



Vision Blueprint for the Snapper Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region 2016-2020

**Summary of accomplishments and actions left to
address**



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Outline

- I. Council's Vision**
- II. Vision Blueprint strategic goals and objectives**
 - ❖ Summary of progress on prioritized activities
 - ❖ What's left
- III. Advisory Panel's recommendations**



Science

Management decisions are based upon robust, defensible science that considers qualitative and quantitative data analyzed in a timely, clear, and transparent way that builds stakeholder confidence

1. Promote collection of quality data to support management plans and programs
2. Encourage development of mechanisms to effectively engage and collaborate with stakeholders on research, data collection, and analysis



Progress through 2018 - Science

- ✓ Charter vessel electronic reporting amendment and pilot
- ✓ Pilot tilefish survey in Mid-Atlantic, discussions on data collection for species that overlap Council jurisdictions
- ✓ Citizen Science Program, MyFishCount, Fishery Performance Reports
- ✓ Support tools for Fishery Ecosystem Plan, R/V *Okeanos* cruise in 2018 to map deep-water ecosystems
- ✓ Cooperative research on red snapper



What's Left - Science

- Evaluate fishery-dependent and independent programs
- Evaluate SEDAR
- Validate data collection programs
- Identify sampling resources to support data programs
- Identify alternative sources of funding for FI programs
- Consider industry research set-aside funding program to support research and monitoring needs



Management

Adopt management strategies that rebuild and maintain fishery resources, adapt to regional differences in the fishery, and consider social and economic needs of fishing communities

1. Develop management measures that consider sub-regional differences and issues within the fishery
2. Develop management measures that allow consistent access to the fishery for all sectors
3. Ensure that management decisions help maximize social and economic opportunity for all sectors



Progress through 2018 - Management

- ✓ Management boundaries for hogfish in Amendment 37
- ✓ Vision Blueprint amendments 26 & 27: recreational season for deep-water species, commercial split seasons, trip and bag limit adjustments, etc.
- ✓ Amendment 46 (recreational permit/stamp)
- ✓ Socio-economic Characterization of the Commercial Snapper Grouper Fishery
- ✓ Regulatory Amendment 29 (best fishing practices)
- ✓ Citizen Science Program
- ✓ MyFishCount



What's Left - Management

- Species-specific quota-based management
 - Design elements (*e.g.*, quota transfer by sub-region)
 - Management elements (*e.g.*, sub-regions set quotas, openings, etc.)
- Staggered spawning season closures
- Regulations by sub-region not based on quota or allocations



What's Left - Management

- State-by-state regulations for either sector
- Use bag-limit step-down as post-season AM for rec sector
- Charter boat limit instead of per-person limit
- Alternative management approaches for multi-day boats (“traditional bandit boats”) – permit stacking, multi-day endorsement, sector/community shares)
- Evaluate retention of bag limit when commercial season is closed



What's Left - Management

- Adaptive management to slowly increase almaco and rudderfish ACL
- Use multi-year ACLs/catch specifications
- Consider non-traditional stakeholders in management decisions (restaurants, eco tourism, bait/tackle businesses)
- Consider diversity of harvest operations (owner-operator, multiple vessels)



What's Left - Management

- Consider permit bank to address new entrants
- Consider number of days allowed to fish for rec sector
- “Time out” period of no fishing for rec sector



Communication

Employ interactive outreach strategies that encourage continuous participation and support two-way engagement between managers and stakeholders while building a greater understanding of science and management

1. Develop approaches that provide streamlined and timely information to increase awareness and stakeholder engagement
2. Improve awareness and understanding of fishery science and research and how these inform management



Progress through 2018 - Communication

- ✓ Remote listening stations
- ✓ Q&A for upcoming amendments
- ✓ Website improvement
- ✓ Support expansion of MREP-SE
- ✓ informal port meetings for education purposes
- ✓ Diversify locations of in-person meetings
- ✓ YouTube Channel, forum for commercial fishermen
- ✓ MyFishCount portal in-person trainings
- ✓ Charter ER reporting and trainings



What's Left - Communication

- Work with agency partners to provide notification of ACL monitoring updates
- Incorporate real-time calendar for fishery closures for both sectors
- Website analytics to evaluate effectiveness and access of materials on website
- Advertising campaign highlighting Council activities and success stories



What's Left - Communication

- Outreach strategies related to connection between habitat and fisheries
- Targeted outreach about the Council process including role of SSC
- Expand use of educational webinars on stock assessment, data collections, etc.
- Develop training for new AP members



Governance

Commit to a transparent, balanced, and timely decision-making process that allows flexible yet well-defined protocols and strategies for managing the snapper grouper fishery

1. Create an accountable and flexible decision-making process for development and evaluation of management measures
2. Build capacity to streamline management efforts and better coordinate with management partners



Progress through 2018 - Governance

- ✓ Abbreviated framework procedure
- ✓ online comment forms and public comment at AP meetings
- ✓ SAFMC and SERO staffs meeting in June 2018
- ✓ ecosystem partners
- ✓ Citizen Science Program
- ✓ MyFishCount



What's Left - Governance

- Develop mechanism for evaluating decision-making process to ensure consistency and accountability
- Consider how scientific information is incorporated into the management process and provide flexibility
- Develop a regulations evaluation process
- Establish working relationships with non-fishery entities and agencies for future marine management issues



Council request to the AP

1. How should the Council solicit input from stakeholders on the Vision Blueprint?
2. How should the Council prioritize items left to address under each strategic goal?

