

Final Summary Report

Snapper Grouper Committee

Charleston Marriott
170 Lockwood Boulevard
Charleston, SC
September 2014

The Snapper Grouper Committee met on September 16 & 17, 2014, in Charleston, South Carolina.

Status of landings for quota-managed snapper grouper species

The Committee received an update from Phil Steele on the status of commercial landings for snapper grouper species under ACLs. Dr. Jessica Stephen presented the Committee with an overview of recreational landings. In 2013, there were recreational overages for golden tilefish, Porgies Complex, Snappers Complex, snowy grouper, and gray triggerfish. Currently, hogfish recreational landings are 47% over the ACL. Dr. Stephen indicated the overage was likely due to the change in MRIP methodology.

Status of Amendments Approved for Secretarial Review

The Committee received a status report from Phil Steele on the following amendments:

- Regulatory Amendment 14 –The Final Rule package is under review at the Regional Office.
- Regulatory Amendment 21 (MSST) – The Final Rule package is under review at the Regional Office and being sent to NMFS headquarters soon.
- Emergency Rule (blueline tilefish) – became effective on April 17, 2014. Temporary regulations will expire on October 14, 2014. An extension can be requested that would carry the exiting regulations until April 14, 2015.

The Committee made the following motion:

MOTION: REQUEST AN EXTENSION OF THE BLUELINE TILEFISH EMERGENCY
RULE

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Visioning

Amber VonHarten presented a summary of issues/themes by sector from the 2014 port meetings. She also provided an update on the planning and format for the October Council Visioning workshop. The Committee provided feedback and direction to staff to prepare for the workshop.

Regulatory Amendment 16 (black sea bass pot closure)

Council staff briefly updated the Committee on the status of analyses for this amendment. SERO has produced a model to predict fishing effort and interactions of pot gear and right whales. The

model is currently under review in the Region and is scheduled to undergo SEFSC review thereafter. In addition the SSC will have the opportunity to review the analyses at their upcoming October meeting. The Committee is scheduled to discuss Regulatory Amendment 16 at the December 2014 Council meeting.

Amendment 22 (recreational harvest tag program)

Dr. Jessica Stephen gave a presentation on the status of Amendment 22 including decisions the Council has made on aspects of the proposed program. Dr. Stephen indicated the SERO would be able to administer the lottery portion of the proposed program and she presented a cost estimate. Council members representing the for-hire industry voiced concerns over the proposed program. Monica Smit-Brunello indicated the proposed program *may* be considered a Limited Access Privilege Program (LAPP) depending on how the Council chooses to design it. The proposed lottery system by itself does not create a limited access program but specification of eligibility criteria may. The Committee had extensive discussion on the purpose of the proposed program and possible challenges in its design and administration. The Committee decided to postpone further discussion of Amendment 22 and request that staff from the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries give the Committee a presentation at the December 2014 Council on the NC catch card program for highly migratory species.

Amendment 29 (ORCS & gray triggerfish)

MOTION: ACCEPT THE IPT'S PROPOSED WORDING FOR THE PURPOSE AND NEED.

The purpose of Amendment 29 is to: update the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's (South Atlantic Council) acceptable biological catch (ABC) control rule based on recommendations from the Scientific and Statistical Committee; adjust ABCs for the affected species; **revise annual catch limits (ACLs) for select species**; and revise management measures for gray triggerfish in federal waters of the South Atlantic region.

The need for **Amendment 29** is to: specify ABCs, ACLs, and ACTs for snapper grouper species based on the best available scientific information, **lengthen the commercial season for gray triggerfish to** diminish and/or prevent derby conditions, and ensure that overfishing does not occur pending a new assessment of the gray triggerfish stock in the South Atlantic region.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: ACCEPT THE IPT'S PROPOSED WORDING FOR THE ALTERNATIVES UNDER ACTION 3.

Action 3. Establish ACLs for select unassessed snapper grouper species

Alternative 1 (No Action). ACL=OY=Current ABC

Alternative 2. ACL=OY=Proposed ABC

Preferred Sub-alternative 2a. Snappers Complex

Preferred Sub-alternative 2b. Grunts Complex

Preferred Sub-alternative 2c. Shallow Water Grouper Complex

Preferred Sub-alternative 2d. Bar Jack

Preferred Sub-alternative 2e. Atlantic Spadefish

Sub-Alternative 2f. Scamp

Preferred Sub-Alternative 2g. Gray Triggerfish

Alternative 3. $ACL=OY=0.95*$ Proposed ABC

Sub-alternative 3a. Snappers Complex

Sub-alternative 3b. Grunts Complex

Sub-alternative 3c. Shallow Water Grouper Complex

Sub-alternative 3d. Bar Jack

Sub-alternative 3e. Atlantic Spadefish

Sub-alternative 3f. Scamp

Sub-alternative 3g. Gray Triggerfish

Alternative 4. $ACL=OY=0.90*$ Proposed ABC

Sub-alternative 4a. Snappers Complex

Sub-alternative 4b. Grunts Complex

Sub-alternative 4c. Shallow Water Grouper Complex

Sub-alternative 4d. Bar Jack

Sub-alternative 4e. Atlantic Spadefish

Sub-alternative 4f. Scamp

Sub-alternative 4g. Gray Triggerfish

Alternative 5. $ACL=OY=0.80*$ Proposed ABC for scamp

Sub-alternative 5a. Snappers Complex

Sub-alternative 5b. Grunts Complex

Sub-alternative 5c. Shallow Water Grouper Complex

Sub-alternative 5d. Bar Jack

Sub-alternative 5e. Atlantic Spadefish

Preferred Sub-alternative 5f. Scamp

Sub-alternative 5g. Gray Triggerfish

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: DESELECT SUB-ALTERNATIVE 5F AS PREFERRED AND SELECT INSTEAD
SUB-ALTERNATIVE 4F AS PREFERRED

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: MODIFY THE IPT'S PROPOSED WORDING FOR ALTERNATIVE 1 UNDER
ACTION 4 AS SPECIFIED BELOW:

Action 4. Modify the minimum size limit for gray triggerfish

Alternative 1 (No Action). Currently, the minimum size limit for gray triggerfish is specified in inches total length (TL) in federal waters off the east coast of Florida only. In Florida state waters, the minimum size for gray triggerfish is specified in inches fork length (FL). The minimum size limit is 12 inches TOTAL LENGTH (TL) in federal waters off the east coast of Florida and 12 inches FORK LENGTH (FL) in state waters off the east coast of Florida.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: DEEM THE CODIFIED TEXT FOR AMENDMENT 29 AS NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: APPROVE AMENDMENT 29 FOR FORMAL REVIEW AND GIVE THE COUNCIL CHAIR AND STAFF EDITORIAL LICENSE TO MAKE CHANGES TO THE AMENDMENT PRIOR TO SUBMISSION
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Amendment 32 (Blueline tilefish)

MOTION: ACCEPT THE IPT'S SUGGESTED CHANGES TO THE PURPOSE AND NEED STATEMENTS

Purpose for Action

Reduce the current level of fishing mortality of the blueline tilefish stock in the South Atlantic. Revise the annual catch limits and targets for the Deepwater Complex to respond to changes in the acceptable biological catch of silk snapper and yellowedge grouper.

Need for Action

End overfishing and rebuild the blueline tilefish stock, while minimizing, to the extent practicable, adverse social and economic effects. Specify annual catch limits and targets for blueline tilefish and species in the Deepwater Complex based upon the best available information.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: ACCEPT THE IPT'S SUGGESTED CHANGES TO ALTERNATIVES 1 & 2 UNDER ACTION 1

Action 1. Revise the Composition of the Deep-Water Complex and Adjust the Deep-Water Complex Annual Catch Limits, Optimum Yield, and Annual Catch Targets

Alternative 1. (No Action). The current Deepwater Complex temporarily includes ~~Retain the current species composition of the Deep-Water Complex (blueline tilefish,~~ yellowedge grouper, silk snapper, misty grouper, queen snapper, sand tilefish, black snapper, and blackfin snapper). ~~Retain the values for the Deep-Water Complex annual catch limits, optimum yield, and recreational annual catch target.~~ Blueline tilefish has been temporarily removed from the Deepwater Complex via an emergency rule issued under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Retain $ACL=OY=ABC$ and the recreational annual catch target equal to $ACL*(1-PSE)$ or $ACL*0.5$, whichever is greater, for the Deepwater Complex.

~~The National Marine Fisheries Service has temporarily removed blueline tilefish from the Deep-Water Complex and established temporary catch limits for blueline tilefish in the South Atlantic through emergency action. Effective on April 17, 2014, the Deepwater Complex catch limits are~~

60,371 and 19,313 pounds whole weight for the commercial and recreational sectors, respectively. The temporary measures will be in place for 180 days (through October 14, 2014) and may be extended for 186 additional days.

Alternative 2 (Preferred). Remove blueline tilefish from the Deepwater Complex. Revise the Deepwater Complex annual catch limits, optimum yield, and recreational annual catch targets to reflect the removal of blueline tilefish. The Deep Water Complex total annual catch limit equals 79,684 pounds. The Deep Water Complex annual catch limits and optimum yield would be 60,371 and 19,313 pounds whole weight for the commercial and recreational sectors, respectively. The Deep Water Complex annual catch target for the recreational sector would be 9,657 pounds whole weight. Retain $ACL=OY=ABC$ for the Deepwater Complex. Retain the recreational annual catch target equal to $ACL*(1-PSE)$ or $ACL*0.5$, whichever is greater for the Deepwater Complex.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: ACCEPT INCLUSION OF ALTERNATIVES 3-5 UNDER ACTION 1

Alternative 3. Remove blueline tilefish from the Deepwater Complex. Revise the Deepwater Complex annual catch limits, optimum yield, and recreational annual catch targets to reflect the removal of blueline tilefish. Establish $ACL=OY=95\%ABC$ for the Deepwater Complex. Retain the recreational annual catch target equal to $ACL*(1-PSE)$ or $ACL*0.5$, whichever is greater for the Deepwater Complex.

Alternative 4. Remove blueline tilefish from the Deepwater Complex. Revise the Deepwater Complex annual catch limits, optimum yield, and recreational annual catch targets to reflect the removal of blueline tilefish. Establish $ACL=OY=90\%ABC$ for the Deepwater Complex. Retain the recreational annual catch target equal to $ACL*(1-PSE)$ or $ACL*0.5$, whichever is greater for the Deepwater Complex.

Alternative 5. Remove blueline tilefish from the Deepwater Complex. Revise the Deepwater Complex annual catch limits, optimum yield, and recreational annual catch targets to reflect the removal of blueline tilefish. Establish $ACL=OY=80\%ABC$ for the Deepwater Complex. Retain the recreational annual catch target equal to $ACL*(1-PSE)$ or $ACL*0.5$, whichever is greater for the Deepwater Complex.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: ACCEPT THE IPT'S SUGGESTED CHANGES TO ALTERNATIVE 1 UNDER ACTION 3

Action 3. Establish Annual Catch Limits and Optimum Yield for Blueline Tilefish

Alternative 1 (No Action). Do not establish individual annual catch limits and optimum yield for blueline tilefish. Annual catch limits and optimum yield for blueline tilefish are temporarily in place. The National Marine Fisheries Service has temporarily removed blueline tilefish from the Deepwater Complex and established the following annual catch limits for blueline tilefish for the commercial and recreational sectors: total $ACL = 224,100$ pounds whole weight (lbs ww); commercial $ACL = 112,207$ lbs ww; and recreational $ACL = 111,893$ lbs ww. The temporary

measures will be in place for 180 days (through October 14, 2014) and may be extended for 186 additional days.

Note: Blueline tilefish is in the Deepwater Complex and there is an annual catch limit for the complex. Action 1 proposes to separate blueline tilefish from the complex. The Deepwater Complex annual catch limit is 711,025 lbs ww and blueline tilefish accounts for 631,341 lbs ww of the annual catch limit. Action 1 proposes to remove blueline tilefish from the complex. If Action 1 is implemented and the temporary annual catch limit expires, there would not be an annual catch limit for blueline tilefish.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: ACCEPT THE IPT'S SUGGESTED CHANGES TO ALTERNATIVES 1-3 UNDER ACTION 4

Action 4. Establish a Recreational Annual Catch Target for Blueline Tilefish

Alternative 1 (No Action). Do not establish an individual annual catch target for blueline tilefish for the recreational sector.

Note: Blueline tilefish is in the Deepwater Complex and there is an annual catch target for the complex. Action 1 proposes to remove blueline tilefish from the complex. If Action 1 is implemented and the temporary annual catch target expires, there would not be an annual catch target for blueline tilefish.

Alternative 2 (Preferred). Establish an annual catch target for blueline tilefish for the recreational sector that equals the recreational $ACL \times (1 - PSE)$ or $ACL \times 0.5$, whichever is greater.

Year	Blueline Tilefish ACT (lbs ww)		
	Action 3; Preferred Alternative 2 (ACL=ABC)	Action 3; Alternative 3 (ACL=98%ABC)	Action 3; Alternative 4 (ACL=90%ABC)
2015	11,368	11,141	10,231
2016	17,055	16,714	15,350
2017	22,802	22,346	20,522
2018 and beyond until modified	28,067	27,506	25,261

Note: Calculations use the most recent 5 years of recreational landings to obtain the PSE.

Year	Blueline Tilefish PSE
2009	35.6
2010	27.8
2011	43.6
2012	27.8

2013	52.1
Average	37.38

Alternative 3. Establish an annual catch target for blueline tilefish for the recreational sector that equals 85% of the recreational annual catch limit.

Year	Blueline Tilefish ACT (lbs ww)		
	Action 3; Alternative 2 (ACL=ABC)	Action 3; Alternative 3 (ACL=98%ABC)	Action 3; Alternative 4 (ACL=90%ABC)
2015	15,431	15,122	13,888
2016	23,150	22,687	20,835
2017	30,951	30,332	27,856
2018 and beyond until modified	38,098	37,336	34,289

Note: Blueline tilefish is in the Deepwater Complex and there is an annual catch limit for the complex. Action 1 proposes to separate blueline tilefish from the complex.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: ACCEPT THE IPT'S SUGGESTED CHANGES TO WORDING OF ACTION 5
Action 5. Specify Accountability Measures for Blueline Tilefish and the Deepwater Complex for the Commercial Sector

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: ACCEPT THE IPT'S SUGGESTED CHANGES TO ALTERNATIVES 1 & 2
UNDER ACTION 5

Action 5. Specify Accountability Measures for Blueline Tilefish and the Deepwater Complex for the Commercial Sector

Alternative 1 (No Action). Accountability measures are temporarily in place for blueline tilefish for the commercial sector. ~~Do not specify accountability measures for blueline tilefish for the commercial sector.~~ The National Marine Fisheries Service has temporarily removed blueline tilefish from the Deepwater Complex and established an in-season accountability measure for blueline tilefish for the commercial sector. The accountability measure is as follows: If commercial landings for blueline tilefish reach or are projected to reach the commercial annual catch limit, National Marine Fisheries Service will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close the commercial sector for blueline tilefish for the remainder of the fishing year. The temporary measures will be in place for 180 days (through October 14, 2014) and may be extended for 186 additional days.

Accountability measures are in place for the Deepwater Complex for the commercial sector. The accountability measures are as follows: In-season: If commercial landings for the Deepwater Complex, as estimated by the Science and Research Director, reach or are projected to reach the commercial annual catch limit, the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close the commercial sector for this

complex for the remainder of the fishing year. Post-season: If commercial landings exceed the ACL and at least one species overfished, reduce the ACL in following year by overage amount.

Note: Blueline tilefish is in the Deepwater Complex and there is an accountability measure for the commercial sector for the complex. Action 1 proposes to remove blueline tilefish from the complex. If Action 1 is implemented and the temporary accountability measure for the commercial sector expires, there would not be an accountability measure for blueline tilefish.

Preferred Alternative 2. Specify the following in-season and post-season accountability measures for blueline tilefish and the Deepwater Complex for the commercial sector: If commercial landings as estimated by the Science and Research Director reach or are projected to reach the commercial ACL annual catch limit, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to close the commercial sector for the remainder of the fishing year. On and after the effective date of such a notification, all sale or purchase is prohibited and harvest or possession of this species in or from the South Atlantic EEZ exclusive economic zone is limited to the bag and possession limit. This bag and possession limit applies in the South Atlantic on board a vessel for which a valid Federal commercial or charter vessel/headboat permit for South Atlantic snapper grouper has been issued as appropriate, without regard to where such species were harvested, i.e., in state or Federal waters. Additionally,

Sub-alternative 2a. If the commercial ACL annual catch limit is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the commercial ACL annual catch limit in the following fishing year by the amount of the commercial overage, only if the species* is overfished.

Sub-alternative 2b. If the commercial ACL annual catch limit is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the commercial ACL annual catch limit in the following fishing year by the amount of the commercial overage, only if the total ACL annual catch limit (commercial ACL annual catch limit and recreational ACL annual catch limit) is exceeded.

Preferred Sub-alternative 2c. If the commercial ACL annual catch limit is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the commercial ACL annual catch limit in the following fishing year by the amount of the commercial overage, only if the species* is overfished and the total ACL annual catch limit (commercial ACL annual catch limit and recreational ACL annual catch limit) is exceeded.

*For the Deepwater Complex, at least one of the species would need to be overfished.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: ACCEPT THE IPT'S SUGGESTED CHANGES TO ALTERNATIVES UNDER ACTION 6

Action 6. Specify Accountability Measures for Blueline Tilefish and the Deepwater Complex for the Recreational Sector

Alternative 1 (No Action). Accountability measures are temporarily in place for blueline tilefish for the recreational sector. Do not specify accountability measures for blueline tilefish for the recreational sector. The National Marine Fisheries Service has temporarily removed blueline tilefish from the Deepwater Complex and established an in-season accountability

measure for blueline tilefish for the recreational sector. The accountability measure is as follows: If recreational landings for blueline tilefish reach or are projected to reach the recreational annual catch limit, National Marine Fisheries Service will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close the recreational sector for blueline tilefish for the remainder of the fishing year. The temporary measures will be in place for 180 days (through October 14, 2014) and may be extended for 186 additional days.

Accountability measures are in place for the Deepwater Complex for the recreational sector. The accountability measures are as follows: In-season: none. Post-season: If recreational landings for the Deepwater Complex exceed the recreational annual catch limit then during the following fishing year, recreational landings will be monitored for a persistence in increased landings and, if necessary, National Marine Fisheries Service will reduce the length of the following recreational fishing season by the amount necessary to ensure recreational landings do not exceed the recreational annual catch limit in the following fishing year.

Note: Blueline tilefish is in the Deepwater Complex and there is an accountability measure for the recreational sector for the complex. Action 1 proposes to ~~separate~~ remove blueline tilefish from the complex. If Action 1 is implemented and the temporary accountability measures for the recreational sector expire, there would not be accountability measures for blueline tilefish.

Preferred Alternative 2. Specify the following post-season accountability measures for blueline tilefish and the Deepwater Complex for the recreational sector: If recreational landings, as estimated by the Science and Research Director, exceed the recreational ~~ACL~~ annual catch limit, then during the following fishing year, recreational landings will be monitored for a persistence in increased landings.

Sub-alternative 2a. If necessary, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the length of fishing season and the recreational ~~ACL~~ annual catch limit in the following fishing year by the amount of the recreational overage, only if the species* is overfished. The length of the recreational season and recreational ~~ACL~~ annual catch limit will not be reduced if the Regional Administrator determines, using the best scientific information available, that a reduction is unnecessary.

Sub-alternative 2b. If necessary, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the length of fishing season and the recreational ~~ACL~~ annual catch limit in the following fishing year by the amount of the recreational overage, only if the total ~~ACL~~ annual catch limit (commercial ~~ACL~~ annual catch limit and recreational ~~ACL~~ annual catch limit) is exceeded. The length of the recreational season and recreational ACL will not be reduced if the Regional Administrator determines, using the best scientific information available, that a reduction is unnecessary.

Preferred Sub-alternative 2c. If necessary, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the length of fishing season and the recreational ~~ACL~~ annual catch limit in the following fishing year by the amount of the recreational overage, only if the species* is overfished and the total ~~ACL~~ annual catch limit (commercial ~~ACL~~ annual catch limit and recreational ~~ACL~~ annual catch limit) is exceeded. The length of the recreational season and recreational ACL will not be reduced if the Regional

Administrator determines, using the best scientific information available, that a reduction is unnecessary.

Alternative 3. Specify the following in-season accountability measures for blueline tilefish and the Deepwater Complex for the recreational sector: If recreational landings for blueline tilefish and the Deepwater Complex reach or are projected to reach the recreational annual catch limit, National Marine Fisheries Service will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close the recreational sector for blueline tilefish for the remainder of the fishing year.

Alternative 4 (Preferred). If recreational landings reach or are projected to reach the recreational annual catch limit for blueline tilefish and the Deepwater Complex, National Marine Fisheries Service will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close the recreational sector for the remainder of the fishing year, unless, using the best scientific information available, the Regional Administrator determines that a closure is unnecessary.

Sub-alternative 4a. If the species* is overfished.

Sub-alternative 4b (Preferred). Regardless of stock status.

*For the Deepwater Complex, at least one of the species would need to be overfished.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: ACCEPT THE IPT'S SUGGESTED ALTERNATIVES 2-4 UNDER ACTION 7 AND SPECIFY GUTTED WEIGHT

Action 7. Establish Trip Limit for Blueline Tilefish for the Commercial Sector

Alternative 2. Establish a commercial trip limit for blueline tilefish of 100 lbs whole gutted weight (lbs gw).

Alternative 3. Establish a commercial trip limit for blueline tilefish of 200 lbs whole gutted weight (lbs gw).

Alternative 4. Establish a commercial trip limit for blueline tilefish of 300 lbs whole gutted weight (lbs gw).

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 2 AS PREFERRED

Alternative 2. Establish a commercial trip limit for blueline tilefish of 100 lbs whole gutted weight (lbs gw).

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: ACCEPT THE IPT'S SUGGESTED EDITS TO ALTERNATIVES 1 & 5 UNDER ACTION 8.

Action 8. Adjust the Bag Limit for Blueline Tilefish for the Recreational Sector

Alternative 1 (No Action). Retain the current blueline tilefish aggregate grouper bag limit of 3/person/day. Retain blueline tilefish in the aggregate grouper bag limit of 3/person/day. The aggregate group contains the following species: gag, black grouper, snowy grouper, misty grouper, red grouper, scamp, yellowedge grouper, yellowfin grouper, yellowmouth grouper, blueline tilefish, golden tilefish, sand tilefish, coney, graysby, red hind, and rock hind.

Alternative 5. Establish a vessel limit of blueline tilefish of 1/vessel/day May through August and no retention during the rest-remainder of the year

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 4 AS A PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

Alternative 4. Establish a vessel limit of blueline tilefish of 1/vessel/day.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION: DE-SELECT ALTERNATIVE 4 AND SELECT ALTERNATIVE 5 AS PREFERRED UNDER ACTION 8

Alternative 5. Establish a vessel limit of blueline tilefish of 1/vessel/day May through August and no retention during the rest-remainder of the year

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: DEEM THE CODIFIED TEXT FOR AMENDMENT 32 AS NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: APPROVE AM 32 FOR FORMAL REVIEW AND GIVE THE COUNCIL CHAIR AND STAFF EDITORIAL LICENSE TO MAKE CHANGES TO THE AMENDMENT PRIOR TO SUBMISISON

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL (9/4)

MOTION: GIVE THE COUNCIL CHAIR LICENSE TO RE-DEEM THE CODIFIED TEXT FOR AMENDMENTS 29 AND 32 AS NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Regulatory Amendment 22 (Gag & Wreckfish)

MOTION: ACCEPT THE IPT'S PROPOSED WORDING FOR THE PURPOSE AND NEED.

The purpose for the actions is to adjust annual catch limits (ACL), and optimum yield (OY) for gag and wreckfish and modify the recreational bag limit for gag

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: ACCEPT THE IPT'S PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE WORDING OF THE ALTERNATIVES UNDER ACTION 1.

Action 1. Revise the annual catch limits (ACL) and optimum yield (OY) for gag

Alternative 1 (No Action). Do not revise annual catch limits (ACL) and optimum yield (OY) for gag. Retain the current annual catch limits (ACL) and optimum yield (OY) for gag. Optimum Yield (OY) equals will remain equal to the yield produced by F_{OY} (Amendment 16). If a stock is overfished, F_{OY} equals remains equal to the fishing mortality rate specified by the rebuilding plan designed to rebuild the stock to SSB_{MSY} within the approved schedule. After the stock is rebuilt,

F_{OY} = a fraction of F_{MSY} . ABC = 805,000 pounds gutted weight (lbs gw; landings only); OFL = Yield at F_{MSY} = 903,000 lbs gw. The total ACL (Yield at 75% F_{MSY}) is will continue to be 694,000 lbs gw. Commercial and recreational allocations are will continue to be 51% and 49%, respectively. The directed commercial ACL is will continue to be 326,722 lbs gw (reduced from 353,940 lbs gw commercial ACL to account for gag discard mortality from commercial trips that target co-occurring species (i.e., red grouper and scamp) during a gag closure). The recreational ACL is will continue to be 340,060 lbs gw. Currently, there are no ACTs for gag.

ABC	ACL (yield at 75% F_{MSY})	Commercial ACL (51%)	Directed Commercial Quota*	Recreational ACL (49%)
805,000	694,000	353,940	326,722	340,060

All values in pounds gutted weight (lbs gw)

*Directed commercial quota = Commercial ACL – 27,218 lbs gw.

Preferred Alternative 2. ACL = OY = ABC projected landings from 2015-2019 with $P^*=0.3$. The ACL for 2019 will remain in place until modified.

Year	ABC	Total ACL	Commercial ACL (51%)	Directed Commercial Quota*	Recreational ACL (49%)
2015	666,000	666,000	339,660	312,442	326,340
2016	671,000	671,000	342,210	314,992	328,790
2017	713,000	713,000	363,630	336,412	349,370
2018	748,000	748,000	381,480	354,262	366,520
2019	773,000	773,000	394,230	367,012	378,770

All values in pounds gutted weight (lbs gw)

*Directed commercial quota = Commercial ACL – 27,218 lbs gw.

Alternative 3. ACL = OY = 0.95*Proposed ABC. The ACL for 2019 would remain in place until modified.

Year	ABC	Total ACL	Commercial ACL (51%)	Directed Commercial Quota*	Recreational ACL (49%)
2015	666,000	632,700	322,677	295,459	310,023
2016	671,000	637,450	325,100	297,882	312,351
2017	713,000	677,350	345,449	318,231	331,902
2018	748,000	710,600	362,406	335,188	348,194
2019	773,000	734,350	374,519	347,301	359,832

All values in lbs gw

*Directed commercial quota = Commercial ACL – 27,218 lbs gw.

Alternative 4. $ACL = OY = 0.90 * \text{Proposed ABC}$. The ACL for 2019 would remain in place until modified.

Year	ABC	Total ACL	Commercial ACL (51%)	Directed Commercial Quota*	Recreational ACL (49%)
2015	666,000	599,400	305,694	278,476	293,706
2016	671,000	603,900	307,989	280,771	295,911
2017	713,000	641,700	327,267	300,049	314,433
2018	748,000	673,200	343,332	316,114	329,868
2019	773,000	695,700	354,807	327,589	340,893

All values in lbs gw

*Directed commercial quota = Commercial ACL – 27,218 lbs gw.

Alternative 5. $ACL = OY = 0.80 * \text{Proposed ABC}$. The ACL for 2019 would remain in place until modified.

Year	ABC	Total ACL	Commercial ACL (51%)	Directed Commercial Quota*	Recreational ACL (49%)
2015	666,000	532,800	271,728	244,510	261,072
2016	671,000	536,800	273,768	246,550	263,032
2017	713,000	570,400	290,904	263,686	279,496
2018	748,000	598,400	305,184	277,966	293,216
2019	773,000	618,400	315,384	288,166	303,016

All values in lbs gw

*Directed commercial quota = Commercial ACL – 27,218 lbs gw.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: MODIFY ACTION 2 TO ONLY CONSIDER CHANGES TO THE GAG BAG LIMIT (2 AND 3 FISH) WITHIN THE AGGREGATE.

Action 2. Revise the composition of the aggregate grouper bag limit, and establish a recreational bag limit for gag

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

INTENT FOR THE BAG LIMIT ON BLACK GROUPEL TO REMAIN AT 1 FISH*

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: MOVE ALTERNATIVE 2 AND ITS SUB-ALTERNATIVES TO THE CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED APPENDIX

Alternative 2. Revise the composition of the aggregate grouper bag limit by removing gag and specify the recreational gag bag limit.

Select one as preferred:

Sub-alternative 2a. Specify the gag bag limit of 2 per person per day
Sub-alternative 2b. Specify the gag bag limit of 3 per person per day

Select as preferred if also revising the aggregate grouper bag limit:

Sub-alternative 2c. Specify an aggregate bag limit of 2 per person per day

Alternatives	1	2a	2b	2c
Aggregate grouper bag Limit	3 fish Includes gag	3 fish/No gag	3 fish/No gag	2 fish/No gag
Recreational Gag Bag Limit	N/A	2 fish	3 fish	2 or 3 (depending on if 2a or 2b was chosen)

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

****COMMITTEE INDICATED THEY DO NOT WISH TO INCLUDE SPECIFICATION OF THE WRECKFISH ACL IN NUMBERS OF FISH. THE WORDING OF THE ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES WILL BE REVISED ACCORDINGLY****

MOTION: APPROVE IPTS' SUGGESTED EDITS TO ALTERNATIVES UNDER ACTION 3
Action 3. Revise the annual catch limits (ACL) and optimum yield (OY) for wreckfish

Alternative 1 (No Action). Retain the current annual catch limits (ACL) and optimum yield (OY) for wreckfish. The wreckfish ABC=ACL=OY=235,000 pounds whole weight (lbs ww). Commercial and recreational allocations will remain equal to 95% and 5%, respectively. The commercial ACL will continue to be 223,250 lbs ww. The recreational ACL will continue to be 11,750 lbs ww. Currently, there are no ACTs annual catch targets for wreckfish.

Preferred Alternative 2. ACL = OY = Proposed ABC. The ACL for 2020 would remain in place until modified.

Year	New ABC lbs ww	ACL	Commercial ACL (95%)	Recreational ACL (5%)
2015	433,000	433,000	411,350	21,650
2016	423,700	423,700	402,515	21,185
2017	414,200	414,200	393,490	20,710
2018	406,300	406,300	385,985	20,315
2019	396,800	396,800	376,960	19,840
2020	389,100	389,100	369,645	19,455

All values in pounds whole weight (lbs ww).

Alternative 3. ACL = OY = 0.95*Proposed ABC. The ACL for 2020 would remain in place until modified.

Year	New ABC lbs ww	ACL	Commercial ACL (95%)	Recreational ACL (5%)
2015	433,000	411,350	390,783	20,568

2016	423,700	402,515	382,389	20,126
2017	414,200	393,490	373,816	19,675
2018	406,300	385,985	366,686	19,299
2019	396,800	376,960	358,112	18,848
2020	389,100	369,645	351,163	18,482

All values in lbs ww.

Alternative 4. $ACL = OY = 0.90 * \text{Proposed ABC}$. The ACL for 2020 would remain in place until modified.

Year	New ABC lbs ww	ACL	Commercial ACL (95%)	Recreational ACL (5%)
2015	433,000	389,700	370,215	19,485
2016	423,700	381,330	362,264	19,067
2017	414,200	372,780	354,141	18,639
2018	406,300	365,670	347,387	18,284
2019	396,800	357,120	339,264	17,856
2020	389,100	350,190	332,681	17,510

All values in lbs ww.

Alternative 5. $ACL = OY = 0.80 * \text{Proposed ABC}$. The ACL for 2020 would remain in place until modified.

Year	New ABC lbs ww	ACL	Commercial ACL (95%)	Recreational ACL (5%)
2015	433,000	346,400	329,080	17,320
2016	423,700	338,960	322,012	16,948
2017	414,200	331,360	314,792	16,568
2018	406,300	325,040	308,788	16,252
2019	396,800	317,440	301,568	15,872
2020	389,100	311,280	295,716	15,564

All values in lbs ww.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: APPROVE IPTS' SUGGESTION TO MOVE ALTERNATIVE 6 TO THE CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED APPENDIX

Alternative 6. $ACL = OY = OFL$

Year	New ABC lbs ww	ACL	New OFL (lbs ww)
2014		571,500	571,500
2015	433,000	553,300	553,300
2016	423,700	536,700	536,700

2017	414,200	521,900	521,900
2018	406,300	507,300	507,300
2019	396,800	493,700	493,700
2020	389,100	481,200	481,200

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: APPROVE REGULATORY AMENDMENT 22 FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS IN FALL 2014

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Regulatory Amendment 20 (Snowy grouper)

MOTION: ACCEPT THE IPT’S PROPOSED EDITS TO THE PURPOSE AND NEED.

The *purpose* of this amendment is to adjust the rebuilding strategy, update the acceptable biological catch (ABC), annual catch limit (ACL), maximum sustainable yield (MSY), minimum stock size threshold (MSST), optimum yield (OY), and revise management measures for the snowy grouper component of the snapper grouper fishery. These adjustments address the recent stock assessment results based on data through 2012.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: ACCEPT THE IPT’S PROPOSED WORDING CHANGES FOR ALTERNATIVE 2 UNDER ACTION 1.

Action 1. Adjust the Rebuilding Strategy for Snowy Grouper

Alternative 2. Define a rebuilding strategy for snowy grouper that maintains a constant fishing mortality rate ($F=F_{\text{Rebuild}}$) throughout the rebuilding timeframe. Year 1 remains 2006 and the yield at F_{Rebuild} and ABC projections will change with each assessment. Specify a probability of success of:

Sub-alternative 2a: 50%.

Sub-alternative 2b: 70%.

ABC would change each year until 2019; the ABC for 2019 would remain in effect until modified.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: ACCEPT THE IPT’S PROPOSED WORDING FOR ALTERNATIVES 2 & 3 UNDER ACTION 2.

Action 2. Adjust Annual Catch Limits for Snowy Grouper

Preferred Alternative 2. Specify that $ACL=ABC=OY$ and apply the Council’s existing allocation formula as it applies to snowy grouper (average of landings from 1986-2005) using the SEDAR landings data. The resulting allocation would change from 95% commercial/5% recreational to 83% commercial/17% recreational.

The ACL, commercial ACL, and recreational ACL are shown below.

Pounds whole weight (lbs ww)					
Year	ABC	ACL	Com ACL (83%)	Rec ACL (17%)	Estimated Rec #Fish
2015	164,136	164,136	136,233	27,903	4,152
2016	178,791	178,791	148,397	30,394	4,483
2017	192,469	192,469	159,749	32,720	4,819
2018	205,170	205,170	170,291	34,879	4,983
2019	218,848	218,848	181,644	37,204	5,315
Pounds gutted weight (lbs gw)					
Year	ABC	ACL	Com ACL (83%)	Rec ACL (17%)	Estimated Rec #Fish
2015	139,098	139,098	115,451	23,647	4,152
2016	151,518	151,518	125,760	25,758	4,483
2017	163,109	163,109	135,380	27,729	4,819
2018	173,873	173,873	144,315	29,558	4,983
2019	185,464	185,464	153,935	31,529	5,315

Note: ACLs would increase from 2015 to 2019, and remain at 2019 levels until a new stock assessment takes place.

Alternative 3. Update the ABC from the recent SEDAR assessment. Set $ACL = X\%ABC = OY$ and apply the Council's existing allocation formula as it applies to snowy grouper (average of landings from 1986-2005) using the SEDAR landings data. The resulting allocation would change from 95% commercial/5% recreational to 83% commercial/17% recreational. The ABC, ACL, commercial ACL, and recreational ACL are shown below.

Sub-alternative 3a. Set $ACL = 95\%ABC = OY$

Sub-alternative 3b. Set $ACL = 90\%ABC = OY$

Sub-alternative 3c. Set $ACL = 85\%ABC = OY$

Year	ABC ww	ACL ww	Com ACL ww (83%)	Rec ACL ww (17%)	ACL gw	Com ACL gw (83%)	Rec ACL gw (17%)	Estimated Rec #Fish
Sub-Alt 3a, $ACL = 95\%ABC$								
2015	164,136	155,929	129,421	26,508	132,143	109,679	22,464	3,945
2016	178,791	169,851	140,976	28,875	143,942	119,472	24,470	4,259
2017	192,469	182,846	151,762	31,084	154,954	128,612	26,342	4,578
2018	205,170	194,912	161,777	33,135	165,179	137,099	28,080	4,734
2019	218,848	207,906	172,562	35,344	176,191	146,239	29,952	5,049
Sub-Alt 3b, $ACL = 90\%ABC$								
2015	164,136	147,722	122,609	25,113	125,188	103,906	21,282	3,737
2016	178,791	160,912	133,557	27,355	136,366	113,184	23,182	4,035

Year	ABC ww	ACL ww	Com ACL ww (83%)	Rec ACL ww (17%)	ACL gw	Com ACL gw (83%)	Rec ACL gw (17%)	Estimated Rec #Fish
2017	192,469	173,222	143,774	29,448	146,798	121,842	24,956	4,337
2018	205,170	184,653	153,262	31,391	156,486	129,883	26,603	4,484
2019	218,848	196,963	163,479	33,484	166,918	138,542	28,376	4,783
Sub-Alt 3b, ACL = 85%ABC								
2015	164,136	139,516	115,798	23,718	118,234	98,134	20,100	3,529
2016	178,791	151,972	126,137	25,835	128,790	106,896	21,894	3,811
2017	192,469	163,599	135,787	27,812	138,643	115,074	23,569	4,096
2018	205,170	174,395	144,748	29,647	147,792	122,667	25,125	4,235
2019	218,848	186,021	154,397	31,624	157,645	130,845	26,800	4,518

Note: ACLs would increase from 2015 to 2019, and remain at 2019 levels until a new stock assessment takes place.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: ACCEPT THE IPT'S PROPOSED WORDING FOR ACTION 3 AND ALTERNATIVE 1.

Action 3. *Split the Commercial Fishing Year into 2 Fishing Seasons for Snowy Grouper Commercial Management Measures for Snowy Grouper*

Alternative 1 (No Action). The current commercial snowy grouper fishing year is the calendar year with no split of the commercial ACL into separate seasons. The current commercial snowy grouper trip limit is 100 pounds gutted weight (lbs gw)

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: APPROVE THE IPT'S SUGGESTED EDITS TO ALTERNATIVE 5

Alternative 5. Maintain Modify the current commercial snowy grouper trip limit of to 150 lbs gw all year or until the commercial ACL is met or projected to be met except for the period May through August from the Florida Volusia/Brevard County line north when the trip limit will be as follows:

Sub-alternative 5a. 200 lbs gw.

Sub-alternative 5b. 250 lbs gw.

Sub-alternative 5c. 300 lbs gw.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: CHANGE ALTERNATIVE 5 TO APPLY TO INDIAN RIVER/BREVARD INSTEAD OF VOLUSIA/BREVARD

Alternative 5. Modify the commercial snowy grouper trip limit to 150 lbs gw all year or until the commercial ACL is met or projected to be met except for the period May through August from the Florida Volusia/Brevard/Indian River County line north when the trip limit will be as follows:

Sub-alternative 5a. 200 lbs gw.

Sub-alternative 5b. 250 lbs gw.

Sub-alternative 5c. 300 lbs gw.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: APPROVE ALTERNATIVE 4, SUB-ALTERNATIVE 4B UNDER ACTION 3 AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE.

Alternative 4. Modify the commercial snowy grouper trip limit from January 1 until the ACL is met or projected to be met:

Sub-alternative 4b. 200 lbs gw.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: DE-SELECT ALTERNATIVE 1 AS PREFERRED UNDER ACTION 4.

Preferred Alternative 1. (No Action.) The current recreational grouper bag and possession limit is as follows:

Grouper and tilefish, combined--3. Within the 3-fish aggregate bag limit: No more than one fish may be gag or black grouper, combined; no more than one fish per vessel may be a snowy grouper; no more than one fish may be a golden tilefish; and no goliath grouper or Nassau grouper may be retained.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 2 UNDER ACTION 4 AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE.

Action 4. Modify the Recreational Bag Limit for Snowy Grouper

Alternative 2. Modify the recreational snowy grouper bag limit from 1/vessel/day to 1/vessel/day May through August and no retention during the remainder of the year.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: APPROVE REGULATORY AMENDMENT 20 FOR FORMAL REVIEW

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: DEEM THE CODIFIED TEXT AS NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE AND GIVE THE COUNCIL CHAIR AND COUNCIL STAFF EDITORIAL LICENSE TO MAKE CHANGES TO THE AMENDMENT DOCUMENT AS NEEDED PRIOR TO SUBMISSION

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: GIVE THE COUNCIL CHAIR LICENSE TO RE-DEEM THE CODIFIED TEXT AS NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Amendment 36 (Spawning SMZs)

MOTION: MODIFY AND APPROVE THE NEED FOR SNAPPER GROUPE
AMENDMENT 36:

Need: Protect spawning **FISH**; promote recruitment; and reduce bycatch mortality of economically and ecologically important snapper grouper species, including speckled hind and warsaw grouper, while minimizing, to the extent practicable, social and economic impacts to snapper grouper fishermen.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: IT IS THE COUNCIL'S INTENT THAT SPAWNING SMZS WOULD ONLY CONSIDER PROHIBITING FISHING FOR AND/OR POSSESSION OF SNAPPER GROUPE SPECIES (SPECIES IN THE SNAPPER GROUPE FISHERY MANAGEMENT UNIT).

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: APPROVE THE WORDING OF ACTION 1 AND THE RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES.

Action 1. Modify the Special Management Zone (SMZ) procedure

Alternative 1. No Action. The current SMZ procedure does not allow protection of natural bottom important for spawning.

Alternative 2. Modify the SMZ procedure to include protection of natural bottom important for spawning by designating Spawning SMZs.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: APPROVE THE WORDING OF ACTION 2 AND THE RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES

Action 2. Modify the framework procedure to allow modifications of and/or additional Spawning Special Management Zones (Spawning SMZs).

Alternative 1. No Action. The existing framework for the Snapper Grouper FMP does not include modifying or establishing new Spawning SMZs.

Alternative 2. Modify the framework for the Snapper Grouper FMP to include modifying or establishing new Spawning SMZs.

Alternative 3. Modify the framework for the Snapper Grouper FMP to include modifying existing Spawning SMZs.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

DIRECTION TO STAFF:

1. ANALYZE THE AREAS IDENTIFIED OFF EACH STATE
2. AREA NAMES DESIGNATE AN AREA TO BE ANALYZED; SPECIFIC SIZE/LOCATION WILL BE DETERMINED AFTER ANALYSES ARE COMPLETED
3. PROVIDE EXPANDED CHARTS WITH AREAS

4. INCLUDE A SYSTEM MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE SPAWNING SMZS AS AN APPENDIX TO AMENDMENT 36
5. MODIFY THE PURPOSE & NEED TO ADDRESS NEW ACTION TO MOVE MPA OFF SC
6. INCLUDE “ST.SIMONS 2” AS AN ADDITIONAL AREA TO ANALYZE OFF GEORGIA

By consensus, the Committee directed staff to prepare Action 3 as follows and to analyze the candidate areas as shown:

Action 3. Establish new Spawning Special Management Zones (Spawning SMZs) off North Carolina

Alternative 1. No Action. There are no Spawning SMZs off North Carolina.

Alternative 2. Establish the following new Spawning SMZ(s) off North Carolina.

Sub-Alternative 2a. Candidate area: MALCHASE WRECK

Sub-Alternative 2b. Candidate area: 780 BOTTOM

By consensus, the Committee directed staff to prepare Action 4 as follows and to analyze the candidate areas as shown:

Action 4. Establish new Spawning Special Management Zones (Spawning SMZs) off South Carolina

Alternative 1. No Action. There are no Spawning SMZs off South Carolina.

Alternative 2. Establish the following new Spawning SMZ(s) off South Carolina.

Sub-Alternative 2a. Candidate area: DEVILS HOLE 3

Sub-Alternative 2b. Candidate area: AREA 51

Sub-Alternative 2c. Candidate area: AREA 53

By consensus, the Committee directed staff to prepare Action 5 as follows and to analyze the candidate areas as shown:

Action 5. Establish new Spawning Special Management Zones (Spawning SMZs) off Georgia

Alternative 1. No Action. There are no Spawning SMZs off Georgia.

Alternative 2. Establish the following new Spawning SMZ(s) off Georgia.

Sub-Alternative 2a. Candidate area: GA MPA RECONFIGURATION (area outside of the existing MPA)

By consensus, the Committee directed staff to prepare Action 6 as follows and to analyze the candidate areas as shown:

Action 6. Establish new Spawning Special Management Zones (Spawning SMZs) off Florida

Alternative 1. No Action. There are no Spawning SMZs off Florida.

Alternative 2. Establish the following new Spawning SMZ(s) off Florida.

Sub-Alternative 2a. Candidate area: WARSAW HOLE

Sub-Alternative 2b. Candidate area: DAYTONA STEEPLES

MOTION: ADD A NEW ACTION TO MOVE THE SC DEEPWATER MPA 1.4 MILES TO THE NORTHWEST TO MATCH THE BOUNDARY OF THE PERMITTED SITE

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: ADD ALTERNATIVES TO AM 36 THAT WOULD CONSIDER TIME-AREA SPAWNING CLOSURES, AS APPROPRIATE.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Amendment 35 (Remove Species)

MOTION: APPROVE THE PURPOSE AND NEED FOR SNAPPER GROUPE AMENDMENT 35.

Purpose: The purpose of Amendment 35 is to: remove 4 species from the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Unit (FMU) that do not need federal management. Taking into account mandated specifications to provide ACLs and AMs for species in a fishery management plan other than annual stocks or designated ecosystem component species, the Council is simplifying its system of ACLs by removing some of the less frequently landed species that are not in need of federal management.

Need: The need for Amendment 35 is to: Simplify federal management without reducing the protection for 4 species rarely caught in states other than Florida.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: MODIFY AND APPROVE THE WORDING OF ACTION 1 AND THE RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES.

Action 1. Remove ~~four~~ species from the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Unit (FMU)

Alternative 1. No Action. Retain the four species in the Snapper Grouper FMU.

Alternative 2. Remove black snapper (*Apsilus dentatus*) from the Snapper Grouper FMU.

Alternative 3. Remove dog snapper (*Lutjanus jocu*) from the Snapper Grouper FMU.

Alternative 4. Remove mahogany snapper (*Lutjanus mahogoni*) from the Snapper Grouper FMU.

Alternative 5. Remove schoolmaster (*Lutjanus apodus*) from the Snapper Grouper FMU.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: ADD AN ACTION TO AMENDMENT 35 TO ADDRESS GOLDEN TILEFISH ENDORSEMENT ISSUE.

DIRECTION TO STAFF: MODIFY THE P&N OF AM 35 AS APPROPRIATE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Golden Tilefish Issues

Dr. Bonnie Ponwith gave a brief presentation regarding recent overages of the commercial golden tilefish longline ACL. Dr. Ponwith explained that three factors have contributed to the overages: (1) a problem transferring data from SAFIS to the SEFSC database (that has since been corrected) accounted for about 15% of the overage, (2) coding errors for gear type accounted for about 5% of the landings being attributed to longline gear when they should have been counted against the hook-and-line ACL, and (3) late dealer reporting caused the majority of the problem. The SEFSC intends to closely monitor dealer reporting to ensure the new reporting requirements recently implemented are being followed.

Jessica McCawley provided a brief explanation of why the FWC database shows more longline vessels reporting landings of golden tilefish than there are endorsements. It appears that a gear coding error was responsible for the discrepancy.

Council staff presented an Options Paper to address the issue of longline endorsement holders fishing for golden tilefish under the 500-pound hook-and-line trip limit. Five alternatives were presented for the Committee to consider. Of these, Alternative 4 was deemed not reasonable, as it would allow golden tilefish longline endorsement holders to fish under the hook-and-line trip limit. However, the Council has been clear in its intent to not allow this since the inception of the endorsement program under Amendment 18B.

Monica Smit-Brunello indicated that a plan amendment would be needed to effect a change to the regulations regarding this issue.

Timing & Tasks

MOTION: APPROVE THE FOLLOWING TASK AND TIMING ITEMS:

1. SEND LETTER REQUESTING AN EXTENSION OF THE EMERGENCY RULE FOR BLUELINE TILEFISH.
2. PREPARE FOR THE OCTOBER VISIONING WORKSHOP AS DIRECTED.
3. PREPARE REGULATORY AMENDMENT 16 FOR COUNCIL REVIEW AT THE DECEMBER 2014 MEETING.
4. REQUEST THAT STAFF FROM THE NORTH CAROLINA DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES GIVE THE COMMITTEE A PRESENTATION AT THE DECEMBER 2014 COUNCIL MEETING ON THE NC CATCH CARD PROGRAM FOR HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES.
5. SUBMIT AMENDMENTS 29 AND 32 AND REGULATORY AMENDMENT 20 FOR FORMAL REVIEW.
6. IN REGULATORY AMENDMENT 20 (SNOWY GROUPER), INCLUDE A TABLE OF LANDINGS USED TO ESTABLISH SECTOR ALLOCATIONS AND EXPAND THE EXPLANATION OF THE CHANGE IN ALLOCATIONS THAT RESULTED FROM THE NEW ASSESSMENT.
7. PREPARE REGULATORY AMENDMENT 22 FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS.
8. CONDUCT ANALYSES, INCLUDE DETAILED CHARTS, INCLUDE A SYSTEM MANAGEMENT PLAN AS AN APPENDIX, AND PREPARE AMENDMENT 36 FOR THE MARCH 2015 COUNCIL MEETING.
9. CONDUCT ANALYSES AND PREPARE AMENDMENT 35 FOR THE DECEMBER 2014 COUNCIL MEETING.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL