AMENDMENT 17 OPTIONS PAPER

February 11, 2008

Amendment 17 contains four actions:

(1) Reduce fishing mortality and establish rebuilding plans as appropriate, in addition to establishing MSY and OY, for red snapper, greater amberjack, and mutton snapper.
(2) Specify ACLs and accountability measures for species undergoing overfishing and for three recently assessed species.
(3) Remove some species from the fishery management unit (FMU), particularly those that have a low occurrence in federal waters.
(4) Extend the range of the snapper grouper fishery management plan north through the Mid-Atlantic Council's area of authority. This would not apply to black sea bass, scup, and golden tilefish since they are covered by FMPs in the Mid-Atlantic and South Atlantic.

The purpose of this document is to outline that need for each action, in addition to potential alternatives. It also provides the timeline.

1.0 ACTION 1: Respond to Red Snapper, Greater Amberjack, and Mutton Snapper Stock Assessments

Management measures will be developed following the Council's and SSC's evaluation of the stock assessment results at the June 2008 Council meeting. The Council might want to consider transferring this action into another amendment (Amendment 19) as this action may not be ready for the Council to take to public hearings in October 2008 (as per the schedule of Amendment 17). The Council might also want to scope this action again once it becomes clearer as to what types of actions need to be taken.

2.0 ACTION 2: Annual Catch Limits and Accountability Measures

2.1 Need for Action

Revisions to the Magnuson-Stevens Act in 2006 require that by 2010, FMPs for fisheries determined by the Secretary to be subject to overfishing must establish a mechanism for specifying annual catch limits (ACLs) at a level that prevents overfishing and does not exceed the recommendations of the respective Council's SSC or other established peer review processes. These FMPs also are required to establish within this time frame measures to ensure accountability. Accountability measures are management controls that ensure that the ACLs are not exceeded; examples include corrective measures if overages occur and implementation of an in-season monitoring program. By 2011, FMPs for all other fisheries, except fisheries for species with annual life cycles, must meet these requirements. **Amendment 17 will specify ACLs and accountability measures for species undergoing overfishing and for three recently assessed species:**

(a) Red snapper (assessment results to be presented to Council in June 2008)
(b) Greater amberjack (assessment results to be presented to Council in June 2008)
(c) Mutton snapper (assessment results to be presented to Council in June 2008)
(d) Snowy grouper (overfishing should end in 2009)
(e) Golden tilefish (overfishing should end in 2007)
(f) Black sea bass (overfishing should end in 2009)
(g) Red grouper (undergoing overfishing)
(h) Black grouper (undergoing overfishing)
(i) Speckled hind (undergoing overfishing)
(j) Warsaw grouper (undergoing overfishing)
(k) Gag (undergoing overfishing)
(l) Vermilion snapper (undergoing overfishing)

2.2 Alternatives

2.2.1 Annual Catch Limits

Alternative 1 (no action). Do not specify ACLs for snapper grouper species undergoing overfishing and for the three recently assessed species.

Alternative 2. Specify ACLs for snapper grouper species undergoing overfishing and for three recently assessed species. *Note: ACL values to be developed by the Council after the SSC determines the ABC values for these species at their June 2008 meeting. More than one preferred alternative may be chosen.*

Shallow Water Grouper Species

Sub-alternative 2A. Specify the ACL for gag grouper at ____ for 2010 onwards.

Sub-alternative 2B. Specify the 2010 ACL for red grouper at ____ for 2010 onwards.

Sub-alternative 2C. Specify the 2010 ACL for black grouper at ____ for 2010 onwards.

Sub-alternative 2D. Specify the 2010 ACL for the shallow water grouper unit at ____ for 2010 onwards.

Deepwater Snapper Grouper Species

Sub-alternative 2E. Specify the 2010 ACL for snowy grouper at ____ for 2010 onwards.

Sub-alternative 2F. Specify the 2010 ACL for golden tilefish at ____ for 2010 onwards.

Sub-alternative 2G. Specify the 2010 ACL for speckled hind at ____ for 2010 onwards.

Sub-alternative 2H. Specify the 2010 ACL for warsaw grouper at ____ for 2010 onwards.

Sub-alternative 2I. Specify the 2010 ACL for the deepwater snapper grouper unit at ____ for 2010 onwards.

Other Species

Sub-alternative 2J. Specify the 2010 ACL for black sea bass at ____ for 2010 onwards.

Sub-alternative 2K. Specify the 2010 ACL for greater amberjack at ____ for 2010 onwards.

Sub-alternative 2L. Specify the 2010 ACL for mutton snapper at ____ for 2010 onwards.

Sub-alternative 2M. Specify the 2010 ACL for red snapper at ____ for 2010 onwards.

Sub-alternative 2N. Specify the 2010 ACL for vermilion snapper at ____ for 2010 onwards.

2.2.2 Accountability Measures

2.2.2.1 Management Controls to Prevent Overages of Annual Catch Limits

Shallow Water Grouper Species

Alternative 1 (no action). Do not change current management measures for shallow water grouper species undergoing overfishing to prevent overages of ACLs.

Alternative 2. Establish individual commercial quotas and recreational allocations for shallow water species experiencing overfishing.

Sub-alternative 2A. Specify the commercial quota for black grouper at ____ for 2010 onwards and recreational allocation at ____ for 2010 onwards.

Sub-alternative 2B. Specify the 2010 commercial quota for red grouper at ____ for 2010 onwards and recreational allocation at ____ for 2010 onwards.

Sub-alternative 2C. Specify the 2010 commercial quota for gag at ____ for 2010 onwards and recreational allocation at ____ for 2010 onwards.

Alternative 3. Establish a shallow water grouper unit to be defined based on a combination of biological, geographic, economic, taxonomic, technical, social, and ecological factors. Manage unit stocks in aggregate, as practicable and appropriate, based on the status of an indicator species, gag. Define the shallow water grouper unit to include:

Sub-alternative 3A. *Gag*, red grouper, black grouper, and scamp.
Sub-alternative 3B. *Gag*, red grouper, black grouper, scamp, red hind, rock hind, yellowmouth grouper, tiger grouper, yellowfin grouper, graysby, and coney.

Alternative 4. Establish a commercial quota and recreational allocation for shallow water grouper unit at ____ for 2010 onwards.

Sub-alternative 4A. Manage the commercial harvest of species in the shallow water grouper unit based on an individual quota established for the indicator species. After the individual quota is met, all purchase and sale of species in the unit is prohibited and harvest and/or possession is limited to the bag limit.

Sub-alternative 4B. Manage the commercial harvest of species in the shallow water grouper unit based on the individual quota established for the indicator species and an aggregate quota for the remaining species in the unit. After either the individual quota or aggregate quota is met, all purchase and sale of species in the unit is prohibited and harvest and/or possession is limited to the bag limit.

Sub-alternative 4C. Manage the commercial harvest of species in the shallow water grouper unit based on an aggregate quota for all species in the unit. After the aggregate quota is met, all purchase and sale of species in the unit is prohibited and harvest and/or possession is limited to the bag limit.

<u>Deepwater Grouper Species</u>

Alternative 1 (no action). Do not change current management measures for shallow water grouper species undergoing overfishing to prevent overages of ACLs.

Alternative 2. Establish a deepwater grouper unit to be defined based on a combination of biological, geographic, economic, taxonomic, technical, social, and ecological factors. Manage unit stocks in aggregate, as practicable and appropriate, based on the status of an indicator species, snowy grouper. Define the deepwater unit to include:

Sub-alternative 2A (preferred). *Snowy grouper*, yellowedge grouper, warsaw grouper, speckled hind, misty grouper, and queen snapper.

Sub-alternative 2B. *Snowy grouper*, yellowedge grouper, warsaw grouper, speckled hind, misty grouper, queen snapper, and blueline tilefish.

Sub-alternative 2C. *Snowy grouper*, yellowedge grouper, warsaw grouper, speckled hind, misty grouper, queen snapper, blueline tilefish, and golden tilefish.

Alternative 3. Establish individual commercial quotas and recreational allocations for deepwater species experiencing overfishing.

Sub-alternative 3A. Specify the commercial quota for snowy grouper at ____ for 2010 onwards and recreational allocation at ____ for 2010 onwards.

Sub-alternative 3B. Specify the 2010 commercial quota for warsaw grouper at ____ for 2010 onwards and recreational allocation at ____ for 2010 onwards.

Sub-alternative 3C. Specify the 2010 commercial quota for speckled hind at ____ for 2010 onwards and recreational allocation at ____ for 2010 onwards.

Sub-alternative 3D. Specify the 2010 commercial quota for golden tilefish at ____ for 2010 onwards and recreational allocation at ____ for 2010 onwards.

Alternative 4. Establish a commercial quota and recreational allocation for the deepwater snapper grouper unit.

Sub-alternative 4A. Manage the commercial harvest of species in the deepwater snapper grouper unit based on an individual quota established for the indicator species and any other quota-managed species in the unit. After any of the individual quotas are met, all purchase and sale of species in the unit is prohibited and harvest and/or possession is limited to the bag limit. Manage commercial trips with an aggregate trip limit for all species in the unit that would replace current trip limits. Eliminate provision that specifies a one fish per vessel trip limit (commercial) and no sale restriction for warsaw grouper and speckled hind. Remove existing commercial and recreational 12" total length minimum size limit for queen snapper and silk snapper.

Sub-alternative 4B. Manage the commercial harvest of species in the deepwater snapper grouper unit based on the individual quotas established for the indicator species and any quota managed species included in the unit, and an aggregate quota for the remaining species in the unit. After any of the individual or aggregate quotas are met, all purchase and sale of species in the unit is prohibited and harvest and/or possession is limited to the bag limit. Manage commercial deepwater trips with an aggregate trip limit for all species in the unit. Eliminate provision that specifies a one fish per vessel trip limit (commercial) and no sale restriction for warsaw grouper and speckled hind. Remove existing commercial and recreational 12" total length minimum size limit for queen snapper and silk snapper.

Sub-alternative 4C. Manage the commercial harvest of species in the deepwater snapper grouper unit based on an aggregate quota and an aggregate trip limit for all species in the unit that would replace current quotas and trip limits. The aggregate quota would be the sum of the individual quotas established for the

indicator species and any quota managed species included in the unit, plus aggregate quota for the remaining species in the unit specified in Table 2-x. After the aggregate quota is met, all purchase and sale of species in the unit is prohibited and harvest and/or possession is limited to the bag limit. Eliminate provision that specifies a one fish per vessel trip limit (commercial) and no sale restriction for warsaw grouper and speckled hind. Remove existing commercial and recreational 12" total length minimum size limit for queen snapper and silk snapper.

Alternative 5. Reduce bycatch and fishing mortality in deepwater snapper grouper fishery through consideration of any of the following sub-alternatives.

Sub-alternative 5A. Establish six month seasonal closure for snowy grouper or deepwater snapper grouper unit during winter months..

Sub-alternative 5B. Establish regional quotas for snowy grouper or deepwater snapper grouper unit.

Sub-alternative 5C. Restrict the number of hooks in the deepwater recreational fishery.

Sub-alternative 5D. Limit retention of deep water snapper grouper species to one fish per vessel.

Sub-alternative 5E. Establish a lottery system for deep water snapper grouper species taken by recreational fishermen.

Sub-alternative 5F. Establish a lottery system for deep water snapper grouper species taken by recreational fishermen.

Sub-alternative 5G. Change the start date for the golden tilefish fishing year to September 1. Retain annual quota of 295,000 lbs. gutted weight (331,000 lbs whole weight) and a commercial trip limit of 4,000 lbs gutted weight (4,480 lbs whole weight). Do not reduce the trip limit to 300 pounds gutted weight when 75% of the quota is captured. After the commercial quota is met, all purchase and sale is prohibited and harvest and/or possession is limited to the bag limit.

Sub-alternative 5H. Prohibit the use of longline gear to target snapper grouper species when 75% of the golden tilefish quota is met and trip limit is reduced to 300 lbs gutted weight.

Other Species

Alternative 1 (no action). Do not change current management measures for red snapper, greater amberjack, mutton snapper, vermilion snapper, and black sea bass to prevent overages of ACLs.

Alternative 2. Establish individual commercial quotas and recreational allocations for the following species.

Sub-alternative 2A. Specify the commercial quota for red snapper at ____ for 2010 onwards and recreational allocation at ____ for 2010 onwards.

Sub-alternative 2B. Specify the 2010 commercial quota for greater amberjack at ____ for 2010 onwards and recreational allocation at ____ for 2010 onwards.

Sub-alternative 2C. Specify the 2010 commercial quota for mutton snapper at ____ for 2010 onwards and recreational allocation at ____ for 2010 onwards.

Sub-alternative 2D. Specify the 2010 commercial quota for vermilion snapper at ____ for 2010 onwards and recreational allocation at ____ for 2010 onwards.

Sub-alternative 2E. Specify the 2010 commercial quota for black sea bass at ____ for 2010 onwards and recreational allocation at ____ for 2010 onwards.

Alternative 3. Specify management measures to end overfishing of red snapper.

Alternative 4. Limit the number of sea bass tags and pots.

Sub-alternative 4A. Require that each black sea bass pot in the water or at sea on a vessel in the South Atlantic EEZ have an attached valid identification tag issued by NMFS. Limit the black sea bass pot tags annually to 100 per holder of Federal Snapper Grouper vessel permits. NMFS will issue new identification tags each fishing year that will replace the tags from the previous fishing year.

Sub-alternative 4B. Require that each black sea bass pot in the water or at sea on a vessel in the South Atlantic EEZ have an attached valid identification tag issued by NMFS. Limit the black sea bass pot tags annually to 50 per holder of Federal Snapper Grouper vessel permits. Require that new identification tags be issued each fishing year.

Sub-alternative 4C. Require that each black sea bass pot in the water or at sea on a vessel in the South Atlantic EEZ have an attached valid identification tag issued by NMFS. Limit the black sea bass pot tags annually to 25 per holder of Federal Snapper Grouper vessel permits. Require that new identification tags be issued each fishing year.

Sub-alternative 4D. Require that each black sea bass pot in the water or at sea on a vessel in the South Atlantic EEZ have an attached valid identification tag issued by NMFS. Limit the black sea bass pot tags annually to 100 per holder of Federal Snapper Grouper vessel permits in year 1, 50 in year 2, and 25 in year 3 and onwards until modified. Require that new identification tags be issued each fishing year.

Sub-alternative 4E. Require that each black sea bass pot in the water or at sea on a vessel in the South Atlantic EEZ have an attached valid identification tag issued by NMFS. Limit the black sea bass pot tags annually to 100 per holder of Federal Snapper Grouper vessel permits in year 1 and 50 in year 2 and onwards until modified. NMFS will issue new identification tags each fishing year that will replace the tags from the previous fishing year.

Sub-alternative 4F. Require that each black sea bass pot in the water or at sea on a vessel in the South Atlantic EEZ have an attached valid identification tag issued by NMFS. Limit the number of black sea bass pots fished annually to 50 per holder of Federal Snapper Grouper vessel permits for (a) any fishermen that is currently using an average of less than 55 pots (based on average number of pots fished on trips between 1/1/05 and 12/31/06) and (b) and fishermen entering the fishery after 1/1/07. For any fishermen currently using an average of 55 or more pots (based on average number of pots fished on trips between 1/1/05 and 12/31/06), limit the number of black sea bass pots annually to their average less as reduced by 10%. Limit the maximum number of pots allowed per holder of Federal Snapper Grouper vessel permits to 125. Limit the number of black sea bass pot tags issued annually each holder of Federal Snapper Grouper vessel permits to the number of pots allowed plus 10% for damage and loss; however, each permit holder may only fish the number of pots allowed. The number of pots fished will be determined from snapper grouper logbooks that have been submitted to NMFS on or before 3/8/07.

2.2.2.2 Exceeding Allowable Catches

Commercial

Alternative 1 (no action). Do not automatically reduce the commercial quota to account for overages by the commercial sector. Respond to overages, as needed, on a case-specific basis.

Alternative 2. Do not automatically reduce the commercial quota to account for overages by the commercial sector. However, if a commercial overage occurs, then do not implement any scheduled commercial quota increases specified in rebuilding plans until SEDAR and/or the Science Center has updated the applicable assessment and/or recovery projections.

Alternative 3. Do not automatically reduce the commercial quota to account for overages by the commercial sector. However, if a commercial overage occurs, then do not implement any scheduled TAC increases specified in rebuilding plans for overfished species until SEDAR and/or the Science Center has updated the applicable assessment and/or recovery projections.

Alternative 4. Reduce the commercial quota as follows to account for overages by the commercial sector. Take additional action to adjust quotas, if needed, following stock assessments or assessment updates.
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> **Sub-alternative 4A (preferred).** If an overage occurs in any given year, then reduce the commercial quota the following year by the amount of the overage plus an appropriate correction factor designed to keep the rate of recovery of an overfished species on schedule. The correction factor would be based on the rate of harvest increase from the existing projection analyses.
> **Sub-alternative 4B.** If an overage occurs for two consecutive years, then reduce the commercial quota in the third year by the sum of the overages during the previous two years plus an appropriate correction factor designed to keep the rate of recovery of an overfished species on schedule. The correction factor would be based on the rate of harvest increase from the existing projection analyses.
> **Sub-alternative 4C.** If an overage occurs for three consecutive years, then reduce the commercial quota in the fourth year by the sum of the overages during the previous three years plus an appropriate correction factor designed to keep the rate of recovery of an overfished species on schedule. The correction factor would be based on the rate of harvest increase from the existing projection analyses.

Alternative 5. Do not take action in Alternatives 2-4 unless the overall TAC is exceeded when commercial and recreational landings are combined.

<u>Recreational</u>

Alternative 1 (no action). Do not automatically reduce the recreational harvest rate to account for overages by the recreational sector. Respond to overages, as needed, on a case-specific basis.

Alternative 2. Do not account for recreational overages by reducing the recreational harvest rate. However, if a recreational overage occurs, then do not implement any

scheduled recreational harvest rate increases specified in rebuilding plans of an overfished species until SEDAR and/or the Science Center has updated the applicable assessment and/or recovery projections.

Alternative 3. Do not account for recreational overages by reducing the recreational harvest rate. However, if a recreational overage occurs, then do not implement any scheduled TAC increases specified in rebuilding plans of an overfished species until SEDAR and/or the Science Center has updated the applicable assessment and/or recovery projections.

Alternative 4. Reduce the recreational harvest rate to account for overages by the recreational sector. A recreational overage occurs when the sum of total landings reported by the headboat survey, total landings reported by MRFSS, and total landings reported by MRFSS x 1- the proportional standard error (PSE) associated with those landings data, exceeds the recreational portion of the TAC.

> **Sub-alternative 4A (preferred).** If the running average of recreational catch over a three year period exceeds the average annual allocation over that same period, then reduce the recreational harvest rate in the fourth year by a percentage equal to the average percentage overage during the previous three years plus an appropriate correction factor designed to keep the rate of recovery of an overfished species on schedule. The correction factor would be based on the rate of harvest increase from the existing projection analyses. The first year that Amendment 17 is implemented, the running average is two years thereafter three years. The overage rate adjustment would remain in effect until changed in response to a new or updated analysis.
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> **Sub-alternative 4B.** If the running average of recreational catch over a two year period exceeds the average annual allocation over that same period, then reduce the recreational harvest rate in the third year by a percentage equal to the average percentage overage during the previous two years plus an appropriate correction factor designed to keep the rate of recovery of an overfished species on schedule. The correction factor would be based on the rate of harvest increase from the existing projection analyses. The overage rate adjustment would remain in effect until changed in response to a new or updated analysis.

Alternative 5. Do not take action in Alternatives 2-4 unless the overall TAC is exceeded when commercial and recreational landings are combined.

2.2.2.3 Measures to Monitor Progress of a Fishery and Reduce Chance of Exceeding ACL

Alternative 1 (no action). Do not change methods to monitor commercial and recreational landings.

Alternative 2. Commercial sector – track landings using logbooks, dealer reports & trip tickets; close fishery when quota projected to be met; incorporate PQBM.

Alternative 3. Recreational sector – track landings using MRFSS & Headboat; change regulations and/or close fishery when allocation projected to be met; incorporate PQBM.

Alternative 4. Improve recreational catch data – for-hire logbooks; private recreational logbooks.

Alternative 5. Improve biological sampling – specify numbers of sample by species to be collected and analyzed with deadlines based on SEDAR assessment schedule.

Alternative 6. Improve bycatch data – fully implement ACCSP.

Alternative 7. Improve fishery independent surveys.

Alternative 8. Others?

3.0 ACTION 3: Fishery Management Unit

3.1 Need for Action

The Council is considering action to remove some species from the fishery management unit (FMU), particularly those that have a low occurrence in federal waters. The FMU defined by each regional fishery management council FMP identifies the specific fishery (or that portion thereof) that is relevant to the FMP's management objectives. Decisions about the composition of FMUs are an integral part of the plan development process, as FMUs define the specific species that are to be the target of conservation and management. The South Atlantic Council's Snapper Grouper FMU is currently composed of 73 species as listed in Appendix A. The purpose of this action is to ensure that fishery managers focus their attention and resources on species that are in need of conservation and management and to allow transfer management to agencies that are more appropriate.

3.2 Alternatives

Alternative 1 (no action). Do not change the current species composition of the Snapper Grouper FMU (Appendix A).

Alternative 2. Remove puddingwife, queen triggerfish, crevalle jack, and porkfish from the Snapper Grouper FMU. State regulations would govern their harvest in state and federal waters (see Appendix A for their state and federal landings).

Alternative 3. Others?

4.0 ACTION 4: Extension of Snapper Grouper Regulations

4.1 Need for Action

The Council is concerned about a northward expansion of a fishery for snapper and grouper species, resulting in large catches of tilefish and groupers. For example, the Council's Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel presented information documenting increasing catches of blueline tilefish and snowy grouper off the coast of Virginia. In addition, Virginia reported state records of recreationally-caught blueline tilefish and snowy grouper. (The Virginia Marine Resources Commission has since established commercial and recreational limits on the harvest and landing of tilefish and grouper off the coast of Virginia.) **In response, the Council is considering extending the range of the snapper grouper fishery management plan for some species north through the Mid-Atlantic Council's area of authority. The current boundaries would not be changed for black sea bass, golden tilefish, and scup since they are currently covered by fishery management plans in the Mid-Atlantic and the South Atlantic.**

4.2 Alternatives

Alternative 1 (no action). Do not change the current management boundaries of the Snapper Grouper FMU (Appendix A).

Alternative 2. Extend the management boundaries for all species in the Snapper Grouper FMU northward to the include the Mid-Atlantic Council's jurisdiction (for the exception of black sea bass, golden tilefish, and scup).

Alternative 3. Others?

5.0 Timing for Snapper Grouper Amendment 17:

- Scoping through February 22, 2008.
- Council reviews scoping comments and Options Paper & provides direction to Staff/Team – March 3-7, 2008 meeting in Jekyll Island, GA.
- Scientific & Statistical Committee reviews Amendment/Environmental Impact Statement – June 8-10, 2008 meeting in Orlando, FL.
- Council reviews Options Paper & provides direction to Staff/Team – June 9-13, 2008 meeting in Orlando, FL.
- Council approves Amendment/Environmental Impact Statement for public hearings – September 15-19, 2008 meeting in Orlando, FL.
- Public hearings – October 2008.
- Review informal & public hearing comments and DEIS comments and approve all actions – December 1-5, 2008 meeting in Wilmington, NC.
- Review complete document and approve for formal review by the Secretary of Commerce – March 2-6, 2009 meeting in Savannah, GA.

Appendix A. Supporting Information

From Draft Amendment 13B, Dated June 2005:

Composition of the Fishery Management Unit (FMU)

FMU Composition Alternative 1. No action. Do not change the current species composition of the Snapper Grouper FMU (Table 1).

FMU Composition Alternative 2. Remove puddingwife, queen triggerfish, crevalle jack, and porkfish from the Snapper Grouper FMU. State regulations would govern their harvest in state and federal waters.

Table 1. Species in the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Unit (FMU).

Almaco jack, *Seriola rivoliana*
Atlantic spadefish, *Chaetodipterus faber*
Banded rudderfish, *Seriola zonata*
Bank sea bass, *Centropristis ocyurus*
Bar jack, *Caranx ruber*
Black grouper, *Mycteroperca bonaci*
Black margate, *Anisotremus surinamensis*
Black sea bass, *Centropristis striata*
Black snapper, *Apsilus dentatus*
Blackfin snapper, *Lutjanus buccanella*
Blue runner, *Caranx crysos*
Blueline tilefish, *Caulolatilus microps*
Bluestriped grunt, *Haemulon sciurus*
Coney, *Cephalopholis fulva*
Cottonwick, *Haemulon melanurum*
Crevalle jack, *Caranx hippos*
Cubera snapper, *Lutjanus cyanopterus*
Dog snapper, *Lutjanus jocu*
French grunt, *Haemulon flavolineatum*
Gag, *Mycteroperca microlepis*
Golden tilefish, *Lopholatilus chamaeleonticeps*
Goliath grouper, *Epinephelus itajara*
Grass porgy, *Calamus arctifrons*
Gray (mangrove) snapper, *Lutjanus griseus*
Gray triggerfish, *Balistes capriscus*
Graysby, *Cephalopholis cruentata*
Greater amberjack, *Seriola dumerili*
Hogfish, *Lachnolaimus maximus*
Jolthead porgy, *Calamus bajonado*
Knobbed porgy, *Calamus nodosus*
Lane snapper, *Lutjanus synagris*
Lesser amberjack, *Seriola fasciata*
Longspine porgy, *Stenotomus caprinus*
Mahogany snapper, *Lutjanus mahogoni*
Margate, *Haemulon album*
Misty grouper, *Epinephelus mystacinus*
Mutton snapper, *Lutjanus analis*
Nassau grouper, *Epinephelus striatus*
Ocean triggerfish, *Canthidermis sufflamen*
Porkfish, *Anisotremus virginicus*
Puddingwife, *Halichoeres radiatus*
Queen snapper, *Etelis oculatus*
Queen triggerfish, *Balistes vetula*
Red grouper, *Epinephelus morio*
Red hind, *Epinephelus guttatus*
Red porgy, *Pagrus pagrus*
Red snapper, *Lutjanus campechanus*
Rock hind, *Epinephelus adscensionis*
Rock Sea Bass, *Centropristis philadelphica*
Sailors choice, *Haemulon parra*
Sand tilefish, *Malacanthus plumieri*
Saucereye porgy, *Calamus calamus*
Scamp, *Mycteroperca phenax*
Schoolmaster, *Lutjanus apodus*
Scup, *Stenotomus chrysops*
Sheepshead, *Archosargus probatocephalus*
Silk snapper, *Lutjanus vivanus*
Smallmouth grunt, *Haemulon chrysargyreum*
Snowy grouper, *Epinephelus niveatus*
Spanish grunt, *Haemulon macrostomum*
Speckled hind, *Epinephelus drummondhayi*
Tiger grouper, *Mycteroperca tigris*
Tomtate, *Haemulon aurolineatum*
Yellow jack, *Caranx bartholomaei*
Yellowedge grouper, *Epinephelus flavolimbatus*
Yellowfin grouper, *Mycteroperca venenosa*
Yellowmouth grouper, *Mycteroperca interstitialis*
Yellowtail snapper, *Ocyurus chrysurus*
Vermilion snapper, *Rhomboplites aurorubens*
Warsaw grouper, *Epinephelus nigritus*
White grunt, *Haemulon plumieri*
Whitebone porgy, *Calamus leucosteus*
Wreckfish, *Polyprion americanus*

Biological Effects of FMU Composition Alternatives

Alternative 2 would delete the following species from the Snapper Grouper fishery management unit (FMU): puddingwife, queen triggerfish, crevalle jack, and porkfish. The Council wants to allow state regulations to apply in federal waters for those species that are predominately captured in state waters and/or for those species for which state regulations are more conservative. Crevalle jack and porkfish are predominantly harvested recreationally in state waters (Tables 4.1-x and 4.1-x) The "Marine Life Rule" affords greater restrictions to queen triggerfish and puddingwife harvested in Florida state waters (Table 4.1-x).

Table 4.1-x. A comparison of the 2002 commercial harvest taken from state and federal waters. *Florida Marine Life landings for queen triggerfish, puddingwife, and porkfish (numbers of fish). Landings for other species are in pounds. Landings are from state trip ticket information and ALS.

SPECIES	STATE WATERS (0-3 nm from shore)					FEDERAL WATERS (3-200 nm from shore)
	NC	SC	GA	FL (East Coast)	Total	
Queen Triggerfish	0	0	0	173*	173*	0
Puddingwife	0	0	0	150*	150*	0
Crevalle Jack	5,113	0	0	154,914	160,027	1,169
Porkfish	0	0	0	5,010*	5,010*	0

Table 4.1-x. A comparison of the 2002 **recreational harvest** taken from state and federal waters. Landings are in pounds. Data are from MRFSS.

SPECIES	STATE WATERS (0-3 nm from shore)					FEDERAL WATERS (3-200 nm from shore)
	NC	SC	GA	FL (East Coast)	Total	
Queen Triggerfish	0	0	0	2,795	2,795	1,396
Puddingwife	0	0	0	0	0	254
Crevalle Jack	0	0	688	613,298	613,986	16,080
Porkfish	0	0	0	990	990	309

Table 4.1-x. A comparison of federal and state regulations managing commercial and recreational fisheries for queen triggerfish, puddingwife, crevalle jack, and porkfish.

		FEDERAL REGULATIONS	STATE REGULATIONS			
			NC	SC	GA	FL
Recreational	**Queen Triggerfish**	Included in the 20 fish aggregate bag limit per day[5]	20/person/day of reef complex species in combination[6]	same as federal	none	20/day of marine life species,[7] landed live, kept in an oxygenation system and gear restrictions[8]
	Puddingwife	Included in the 20 fish aggregate bag limit per day[5]	none	same as federal	none	20/day of marine life species,[7] landed live, kept in an oxygenation system and gear restrictions[8]
	Crevalle Jack	Included in the 20 fish aggregate bag limit per day[5]	20/person/day of reef complex species in combination[6]	same as federal	none	none
	Porkfish	Included in the 20 fish aggregate bag limit per day[5]	none	same as federal	none	20/day of marine life species,[7] landed live, kept in an oxygenation system and gear restrictions[8,9,10], 1.5" TL minimum size limit
Commercial	**Queen Triggerfish**	none	20/person/day of reef complex species in combination[6]	same as federal	none	20/day of marine life species,[7] landed live, kept in an oxygenation system and gear restrictions[8,9,10]
	Puddingwife	none	none	same as federal	none	20/day of marine life species,[7] landed live, kept in an oxygenation system and gear restrictions[8,9,10]
	Crevalle Jack	none	20/person/day of reef complex species in combination[6]	same as federal	none	100 lbs or 2 fish/person/day whichever is greater
	Porkfish	none	none	same as federal	none	20/day of marine life species,[7] landed live, kept in an oxygenation system and gear restrictions[8,9,10], 1.5" TL minimum size limit

Since the state regulations are more restrictive than the federal regulations, Alternative 2 would be expected to have beneficial impacts to the four species considered for removal from the FMU.