

DRAFT
SUMMARY REPORT
SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
Full Council Session I

June 13, 2022
Key West, Florida

The Council approved the agenda for the meeting and the transcripts from March 2022.

Reports

NOAA Office of Law Enforcement, US Coast Guard, state agencies, and Council liaisons provided reports to the Council.

Socio-Economic Panel Report

Scott Crosson, Socio-Economic Panel (SEP) Chair, provided a summary of topics discussed during the April 2022 SEP Meeting. Of note was the SEP's feedback on the Citizen Science Program's evaluation survey, Snapper Grouper Regulatory Amendment 35, the economics of the longline component of the commercial South Atlantic Golden Tilefish fishery, and the revised Allocation Decision Tree including the Council's pending public input tool.

Public Data-Gathering Tool

Council staff presented a public input tool designed to help gather information that would inform answers to some of the questions within the Allocation Decision Tool. The online tool will allow members of the public to provide similar input to that of advisory panel members when conducting fishery performance reports. The Council had the following feedback:

- Revise the name to be Fair Catch or Saltwater Conversations
- Ensure the input requested is not too personal in nature.
- Note that the information gathered through this tool will be used broadly to help inform management decisions – not only when discussing allocations.

The Council directed staff to work with NOAA GC to determine if the information gathered through this tool would require Paperwork Reduction Act approval. The following motion was passed:

MOTION: APPROVE PUBLIC INPUT GATHERING TOOL, AS MODIFIED.
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Commercial Electronic Logbook Amendment

Council staff presented an overview of the proposed action in the amendment. The amendment would move the paper-based commercial logbooks under the Coastal Logbook Program to an electronic platform. Staff provided background on the Councils' previous guidance and requested clarification on which Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) would be amended. The Council restated their intent to include amending the following FMPs: South Atlantic Snapper Grouper, Atlantic Dolphin Wahoo, Gulf and South Atlantic Coastal Migratory Pelagics, and Gulf Reef Fish. South Atlantic Council staff will work jointly with Gulf Council staff and SERO to

develop the amendment as a Categorical Exclusion and finalize for submission by the end of 2022. The SEFSC clarified that both the commercial discard logbook and the economic add-on survey are considered part of the Coastal Logbook data collection program and would also be transferred to an electronic platform.

Acceptable Biological Catch Control Rule Amendment

This amendment considers revisions to the Acceptable Biological Catch Control Rule for the Dolphin Wahoo, Golden Crab, and Snapper Grouper FMPs, including the incorporation of phase-ins of ABC changes and carry-overs of unused portions of annual catch limits. Staff presented the actions and alternatives. The Council made the following motions and provided the following direction to staff:

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

Action 1. Modify the Acceptable Biological Catch Control Rule

Preferred Alternative 2. Specify an acceptable biological catch control rule for the Dolphin Wahoo, Golden Crab, and Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plans that categorizes stocks based on the available information and scientific uncertainty evaluation and incorporates the Council’s risk tolerance policy through an accepted probability of overfishing (P*). The Council will specify the P* based on relative stock biomass and a stock risk rating.

When possible, the Scientific and Statistical Committee will determine the overfishing limit and characterize its uncertainty based on, primarily, the stock assessment or, secondarily, the Scientific and Statistical Committee’s expert opinion. The overfishing limit and its uncertainty would then be used to derive and recommend the acceptable biological catch, based on the risk tolerance specified by the Council.

Acceptable biological catch for unassessed stocks will be recommended by the Scientific and Statistical Committee based on applicable data-limited methods. Unassessed stocks will be assigned the moderate biomass level, unless there is a recommendation from the Scientific and Statistical Committee for a different level, in which case the SSC recommendation regarding the appropriate level will be used.

For overfished stocks, the Council will specify a stock rebuilding plan (usually $T_{rebuild}$), considering recommendations from the Scientific and Statistical Committee and fishery management plan advisory panel, which will determine the acceptable biological catch while the rebuilding plan is in effect. Per requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the probability of success for rebuilding plans (1-P*) must be at least 50%.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: APPROVE THE ABC CONTROL RULE AMENDMENT FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Direction to Staff:

- Conduct an online hearing ahead of the September Council Meeting and an in-person hearing during the public comment session at the September Council Meeting

SEFSC Presentation on Progress Towards Meeting SAFMC Research Recommendations

Dr. Clay Porch presented an overview of research conducted in the region based on the 2021 SAFMC Research and Monitoring Plan. In the most recent version of the plan, the Council included “provide annual progress reports, by the SEFSC at the June Council meeting, detailing efforts to implement the research recommendations noted in Council Research and Monitoring Plans.”