



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Melvin Bell, Chair | Carolyn N. Belcher, Ph.D., Vice Chair
John Carmichael, Executive Director

AGENDA

Law Enforcement Advisory Panel

February 10, 2022

Town & Country Inn
Charleston, SC

Other than the starting and ending times of the meeting, times indicated on the agenda are approximate, and the order of business may be adjusted as necessary to accommodate the completion of agenda items. Interested parties should be aware that discussions may start earlier or later than indicated.

Public comment will be solicited at the beginning and at the end of the meeting. Those wishing to comment should indicate such in the manner requested by the Chair, who will then recognize individuals to provide comment.

Thursday, February 10, 2022 – 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Approval of Agenda – Capt. Scott Pearce

Approval of February 2021 LE AP meeting minutes – Capt. Scott Pearce

Public Comment

SAFMC Law Enforcement Committee Chair Remarks – Spud Woodward

1. Amendments under development (*Attachments 1a-1c*)
 - a. Overview – Council Staff
 - b. AP Discussion and recommendations – Capt. Scott Pearce
2. Compliance of For-Hire Electronic Reporting Requirements
 - a. Updates – AP members
 - b. AP Discussion and recommendations – Capt. Scott Pearce
3. Compliance of Descending Device Requirement
 - a. Updates – AP members
 - b. AP Discussion and recommendations – Capt. Scott Pearce
4. Agency Updates – Agency Representatives
5. Other Business

Public Comment

Adjourn

Advisory Panel Members:

Capt. Scott Pearce, FL FWC, Chair
Capt. Chris Hodge, GADNR
Capt. Garland Yopp, NCDMF
Col. Bruce Buckson, Retired
Michael Freeman, commercial
Alana Harrison, commercial

Lt. James Bruce, USCG
Capt. Michael Paul Thomas, SCDNR
Lt. Pat O'Shaughnessy, NOAA OLE
Kevin Roberson, recreational
Nickey Maxey, recreational
Jamal Ingram, NOAA GC Enforcement

Attachments

Attachment 1a: Update on FMP Amendments

Attachment 1b: Scoping Document for SG Amendments 51,52 and 53

Attachment 1c: Scoping Document for SG Release Mortality Reduction and Red Snapper Catch Levels Framework Amendment

Staff: Myra Brouwer (Myra.Brouwer@safmc.net)

OVERVIEW

Law Enforcement Advisory Panel

The AP will approve minutes from the February 2021 meeting and the agenda for the current meeting.

1. Update on FMP Amendments (*Attachments 1a-1c*)

Council staff will update the AP on the content and status of amendments under development. Staff will brief the AP on the following and request specific input as appropriate:

- Atlantic King Mackerel (Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 34)
- Red Porgy (Snapper Grouper Amendment 50)
- Snowy Grouper (Amendment 51; *Attachment 1b*)
- Golden Tilefish and Blueline Tilefish (Snapper Grouper Amendment 52; *Attachment 1b*)
- Gag (Snapper Grouper Amendment 53; *Attachment 1b*)
- Red Snapper and Release Mortality Reduction Framework (*Attachment 1c*)

Requested AP Input: Discuss and provide input as appropriate.

2. Compliance with For-Hire Electronic Reporting Requirements

The Council received updates from the Southeast For-Hire Electronic Reporting (SEFHIER) Program at quarterly meetings through 2021. The most recent update (December 2021) included the following:

- NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) is working with industry to ensure compliance with SEFHIER.
- OLE is conducting outreach/education & initiating investigations on SEFHIER related referrals.
- Non-compliance is assessed on a case-by-case basis, and may result in compliance assistance, written warnings, and summary settlement penalties. Some cases may also be referred to NOAA's Office of General Counsel Enforcement Section (GCES) for review and issuance of civil administrative penalties.

Requested AP Input: Council requests LE AP members provide feedback on the level of compliance in their respective area.

3. Compliance with Descending Device Requirement

The Council has pursued an aggressive campaign to promote use of descending devices following the requirement (effective July 2020) that the devices be onboard and ready to use on vessels fishing for snapper grouper species in the South Atlantic. The Council will continue to promote best fishing practices and use of descending devices as they look to reduce the number of regulatory discards and increase survival of fish that are released throughout the fishery. To assist the Council to be more effective in their efforts, the LE AP is asked to provide feedback on the level of compliance with this requirement.

Requested AP Input: Council requests LE AP members provide feedback on the level of compliance in their respective area.

4. Vice Chair Elections

Capt. Scott Pearce was elected Chair during the February 2021 meeting. The LE AP should elect a Vice-Chair.

5. Other Business