

Amendment 18 Summary of Scoping Comments

1) Limiting participation and effort in the golden tilefish fishery (possibly endorsements or limited access program).

- Comment 1: Endorsement
 - In favor (3 people)
 - See endorsement as a bridge to LAPs
- Comment 2: LAPs
 - In favor (general - 3 people)
 - New people gearing up to fish, need something to stop new entry
 - In favor if an appropriate TAC (1 person)
 - Against (general – 8 people)
 - Against if use years from early 1990s (1 person)
- Comment 3: Lower trip limit from 4000 to 3000, 2500, or 2000
- Comment 4: Allow only bandit gear during 300 lb trip limit (assuming no change in start date)
- Comment 5: Ban longlines (7 people)

2) Limiting participation and effort in the black sea bass pot fishery (possibly endorsements or limited access program).

- Comment 1: Pots left in water
 - Do not allow for pots to be left in the water during trips (2 people)
 - Allow traps in water no more than 72 hours
- Comment 2: LAPs
 - In favor (2 people)
 - Against (6 people)
- Comment 3: Limits on the number of traps held per vessel
 - 100 traps per vessel, make transferable
 - 50 traps per vessel
 - 40 traps per vessel
- Comment 4: Oppose the use of pots (3 people)

3) Extending the range of the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan north through the Mid-Atlantic and New England Council areas.

- Comment 1: In favor (3 people)
- Comment 2: Against (2 people)

4) Separating the snowy grouper quota into regions/states.

- Comment 1: Support regionalization (9 people)
- Comment 2: Delay regionalization until fishing for snowy grouper is economically viable (indicated by fishermen targeting snowy grouper again)
- Comment 3: Shut down until rebuilt

- Comment 4: Expand regionalization to other species (5 people)

5) Separating the gag recreational Annual Catch Limit (ACL) into region or state Annual Catch Targets (ACTs).

- Comment 1: Support regionalization (5 people)
- Comment 2: Expand regionalization to other species (5 people)

6) Changing the golden tilefish fishing year.

- Comment 1: New start date
 - In favor (general – 5 people)
 - Fish spawn in April and May
 - Gulf opens Jan 1st and the market is flooded
 - In favor (Sept 1st – 1 person)
 - Benefits historical bandit fishermen
 - Change in start date eliminates need for 300 lb trip limit

7) Improving data reporting.

- Comment 1: Recreational data
 - Data flawed, need better data that is fair and unbiased (5 people)
 - Data is not surveyed well – surveyers have no experience with fisheries, survey won't give any good data, data is poor, sketchy
 - Don't think MRIP will solve problems
- Comment 2: Electronic real time reporting
 - In favor
 - Need faster turnaround on data
 - Can speed up and improve data reporting if fishermen are given electronic forms via Excel, so they can fill out, print out, mail or email
- Comment 3: Video monitoring
 - In favor and participating in proposed pilot study
- Comment 4: Electronic logbook reporting
 - Against because no computer on boat
- Comment 5: Sampling outdated
- Comment 6: Fishermen not included in data collection and not involved in the process
- Comment 7: Need logbook to ask for data on depth and current
- Comment 8: Data is inaccurate (11 people)
- Comment 9: Recreational logbooks needed
- Comment 10: In favor of onboard observers (2 people)

8) Changing the wreckfish fishery Individual Transferable Quota (ITQ) program.

- Comment 1: Program continuation
 - Do not abolish program (4 people)

- I have a major investment (3 people)
 - Although unused in past, I may use shares in the future due to expected closures
- Abolish program (1 person)
- Comment 2: Recreational allocation
 - Provide for a recreational allocation
 - Do not provide for a recreational allocation
- Comment 3: Redistribute shares to current participants only
 - If TAC is cut, can't maintain historical landings without economic difficulties
- Comment 4: Do nothing until new stock assessment
- Comment 5: Federal buyout of shareholders needed
- Comment 6: Get additional public comment on this action

9) Designating Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) in new areas in the Mid-Atlantic and New England as part of a possible extension of the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan (FMP) north.

- Comment: No new EFH designations wanted