



**NOAA**  
**FISHERIES**

**Southeast  
Regional  
Office**

# South Atlantic Recreational Tag Program Overview

September, 2014

# Purpose and Need

## **Amendment 22 is intended to:**

- Establish a framework for a recreational snapper-grouper tag program.
- Species would be added or removed from the program as needed through the amendment process.

## **The Recreational Tag Program is Intended to:**

- Control harvest of recreationally harvested species with very low ACLs.



# Where We are Now (recap)

- Options Paper stage of the amendment development process.
- The Council/NMFS has been working on Amendment 22 on and off since December 2011.

# Decisions the Council Has Made

- Tags would be issued through a lottery.
  - Fishermen receiving a tag in a given year may participate in the lottery the next year,
  - One lottery participant would not be able to receive multiple tags while others receive none.
- Any U.S. Citizen may apply for a tag/enter the lottery
- Tags would be non-removable, 1-time use tags (i.e., affixed to jaw) that would be issued once per fishing year.



# Decisions the Council Has Made Continued

- If the number of tags is equal to or more than the number of lottery participants, each participant should receive the same number of tags with any remaining tags being allocated to participants via lottery.
- No data collection component to the tag program.



# Current Actions

(see briefing book document for alternatives and more details)

- **Action 1.** Establish a recreational harvest tag program framework that can be applied to any South Atlantic snapper grouper species with a low recreational Annual Catch Limit (ACL)
- **Action 2.** Establish eligibility criteria for individuals/entities to participate in the recreational harvest tag program
- **Action 3.** Establish an annual harvest tag issuance process for snapper grouper species included in the recreational harvest tag program
- **Action 4.** Establish a cost recovery plan

# How Could the Tag Program Work?

Council develops an amendment to:

1. include species in the tag program.
2. establish process for tag issuance/distribution



Public notified on predetermined date of tag lottery and provided an opportunity to apply for tags for a set period of time.

- Electronic Web-based application
- Would need to collect unique identifier (example: SS#) and information to validate U.S. citizenship



# How Could the Tag Program Work? (cont.)



Individuals electronically notified whether or not they eligible to receive a tag(s):

- If more tags than applicants, tags distributed equally with any remaining tags distributed through lottery
- If more applicants than tags, tags distributed via lottery - no person can receive multiple tags while others receive no tags



Individuals eligible to receive tags submit electronic payment:

- Set period of time to pay for tags; if tags not purchased, lottery used to distribute tags to other applicants





# How Could the Tag Program Work? (cont.)



Tags distributed to individuals by NMFS or a contractor



Individuals or entities with tags may harvest one fish per tag and must affix the tag to the fish immediately upon harvest. Tag expires at end of fishing year.



# Tag Program Costs

Initial IT Development \$30,000.00 (est. 3 months of staff time)

Annual IT Maintenance/Updating \$10,000.00

Tag Issuance Costs Depend on:

1. Number and type of tags
2. Number of participants
3. Who issues tags? Contractor or NMFS FTE

# Other Things to Consider

- Physical tag vs. paper-based printable tag
- Distribution of tags – certain # by state? mode?
- Reporting – Previously, the Council decided not to include a reporting component for the program to maintain simplicity.

# MSA 303A Limited Access Privilege Program Requirements

- Prohibit any person other than a U.S. citizen (including corporations, partnerships, and other U.S. entities) or perm. resident alien from acquiring a privilege to harvest fish.
- Include provisions for regularly monitoring and reviewing the program. Detailed review required after 5 years.
- Include an effective system for enforcement, monitoring, and management of the program ...

# MSA 303A Limited Access Privilege Program Requirements

- Include an appeals process for administrative review of the Secretary's decisions regarding initial allocation of LAPs.
- Establish procedures to ensure fair and equitable distribution of initial allocations
- Ensure LAP holders do not acquire an excessive share of LAPs
- The Council shall establish a policy and criteria for the transferability of LAPs.

# MSA 303A Limited Access Privilege Program Requirements

- In establishing a LAPP, the Council shall consider an auction system or other program to collect royalties for the initial, or any subsequent, distribution of allocations.
- The Secretary is authorized and shall collect a fee (up to 3%) to recover the costs of LAPP management, data collection, and enforcement

# Questions?

