

CE-BA 3.

Only one action, which addresses bycatch reporting, remains in CE-BA 3. There are three alternatives with **Alternative 3** having sub-alternatives. **Tables 1-4** list the current reporting requirements for all South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's (SAFMC) Fishery Management Plans. The tables are split up by commercial reporting requirements (**Table 1**), for-hire reporting requirements including both headboat and charter boat (**Table 2**), private recreational (**Table 3**), and other reporting methodologies (**Table 4**).

CE-BA 3 was tabled by the Council until the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) completed an analysis of bycatch reporting methodologies. At the March 2016 SAFMC meeting, the NMFS presented recommendations from a workgroup tasked with reviewing bycatch reporting methodology. The recommendations of the workgroup are included with the current alternatives proposed in CE-BA 3 (**Table 5-7**).

**Action:** Provide recommendation if development of CE-BA 3 should be continued and if updates should be presented in September.

#### *Purpose for Action*

CE-BA 3 would improve bycatch/discard data collection methods to better quantify all sources of fishing mortality in South Atlantic fisheries.

#### *Need for Action*

The *need* for CE-BA 3 is to improve data collection methods that will allow for a better quantification of the type and magnitude of bycatch, improve the quality of stock assessments, and allow for better management measures that will reduce bycatch in South Atlantic fisheries.

## **Proposed Action**

### **Action 1. Amend the Snapper Grouper, Dolphin and Wahoo, Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources, and Golden Crab Fishery Management Plans to modify bycatch and discard reporting**

**Alternative 1 (No Action).** The Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) Release, Discard and Protected Species Module is currently the required methodology. Until these standards are fully funded, require the use of a variety of sources to assess and monitor bycatch including: observer coverage on vessels; logbooks; electronic logbook; video monitoring; MRFSS; state cooperation; and grant funded projects. After the ACCSP Bycatch Module standards are implemented, continue the use of technologies to augment and verify observer data. Require that commercial vessels with a snapper grouper permit, for-hire vessels with a for-hire permit, and private recreational vessels if fishing for snapper grouper species in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ), if selected, shall use observer coverage, logbooks, electronic logbooks, video monitoring, or any other method deemed necessary to measure bycatch by the National Marine Fisheries Service.

**Alternative 2.** Require that commercial vessels with: a Commercial Atlantic Dolphin Wahoo Permit, a Spanish Mackerel Commercial Permit, King Mackerel Commercial Permit and a King Mackerel Commercial Gillnet Permit; for-hire vessels with a Charter/Headboat Permit for Dolphin/Wahoo, Charter/Headboat Permit for Coastal Migratory Pelagics (CMP); and private recreational vessels if fishing for dolphin/wahoo or CMP species in the EEZ, if selected, shall use observer coverage, logbooks, electronic logbooks, video monitoring, or any other method deemed necessary to measure bycatch by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

**Alternative 3.** Implement mandatory observer coverage as described by the ACCSP standards.

**Sub-alternative 3a.** Snapper-Grouper

**Sub-alternative 3b.** Coastal Migratory Pelagics

**Sub-alternative 3c.** Dolphin Wahoo

**Sub-alternative 3d.** Golden Crab

Table 1. Commercial reporting requirements and level of coverage for South Atlantic Fishery Management Plans.

<b>Bycatch Reporting Methodology</b>	<b>Current Reporting Requirements</b>	<b>Level of Coverage</b>
<b>Observer Program</b>	<p><b>Snapper-Grouper:</b> Current regulations require observers, if selected.</p> <p><b>Dolphin Wahoo:</b> There is no requirement to carry observers.</p> <p><b>Coastal Migratory Pelagics:</b> There is no requirement to carry observers.</p> <p><b>Coral:</b> There is no requirement to carry observers.</p> <p><b>Shrimp:</b> Current regulations require observers, if selected.</p> <p><b>Sargassum:</b> 100% coverage.</p> <p><b>Golden Crab:</b> Current regulations require observers, if selected.</p> <p><b>Spiny Lobster:</b> There is no requirement to carry observers.</p>	<p><b>Snapper-Grouper:</b> &lt; 1% - 2007-2010.</p> <p><b>Dolphin Wahoo:</b> 0% coverage</p> <p><b>Coastal Migratory Pelagics:</b> Gillnet and king mackerel gillnet by shark observers and state gillnet observers (i.e. North Carolina). 0% coverage for other gears.</p> <p><b>Shrimp:</b> 1% of Penaenid trips and &lt;1% rock shrimp trips</p> <p><b>Sargassum:</b> No sargassum trips have occurred since regulation enacted.</p> <p><b>Golden Crab:</b> 0% coverage</p>
<b>Self-Reporting Systems</b>	<p><b>Snapper-Grouper:</b> Logbook 100% and supplemental discard logbook, if selected</p> <p><b>Dolphin Wahoo:</b> Logbook 100% and supplemental discard logbook, if selected</p> <p><b>Coastal Migratory Pelagics:</b> Logbook 100% and supplemental discard logbook, if selected</p> <p><b>Coral:</b> No federal reporting system defined</p> <p><b>Shrimp:</b> Provide information as requested by SRD (does not list bycatch but not limited to items listed)</p> <p><b>Sargassum:</b> Provide information as requested by SRD (does not list bycatch but not limited to items listed)</p> <p><b>Golden Crab:</b> Mandatory trip reporting that includes discarded species on report.</p> <p><b>Spiny Lobster:</b> No federal reporting system defined.</p>	<p><b>Snapper-Grouper:</b> Discard Logbook designed to sample 20% of vessels, currently getting reports from 41% of snapper grouper fishery.</p> <p><b>Dolphin Wahoo:</b> Discard Logbook samples 20% of vessels.</p> <p><b>Coastal Migratory Pelagics:</b> Discard Logbook samples 20% of vessels.</p> <p><b>Golden Crab:</b> Approximately 10% report discards</p>

Table 2. For-hire reporting requirements and level of coverage for South Atlantic Fishery Management Plans.

<b>Bycatch Reporting Methodology</b>	<b>Current Reporting Requirements</b>	<b>Level of Coverage</b>
<b>At-Sea Samplers</b>	<p><b>Snapper-Grouper:</b> Headboats are required to carry observers, if selected.</p> <p><b>Dolphin Wahoo:</b> Headboats are required to carry observers, if selected.</p> <p><b>Coastal Migratory Pelagics:</b> Headboats are required to carry observers, if selected.</p> <p><b>Coral:</b> Not a For-Hire Target</p> <p><b>Shrimp:</b> No requirement</p> <p><b>Sargassum:</b> Not a For-Hire Target</p> <p><b>Golden Crab:</b> Not a For-Hire Target</p> <p><b>Spiny Lobster:</b> No requirement</p>	<p>2% of the headboat trips out of South Carolina to Florida, about 9% of the headboat trips out of North Carolina, 0% from charterboat</p> <p>2% of the headboat trips out of South Carolina to Florida, about 9% of the headboat trips out of North Carolina, 0% from charterboat</p> <p>2% of the headboat trips out of South Carolina to Florida, about 9% of the headboat trips out of North Carolina, 0% from charterboat</p>
<b>Bycatch Surveys</b>	<p><b>Snapper-Grouper:</b> Headboat Survey and MRIP, SRD can require electronic logbooks</p> <p><b>Dolphin Wahoo:</b> Headboat Survey and MRIP</p> <p><b>Coastal Migratory Pelagics:</b> Headboat Survey and MRIP</p> <p><b>Coral:</b> Not sampled through MRIP</p> <p><b>Shrimp:</b> Not sampled through MRIP</p> <p><b>Sargassum:</b> Not a For-Hire Target</p> <p><b>Golden Crab:</b> Not a For-Hire Target</p> <p><b>Spiny Lobster:</b> Not sampled through MRIP</p>	<p>8% from Georgia to Florida, 5% in South Carolina, and 17% in North Carolina of the headboat trips. Average 673 charterboat interviews with discards through MRIP, 2004-2015. See Appendix 1 for numbers by species.</p> <p>8% from Georgia to Florida, 5% in South Carolina, and 17% in North Carolina of the headboat trips. Average 45 charterboat interviews with discards through MRIP, 2004-2015. See Appendix 1 for numbers by species.</p> <p>8% from Georgia to Florida, 5% in South Carolina, and 17% in North Carolina of the headboat trips. Average 116 charter interviews with discards through MRIP, 2004-2015. See Appendix 1 for numbers by species.</p>

Table 3. Private recreational reporting requirements and level of coverage for South Atlantic Fishery Management Plans.

<b>Bycatch Reporting Methodology</b>	<b>Current Reporting Requirements</b>	<b>Level of Coverage</b>
<b>Private Recreational bycatch surveys</b>	<p><b>Snapper-Grouper:</b> MRIP , SRD can require electronic logbooks reports monthly</p> <p><b>Dolphin Wahoo:</b> MRIP</p> <p><b>Coastal Migratory Pelagics:</b> MRIP</p> <p><b>Coral:</b> Not sampled through MRIP</p> <p><b>Shrimp:</b> Not sampled through MRIP</p> <p><b>Sargassum:</b> Not a Target</p> <p><b>Golden Crab:</b> Not a Target</p> <p><b>Spiny Lobster:</b> Not sampled through MRIP</p>	<p>The number of discards are estimated through MRIP with phone interviews and dockside intercepts.</p>
<b>Private Recreational Observer Program, where possible</b>	<p><b>Snapper-Grouper:</b></p> <p><b>Dolphin Wahoo:</b></p> <p><b>Coastal Migratory Pelagics:</b></p> <p><b>Coral:</b> Not sampled through MRIP</p> <p><b>Shrimp:</b> Not sampled through MRIP</p> <p><b>Sargassum:</b> Not a Target</p> <p><b>Golden Crab:</b> Not a Target</p> <p><b>Spiny Lobster:</b> Not sampled through MRIP</p>	
<b>Verification of angler reports, where possible</b>	<p><b>Snapper-Grouper:</b> MRIP Dockside Interviews</p> <p><b>Dolphin Wahoo:</b> MRIP Dockside Interviews</p> <p><b>Coastal Migratory Pelagics:</b> MRIP Dockside Interviews</p> <p><b>Coral:</b> Not a Target</p> <p><b>Shrimp:</b> Not sampled through MRIP</p> <p><b>Sargassum:</b> Not a Target</p> <p><b>Golden Crab:</b> Not a Target</p> <p><b>Spiny Lobster:</b> Not sampled through MRIP</p>	<p>Average 2,303 interviews with discards through MRIP, 2004-2015. See Appendix 1 for numbers by species.</p> <p>Average 123 interviews with discards through MRIP, 2004-2015. See Appendix 1 for numbers by species.</p> <p>Average 345 interviews with discards through MRIP, 2004-2015. See Appendix 1 for numbers by species.</p>

Table 4. Other data elements reported by recreational and/or commercial fishermen.

<b>Reporting Methodology</b>	<b>Current Reporting Requirements</b>	<b>Level of Coverage</b>
<b>Entanglement/Stranding Reports</b>	Stranding networks established in the Southeast Region. Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC) is base for the Southeast United States Marine Mammal Stranding Program. <a href="http://www.sefsc.noaa.gov/species/mammals/strandings.htm">http://www.sefsc.noaa.gov/species/mammals/strandings.htm</a> and <a href="http://www.sefsc.noaa.gov/species/turtles/strandings.htm">http://www.sefsc.noaa.gov/species/turtles/strandings.htm</a>	About 650-700 strandings are responded to each year in the South Atlantic. Data are reported to the SEFSC. NMFS stranding and entanglement networks serve as the ACCSP standard for stranding and entanglement data for sea turtles and marine mammals.
<b>Call-In Reports</b>	Call in numbers have been set up for fishermen to report stranding and protected species interactions as well as fishery enforcement violations.	1-800-WHALE-HELP to report dead, injured or entangled marine mammals. Sea turtle hotline is set-up to report stranding or entangled sea turtles. Enforcement hotline (1-800-853-1964) to report enforcement violations.
<b>Marine Mammal Authorization Program (Commercial Only)</b>	<p><b>Snapper-Grouper:</b> Most Category III except black sea bass pot fishery category II</p> <p><b>Dolphin Wahoo:</b> Category III</p> <p><b>Coastal Migratory Pelagics:</b> Most category III except gill net fisheries are category II</p> <p><b>Coral:</b> Category III</p> <p><b>Shrimp:</b> Category III</p> <p><b>Sargassum:</b> Category III</p> <p><b>Golden Crab:</b> Category III</p> <p><b>Spiny Lobster:</b> Category III</p>	Collection of Marine Mammal Authorization Program (MMAP) reports from Category I and II commercial fisheries. The Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) requires Category I and II fisheries to report any injuries or mortalities that occur incidental to their fishing operations. Reports must be made within 48 hours of the end of a fishing trip.

Table 5. Potential observer program NMFS workgroup recommendations and current alternatives in CEBA-3 for commercial fisheries.

<b>Bycatch Reporting Methodology</b>	<b>NMFS Workgroup Recommendations</b>	<b>CEBA-3 Alternative 2</b>	<b>CEBA-3 Alternative 3</b>
<b>Observer Program</b>	<p><b>Snapper-Grouper:</b> Pilot observer program, electronic technology to supplement observer</p> <p><b>Dolphin Wahoo:</b> Determine if most trips would be covered through snapper-grouper program</p> <p><b>Coastal Migratory Pelagics:</b> Conduct observer study every 5 years to calibrate self-reported data in trolling sector. Enhance gillnet observer program. Explore electronic monitoring</p> <p><b>Coral:</b></p> <p><b>Shrimp:</b> Increase observer coverage (especially in areas with sawfish) and explore electronic monitoring as alternative to observers</p> <p><b>Sargassum:</b></p> <p><b>Golden Crab:</b> Observer coverage every 5 years to calibrate reported bycatch estimates</p> <p><b>Spiny Lobster:</b> Observer coverage every 5 years to calibrate reported bycatch estimates</p>	<p><b>Snapper-Grouper:</b></p> <p><b>Dolphin Wahoo:</b> Require observer coverage or electronic reporting if necessary</p> <p><b>Coastal Migratory Pelagics:</b> Require observer coverage or electronic reporting if necessary</p> <p><b>Coral:</b></p> <p><b>Shrimp:</b></p> <p><b>Sargassum:</b></p> <p><b>Golden Crab:</b></p> <p><b>Spiny Lobster:</b></p>	<p><b>Snapper-Grouper:</b> 5% observer coverage for high profile fisheries and 2% for other fisheries</p> <p><b>Dolphin Wahoo:</b> 2% or 5% observer coverage</p> <p><b>Coastal Migratory Pelagics:</b> 2% or 5% observer coverage</p> <p><b>Coral:</b></p> <p><b>Shrimp:</b></p> <p><b>Sargassum:</b></p> <p><b>Golden Crab:</b> 2% or 5% observer coverage</p> <p><b>Spiny Lobster:</b></p>

Table 6. Potential self-reporting system NMFS workgroup recommendations and current alternatives in CEBA-3 for commercial fisheries.

<b>Bycatch Reporting Methodology</b>	<b>NMFS Workgroup Recommendations</b>	<b>CEBA-3 Alternative 2</b>	<b>CEBA-3 Alternative 3</b>
<b>Self-Reporting Systems</b>	<p><b>Snapper-Grouper:</b> Electronic logbook collecting set level data, 100% discard reporting, add corals, marine mammals, protected species, and Sargassum to discards</p> <p><b>Dolphin Wahoo:</b> Same as snapper-grouper</p> <p><b>Coastal Migratory Pelagics:</b> Same as snapper-grouper</p> <p><b>Coral:</b> Make logbooks electronic, corals added as part of other FMP's SBRMs</p> <p><b>Shrimp:</b> Establish electronic logbook program and link catch/bycatch data to VMS data in rock shrimp</p> <p><b>Sargassum:</b></p> <p><b>Golden Crab:</b> Electronic logbooks to improve timeliness</p> <p><b>Spiny Lobster:</b> Electronic logbook to improve timeliness and add sea turtles, sawfish, and Acropora to bycatch report</p>	<p><b>Snapper-Grouper:</b></p> <p><b>Dolphin Wahoo:</b> Require logbooks or electronic logbooks if necessary</p> <p><b>Coastal Migratory Pelagics:</b> Require logbooks or electronic logbooks if necessary</p> <p><b>Coral:</b></p> <p><b>Shrimp:</b></p> <p><b>Sargassum:</b></p> <p><b>Golden Crab:</b></p> <p><b>Spiny Lobster:</b></p>	<p><b>Snapper-Grouper:</b> Mandatory logbook reporting</p> <p><b>Dolphin Wahoo:</b> Mandatory logbook reporting</p> <p><b>Coastal Migratory Pelagics:</b> Mandatory logbook reporting</p> <p><b>Coral:</b></p> <p><b>Shrimp:</b></p> <p><b>Sargassum:</b></p> <p><b>Golden Crab:</b> Mandatory logbook reporting</p> <p><b>Spiny Lobster:</b></p>



Table 7. Observer and self-reporting NMFS workgroup recommendations and current alternatives in CEBA-3 for for-hire and private recreational fisheries.

<b>Bycatch Reporting Methodology</b>	<b>NMFS Workgroup Recommendations</b>	<b>CEBA-3 Alternative 2</b>	<b>CEBA-3 Alternative 3</b>
<b>At-Sea Samplers</b>	<p><b>Snapper-Grouper:</b> Add headboat observer program to SBRM and conduct observer and electronic studies to validate reported discards</p> <p><b>Dolphin Wahoo:</b> Same as snapper-grouper</p> <p><b>Coastal Migratory Pelagics:</b> Headboats are required to carry observers, if selected.</p> <p><b>Coral:</b></p> <p><b>Shrimp:</b></p> <p><b>Sargassum:</b></p> <p><b>Golden Crab:</b></p> <p><b>Spiny Lobster:</b></p>	<p><b>Snapper-Grouper:</b></p> <p><b>Dolphin Wahoo:</b> Require observer coverage or electronic reporting if necessary</p> <p><b>Coastal Migratory Pelagics:</b> Require observer coverage or electronic reporting if necessary</p> <p><b>Coral:</b></p> <p><b>Shrimp:</b></p> <p><b>Sargassum:</b></p> <p><b>Golden Crab:</b></p> <p><b>Spiny Lobster:</b></p>	<p><b>Snapper-Grouper:</b> Observer program where possible</p> <p><b>Dolphin Wahoo:</b> Observer program where possible</p> <p><b>Coastal Migratory Pelagics:</b> Observer program where possible</p> <p><b>Coral:</b></p> <p><b>Shrimp:</b></p> <p><b>Sargassum:</b></p> <p><b>Golden Crab:</b></p> <p><b>Spiny Lobster:</b></p>
<b>Bycatch Surveys</b>	<p><b>Snapper-Grouper:</b> Add discards reported through MRIP to SBRM and electronic reporting of discards in headboat survey. Add electronic reporting of discards in for-hire charter sector</p> <p><b>Dolphin Wahoo:</b> Same as snapper-grouper</p> <p><b>Coastal Migratory Pelagics:</b> Same as snapper-grouper without validation study</p> <p><b>Coral:</b></p> <p><b>Shrimp:</b></p> <p><b>Sargassum:</b></p> <p><b>Golden Crab:</b></p> <p><b>Spiny Lobster:</b> Add to MRIP</p>	<p><b>Snapper-Grouper:</b></p> <p><b>Dolphin Wahoo:</b> Require logbooks or electronic logbooks if necessary</p> <p><b>Coastal Migratory Pelagics:</b> Require logbooks or electronic logbooks if necessary</p> <p><b>Coral:</b></p> <p><b>Shrimp:</b></p> <p><b>Sargassum:</b></p> <p><b>Golden Crab:</b></p> <p><b>Spiny Lobster:</b></p>	<p><b>Snapper-Grouper:</b> Verify self-reported data</p> <p><b>Dolphin Wahoo:</b> Verify self-reported data</p> <p><b>Coastal Migratory Pelagics:</b> Verify self-reported data</p> <p><b>Coral:</b></p> <p><b>Shrimp:</b></p> <p><b>Sargassum:</b></p> <p><b>Golden Crab:</b></p> <p><b>Spiny Lobster:</b></p>

Appendix 1. Number of years a species was reported/observed in MRIP and average number MRIP interviews reporting B2s for the snapper grouper, coastal migratory pelagics, and dolphin wahoo complex by charter boat and private angler from 2004-2015. N/R=non-reported.

<b>Common</b>	<b>Charter</b>		<b>Private</b>	
	<b># of Years Observed/ Reported through MRIP</b>	<b>Average # of Interviews Reporting B2s</b>	<b># of Years Observed/ Reported through MRIP</b>	<b>Average # of Interviews Reporting B2s</b>
Almaco jack	12	6	12	11
Amberjack genus	12	25	12	32
Atlantic spadefish	10	1	12	16
Banded rudderfish	12	9	12	6
Bank sea bass	11	5	12	5
Black grouper	11	3	12	12
Black sea bass	12	307	12	987
Black snapper	0		0	
Blackfin snapper	9	N/R	4	N/R
Blueline tilefish	12	3	10	1
Coney	10	1	10	1
Cottonwick	1	0	1	N/R
Cubera snapper	4	0	9	1
Dog snapper	3	N/R	10	0
Gag	12	16	12	88
Golden tilefish	11	N/R	11	0
Goliath grouper	5	1	12	11
Gray snapper	12	14	12	504
Gray triggerfish	12	58	12	98
Graysby	12	2	12	8
Greater amberjack	12	40	12	27
Grouper genus (epinephelus)	11	4	12	21
Grouper genus (mycteroperca)	6	3	11	7
Grunt family	12	19	12	136
Grunt genus	5	2	12	15
Hogfish	10	0	12	2
Jolthead porgy	12	0	12	2
Knobbed porgy	12	N/R	12	1
Lane snapper	12	12	12	75
Lesser amberjack	4	1	5	N/R
Longspine porgy	2	N/R	2	0
Mahogany snapper	0		3	0
Margate	8	1	12	4
Misty grouper	0		0	

<b>Common</b>	<b>Charter</b>		<b>Private</b>	
	<b># of Years Observed/ Reported through MRIP</b>	<b>Average # of Interviews Reporting B2s</b>	<b># of Years Observed/ Reported through MRIP</b>	<b>Average # of Interviews Reporting B2s</b>
Mutton snapper	12	62	12	91
Nassau grouper	1	0	5	1
Ocean triggerfish	12	0	12	1
Porgy family	9	4	12	29
Queen snapper	1	N/R	1	N/R
Red grouper	12	40	12	55
Red hind	9	0	10	3
Red porgy	12	17	12	6
Red snapper	12	90	12	86
Rock hind	10	0	11	3
Rock sea bass	9	4	11	3
Sailors choice	12	4	12	6
Sand tilefish	12	34	12	22
Saucereye porgy	4	N/R	6	N/R
Scamp	12	8	12	4
Schoolmaster	4	0	11	4
Scup	10	0	9	1
Sea bass genus	7	7	11	84
Silk snapper	10	1	6	0
Snapper family	7	2	12	18
Snapper genus	4	0	12	11
Snowy grouper	12	3	10	1
Speckled hind	5	1	7	1
Tilefish family	5	0	7	1
Tomtate	12	37	12	65
Vermilion snapper	12	85	12	45
Warsaw grouper	7	0	5	0
White grunt	12	40	12	72
Whitebone porgy	12	1	12	1
Yellowedge grouper	7	N/R	2	N/R
Yellowfin grouper	0		2	N/R
Yellowmouth grouper	3	N/R	3	N/R
Yellowtail snapper	12	55	12	102
Cobia	12	19	12	41
King mackerel	12	45	12	93
Mackerel genus	3	0	8	7
Spanish mackerel	12	55	12	211

	<b>Charter</b>		<b>Private</b>	
<b>Common</b>	<b># of Years Observed/ Reported through MRIP</b>	<b>Average # of Interviews Reporting B2s</b>	<b># of Years Observed/ Reported through MRIP</b>	<b>Average # of Interviews Reporting B2s</b>
Dolphin	12	43	12	120
Pompano dolphin	0		2	N/R
Wahoo	12	1	12	3