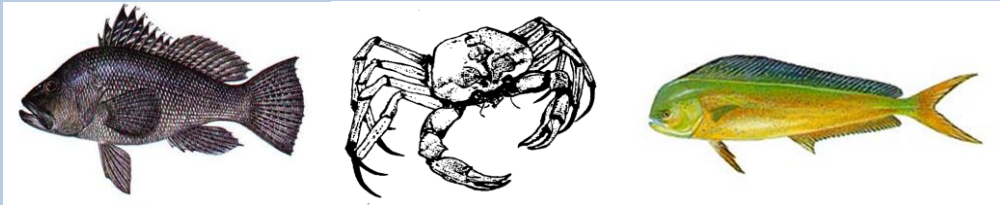


# DECISION DOCUMENT

for

**Amendment 34 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper  
Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region,  
Amendment 9 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Golden Crab  
of the South Atlantic Region, and  
Amendment 8 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Dolphin  
Wahoo Fishery of the Atlantic**



**March 2014**

## Why is the South Atlantic Council Taking Action?

With the reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act in 2006 (NMFS 2006), the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) was required to specify accountability measures and annual catch limits (ACL) for most of the species it manages. Accountability measures for snapper grouper species were established in Amendments 17A (SAFMC 2010a) and 17B (SAFMC 2010b) to the Snapper Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region (Snapper Grouper FMP), Comprehensive ACL Amendment (SAFMC 2011), and Amendment 24 to the Snapper Grouper FMP (77 FR 34254, June 11, 2012). Accountability measures for golden crab and dolphin were specified through the Comprehensive ACL Amendment (SAFMC 2011). Accountability measures were established for mackerel species in Amendment 18 for Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic (GMFMC/SAFMC 2011).

Amendment 5 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Dolphin and Wahoo Fishery for the Atlantic (Dolphin Wahoo FMP; SAFMC 2013), which is under review by the Secretary of Commerce, proposes to modify accountability measures for dolphin and wahoo that are consistent with those in place for mackerel species. The SAFMC is now considering modifying the accountability measures for snapper grouper species and golden crab. Adjusting the accountability measures in this amendment would help to bring consistency across species managed by the Council.

The Council's Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel requested the Council reconsider how it allocates the ACL between the recreational and commercial sectors. This action was originally considered in Amendment 5 to the Dolphin Wahoo FMP (SAFMC 2013), but the Council removed it for reconsideration at a later date. Allocations for dolphin were established in the Comprehensive ACL Amendment (SAFMC 2011).

The Council is considering the following actions in these Amendments:

- Modify accountability measures for snapper grouper species and golden crab
- Modify allocations of dolphin between recreational and commercial sectors

## **PURPOSE FOR ACTION**

The purpose for the actions is to: modify the accountability measures for snapper grouper species and golden crab, and adjust sector allocations for dolphin.

## **NEED FOR ACTION**

The intent of Snapper Grouper Amendment 34, Golden Crab Amendment 9, and Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 8 is to base conservation and management measures upon the best scientific information available, and to prevent unnecessary negative socio-economic impacts that may otherwise be realized in these fisheries and fishing communities, and ensure overfishing does not occur in accordance with the provisions set forth in the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

### **Committee Action:**

The Committee should review the Purpose and Need for Action above and make sure it meets the requirements to develop a specific purpose and need for the document.

## DRAFT ACTIONS TAKEN OUT TO SCOPING

### Action 1. Revise accountability measures (AMs).

#### Alternative 1 (No Action).

##### **Black grouper, mutton snapper, yellowtail snapper, unassessed snapper grouper species**

Commercial: If commercial landings, as estimated by the Science and Research Director, reach or are projected to reach the commercial ACL, the Assistant Administrator will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register 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 exclusive economic zone (EEZ) 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, without regard to where such species were harvested, *i.e.*, in state or Federal waters. If commercial landings exceed the ACL, and a species or at least one species in a complex is overfished, based on the most recent Status of U.S. Fisheries Report to Congress, the Assistant Administrator will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register, at or near the beginning of the following fishing year to reduce the ACL for that following year by the amount of the overage in the prior fishing year.

Recreational: If recreational landings, as estimated by the Science and Research Director, exceed the recreational ACL, then during the following fishing year, recreational landings will be monitored for a persistence in increased landings and, if necessary, the Assistant Administrator will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register, to reduce the length of the following recreational fishing season by the amount necessary to ensure recreational landings do not exceed the recreational ACL in the following fishing year. However, the length of the recreational season will also not be reduced during the following fishing year if the Regional Administrator determines, using the best scientific information available, that a reduction in the length of the following fishing season is unnecessary.

##### **Black sea bass**

Commercial: If commercial landings, as estimated by the Science and Research Director, reach or are projected to reach the quota specified in § 622.190(a)(5), the Assistant Administrator will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close the commercial sector for the remainder of the fishing year. If commercial landings exceed the quota specified in § 622.190(a)(5), the Assistant Administrator will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register, at or near the beginning of the following fishing year to reduce the ACL for that following year by the amount of the overage in the prior fishing year.

Recreational: If recreational landings for black sea bass, as estimated by the Science and Research Director, are projected to reach the recreational ACL, then the Assistant Administrator will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close the recreational sector for the remainder of the fishing year. If the annual landings exceed the ACL in a given year, the landings would be monitored in-season the following year for a persistence in increased landings. The Regional Administrator will publish a notice to reduce the length of the fishing season as necessary. If the ACL is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice

to reduce the ACL in the following season by the amount of the overage if the species is overfished.

New recreational accountability proposed in Regulatory Amendment 14 and approved by South Atlantic Council: *NMFS will project the length of the recreational fishing season based on when NMFS projects the recreational ACL specified in this paragraph is expected to be met and announce the recreational fishing season end date in the Federal Register prior to the start of the recreational fishing year on April 1. On and after the effective date of the recreational closure notification, the bag and possession limit for black sea bass in or from the South Atlantic EEZ is zero. This bag and possession limit applies in the South Atlantic on board a vessel for which a valid Federal charter vessel/headboat permit for South Atlantic snapper grouper has been issued, without regard to where such species were harvested, i.e. in state or Federal waters.*

### **Greater amberjack and Red porgy**

**Commercial:** If commercial landings, as estimated by the Science and Research Director, reach or are projected to reach the ACL, the Assistant Administrator will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close the commercial sector for the remainder of the fishing year. If commercial landings exceed the ACL, and a species is overfished, the Assistant Administrator will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register, at or near the beginning of the following fishing year to reduce the ACL for that following year by the amount of the overage in the prior fishing year.

**Recreational:** If recreational landings, as estimated by the Science and Research Director, exceed the recreational ACL, then during the following fishing year, recreational landings will be monitored for a persistence in increased landings and, if necessary, the Assistant Administrator will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register, to reduce the length of the following recreational fishing season by the amount necessary to ensure recreational landings do not exceed the recreational ACL in the following fishing year. However, the length of the recreational season will also not be reduced during the following fishing year if the Regional Administrator determines, using the best scientific information available, that a reduction in the length of the following fishing season is unnecessary.

### **Gag**

**Commercial:** If commercial landings, as estimated by the Science and Research Director, reach or are projected to reach the quota specified in § 622.190(a)(7), the Assistant Administrator will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close the commercial sector for gag for the remainder of the fishing year.

**Recreational:** If recreational landings, as estimated by the Science and Research Director, reach or are projected to reach the recreational ACL, and gag are overfished, the Assistant Administrator will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close the recreational sector for the remainder of the fishing year. On and after the effective date of such notification, the bag and possession limit in or from the South Atlantic EEZ is zero. This bag and possession limit also 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, without regard to where such species were harvested, *i.e.*, in state or Federal waters. Without regard to overfished status, if recreational landings exceed the ACL, the Assistant

Administrator will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register, at or near the beginning of the following fishing year, to reduce the ACL for that fishing year by the amount of the overage. Recreational landings will be evaluated relative to the ACL based on a moving multi-year average of three most recent years of landings.

### **Golden tilefish**

#### Commercial:

(i) Hook-and-line component. If commercial landings, as estimated by the Science and Research Director, reach or are projected to reach the commercial ACL (commercial quota) specified in § 622.190(a)(2)(ii), the Assistant Administrator will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close the hook-and-line component of the commercial sector for the remainder of the fishing year.

(ii) Longline component. If commercial landings, as estimated by the Science and Research Director, reach or are projected to reach the commercial ACL (commercial quota) specified in § 622.190(a)(2)(iii), the Assistant Administrator will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close the longline component of the commercial sector for the remainder of the fishing year. After the commercial ACL for the longline component is reached or projected to be reached, golden tilefish may not be fished for or possessed by a vessel with a golden tilefish longline endorsement.

Recreational: If recreational landings for golden tilefish, as estimated by the Science and Research Director, reach or are projected to reach the recreational ACL of 3,019 fish, the Assistant Administrator will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close the recreational sector for the remainder of the fishing year. If recreational landings for golden tilefish, as estimated by the Science and Research Director, exceed the recreational ACL, then during the following fishing year, recreational landings will be monitored for a persistence in increased landings and, if necessary, the Assistant Administrator will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register, to reduce the length of the following recreational fishing season by the amount necessary to ensure recreational landings do not exceed the recreational ACL in the following fishing year.

### **Red Grouper**

Commercial: If commercial landings for red grouper, as estimated by the Science and Research Director, reach or are projected to reach the applicable ACL in paragraph (d)(1)(iii) of this section, the Assistant Administrator will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register 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 of red grouper is prohibited and harvest or possession of this species in or from the South Atlantic EEZ 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, without regard to where such species were harvested, *i.e.*, in state or Federal waters. If commercial landings exceed the ACL, the Assistant Administrator will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register, at or near the beginning of the following fishing year to reduce the ACL for that following year by the amount of the overage in the prior fishing year.

**Recreational:** If recreational landings for red grouper, as estimated by the Science and Research Director, are projected to reach the applicable ACL in paragraph (d)(2)(iii) of this section, the Assistant Administrator will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close the recreational sector for the remainder of the fishing year. On and after the effective date of such a notification, the bag and possession limit is zero. This bag and possession limit applies in the South Atlantic on board a vessel for which a valid Federal charter vessel/headboat permit for South Atlantic snapper grouper has been issued, without regard to where such species were harvested, *i.e.* in state or Federal waters. If recreational landings for red grouper, as estimated by the Science and Research Director, exceed the applicable ACL, the Assistant Administrator will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register, to reduce the recreational ACL the following fishing year by the amount of the overage in the prior fishing.

### **Red snapper**

**Commercial:** In-season closure.

**Recreational:** In-season closure.

### **Snowy grouper**

**Commercial:** If commercial landings, as estimated by the Science and Research Director, reach or are projected to reach the quota specified in § 622.190(a)(1), the Assistant Administrator will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close the commercial sector for snowy grouper for the remainder of the fishing year.

**Recreational:** If recreational landings, as estimated by the Science and Research Director, exceed the recreational ACL of 523 fish, the Assistant Administrator will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register, at or near the beginning of the following fishing year, to reduce the length of the following recreational fishing season by the amount necessary to ensure recreational landings do not exceed the recreational ACL in the following fishing year. When NMFS reduces the length of the following recreational fishing season, the following closure provisions apply: the bag and possession limit for snowy grouper in or from the South Atlantic EEZ is zero. This bag and possession limit also 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, without regard to where such species were harvested, *i.e.*, in state or Federal waters. Recreational landings will be evaluated relative to the ACL based on a moving multi-year average of landings, as described in the FMP.

### **Vermilion snapper**

**Commercial:** If commercial landings, as estimated by the Science and Research Director, reach or are projected to reach the applicable commercial ACL (commercial quota) specified in § 622.190(a)(4)(i) or (ii), the Assistant Administrator will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close the commercial sector for that portion of the fishing year applicable to the respective quota.

**Recreational:** If recreational landings, as estimated by the Science and Research Director, reach or are projected to reach the applicable recreational ACL specified in paragraph (f)(2)(iv) of this section and vermilion snapper are overfished, based on the most recent Status of U.S. Fisheries Report to Congress, the Assistant Administrator will file a notification with the Office

of the Federal Register to close the recreational sector for vermilion snapper for the remainder of the fishing year. On and after the effective date of such notification, the bag and possession limit of vermilion snapper in or from the South Atlantic EEZ is zero. This bag and possession limit also 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, without regard to where such species were harvested, *i.e.*, in state or Federal waters. Without regard to overfished status, if vermilion snapper recreational landings exceed the applicable recreational ACL, the Assistant Administrator will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register, at or near the beginning of the following fishing year, to reduce the ACL for that fishing year by the amount of the overage. Recreational landings will be evaluated relative to the ACL based on a moving multi-year average of landings, as described in the FMP.

New recreational accountability proposed in Regulatory Amendment 14 and approved by South Atlantic Council: *If recreational landings, as estimated by the Science and Research Director, reach or are projected to reach the applicable recreational ACL specified in paragraph (f)(2)(iv) of this section the Assistant Administrator will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close the recreational sector for vermilion snapper for the remainder of the fishing year. On and after the effective date of such notification, the bag and possession limit for vermilion snapper in or from the South Atlantic EEZ is zero. This bag and possession limit also 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, without regard to where such species were harvested, i.e., in state or Federal waters. If the combined vermilion snapper commercial and recreational landings exceed the combined vermilion snapper ACLs specified in paragraphs (f)(1) and (f)(2)(iv) of this section, and vermilion snapper are overfished, based on the most recent Status of U.S. Fisheries Report to Congress, the Assistant Administrator will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register, at or near the beginning of the following fishing year to reduce the recreational ACL for that following year by the amount of the recreational overage in the prior fishing year.*

### **Wreckfish**

Commercial: The individual transferable quota program for wreckfish in the South Atlantic serves as the accountability measures for commercial wreckfish. The commercial ACL for wreckfish is equal to the commercial quota specified in § 622.190(b).

Recreational: If recreational landings for wreckfish, as estimated by the Science and Research Director, exceed the recreational ACL of 11,750 lb (5,330 kg), round weight, then during the following fishing year, recreational landings will be monitored for a persistence in increased landings and, if necessary, the Assistant Administrator will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register, to reduce the length of the following recreational fishing season by the amount necessary to ensure recreational landings do not exceed the recreational ACL in the following fishing year. However, the length of the recreational season will also not be reduced during the following fishing year if the Regional Administrator determines, using the best scientific information available, that a reduction in the length of the following fishing season is unnecessary.

### **Golden crab**

Commercial: If commercial landings for golden crab, as estimated by the Science and

Research Director, reach or are projected to reach the ACL of 2 million lb (907,185 kg), round weight, the Assistant Administrator will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close the golden crab fishery for the remainder of the fishing year. On and after the effective date of such a notification, all harvest, possession, sale or purchase of golden crab in or from the South Atlantic EEZ is prohibited. If commercial landings exceed the ACL, and golden crab are overfished, based on the most recent Status of U.S. Fisheries Report to Congress, the Assistant Administrator will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register, at or near the beginning of the following fishing year to reduce the ACL for that following year by the amount of the overage in the prior fishing year.

Recreational: There is no recreational component to the golden crab fishery.

**Alternative 2.** If commercial landings as estimated by the Science and Research Director reach or are projected to reach the commercial ACL, 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 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, dolphin wahoo, or golden crab 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 is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the commercial ACL 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 is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the commercial ACL in the following fishing year by the amount of the commercial overage, only if the total ACL (commercial ACL and recreational ACL) is exceeded.

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

**Alternative 3.** If recreational landings, as estimated by the Science and Research Director, exceed the recreational ACL, then during the following fishing year, recreational landings will be monitored for a persistence in increased landings.

**Sub-alternative 3a.** If necessary, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the length of fishing season and the recreational ACL 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 will not be reduced if the Regional Administrator determines, using the best scientific information available, that a reduction is unnecessary.

**Sub-alternative 3b.** If necessary, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the length of fishing season and the recreational ACL in the following fishing year by the amount of the recreational overage, only if the total ACL (commercial ACL and recreational ACL) 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.

**Sub-alternative 3c.** If necessary, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the length of fishing season and the recreational ACL in the following fishing year by the amount of the recreational overage, only if the species is overfished and the total ACL (commercial ACL and recreational ACL) 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.

**Committee Action:**

The Committee needs to review the action and alternatives, make modifications as necessary, provide direction to staff for further development.

**Sub-alternatives 2c and 3c** are what is in place or under review for dolphin, wahoo, king and Spanish mackerel.

Note that **Alternative 3** would change what is being proposed for black sea bass and vermilion snapper in Snapper Grouper Regulatory Amendment 14. The Council needs to discuss how this action would work in conjunction with what is being proposed in the regulatory amendment. There may be a need for in season recreational closures for some species, and the proposed **Alternative 3** does not account for that.

Scoping Comments
One commenter wanted underages added to the ACL for the following season.
One commenter felt that only requiring paybacks when the total ACL is exceeded would benefit the recreational sector more than it would the commercial sector.
SFA prefers <b>Alternative 1 (No Action)</b> because it does not endorse either <b>Alternative 2</b> or <b>Alternative 3</b> .

## Action 2. Revise the sector allocations for dolphin.

**Alternative 1. No Action.** The recreational sector allocation for dolphin is 92.46%. The commercial sector allocation for dolphin is 7.54%. The sector allocations for dolphin were set in the Comprehensive ACL Amendment (SAFMC 2011) and updated in Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 5 (SAFMC 2013) using the sector allocation rule where 50% of sector allocations are based on a longer term landings series (1999 – 2008) and 50% of the sector allocations are based on a shorter time series (2006-2008).

**Alternative 2.** Establish the sector allocations for dolphin that were in place prior to the Comprehensive ACL Amendment making the “soft cap” allocations the sector allocations. The recreational sector allocation for dolphin is 87%, and commercial sector allocation is 13%.

**Alternative 3.** Set the commercial allocation at its highest percentage of the total catch over the past 5 years (2008-2012). The recreational sector allocation for dolphin is 86%, and commercial sector allocation is 14%.

**Alternative 4.** Set the commercial allocation at the average of the percentages of the total catch over the past 5 years (2008-2012). The recreational sector allocation for dolphin is 90%, and commercial sector allocation is 10%.

**Alternative 5.** Modify the time series by which allocations were specified for the two sectors. Allocation by sector = (0.5 \* catch history) + (0.5 \* current trend)

**Sub-alternative 5a.** Catch history = average landings 1986-2011, current trend = average landings 2009-2011). 2011 is the last year before ACLs went into place. The recreational sector allocation for dolphin is 90%, and commercial sector allocation is 10%.

**Sub-alternative 5b.** Catch history = average landings 1986-2012, current trend = average landings 2010-2012). 2012 is the most recent year of complete landings availability. The recreational sector allocation for dolphin is 91%, and commercial sector allocation is 9%.

**Sub-alternative 5c.** Catch history = average landings 1986-2012, current trend = average landings 2006-2012). 2012 is the most recent year of complete landings availability. The recreational sector allocation for dolphin is 90%, and commercial sector allocation is 10%.

*Note:* **Alternative 5** is an additional alternative added to **Action 2** after it was taken out of Amendment 5.

	Alternative 1		Alternative 2		Alternative 3		Alternative 4	
Allocation	Percent	Lbs ww	Percent	Lbs ww	Percent	Lbs ww	Percent	Lbs ww
<b>Current Total ACL = 14,596,216 lbs ww</b>								
Recreational	92.7%	13,530,692	87%	12,698,708	86%	12,552,746	90%	13,136,594
Commercial	7.3%	1,065,524	13%	1,897,508	14%	2,043,470	10%	1,459,622
<b>Total ACL = 15,344,846 lbs ww (if Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 5 is approved)</b>								
Recreational	92.46%	14,187,845	87%	13,350,016	86%	13,196,568	90%	13,810,361
Commercial	7.54%	1,157,001	13%	1,994,830	14%	2,148,278	10%	1,534,485

	Alternative 5a		Alternative 5b		Alternative 5c	
Allocation	Percent	Lbs ww	Percent	Lbs ww	Percent	Lbs ww
<b>Current Total ACL = 14,596,216 lbs ww</b>						
Recreational	90%	13,136,594	90%	13,136,594	91%	13,282,557
Commercial	10%	1,459,622	10%	1,459,622	9%	1,313,659
<b>Total ACL = 15, 344,846 lbs ww (if Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 5 is approved)</b>						
Recreational	90%	13,810,361	90%	13,810,361	91%	13,963,810
Commercial	10%	1,534,485	10%	1,534,485	9%	1,381,036

**Committee Action:**

The Committee needs to review the action and alternatives, make modifications as necessary, and provide direction to staff for further development.

The Council may want to reconsider the wording of the first sentence of **Alternative 2** to reflect more accurately the fact that the soft cap quota in place prior to the Comp ACL amendment were not firm sector allocations. The change recommended for the first sentence is as follows:  
*“Establish sector allocations based on soft cap allocations in place before the Comprehensive ACL Amendment.”*

**Scoping Comments**

One Commenter preferred **Alternative 2** because it was closest to what proportion allocated to the two sectors prior to the current ACL.

SFA tentatively endorses **Alternative 4** because it gets the commercial sector closest to the 1.5 mp it was allocated prior to the current ACL and was the preferred choice of the DW AP.

**Dolphin Wahoo AP Comments**

**Alternative 4** was selected as the preferred alternative of the Dolphin Wahoo AP at their March 2013 meeting. The AP has not yet discussed **Alternative 5**.

**Timing for the Generic Accountability Measure and Dolphin Allocation Amendment Approved at the December 2014 Meeting**

- South Atlantic Council to provide guidance on actions and alternatives, March 3-7, 2014.
- South Atlantic Council Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel to provide guidance at March 19, 2014 meeting in Charleston, SC.
- South Atlantic Council Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel to provide guidance at April 8-11, 2014 in Charleston, SC.
- South Atlantic Council Golden Crab Advisory Panel to provide guidance at May 2, 2014 meeting in Ft. Lauderdale, FL.
- IPT to provide analysis between March and May 2014 towards a public hearing draft.
- South Atlantic Council will review the document at the June 9-13, 2014 meeting in Ponte Vedra Beach, FL and approve the document for public hearings.
- Public hearings in August 2014.
- Distribute to MAFMC and NEFMC for them to publicize/hold public hearings and provide comments to SAFMC.
- South Atlantic Council reviews public input, revises document as necessary, and approves all actions at September 15-19, 2014 meeting in Charleston, SC.
- South Atlantic Council reviews final document and approves for formal review at December 1-5, 2014 meeting in New Bern, NC.

## References

GMFMC/SAFMC (Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council/ South Atlantic Fishery Management Council). 2011. Amendment 18 to the Fishery Management Plan for Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic. Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 2203 North Lois Avenue, Suite 1100, Tampa, Florida 33607. South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Ste 201, Charleston, S.C. 29405. Available online at: [www.safmc.net](http://www.safmc.net)

NMFS (National Marine Fisheries Service). 2006. Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Available online at: [http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/magact/MSA\\_Amended\\_2007%20.pdf](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/magact/MSA_Amended_2007%20.pdf)

SAFMC (South Atlantic Fishery Management Council). 2010a. Amendment 17A to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region with Final Environmental Assessment, Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis, Regulatory Impact Review, and Social Impact Assessment/Fishery Impact Statement. South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Ste 201, Charleston, S.C. 29405. 385 pp. with appendices.

SAFMC (South Atlantic Fishery Management Council). 2010b. Amendment 17B to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region with Final Environmental Assessment, Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis, Regulatory Impact Review, and Social Impact Assessment/Fishery Impact Statement. South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Ste 201, Charleston, S.C. 29405. 406 pp. plus appendices.

SAFMC (South Atlantic Fishery Management Council). 2011. Comprehensive Annual Catch Limit (ACL) Amendment for the South Atlantic Region. South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 4055 Faber Place, Ste 201, North Charleston, S.C. 29405.

SAFMC (South Atlantic Fishery Management Council). 2013. Amendment 5 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Dolphin and Wahoo Fishery for the Atlantic. South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Ste 201, Charleston, S.C. 29405. Available online at: [www.safmc.net](http://www.safmc.net)