990-2008 + 50% of average landings from 2006-2008 (82% SA and 18% Gulf)

Framework Action 2013

MOTION #22: APPROVE THE LANGUAGE FOR THE TITLE OF THE ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES IN ACTION 1.

Action 1: Modify the Atlantic migratory group king mackerel minimum size limit.

Alternative 1 (No Action). Do not change the Atlantic migratory group king mackerel minimum size limit of 24 inches fork length (FL) for the commercial and recreational sectors.

Alternative 2. Reduce the Atlantic migratory group king mackerel recreational and commercial minimum size limit to 23 inches FL.

Alternative 3. Reduce the Atlantic migratory group king mackerel recreational and commercial minimum size limit to 22 inches FL.

Alternative 4. Reduce the Atlantic migratory group king mackerel commercial minimum size limit to 23 inches FL for the commercial sector only, from the Georgia/Florida line south to the Miami-Dade/Monroe County line. The commercial minimum size limit in areas north of the Georgia/Florida state line and South of the Miami-Dade/Monroe County line would remain 24 inches FL. The recreational minimum size limit would remain 24 inches FL.

MOTION #23: REMOVE ACTION 2 FROM THE FRAMEWORK.

Action 2: Modify regulations for the Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel minimum commercial size limit.

MOTION #24: APPROVE THE WORDING IN THE TITLE OF THE ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES IN ACTION 3, AS REVISED.

Action 3: Modify restrictions on transfer-at-sea and gillnet allowances for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel.

Alternative 1 (No Action). No more than two gillnets, including any net in use, may be possessed at any one time; provided, however, that if two gillnets, including any net in use, are possessed at any one time, they must have stretched mesh sizes (as allowed under the regulations) that differ by at least .25 inch (.64 cm) (622.41(c)(3)(ii)(B)(3)). A species subject to a trip limit specified in this section taken in the EEZ may not be transferred at sea, regardless of where such transfer takes place, and such species may not be transferred in the EEZ (§ 622.44).

Alternative 2: Modify commercial gear specifications for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel.

Option a. Remove the maximum number of gillnets.

Option b. Remove the requirement for different mesh sizes.

Option c. Allow federally-permitted Spanish mackerel vessels to possess three gillnets.

Option d. Allow three gillnets for the vessel receiving transfer.

Alternative 3. Allow transfer of a portion an Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel gillnet and its catch from one vessel that has reached its trip limit to another vessel that has not caught the trip limit.

a) Transfer is allowed if directed harvesting gear used to harvest the Spanish mackerel being transferred is allowable net gear. Spanish mackerel harvested with other than directed allowable net harvesting gear shall not be transferred.

- b) Transfer shall only take place in the EEZ between vessels with valid Spanish mackerel commercial permits.*
- c) The Spanish mackerel removed from the directed harvesting gear aboard the harvesting vessel shall be isolated aboard the vessel and shall not exceed the applicable daily vessel limit specified in this subsection. All fish exceeding the applicable daily vessel limit shall remain entangled in the meshes of the net until transfer. The quantity of fish transferred to any single vessel shall not exceed the applicable daily harvest limit.*
- d) Call-in required for both vessels engaged in the transfer.*

MOTION #25: ACCEPT IPT RECOMMENDATION FOR ALTERNATIVE 2 AND ALTERNATIVE 4 IN ACTION 4 WITH THE ADDITION TO “END OF FEBRUARY” UNDER (A) AND CHANGE 75% TO 70% UNDER SUB-ALTERNATIVE B.

Action 4: Modify the king mackerel commercial trip limit in the East Coast Florida Subzone.

Alternative 2. Change the king mackerel commercial trip limit in the Florida East Coast Subzone to 50 fish for the entire fishing season (November 1- March 31).

Alternative 4. In the Florida East Coast Subzone, king mackerel in or from the EEZ may be possessed on board at any time or landed in a day from a vessel with a commercial permit for king mackerel as follows:

(A) From November 1 through the end of February--not to exceed 50 fish.

(B) Beginning on March 1 and continuing through March 31

(1) If 70 percent or more of the [Gulf group] Florida east coast subzone quota has been taken-- not to exceed 50 fish.

(2) If less than 70 percent of the [Gulf group] Florida east coast subzone quota has been taken --not to exceed 75 fish.

MOTION #26: APPROVE THE WORDING IN THE TITLE OF THE ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES IN ACTION 4, AS REVISED.

MOTION #27: APPROVE THE WORDING IN THE TITLE OF THE ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES UNDER ACTION 5, AS REVISED.

Action 5: Modify the system of quota and trip limit adjustments for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel.

Alternative 1 (No Action). Retain the current quota system for the northern and southern zones of Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel, whereby the quota for both zones is 3.87 million pounds, and is adjusted to 3.62 million pounds and the fishing year begins March 1. Currently for the southern zone, the trip limit is 3,500 pounds starting March 1, and then starting December 1 trips are not limited on week days and are 1,500 pounds on weekends. This unlimited time period continues until 75 percent of the adjusted quota is landed, after which the trip limit is 1,500 pounds every day. When 100 percent of the adjusted quota is reached, the trip limit is reduced to 500 pounds until the end of the fishing

year or until the full quota is met or projected to be met. In the northern zone, the trip limit is 3,500 pounds year-round.

Alternative 2. Remove the use of an adjusted quota for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel and:

Sub-alternative 2a. Remove all trip limit changes for the southern zone. The trip limit would remain 3,500 lbs year-round. Close commercial harvest of Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel when the commercial ACL is met or projected to be met.

Sub-alternative 2b. Remove the period of unlimited trips for the southern zone that starts December 1 each year. The southern zone trip limit would start at 3,500 pounds on March 1 of each year. When 75% of the commercial ACL has been landed or projected to be landed the trip limit would be reduced to 1,500 pounds. Close commercial harvest of Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel when the commercial ACL is met or projected to be met.

Sub-alternative 2c. Remove the period of unlimited trips for the southern zone that starts December 1 each year. The southern zone trip limit would start at 3,500 pounds on March 1 of each year. When 75% of the commercial ACL has been landed or projected to be landed the trip limit would be reduced to 500 pounds. Close commercial harvest of Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel when the commercial ACL is met or projected to be met.

Alternative 3. Retain the adjusted commercial ACL but remove the period of unlimited trips for the southern zone that starts December 1 each year. The southern zone trip limit would start at 3,500 pounds on March 1 of each year. When 75% of the adjusted commercial ACL has been landed or projected to be landed the trip limit would be reduced to 1,500 pounds. When 100% of the adjusted commercial ACL is reached, the trip limit is reduced to 500 pounds until the end of the fishing year or until the commercial ACL is met or projected to be met. Close commercial harvest of Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel when the commercial ACL is met or projected to be met.

Timing and Tasks

MOTION #28: ADOPT THE TIMING AND TASK ITEMS AS PRESENTED:

- 1. Make the necessary revisions to CMP amendment 19 and provide the revised document to the gulf council for use at their April meeting.*
- 2. Make the necessary revisions to CMP amendment 20 and provide the revised document to the gulf council for use at their April meeting.*
- 3. Make the necessary revisions to south Atlantic framework action and provide the revised document at the June 2013 meeting.*
- 4. Target approval of CMP amendment 19, amendment 20, and framework action for public hearings at the June 2013 meeting.*

5. Target final approval of CMP amendment 19, amendment 20, and framework action for September 2013.

ECOSYSTEM-BASED MANAGEMENT

The Council approved the following motions relative to Ecosystem-Based Management:

Coral MOU

MOTION #1: ENDORSE THE CORAL MOU WITH THE MAFMC AND NEFMC AS MODIFIED BY STAFF AND LEGAL COUNSEL EDITS.

Timing and Tasks

MOTION #2: ADOPT THE TIMING AND TASK ITEMS AS FOLLOWS:

1. Council staff will finalize and incorporate the VMS data representative of the rock shrimp fishery from 2003-2006 into the analysis in Coral Amendment 8.
2. Relevant APs will review updated analysis and modifications to Coral Amendment 8 during April-May 2013 meetings. (A joint AP meeting session has been scheduled with the Coral and Habitat APs for May 8th in Charleston, SC; Chairs of the Law Enforcement, Snapper Grouper, and Deepwater Shrimp APs are also asked to participate in the joint session.)
3. Pending Full Council approval of the Coral MOU, staff will finalize and submit the MOU to the New England and Mid-Atlantic Councils for approval.

DOLPHIN WAHOO

The Council approved the following motions relative to dolphin wahoo:

MOTION #1: ACCEPT THE PURPOSE AND NEED AS WRITTEN, BUT REMOVE REFERENCE TO SECTOR ACLS.

Purpose

The purpose of Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 5 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Dolphin and Wahoo Fishery of the Atlantic (Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 5) is to revise the ABCs, ACLs sector allocations, AMs and ACTs implemented by the Comprehensive ACL Amendment (SAFMC 2011c). The revisions may prevent a disjunction between the established ACLs and the landings used to determine if AMs are triggered. Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 5 would also ensure that the best available science is utilized, as per National Standard 2. Revisions to the framework will incorporate updated language reflected in the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

Need

To prevent unnecessary negative socio-economic impacts that may otherwise be realized in the dolphin and wahoo fishery and fishing community, in accordance with the provisions set forth in the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

MOTION #2: ACCEPT THE REVISED WORDING FOR ALTERNATIVE 2 UNDER ACTION 1 AS PRESENTED: “REVISE THE ACCEPTABLE BIOLOGICAL CATCHES (ABCS), ANNUAL CATCH LIMITS (ACLS, INCLUDING SECTOR ACLS), AND ANNUAL CATCH TARGETS (ACTS) FOR DOLPHIN AND WAHOO.”

Action 1: Revise ABC, ACL (including sector ACLs), sector allocations, and recreational ACT for dolphin and wahoo based on MRIP estimates.

MOTION #3. REMOVE ALTERNATIVES 3 AND 7 FROM ACTION 2 AND SEND TO THE CONSIDERED, BUT REJECTED APPENDIX.

Action 2: Revise the accountability measures (AMs) for dolphin and wahoo

Alternative 3. If the commercial ACL is exceeded, the RA shall publish a notice to reduce the ACL in the following season by the amount of the overage, regardless of the stock status of the species.

Alternative 7. If the recreational ACL is exceeded, the RA shall publish a notice to reduce the ACL in the following season by the amount of the overage, regardless of the stock status of the species.

MOTION #4. ADD AN ALTERNATIVE 3 TO ACTION 3 THAT WOULD LOOK AT SETTING THE COMMERCIAL ALLOCATION AT ITS HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL CATCH OVER THE PAST 5 YEARS (2008 THROUGH 2012).

Action 3: Modify the sector allocations for dolphin.

MOTION #5: ADD AN ALTERNATIVE 4 TO ACTION 3 THAT WOULD LOOK AT SETTING THE COMMERCIAL ALLOCATION AT THE AVERAGE OF THE PERCENTAGES OF THE TOTAL CATCH OVER THE PAST 5 YEARS (2008 - 2012).

MOTION #6: ADD AN ACTION 5 AS FOLLOWS:

Action 5: Establish a commercial trip limit for dolphin in the EEZ throughout the SAFMC’s area of jurisdiction.

Alternative 1: No Action

Alternative 2: 1,000 lb trip limit

Sub-alternative 2a: south of 31° N. Latitude

Sub-alternative 2b: north of 31° N. Latitude

Alternative 3: 2,000 lb trip limit

Sub-alternative 3a: south of 31° N. Latitude

Sub-alternative 3b: north of 31° N. Latitude

Alternative 4: 3,000 lb trip limit

Sub-alternative 4a: south of 31° N. Latitude

Sub-alternative 4b: north of 31° N. Latitude

Alternative 5: 4,000 lb trip limit

Sub-alternative 5a: south of 31° N. Latitude

Sub-alternative 5b: north of 31° N. Latitude

Alternative 6: 5,000 lb trip limit

Sub-alternative 6a: south of 31° N. Latitude

- Sub-alternative 6b: north of 31° N. Latitude*
- Alternative 7: 10,000 lb trip limit*
 - Sub-alternative 7a: south of 31° N. Latitude*
 - Sub-alternative 7b: north of 31° N. Latitude*
- Alternative 8: 15,000 lb trip limit*
 - Sub-alternative 8a: south of 31° N. Latitude*
 - Sub-Alternative 8b: north of 31° N. Latitude*
- Alternative 9: 20,000 lb trip limit*
 - Sub-Alternative 9a: south of 31° N. Latitude*
 - Sub-Alternative 9b: north of 31° N. Latitude*

MOTION #7: MODIFY THE LANGUAGE TO ALTERNATIVE 2 UNDER ACTION 4 (DOLPHIN WAHOO FRAMEWORK PROCEDURE) BY ADDING THE FOLLOWING NEW WORDING:

Action 4: Revise the framework procedure in the Dolphin Wahoo FMP.

NEW LANGUAGE (replaces number 9 under Alternative 2): Adjustments to ABCs, ACLs, and ACTs according to the existing ABC Control Rule(s) and formulas for specifying ACLs and ACTs that have been approved by the Council and that were implemented in a fishery management plan amendment to the FMP. This abbreviated process is authorized as follows:

- a. Following the Scientific and Statistical Committee's (SSC's) review of the stock assessment, the Council will determine if changes are needed to ABC, ACL, and/or ACT and will so advise the RA.*

- b. The Council will first hold a public hearing during the Council meeting during which they will review the stock assessment and the SSC's recommendations. In addition, the public will be advised prior to the meeting that the Council is considering potential changes to the ABC, ACL, and/or ACT and the Council will provide the public the opportunity to comment on the potential changes prior to and during the Council meeting.*

- c. If the Council then determines that modifications to the ABC, ACL, and/or ACT are necessary and appropriate, they will notify the RA of their recommendations in a letter with the Council's analysis of the relevant biological, economic, and social information necessary to support the Council's action.*

- d. The RA will review the Council's recommendations and supporting information. If the RA concurs that the Council's recommendations are consistent with the objectives of the FMP, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and all other applicable law, the RA is authorized to implement the Council's proposed action through publication of appropriate notification in the Federal Register, providing appropriate time for additional public comment as necessary.*

- e. If the Council chooses to deviate from the ABC control rule(s) and formulas for specifying ACLs and ACTs that the Council previously approved and that were implemented in a fishery management plan amendment to the FMP, this abbreviated process would not apply, and either the framework procedure would apply with the preparation of a regulatory amendment or a fishery management plan amendment would be prepared. Additionally, the Council may choose to prepare a regulatory amendment or a fishery management plan amendment even if they do not deviate from the previously approved ABC control rule(s) and formulas for specifying ACLs and ACTs.*

Guidance to Staff:

Remove reference to “including sector ACLs” for Action 1 throughout the document.

Timing and Tasks

MOTION #8: DIRECT STAFF TO ANALYZE THE ACTIONS/ALTERNATIVES AND BEGIN THE FORMAL DEVELOPMENT OF DOLPHIN WAHOO AMENDMENT 5. BRING DRAFT DOLPHIN WAHOO AMENDMENT 5 BACK TO THE COUNCIL AT THE JUNE MEETING FOR REVIEW, SELECTION OF PREFERRED ALTERNATIVES, AND VOTE TO SEND TO PUBLIC HEARINGS IN AUGUST 2013.

GOLDEN CRAB

The Council approved the following motions relative to golden crab:

MOTION #1: DIRECT STAFF TO WORK WITH THE RELEVANT APS REGARDING EXAMINATION OF MODIFYING THE NORTHERN LIMIT OF THE NORTHERN ZONE GOLDEN CRAB FISHING AREA.

MOTION #2: MOVE FOR THE COUNCIL TO STOP WORK ON AMENDMENT 6, INCLUDING BOTH THE CATCH SHARE AND NON-CATCH SHARE ACTIONS.

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

The Council approved the following motions relative to information and education:

There were no motions.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Council approved the following motions relative to law enforcement:

There were no motions.

EXECUTIVE FINANCE

The Council approved the following motions relative to executive finance:

There were no motions.

COUNCIL SESSION (OTHER MOTIONS)

The Council approved the following motions:

MOTION #1: RECOMMEND TO THE REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR THAT HE NOT APPROVE THE DYNASTY MARINE ASSOCIATES APPLICATION FOR AN EXEMPTED FISHING PERMIT.