



# SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Jessica McCawley, Chair | Mel Bell, Vice Chair  
John T. Carmichael, Executive Director

## **AGENDA**

### **Committee of the Whole**

Westin Jekyll Island  
110 Ocean Way  
Jekyll Island, GA

**Monday, March 2, 2020, 1:30 pm to Tuesday, March 3, 2020, 5:00 pm (Times subject to change)**

Approval of Agenda

Approval of June 2019 Committee minutes

1. Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (*Attachments 1a-1c*)
  - a. Overview – Jessica McCawley
  - b. FWC Presentation – (TBD)
  - c. FKNMS Update
  - d. Council Role Overview – Monica Smit-Brunello
  - e. **Committee Action:** Determine Council response and approach
2. Determining the Need for Conservation and Management (*Attachment 2*)
  - a. Staff Overview/Presentation – Myra Brouwer
  - b. **Committee Action:** Provide guidance to staff on process and timing
3. Allocation Background Presentations (*Attachments 3a-3c*)
  - a. Staff Overview/Presentation – Brian Chevront/Myra Brouwer/Christina Wiegand
4. Allocations and ACLs for Unassessed Species (*Attachment 4*)
  - a. Staff Overview/Presentation – Brian Chevront/Myra Brouwer/Mike Errigo
  - b. **Committee Action:** Consider allocation approaches and ACLs

Other Business – Jessica McCawley

Adjourn

**Committee Members**

Jessica McCawley, Chair  
Mel Bell, Vice-chair  
Anna Beckwith  
Carolyn Belcher  
Chester Brewer

Kyle Christiansen  
Chris Conklin  
Roy Crabtree  
Tim Griner  
LCDR Jeremy Montes

Steve Poland  
Art Sapp  
David Whitaker  
Spud Woodward

**Attachments:**

**Attachment 1a:** FWC Presentation on FKNMS (in late materials)

**Attachment 1b:** FKNMS Update

**Attachment 1c:** FKNMS Council Role Overview

**Attachment 2:** Determining the Need for Conservation and Management

**Attachment 3a:** Introduction to South Atlantic Allocations Story Map (also available interactively online as <https://arcg.is/19ybGG>)

**Attachment 3b:** Allocation in the South Atlantic Region Presentation

**Attachment 3c:** Historic Allocations Table (Excel File)

**Attachment 4:** ACL Analysis for Unassessed Species

**Staff:** Various

# OVERVIEW

## Committee of the Whole

The Committee will approve minutes from the June 2019 meeting and the agenda for the March 2020 Committee meeting.

### 1. Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (*Attachments 1a-1c*)

**Description:** The FWC will give a presentation on the FKNMS proposed changes and how they may affect the SAFMC (*Attachment 1a*). FKNMS staff will give an update on comments and activity related to the sanctuary (*Attachment 1b*) and NOAA GC will lead a discussion on the Council's role in responding to the proposed changes (*Attachment 1c*).

**Required Committee Action:** At this meeting the Council needs to identify what steps they will take in response to the proposed rule changes and give specific guidance to staff regarding how they would like proceed – such as developing a new multispecies amendment with actions and alternatives to address the proposed changes, etc.

### 2. Determining the Need for Conservation and Management (*Attachment 2*)

**Description:** Staff will review the MSA requirement and NMFS guidance related to adding or removing species from a fishery management unit (FMU) and how species can be designated ecosystem component (EC) species, along with the Council's actions on this topic.

**Required Committee Action:** The Committee needs to give staff guidance on how to proceed. Staff could provide options for a process and tools/data to evaluate a species' need for conservation and management, which will help the Council determine which species may be good candidates for designation as EC or removal from an FMU.

### 3. Allocation Background Presentation (*Attachment 3a-c*)

**Description:** The Council recently had sector allocation discussions as part of the GAO review. Before getting into specifics of allocation decisions for species, the Council decided that it wanted to have a general discussion of allocation scenarios and ways to consider allocations in the future. The story map (*Attachment 3a*) provides general background on sector allocations, how they work, and how the Council has acted in the past. The presentation given by staff (*Attachment 3b*) provides greater detail on past allocation decisions and how the Council might consider allocations in the future. The spreadsheet (*Attachment 3c*) is based on GAO information requests that has been modified to show when and how the Council considers future sector allocations for all species it manages. Note that the GAO report directed by Congress, originally scheduled to be completed by December 31, 2019, has not yet been released. It is not clear exactly when it will be released.

**Required Committee Action:** This is where the Committee plans to have a robust discussion on general considerations for future sector allocation decisions. Having discussions that let staff and the public know whether there are sector allocation methods the Committee either prefers or no longer wants to consider will help in future sector allocation discussions and action/alternative development.

**4. Allocations and ACLs for Unassessed Species (*Attachment 4*)**

**Description:** Council has indicated that it wishes to move forward with ACLs for unassessed species based on MRIP revisions, along with reconsideration of sector allocations for these species. The attached document (*Attachment 4*) shows the unassessed species that would be covered in an amendment.

**Required Committee Action:** The work priorities document shows the Council actively beginning work on this amendment starting at the June 2020 meeting. Staff need direction on what the Council would like to have brought to them at the June 2020 meeting for them to start this work.

**Other Business**