**DRAFT Vision Statement, Strategic Goals & Objectives for the**

**Snapper Grouper Fishery**

**VISION STATEMENT**

“The snapper grouper fishery is a healthy, sustainable fishery that balances and optimizes benefits for all.”

**STRATEGIC GOALS & GOAL THEMES**

**MANAGEMENT**

Goal Themes:

* *Minimal Waste*
* *Healthy Ecosystem & Habitat*
* *Adaptive Management*
* *Stable & Resilient Fishing Communities*
* *Economic Efficiency*

**SCIENCE**

Goal Themes:

* *Sound Science (Data Collection)*
* *Build Partnerships*

**COMMUNICATION**

Goal Themes:

* *Public Involvement & Cooperation*
* *Stakeholder Diversity*
* *Enhance Partnerships*

**GOVERNANCE**

***Note: Use the goal themes to develop strategic goal statements.***

**Draft Strategic Goals & Objectives**

**SCIENCE:** (NEED A BROAD STRATEGIC GOAL STATEMENT)

**Goal 1.** Obtain quality data to monitor and assess biological, economic, and social impacts of management.

(Additional objectives that need review:

Objective 1: Expand and enhance current methods of data collection in the South Atlantic region.

Strategies:

* Work with agency partners to improve and expand data collection tools.
* Encourage cooperative research between the region’s fishermen and scientists.
* Conduct outreach to increase awareness of data collection programs.

**Goal 2.** Consider localized depletion

**MANAGEMENT:** (NEED A BROAD STRATEGIC GOAL STATEMENT)

**Goal 3.** Promote effective stewardship of the resource.

**Objective 3.1.** Consider mechanisms to vest fishermen in the snapper grouper fishery.

**Objective 3.2.** Decrease incentives for overcapitalization.

**Objective 3.3.** Identify regional differences in the fishery that result in user conflict.

**Objective 3.4.** Prevent continual dissipation of returns from fishing through open access.

(Additional objectives that need review:

* Objective 1: Utilize management strategies that result in predictable fishing seasons.

EDITING OPTIONS: Promote predictable fishing seasons.

* Objective 2: Utilize management strategies that minimize discards and waste in the fishery.

EDITING OPTIONS: Minimize waste in the fishery.

* Objective 3: Utilize management strategies that result in habitat protection.

EDITING OPTIONS: Encourage habitat protection.)

**Goal 4.** Provide for flexible management.

**Objective 4.1.** Adopt management strategies that address differences in temporal and areal distribution of the resource.

(Additional objectives that need review:

* Objective: Develop a management system that minimizes regulatory delays while retaining substantial Council and public involvement in management decisions.
* Objective: Develop a management system that adapts quickly to changes in resource abundance, new scientific information, and changes in fishing patterns among user groups. *NOTE: need to consider the part about adapting quickly to changes in resources abundance under objective 2.*
* Objective: Consider alternate management strategies for the recreational sector that allow for flexibility.)

**Goal 5.** Minimize habitat damage from fishing and non-fishing activities.

***Note:*** *Habitat protection is one of the National Standards and may not be needed in the strategic plan for snapper grouper*.

(Additional objectives that need review:

* Objective: Consider strategies that reduce gear interactions with snapper grouper habitat.
* Objective: Improve the Council process for encouraging habitat protection and conservation.
* *NOTE: Need to develop objectives that address non-fishery impacts and how this can be communicated (Also include under Communication strategic goal.)*

**Goal 6.** Support public compliance with regulations. (Need to ensure that regulations are enforceable.)

**Goal 7.** Provide a management regime which promotes stability and long-range planning in all sectors.

**Objective 7.1.** Create opportunity for market-driven harvest and continuity in the availability of product.

(Additional objectives that need review:

* Note: Be sure to include recreational in the objectives/strategies.
* Note: Ensure accessibility to the fishery for all sectors.
* Objective: Utilize management strategies that allow for a consistent supply of fish throughout the fishing year.
* Objective: Expand management strategies that address the social and economic needs of fishing businesses for the long-term.
* Objective: - Adopt management strategies that reflect market needs and promote product continuity for commercial and for-hire businesses.

**Goal 8.** Consider strategies to address localized depletion.

**COMMUNICATION:** (NEED A BROAD STRATEGIC GOAL STATEMENT)

**Goal 9.** Promote public understanding of regulations.

**GOVERNANCE:** (NEED A BROAD STRATEGIC GOAL STATEMENT)

*Need to develop some goals for this strategic goal.*

**MSA** (Objectives already mandated):

1. Prevent overfishing.
2. End overfishing of snapper grouper stocks undergoing overfishing.
3. Rebuild stocks declared overfished.
4. **NOTE:** Could add Habitat Protection here…