

Snapper Grouper Amendment 46

Private Recreational Permitting and Reporting

Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel

April 2022



Background

- AM 46 previously developed in early 2018 but work halted
- Intended to improve recreational data collection
 - Development of amendment stopped but efforts continued:
 - MyFishCount app and web portal
 - Private Recreational Reporting Workgroup
 - Made up of Council members and technical experts
 - Met multiple times throughout 2021 and early 2022
 - Reviewed examples of other recreational permit and reporting programs
 - Gathered information on what would be needed for a permit
 - Developed set of recommendations



Workgroup Recommendations

- 1) Develop a federal permit for the snapper grouper recreational fishery.**
 - Evaluate options that would apply to vessels and individuals.
- 2) Develop a data collection program that uses the universe of anglers identified through the recreational permit to support improvements in recreational data collection that are necessary for developing improved catch and effort estimates.**
- 3) Create a snapper grouper permit and reporting technical advisory panel.**
- 4) Other recommendations and consideration.**
- 5) Research recommendations.**



Developing AM 46 and Potential Actions

1) Establish a Private Recreational Snapper Grouper Permit to Fish For, Harvest, or Possess Snapper Grouper Species in the South Atlantic Region

- Develop options that would establish a permit covering all snapper grouper species.
 - Examine options for a vessel and individual permit.
 - Discuss whether there would be a fee associated with the permit.

2) Implement Reporting Requirements for Private Recreational Fishermen or Vessels

- Develop options that would phase in reporting at a later date.
- Bring back information covering how a permit could be incorporated into a survey or supplementing existing sampling efforts vs census-level reporting.
 - What future survey or sampling efforts could be enhanced or implemented via existing regulations?
 - Maintain flexibility to develop the best survey possible as the opportunity arises.

3) Ad Hoc Advisory Panel

- Work with technical experts and state agencies to develop an ad hoc advisory panel for private recreational permitting and reporting.
- Initial membership will be reviewed during AP selection at the June 2022 meeting.
- Will provide recommendations on the technical aspects of permitting and reporting.



Potential Amendment Timeline

March 2022	Reviewed options paper.
September 2022	Review revised options paper and approve amendment for scoping.
Fall 2022	Conduct scoping sessions and Snapper Grouper AP provides input.
December 2022	Review scoping comments and preliminary analyses.
March 2023	Review amendment and provide guidance.
June 2023	Review modifications to the amendment, select preferred alternatives, and approve for public hearings.
Summer 2023	Conduct public hearings.
September 2023	Review public hearing comments and provide guidance.
December 2023	Review final draft amendment and consider approval for formal review.
2024	Regulation changes effective.



Questions?

