



Vision Blueprint for the Snapper Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region, 2016-2020

Annual Evaluation



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Outline

- I. The Vision Blueprint – background
- II. Evaluation Plan Objectives
- III. Progress on prioritized activities under each of the four goals
 - Science
 - Management
 - Communication
 - Governance

The Vision Blueprint

- Serves as a “living document” to help guide future management of the snapper grouper fishery
- Informs management of the snapper grouper fishery from 2016-2020
- Builds upon stakeholder and Council member input on how the fishery could be managed in the future



The Vision Blueprint



- Guides development of new amendments that address priority objectives and strategies
- Illustrates actions that could be used for management and would be developed through the regular amendment process
- Was approved in December 2015 and will be updated in 2020



Objectives of the Evaluation & Review

1. Ensure management actions are achieving the Vision for the snapper grouper fishery.
2. Allow flexibility to adapt management to changes in the fishery.
3. Continue stakeholder engagement with the Vision Blueprint process.
4. Allow new Council members to become familiar with the Vision Blueprint.



SCIENCE



Data Collection

Priority Action	2016 Activity
Support efforts to create a uniform, efficient reporting mechanism for trip tickets and logbooks	<i>For-hire reporting amendment and pilot for e-reporting for charter vessels</i>
Validate data collection programs	X*
ID sampling resources needed to support data programs	X*

**Need additional guidance from Council*



Cooperative Research/ Citizen Science

Priority Action	2016 Activity
Use fishing vessels and captains as alternative data collection platforms	<i>Charter vessels participating in pilot; cooperative research on red snapper</i>
Identify sources of funding for cooperative research and surveys	<i>Research planning meetings for spawning SMZs; Identifying NOAA funding opportunities to support research and monitoring needs for South Atlantic fisheries</i>
Improve partnerships between potential researchers and fishermen	<i>SAFMC Citizen Science Initiative (January 2016 workshop)</i>

**Need additional guidance from Council*



Cooperative Research/ Citizen Science *(continued)*

Priority Action	2016 Activity
Support partnerships to enhance habitat and ecosystem mapping in the region	<i>Initiated development of a South Atlantic Regional Mapping Strategy as one of the support tools for FEP II</i>
	<i>Continued to integrate all map products into the regional repository of the Habitat and Ecosystem Atlas as provided by NOAA and other regional partners</i>
	<i>Planning initiated for test of mapping and monitoring capabilities in conjunction with a future SEAMAP/MARMAP cruise</i>



Hot Topics – *Science Goal*

Priority Action	2016 Activity
Recreational fishing stamp/permit	<i>Action included in Amendment 43</i>
Improvements to existing logbook programs	χ^*
Work with management partners to secure long-term funding for MARMAP	χ^*
Increase bycatch/discard reporting	<i>Action(s) in Amendment 43; NOAA FIS grant proposals submitted on electronic reporting (scamp discard project and red snapper recreational reporting)</i>

**Need additional guidance from Council*



MANAGEMENT



2016-2017 Activities Addressing Vision Blueprint

Priority items for the Management Goal are being addressed in three amendments:

1. Vision Blueprint Recreational Regulatory Amendment 26
2. Vision Blueprint Commercial Regulatory Amendment 27
3. Amendment 43



Vision Blueprint *Recreational* Regulatory Amendment 26

- Re-consideration of the **aggregate bag limits**
- Re-evaluation of the **shallow water grouper closure**
- Modification of the **minimum size limit for black sea bass**
- Removal of **recreational minimum size limits for deepwater species** (silk snapper, queen snapper, and blackfin snapper)



Vision Blueprint *Commercial*

Regulatory Amendment 27

- **Split seasons for deepwater species** and “small-mouthed” species.
- **Trip limits and step-downs** –
 - as they pertain to “traditional bandit boats”?
 - lower vermilion trip limit in second season?
 - trip limits by time-period (i.e., week or month)?
- Re-evaluate **shallow water grouper closure**
- **Fishing year changes** (i.e., golden tilefish hook-and-line)



Amendment 43

- **Actions 1-5** – Biological benchmarks, Annual Catch Limits and Recreational Annual Catch Target
- **Action 6** – Closed area to reduce bycatch of red snapper
- **Action 7** – Commercial management measures
- **Action 8** – Recreational management measures
- **Action 9** – Permit for private recreational sector
- **Action 10** – Reporting requirement for private recreational
- **Action 11** – Accountability Measures and adaptive management
- **Action 12** – Best fishing practices





COMMUNICATION

Better Understanding of Fishery Science

Priority Action	2016 Activity
Develop recreational angler education programs about how to reduce discards (i.e. baurotrauma, best fishing practices for handling/releasing fish, descending devices, etc.)	<i>I&E AP and Snapper Grouper AP provided input on these items in Snapper Grouper Amendment 43 at Fall 2016 AP meetings</i>
Develop training for new AP members	X* <i>*Need additional guidance from Council</i>
Continue Council support of MREP Southeast	<i>Council staff serve on steering committee and routinely provide curriculum development and delivery for workshops</i>
Expand the use of educational webinars to convey information about stock assessments, data collection, and other fishery science concepts	<i>I&E AP and the Council's I&E Committee provided input on approaches for developing and delivering educational webinars in 2017</i>

Streamlined/Timely Communication Approaches

Priority Action	2016 Activity
Continue Q & A webinars with Council staff to discuss upcoming Amendments for public hearings and scoping	<i>Five Q&A webinars were held in 2016</i>
Incorporate a real time calendar that displays current fishery closures for each sector	<i>The Council's website hosts a page with current fishery closures in each sector and will continue to work on a real-time calendar in 2017.</i>
Work with NOAA/SERO to provide information about historical closure dates and advance notification of ACL monitoring	<p>X*</p> <p><i>*Need additional guidance from Council</i></p>



Streamlined/Timely Communication Approaches *(continued)*

Priority Action	2016 Activity
Utilize remote listening stations for public hearings and educational meetings to increase participation from remote groups of stakeholders	<i>Listening station approach was used in 2015 & 2016 for snapper grouper related items (hogfish, mutton snapper)</i>
Support more informal port meetings for educational purposes on relevant fishery issues/topics to include current and upcoming management issues	<i>I&E AP and the Council's I&E Committee provided input on approaches for developing and delivering educational webinars in 2017</i>
Diversify the locations of in-person meetings (public hearings, scoping, etc.) to allow for one on one interaction with Council members	<i>Locations of in-person meetings have been tailored based on amendment; Council members attend each of these meetings.</i>



Hot Topics – *Communication Goal*

Priority Action	2016 Activity
Consider use of direct mailings/other communication strategies targeting SG permit holders for significant management/regulatory actions	X* <i>*Need additional guidance from Council</i>
Utilize web-based tools (webinars, video conferencing, etc.) and other technology to collect public comment and provide educational workshops	<i>New public comment approach using online comment form on the Council's website was adopted in 2016 and is working well.</i>
Develop one page fishery management resources (print and electronic) for distribution to targeted audiences/sectors	<i>Continue to provide summaries of regulations (snapper grouper, coastal migratory pelagics, joint rack card with FL FWC on bringing fillets back from The Bahamas; December 2016 - booklet summarizing commercial black sea bass pot regulations to support Snapper Grouper Regulatory Amendment 16.</i>





GOVERNANCE

Streamlined Management/Better Coordination with Partners

Priority Action	2016 Activity
Strengthen relationships with existing fishery management partners to clearly establish roles and responsibilities and accountability systems	X*
Identify non-traditional partnerships and sources of funding to support fisheries science, research and management activities (industry, NGO-supported, etc.)	<i>Contracted with Harbor Lights for charter ER pilot; worked with PEW & Dr. Will Heyman on spawning SMZs research; Sea Grant support for Citizen Science Workshop.</i>

**Need additional guidance from Council*



Accountable/Flexible Decision-Making Process

Priority Action	2016 Activity
Consider alternative methods for collecting public input on proposed management actions	<i>Adopted new web-based method in 2016; working on development of online forum for permit holders to informally discuss issues.</i>

Hot Topics - Governance

Priority Action	2016 Activity
Provide information to stakeholders that is timely and in an appropriate format about proposed management actions	<i>Story maps meeting summaries after each council meeting; story maps prior to public hearings/scoping meetings.</i>



Citizen Science Initiatives

Progress:

- January 2016 Citizen Science Program Design Workshop
- Development of kickstarter project idea– *scamp grouper discard characterization*
- Spawning Special Management Zone research and monitoring



2016 Progress Summary

Science Goal

- *Initiated 9 of 13 priority items; progress ongoing*

Management Goal

- *Initiated 3 Amendments addressing several actions; progress ongoing*

Communication Goal

- *Initiated 10 of 13 priority items; progress ongoing*

Governance Goal

- *Initiated 3 of 4 priority items; progress ongoing*

****Several priority items need additional guidance from Council for 2017 and beyond action**



Additional Information:

Visioning Project

<http://safmc.net/useful-info/council-visioning-project/>

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