



MAGNUSON - STEVENS ACT/NEPA SCOPING DOCUMENT

THE SOUTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL'S COMPREHENSIVE ALLOCATION AMENDMENT

JANUARY 2008

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When the Council is considering the need for management, public scoping provides an opportunity for members of the public to make suggestions BEFORE the Council has made any decisions. Scoping meetings are held as a part of this process and are less formal than public hearings. Public scoping occurs prior to the Council taking any position on a management issue. The public can provide comments during public scoping meetings and/or in writing to the Council office.

I. INTRODUCTION

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council is soliciting public input on possible options regarding the allocation of fishery resources between recreational and commercial user groupers. Allocations within the recreational (e.g., for-hire and private) and commercial (e.g., hook-and-line, black sea bass pots, and longlines) sectors are also under consideration.

The reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act requires the Councils establish Annual Catch Limits (pounds or numbers of fish) for each species and Accountability Measures that ensure the catch limit is not exceeded in any year by any sector. To do this the Council must allocate the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) from the stock assessment process between recreational and commercial sectors. This is being done for the species undergoing overfishing in Snapper Grouper Amendment 17 (see Snapper Grouper Amendment 17 scoping document for more details).

II. POTENTIAL METHODS TO ALLOCATE

Overview

The Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSFMCA) sets the congressional standard by which all management decisions are made by the eight regional fishery management councils in the United States. Under the MSFMCA National Standard 4 addresses allocations in the following language:

“(4) Conservation and management measures shall not discriminate between residents of different States. If it becomes necessary to allocate or assign fishing privileges among various United States fishermen, such allocations shall be (A) fair and equitable to all such fishermen; (B) reasonably calculated to promote conservation; and (C) carried out in such manner that no particular individual, corporation, or other entity acquires an excessive share of such privileges.”

The following alternative methods to allocate between recreational and commercial fishermen have been identified. The Council is asking for public comment on these alternatives as well as others that may not have been considered at this point.

The Council is also considering creating a separate allocation for the for-hire sector, a move that would allow for three sector allocations: (1) commercial, (2) for-hire (charters,

headboats & guides), and (3) private recreational. In addition, sector allocations within the commercial sector (e.g., hook-and-line, black sea bass pots, longlines, and spearing/powerheads should be discussed.

Alternative 1. Landings Data from NMFS or ACCSP (Atlantic Coast Cooperative Statistics Program; www.accsp.org) Databases.

Landings by recreational and commercial sectors are shown in Tables 3 through 13 for **snowy grouper, golden tilefish, vermilion snapper, black sea bass, red porgy, gag, red grouper, scamp, white grunt (and unclassified grunts), greater amberjack, and gray triggerfish.** These tables were prepared by Jack McGovern (NMFS, Southeast Regional Office (SERO)) and read like a **mileage chart.** For example, the value of 99.12% in Table 3 for row 1986 and column 1986 provides the commercial percentage for only that year. If you look at the value 98.63% for row 1986 and column 1987, that provides the commercial percentage for 1986 and 1987. The value 93.2% for row 1986 and column 2006 provides the commercial percentage for 1986 through 2006, the longest time series available. Tables are available for both recreational and commercial percentage shares but only one has been shown here; the sector with the predominant catch history has been included.

Note: Landings data from ACCSP are currently being compiled and will be incorporated into future statistical analysis should the Council consider moving forward with the Comprehensive Allocation Amendment.

Alternative 2. Catch Data from Assessments (including discard mortality).

Catch by recreational and commercial sectors are shown in Tables 14 through 1 for the following SEDAR (Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review) stock assessed species: snowy grouper, golden tilefish, vermilion snapper, black sea bass, red porgy, and gag. Discard mortality refers to fish that die after being returned to the water (e.g., below the minimum size limits). This source of fishing mortality is incorporated into each stock assessment and if fish are caught and released often, the resulting fishing mortality will be high.

Alternative 3. Council's Judgment Based on Fairness and Equity

The Council could examine the relative catches by each sector and look to what future demand (recreational = number of trips; commercial = market demand) is likely to be in order to determine a fair and equitable allocation percentage.

Alternative 4. Detailed Economic & Social Analyses

Economic and social analyses are complex and costly. No results are available now and no studies are currently being conducted in the South Atlantic Council's area that would provide such analyses any time in the near future.

Alternative 5. Others?????

Potential allocations by alternative are shown in **Table 19**.

This table will be available at the scoping meetings/workshops as a separate spreadsheet so that the percentages under Alternative 3 can be changed and the other figures will be recalculated. This will help with the public's evaluation of various percentages. As can be seen from the table there are some species that are undergoing overfishing that we still need to compile data for; in addition, non-snapper grouper species will be considered. However, allocation figures for many of these species have already been specified.

The three alternatives shown in **Columns B through G** are as follows:

1. **Alternative 1 (Landings Data from NMFS and ACCSP)** uses landings data provided by Jack McGovern from NOAA Fisheries' Southeast Regional Office (SERO). This includes commercial, Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS), and headboat data. Landings data are from 1999-2003 for all species except red porgy where 2001-2003 data were used (specified in Snapper Grouper Amendment 13C) and snowy grouper where 1986-2005 data were used (Snapper Grouper Amendment 15B). These figures represent the relative shares "landed" by recreational and commercial fishermen.
2. **Alternative 2 (Landings Data from SEDAR)** uses data from the SEDAR assessments that includes bycatch and discard mortality. These figures represent the relative mortality inflicted on the species by recreational and commercial fishermen. For snowy grouper and golden tilefish, 1999-2002 data were used; for vermilion, 1999-2006; for black sea bass, 1999-2003; for red porgy, 1999-2004; and for gag, 1999-2004.
3. **Alternative 3 (Council's Judgment)**. Certainly, a variety of allocation percentages can be argued for various species but starting at 50/50 could be considered "fair and equitable" for future allocations. If someone wants to propose a value different from 50/50, then they would assume the burden of proof to show that their shares are "fair and equitable". These values can be changed in the spreadsheet to see how the various figures would change.

The 2009 TAC in pounds whole weight is shown in **Column H**. Snapper Grouper Amendment 15B includes TAC values for the three species under rebuilding programs. The SSC will provide the Council with ABC ranges estimated to prevent overfishing for the Council to use to set TAC for each species.

The three alternatives shown in **Columns I through N** apply the percentage shares from Columns B through G to the TAC in Column H. These would be the actual catch levels specified in Amendment 15B for these three species (overfished species). The Council will need to specify these values for all the other species after receiving input from the SSC.

The Optimum Yields for species from SEDAR assessments are shown in **Column O**. The three alternatives shown in **Columns P through U** apply the percentage shares from Columns B through G to the OY in Column O. These would be the long-term catch levels expected once these species are rebuilt.

By way of comparison, 2006 recreational and commercial landings (pounds whole weight) are shown in **Columns V and W**.

Snowy Grouper as an Example

Let's examine snowy grouper as an example (see row 4 of the spreadsheet). Based on landings data, the allocation would be 95% commercial and 5% recreational based on 1986-2005 (specified in Snapper Grouper Amendment 15B). This would equate to a 2009 commercial quota of 97,812 pounds and a recreational quota (and quota is used here because the MSA says the Council must limit catches to prevent overfishing) of 5,148 pounds. This compares with 2006 commercial landings of 274,181 pounds and 2006 recreational landings of 168,873 pounds. The long-term quotas at OY would be 288,677 pounds commercial and 15,194 pounds recreational.

Council staff will be present at the scoping meetings/workshops to work through other examples.

Table 3. Snowy Grouper % Commercial. Source Accumulated Landings System (ALS), includes Monroe County. Prepared by Jack McGovern (NMFS SERO).

% comm																					
Year	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
1986	99.12%	98.63%	98.45%	98.68%	98.89%	99.00%	99.14%	97.01%	97.22%	97.16%	97.27%	94.82%	95.00%	95.12%	95.38%	95.07%	95.16%	95.18%	95.03%	94.81%	93.20%
1987		98.06%	98.02%	98.52%	98.83%	98.97%	99.15%	96.72%	96.98%	96.94%	97.08%	94.43%	94.65%	94.81%	95.11%	94.79%	94.90%	94.93%	94.78%	94.56%	92.87%
1988			97.97%	98.73%	99.04%	99.16%	99.32%	96.55%	96.85%	96.83%	96.98%	94.13%	94.38%	94.58%	94.91%	94.59%	94.72%	94.75%	94.60%	94.38%	92.62%
1989				99.23%	99.37%	99.41%	99.53%	96.37%	96.73%	96.71%	96.89%	93.85%	94.13%	94.37%	94.73%	94.40%	94.54%	94.59%	94.44%	94.21%	92.38%
1990					99.48%	99.50%	99.62%	95.70%	96.22%	96.27%	96.52%	93.15%	93.52%	93.84%	94.28%	93.95%	94.13%	94.20%	94.05%	93.83%	91.89%
1991						99.51%	99.69%	94.30%	95.20%	95.45%	95.86%	92.03%	92.56%	93.03%	93.60%	93.29%	93.52%	93.64%	93.50%	93.28%	91.20%
1992							99.85%	92.00%	93.72%	94.35%	95.03%	90.74%	91.50%	92.17%	92.89%	92.60%	92.91%	93.07%	92.95%	92.73%	90.53%
1993								83.89%	89.71%	91.89%	93.33%	88.51%	89.71%	90.77%	91.76%	91.54%	91.97%	92.21%	92.13%	91.94%	89.57%
1994									99.77%	98.00%	98.23%	89.95%	91.23%	92.24%	93.22%	92.80%	93.18%	93.37%	93.20%	92.91%	90.20%
1995										96.60%	97.57%	87.79%	89.72%	91.18%	92.44%	92.06%	92.56%	92.81%	92.67%	92.40%	89.55%
1996											98.71%	84.39%	87.71%	90.00%	91.69%	91.37%	92.00%	92.34%	92.22%	91.96%	88.88%
1997												77.53%	84.15%	88.05%	90.45%	90.28%	91.13%	91.60%	91.53%	91.30%	88.04%
1998													97.94%	97.25%	98.03%	95.99%	96.19%	96.11%	95.50%	94.79%	90.34%
1999														96.75%	98.07%	95.45%	95.81%	95.77%	95.11%	94.36%	89.45%
2000															99.63%	94.66%	95.41%	95.44%	94.66%	93.79%	88.03%
2001																89.41%	93.01%	93.79%	93.14%	92.33%	85.76%
2002																	97.21%	96.40%	94.65%	93.24%	84.93%
2003																		95.55%	93.28%	91.81%	81.96%
2004																			90.88%	89.83%	77.86%
2005																				88.78%	72.67%
2006																					61.97%

Table 4. Golden Tilefish % Commercial. Source ALS, include Monroe County. Prepared by Jack McGovern (NMFS SERO).

% comm																					
Year	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
1986	99.98%	99.98%	99.82%	99.87%	99.90%	99.91%	99.93%	99.94%	99.76%	99.78%	99.75%	99.59%	99.58%	99.57%	99.58%	99.38%	99.33%	99.13%	98.96%	97.28%	97.05%
1987		99.97%	99.60%	99.80%	99.86%	99.89%	99.91%	99.93%	99.72%	99.74%	99.72%	99.53%	99.53%	99.51%	99.53%	99.31%	99.25%	99.04%	98.85%	97.00%	96.76%
1988			99.40%	99.76%	99.85%	99.88%	99.91%	99.93%	99.70%	99.73%	99.71%	99.51%	99.51%	99.49%	99.51%	99.28%	99.23%	99.01%	98.82%	96.91%	96.67%
1989				100.00%	99.99%	99.99%	99.99%	99.99%	99.74%	99.76%	99.74%	99.52%	99.52%	99.50%	99.52%	99.28%	99.22%	98.98%	98.78%	96.77%	96.52%
1990					99.99%	99.98%	99.99%	99.99%	99.69%	99.73%	99.69%	99.45%	99.45%	99.43%	99.46%	99.20%	99.14%	98.88%	98.66%	96.47%	96.21%
1991						99.98%	99.99%	99.99%	99.61%	99.67%	99.64%	99.36%	99.36%	99.35%	99.39%	99.10%	99.04%	98.75%	98.51%	96.10%	95.83%
1992							100.00%	100.00%	99.49%	99.59%	99.55%	99.21%	99.23%	99.23%	99.30%	98.96%	98.90%	98.58%	98.32%	95.62%	95.34%
1993								100.00%	99.22%	99.43%	99.40%	98.99%	99.03%	99.05%	99.16%	98.78%	98.72%	98.36%	98.06%	95.00%	94.72%
1994									98.25%	99.04%	99.07%	98.52%	98.65%	98.74%	98.93%	98.48%	98.43%	98.02%	97.68%	94.10%	93.84%
1995										100.00%	99.73%	98.67%	98.83%	98.91%	99.12%	98.53%	98.47%	97.97%	97.57%	93.40%	93.16%
1996											99.21%	97.43%	98.11%	98.45%	98.86%	98.17%	98.15%	97.58%	97.13%	92.34%	92.17%
1997												95.78%	97.59%	98.24%	98.80%	98.02%	98.02%	97.39%	96.92%	91.72%	91.60%
1998													99.45%	99.31%	99.52%	98.44%	98.36%	97.61%	97.06%	91.28%	91.20%
1999														99.20%	99.54%	98.22%	98.17%	97.33%	96.72%	90.31%	90.34%
2000															99.77%	97.80%	97.84%	96.83%	96.14%	88.62%	88.90%
2001																94.70%	96.25%	95.01%	94.30%	84.45%	85.60%
2002																	97.97%	95.22%	94.10%	81.24%	83.42%
2003																		91.33%	91.16%	74.63%	79.40%
2004																			90.96%	68.15%	76.49%
2005																				56.80%	72.68%
2006																					90.55%

Table 5. Vermilion Snapper % Commercial. Source ALS. Includes Monroe County. Prepared by Jack McGovern (NMFS SERO).

% comm																					
Year	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
1986	69.36%	59.45%	60.50%	63.77%	65.84%	65.99%	66.08%	66.61%	67.27%	67.97%	68.02%	67.98%	67.74%	67.53%	67.55%	68.00%	68.37%	68.01%	67.69%	67.58%	66.97%
1987		50.73%	56.78%	62.27%	65.18%	65.51%	65.67%	66.31%	67.07%	67.84%	67.91%	67.87%	67.62%	67.41%	67.44%	67.93%	68.32%	67.94%	67.62%	67.51%	66.88%
1988			62.30%	67.29%	69.12%	68.33%	68.13%	68.53%	69.11%	69.76%	69.67%	69.48%	69.10%	68.75%	68.63%	69.02%	69.35%	68.89%	68.49%	68.32%	67.62%
1989				71.86%	72.04%	69.92%	69.41%	69.69%	70.19%	70.80%	70.60%	70.31%	69.82%	69.37%	69.17%	69.52%	69.83%	69.32%	68.86%	68.66%	67.90%
1990					72.21%	69.13%	68.64%	69.13%	69.84%	70.61%	70.40%	70.09%	69.55%	69.07%	68.90%	69.32%	69.67%	69.13%	68.65%	68.45%	67.66%
1991						66.49%	66.63%	67.88%	69.10%	70.20%	69.99%	69.67%	69.08%	68.59%	68.46%	68.99%	69.41%	68.83%	68.34%	68.15%	67.32%
1992							66.89%	69.14%	70.61%	71.79%	71.22%	70.61%	69.75%	69.05%	68.82%	69.37%	69.80%	69.12%	68.55%	68.32%	67.40%
1993								71.16%	72.23%	73.22%	72.20%	71.29%	70.19%	69.33%	69.02%	69.58%	70.02%	69.28%	68.65%	68.40%	67.42%
1994									73.21%	74.19%	72.54%	71.32%	69.99%	69.02%	68.74%	69.41%	69.91%	69.12%	68.47%	68.22%	67.19%
1995										75.21%	72.17%	70.61%	69.06%	68.10%	68.00%	68.93%	69.56%	68.72%	68.06%	67.83%	66.76%
1996											68.70%	68.03%	66.75%	66.20%	66.66%	68.06%	68.90%	68.05%	67.41%	67.23%	66.14%
1997												67.38%	65.80%	65.44%	66.26%	67.97%	68.93%	67.99%	67.30%	67.12%	65.97%
1998													64.18%	64.54%	65.98%	68.07%	69.13%	68.05%	67.29%	67.10%	65.86%
1999														64.84%	66.57%	68.82%	69.85%	68.54%	67.62%	67.36%	65.99%
2000															67.73%	70.07%	70.96%	69.22%	68.03%	67.68%	66.12%
2001																72.14%	72.54%	69.78%	68.11%	67.66%	65.81%
2002																	73.04%	68.03%	66.19%	66.08%	63.99%
2003																		60.58%	61.96%	63.33%	61.30%
2004																			62.95%	64.33%	61.47%
2005																				65.76%	60.67%
2006																					55.05%

Table 6. Black Sea Bass % Recreational. Source MRFSS Web site, NMFS headboat survey. Prepared by Jack McGovern (NMFS SERO).

% rec																						
Year	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	
1986	59.52%	67.96%	69.86%	69.01%	65.45%	63.78%	62.56%	61.26%	60.17%	59.83%	59.35%	58.40%	57.52%	56.67%	56.24%	56.14%	55.82%	55.47%	55.78%	56.20%	56.48%	
1987		74.44%	73.35%	71.18%	66.53%	64.41%	62.96%	61.46%	60.24%	59.86%	59.33%	58.30%	57.37%	56.46%	56.01%	55.91%	55.58%	55.22%	55.56%	56.02%	56.31%	
1988			72.49%	69.80%	64.06%	61.98%	60.62%	59.12%	57.97%	57.73%	57.32%	56.33%	55.41%	54.52%	54.12%	54.12%	53.83%	53.52%	54.01%	54.58%	54.97%	
1989				66.61%	58.47%	57.25%	56.42%	55.11%	54.21%	54.32%	54.19%	53.32%	52.47%	51.66%	51.34%	51.54%	51.32%	51.10%	51.83%	52.58%	53.12%	
1990					48.10%	51.53%	52.10%	51.22%	50.76%	51.36%	51.59%	50.86%	50.08%	49.33%	49.12%	49.50%	49.37%	49.23%	50.21%	51.13%	51.80%	
1991						54.70%	54.10%	52.35%	51.51%	52.12%	52.28%	51.33%	50.38%	49.51%	49.25%	49.67%	49.51%	49.35%	50.41%	51.39%	52.11%	
1992							53.39%	50.84%	50.12%	51.25%	51.62%	50.56%	49.52%	48.59%	48.36%	48.93%	48.80%	48.67%	49.92%	51.04%	51.86%	
1993								47.78%	48.21%	50.39%	51.09%	49.89%	48.73%	47.74%	47.55%	48.30%	48.19%	48.10%	49.54%	50.81%	51.72%	
1994									48.62%	51.70%	52.19%	50.41%	48.93%	47.73%	47.52%	48.37%	48.24%	48.14%	49.72%	51.08%	52.04%	
1995										55.23%	54.11%	51.04%	49.01%	47.53%	47.30%	48.32%	48.18%	48.07%	49.84%	51.34%	52.36%	
1996											53.12%	49.16%	47.05%	45.67%	45.68%	47.16%	47.12%	47.11%	49.24%	50.95%	52.11%	
1997												45.17%	43.73%	42.90%	43.47%	45.76%	45.90%	46.06%	48.68%	50.68%	51.99%	
1998													42.02%	41.58%	42.76%	45.94%	46.08%	46.25%	49.26%	51.47%	52.85%	
1999														41.16%	43.16%	47.28%	47.18%	47.16%	50.44%	52.78%	54.14%	
2000															45.73%	50.62%	49.52%	48.89%	52.32%	54.71%	55.96%	
2001																54.23%	51.17%	49.80%	53.56%	56.06%	57.22%	
2002																	46.82%	46.96%	53.33%	56.52%	57.81%	
2003																		47.08%	55.35%	58.61%	59.59%	
2004																				60.44%	62.75%	62.68%
2005																					66.00%	64.19%
2006																						62.52%

Table 7. Red Porgy % Commercial. Source ALS. Prepared by Jack McGovern (NMFS SERO).

% comm																					
Year	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
1986	73.87%	70.17%	67.37%	67.79%	70.55%	71.22%	69.98%	69.56%	69.79%	69.39%	69.11%	69.66%	70.05%	69.72%	69.60%	69.25%	68.98%	68.67%	68.05%	67.59%	67.09%
1987		66.26%	64.19%	65.83%	69.74%	70.68%	69.27%	68.84%	69.16%	68.76%	68.49%	69.15%	69.60%	69.24%	69.12%	68.74%	68.45%	68.11%	67.44%	66.93%	66.40%
1988			62.41%	65.64%	70.78%	71.73%	69.89%	69.33%	69.65%	69.15%	68.80%	69.52%	70.01%	69.60%	69.46%	69.03%	68.70%	68.32%	67.57%	67.01%	66.42%
1989				69.01%	75.23%	75.28%	72.27%	71.24%	71.43%	70.61%	70.04%	70.79%	71.28%	70.77%	70.60%	70.07%	69.68%	69.21%	68.33%	67.67%	66.98%
1990					81.68%	78.88%	73.70%	72.06%	72.17%	71.03%	70.27%	71.16%	71.72%	71.10%	70.89%	70.26%	69.79%	69.25%	68.22%	67.46%	66.66%
1991						75.40%	67.86%	66.89%	68.17%	67.42%	67.06%	68.55%	69.47%	68.81%	68.58%	67.90%	67.39%	66.81%	65.67%	64.84%	64.00%
1992							57.02%	60.38%	64.46%	64.42%	64.61%	66.83%	68.16%	67.42%	67.16%	66.39%	65.83%	65.21%	63.92%	63.00%	62.10%
1993								64.20%	68.59%	67.04%	66.56%	68.90%	70.19%	69.21%	68.88%	67.91%	67.21%	66.43%	64.91%	63.83%	62.77%
1994									72.78%	68.32%	67.25%	69.97%	71.34%	70.10%	69.70%	68.53%	67.69%	66.77%	65.01%	63.77%	62.58%
1995										64.30%	64.81%	69.09%	70.98%	69.49%	69.01%	67.63%	66.67%	65.64%	63.63%	62.25%	60.96%
1996											65.29%	71.63%	73.56%	71.26%	70.57%	68.65%	67.35%	65.99%	63.46%	61.77%	60.25%
1997												79.49%	79.12%	74.55%	73.38%	70.23%	68.23%	66.26%	62.83%	60.65%	58.81%
1998													78.69%	70.58%	68.79%	64.57%	62.31%	60.36%	56.41%	54.15%	52.60%
1999														53.73%	51.96%	49.68%	49.38%	49.39%	45.73%	44.13%	43.81%
2000															43.96%	45.51%	46.71%	47.63%	43.33%	41.77%	41.88%
2001																45.96%	47.14%	47.99%	43.29%	41.65%	41.79%
2002																	48.48%	49.01%	42.44%	40.61%	41.04%
2003																		49.43%	40.10%	38.50%	39.65%
2004																			31.02%	32.80%	36.60%
2005																				34.86%	39.24%
2006																					42.29%

Table 8. Gag % Commercial. Source ALS. Prepared by Jack McGovern (NMFS SERO).

% comm																						
	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	
1986	82.19%	66.32%	64.20%	63.60%	63.41%	64.42%	63.44%	62.53%	62.35%	63.41%	64.35%	64.71%	65.54%	64.60%	63.99%	62.78%	62.58%	61.67%	61.08%	60.67%	60.33%	
1987		56.21%	57.26%	59.15%	59.98%	61.73%	61.11%	60.47%	60.58%	61.93%	63.08%	63.56%	64.53%	63.62%	63.02%	61.82%	61.66%	60.76%	60.20%	59.82%	59.50%	
1988			58.87%	60.91%	61.49%	63.45%	62.30%	61.31%	61.29%	62.74%	63.94%	64.40%	65.41%	64.33%	63.64%	62.29%	62.09%	61.10%	60.48%	60.06%	59.71%	
1989				62.23%	62.42%	64.62%	62.94%	61.67%	61.58%	63.13%	64.40%	64.85%	65.89%	64.70%	63.94%	62.49%	62.27%	61.21%	60.56%	60.11%	59.74%	
1990					62.65%	66.20%	63.23%	61.50%	61.43%	63.29%	64.74%	65.23%	66.37%	64.98%	64.12%	62.51%	62.27%	61.13%	60.42%	59.96%	59.56%	
1991						70.31%	63.53%	61.13%	61.15%	63.41%	65.06%	65.57%	66.81%	65.23%	64.27%	62.50%	62.24%	61.01%	60.27%	59.78%	59.37%	
1992							58.23%	57.68%	58.95%	62.15%	64.27%	64.96%	66.41%	64.72%	63.72%	61.86%	61.63%	60.37%	59.62%	59.15%	58.76%	
1993								57.18%	59.28%	63.34%	65.70%	66.30%	67.81%	65.67%	64.44%	62.29%	62.00%	60.57%	59.74%	59.22%	58.80%	
1994									61.21%	66.35%	68.63%	68.80%	70.22%	67.26%	65.64%	63.02%	62.63%	60.97%	60.02%	59.42%	58.95%	
1995										72.17%	73.04%	72.04%	73.16%	68.81%	66.61%	63.36%	62.87%	60.94%	59.86%	59.21%	58.69%	
1996											74.01%	71.96%	73.56%	67.83%	65.27%	61.63%	61.26%	59.27%	58.24%	57.67%	57.23%	
1997												69.52%	73.30%	65.62%	62.85%	58.97%	58.91%	56.98%	56.11%	55.72%	55.41%	
1998													76.83%	63.96%	60.84%	56.64%	56.98%	55.11%	54.40%	54.18%	54.01%	
1999														53.08%	53.21%	50.42%	52.16%	50.99%	50.86%	51.11%	51.27%	
2000															53.37%	48.90%	51.79%	50.38%	50.34%	50.74%	50.97%	
2001																45.35%	51.07%	49.52%	49.69%	50.28%	50.62%	
2002																	58.60%	51.90%	51.31%	51.66%	51.81%	
2003																		46.78%	48.43%	49.80%	50.41%	
2004																				50.20%	51.43%	51.76%
2005																					52.66%	52.57%
2006																						52.48%

Table 9. Red Grouper % Commercial. Source ALS. Prepared by Jack McGovern (NMFS SERO).

% comm																						
	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	
1986	90.75%	88.67%	87.05%	87.04%	86.28%	86.75%	85.23%	82.74%	82.30%	82.68%	81.25%	80.13%	78.72%	78.51%	78.36%	77.94%	77.22%	76.92%	75.67%	74.65%	72.38%	
1987		86.38%	85.07%	85.62%	84.85%	85.65%	83.90%	81.09%	80.78%	81.40%	79.91%	78.80%	77.42%	77.32%	77.26%	76.90%	76.21%	75.96%	74.71%	73.69%	71.39%	
1988			83.82%	85.22%	84.23%	85.41%	83.20%	79.88%	79.69%	80.56%	78.96%	77.84%	76.44%	76.45%	76.46%	76.14%	75.47%	75.25%	73.99%	72.97%	70.61%	
1989				87.03%	84.54%	86.27%	82.94%	78.61%	78.61%	79.85%	78.05%	76.90%	75.47%	75.61%	75.71%	75.43%	74.77%	74.59%	73.30%	72.27%	69.84%	
1990					81.10%	85.72%	80.97%	75.85%	76.51%	78.41%	76.57%	75.51%	74.18%	74.52%	74.75%	74.54%	73.93%	73.81%	72.52%	71.50%	69.04%	
1991						90.68%	80.90%	74.21%	75.49%	77.95%	75.95%	74.89%	73.57%	74.03%	74.34%	74.15%	73.56%	73.46%	72.16%	71.12%	68.62%	
1992							71.22%	67.48%	71.56%	75.56%	73.80%	73.09%	72.04%	72.78%	73.27%	73.20%	72.69%	72.65%	71.39%	70.38%	67.87%	
1993								64.86%	71.68%	76.58%	74.24%	73.34%	72.12%	72.91%	73.42%	73.32%	72.77%	72.73%	71.40%	70.35%	67.75%	
1994									78.62%	82.43%	77.30%	75.27%	73.32%	73.97%	74.37%	74.14%	73.43%	73.32%	71.83%	70.68%	67.91%	
1995										86.12%	76.68%	74.30%	72.30%	73.28%	73.85%	73.67%	72.96%	72.89%	71.36%	70.18%	67.32%	
1996											67.68%	69.25%	68.84%	70.96%	72.06%	72.15%	71.61%	71.69%	70.21%	69.08%	66.19%	
1997												70.53%	69.26%	71.72%	72.85%	72.81%	72.08%	72.12%	70.43%	69.18%	66.09%	
1998													68.27%	72.21%	73.51%	73.31%	72.36%	72.35%	70.42%	69.04%	65.69%	
1999														76.51%	76.56%	75.32%	73.54%	73.32%	70.82%	69.16%	65.35%	
2000															76.62%	74.63%	72.47%	72.44%	69.64%	67.91%	63.81%	
2001																72.62%	70.55%	71.10%	68.08%	66.37%	62.07%	
2002																	68.80%	70.39%	66.79%	65.05%	60.42%	
2003																		72.33%	65.78%	63.79%	58.52%	
2004																				61.15%	60.57%	55.36%
2005																					59.90%	52.59%
2006																						47.37%

Table 10. Scamp % Commercial. Source ALS. Prepared by Jack McGovern (NMFS SERO).

% comm																						
Year	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	
1986	86.26%	84.68%	80.90%	82.03%	83.15%	79.47%	78.83%	79.16%	79.18%	79.54%	79.44%	79.10%	78.49%	78.09%	76.59%	76.38%	75.87%	74.96%	74.27%	74.15%	73.56%	
1987		83.39%	78.75%	80.94%	82.60%	78.58%	77.99%	78.45%	78.56%	79.01%	78.95%	78.63%	78.02%	77.64%	76.11%	75.92%	75.41%	74.49%	73.81%	73.70%	73.12%	
1988			74.30%	79.82%	82.39%	77.65%	77.12%	77.77%	77.98%	78.55%	78.53%	78.22%	77.59%	77.23%	75.63%	75.47%	74.96%	74.03%	73.34%	73.25%	72.67%	
1989				84.86%	85.63%	78.49%	77.69%	78.35%	78.51%	79.08%	78.99%	78.61%	77.89%	77.46%	75.73%	75.55%	75.00%	74.01%	73.28%	73.20%	72.59%	
1990					86.22%	76.10%	75.68%	76.89%	77.33%	78.18%	78.19%	77.85%	77.12%	76.75%	74.94%	74.80%	74.27%	73.28%	72.55%	72.50%	71.91%	
1991						66.69%	69.72%	73.08%	74.55%	76.16%	76.47%	76.30%	75.63%	75.41%	73.54%	73.50%	73.02%	72.05%	71.35%	71.37%	70.81%	
1992							74.40%	78.07%	78.52%	79.65%	79.39%	78.69%	77.55%	76.97%	74.60%	74.45%	73.83%	72.66%	71.84%	71.83%	71.18%	
1993								81.80%	80.53%	81.29%	80.58%	79.51%	78.05%	77.31%	74.62%	74.46%	73.77%	72.52%	71.65%	71.65%	70.98%	
1994									79.36%	81.06%	80.21%	78.98%	77.35%	76.65%	73.74%	73.66%	73.00%	71.73%	70.87%	70.93%	70.29%	
1995										82.66%	80.64%	78.84%	76.83%	76.12%	72.87%	72.89%	72.25%	70.95%	70.08%	70.22%	69.60%	
1996											78.29%	76.68%	74.64%	74.44%	70.94%	71.26%	70.77%	69.52%	68.72%	69.00%	68.45%	
1997												75.14%	72.88%	73.33%	69.44%	70.07%	69.72%	68.49%	67.74%	68.14%	67.65%	
1998													70.60%	72.56%	67.89%	68.99%	68.78%	67.56%	66.85%	67.39%	66.95%	
1999														74.00%	66.89%	68.56%	68.41%	67.07%	66.33%	67.01%	66.58%	
2000															59.77%	65.43%	66.25%	65.13%	64.60%	65.67%	65.38%	
2001																73.03%	70.32%	67.21%	66.01%	67.07%	66.46%	
2002																	67.93%	64.85%	64.06%	65.79%	65.37%	
2003																		62.21%	62.27%	65.09%	64.77%	
2004																				62.35%	66.83%	65.72%
2005																					71.69%	67.32%
2006																						63.93%

Table 11. White Grunt % Recreational. Source MRFSS Web site, NMFS Headboat survey. Prepared by Jack McGovern (NMFS SERO).

% rec																					
Year	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
1986	54.54%	52.94%	51.05%	50.45%	52.87%	54.12%	57.12%	58.03%	58.41%	57.78%	57.81%	57.09%	56.88%	56.60%	56.19%	56.20%	56.13%	56.37%	56.80%	57.15%	57.54%
1987		51.88%	49.83%	49.49%	52.61%	54.07%	57.38%	58.33%	58.70%	58.01%	58.02%	57.24%	57.01%	56.71%	56.27%	56.28%	56.20%	56.45%	56.89%	57.25%	57.65%
1988			47.56%	48.18%	52.84%	54.57%	58.34%	59.30%	59.58%	58.72%	58.67%	57.76%	57.47%	57.12%	56.62%	56.61%	56.51%	56.76%	57.22%	57.59%	58.00%
1989				48.78%	54.90%	56.34%	60.34%	61.12%	61.15%	60.02%	59.84%	58.72%	58.33%	57.90%	57.33%	57.27%	57.13%	57.36%	57.82%	58.19%	58.59%
1990					59.02%	59.01%	63.08%	63.46%	63.07%	61.55%	61.18%	59.79%	59.28%	58.74%	58.07%	57.96%	57.76%	57.98%	58.44%	58.80%	59.20%
1991						58.99%	65.28%	65.21%	64.29%	62.19%	61.65%	59.94%	59.32%	58.69%	57.92%	57.82%	57.60%	57.86%	58.38%	58.78%	59.21%
1992							71.40%	68.67%	66.27%	63.15%	62.32%	60.14%	59.38%	58.64%	57.76%	57.65%	57.42%	57.72%	58.31%	58.75%	59.24%
1993								65.02%	63.05%	59.48%	59.18%	57.05%	56.55%	55.98%	55.16%	55.29%	55.23%	55.74%	56.55%	57.17%	57.82%
1994									61.31%	56.71%	57.14%	54.98%	54.73%	54.30%	53.52%	53.85%	53.93%	54.61%	55.60%	56.35%	57.13%
1995										50.78%	54.45%	52.39%	52.64%	52.45%	51.73%	52.36%	52.63%	53.54%	54.78%	55.70%	56.63%
1996											58.14%	53.14%	53.25%	52.88%	51.94%	52.65%	52.92%	53.93%	55.29%	56.26%	57.23%
1997												48.79%	50.89%	51.08%	50.22%	51.44%	51.95%	53.25%	54.88%	56.02%	57.13%
1998													53.52%	52.57%	50.89%	52.34%	52.81%	54.27%	56.08%	57.27%	58.39%
1999														51.53%	49.33%	51.90%	52.61%	54.44%	56.55%	57.87%	59.06%
2000															46.76%	52.10%	52.98%	55.19%	57.58%	58.96%	60.14%
2001																56.44%	55.54%	57.57%	59.87%	61.04%	62.01%
2002																	54.63%	58.17%	61.08%	62.27%	63.16%
2003																		61.96%	64.44%	64.94%	65.32%
2004																			66.79%	66.38%	66.35%
2005																				65.96%	66.14%
2006																					66.30%

Table 12. Greater Amberjack and Unclassified Jacks % Commercial. Source ALS. Prepared by Jack McGovern (NMFS SERO).

% comm																						
Year	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	
1986	22.99%	29.36%	32.67%	34.17%	39.76%	44.82%	47.97%	50.59%	50.94%	52.93%	53.53%	54.64%	55.50%	54.74%	54.70%	54.65%	54.48%	54.14%	54.41%	54.88%	54.79%	
1987		32.65%	35.52%	36.55%	42.53%	47.67%	50.65%	53.21%	53.23%	55.15%	55.61%	56.66%	57.47%	56.54%	56.41%	56.29%	56.04%	55.62%	55.84%	56.29%	56.16%	
1988			39.28%	39.27%	47.16%	52.72%	55.37%	57.83%	57.08%	58.91%	59.07%	60.04%	60.76%	59.47%	59.19%	58.92%	58.52%	57.94%	58.08%	58.50%	58.29%	
1989				39.25%	51.54%	57.34%	59.38%	61.65%	60.05%	61.78%	61.64%	62.53%	63.18%	61.55%	61.13%	60.74%	60.21%	59.49%	59.58%	59.97%	59.70%	
1990					63.31%	65.20%	65.03%	66.62%	63.61%	65.10%	64.53%	65.28%	65.81%	63.78%	63.18%	62.65%	61.96%	61.09%	61.11%	61.47%	61.13%	
1991						66.77%	65.74%	67.62%	63.68%	65.42%	64.72%	65.55%	66.13%	63.83%	63.17%	62.58%	61.83%	60.89%	60.92%	61.32%	60.96%	
1992							64.72%	68.11%	62.58%	65.04%	64.24%	65.31%	66.01%	63.35%	62.62%	61.99%	61.19%	60.17%	60.25%	60.72%	60.35%	
1993								72.62%	61.39%	65.17%	64.10%	65.46%	66.31%	63.08%	62.25%	61.55%	60.66%	59.54%	59.67%	60.23%	59.84%	
1994									53.34%	62.08%	61.61%	63.75%	65.01%	61.45%	60.65%	60.00%	59.14%	58.02%	58.28%	58.98%	58.61%	
1995										74.07%	67.28%	68.93%	69.71%	64.00%	62.66%	61.62%	60.39%	58.93%	59.15%	59.91%	59.43%	
1996											60.51%	66.01%	67.90%	61.00%	59.81%	58.94%	57.84%	56.45%	56.94%	57.97%	57.55%	
1997												73.34%	73.17%	61.21%	59.58%	58.51%	57.22%	55.65%	56.32%	57.56%	57.11%	
1998													72.98%	55.52%	55.00%	54.66%	53.87%	52.59%	53.77%	55.43%	55.10%	
1999														43.53%	47.69%	49.35%	49.66%	48.99%	50.89%	53.10%	52.93%	
2000															53.72%	53.61%	52.56%	50.88%	52.94%	55.40%	54.94%	
2001																53.49%	52.00%	50.00%	52.75%	55.73%	55.16%	
2002																	50.66%	48.45%	52.53%	56.27%	55.49%	
2003																		46.30%	53.49%	58.33%	56.91%	
2004																				61.55%	65.65%	61.52%
2005																					70.51%	61.49%
2006																						51.27%

Table 13. Gray Triggerfish % Recreational. Source MRFSS Web site, NMFS Headboat survey. Prepared by Jack McGovern (NMFS SERO).

% rec																						
Year	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	
1986	63.34%	60.27%	60.76%	67.22%	65.04%	61.41%	61.31%	59.68%	57.00%	53.78%	52.29%	50.38%	49.10%	48.76%	48.48%	48.41%	48.75%	49.04%	49.57%	50.05%	50.26%	
1987		56.92%	59.51%	68.13%	65.28%	61.22%	61.16%	59.47%	56.70%	53.40%	51.91%	50.00%	48.72%	48.40%	48.12%	48.07%	48.43%	48.75%	49.30%	49.81%	50.03%	
1988			61.60%	71.20%	66.57%	61.65%	61.47%	59.61%	56.69%	53.26%	51.75%	49.80%	48.51%	48.20%	47.92%	47.88%	48.26%	48.59%	49.16%	49.69%	49.92%	
1989				76.13%	67.73%	61.66%	61.45%	59.46%	56.40%	52.85%	51.33%	49.38%	48.09%	47.79%	47.53%	47.51%	47.91%	48.27%	48.88%	49.43%	49.68%	
1990					60.67%	56.04%	57.95%	56.65%	53.81%	50.37%	49.12%	47.37%	46.20%	46.02%	45.83%	45.90%	46.41%	46.86%	47.59%	48.26%	48.58%	
1991						52.08%	56.88%	55.64%	52.54%	48.87%	47.75%	46.07%	44.94%	44.85%	44.70%	44.84%	45.45%	45.98%	46.82%	47.57%	47.95%	
1992							60.99%	57.12%	52.67%	48.22%	47.05%	45.29%	44.14%	44.10%	43.99%	44.18%	44.89%	45.49%	46.43%	47.26%	47.68%	
1993								53.51%	48.73%	44.22%	43.82%	42.50%	41.58%	41.79%	41.81%	42.18%	43.11%	43.89%	45.04%	46.07%	46.59%	
1994									43.81%	39.53%	40.62%	39.91%	39.26%	39.77%	39.95%	40.52%	41.71%	42.68%	44.08%	45.30%	45.92%	
1995										35.41%	39.12%	38.75%	38.20%	38.96%	39.24%	39.97%	41.39%	42.53%	44.11%	45.46%	46.14%	
1996											42.69%	40.24%	39.09%	39.90%	40.14%	40.92%	42.50%	43.72%	45.40%	46.78%	47.43%	
1997												38.13%	37.30%	38.85%	39.31%	40.43%	42.45%	43.94%	45.89%	47.42%	48.11%	
1998													36.16%	39.41%	40.02%	41.52%	44.11%	45.82%	47.97%	49.50%	50.08%	
1999														43.73%	43.04%	44.35%	47.20%	48.83%	50.83%	52.12%	52.45%	
2000															42.07%	44.75%	48.63%	50.38%	52.42%	53.56%	53.72%	
2001																47.04%	51.30%	52.64%	54.33%	55.14%	55.05%	
2002																	55.21%	55.27%	56.36%	56.70%	56.29%	
2003																		55.33%	56.87%	57.10%	56.51%	
2004																				57.96%	57.71%	56.80%
2005																					57.47%	56.20%
2006																						54.61%

Table 14. Snowy Grouper % Commercial. Source SEDAR 4 (2004). Prepared by Jack McGovern (NMFS SERO).

% comm																	
	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
1986	99.13%	96.32%	96.65%	97.41%	97.91%	98.19%	97.93%	95.99%	96.21%	96.09%	96.22%	92.74%	93.00%	93.04%	93.18%	92.91%	93.03%
1987		93.09%	94.98%	96.72%	97.59%	98.00%	97.73%	95.56%	95.84%	95.74%	95.91%	92.15%	92.47%	92.55%	92.73%	92.47%	92.61%
1988			97.67%	98.63%	98.91%	99.07%	98.50%	95.89%	96.18%	96.03%	96.20%	92.07%	92.41%	92.51%	92.70%	92.43%	92.57%
1989				99.20%	99.24%	99.33%	98.60%	95.71%	96.04%	95.90%	96.09%	91.70%	92.09%	92.22%	92.45%	92.17%	92.34%
1990					99.27%	99.38%	98.43%	94.95%	95.42%	95.34%	95.61%	90.77%	91.28%	91.49%	91.79%	91.53%	91.74%
1991						99.52%	97.97%	93.34%	94.21%	94.30%	94.76%	89.22%	89.94%	90.33%	90.76%	90.54%	90.83%
1992							96.73%	90.68%	92.38%	92.89%	93.66%	87.43%	88.44%	89.07%	89.67%	89.51%	89.89%
1993								83.77%	89.14%	90.93%	92.41%	84.88%	86.44%	87.49%	88.38%	88.30%	88.83%
1994									99.20%	96.68%	97.16%	85.23%	87.15%	88.30%	89.26%	89.08%	89.62%
1995										94.79%	96.32%	82.40%	85.15%	86.85%	88.13%	88.06%	88.74%
1996											98.21%	77.80%	82.39%	85.14%	86.94%	87.02%	87.90%
1997												69.15%	77.69%	82.40%	85.05%	85.44%	86.60%
1998													97.76%	95.35%	95.42%	93.60%	93.98%
1999														93.63%	94.52%	92.48%	93.15%
2000															95.56%	91.76%	92.93%
2001																87.55%	91.32%
2002																	96.00%

Table 15. Golden Tilefish % Commercial. Source SEDAR 4 (2004). Prepared by Jack McGovern (NMFS SERO).

% comm

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
1986	99.95%	99.97%	99.64%	99.75%	99.81%	99.84%	99.63%	99.60%	99.25%	99.31%	99.28%	98.82%	98.84%	98.80%	98.64%	98.31%	98.23%
1987		100.00%	99.43%	99.67%	99.77%	99.81%	99.58%	99.55%	99.16%	99.24%	99.20%	98.71%	98.74%	98.70%	98.53%	98.19%	98.10%
1988			98.66%	99.50%	99.71%	99.77%	99.52%	99.49%	99.06%	99.16%	99.12%	98.60%	98.64%	98.60%	98.43%	98.07%	97.98%
1989				100.00%	99.98%	99.97%	99.63%	99.58%	99.10%	99.20%	99.16%	98.59%	98.64%	98.60%	98.42%	98.04%	97.95%
1990					99.96%	99.96%	99.52%	99.48%	98.92%	99.06%	99.03%	98.40%	98.47%	98.44%	98.26%	97.85%	97.76%
1991						99.96%	99.28%	99.30%	98.58%	98.81%	98.80%	98.09%	98.20%	98.19%	98.00%	97.56%	97.48%
1992							98.72%	98.99%	98.08%	98.48%	98.52%	97.73%	97.90%	97.93%	97.74%	97.26%	97.19%
1993								99.34%	97.56%	98.35%	98.44%	97.43%	97.68%	97.75%	97.54%	97.00%	96.93%
1994									94.87%	97.68%	98.01%	96.85%	97.26%	97.42%	97.23%	96.64%	96.59%
1995										100.00%	99.42%	97.34%	97.74%	97.82%	97.54%	96.84%	96.77%
1996											98.74%	96.19%	97.02%	97.32%	97.07%	96.33%	96.30%
1997												94.71%	96.38%	96.97%	96.76%	95.94%	95.96%
1998													99.30%	98.63%	97.76%	96.41%	96.36%
1999														98.14%	97.16%	95.61%	95.71%
2000															96.05%	94.09%	94.66%
2001																91.82%	93.78%
2002																	96.10%

Table 16. Vermilion Snapper % Commercial. Source SEDAR Assessment Update (2006). Prepared by Jack McGovern (NMFS SERO).

% comm

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
1986	71.43%	41.05%	37.22%	36.42%	41.62%	46.13%	47.60%	49.35%	51.08%	52.60%	53.38%	54.11%	54.55%	55.00%	55.88%	57.13%	58.04%	58.01%	58.25%	58.82%	58.62%
1987		54.09%	38.99%	37.17%	43.68%	48.92%	50.45%	52.29%	54.07%	55.60%	56.31%	56.96%	57.30%	57.63%	58.38%	59.53%	60.37%	60.23%	60.36%	60.88%	60.57%
1988			64.30%	44.14%	51.64%	56.96%	57.99%	59.47%	60.90%	62.11%	62.47%	62.79%	62.80%	62.76%	63.09%	63.91%	64.52%	64.16%	64.05%	64.42%	63.92%
1989				69.35%	70.55%	72.49%	71.26%	71.21%	71.41%	71.69%	71.20%	70.82%	70.17%	69.43%	69.03%	69.27%	69.49%	68.80%	68.34%	68.50%	67.72%
1990					71.63%	73.90%	71.91%	71.71%	71.86%	72.14%	71.51%	71.04%	70.28%	69.44%	68.99%	69.26%	69.51%	68.76%	68.27%	68.45%	67.62%
1991						76.13%	72.08%	71.75%	71.94%	72.27%	71.49%	70.92%	70.05%	69.10%	68.64%	68.99%	69.29%	68.49%	67.98%	68.19%	67.31%
1992							65.57%	68.37%	69.86%	70.85%	70.09%	69.60%	68.71%	67.77%	67.48%	68.06%	68.51%	67.67%	67.19%	67.48%	66.58%
1993								70.96%	71.78%	72.43%	71.13%	70.35%	69.20%	68.07%	67.68%	68.28%	68.73%	67.82%	67.30%	67.59%	66.63%
1994									72.55%	73.12%	71.19%	70.20%	68.84%	67.58%	67.25%	68.00%	68.53%	67.56%	67.03%	67.37%	66.36%
1995										73.73%	70.44%	69.32%	67.78%	66.49%	66.39%	67.42%	68.10%	67.08%	66.55%	66.96%	65.91%
1996											66.72%	66.84%	65.55%	64.57%	65.03%	66.55%	67.45%	66.39%	65.90%	66.41%	65.33%
1997												66.96%	64.97%	63.92%	64.69%	66.53%	67.53%	66.36%	65.83%	66.38%	65.24%
1998													62.93%	62.54%	64.13%	66.45%	67.61%	66.29%	65.72%	66.33%	65.10%
1999														62.23%	64.51%	67.13%	68.29%	66.71%	66.01%	66.65%	65.28%
2000															66.08%	68.71%	69.65%	67.54%	66.59%	67.22%	65.63%
2001																71.04%	71.41%	68.09%	66.73%	67.49%	65.54%
2002																	71.88%	65.92%	64.69%	66.21%	63.93%
2003																		57.33%	60.30%	63.91%	61.49%
2004																			62.48%	66.48%	62.61%
2005																				71.02%	62.69%
2006																					53.96%

Table 17. Black Sea Bass % Recreational. Source Black Sea Bass Assessment Update (2006). Prepared by Jack McGovern (NMFS SERO).

% rec	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
1986	62.14%	69.30%	71.28%	70.48%	66.94%	65.36%	64.08%	62.93%	62.14%	61.94%	61.58%	60.78%	60.03%	59.31%	59.07%	59.25%	59.07%	59.01%
1987		74.86%	74.35%	72.39%	67.82%	65.84%	64.34%	63.02%	62.14%	61.92%	61.53%	60.66%	59.86%	59.10%	58.85%	59.06%	58.88%	58.81%
1988			73.96%	71.36%	65.64%	63.67%	62.19%	60.89%	60.11%	60.04%	59.77%	58.95%	58.16%	57.44%	57.24%	57.58%	57.44%	57.44%
1989				68.22%	59.96%	58.91%	57.89%	56.84%	56.45%	56.77%	56.81%	56.12%	55.42%	54.78%	54.71%	55.28%	55.24%	55.35%
1990					49.24%	53.13%	53.40%	52.92%	53.16%	54.01%	54.42%	53.88%	53.27%	52.71%	52.77%	53.57%	53.62%	53.84%
1991						56.69%	55.50%	54.26%	54.24%	55.10%	55.42%	54.66%	53.86%	53.18%	53.20%	54.06%	54.08%	54.30%
1992							54.04%	52.67%	53.18%	54.58%	55.08%	54.21%	53.32%	52.57%	52.66%	53.69%	53.74%	54.01%
1993								51.10%	52.72%	54.78%	55.37%	54.24%	53.18%	52.33%	52.45%	53.65%	53.71%	54.00%
1994									54.17%	56.56%	56.73%	55.00%	53.59%	52.54%	52.65%	53.97%	54.01%	54.31%
1995										59.35%	58.16%	55.30%	53.43%	52.16%	52.35%	53.94%	53.99%	54.33%
1996											57.08%	53.46%	51.54%	50.41%	50.93%	53.04%	53.20%	53.68%
1997												49.83%	48.53%	47.96%	49.15%	52.13%	52.45%	53.11%
1998													46.98%	46.88%	48.87%	52.80%	53.08%	53.77%
1999														46.78%	49.85%	54.67%	54.63%	55.16%
2000															53.55%	58.68%	57.47%	57.45%
2001																62.41%	59.16%	58.60%
2002																	54.45%	56.02%
2003																		57.40%

Table 18. Red Porgy % Commercial. Source Red Porgy Assessment Update (2006). Prepared by Jack McGovern (NMFS SERO).

% comm

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
1986	79.22%	76.08%	73.99%	74.31%	74.64%	75.56%	74.99%	74.89%	75.01%	74.59%	74.22%	74.59%	74.76%	74.24%	74.04%	73.69%	73.42%	73.03%	72.47%
1987		72.71%	71.41%	72.71%	73.60%	74.87%	74.27%	74.22%	74.40%	73.97%	73.60%	74.04%	74.25%	73.69%	73.47%	73.08%	72.80%	72.37%	71.77%
1988			70.30%	72.71%	73.84%	75.33%	74.56%	74.47%	74.66%	74.15%	73.72%	74.21%	74.44%	73.80%	73.56%	73.13%	72.81%	72.33%	71.67%
1989				75.21%	75.48%	77.04%	75.76%	75.50%	75.64%	74.93%	74.34%	74.87%	75.10%	74.35%	74.07%	73.56%	73.18%	72.63%	71.87%
1990					75.70%	77.92%	75.97%	75.59%	75.75%	74.86%	74.15%	74.80%	75.08%	74.19%	73.87%	73.27%	72.84%	72.20%	71.32%
1991						81.19%	76.20%	75.53%	75.78%	74.51%	73.60%	74.52%	74.90%	73.77%	73.36%	72.62%	72.09%	71.31%	70.23%
1992							69.34%	71.33%	72.95%	71.86%	71.19%	72.69%	73.35%	72.03%	71.55%	70.70%	70.11%	69.22%	67.99%
1993								73.65%	75.16%	72.88%	71.75%	73.52%	74.23%	72.58%	72.00%	70.96%	70.25%	69.19%	67.75%
1994									76.84%	72.48%	71.09%	73.49%	74.36%	72.35%	71.65%	70.42%	69.59%	68.37%	66.71%
1995										68.52%	68.47%	72.41%	73.71%	71.28%	70.44%	69.02%	68.08%	66.69%	64.81%
1996											68.41%	74.55%	75.83%	72.27%	71.10%	69.17%	67.95%	66.17%	63.83%
1997												81.98%	80.90%	74.40%	72.50%	69.53%	67.75%	65.30%	62.23%
1998													79.50%	68.06%	65.35%	61.79%	60.09%	57.45%	54.16%
1999														47.43%	45.67%	45.51%	46.35%	44.92%	42.52%
2000															39.76%	43.51%	45.66%	43.76%	40.85%
2001																45.19%	47.06%	44.40%	40.97%
2002																	49.19%	43.96%	39.54%
2003																		39.06%	35.46%
2004																			32.48%

Table 19. Gag % Commercial. Source Gag SEDAR Assessment (2006). Prepared by Jack McGovern (NMFS SERO).

% comm

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
1986	62.39%	36.40%	40.30%	44.63%	47.34%	49.61%	51.03%	52.03%	52.68%	53.78%	54.67%	55.41%	55.96%	55.61%	55.59%	55.32%	55.59%	55.35%	54.99%
1987		52.24%	53.40%	55.87%	57.55%	59.18%	59.61%	59.67%	59.43%	60.04%	60.51%	61.00%	61.21%	60.42%	60.15%	59.59%	59.72%	59.23%	58.63%
1988			54.96%	57.98%	59.70%	61.40%	61.51%	61.23%	60.71%	61.23%	61.64%	62.10%	62.25%	61.29%	60.95%	60.28%	60.39%	59.83%	59.15%
1989				60.28%	61.73%	63.41%	63.04%	62.40%	61.57%	62.04%	62.40%	62.83%	62.93%	61.83%	61.43%	60.68%	60.78%	60.15%	59.41%
1990					63.60%	65.58%	64.28%	63.09%	61.89%	62.40%	62.77%	63.24%	63.30%	62.02%	61.56%	60.72%	60.83%	60.14%	59.33%
1991						67.86%	64.64%	62.92%	61.49%	62.18%	62.64%	63.18%	63.26%	61.85%	61.36%	60.46%	60.59%	59.86%	59.01%
1992							61.93%	60.91%	59.85%	61.08%	61.82%	62.55%	62.72%	61.23%	60.74%	59.82%	60.00%	59.26%	58.39%
1993								59.97%	58.93%	60.83%	61.80%	62.67%	62.85%	61.13%	60.59%	59.57%	59.80%	59.00%	58.08%
1994									57.99%	61.23%	62.39%	63.38%	63.46%	61.34%	60.69%	59.52%	59.77%	58.88%	57.87%
1995										64.75%	64.85%	65.56%	65.13%	62.15%	61.26%	59.80%	60.07%	59.02%	57.86%
1996											64.95%	66.04%	65.28%	61.40%	60.41%	58.78%	59.22%	58.10%	56.88%
1997												67.43%	65.47%	60.07%	59.05%	57.29%	58.02%	56.88%	55.63%
1998													63.83%	57.04%	56.51%	54.94%	56.18%	55.17%	54.01%
1999														50.50%	52.38%	51.56%	53.87%	53.11%	52.10%
2000															55.04%	52.25%	55.41%	53.97%	52.51%
2001																49.86%	55.58%	53.65%	51.96%
2002																	62.78%	55.70%	52.67%
2003																		50.31%	48.90%
2004																			47.54%

Table 20. Potential Allocations by Various Alternatives.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W
1	Table 20.	Alternative 1.		Alternative 2.		Alternative 3.		TAC 2009	Alternative 1.		Alternative 2.		Alternative 3.		OY	Alternative 1. OY		Alternative 2. OY		Alternative 3. OY		2006 Landings	
2	Species	Landings		Assessment		Council's Judgement		Pounds	Allocations		Allocations		Allocations		Pounds	Allocations		Allocations		Allocations		whole wt.	
3	Overfished Speceis	%Com	%Rec	%Com	%Rec	%Com	%Rec	(whole wt.	Com	Rec	Com	Rec	Com	Rec	whole wt.	Com	Rec	Com	Rec	Com	Rec	Com	Rec
4	Snowy Grouper	95%	5%	93%	7%	50%	50%	102,960	97,812	5,148	95,753	7,207	51,480	51,480	303,871	288,677	15,194	282,600	21,271	151,936	151,936	274,181	168,873
5	Black Sea Bass	53%	47%	45%	55%	50%	50%	847,000	448,910	398,090	381,150	465,850	423,500	423,500	2,742,551	1,453,552	1,288,999	1,234,148	1,508,403	1,371,276	1,371,276	559,928	934,177
6	Red Porgy	48%	52%	43%	57%	50%	50%	395,281	189,735	205,546	169,971	225,310	197,641	197,641	608,099	291,888	316,211	261,483	346,616	304,050	304,050	83,276	113,628
7	Overfishing Species																						
8	Golden Tilefish	97%	3%	96%	4%	50%	50%								326,554	316,757	9,797	313,492	13,062	163,277	163,277	447,772	46,715
9	Vermilion Snapper	69%	31%	65%	35%	50%	50%	628,459	433,637	194,822	408,498	219,961	314,230	314,230	628,459	433,637	194,822	408,498	219,961	314,230	314,230	849,390	693,533
10	Gag Grouper	51%	49%	52%	48%	50%	50%	694,000	353,940	340,060	360,880	333,120	347,000	347,000	1,217,000	620,670	596,330	632,840	584,160	608,500	608,500	614,572	556,498
11	Red Grouper	73%	27%			50%	50%																
12	Scamp	67%	33%			50%	50%																
13	White Grunt	46%	54%			50%	50%																
14	Greater Amberjack	49%	51%			50%	50%																
15	Gray Triggerfish	51%	49%			50%	50%																
16	Other Overfishing Species					50%	50%																
17	Red Snapper					50%	50%																
18	Speckled Hind					50%	50%																
19	Warsaw Grouper					50%	50%																
20	Goliath Grouper					50%	50%																
21	Other Species in FMU																						
22																							
23																							
24	Notes:																						
25	1. Alternative 1 uses data from 1999-2003 for all species except red porgy where 2001-2003 data were used (years used in Am. 13C) and snowy grouper where 1986-2005 data were used (years used in Am 15B).																						
26	The allocation shown for gag is based on years 1999-2003 as proposed in Am. 16).																						
27	2. Black sea bass existing allocation is 43% commercial and 57% recreational.																						
28	3. Alternative 2 uses years available from 1999-2002 for snowy & golden tilefish; 1999-2006 for vermilion; 1999-2003 for black sea bass; 1999-2004 for red porgy; and 1999-2004 for gag.																						
29	4. The 2009 TAC values include bycatch estimates. Three species are currently under rebuilding programs.																						
30	5. Gag OY and TAC figures are gutted weight.																						
31	6. Vermilion snapper and gag TAC values for 2009 are those proposed in Am 16.																						

Scoping Meetings

The Council is holding a series of scoping meetings (locations and dates below) and collecting written comments on potential methods of allocating between recreational and commercial sectors. Allocations within the recreational and commercial sectors are also under consideration. **Written comments must be received by 5 pm on February 22, 2008.** Comments can be mailed to the Council at the address on the cover or they can be emailed to: CompAllocScoping@safmc.net

This scoping document is being distributed prior to the scoping meetings to give everyone a chance to prepare comments. Copies of the scoping document will also be available on the Council's web site at www.safmc.net and distributed at the following scoping meetings (detailed location information is shown later of this document):

Scoping Meeting Dates and Locations

Atlantic Beach, NC	December 3, 2007	7 pm
Coconut Grove, FL	February 4, 2008	2-5 pm & 6-8 pm
Cape Canaveral, FL	February 5, 2008	2-5 pm & 6-8 pm
Brunswick, GA	February 6, 2008	2-5 pm & 6-8 pm
New Bern, NC	February 7, 2008	2-5 pm & 6-8 pm
North Charleston, SC	February 20, 2008	2-5 pm & 6-8 pm

Council staff and local Council representatives will be on hand to answer questions and discuss allocation issues and other topics covered during this series of scoping meetings. Members of the public will have the opportunity to provide comments on the record at any time during the hours posted above.

Other topics being covered during these scoping meetings include:

- 1) Amendment 17 to the Snapper Grouper FMP;
- 2) A possible Limited Access Privilege (LAP) Program for the commercial snapper grouper fishery; and
- 3) Allocation of the commercial king mackerel quota. Copies of the scoping documents for these topics can be accessed at www.safmc.net or by contacting the Council office.

ALLOCATION OF SAFMC RESOURCES
PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING SITES AND DATES

Scoping meetings run from 2-5 pm & 6-8 pm:

<p><u>Monday, February 4, 2008</u> The Mutiny Hotel 2951 South Bayshore Drive Coconut Grove, Florida 33133 Phone: 305-441-2100</p>	<p><u>Tuesday, February 5, 2008</u> Radisson Resort at the Port 8701 Astronaut Boulevard Cape Canaveral, Florida 32920 Phone: 321-784-0000</p>
<p><u>Wednesday, February 6, 2008</u> Quality Inn – Stellar Conference Center 125 Venure Drive Brunswick, Georgia 31525 Phone: 912-265-4600</p>	<p><u>Thursday, February 7, 2008</u> Sheraton New Bern 100 Middle Street New Bern, North Carolina 28560 Phone: 252-638-3585</p>
<p><u>Wednesday, February 20, 2008</u> Hilton Garden Inn 5265 International Blvd. North Charleston, South Carolina 29418 Phone: 843-308-9331</p>	

Written comments must be received by 5 pm on February 22, 2008.
The Council accepts comments sent by mail, fax, or E-mail
(CompAllocScoping@safmc.net).

What Next?

Comments should be provided to the Council by 5 pm on February 22, 2008. All comments will be considered by the Council in making a decision whether or not to begin drafting a comprehensive amendment to amend all FMPs. There will be a number of opportunities to provide public input if the Council moves forward to develop an amendment.

Appendix B shows contact information for Council members. Those members on the Allocation Committee are shown in **Bold**.

A very preliminary schedule for this Comprehensive Amendment is as follows:

- Scoping through February 22, 2008
- Committee/Council review scoping comments and options paper at March and June 2008 meetings
- Approve document for public hearings – September 2008
- Public Hearings – November 2008
- Review Public Hearing Input & Approve – December 2008
- Final Approval (if necessary) – March 2009
- Send for Secretarial Review – March 2009

III. BACKGROUND

The Council established an Allocation Committee during their December 2007 Council meeting. The Allocation Committee will develop alternatives for the Council to consider. The first step is to review what allocation decisions the Council has made thus far in their fishery management plans.

The South Atlantic Council has the following Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) [see Table 1; Billfish & Swordfish are now managed by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)]. Direct allocations exist in a number of fisheries under the jurisdiction of fishery management councils. Some fisheries by their very nature are effectively allocated to one user group while others have allocations that have been determined and modified over time.

Two FMPs (**Billfish & Swordfish**) are no longer under authority of the Fishery Management Councils. Both were initially developed by the 5-East Coast Councils, including the Caribbean Council. The South Atlantic Council was administrative lead for most of the time and became true lead Council towards the end of our involvement with the Swordfish FMP. NMFS currently is responsible for management of highly migratory species which include billfishes and swordfish. The Billfish FMP allocated 100% of the harvest to the recreational sector by prohibiting sale of all billfish except that the small-scale, handline fishery in Puerto Rico was exempt from the prohibition on sale contingent upon several requirements, the most important of which was a cap of 100 billfish per year. The Swordfish FMP established provisions for a variable season closure of the

commercial fishery with exemptions of one fish per trip for the traditional Caribbean handline fishery and an exemption for conventional recreational rod and reel because there were many diverse fishermen catching fewer than 500 fish per year. Thus the fishery was essentially 100% commercial with a very small recreational harvest.

Two FMPs currently allow direct harvest of Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) – Coral and *Sargassum*. The **Coral FMP**, as amended, established a quota of 50,000 colonies in the South Atlantic and Gulf Council Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs). This quota is available to both recreational and commercial fishermen. **The *Sargassum* FMP** established a prohibition on harvest except that a TAC of 5,000 pounds was allowed in an area off North Carolina to address previous harvest by one commercial operation. There has been no harvest of *Sargassum* since the FMP was implemented in 2003. The Fishery Ecosystem Plan Comprehensive Amendment II will contain alternatives that would prohibit all harvest of octocorals and *Sargassum*.

The **Golden Crab FMP** established a controlled access program. All harvest was from the EEZ and given the depth and gear (golden crab traps), all harvest was by commercial fishermen. To be eligible for a permit, golden crabs must have been harvested within the South Atlantic Council's area of jurisdiction; initial eligibility was limited to owners of boats/vessels that meet the following two criteria: (1) Catches equal to or greater than 600 pounds (whole live weight) by 4/7/95 (control date) or (2) Total catches (including pre-4/7/95 catches) equal to or greater than 2,500 pounds (whole live weight) by 9/1/95.

The **Shrimp FMP** contains five species. Rock and royal red shrimp are all harvested by commercial fishermen given the depth and gear (trawls). Most of the harvest of white, brown, and pink shrimp is by commercial fishermen using primarily trawl. However, there is a large recreational fishery in the State of South Carolina using cast nets in state waters. The Shrimp FMP does not directly allocate the resource.

The **Red Drum FMP** prohibited all harvest or possession in or from the EEZ. Current regulations in state waters as of December 2006 are shown in Table 2. This fishery is effectively a recreational fishery.

Table 1. Fishery Management Plans and allocations specified and/or resulting from actions by the Council(s).

FMP	Species	% Recreational	% Commercial	Comments
*Billfish		100%		Billfish FMP (May 1988)
*Swordfish			100%	Swordfish FMP (February 1985) provision for a variable season closure of the commercial fishery with exemptions of 1 fish per trip for the traditional Caribbean handline fishery and for conventional recreational rod and reel
Coastal Migratory Pelagics	King Mackerel	62.9%	37.1%	Amendment 1 (4/85) used 1979-83 data and indicated that this would change as new data became available; that provision was disapproved by NMFS and allocation remains fixed
	Spanish Mackerel	45%	55%	Framework Action (7/99); up to 10% change in allocation allowed; TAC decreased, rec. not harvesting their share so increased commercial share to allow them to attain recent catches
Coral				FMP (1982) set OY at zero except for authorized scientific & educational purposes; Amendment 1 established an octocoral quota of 50,000 colonies (recreational & commercial) in SA & GM EEZ
Golden Crab			100%	FMP (1995) established a controlled access program (100% of catch in EEZ and 100% of catch by commercial fishermen due to gear and depth)
Red Drum		100%		FMP (1990) prohibited all harvest or possession in or from the EEZ
Shrimp	White, Pink & Brown			Large recreational harvest of white shrimp in SC state waters; no known recreational harvest in EEZ
	Rock & Royal Red		100%	Effectively all commercial given depth and gear necessary

Table 1 continued.

FMP	Species	% Recreational	% Commercial	Comments
<i>Sargassum</i>			100%	The Original FMP (12/98) proposed to prohibit all harvest; NMFS rejected this on 11/24/99; The Revised Final FMP (9/2000) proposed to prohibit all harvest except a TAC of 5,000 pounds was to be allowed off NC to address NMFS' concerns; NMFS determined a new DEIS was necessary; Council prepared a DEIS (10/2001) and NMFS prepared a SEIS (12/2001); The Second Revised Final FMP (11/2002) was sent to NMFS on 11/4/02; NMFS approved prohibition except for allowance of 5,000 pounds off NC on 7/11/03
Spiny Lobster		100% north of Florida		Large recreational harvest in Florida; north of Florida in SA EEZ, all fishermen limited to 2 per person per day year round (effectively allocates 100% recreational)
Snapper Grouper	Wreckfish		100%	Amendment 3 (8/1990) required a permit to fish for, land or sell and established 3/28/90 as a control date; Amendment 5 (9/1991) established an ITQ program
	Black Sea Bass	57%	43%	Amendment 13C (2/2006), with regulations effective 10/23/06, specified TAC, commercial quotas, and recreational allocations for black sea bass based on landings data from 1999 through 2003
Dolphin Wahoo		87%	13%	FMP (1/2003) with regulations implemented in 2004 established a cap of 1.5 M lbs or 13% total landings for the commercial fishery

Table 2. State red drum regulations as of December 2006.

State	Recreational Size Limit	Recreational Possession Limit	Commercial Regulations
NJ	18" - 27"	1 fish	
DE	20" - 27"	5 fish	
MD	18" - 27"	1 fish	25" maximum, 5 fish
PRFC	18" - 25"	5 fish	
VA	18" - 26"	3 fish	No directed commercial fishery
NC	18" - 27"	1 fish	No directed commercial fishery. 27" maximum size. Annual commercial cap=250,000lbs; daily trip limit of 7 fish; must be less than 50% of catch (lbs); gill nets <5" stretch must be tended 5/1-10/31
SC	15" - 24"	2 fish	Gamefish only
GA	14" - 23"	5 fish	14" - 23", 5 fish
FL	18" - 27"	1 fish	Gamefish only

The **Spiny Lobster FMP**, as amended, effectively allocates the fishery to the recreational sector north of Florida in the South Atlantic EEZ since all fishermen are limited to 2 lobsters per person per day year round. In Florida there is no direct allocation by sector. However, recreational fishermen are limited to 6 per person and the commercial fishery is under a trap limitation program.

The remaining three FMPs have direct allocations: The Dolphin/Wahoo, Snapper Grouper, and Coastal Migratory Pelagics (Mackerels) Fishery Management Plans are discussed in more detail in **Appendix A**.

APPENDIX A. DETAILED DISCUSSIONS OF FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS AND AMENDMENTS

Coastal Migratory Pelagics (Mackerel)

(Note: This is currently a joint management plan with the Gulf and Mid-Atlantic Councils)

Mackerel Amendment 1

In Amendment 1 (April 1985), the Councils recognized **separate Gulf and Atlantic Migratory Groups of king mackerel**. The Total Allowable Catch (TAC) was divided between recreational and commercial fishermen based on recent catch ratios. The TAC for the Gulf Migratory Group was allocated 68% for recreational and 32% for commercial for the initial year of the plan amendment based on catches from 1975-1979. The TAC for Gulf Migratory Group king mackerel after the initial year of Amendment 1 was to be allocated between recreational and commercial (permit) fishermen based on the ratio of the average catch over the most number of years beginning in 1979 for which concurrent recreational and commercial catch data are available. Following calculation of the recreational/commercial catch ratio, 2% was to be transferred from recreational to commercial to compensate for sale by recreational fishermen provided the bag limit does not change as a result of the transfer. This calculation was to be made by the stock assessment group. The Gulf king mackerel TAC was further divided between eastern and western zones based on catch data to provide fishing opportunity for fishermen throughout the migratory route. The formula specified was to provide sufficient fish for the purse seine study and divide the remainder between the historic Florida fishery and the developing fishery off Louisiana.

The TAC for the Atlantic Migratory Group was allocated 62.9% for recreational and 37.1% for commercial for the initial year of the plan amendment. The TAC for Atlantic Migratory Group king mackerel after the initial year of Amendment 1 was to be allocated between recreational and commercial (permit) fishermen based on the ratio of the average catch over the most number of years beginning in 1979 for which concurrent recreational and commercial catch data are available. The stock assessment group was to calculate the ratio annually.

An allocation of king mackerel for purse seine purposes was to come from the commercial quota; not to exceed 284,000 pounds in the initial amendment year from the Gulf Migratory Group or more than 400,000 pounds from the South Atlantic Council area of jurisdiction. In subsequent years, the Gulf group purse seine allocation was to be 6% of the Gulf group commercial allocation but not to exceed 400,000 pounds. Within the TAC for Spanish mackerel a purse seine allocation for research purposes was allowed annually but was not to exceed 300,000 pounds from the Gulf and 300,000 pounds from the South Atlantic Council area of jurisdiction. The Councils used their best judgment, based in part on the level of catches observed, but also wanted to allow the purse seine fisheries to be observed/evaluated.

Note: The provision to change the allocations based on the most recent data was disapproved by NMFS.

Mackerel Amendment 2

In Amendment 2 (March 1987), the Councils **recognized separate Gulf and Atlantic Migratory Groups of Spanish mackerel**. Allocation of TAC within each migratory group of Spanish mackerel was divided between commercial and recreational fishermen based on the average ratio of the catch for the period 1979 through 1985, the most recent period for which comparable catch statistics are available. For the Atlantic group the ratio was set at 76% commercial and 24% recreational. For the Gulf group the ratio was set at 57% commercial and 43% recreational. The Councils did consider using data from 1981-1985 combined with a common ABC but rejected that in favor of using separate ABCs.

Amendment 2 included a technical deletion of the provision for future readjustment of the ratios of allocations between recreational and commercial fishermen based on all years for which catch data are available. This provision was not approved by NMFS in Amendment 1 and is not applicable. Therefore, the ratios are retained without change. The TACs for king mackerel have been divided based on catch ratios from 1975 to 1979. The TAC for Gulf group king mackerel was allocated 68% recreational and 32% commercial; the Gulf commercial allocation was further divided with 69% for the eastern zone and 31% for the western zone. For Atlantic group king mackerel, TAC was allocated 62.9% recreational and 37.1% commercial.

Amendment 2 also included a provision for deletion of separate allocations for purse seine studies. The use of purse seines for mackerel was prohibited in Action 14.

Allocation of TAC within each migratory group of Spanish mackerel was to be divided based on catch ratios from 1979 through 1985. For Gulf group Spanish mackerel, TAC was allocated 43% recreational and 57% commercial. For Atlantic group Spanish mackerel, TAC was allocated 24% recreational and 76% commercial.

Mackerel Amendment

In Amendment 4 (May 1989) the South Atlantic Council changed the Atlantic migratory group **Spanish mackerel** allocations because the ratios established in Amendment 2 did not reflect the distribution of catches during the early to mid-1970s which was prior to development of the deep water run-around gill net fishery and when the resource was not overfished.

The Councils changed the allocation to 50% recreational and 50% commercial. They concluded that the 75% commercial and 24% recreational allocations were inappropriate because: (Note: the following is taken directly from Amendment 4)

1. The Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel resource was overfished and the resulting recreational catches depressed during the years 1979-85, which were used to establish the current allocation.
2. Commercial catches increased during the mid 1970's and the distribution of the resource between recreational and commercial users changed with more being taken commercially. This is also when the abundance of the resource began to decline and become more compressed. Recreational catches in Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina were affected and in these states, recreational harvest had previously accounted for the majority of the harvest.
3. The Councils know, based on the expert knowledge of state fishery directors and other Council members directly associated with the fishery (see Appendix A), that recreational catches were higher in the 1970's but quantitative information to support this conclusion is limited. The limited quantitative data from the early 1970's indicates that the Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel resource was distributed equally (i.e. 50/50) between the recreational and commercial user groups. Qualitative information such as input from fishermen and the recent reemergence of catches north and south of Ft. Pierce, Florida up into the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's area extending up to Chesapeake Bay may indicate that Spanish mackerel are now repopulating that area, as they have in the past, thereby lending support to the Councils' conclusion of higher recreational catches during the 1970's.
4. Now that the Atlantic migratory group Spanish Mackerel resource is reduced and harvest capacity and demand of both user groups has expanded to the point that either group could harvest all or most of the available resource, it may be more equitable to allocate the resource equally between users.
5. Based on the above, the Councils concluded that the 50/50 allocation results in benefits greater than costs and maximizes the net socioeconomic benefits available from the Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel resource.

The Councils also considered using estimated average ratios of catches from 1967 to 1974 but rejected that alternative because the projected recreational catches were not believed to be accurate. The Councils specified a process for implementing the reallocation to move to 50/50 so as to minimize impacts of the change.

Mackerel Amendment 6

In Amendment 6 (June 1992) the Councils added a measure such that when the stock assessment panel is able to provide ABC ranges for separate subgroups within the Gulf migratory group, the separation is to be at the Florida-Alabama border and is based on allele frequencies. The TACs for both subgroups of Gulf king mackerel are to continue to be allocated at 68% recreational and 32% commercial.

Mackerel Amendment 7

In Amendment 7 (March 1994) the Councils added a sub-allocation within the **Eastern Zone Gulf migratory group of king mackerel** commercial quota: the division is at the Dade/Monroe, Florida county line with (a) North Area (Dade through Volusia Counties) receiving 50% and (b) South/West Area (Monroe County to the Florida/Alabama border receiving 50%. This ratio approximates the ratio of historic catch. The Councils evaluated two alternatives but chose 50/50 because it was used in Florida's program and it appears to be a simple and more equitable distribution of the federal eastern zone quota. The South/West Area is further sub-allocated 50% to net vessels and 50% to hook and

line vessels based on recommendations by Monroe County fishermen at a February 1993 workshop and by the Gulf Council's Mackerel Advisory Panel.

Mackerel Amendment 9

In Amendment 9 (November 1998) the Councils reallocated the percentage of the commercial allocation of **Gulf group king mackerel** TAC for the North and South/West Areas (Florida east coast and Florida west coast, respectively) of the Eastern Zone to 46.15% North and 53.85% South/West. The previous allocation was 50/50. This change is to more accurately track the historical harvests from these two areas.

The Councils considered changing the Gulf group king mackerel recreational allocation from 68% to 70% and including all catches/landings by the for-hire sector towards the recreational allocation only. This was rejected because of problems determining the amount of bag limit fish sold given that continued sale was allowed.

The Councils also subdivided the commercial hook-and-line king mackerel allocation for the Gulf group, Eastern Zone, Florida west coast by establishing two subzones: (1) Dade/Monroe to Collier/Lee County line and (2) Collier/Lee County line to AL/FL state line. They also established regional allocations for the west coast of Florida based on these subzones.

Mackerel Framework

In a Framework Seasonal Adjustment of Harvest Levels and Procedures under the Mackerel FMP (July 1999) the Councils reallocated Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel from 50/50 to 55% commercial and 45% recreational. The recreational sector was not harvesting their share of TAC while the commercial sector's harvests were approaching their quota. The Councils also increased the recreational bag limit from 10 to 15 per person per day to accommodate those anglers who would like to harvest a larger quantity of fish on certain trips without having an adverse impact on the stock.

Snapper Grouper FMP

Snapper Grouper Amendment 3

In Amendment 3 (August 1990) the South Atlantic Council established a management program for the newly developed **wreckfish fishery** that contained a number of measures including requiring a permit to fish for, land or sell and established 3/28/90 as a control date. The Council set TAC at 2 million pounds based on input from a number of sources. The Snapper Grouper Plan Development Team recommended a TAC of 2 million pounds based on their professional experience, knowledge of the fishery, and assessment of available wreckfish data. A special wreckfish review group made up of state and federal scientists and statisticians was convened to specifically look at the status of this new fishery. The review group recommended a harvest level of 2 million pounds for a 1990 fishing year running from April through December. Although there was not unanimity in the level of TAC the fishermen believed should be implemented, most felt the TAC should be in the lower part of the 2-8 million pound range taken to public hearings. Also,

testimony at the public hearings indicated that catch per unit effort was decreasing and the rapidly growing pressure on this fishery was already affecting catch levels.

The Council established an Individual Transferable Quota (ITQ) program in Amendment 5 (September 1991). This program effectively allocated the wreckfish resource 100% to the commercial sector.

Snapper Grouper Amendment 6

In Amendment 6 (December 1993) the Council established a quota management system to regulate the deep water complex by setting up separate TAC levels for **golden tilefish** and **snowy grouper**. An adjustment was made by reserving a portion of each TAC to cover bycatch in the fishery. The TAC levels were based on logbook landings from 1992 which were expanded from a 10% coverage level. The Councils requested 100% logbook coverage but only 10% coverage was implemented for 1992; coverage increased to 100% in 1993. The quotas were phased-in over a three year period because the initial percent reduction would be less and would allow time to collect better estimates of catch by species.

Snapper Grouper Amendment 13C

In Amendment 13C (February 2006) the Council established commercial quotas for **snowy grouper, golden tilefish, vermilion snapper, black sea bass, and red porgy** based on recent landings data. In establishing the quota for black sea bass, the Council used a different procedure. *This is the only one of the five species for which the Council specified a TAC, a commercial quota, and a recreational allocation.* The Council used the average recreational and commercial catches from 1999 through 2003 to establish a recreational allocation of 57% and a commercial allocation of 43%. No allocations are specified for the other species although the Council calculated the quotas for snowy grouper, golden tilefish, and red porgy using averages of landings data (1999-2003 for snowy and golden tilefish versus 2001-2003 for red porgy).

Dolphin/Wahoo FMP

In the Dolphin/Wahoo FMP (January 2003) the Councils (South Atlantic in cooperation with the New England and Mid-Atlantic) established a cap of 1.5 million pounds or 13% of total landings, whichever is greater, for the commercial fishery for dolphin. Should the catch exceed this level, the Council will review the data and evaluate the need for additional regulations which may be established through the framework. The cap was established based, in part, on the percentage split between commercial and recreational sector harvest for 1997 and the average 1994-1997. The Councils concluded establishing a non-binding cap on the dolphin harvest at 87% recreational and 13% commercial was appropriate and reflected both the 1997 and the average 1994-1997 harvest between sectors. The Councils also considered alternative years and a sub-allocation to commercial harvesters based on a historical split between gear types and average landings between 1994 and 1997.

APPENDIX B

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council 2007-2008 Membership

The names of the Council Members who serve on the Comprehensive Allocation Committee appear in bold.

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