

# You're Invited to Participate in ... Community Port Meetings



## SCIENCE



## MANAGEMENT



## COMMUNICATION



## GOVERNANCE



### BACKGROUND

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council is developing a long-term “vision” for managing the snapper grouper fishery. In December 2012, the Council began discussions about the steps and structure needed for undertaking a visioning initiative and the process for engaging stakeholders in the project. The Council views this as a project to work cooperatively with all stakeholders having fishery interests.

### PORT MEETINGS - Structure

Port meetings will be organized by Council staff and Council members in three to four fishing communities per state. All stakeholders are invited to participate and are encouraged to help spread the word about the meetings or volunteer to be a meeting host to get maximum participation. The port meetings will be organized in the following manner;

- **Facilitation:** Meetings will be facilitated by Council staff using an interactive round-table discussion approach. Each strategic goal will be discussed and participants will be asked for strategies to implement each goal.
- **Format:** Meetings may be organized by fishery sector and set to run 2 hours in length/sector in each community.

Sectors may include:

Meeting 1 – Commercial

Meeting 2 – Recreational/For-Hire

Meeting 3 – General Fisheries Interest  
(tourism, hospitality,  
restaurants, chefs, etc.)

- **Webinars:** Webinar meetings for stakeholders that can't attend a port meeting will be held throughout the process.
- **Timing:** Meetings will be scheduled in the late-Winter and Spring 2014.

### PURPOSE of PORT MEETINGS

The visioning project will evaluate and refine current goals, objectives and strategies for managing the snapper grouper fishery. **Four strategic goals** have been identified by the Council to frame stakeholder input and include:

- **SCIENCE**
- **MANAGEMENT**
- **COMMUNICATION**
- **GOVERNANCE**

These components will be developed with input from stakeholders throughout the region to develop a pro-active plan for the future of the region's snapper grouper fishery. The mechanisms the Council will use to collect input are facilitated meetings in fishing communities from NC to Key West, FL and facilitated webinars.

### QUESTIONS to CONSIDER FOR DISCUSSIONS

Port meeting facilitators will be asking participants for input focused around the four strategic goals, such as,

*What would happen if the snapper grouper fishery **was not managed**?*

*What do you think **has worked/is working** with current management of the snapper grouper fishery?*

*What do you think **has not worked/is not working** with current management of the snapper grouper fishery?*

*How should the Council consider the **needs of the various stakeholders**?*

*What **management strategies (current or new)** would you support?*

*What are ways to **improve existing scientific programs** (i.e., MARMAP)?*

*What are ways to **complement existing scientific programs** in the SA region?*

*What are ways to **directly involve fishery stakeholders** in improving science programs?*

## GET INVOLVED

The SAFMC wants to involve stakeholders at all points of the visioning project and to get public input at an early stage in the visioning process. Here are ways to get involved:

- If you wish to continue to receive information about the Visioning Project and port meetings, drop us a line at: **safmcvision@safmc.net**
- Submit informal comments and ideas to the **Visioning Project e-mail: safmcvision@safmc.net**
- Attend the Visioning Workshops held every Monday morning at each Council meeting. Talk with Council members.
- Talk with staff about participating in a port meeting.
- Volunteer to help with a port meeting in your fishing community - the Council needs hosts and organizers for the meetings.

**For more information, contact Council staff:**

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<http://safmc.net/resource-library/council-visioning-project>