

SAFMC Agenda Comments from Rusty Hudson on behalf of the SFA ECFS and DSF clients.

01) We support the CMP Amendment 26 King mackerel (KM) Action 1, Alternative 3 for the Atlantic KM stock to extend to the north of the Dade/Monroe County line.

02) We support the CMP A-26 KM Action 2.1, Alternative 2 for the high recruitment scenario for the new ABC to start at 17.4 million pounds for the 2016/2017 fishing year. We understand there will be an incremental step down through 2019/2020 accepting the caveat that about two years into this process with the SAFMC SSC utilizing the "rumblestrip" to verify the recruitment benefits to the KM stock.

03) We support the 75-fish Florida east coast sub-zone from Brevard/Volusia County south to Dade/Monroe County from November 01 to the end of February as a short term experiment.

04) We support the Golden Tilefish Update assessment and have the results presented to the SSC at the April 2016 spring meeting.

05) We support the SG RA-16 BSB pot fishing Action 1, Alternative 8, Sub-alternative 8A season and area closure coordinates. We support Action 2, Alternative 2, Sub-alternative 2A to enhance buoy line breakage by using the 2200 pound breaking strength.. We support Alternative 3 to create 400-pound weak links. We support Alternative 4 for buoy gear marking using purple as the color of choice using three 14-inch marks on the rope.

06) We do not support any change of the BSB pot mesh size nor increasing the commercial minimum size for BSB.

07) We support reducing the recreational BSB minimum size by at least 1-inch to reduce regulatory discards.

08) We support the removal of queen snapper, silk snapper and blackfin snapper minimum sizes.

09) We do not support the Florida Steeple SMZ without validating the actual Steeple location, and the presence of spawning fish. We feel the soon to be implemented Coral Amendment 8 Oculina HAPC will be as 50% effective as a MPA and no SMZ should be located inside that huge area at this time.

10) We would support the removal of the April spawning season closure for Gag grouper offshore of the state of Florida.

Rusty ;-)

Russell H. Hudson, President
Directed Sustainable Fisheries, Inc. (DSF, Inc.)
PO Box 9351
Daytona Beach, Florida 32120-9351

(386) 239-0948 Telephone