SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Jessica McCawley, Chair | Kerry Marhefka, Vice Chair
John Carmichael, Executive Director

Agenda

Beaufort Hotel
2440 Lennoxville Road
Beaufort, NC 28516

December 7-11, 2026

Except for advertised (scheduled) public hearings and public comment sessions, the times indicated on the agenda may be adjusted as necessary to accommodate the completion of agenda items. Interested parties should be aware that meetings may start earlier or later than indicated.

Hybrid Public Comment Session:
The public comment session for the meeting (December 9, 2026, at 4 PM), will allow for both in-person and remote (via webinar) verbal public comment. Individuals intending to provide verbal public comment remotely are asked to sign-up at the following link: Virtual Comment Sign-in. Members of the public intending to provide comments in-person will be asked to sign in at the meeting.

Written Comments:
To submit written comments on items on this agenda, visit the online public comment form: Submit written comment.
Written comments will be accepted from November 20 to December 11, 2026. These comments are accessible to the public, part of the Administrative Record of the meeting, and immediately available for Council consideration.
View submitted written comments at: Read written comments

Written comments submitted by mail/fax received by close of business the Monday before the meeting (November 30, 2026) will be compiled, posted to the website as part of the meeting materials, and included in the administrative record.

From December 1 to 5 PM on December 11, written comments must be submitted electronically through the online public comment form at the link above.

Monday, December 7, 2026 COUNCIL SESSION

COUNCIL SESSION I (CLOSED) /McCawley 8:30 am – 10:30 am

- Approve agenda
- Litigation brief (if needed)

1. Advisory Panel appointments
2. Golden Crab Advisory Panel membership
3. Wreckfish Advisory Panel membership
4. SEDAR Panel appointments
5. Executive Committee Closed Session discussion

COUNCIL SESSION I /McCawley 10:45 am – 12:00 noon

- Welcome and Introductions

- Approve agenda
- Approve minutes (September 2026)
- Litigation brief (if needed)

Reports and Updates

1. Law Enforcement
    a. NOAA Office of Law Enforcement
    b. US Coast Guard
2. Council liaisons
    a. Mid-Atlantic
    b. Gulf
3. Staff
4. Council Coordination Committee (October 2026)
5. East Coast Coordination Group
6. Shrimp Workgroup
7. Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) (items not covered in committees)
8. NMFS Southeast Regional Office & Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC)
    a. Update on Executive Order "Restoring American Saltwater Angling and Recreation"
    b. Protected resources update
9. Species Outside SAFMC Jurisdiction
    a. International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas Annual Meeting

--- Lunch ---

COUNCIL SESSION I /McCawley 1:30 pm to 5:00 pm

10. Resilient Fisheries Initiative
    a. Governance Workshop planning follow-up-workshop agenda review and guidance for SAFMC workshop attendees
    b. Implementation Planning
    c. Management Program Review Update
11. Comprehensive amendment to the Snapper Grouper and Dolphin Wahoo FMPs to address "Sunday Sale" and abbreviated framework modifications
12. Approve topics for Law Enforcement Advisory Panel (AP)

Tuesday, December 8, 2026 COMMITTEE MEETINGS

SEDAR Catch Advice and Data/McCawley 8:30 am – 12:00 noon

- Approve agenda
- Approve minutes (September 2026)

1. Marine Recreational Information Program's Fishing Effort Survey Update
2. Update on the Recreational Angler Partnership Improvement Directive (RAPID)
3. Incorporating Discards into Management Part 2: assessments and forecasts

--- Lunch ---

SEDAR Catch Advice and Data/McCawley 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

4. Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology
5. Red Grouper Stock Risk Rating

Dolphin Wahoo/Marhefka 2:45 pm – 5:00 pm

- Approve agenda
- Approve minutes (June 2026)

1. Dolphin Management Strategy Evaluation
    a. SSC feedback
    b. Presentation
2. Discussion on dolphin management beyond the SAFMC jurisdiction

Wednesday, December 9, 2026 COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Golden Crab/Phillips 8:30 am – 9:30 am

- Approve agenda

1. Overview of golden crab fishery and recent public comment
2. Discussion of possible framework amendment
3. Golden Crab AP meeting discussion

Snapper Grouper/McCawley 9:45 am – 12:00 noon

- Approve agenda
- Approve minutes (September 2026)
- Update on submitted amendments
- Update on red snapper recreational season and exempted fishing permits

1. Snapper Grouper AP report (items not covered on committee's agenda)
2. Commercial Management Measures (Amendment 60)
    a. Review AP feedback and consider for final approval

---Lunch---

Snapper Grouper/McCawley 1:30 pm – 3:45 pm

3. Yellowtail and Mutton (Amendment 44)
    a. Review public hearing comments and consider for final approval
4. Spawning Special management Zones (Regulatory Amendment 39)
    a. Review public hearing comments and consider for final approval

Wednesday, December 9, 2026 **PUBLIC COMMENT**

4:00 pm

Public comment will be accepted from individuals attending the meeting (in-person and remotely) regarding any of the items on the Council agenda. The Council Chair, based on the number of individuals wishing to comment, will determine the amount of time provided to each commenter. Those intending to provide verbal public comment via webinar can sign-up here: Virtual Comment Sign-in

Final approval:

- Snapper Grouper Commercial Management Measures (Amendment 60)
- Yellowtail Snapper & Mutton Snapper Catch Levels and Allocation (Amendment 44)
- Spawning Special Management Zones (Regulatory Amendment 39)

Approval for public hearings:

- Headboat Vessel Limit and Golden Tilefish Catch Levels (Regulatory Amendment 38)
- Re-opening seasonal closed areas to on-demand black sea bass pots (Regulatory Amendment 40)

Thursday, December 10, 2026 **COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Snapper Grouper/McCawley 8:30 am – 12:00 noon

5. Headboat Vessel Limit and Golden Tilefish Catch Levels (Regulatory Amendment 38)
    a. Review AP feedback and consider approving for public hearings
6. Re-opening seasonal closed areas to on-demand black sea bass pots (Regulatory Amendment 40)
    a. Review AP feedback and consider approving for public hearings
7. Black Grouper Management Strategy Evaluation Update
    a. Joint SSC report
8. Wreckfish Individual Transferable Quota (ITQ) review
    a. Review AP feedback and consider final approval
9. Wreckfish Adaptive Implementable Management (AIM) discussion
    a. Review recommendations from stakeholders

-- Lunch --

Snapper Grouper/McCawley 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

10. Florida Hogfish Assessment
    a. Assessment Presentation – Chris Swanson, Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute
    b. SSC report
    c. Fishery Overview

Citizen Science/Dukes 2:45 pm – 5:00 pm

- Approve agenda
- Approve minutes (December 2025)

1. Citizen Science Program Growth & Scope of Projects
2. Cross Regional Collaborative Science Proposal
3. Citizen Science Program Indicators 2026 Update
4. Citizen Science Program Update

Friday, December 11, 2026 COUNCIL SESSION

COUNCIL SESSION II/McCawley 8:30 am – 12:00 noon

1. Executive Director Review **(CLOSED)**
2. SAFMC Workplan
3. Committee Reports
    - Executive (October 2026)
    - Full Council (Closed)
    - Full Council (Open)
    - SECAD
    - Dolphin Wahoo
    - Golden Crab
    - Snapper Grouper
    - Citizen Science
4. Upcoming SAFMC Meetings
5. Other Business

Adjourn