



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Melvin Bell, Chair | Carolyn N. Belcher, Ph.D., Vice Chair
John Carmichael, Executive Director

AGENDA **September 21, 2022**

Via Webinar

Written Comments:

To submit written comment on items on this agenda, visit the online public comment form:

<https://safmc.wufoo.com/forms/qke9zw00nduex5/>

Written comments will be accepted September 8-21, 2022. These comments are accessible to the public, part of the Administrative Record of the meeting, and immediately available for Council consideration.

View submitted written comments at: <https://safmc.wufoo.com/reports/2022-sept-webinar-council-meeting-fknms-and-wcafc/>

Public comment will be solicited from members of the public attending the webinar at the beginning and at the end of the meeting.

Wednesday, September 21, 2022

9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon (Times subject

to change)

Call to order and introductions

Adoption of agenda

1. Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Restoration Blueprint
 - a. Presentation – TBD, FKNMS Staff
2. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Presentation on FKNMS Proposed Rule
 - a. Overview – Jessica McCawley
3. Western Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission (WECAFC) Flyingfish-Dolphinfish Working Group
 - a. Overview – Laura Cimo and Rachel O’Malley
4. Other business

Adjourn

Attachments:

Attachment 1a: FKNMS Restoration Blueprint Proposed Rule Presentation

Attachment 1b: FKNMS Proposed Rule

Attachment 1c: SAFMC Comments on FKNMS DEIS, March 2020

Attachment 2: FWC Update on FKNMS

Attachment 3a: WECAFC Updates Presentation

Attachment 3b: Flyingfish/Dolphinfish Working Group background paper

Staff Lead: John Carmichael (john.carmichael@safmc.net)

OVERVIEW

1. **Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Restoration Blueprint**

Description: The Council will receive a presentation on proposed regulatory changes affecting the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary as a result of NOAA’s comprehensive review of the management plan, zoning plan, and regulations for the Sanctuary. The Council’s advisory panels and the Council received presentations during fall 2019 and in December 2020 meeting, respectively, and comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement were submitted in March 2020 (*Attachment 1a*). The proposed rule, the next step in the process, published on July 18, 2022, with a 100-day comment period ending on October 26, 2022 (*Attachment 1b*; <https://floridakeys.noaa.gov/blueprint/>). The GMFMC requested and received approval for an extension until February 17, 2023. FKNMS staff will provide an overview of proposed changes (*Attachment 1c*).

Required Council Action: Consider commenting on the proposed changes and requesting an extension to respond until December 21, 2022. This would allow discussion by APs and finalizing the response at the December SAFMC meeting. If a comment is desired, provide guidance on topics and positions.

2. **Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Update on FKNMS Proposed Rule (*Attachment 2*)**

Description: The FWC has closely followed fishery management issues related to the Sanctuary Blueprint and taken the lead in highlighting items that could impact Council managed fisheries as the process has developed over the last several years. FWC has provided a presentation to highlight fishery impacts.

Required Council Action: No specific action; consider the presentation in light of possible SAFMC comments.

3. **Western Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission Working Groups (*Attachments 3a and 3b*)**

Description: WECAFC operates as a regional fisheries body under the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. It is an advisory body aiming to promote effective conservation, management, and development of living marine resources in the Wider Caribbean. The Council will receive an overview of outcomes from the recent meeting (WECAFC 18). In addition, WECAFC’s work program now includes a meeting of the Flyingfish-Dolphinfish Working Group tentatively scheduled for early 2023. Goals of this working group include identifying regional needs and priorities, highlighting areas for potential collaboration, and developing a work plan and recommendations for future activities.

Required Council Action: provide input on possible U.S. objectives and outcomes for the 2023 meeting of the Flyingfish-Dolphinfish Working Group.