



Modifications to Charter Vessel and Headboat Reporting Requirements

Amendment 39 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region

Amendment 9 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Dolphin and Wahoo Fishery of the Atlantic

Amendment 27 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Coastal Migratory Pelagics Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Region



Prepared by Council Staff
January 14, 2016
Revised January 27, 2016

Background

What is being proposed?

- The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council is considering mandatory, trip-level electronic reporting for charter (six-pack) vessels and changes to existing reporting requirements for headboats.

Who has to do this?

- Federally permitted charter vessels and headboats in the Snapper Grouper, Dolphin Wahoo, and Coastal Migratory Pelagics (mackerel and cobia) fisheries along the Atlantic Coast. A federal permit is required for all for-hire vessels (charter and headboats) operating more than 3 miles offshore (federal waters).



Background

Why is this being done?

- Electronic reporting will improve the accuracy and timeliness of data collection. Fishery managers can better monitor landings and discards, and more accurately assess the impacts of regulations on the charter/headboat (for-hire) industry fishing in federal waters.
- The Council is proposing to implement the same reporting requirements for federally permitted charter (6-pack) vessels that currently exist for headboats, and modify the timing of headboat reports.



Background

How many charter vessels will be impacted and will there be a cost for doing this?

- There are currently 1,984 charter vessels and 76 headboats in the South Atlantic with Federal For-Hire Permits.
- **Cost:** If you have a computer or access to a computer (for example in a library), it will only cost you the time to input the data. The Council is working on a pilot project, in cooperation with charter vessels (and some headboats), to develop very user-friendly software to make it easy and quick to enter this data.



Actions in the For-Hire Reporting Amendment

Action 1. Operators of charter vessels would report electronically:

- Alternative 1. No Action. If selected, a charter vessel operator must maintain a fishing record for each trip or portion of such trip. Reports must be postmarked no later than 7 days after the end of each week (Sunday). **None selected so far.**
- **Preferred Alternative 2.** Weekly or at intervals shorter than a week if notified. Electronic reports would be due by Tuesday following each week that ends on Sunday. **SG AP preferred. Same deadline as commercial dealers.**
 - **Preferred Sub-alternative 2a.** Report all fish harvested/discarded on all trips regardless of where harvested. (current HB requirement)
- Alternative 3. Daily. Electronic reports would be due by noon of the following day.

Note: see Summary or Amendment for complete wording of actions/alternatives.



Requirements

What/Where to report: Federally permitted charter vessels would be required to report all fish harvested/discarded regardless of where harvested (includes federal and state waters).

Intent: The Council's intent is to have charter vessels, in fisheries managed by the Council, meet the minimum data elements currently collected for federal headboats and for charter vessels and headboats in SC.

Delinquent reports: A delinquent report automatically results in a prohibition on harvesting or possessing the applicable species by the permit holder, regardless of any additional notification to the delinquent permit owner and operation by NMFS.

Catastrophic conditions: use paper forms as authorized by NMFS RA.

No-fishing: If no fishing during reporting period, provide electronic report stating no fishing; same deadline. Can be filed ahead of time for extended no-fishing periods.



Requirements

South Atlantic Council's intent to extend the reporting requirements of the For-Hire Reporting Amendment through the Mid-Atlantic and New England Fishery Management Councils' areas for vessels with federal for-hire permits for Snapper Grouper, Dolphin Wahoo, and Coastal Migratory Pelagic species.

Further, it is the **South Atlantic Council's intent** not to have duplicate reporting by individual vessels; one report submitted to, for example, Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) would then be available to each agency needing the data.



Current Headboat Data Elements

Table 2.2.1. Required data reporting elements for headboats participating in the SRHS.

Reporting Elements
Depart Date:Time
Return Date:Time
Vessel Name
Captain Name
Number of Anglers
Number of Paying Passengers
Number of Crew
Fuel used (gallons)
Price per gallon (estimate)
Minimum depth fished
Maximum depth fished
Primary depth fished
Latitude/Longitude Degrees
Latitude/Longitude Minutes
Species caught
Number kept
Number released

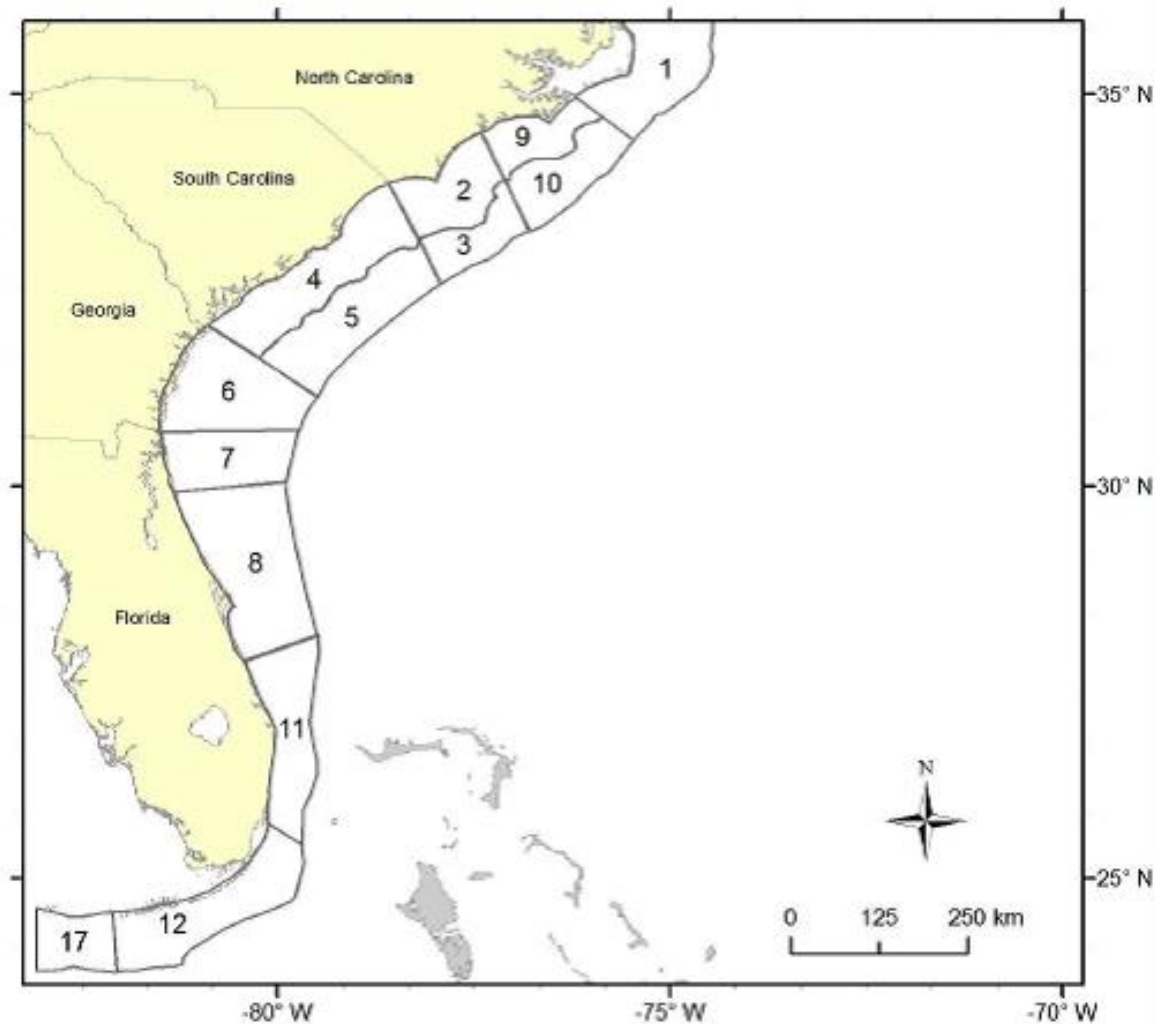


SC Current Data Elements

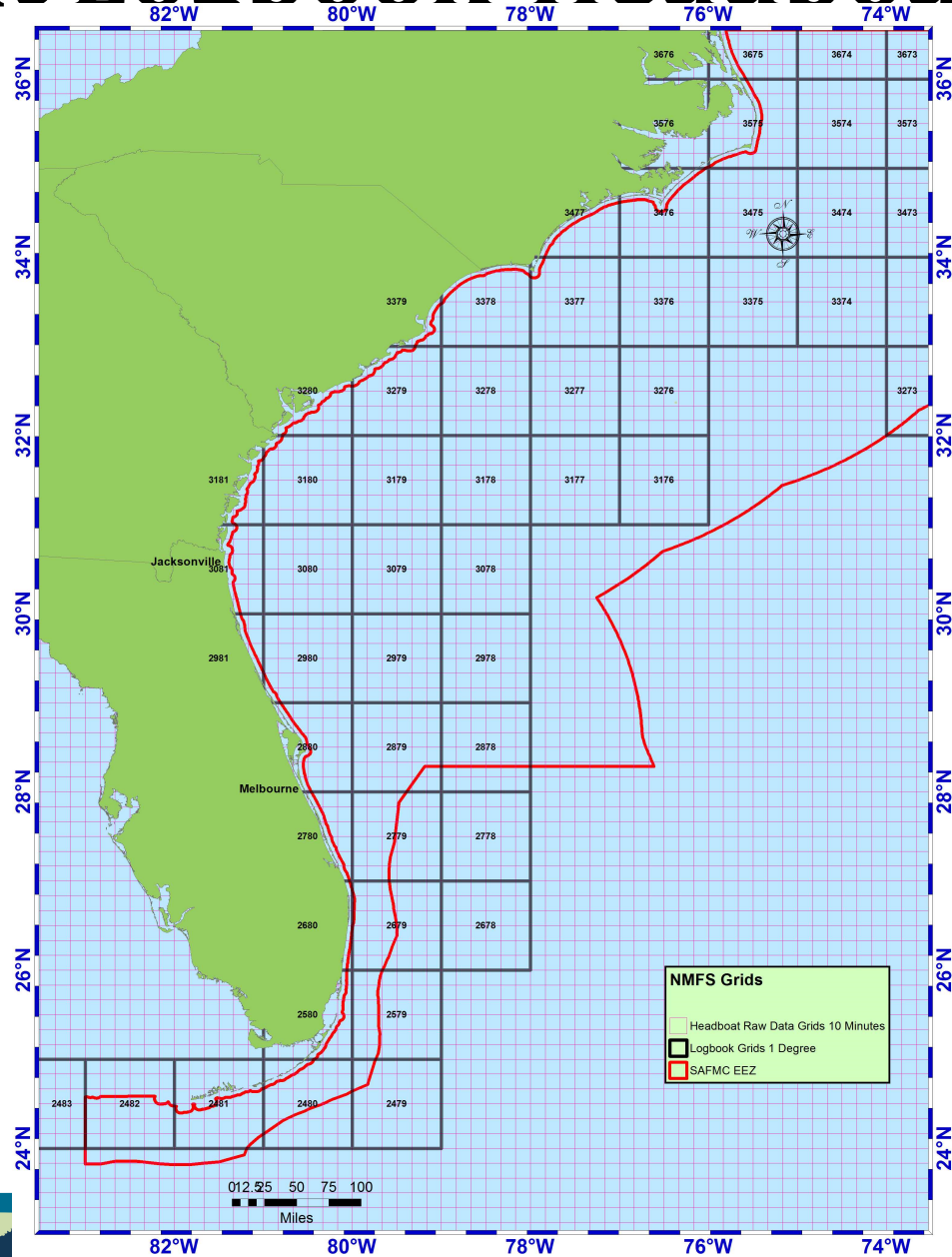
Field_Name	Field_Description
LDate	Date of charter trip – Only a single entry, most trips are one day, exception that we have seen are overnight swordfish trips, hours fished is the identifier
LicenseNum	Permit number of the charter – Matched to SC License Data, unique number each fiscal year/new license
TripNum	Trip number, if the charter vessel takes multiple trips in a single day, Time fishing trip started is the identifier, internally completed, not on the form
Location	Specific location of fishing trip as shown on the charter grid map, attached
Locale	Locale of fishing trip, identified as estuarine, nearshore (0 – 3 miles) or offshore (>3 miles)
NumAnglers	Number of anglers fishing
Method	Method of fishing, identified as troll, bottom, gig, dive, cast/fly, and combinations of such
TargetSp	Species targeted while fishing
Hours	Hours spent fishing
Reef	Artificial reef fished, name provided
TripStart	Time fishing trip started
ShallowDepth	Shallowest depth fished (feet)
DeepDepth	Deepest depth fished (feet)
StartLocation	Place where the fishing trip started from, name provided for location where the trip started (marina or boat ramp name)
Notes	Notes about the trip the captain wants to provide
SpCode	Species code of species caught
NumKept	Number of that particular species caught and kept
LbsLanded	Pound of that particular species kept
NumReleaseLive	Number of fish of that species released alive
NumReleaseDead	Number of fish of that species released dead



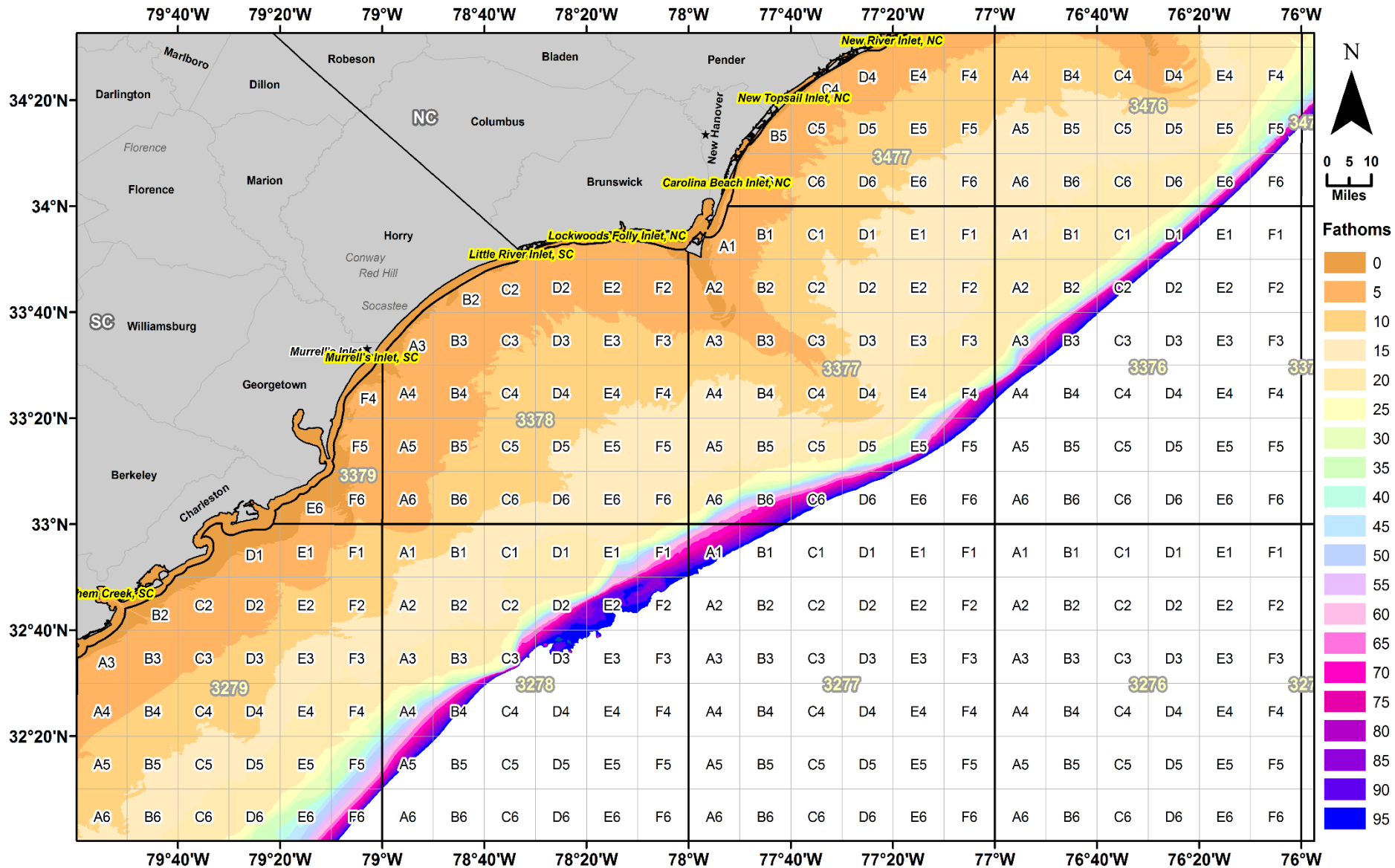
Original Headboat Areas



Current Logbook-Headboat Grids



Closer Look



Additional Data Elements?

1. Vessel Identification Number.
2. Separate charter vessel from headboat?

Additional data that could be **collected on a sample or voluntary basis** from both charter vessels and headboats includes:

1. releases/discards measured and specific location (depth) of release recorded
2. retained catch at specific location (depth) recorded
3. economic data (similar to what is currently being collected from commercial fishermen)
4. social data



Actions in the For-Hire Reporting Amendment

Action 2. Operators of headboats would report on a new deadline:

- Alternative 1. No Action. If selected, a headboat operator must submit an electronic fishing record for each trip of all fish harvested through the Southeast Region Headboat Survey. Electronic fishing records (reports) must be submitted weekly (or at intervals shorter than a week if notified) by 11:59 p.m., local time, the Sunday following a reporting week.
- **Preferred Alternative 2.** Weekly or at intervals shorter than a week if notified. **Electronic reports would be due by Tuesday following each week that ends on Sunday instead of Sunday;** change from 7 --> 2 days. **SG AP preferred. Same deadline as commercial dealers.**
- Alternative 3. Daily. Electronic reports would be due by noon of the following day.

Note: see Summary or Amendment for complete wording of actions/alternatives.



Actions in the For-Hire Reporting Amendment

Action 3. Operators of charter vessels would report catch locations the same way headboats currently report location:

- Alternative 1. No action. Charter vessels in the for-hire survey report area fished (inshore, state, or federal waters) if selected.
- **Preferred Alternative 2.** Operators of charter vessels would report location electronically by latitude/longitude in degrees and minutes or by clicking on a headboat chart. This is how headboats report now. **SG AP preferred. Same as headboats report.**

Note: see Summary or Amendment for complete wording of actions/alternatives.



Benefits/Costs

Benefits:

- Better catch and effort data
- Better quota monitoring & avoids payback or shorter seasons
- Closer to matching commercial fishermen reporting: commercial have 3: catch logbook, discard logbook & economic logbook
- Responds to Visioning Blueprint



SAFMC Vision Blueprint 2016-2020

Science

Goal - Management decisions for the snapper grouper fishery are based upon robust, defensible science that considers qualitative and quantitative data analyzed in a timely, clear, and transparent manner that builds stakeholder confidence.

Objective 1 - Promote collection of quality data to support management plans and programs considered by the Council.

- **Strategy 1.2** - Encourage consistency in data collection programs that incorporates standardized methods, reporting requirements and formats across the South Atlantic region.
 - Priority Actions
 - *Support efforts to create a uniform, efficient reporting mechanism for trip tickets and logbooks*

Objective 2 - Encourage development of mechanisms to effectively engage and collaborate with stakeholders on cooperative research, data collection and analysis.

Objective 4 - Support improved and expanded monitoring and reporting programs for the snapper grouper fishery.

- **Strategy 4.2** – Support further development of reporting mechanisms for all sectors in the snapper grouper fishery.
 - Priority Actions
 - *Use of electronic reporting mechanisms for all sectors of the fishery (mobile apps, cellphones, web-based, etc.)*



Benefits/Costs

Cost:

- Your time to record the data.
- If you have a computer or access to a computer (for example in a library), it will cost you the time to input the data.
- If you prefer, you could input the data on a tablet if you have one.



Timing

- **December 7-11, 2015** (Atlantic Beach, NC) - Council reviews document, picks preferred alternatives, and approves for public hearings.
- **January 20, 2016** – Informal Question & Answer Webinar
- **January 25-February 3, 2016** – Public hearings from NC -> FL
- **February 8, 2016** – Webinar Public Hearing for Mid-Atlantic and New England fishermen
- **February 10, 2016** – Written comments due by 5 pm
- **March 7-11, 2016** (Jekyll Island, GA) – Council reviews public comments, modified preferred alternatives as required, and approves all actions. Public comment on Wednesday, March 9th beginning at 5:30 pm
- **June 13-17, 2016** (Cocoa Beach, FL) – Council reviews complete document and approves for formal review. Public comment on Wednesday, June 15th beginning at 5:30 pm
- **June 30, 2016** - Send for review and implementation by Secretary of Commerce/ NMFS
- **January 1, 2017** – target date for regulations to be effective; operators of charter vessels begin electronic reporting and new deadline effective for headboats



Public Hearing Dates & Locations

All 4-7 pm except Morehead City that begins at 5 pm

Monday, January 25, 2016

Richmond Hill City Center
520 Cedar Street
Richmond Hill, GA 31324
Phone: 912-445-0043

Tuesday, January 26, 2016

Hilton Garden Inn Charleston Airport
5265 International Blvd.
North Charleston, SC 29418
Phone: 843-308-9330

Wednesday, January 27, 2016

Murrells Inlet Community Center
4450 Murrells Inlet Road
Murrells Inlet, SC 29576
Phone: 843-651-4152

Thursday, January 28, 2016: 5 pm

NC Division of Marine Fisheries
Central District Office
5285 Highway 70 West
Morehead City, NC 28557
Phone: 252-726-7021

Monday, February 1, 2016

Hilton Garden Inn Fort Lauderdale Airport-
Cruise Port
180 SW 18th Avenue
Dania Beach/Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33004
Phone: 954-924-9204

Tuesday, February 2, 2016

Hawks Cay
61 Hawks Cay Boulevard
Duck Key, FL 33050
Phone: 305-289-5100

Wednesday, February 3, 2016

Marriott Key West Beachside
3841 N. Roosevelt Boulevard
Key West, FL 33040
Phone: 305-296-8100

Wednesday, February 3, 2016

International Palms Resort
1300 N Atlantic Avenue
Cocoa Beach, FL 32931
Phone: 321-783-2271



How Do I Comment?

Written comments:

- Mail (address in PH document)
- Fax (843) 769-4520
- Email: Mike.Collins@safmc.net; Subject Line: “For-Hire Am”
- Comments must be received **by 5:00 P.M. on February 10, 2016**

Questions:

John Carmichael, John.Carmichael@safmc.net or (843) 571-4366 or (866) SAFMC-10



Questions?

