

SUMMARY OF SCOPING COMMENTS

SNAPPER GROUPER AMENDMENT 35 (SPECIES REMOVAL)

I. WRITTEN SCOPING COMMENTS

- a. Organizations – 1 comment was received from Southeastern Fisheries Association (SFA), East Coast Fisheries Section (ECFS)(attached). SFA ECFS supports the actions to remove black snapper, dog snapper, mahogany snapper, and schoolmaster from the Snapper Grouper FMU.
- b. Individuals – 0 comments received

II. ORAL SCOPING COMMENTS

- a. Organizations – 0
- b. Individuals – 1 comment was received in Key West:

MR. STARLING: My name is Lee Starling; I am a commercial fisherman. I have fished this area for 30 years; and as a diver I feel I have a unique and different view of what is going on in the water. Do you guys want to drop these schoolmasters and stuff?

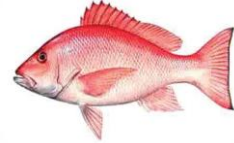
MR. HUNT: The South Atlantic Council is proposing to turn the fishery management of some of those snapper species over to the commission.

MR. STARLING: As far as handing those fish over to the FWC for management, I don't have a problem with that as long as those fish remain as restricted species and do not go into what I would call the Salt Water Products License without the restricted species, because it has those users. The Salt Water Products License has been abused to a great extent and has resulted in a huge decline in our barracuda and other stocks, because basically they don't regulate the SPL stringently enough.

MR. HUNT: I want to try to clarify that just because I don't know if the council understands restricted species. The state of Florida has a class of fish that require an extra level of commercial involvement; and it is called the Restricted Species Endorsement. That is what Lee is recommending.

MR. STARLING: Yes, I want those species to remain as a restricted species; because I find that fish that are not on the restricted species list, the license is only fifty dollars for that SPL, and it is abused.

SOUTHEASTERN FISHERIES ASSOCIATION (SFA)



EAST COAST FISHERIES SECTION (ECFS)

August 18, 2014

Mr. Bob Mahood, Executive Director
South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201
North Charleston, SC 29405

**Email comments to: Mike.Collins@safmc.net
(Subject line: Amendment 35 Scoping comments)**

Re: Snapper Grouper Amendment 35

Mr. Mahood,

The Southeastern Fisheries Association (SFA), East Coast Fisheries Section (ECFS) wishes to submit this written comment about the Snapper Grouper (SG) Amendment 35 to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC) about the Action to remove four SG species from the fishery management unit (FMU). SFA ECFS supports the following actions to remove these four species from the SG FMU.

The Council is considering the following actions in Amendment 35:

Remove the following 4 species from the Snapper Grouper FMU:

- Black Snapper (*Apsilus dentatus*)
- Dog Snapper (*Lutjanus jocu*)
- Mahogany Snapper (*Lutjanus mahogoni*)
- Schoolmaster (*Lutjanus apodus*)

Jimmy Hull, Chairman
SFA ECFS