SYSTEM MANAGEMENT PLAN
FOR THE AMENDMENT 14 MPAs

April 9, 2015

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council is preparing a System Management Plan (SMP) for the Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) established through Snapper Grouper Amendment 14 in January 2009. A review of the impacts of implementing the MPAs was presented to the Council during the December 2013 meeting. Lack of adequate funding to conduct the required enforcement, monitoring, and evaluations left the Council in the position of not being able to clearly demonstrate the benefits of the MPAs. The Council determined that to ensure the necessary enforcement, research/monitoring, outreach, and evaluation were possible, a concerted effort to identify specific projects and funding would be necessary. The Council is committed to using community outreach networks, citizen science and traditional fishery independent surveys to conduct this work. The Council will actively search for the necessary funding for this work.

The System Management Plan will be the vehicle to identify the outreach, enforcement, and research/monitoring necessary for the Council to conduct a successful evaluation of the MPAs. The Council's current timing is as follows:

Final Timing 2015:

a. Contract work on items to develop an outline – 2014/15
b. √IPT meeting – 12/10/14
c. √IPT works on items in the outline – January 2015 through March 2015
d. √Council reviews draft SMP and provides guidance – March 2015
e. IPT revise document as necessary – March-May 2015
f. Snapper Grouper AP input – April 13-14, 2015
g. Note: SSC & SEP will provide initial comments in April 2015
h. Note: A sub-group of the I & E AP will provide initial commends prior to June 2015
i. Council reviews/approves Draft SMP – June 2015
j. IPT revise document as necessary – June/July 2015
k. Public input – July/August/September 2015
l. Council reviews comments/document and provides guidance – September 2015
m. IPT revise document as necessary – September/October
n. SSC review – October 2015
o. Snapper Grouper AP input – October 2015
p. Council reviews input and approves Final SMP – December 2015

Attachment 1. Draft Goals and Objectives (April 9, 2015) – this lists the Goals and Objectives as they have been developed thus far.
Attachment 2. Draft Outreach Action Items (April 2015) – some action items still need to be completed. This will serve as a template for the other sections.
Attachment 3. SMP Outline for the SAFMC Amendment 14 MPAs (September 2013) – this provides an overview of what the SMP will look like.