



# SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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

## Snapper Grouper Recreational Permitting and Reporting Technical Advisory Panel

Meeting 1: August 18 2022

Webinar

webinar registration: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8428332095551771152>.

meeting materials: <https://safmc.net/advisory-council-meetings/>

## AGENDA

**Thursday, August 18, 2022, 1:00 – 4:00 pm (Times Subject to Change)**

Agenda Approval

Public Comment

1. Advisory Panel process and charge (*Attachment 1*)
2. Private Recreational Reporting Workgroup recommendations (*Attachment 2*)
3. Southeast For-Hire Electronic Reporting Program (SEFHEIR) update (*Attachment 3*)
4. Mid-Atlantic Recreational Tilefish Permit and Reporting Program (*Attachments 4a and 4b*)
5. AP comments and recommendations (*Attachment 5*)

Other Business

Adjourn

Advisory Panel Members

Luiz Barbieri, FL FWC  
Drew Cathey, NC DMF  
Amy Dukes, SC DNR  
John Foster, NMFS/S&T/MRIP  
Kai Lorenzen, SSC  
Bev Sauls, FL FWCC  
Geoff White, ACCSP

STAFF

John Carmichael  
John Hadley

Attachments

- Attachment 1.** SAFMC AP Policy
- Attachment 2.** SAFMC Recreational Reporting Working Group Recommendations
- Attachment 3.** SEFHIER Program update presentation slides
- Attachment 4a.** Private Recreational Reporting Workgroup May 2021 summary report
- Attachment 4b.** Final rule implementing permitting and reporting for private recreational tilefish vessels
- Attachment 5.** Discussion document to capture the AP's comments and recommendations

# OVERVIEW

## Snapper Grouper Recreational Permitting and Reporting Technical Advisory Panel

After introductions, the advisory panel (AP) will approve the agenda for the August 2022 meeting. This will be followed by an opportunity for public comment.

### 1. **Advisory Panel Process and Charge (*Attachment 1*)**

**Description:** John Carmichael, Executive Director for the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council), and Spud Woodward, Council member and Chair of the Private Recreational Reporting Workgroup, will provide opening remarks for the AP.

At their June 2022 meeting the Council provided the following guidance for the AP:  
*"Convene a meeting of the Recreational Permitting and Reporting AP before the September 2022 SAFMC meeting. Direct the AP to review the Mid-Atlantic recreational tilefish reporting program with consideration of its applicability to the South Atlantic snapper grouper complex. Present AP recommendations at the September 2022 SAFMC meeting."*

This request was made in relation to the Council's intent to continue development of a potential private recreational permit and reporting requirements for the Snapper Grouper fishery through Amendment 46 to the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan.

**Requested AP action:** None.

### 2. **Private Recreational Reporting Workgroup Recommendations (*Attachment 2*)**

**Description:** The Private Recreational Reporting Workgroup met five times throughout 2021 and 2022. The briefing materials and summary reports for these meetings can be found on the [Council's website](#). The Council's Private Recreational Workgroup last met on February 9, 2022 to continue discussing approaches to private recreational reporting and how a recreational permit could be integrated with existing programs to improve estimates of recreational catch and effort. These recommendations are included in *Attachment 2* and will be reviewed by Council staff to help facilitate later discussion of the AP's comments and recommendations.

**Requested AP action:** Review workgroup recommendations as background information.

### 3. **Southeast For-Hire Electronic Reporting (SEFHIER) Program update (*Attachment 3*)**

**Description:** Michelle Masi, SEFHIER Program Manager at the NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office, will provide an update on the program including information on compliance, lessons learned, and data usability.

**Requested AP action:** Review the SEFHIER update as background information.

### 4. **Mid-Atlantic Recreational Tilefish Reporting Program (*Attachments 4a and 4b*)**

**Description:** The Private Recreational Reporting Workgroup received a [presentation](#) on the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's (MAFMC) private recreational tilefish permit and electronic reporting requirements at their February meeting (*Attachment 4a*). Through [Amendment 6 to the Tilefish Fishery Management Plan](#), the MAFMC developed permitting

and reporting requirements for recreational vessels fishing for blueline or golden tilefish north of the Virginia/North Carolina border. As of August 17, 2020:

- Any recreational vessel that intends to fish for blueline or golden tilefish north of the North Carolina/Virginia border is required to obtain a Federal private recreational tilefish vessel permit before taking a trip.
- Recreational vessel operators are required to submit electronic vessel trip reports (eVTRs) through a NMFS-approved electronic reporting system within 24 hours of returning to port from any recreational trip targeting or retaining tilefish.
- These requirements apply to private recreational vessels and for-hire vessels taking private recreational fishing trips.

Addition details can be found on the [MAFMC's website](#) and within the final rule implementing the permit and reporting requirements (*Attachment 4b*). Permits for private recreational vessels to fish for blueline and golden tilefish can be obtained online from the [Fish Online](#) system available through the [Greater Atlantic Region Fisheries Office](#) (GARFO) website. These permits are free of charge and must be renewed annually. The specifics of reporting are provided in the final rule as follows:

“The following information will be required to submit an eVTR for a private recreational tilefish trip: Vessel name; USCG documentation number (or state registration number, if undocumented); permit number; date/time sailed; date/time landed; trip type; number of anglers; species caught; gear fished; quantity and size of gear; soak time; depth; chart area; latitude/longitude where fishing occurred; count of individual golden and blueline tilefish landed or discarded; and port and state landed. The 24-hour submission requirement is consistent with the requirement for Highly Migratory Species (HMS) permit holders, because we expect some anglers may hold both permits.”

Jason Didden and Hannah Hart, MAFMC Staff, will attend this meeting and be available to provide further details and answer AP questions.

**Requested AP action:** Review the Mid-Atlantic private recreational tilefish permitting and reporting program as background information.

5. **AP comments and recommendations** (*Attachment 5*)

**Description:** Through examination of the Private Recreational Reporting Workgroup’s recommendations, an update on the SEFHIER program, and the MAFMC private recreational permit and reporting requirements, the AP will be asked to provide comments and recommendations for the Council’s review at their upcoming meeting in September. During this meeting the Council will be discussing Amendment 46 to the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan and providing direction to staff on how to proceed with development of the amendment.

**Requested AP action:** Provide comments and recommendations regarding the Mid-Atlantic recreational tilefish permit and reporting program with consideration of its potential applicability to the South Atlantic snapper grouper complex.