



# SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, North Charleston SC 29405

Call: (843) 571-4366 | Toll-Free: (866) SAFMC-10 | Fax: (843) 769-4520 | Connect: www.safmc.net

Carolyn N. Belcher, Ph.D., Chair | Trish Murphey, Vice Chair  
John Carmichael, Executive Director

## Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel Meeting Agenda

Town & Country Inn and Suites  
2008 Savannah Highway  
Charleston, SC 29407

October 18-20, 2022

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 recognize individuals to provide comment in-person or on the webinar.

**Tuesday October 18, 2022, 1:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.**

**Wednesday October 19, 2022, 9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.**

**Thursday, October 20, 2022, 9:00 A.M. – Noon**

Welcome and Introductions

Approval of Agenda – Bob Lorenz

Approval of April 2022 AP Transcript – Bob Lorenz

Public Comment

1. Committee Chair Remarks – Jessica McCawley (*Attachment 1*)
2. Update on Recent Regulations and Status of Amendments (*Attachment 2*)
  - a. Amendment 44 – Yellowtail Snapper
  - b. Amendment 46 – Recreational Permitting/Reporting
  - c. Amendment 48 – Wreckfish
    - i. Note recently added alternative involving South Atlantic snapper grouper commercial permit
  - d. Amendment 49 – Greater Amberjack
  - e. Amendment 51 – Snowy Grouper
  - f. Amendment 52 – Golden Tilefish and Blueline Tilefish
3. Regulatory Amendment 35 – Red Snapper and Snapper Grouper Release Mortality (*Attachment 3*)
4. Snapper Grouper Management Strategy Evaluation Input (*Attachments 4a and 4b*) – Dr. Tom Carruthers and Dr. Adrian Hordyk

5. Amendment 53 – Gag and Black Grouper (*Attachment 5a and 5b*) – Allie Iberle
6. Commercial Electronic Logbook Amendment (*Attachments 6a and 6b*) – Myra Brouwer
7. Update on FL Keys Sanctuary Restoration Blueprint (*Attachment 7*)
8. Update on NOAA Proposed Vessel Speed Regulations to Further Protect North Atlantic Right Whales (*Attachment 8*) – Christina Wiegand
9. Other Updates:
  - a. SEDAR – Kathleen Howington
    - i. SEDAR 76 (Black Sea Bass) Data Questions and Update
  - b. Citizen Science (*Attachment 9a*) – Julia Byrd
  - c. Climate Change Scenario Planning (*Attachment 9b*) – Roger Pugliese
10. Other Business

Public Comment

Adjourn

**Advisory Panel Members:**

Robert Lorenz, Chair	Selby Lewis
James Paskiewicz, Vice Chair	Andrew Mahoney
Scott Amick	Randy McKinley
Vincent Bonura	Thomas Meeks
Richen “Dick” Brame	Chris Militello
Randall Beardsley	Harry Morales
Tony Constant	David Moss
Jack Cox Jr.	Paul Nelson
Andrew Fish	Andy Piland
Robert Freeman	Cameron Sebastian
Richard Gomez	David Snyder
James Hull Jr.	Todd Kellison (non-voting)
Chris Kimrey	

**Attachments**

**Attachment 1 (in Recent Documents):** Snapper Grouper Chair Presentation  
**Attachment 2:** Update on recent regulation changes and status of amendments  
**Attachment 3:** Regulatory Amendment 35 (Red Snapper and Snapper Grouper Release Mortality) Discussion Document  
**Attachment 4a:** Snapper Grouper Management Strategy Evaluation Discussion Document  
**Attachment 4b:** Snapper Grouper Management Strategy Evaluation Demo Presentation  
**Attachment 5a:** Amendment 53 (Gag & Black Grouper) Overview Presentation  
**Attachment 5b:** Amendment 53 (Gag & Black Grouper) Discussion Document  
**Attachment 6a:** Commercial Logbook Amendment Presentation  
**Attachment 6b:** Comparison of paper logbook vs e-logbook data fields  
**Attachment 7:** FL Keys Restoration Blueprint Presentation

**Attachment 8:** Proposed Vessel Speed Regulations to protect North Atlantic Right Whales Document

**Attachment 9a:** Citizen Science Program Update Presentation

**Attachment 9b:** East Coast Climate Change Scenario Planning Update Presentation

**Staff Lead:** Michael Schmidtke ([Mike.Schmidtke@safmc.net](mailto:Mike.Schmidtke@safmc.net))

# **OVERVIEW**

## **Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel**

The AP will approve minutes from the April 2022 meeting and the agenda for the current meeting.

### **1. Committee Chair Remarks**

### **2. Update on Recent Regulations and Status of Amendments**

Council staff will update the AP on the status of recently approved and developing amendments.

- a. Amendment 44 – Yellowtail Snapper
- b. Amendment 46 – Recreational Permitting/Reporting
- c. Amendment 48 – Wreckfish
- d. Amendment 49 – Greater Amberjack
- e. Amendment 51 – Snowy Grouper
- f. Amendment 52 – Golden Tilefish and Blueline Tilefish

### **3. Regulatory Amendment 35 – Red Snapper and Snapper Grouper Release Mortality**

In March 2022, the Council initiated a regulatory amendment to reduce release mortality in the snapper grouper fishery and implement catch levels for red snapper based on the SEDAR 73 stock assessment. SEDAR 73 indicating that the South Atlantic red snapper stock is overfished and experiencing overfishing, but is making adequate progress according to its current rebuilding plan. Release mortality is the primary source of fishing removals of red snapper but is also a prominent issue throughout the snapper grouper fishery. The Council has directed that this regulatory amendment include consideration of recreational gear restrictions to electric- and hydraulic-powered rod and reel and multiple hooks per line while fishing for snapper grouper species to reduce release mortality.

**Requested AP Input:** Discuss the proposed management actions and develop recommendations for considered and preferred alternatives.

### **4. Snapper Grouper Management Strategy Evaluation Input**

In 2021, the Council directed a management strategy evaluation (MSE) to be conducted for the South Atlantic snapper grouper fishery to develop management strategies that will consider addressing the number of released fish to improve yield throughout the snapper grouper fishery, while balancing the needs for fishery access and resource use while preventing overfishing and rebuilding overfished stocks. Part of the MSE requires stakeholder participation to help characterize the current fishery and define management objectives. Dr. Tom Carruthers and Dr. Adrian Hordyk of Blue Matter Science will describe the MSE process and request AP input to be used in the MSE.

**Requested AP Input:** Discuss uncertainties, management options, and objectives for evaluating performance of the snapper grouper fishery.

## **5. Amendment 53 – Gag Grouper**

The Council directed staff to start work on a plan amendment in September of 2021 in response to the most recent gag assessment (SEDAR 71 2021). This assessment indicated that the South Atlantic stock of gag is both overfished and experiencing overfishing. Amendment 53 will establish a rebuilding plan, update the ABC, ACL and OY, allocations, and management measures for gag. In October the AP was given an overview of Amendment 53. In December of 2021 the Council reviewed an options paper and the AP's feedback, made modifications to actions and options, and approved the amendment for scoping. In February 2022 scoping was conducted. During the March 2022 meeting the Council reviewed the scoping comments, which pertained mainly to the restriction of spearfishing gear and made modifications to actions and options. Final approval for Amendment 53 is scheduled for March 2023.

**Requested AP Input:** Discuss the proposed management actions and develop recommendations for preferred alternatives.

## **6. Commercial Electronic Logbook Amendment**

This amendment is being developed jointly with the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council to require commercial logbooks be submitted via electronic reporting forms instead of the currently used paper-based forms for the South Atlantic Snapper Grouper, Atlantic Dolphin Wahoo, Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Coastal Migratory Pelagics, and Gulf Reef Fish Fishery management plans.

Council staff will give an overview presentation covering some background and progress to date on the amendment, a short video demonstrating how eTRIPS is used to enter a trip, and a spreadsheet to compare current data fields and modifications that would be required for implementing an electronic logbook (eTRIPS). The Gulf and South Atlantic Councils will consider approving the amendment for public hearings in October and December, respectively.

**Requested AP Input:** Discuss anticipated benefits or concerns and whether the proposed change would incur additional burden on commercial fishermen.

## **7. Update on FL Keys Sanctuary Restoration Blueprint**

The Council received a presentation on proposed regulatory changes affecting the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary as a result of NOAA's comprehensive review of the management plan, zoning plan, and regulations for the Sanctuary on September 21, 2022. The Council has requested discussion and comment from the AP.

**Requested AP Input:** Discuss and provide recommendations as appropriate.

## **8. Update on NOAA Proposed Vessel Speed Regulations to Further Protect North Atlantic Right Whales**

NMFS Office of Protected Resources is proposing changes to the North Atlantic right whale (NARW) vessel speed rule to reduce the likelihood of lethal vessel collisions. The changes would broaden the spatial boundaries and timing of current speed restrictions, including those that exist in south Atlantic during calving season. The rule would also expand

mandatory speed restrictions of 10 knots or less to include most vessels 35–65 feet in length. The Council received a brief presentation on the proposed rule at their September 2022 meeting and directed staff to provide comments to NMFS on how the proposed regulations may affect fishermen in the South Atlantic region.

**Requested AP Input:** Discuss and provide recommendations as appropriate.

## **9. Other Updates**

SEDAR and Council staff will provide updates on the following programs:

- a. SEDAR
  - i. SEDAR 76 (Black Sea Bass) Data Questions and Update
- b. Citizen Science
- c. Climate Change Scenario Planning

## **10. Other Business**

**Adjourn**