



THE SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Executive Order 14276

Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness

Information Document

July 2025

What does Executive Order 14276 request of the Regional Fishery Management Councils?

On April 17 2025, President Trump issued Executive Order 14276: *Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness*. The purpose of the executive order is to “address unfair trade practices, eliminate unsafe imports, level the unfair playing field that has benefited foreign fishing companies, promote ethical sourcing, reduce regulatory burdens, and ensure the integrity of the seafood supply chain.” The Regional Fisheries Management Councils have been asked to identify actions that would stabilize markets, improve access to fishing opportunities, enhance economic profitability, and prevent closures. The Regional Fishery Management Councils must commit to a work plan that would ensure identified actions are prioritized.

Additionally, the Secretary of Commerce has been directed to gather public comment on innovative ways to improve fisheries management and science and ensure agencies are focusing core fisheries management and science functions to support the Nation’s seafood supply chain. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has been tasked with incorporating less expensive and more reliable technologies and cooperative research programs into fishery assessments. This may include the expansion of exempted fishing permit programs, creation of more fishing opportunities, and modernizing data collection to improve the responsiveness of management.

Isn't this similar to Executive Order 13921 issued in May 2020?

During his first term, President Trump issued Executive Order 13921: *Promoting American Seafood Competitiveness and Economic Growth*. Similar to Executive Order 14276, the 2020 executive order required the Regional Fishery Management Councils to recommend actions to reduce burdens on domestic fishing and to increase production within sustainable fisheries. The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (South Atlantic Council) submitted [a list of items](#) that can be found on the Council's website but are also summarized Appendix A. As part of Executive Order 14276, the South Atlantic Council will provide updates to their recommendations made in response to the 2020 Executive Order.

How is the South Atlantic Council responding to Executive Order 14276?

The South Atlantic Council began discussion of Executive Order 14276 at its June 2025 meeting, acknowledging the importance of gathering perspectives from the public as a part of the response process. To that end, **the South Atlantic Council is soliciting public input on what types of management actions may achieve the goals stated in the Executive Order**. Public comments will be accepted via the South Atlantic Council's website from July 28 through August 15, 2025. In addition to soliciting public comments, the South Atlantic Council will host an online meeting of its advisory panels on August 11, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. to gather their feedback on the executive order. [Webinar registration](#) information can be found on the South Atlantic Council's website. At its September 15-19, 2025, meeting, the South Atlantic Council will discuss the input received from the public and advisory panels. This input will be utilized to develop a final list of recommendations to be submitted to the NMFS no later than September 30, 2025. This timeline was established to meet the requirement in the Executive Order to have input submitted within 180 days.

Process Step	Date
Executive Order (EO) 14276 is published in the Federal Register.	April 17, 2025
Council has preliminary discussions on actions that could respond to the EO mandates.	June 2025
Public input period on EO recommendations begins.	July 28, 2025
Council advisory panels meet to recommend actions that would respond to the EO mandates.	August 11, 2025
Public input period on EO recommendations closes.	August 15, 2025
Council reviews public and advisory panel input and finalizes recommendations.	September 15-19, 2025
Council recommendations submitted to NMFS.	September 30, 2025
Recommendations submitted to the Secretary of Commerce.	October 14, 2025

The South Atlantic Council Wants to Hear from You!

The South Atlantic Council is interested in understanding more about your fishery and what actions would help achieve the goals outlined in the Executive Order, such as market stability, increased access to fishing opportunities, and economic profitability. The discussion questions below are intended to help guide public comment and generate management recommendations. Please address those relevant to your fishery and experience, and feel free to add any comments.

Provide Your Thoughts on Executive Order 14276

Public comments can be submitted online from July 28, 2025, through August 15, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

Don't miss this opportunity to let the South Atlantic Council know what actions can stabilize markets and improve access to your fishery!

[CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT YOUR COMMENT](#)

Reducing Burdens and Increasing Productivity

1. What would a “strong and competitive American seafood industry” look like to you?
2. What specific challenges do you face as a commercial, for-hire, or recreational fisherman in the South Atlantic region that management action could help alleviate?
3. Are there specific fishery management measures that are hurting your ability to participate in South Atlantic fisheries? Are there other factors preventing you from competing in the current market?
4. How could regulations be modified to provide more opportunity for small-scale or new fishermen to participate in South Atlantic fisheries?
5. What management measures would make South Atlantic seafood more competitive without compromising quality or sustainability?

Innovative Science and Management

1. How do you recommend the South Atlantic Council balance environmental protection with economic growth in commercial and recreational fisheries?
2. Which regulations support sustainability and profitability and need to remain in place, and which regulations should be reconsidered?
3. Are there parts of the seafood industry (fishermen, crew, processors, distributors) that management needs to consider more when looking at regulatory measures?
4. Are there specific policies or permitting processes that you would like to see improved or simplified?

5. What types of scientific research or data (updated stock assessments, habitat data, etc.) would be most helpful for your fishing activities?
6. What would make it easier for you to contribute data or knowledge to science efforts?

Appendix A. South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Response to Executive Order 13921 (2020)

Description of Action	Responsible Entities	Status	Additional Notes
Adequate monitoring for deepwater species.	NMFS	In Progress	South Atlantic Deepwater Longline Survey is now online and awaiting enough years of information to be applied in stock assessments of deepwater species.
Restore longline surveying for tilefish to reduce stock assessment uncertainty.	NMFS	Complete	
Provide increased funding for SEFIS to fully support the SERFS and MARMAP components.	NMFS	Unknown	
Address the priorities of the Fishery Independent Monitoring Workshop.	NMFS	Not Addressed	
Fully support SEAMAP priorities.	NMFS	Unknown	
Develop juvenile surveys for the priority stocks identified in the Prioritization Plan for the South Atlantic.	NMFS	Not Addressed	
Change tag and permit fee policies so that fees are provided to the Region where collected and allow funds from tags or fees to be directed to fishery and data improvement projects to benefit the fishery that provides the funds.	NMFS	Not Addressed	
Provide SAFE Reports to the SAFMC as required under National Standard 2 guidelines.	NMFS	Not Addressed	SAFE Reports for some FMPs have been prepared by Council staff.

Description of Action	Responsible Entities	Status	Additional Notes
Request that NMFS create a regional working group across the Gulf and Atlantic to evaluate, characterize, and quantify the impact of shark depredation and trends over time by shark species. The working group should recommend management changes to the appropriate entities.	NMFS	Not Addressed	
Evaluate the National Standard 1 guidelines relative to the Modern Fish Act and provide clarification on the flexibility available to the GFMC and SAFMC to implement alternative approaches for managing recreational fisheries.	NMFS	Not Addressed	No changes have been made to National Standard 1 or the Magnuson-Stevens Act.
Complete the work of the Rare Event Species Estimation Working Group and provide the Council recommendations on management actions it can take to improve data collects and estimation precisions.	NMFS	In Progress	
Develop protocols to incorporate supplemental and voluntarily submitted data from recreational anglers.	NMFS	Not Addressed	
Develop methods to provide more timely MRIP estimates of harvest for the stocks requiring in-season accountability measures.	NMFS	In progress	Plans have been developed but are currently on hold due to staff and funding limitations
Provide funding to ensure the success of the for-hire electronic reporting in the South Atlantic.	NMFS	Not Addressed	Participation in SEFHIER is low in the South Atlantic region leading NMFS to consider the data unreliable. The Council began discussion of new regulations, however, in June 2025 the Council postponed work on the amendment.

Description of Action	Responsible Entities	Status	Additional Notes
Provide financial support to the SAFMC, MAFMC, and NEFMC to pursue the Scenario Planning process initiated through the Northeast Region Coordinating Council.	NMFS	In Progress	Scenario planning was completed by the councils and implementation was recognized as an allowable activity under IRA grants.
Request that NMFS implement an order to improve the disaster relief process and develop efficient methods of distributing allocated relief funds. Relief funds should be distributed within six months of disaster allocation by Congress.	NMFS	In Progress	Meeting held with the states. Unknown progress since that time.
Evaluate the Wreckfish ITQ program and consider changes.	Council	In Progress; Council portion complete	Amendment submitted to the NMFS by the Council in December 2024.
Establish a shrimp fishery access area along with the eastern boundary of the northern extension of the Oculina Bank closed area.	Council	In Progress	The Council submitted Coral Amendment 10 in December 2021; however, it was rejected by NMFS. The Council is currently developing a joint Coral and Shrimp amendment to address concerns with plans to resubmit the amendment in December 2025.
Implement commercial electronic logbooks.	Council	In Progress; Council portion complete	Amendment submitted to the NMFS by the Council in February 2024.

Description of Action	Responsible Entities	Status	Additional Notes
Evaluate performance of the snapper group commercial permit two for one provision and consider if changes will provide social and economic benefits to the fishery.	Council	In Progress	The Council has initiated work on Snapper Grouper Amendment 60, which includes consideration of the two-for-one provision.
Modify the Atlantic king mackerel management actions through an FMP amendment to address optimum yield.	Council	Complete	New catch levels effective on June 8, 2023.
Evaluate stock determination criteria and biological reference point alternatives for Spiny Lobster.	Council	Not Started	
Evaluate reasons for early commercial closures in the Atlantic Spanish mackerel fishery.	Council	Delayed	Management action on Atlantic Spanish mackerel delayed until results from the MRIP pilot study are available.