



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Carolyn N. Belcher, Ph.D., Chair | Trish Murphey, Vice Chair
John Carmichael, Executive Director

AGENDA

Snapper Grouper Committee

Town and Country Inn
2008 Savannah Highway
Charleston SC 29407

Wednesday, September 13, 2023, 8:30 AM – 3:45 PM

Thursday, September 14, 2023, 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes (June 2023)

1. Wreckfish (SG Amendment 48) (*Attachments 1a-1c*)
 - a. Overview – Christina Wiegand
 - b. Compliance of Cost Recovery Fee Presentation – Jessica Stephen
 - c. **Committee Action:** Review revised amendment development timeline and cost recovery actions and provide guidance for staff.
2. Private Recreational Permitting (SG Amendment 46) (*Attachments 2a-2c*)
 - a. Technical AP Recommendations – Luiz Barbieri
 - b. Overview – John Hadley
 - c. **Committee Action:** Review AP comments and provide guidance on development of the amendment.
3. Scamp/Yellowmouth Grouper (SG Amendment 55) (*SSC Report; Attachment 3*)
 - a. SSC Recommendations – Jeff Buckel, SSC Chair
 - b. Overview – Allie Iberle
 - c. **Committee Action:** Review the decision document and provide guidance for staff.
4. Yellowtail Snapper (SG Amendment 44) (*Attachments 4a and 4b*)
 - a. Overview – Allie Iberle
 - b. **Committee Action:** Review the decision document and select a preferred alternative for Action 1.

5. Black Sea Bass Management (**SSC Report; Attachments 5a and 5b**)
 - a. SSC Recommendations – Jeff Buckel
 - b. On-Demand Gear Workshop Report – Council Staff
 - c. Discussion of Potential Actions
 - d. **Committee Action:** Review and provide guidance on the black sea bass amendment development process.
6. Updates (**Attachments 6a and 6b**)
 - a. System Management Plan Work Group – Chip Collier
 - b. Best Fishing Practices Outreach – Ashley Oliver
7. SEDAR 86 (Red Grouper) Modifications (**Attachment 7**) – Jeff Buckel, SSC Chair
8. Approve Topics for Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel Meeting
9. Other Business

Adjourn

Committee Members:

Jessica McCawley, Chair

Kerry Marhefka, Vice-chair

Robert Beal

Dr. Carolyn Belcher

Mel Bel

Gary Borland

LT Cameron Box

Tim Griner

Judy Helmey

Trish Murphey

Tom Roller

Robert Spottswood, Jr.

Andy Strelcheck

Laurilee Thompson

Spud Woodward

Mid-Atlantic Members: Sonny Gwin

Attachments:

SSC Report: SSC Meeting July 2023

Attachment 1a: Amendment 48 (Wreckfish) Decision Document

Attachment 1b: Amendment 48 (Wreckfish) Draft Amendment

Attachment 1c: Cost Recovery for Wreckfish Presentation

Attachment 2a: Amendment 46 (Private Recreational Permitting) Decision Document

Attachment 2b: Amendment 46 (Private Recreational Permitting) Draft Amendment

- Attachment 2c:** Snapper Grouper Recreational Permitting and Reporting Technical AP Meeting Report August 2023
- Attachment 3:** Amendment 55 (Scamp/Yellowmouth Grouper) Decision Document
- Attachment 4a:** Amendment 44 (Yellowtail Snapper) Draft Amendment
- Attachment 4b:** Amendment 44 (Yellowtail Snapper) Decision Document
- Attachment 5a:** Black Sea Bass Management Options Decision Document
- Attachment 5b:** South Atlantic Ropeless Gear Workshop Draft Report (*Available on Sept 7 in Recent Documents*)
- Attachment 6a:** BFP Update Presentation
- Attachment 6b:** What It Means to Me Project Proposal
- Attachment 7:** SSC September 7, 2023, Meeting Report (*Available at the meeting*)
- Staff Lead:** Michael Schmidtke (mike.schmidtke@safmc.net)

OVERVIEW

Snapper Grouper Committee

The Committee will approve the minutes from the June 2023 meeting and the agenda for the September 2023 Committee meeting.

1. Wreckfish (SG Amendment 48) (*Attachments 1a-1c*)

Description: A review of the Wreckfish ITQ Program was completed in 2019 and included recommendations for improvement, including stakeholder concerns with offloading site and time requirements. At their June 2023 meeting the Council established an ad-hoc advisory group consisting of the current shareholders (Wreckfish Advisory Group) and Council Wreckfish Sub-Committee to discuss continued development of Amendment 48. Staff will present an update on the development timeline for Amendment 48 and NMFS staff will provide a presentation on cost recovery, addressing questions posed by the Council during their March 2023 meeting.

Required Committee Action: Review decision document and provide direction to staff.

2. Private Recreational Permitting (SG Amendment 46) (*Attachments 2a-2c*)

Description: Amendment 46 considers establishing a private recreational permit and education component for the South Atlantic snapper grouper fishery. In recent meetings, the Council has received input and technical guidance from the Private Recreational Reporting Working Group, Joint Council Workgroup on Section 102 of the Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act, and the Snapper Grouper Recreational Permitting and Reporting Technical Advisory Panel (RPRT AP). After reviewing this input, the Council began work on the amendment and approved it for scoping at the December 2022 meeting. Of note at this meeting was also the removal of a reporting component from further consideration in the amendment.

The Council has since further developed Amendment 46, with the amendment being reviewed by the RPRT AP in August 2023. The AP Chair, Dr. Luiz Barbieri will provide summary AP feedback and then Council staff will review a decision document for Amendment 46.

Required Committee Action: Review AP comments and the decision document. Provide guidance on how to further develop the amendment.

- 3. Scamp/Yellowmouth Grouper (SG Amendment 55) (SSC Report; Attachment 3)**
Description: The results of SEDAR 68 were reviewed by the Council in March 2023 and staff were directed to start a plan amendment to reorganize the Other Shallow Water Grouper Complex, establish the new Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper Complex and then establish a rebuilding plan, catch levels, allocations and AMs for this new complex. In June 2023 the Council approved the amendment for scoping. Scoping hearings were held July 31, August 1 and 2. Staff will review the scoping sessions and a decision document, which will outline the actions needed for the Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper Complex as well as options for the remaining Other South Atlantic Shallow Water Grouper Complex.
Required Committee Action: Review SSC and scoping feedback, review decision document and provide any guidance to staff on the range of actions and alternatives.
- 4. Yellowtail Snapper (SG Amendment 44) (Attachments 4a and 4b)**
Description: The Council reviewed the results of the SEDAR 68 Interim Analysis and instructed staff to resume work on this joint plan amendment in September 2022. This amendment will modify catch levels for South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico yellowtail snapper as well updating the jurisdictional allocation of the stock acceptable biological catch, total South Atlantic annual catch limit, Gulf of Mexico annual catch limit, and South Atlantic sector allocations. Staff will review a decision document as well as effects for Action 1.
Required Committee Action: Review decision document and select a preferred option for Action 1.
- 5. Black Sea Bass Management (SSC Report; Attachments 5a and 5b)**
Description: SEDAR 76 included data through 2021 and indicated that the Black Sea Bass stock in the South Atlantic is overfished and experiencing overfishing, with declining trends in biomass, landings, and recruitment since 2011. The SSC reviewed results of SEDAR 76 in April and July 2023. The SSC has formed a technical working group to discuss reference points and projections of future catch to develop ABC and OFL recommendations, which are expected to be available in January 2024. Jeff Buckel, SSC Chair, will deliver the SSC’s comments and recommendations. Council staff will report on the South Atlantic Ropeless Gear Workshop held on August 22-23 in Georgia. Council staff will also present a decision document that will outline potential management actions for black sea bass, as well as timing and process options to develop these actions.
Required Committee Action: Review and provide guidance on the black sea bass amendment development process.
- 6. Updates (Attachments 6a and 6b)**
Description: The Council will receive updates from staff on the Systems Management Plan Work Group and Best Fishing Practices outreach, including details on “What It Means to Me,” a proposed outreach initiative.
Required Committee Action: None.

7. SEDAR 86 (Red Grouper) Modifications (*Attachment 7*)

The SSC is holding a webinar on September 7, 2023, to discuss potential modifications to SEDAR 86 (Red Grouper) Operational Assessment. The SEFSC investigated Red Grouper data and has identified potentially two stocks of Red Grouper in the South Atlantic region. The SSC Chair will update the Committee on recommendations.

8. Approve Topics for Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel Meeting

Description: The Snapper Grouper AP is scheduled to convene on October 10-12, 2023.

Below is a list of proposed topics to develop the AP's agenda:

- Golden and Blueline Tilefish Fishery Performance Report Updates
- Management Strategy Evaluation Update and Discussion
- Discussion of Limited Entry into the Snapper Grouper For-Hire Fishery
- Amendment 44 (Yellowtail Snapper)
- Amendment 55 (Scamp/Yellowmouth Grouper)
- Amendment 46 (Recreational Permitting)
- Best Fishing Practices Update and New Projects (Master Volunteer Program and What It Means to Me)
- Amendment Updates: Black Sea Bass Amendment, and Amendment 48 (Wreckfish)
- Other Updates: Citizen Science, SEDAR, South Atlantic Ropeless Gear Workshop

Required Committee Action: Modify list of topics as needed and approve.

9. Other Business