

**FINAL**  
**SUMMARY REPORT**  
**ABC CONTROL RULE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**  
**SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**  
**Jekyll Island, GA**  
**March 8, 2018**

The Committee approved minutes from the December 2017 meeting and the agenda for this meeting.

**ABC Control Rule Amendment Discussion**

Council staff guided the Committee through the ABC Control Rule Options Paper. The Committee provided guidance on the Purpose and Need and the FMPs to include in this comprehensive amendment.

The Committee also provided the following guidance on the Actions and Alternatives.

- Action 1 – Alternative 2:
  - Clarify how the Options listed under Alternative 2 affect the alternative. The Council may choose any or all of the options to modify how Alternative 2 will be applied.
  - Address multi-year ABC specifications as an Option, and allow specification of both annual and multi-year ABCs.
  - Clarify how the Council’s risk tolerance is applied for Category 3 and 4 circumstances
- Action 1 – Alternative 3: Modify Alternative 3 to include the Council’s specified risk tolerance rather than Council scoring of the existing Tiers 3 and 4.
- Action 2 – Alternative 3: reduce the highest risk levels from 0.5 to 0.45
- Action 4 can be deleted, since it is addressed as an option in Action 1 – Alternative 2.
- Action 5:
  - Consider an an alternative for sub-Action 2 that provides, for year 3, updated projections and ABC values that include the phase-in of ABC in years 1 and 2.
- Action 5 and Action 6: Clarify in the discussion that these actions provide flexibility that the Council may choose to use, but is not required to use.

**MOTION #1:** APPROVE THE PURPOSE AND NEED STATEMENTS, AND ALLOW THE IPT TO ADD LANGUAGE CLARIFYING THE COUNCIL’S ROLE IN SPECIFYING RISK TOLERANCE.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

**MOTION #2:** AMEND THE SNAPPER GROUPER, DOLPHIN WAHOO, GOLDEN CRAB, SARGASSUM, AND CORAL FMPs THROUGH THE COMPREHENSIVE ABC CONTROL RULE AMENDMENT.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

## Recreational Accountability Measures

Council staff provided an overview of Recreational Accountability Measures (AMs). Based on Council direction to staff at the December 2017 meeting, it was determined that recreational AMs could be modified through a framework amendment for species covered by the Snapper Grouper, Dolphin Wahoo, and Coastal Migratory Pelagics FMPs. Staff then presented the different recreational AMs that are currently in place. The Committee reviewed the action alternatives presented in the white paper. The Committee gave direction on how to proceed with the development of a recreational AM framework amendment with the following guidelines:

- Can species be determined to be *de minimis*, that is a species whose recreational landings are below a specific percentage threshold of the overall harvest, and therefore not adequately managed by AMs? Recreational landings would continue to be monitored to determine whether a species continued designation as *de minimis* is warranted. (Recreational landings of Wreckfish are one example.)
- When giving flexibility on how to respond to overages through management measures, any adjustments made would be put in place to reduce the future likelihood that overages will not occur in the future.
- SERO pointed out that determining closure dates for all species ahead of the beginning of a season would be an administrative burden. Some species do not experience in season closures because the sector ACL typically is not met. Only species that routinely experience in season closures would benefit from determining the season start and closure dates would benefit from such a determination.
- It is not clear that recalculating ACL estimates for all recreational species in numbers of fish, rather than pounds as currently used, can (Sub-Alternative 2d) can be modified through a framework amendment. However, using ACL evaluations of recreational landings in numbers of fish could be considered for determining whether AMs ought to be applied.
- Clarification was given that determination of closure dates for a species prior to the beginning of a season would be made by SERO, not the SEFSC.

---

## Timing and Tasks

### Motion #3. ADOPT THE FOLLOWING TIMING AND TASKS:

- Incorporate the Committee recommendations for the ABC control rule options paper for further review at the June 2018 meeting.
- Determine whether recreational AMs could be modified for Coastal Migratory Pelagics without the amendment being a joint amendment with the Gulf Council.
- Provide examples of the modified AMs.
- Develop an AM action/alternative to use the same mathematical transformations of landings applied as part of a stock assessment to the recreational landings used to determine whether recreational AMs need to be implemented.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL