

Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel Meeting

Charleston, November 2010

Summary Report

The Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel (AP) met in Charleston on November 16-18, 2010. The meeting agenda is attached to this report.

The AP made a number of motions and recommendations on the various amendments reviewed at the meeting. The motions below are organized by amendment.

As part of their introductions, the AP chair requested that all members indicate the length of time they had been fishing or otherwise involved in fisheries. The combined experience of AP members, other participants and staff was approximately 700 years.

The AP made the following requests and recommendations:

- Schedule an AP meeting in April instead of May.
- AP requests that the minutes from previous meeting where red snapper issues were discussed so they can provide recommendations for Amendment 22.

The AP approved the following motions under Other Business:

- SUGGEST TO THE COUNCIL THAT THE AP MEET JOINTLY WITH THE COUNCIL AS APPROPRIATE
- AP RECOMMENDS THAT THE COUNCIL CONSIDER SPAWNING SEASON CLOSURES TO PROTECT SPECIES THAT ARE UNDERGOING OVERFISHING
- AP STRONGLY RECOMMENDS TO THE COUNCIL TO CONSIDER AN ANNUAL AP REPORT TO INFORM MANAGEMENT DECISIONS
- AP RECOMMENDS THAT EITHER THE AP CHAIR AND VICE/CHAIR AND/OR THEIR DESIGNEES ATTEND THE COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS
- AP RECOMMENDS THE COUNCIL CONSIDER A TRADITIONAL SPAWNING AREA (E.G. WESTERN DRY ROCKS) AND/OR SEASONAL CLOSURE IN MAY AND JUNE (BOTH COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL) TO PROTECT SPAWNING AGGREGATIONS OF MUTTON SNAPPER AND REDUCE THE BAG LIMIT TO 3 FISH PER ANGLER PER DAY

- REQUEST TO THE SAFMC TO MOVE FORWARD THE STOCK ASSESSMENT FOR VERMILION SNAPPER FROM 2014 TO 2012
- RECOMMEND A MANDATORY VMS FOR ALL VESSELS (COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL) THAT INTERACT WITH SNAPPER GROUPER SPECIES IN THE EEZ AND ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES THAT WOULD PREVENT FISHING IN THE ABSENCE OF VMS (IF YOU DON'T HAVE A VMS, YOU DON'T FISH)
- COUNCIL SHOULD REASSESS CLOSED AREA IN 17A AND TAKE INTO ACCOUNT HISTORICAL KNOWLEDGE OF SPAWNING AGGREGATIONS
- REQUEST THAT COUNCIL CONSIDER OPENING THE DEEPWATER CLOSURE (17B CLOSURE ON DEEPWATER FISHING) FROM THE SEA BASS LINE (CAPE HATTERAS LIGHT) NORTHWARD TO ALLOW FOR BLUELINE TILEFISH FISHING
- RECOMMEND INCREASING THE MINIMUM SIZE ON HOG SNAPPER

Regulatory Amendment 9

The AP received a presentation from staff on the actions and alternatives currently included in Regulatory Amendment 9. The amendment would establish trip limits for black sea bass, vermilion snapper, gag grouper and greater amberjack. In addition, the amendment includes alternatives for spawning season closures and fishing year changes for black sea bass.

Some AP members inquired as to whether the Council would consider a separate black sea bass quota (for pots) for the area affected by the 17A closure and those affected by actions in 18A.

The following motions regarding Regulatory Amendment 9 were approved:

- WHEN 90% OF COMMERCIAL BSB QUOTA HAS BEEN MET, THE POT FISHERY SHUTS DOWN.
- ADOPT IPT SUGGESTION ON P. 25 OF THE REG 9 DOCUMENT: SPECIFY TWO SEASONS, ONE IN WHICH ALL GEARS MAY PARTICIPATE AND THE OTHER FOR ALL GEARS EXCEPT POTS. SPECIFY THE FISHING YEAR SO THAT ONE OF THE SEASONS CORRESPONDS TO THE TRADITIONAL WINTER POT FISHERY.
- CONSIDER BSB SIZE LIMIT OF 11 INCHES ACROSS THE BOARD (COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL). ALSO CONSIDER A PHASE-OUT OF

- CONSIDER A BSB SIZE LIMIT OF 11 INCHES ACROSS THE BOARD WITHOUT A PHASE-OUT
- COUNCIL SHOULD CONSIDER A SEPARATE BSB ALLOCATION FOR POT FISHERY FOR THE STATE OF FLORIDA (ADDITIONAL, SEPARATE QUOTA). COUNCIL SHOULD DIRECT STAFF TO COME UP WITH ALTERNATIVES TO CONSIDER THE ABOVE.
- AP ENDORSES ALTERNATIVE 7 UNDER BSB UNUSED ACL-CARRY OVER ACTION
- AP SUPPORTS A SPAWNING CLOSURE FOR BSB (COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL).
- AP SUGGESTS ADOPTING ALTERNATIVE 3 FOR VERMILION SNAPPER TRIP LIMITS (1,500 LBS).
- CONSIDER A 1,000 POUND TRIP LIMIT ON GAG GROUPER AND STARTING THE SEASON ON MAY 1 OF EACH YEAR. REDUCE TO 100 LBS GW WHEN 90% OF THE QUOTA IS MET.
- CONSIDER ALTERNATIVE 1 (NO ACTION) FOR GREATER AMBERJACK
- AP SUPPORTS A TRIP LIMIT FOR BSB (REG AMENDMENT 9)
- ENSURE SOCIOECONOMIC ANALYSIS IS INCLUDED FOR CONSIDERATION OF TRIP LIMIT OPTIONS AT THE DECEMBER COUNCIL MEETING.

Amendment 18A

The AP approved the following motion regarding Amendment 18A:

- THE AP RECOMMENDS TABLING THE GOLDEN TILEFISH ENDORSEMENT PROGRAM UNTIL THE STOCK ASSESSMENT RESULTS ARE IN (DELAY IMPLEMENTATION).
- RECOMMEND ALT 2F (LONGLINE PREFERRED) BUT DO NOT RECOMMEND A HOOK-AND-LINE ENDORSEMENT
- RECOMMEND ACTION 2, ALT 4

- AP RECOMMENDS THAT THE LONGLINE ENDORSEMENT BE TRANSFERABLE AS PREFERRED (ALTERNATIVE 3, OPTION 1)
- AP RECOMMENDS ACTION 4, ALT 1 AS PREFERRED
- AP RECOMMENDS ACTION 6, ALT 2 AS PREFERRED (LONGLINE ENDORSEMENT, 300 TRIP LIMIT FOR HOOK AND LINE, NO HOOK AND LINE ENDORSEMENT)
- AP RECOMMENDS ACTION 7, ALT 4A AS PREFERRED
- AP RECOMMENDS THAT THE BSB LIMIT ON PARTICIPATION IS ATTACHED TO THE SG PERMIT AND NOT SEPARABLE
- AP RECOMMENDS ACTION 8, ALT 3 AS PREFERRED (50 POTS)
- AP RECOMMENDS ACTION 9, ALT 2 AS PREFERRED
- AP RECOMMENDS PREFERRED ALT 3 UNDER ACTION 10
- AP RECOMMENDS THAT THE COUNCIL REQUIRE 100% ELECTRONIC DEALER REPORTING USING SAFIS OR SOME OTHER SYSTEM.
- AP RECOMMENDS THAT THE COUNCIL ESTABLISH AN AD HOC ADVISORY PANEL TO DEVELOP ELECTRONIC LOGBOOKS/ELECTRONIC REPORTING FOR THE FOR-HIRE AND RECREATIONAL SECTORS.

Comprehensive ACL Amendment

- The AP approved the following motions regarding the Comprehensive ACL Amendment:
- AP RECOMMENDS ALTERNATIVE 5 UNDER ACTION 1 AS A PREFERRED
- AP RECOMMENDS ALTERNATIVE 1 (NO ACTION) FOR ACTION 2 (EC SPECIES DESIGNATION)
- AP RECOMMENDS TO THE COUNCIL TO CONSIDER REMOVING GOLDEN TILEFISH FROM THE SPECIES GROUPINGS.
- AP RECOMMENDS ALTERNATIVE 1 (NO ACTION) AS THEIR PREFERRED UNDER ACTION 3 (SPECIES GROUPINGS)
- AP RECOMMENDS ALTERNATIVE 3C (ABC = 85% OFL) AS THEIR PREFERRED UNDER ACTION 4

- RECOMMENDATION: LOOK AT TRENDS IN LANDINGS FOR UNASSESSED SPECIES TO SET THE ABC.
- AP RECOMMENDS THE COUNCIL'S PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE (ALTERNATIVE 2) ON SECTOR ALLOCATIONS (ACTION 6) FOR THE SNAPPER GROUPER FISHERY
- AP RECOMMENDS ALTERNATIVE 2 UNDER ACTION 7 (ACLS) AS THEIR PREFERRED.
- COUNCIL TO CONSIDER COMBINING ALTERNATIVES 2 AND 3 UNDER THE COMMERCIAL AM/ACT ACTION (ACTION 8)
- AP RECOMMENDS SUB ALTERNATIVE 8C (UNDER ACTION 8) AS THEIR PREFERRED.
- AP RECOMMENDS ALTERNATIVE 6 UNDER ACTION 8 AS THEIR PREFERRED
- AP RECOMMENDS ALTERNATIVE 3 AS THEIR PREFERRED UNDER ACTION 9
- AP RECOMMENDS ALTERNATIVE 2 UNDER ACTION 10 AS THEIR PREFERRED
- AP RECOMMENDS ALTERNATIVE 3 UNDER ACTION 11 AS THEIR PREFERRED
- AP RECOMMENDS ALTERNATIVE 4 UNDER ACTION 12 (1 FISH PER VESSEL)
- AP RECOMMENDS ALTERNATIVE 5 (1 WRECKFISH PER ANGLER PER DAY) UNDER ACTION 12 BUT WITH A LIMIT OF 4 FISH PER VESSEL EXCLUDING CAPTAIN AND CREW
- ACCEPT THE COUNCIL'S PREFERRED BLACK GROUPER JURISDICTIONAL ALLOCATION
- ACCEPT THE COUNCIL'S PREFERRED SECTOR ALLOCATION FOR BLACK GROUPER
- CHOOSE ALTERNATIVE 2 UNDER THE COMMERCIAL ALTERNATIVES FOR BLACK GROUPER SECTOR ACLS
- CHOOSE ALTERNATIVE 4 UNDER THE RECREATIONAL ALTERNATIVES FOR BLACK GROUPER SECTOR ACLS

- CHOOSE ALTERNATIVES 2 AND 3 (COUNCIL'S PREFERRED) AS PREFERRED UNDER BLACK GROUPEL AMS. RECOMMENDATION: COUNCIL SHOULD CONSIDER MANAGEMENT ACTIONS TO ADDRESS UNDERAGES.
- AP RECOMMENDS CHOOSING ALTERNATIVES 5, 6 AND 6A AS THEIR PREFERRED

Amendment 24

The AP approved the following motions regarding Amendment 24:

- AP RECOMMENDS THE COUNCIL TO CONSIDER NO CHANGES TO RED GROUPEL MANAGEMENT BECAUSE EXISTING REGULATIONS APPEAR TO BE SUFFICIENT TO KEEP LANDINGS BELOW THE ACL. RECOMMENDATION: COUNCIL SHOULD CONSIDER AN INCREASE IN THE BAG LIMIT TO ACCOUNT FOR THE FACT THAT OTHER REGULATIONS APPEAR TO BE SUFFICIENT TO KEEP LANDINGS BELOW THE LIMIT.
- AP ACCEPTS COUNCIL'S PREFERRED ALTERNATIVES FOR RED GROUPEL COMMERCIAL AMS (ALTERNATIVES 2 AND 3).
- AP RECOMMENDS ALTERNATIVES 5, 6 AND 6A FOR RED GROUPEL RECREATIONAL AMS

Amendment 22

The AP approved the following motions regarding Amendment 22:

- DO NOT CONSIDER CATCH SHARES FOR RED SNAPPER MANAGEMENT (AMENDMENT 22). RECOMMENDATIONS: TRIP LIMITS, SPAWNING SEASON CLOSURES; INCLUDE RED SNAPPER IN GROUPEL SPAWNING SEASON CLOSURES.