



Update on Snapper Grouper Amendments

April 2021

Regulatory Amendment 34 (SMZs in North and South Carolina) (completed)

In March 2019, the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries (NCDMF) and the South Carolina Marine Resources Division submitted requests to the Council to designate artificial reefs located in the EEZ off those states as Special Management Zones (SMZ). NCDMF requested designation of 30 artificial reef sites in the EEZ off North Carolina at which fishing gear other than handline, rod and reel, and spear would be prohibited. South Carolina requested designated 4 sites as SMZs with the same restrictions on fishing gear as other SMZs, namely limiting angling activities to handheld hook and line gear and spearfishing gear (excluding powerheads) and limiting harvest to recreational bag limits. At the September 2019 meeting, the Council revised the timeline for developing this amendment and approved the amendment for public scoping. Public scoping was held during fall 2019. At the March 2020 meeting, the Council approved the amendment for public hearings that were held on May 4 and 5, 2020. At the June 2020 meeting the Council approved the amendment for formal review. A proposed rule for this amendment was published on November 16, 2020. A final rule published on April 2, 2021 and regulations will become effective on May 3, 2021.

Red Snapper Assessment/Allocations (ongoing)

The Council is expected to receive the results of SEDAR for Red Snapper in June 2021. This amendment will consider modifications to management measures and sector allocations.

Yellowtail Snapper Assessment/Allocations (to begin in spring 2021)

The Council received the results of SEDAR 64 for Yellowtail Snapper in December 2020 and received the SSC's recommendations for an ABC. The Council directed staff to initiate an amendment to set a new ACL for yellowtail snapper in the South Atlantic. In addition, the leadership of the South Atlantic and Gulf SSCs are to develop an approach for how address ABCs for species that cross jurisdictional boundaries and are consequently managed under two different ABC control rules (such as yellowtail and mutton snappers). This amendment will likely also consider modifications to sector allocations and management measures.

Snowy Grouper Assessment/Allocations (to begin in spring 2021)

The Council received the results of SEDAR 36 (Update) for Snowy Grouper in March 2021. The stock is undergoing overfishing and is overfished. This amendment will consider catch level adjustments in response to the stock assessment and possible modifications to management measures and sector allocations.

Golden Tilefish Assessment/Allocations (to begin in fall 2021)

The Council is expected to receive the results of SEDAR 66 for Golden Tilefish in June 2021. This amendment will consider modifications to management measures and sector allocations.

Gag Grouper Assessment/Allocations (to begin in fall 2021)

The Council is expected to receive the results of SEDAR 71 for Gag Grouper in June 2021. This amendment will consider modifications to management measures and sector allocations.