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The background of the slide is a photograph of several fishing boats on the ocean. The boats are viewed from behind, showing their long poles and the wake they create in the water. The sky is filled with dramatic, colorful clouds, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. In the distance, a city skyline is visible on the horizon.

THE SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL **Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology: 5 Year Review**

Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM)

- Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) requires each FMP to:
 - Establish standardized reporting methodology to account for bycatch
 - Minimize bycatch and minimize bycatch mortality to the extent practicable
- Key definitions in MSA:
 - Bycatch - *“Fish that are harvested in a fishery, but are not sold or kept for personal use, and includes economic discards and regulatory discards.”*
 - Fish – *“finfish, mollusks, crustaceans, and all other forms of marine animal and plant life other than marine mammals and birds.”*

NOAA Fisheries SBRM Final Rule

- Compliance and adequacy review of each FMP's SBRM
- Conducted at least every 5 years in coordination with NOAA Fisheries and Scientific and Statistical Committee
- Evaluate if SBRM produces information that can be used and how it is used
 - Focus on how data are collected, recorded, and reported, and the use of the data
 - Bycatch estimation methods are not part of the review, but analyses will be done to inform the review



Review Sections

- Background
- Description of data collection methods used in the FMPs
 - Describe data collection programs
 - Update changes and uses since last review
- Each FMP
 - List methods used
 - Review characteristics of bycatch and uncertainty
 - Feasibility of current methods
 - Describe uses of bycatch in assessment and management
- Describe new methods or technologies
- Develop recommendations

Timeline



Develop outline and report - ongoing



Collect data – ongoing



Present to SSC in October 2026



Present to Council in December 2026

Questions?

- Does the proposed approach seem reasonable?
- Are there specific data collection methods or reporting issues the Council would like staff to evaluate?
- Are there particular fisheries, sectors, or types of bycatch the Council would like emphasized in the review?
- What information would be most useful when considering the need for SBRM changes?

