

SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE

**Doubletree Grand Key Resort
Key West, FL**

June 9-10, 2015

SUMMARY MINUTES

Executive Finance Committee

Ben Hartig, Chair
Mel Bell
Charlie Phillips

Dr. Michelle Duval, Vice-Chair
Jessica McCawley

Council Members:

Anna Beckwith
Chester Brewer
Chris Conklin
Dr. Jack McGovern
Dr. Wilson Laney

Zack Bowen
Mark Brown
Jack Cox
Doug Haymans

Council Staff:

Bob Mahood
Mike Collins
Dr. Kari MacLauchlin
Kim Iverson
Julie O'Dell
Roger Pugliese
Dr. Brian Chevront

Gregg Waugh
John Carmichael
Chip Collier
Dr. Mike Errigo
Myra Brouwer
Amber Von Harten

Observers/Participants:

Monica Smit-Brunello
Dr. Bonnie Ponwith
Dr. Nick Farmer
Sp. Agt. Jeff Radonski
Erika Burgess
Karen Antrim Raine
Lt. Charlotte Delorey
Col. Chisolm Frampton
Ryan Rindone

Capt. Rob Beaton
Sue Gearhart
Rick DeVictor
Dr. Luiz Barbieri
Dr. Marcel Reichart
Dr. George Sedberry
Mike Larkin
Dr. Roy Crabtree

Additional Observers Attached

The Executive Finance Committee of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council convened in the Tortuga Ballroom of the Doubletree Grand Key Resort, Key West, Florida, June 9, 2015, and was called to order at 4:50 o'clock p.m. by Chairman Ben Hartig.

MR. HARTIG: We'll bring the Executive Finance Committee to order. The first item of business is approval of the agenda. Are there any changes to the agenda? Jessica.

MS. McCAWLEY: I'd like to add an item under other business about the FWC considering regulations for barracuda into federal waters.

MR. HARTIG: All right, we'll do that. Is there any objection to approving the agenda as modified? Seeing none; the agenda is approved. That brings us to approval of the March 2015 minutes. Are there any changes, corrections or deletions to the minutes? Is there any objection to approving the minutes? Seeing none; the minutes are approved. That brings us to the approval of the Calendar 2015 Budget behind Attachment 1. I'll turn it over to Bob.

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Chairman, we finally have a final budget, we hope. They tell us it is our final budget. I'll let Mike go over and tell you where we are and why the numbers are as they appear on Attachment 1.

MR. COLLINS: Normally how I do this is I take the Activity Schedules provided by Gregg and the tech staff. I add the fixed costs and other costs; other costs being administration costs for contracts and things like that. This year I tried to make it a little bit more accurate by adjusting travel costs to the actual historical travel that we enjoyed over the years.

As the surpluses have been going down, I wanted to really get an idea how close we were going to come to the final number at the end of the year, so that's why you'll see some differences in the travel costs year to year on the sheet. I anticipate the expenditures to match the funding almost exactly by the end of the year and carrying no surplus forward to the second year of the new grant.

As you can see, I want to highlight a couple of things on the budget. You'll see health insurance; we've got a 19 percent savings over last year and life insurance a 21 percent savings over last year, and that's because of the changes. We bid it out and some of the staff are no longer using the BCBS option and are using other types of insurance with supplements being paid for by the council. Those things led to the savings.

MR. HARTIG: Any questions of Mike or Bob about the budget? Thank you for doing that, Mike. I appreciate the different way you've looked at it in real travel costs.

MR. MAHOOD: The outlook supposedly for next year's administrative budget for the councils is positive. Now how that will end up we never know.

MR. HARTIG: Any questions about the budget? That will move us into the status of the budget expenditures. Are there any questions on the budget expenditures? Seeing none; we'll move on. That brings us to Attachment 3A, South Atlantic Council/SERO Operations Regional Operating Schedule, Gregg Waugh.

MR. WAUGH: I'll be glad to answer any questions about the operation agreement itself. That again has the details on the timing. I would suggest in terms of looking at priorities; that we pick this up at full council because we'll know what happens at the Thursday Joint Session. There are some items in snapper grouper that need to be discussed; and so I think if we pick up looking at our priorities at full council, that will be a much better approach.

MR. HARTIG: Thank you, Gregg, and we'll do that pending any comments from the council. I don't see any so I think they're in agreement. That brings us to the Council Activities Schedule. We're going to the Joint Florida Decision Document. Which document are we going to use, Gregg?

MR. WAUGH: I vote for our decision document, but Jessica has got a presentation she is going to give.

MR. HARTIG: I'm sure this hinges on the differences between our decision document and then the Gulf's reworking of the entire document.

MS. McCAWLEY: That's not what my presentation is about. Mr. Chairman, I could discuss barracuda while we're trying to get a presentation up. On barracuda, the FWC is considering enacting regulations for barracuda. We currently don't have species-specific regulations for them. We are taking an item to our upcoming commission meeting.

We've basically been hearing some reports since about 2011 from fishermen especially down here in the Keys of declines. As you probably know, barracuda is important for both recreational and commercial fishermen. It is not just important for guides that are trying to fish for other species or diversify their catch, but it is also important for divers. They often take people out and they find it exciting to encounter barracuda.

We've taken this idea out to public workshops. We've actually taken this item to our commission one time, and they told us to hold public workshops. The stakeholder consensus is that we need some type of regulations in place. We are going to be suggesting some regulations that are specific to South Florida.

They would include Collier, Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach and Martin counties. We're suggesting a slot limit of 15 to 36 inches, a bag limit of two fish per person recreational, 20 fish per person commercial. We would like to extend these regulations into federal waters since fishermen that are targeting barracuda are often going between state and federal waters.

I can tell you that we do not have a barracuda-specific stock assessment, and we don't plan on shifting our research priorities to try to obtain the information for a stock assessment. We do have information from the RVC data, which is the underwater surveys, and we have some additional types of information like that. We also have the recreational and commercial landings. Using all that information, that helped guide us in not just the recommendations but in taking some action. That is kind of our proposal in a nutshell as fast as I could do it. What we would be looking for is – I believe that we asked something similar on tarpon, and the South Atlantic Council provided a

letter that said that the council had no intention of regulating tarpon in federal waters. We were doing the same type thing; so we would be asking the same thing here from the council, a letter that says that you guys have no intention of regulating barracuda into federal waters.

MR. HARTIG: Do you need that as a motion from the council saying that our intent is not to manage barracuda in federal waters? Bob.

MR. MAHOOD: Yes; we would have a motion to send the state of Florida a letter indicating that we have no intent to manage barracuda.

DR. DUVAL: Mr. Chairman, I move that we send the state of Florida a letter indicating that the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council has no intention of managing barracuda in federal waters.

MR. HARTIG: Seconded by Doug. Is there any discussion on that motion? Is there any objection to that motion? Seeing none; that motion is approved. I think we'll get John up there. John has done a really great job with this Citizen Science Workgroup that we have in putting together an outline of how to move forward with the workshop and everything. I'll let him explain what he has done.

MR. CARMICHAEL: I've just been putting the pieces together. We've had a lot of great ideas from the organizing committee; there is no doubt. What we want to do here today is through this report, which is our developing draft work plan of what the workshop is about, why we're holding the workshop, the terms of reference and the part you see sort of starting to come together are the general approaches.

I just wanted to bring you up to speed with where this stands. We really have made good progress since this was talked about at the last meeting. The organizing committee has gotten together a number of times over conference calls and have been hatching out the details. We have a pretty good draft terms of reference, we believe.

What we're really at now at this point is we'd like some clearance from the council to go ahead and move into the next stage, which would be to begin planning the workshop, which that means we're asking for some money. We've sort of penciled in the date of January 19 through 22, 2016, in Charleston. It is a pretty good open time and it is not too far off into the future that all the momentum will be dropped.

That is as early as we figured we could actually be prepared and hold it. What we're looking at is in the neighborhood of 30 folks supported by the council for four days, and we're thinking the cost would be around \$35,000. Obviously, we need approval to spend that money. Then the next steps would be getting in and getting folks appointed, and that would mean some action by some committee of this council.

Whether you wanted to handle through this committee, through the data committee or what have you is another decision and another point we'd like some guidance on today. There is one issue with the timing right now that has to do with the budgeting, because I know this past year we were

a little delayed in getting money through, and sometimes that part of the year can be a little tight on the finances. I don't know how that will affect timing and plans and whatnot or where we stand in our multiyear grants or if that's a factor.

MR. HARTIG: We just had a budget presentation. I'm asking Mike and he says we're going to be right on the dollar figure at the end of the year. I don't know that this was figured into the budget portion of that discussion. I see Mel is shaking his head.

MR. BELL: I'll say it then. I don't think we factored in hiring a director either, but you've got to go with it.

MR. COLLINS: The Grants Office tells me there should be no problem getting funding at the beginning of the year because the reason for the delay this year was approval of the five-year grant. We will be in the second year of the five-year grant, so the money should flow just fine.

MR. HARTIG: And also the intention is to look for some money outside of possibly the council to get this supported. There is some interest outside of our organization to see something like this go forward; and for us it is a natural fit for our data collection activities. Hopefully, those in the hierarchy will see some value in what we're doing if we can talk this up some more. Especially in the upcoming CCC meeting possibly we can get some support, possibly. Doug.

MR. HAYMANS: I was just going to suggest I would think we need to look for some money outside of the council before we agree to spend \$35,000 and make sure there is partner money out there somewhere.

MR. HARTIG: Any other questions to John about his outline in moving forward? It is pretty rare that we get the science director who has bought into this concept and is very, very engaged in going forward with this. She has given us great suggestions along the way. I think her experience with the birding part of the citizen science history of that particular venue in citizen science has helped tremendously to give her some insight in how valuable this can be for certain things. She has been very instrumental in giving us how we think we should move forward, so it has been great. Thanks, Bonnie. Wilson.

DR. LANEY: Just one suggestion, John, under number one where you have your list of potential introductory speakers there, the Albemarle/Pamlico National Estuary Partnership has used citizen science as well, so you might want to just stick them in there with a question mark, also, and the person I would talk to there would be probably either Director Bill Kroll or the program scientist, probably program scientist, Dr. Dean Carpenter.

MR. CARMICHAEL: What committee would you like to come to for making appointments?

MR. HARTIG: That's a good question. Michelle.

DR. DUVAL: Well, I'll put in a pitch for the Data Committee. I think initially that is exactly the point of trying to develop a program like this is to augment our existing data collection programs and to try to fill in some of the data gaps that we currently have through this cooperative type of

process. My recommendation would be through the Data Committee. Eventually we might need a separate ad hoc committee specifically for citizen science since it sort of bridges some of the data collection and outreach components. I think initially Data Collection.

MR. BELL: I just concur with the logic of that. It makes sense to me.

MR. HARTIG: Would you want that in the form of a motion, John? It wouldn't hurt, right?

MR. CARMICHAEL: Sure, if you want to.

DR. DUVAL: I move that any appointments to the Citizen Science Workshop Participant List occur via the Data Collection Committee.

MR. HARTIG: Second by Charlie. Anymore discussion? Is there any objection? Seeing none; that motion is approved. That is on CS for right now, right?

MR. CARMICHAEL: That's enough; thank you; I appreciate the time.

MS. McCAWLEY: Are you ready for the presentation, Mr. Chairman? This presentation is to give folks a little bit of background on what has been happening with the South Florida debacle that we've been discussing through this other committee that meets outside the regular council meetings. I'm going to go through some of that background.

I don't think that you have this presentation in your briefing book, but we can e-mail it around when we're done here. This originally started in 2011. There was a motion made at I believe it was actually in the Keys in the council's June meeting in Florida to send a letter to the Gulf Council and National Marine Fisheries Service requesting the formation of an ad hoc joint committee that would be made up of members of the South Atlantic and the Gulf Councils to consider the development of a joint management plan for South Florida fisheries.

The Ad Hoc Committee would also discuss with the state of Florida delegation of management for some species to the state of Florida. Also, just as a point to note, this was the same meeting that the discussion began on the Goliath grouper stuff, so there was a Committee on Goliath grouper, an ad hoc committee, that was meeting at the same time as the South Florida Committee; and now that has been kind of merged into this South Florida Committee.

Here is a little timeline. From that motion that was in June 2011, then we've actually had four meetings of that South Florida Committee. We had an organizational webinar in 2013. Then you might remember in July and August of 2013; that the FWC went and did a series of scoping workshops in South Florida. This was also discussed in the visioning and port process meetings; and then there have been meetings in January 2014, July 2014, January 2015 and then we're discussing it here at this meeting.

The rationale; at that time, when this was originally discussed – it was as I mentioned the Florida Council meeting – the fishermen had been consistently expressing their confusion and their frustration with the multiple jurisdictional boundaries and regulations that occur down here in the

Florida Keys. I'm going to show you some maps of that in a minute. From those public workshops or scoping meetings that we held, there was general consensus that consistency between state and federal rules was needed, especially because people felt like the South Florida ecosystem and the fisheries there are somewhat unique than in other parts of the state or even in other parts of the council's jurisdiction.

From the visioning and port meetings, fishermen expressed their concern again over these inconsistent regulations; and it was between Florida state waters and Gulf federal waters and Atlantic federal waters. This was everything from size limits, bag limits, seasons, et cetera. Here is the first map, and then there is going to be a series of maps that are going to build on top of this map. You can see that the kind of sea foam green color is the Gulf federal waters.

The darker blue color towards the bottom is the federal waters of the Atlantic, and the lighter blue color up against the state are state waters. You can see that you've got multiple jurisdictions coming together here. If you advance to the next slide, what we have overlaid on top of that is this is the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary boundary.

If you click again, now we've overlaid the Everglades National Park and Biscayne National Park boundaries on top of that. You see the Everglades is in green; the Biscayne is there in dark blue. That is overlaid and also the Dry Tortugas is in yellow out there. You can see that we have multiple jurisdictions happening here.

Okay, from those public workshops and scoping meetings, there were a number of suggestions that came out of those meetings. Some of the suggestions were to develop regional management for species that are common to South Florida or maybe even create a regional management council for the Keys or South Florida.

A suggestion was made to maybe develop a regional fishery management plan that was modeled after the way the Caribbean does their island fishery management plans. There was discussion of placing all of the Keys under either the South Atlantic Council or the Gulf Council and then managing fisheries based on species instead of by boundary lines.

Some of those species that were brought; the ones that we heard the most about are listed at the bottom, yellowtail, mutton, mangrove, red snapper, snowy grouper, just the groupers in general, hogfish, jacks, lobster, Goliath grouper; the list goes on here. The ones you see highlighted in yellow are ones that we're going to talk about in the actual amendment.

More specifically on yellowtail snapper, some of the comments were that the stock should be managed as a single unit in the Atlantic and the Gulf with one single quota. You might remember from a couple years ago there was a quota overage in the Atlantic and then it turned out that maybe some of that quota was misreported on the Gulf. There was some confusion about that.

Some of the comments we heard at the workshops were that this needs to be a single unit with one single quota. There were also comments to transfer the management authority for yellowtail to Florida FWC. We heard comments about changing the fishing year to minimize disruptions to the fishery when the quotas are met.

We heard comments about possibly implementing a spawning season closure in the summer and lots of discussion about the circle hook requirement, possibly exempting the fishery from the requirement in the Gulf or some folks that wanted to maintain the requirement. A couple of things that we heard about mutton snapper; a lot of people came to those meetings to talk about protecting those fish during the spawn. A lot of people wanted a spawning closure and at the very least lowering the bag limits for both recreational and commercial during that spawning season.

For grouper we heard over and over again please develop consistent regulations between the Gulf and the Atlantic, especially thinking about the species that are included in a shallow-water grouper closure. A lot of folks believe that down here in South Florida that the closure is really unnecessary because that closure was put in place for gag; and down here in South Florida it is more about black grouper.

People felt the closure was necessary; and if the closure was needed, to shift the closure to different months, as you can see on the slide. Okay, so how has this South Florida Committee that has met a number of times thought about actually addressing these concerns? Well, the committee has talked about possible delegation of authority over specific management items in federal waters off of Florida to the state of Florida for yellowtail snapper, mutton snapper and black grouper.

We're going to get into more of this as we go through the amendment, but you'll see that there are different challenges in thinking about these species and recreational versus commercial, and things like black grouper are in an IFQ Program on the Gulf side. You're going to see some of those challenges as we look at the amendment.

There were other suggestions about the ABC and the ACL for yellowtail snapper, mutton snapper – jointly setting the ABC and ACL for yellowtail, mutton and black grouper; modifying the recreational bag limit and commercial trip limit for mutton snapper in federal waters; modifying the shallow-water grouper species' composition, the seasonal closures, the bag limits and the size limits in federal waters; changing the circle hook requirements; setting uniform accountability measures for yellowtail, mutton and black grouper.

Those are some of the things that we're going to talk about in the amendment. How do we define what South Florida is? We've probably spent at least two meetings talking about what is South Florida and where is it? There are some proposed actions in the document that are being considered to apply only to a subarea off of South Florida; so you're going to hear a lot about Shark Point.

Shark Point is at the area where the red and blue hash lines meet over there on the Gulf. That is considered kind of a natural boundary line that would kind of separate two different jurisdictions. We can talk about this more as we walk through the amendment. A final point to make here is that each council's approach has really differed. Once the committee took the items, on the Gulf side they go to the Reef Fish Committee. Here at our council they go through the Executive Committee.

When we've talked about this on the South Atlantic side, we have thought about this amendment as really an opportunity to address broader issues in management of snapper grouper species throughout the council's jurisdiction. At the last meeting we talked a little bit about closures for other groupers that are outside this area, and some of those items got added to the particular amendment when the South Atlantic Council looked at this at our March meeting.

Also, I think the reason that we talked about this a lot at the March council meeting was because once you modify seasonal closures in the South Florida area, then it could have a cascading effect throughout the council's jurisdiction. Once you modify one species or move a closure, say for black grouper, then that is going to have an effect throughout the entire South Atlantic. The Gulf Council has kind of had a different approach.

When they approached this amendment, they were really saying, okay, we should keep this amendment focused on solely the issues that are pertinent to South Florida. They were all about removing other actions, even considering removing the actions that we had added in March that allowed us to look at things outside that jurisdiction.

Another example was circle hooks. We've talked about circle hooks here at a couple different meetings. It was something that Zack brought up and we added it to the amendment to consider it throughout the South Atlantic Council's jurisdiction and not just in the South Florida area. The Gulf Council felt like those actions did not need to be considered in the joint amendment; because if we were going to do something throughout the South Atlantic Council's jurisdiction, it wouldn't necessarily require a joint amendment.

You'll notice when we go through the documents that there will be some differences in the way both our council and the Gulf council have approached this amendment and how they thought about moving through the challenges. They basically removed everything that does not include only extreme South Florida whereas we had added additional items that affected the entire South Atlantic Region. I assume we're going to talk about this more. If you have questions, I can answer them now. Doug.

MR. HAYMANS: Explain to me how changing a seasonal closure in South Florida has a cascading effect across the rest of the South Atlantic?

MS. McCRAWLEY: Michelle, do you want to try to explain?

DR. DUVAL: We were looking at modifying not just the months, but also we have a shallow-water grouper closure that applies throughout the jurisdiction to a suite of other species. The concern was that there might be, as Jessica indicated, a cascading effect throughout the rest of the range just based on sort of seasonally how harvest changes throughout the region for the shallow-water groupers.

If we were going to make changes, because some of this has come up during visioning that we wanted to do it holistically so that we could explain why South Florida might have a two-month closure for black grouper only versus the rest of the jurisdiction having perhaps a slightly different

closure, whether that is in time or even in species composition; so we wanted to try to tackle it as a whole. That was one of the reasons.

MR. HARTIG: Didn't the grouper aggregate go into that as well; because if you changed the black grouper regulations and remove it out of that shallow-water grouper complex, then you have cascading impacts on other species that would have higher bag limits based on removing black. I think I got it right.

MR. HAYMANS: But that's still only within the South Florida area. I share the Gulf's concerns and I shared that earlier that this has grown far beyond the charge that we set out on.

MR. HARTIG: Well, I started with the FWC and went to all their meetings. I listened to all their concerns, and we've tried to handle all of the South Florida concerns within that amendment. It wasn't only trying to get species consistently. That was never, in my mind, the only thing that we were trying to do, because we had entertained all those different things. Mutton snapper was a highlight of all the different meetings. People wanted additional management for mutton snappers, and they wanted us to address that grouper issue. Those are two things in particular that we heard at every single meeting about those two species. Zack.

MR. BOWEN: You had mentioned in several slides the circle hook come up. What is the consensus from your workshops that you're getting? I see it on the slides but I don't know – you didn't elaborate on what the conversations were about.

MS. McCAWLEY: I can look back in detail to kind of the transcripts that we have from the workshops; and I can even send those to you if you want. We really heard things on both sides. I guess that's why it seems a little bit confusing is because some people that the circle hood requirement should remain in place for all species. Other folks think that maybe it just needs to be removed for yellowtail. Some people think it only needs to be removed for yellowtail commercially. We've really heard all different things around circle hooks. It has been an interesting discussion.

MR. BOWEN: To that point, if you will, why just yellowtail? Are they swallowing that circle hook? Does it have something to do with mortality; why just yellowtail?

MS. McCAWLEY: We talked a lot about the commercial yellowtail snapper fishery that operates here in South Florida and about the size of the hook that they would be using and about it is easier for them to use a J-hook. It is almost like using a cane pole. They're just pulling them on to the boat and they can dehook them easier; whereas if they used the small circle hook, it appeared that they were swallowing the hook and so couldn't be dehooked as easy.

MR. BOWEN: I am so glad there are other people that think like I do. Thank you for that comment. Thank you for putting that on the record.

DR. DUVAL: I think one of the other things was the structure of the document and the way that we have things in the document right now. The way that the joint committee agreed upon them as of July was structuring these actions by species; because the issues for each of the three species,

yellowtail, mutton and black grouper, which were the ones that had the most public input, were slightly different. For each species you had a range of different actions that you could undertake.

The first thing looking at was delegation of certain aspects of management of that species to the state of Florida. The councils would still maintain setting of ACLs, accountability measures and sector allocations, but that specific things like trip limits or bag limits or size limits – you know, because the FWC does not always have consistent regulations and trying to have some kind of conference call or some other ridiculous approach to establishing consistency simply wouldn't work. That was one of the reasons that delegation came up; and so for each of these three species you'll see it as the first action in the document.

If delegation is not chosen, then you have other more traditional options for getting to that such as modifying the shallow-water grouper closure for black grouper or removing it from there; using the Gulf Council's shallow-water grouper assemblage or using the South Atlantic Council's shallow-water grouper assemblage or establishing a new shallow-water grouper assemblage. That's why we sort of started with delegation of these aspects to the state of Florida because quite honestly it was the most expedient outside of creating an entirely new council. And then the actions go on from there.

MR. BREWER: This whole thing can be traced back I think to Magnuson as it was originally set up. To set the boundary lines on U.S. 1, have the South Atlantic Council on one side and have the Gulf Council on the other side of that highway makes no sense, quite frankly, but that is what we're faced with.

So absent changing Magnuson, a lot of these problems that I think that we're trying to hash through are still going to be there. I sort of have to ask a different sort of question; and that is given the reaction – and I'll call it the reaction of the Gulf Council at their last meeting; and I know you attended – and how wrapped around the axle this thing has gotten; do we really want to go forward with this exercise anymore. There is a lot of resources that have been spent and a lot of resources going to have to be spent to try to get this thing in some sort of something that makes sense, that is enforceable and fair and all those other things. I question, quite frankly, if it is worth it.

MR. HARTIG: We'll find out on Thursday, basically, when we have the discussion with the Gulf.

MR. BREWER: That is why I make it just in preparation for what I think is going to happen on Thursday.

MR. HARTIG: It is a heavier lift for the Gulf overall, and there are a number of reasons for that, but I'm not going to go into right now. Jessica.

MS. McCRAWLEY: Just to kind of follow up on both those points that you just heard; I think that we embarked on this knowing that it was going to be a very big lift. This has been a problem for a number of years; and it is a problem because of exactly what Chester said, this boundary line. You have fishermen down here in South Florida that on one trip might be going through two or three different jurisdictions, and it just doesn't make any sense.

Things are getting misreported. It is just ridiculous; and even only changing regulations, even if you were to grab that Keys Zone and put over to one council or the other, you've still got to get the state of Florida to make consistent regulations in state waters that are going to match whatever those regulations are in federal waters.

That's why I think Michelle was explaining the delegation option because of the fact that even if you can get the two councils to agree or to agree to turn it over to one or the other, you've still got the challenge of making consistent regulations between the state and what the councils did. I think it is something that at least back in 2011 that people felt strongly about and wanted to commit to try to help these folks that fish down here in South Florida because of the confusion. It is also an issue for our law enforcement officers. It is an issue all around.

MR. HAYMANS: Do you think your commission would have issue with changing to match federal if it meant lessening the burden on the Keys' fishermen? Whichever way it goes, would the commission have an issue with changing regulations to match that council's regulations to relieve the burden on Keys' fishermen?

MS. McCAWLEY: Frankly, it just depends on the species. It depends on the issue, it depends on the species. In the past there has oftentimes been multiple things at plan. If you're talking about things like grouper seasons; then because there is no good way to chop it up, then a lot of times the commission is left with trying to make a decision that fits for the whole state of Florida even though the Keys might be a unique region.

There is no ability right now for the commission to really chop it up at a line that the councils would agree on. That's why doing something like delegation would make it so then the commission could divide – let's just say yellowtail. They could divide up the fishery into multiple areas if they needed to do that in order to tailor the regulations.

You would have one ACL and be operating off of that, so you wouldn't have these issues with commercial fishermen landing. They went through two different jurisdictions on one trip and where do they report their landings to; and the ACL being closed on one coast and not on the other; and that could partly be just because the landings were reported to the wrong side of the state. You've got a lot of things at play here with this challenge.

MR. HARTIG: We need to wrap this up because we've got some time-sensitive places people have to be pretty quickly. I think today we'll recess this conversation. At 8:00 o'clock tomorrow morning we'll be doing the South Florida Document. Is everybody clear? Okay, stay tuned; we're starting the snapper grouper at 8:00 o'clock in the morning; and we'll revisit Executive Finance when we do.

(Whereupon the meeting was recessed at 5:35 o'clock p.m., June 9, 2015.)

The Executive Finance Committee of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council reconvened in the Tortuga Ballroom of the Doubletree Grand Key Resort, Key West, Florida, June 10, 2015, and was called to order at 9:25 o'clock a.m. by Chairman Ben Hartig.

MR. HARTIG: We'll call the Executive Finance Committee back to order. The first item of business is to turn it over to Jessica.

MS. McCAWLEY: Gregg has the decision document pulled up. I believe this is Attachment 1, Gregg.

DR. DUVAL: I'm pretty sure under the Executive Finance Tab, the decision document is Attachment 4A.

MS. McCAWLEY: I think we discussed this a little bit yesterday. There are three documents relative to what the South Florida Committee has done. There is the decision document, the full amendment and then a restructured document that the Gulf Council portion of the IPT made a suggestion to restructure the document.

As Michelle mentioned yesterday, I don't believe the restructured document is really the intent of what the South Florida Committee discussed. It doesn't follow species by species; so I would suggest that we move through the decision document. I can tell you that over at the Gulf Council they used the full amendment. They should be matched up relatively similarly. I think it is fine that we go through the decision document.

MR. WAUGH: The first item that we deal with is the purpose and need. This is on Page 5 of the decision document. You've got the draft language from the purpose and need from the text in the last version of the document. We've got some revised wording shown there from the IPT; and so we just need guidance on which version or do you want to make some additional changes to the wording of the purpose and need.

MS. McCAWLEY: I think this language is pretty reflective of the purpose for why we set out to go through this process. I think we would need a motion to approve this wording. I think since we're in Executive Finance it has to be someone on the Executive Finance Committee. Michelle.

DR. DUVAL: I move that we approve the modified purpose and need as proposed by the IPT.

MS. McCAWLEY: Second by Charlie. We have a motion on the board to approve the modified purpose and need as suggested by the IPT. Are there any objections to this motion? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.

MR. WAUGH: Okay, the next item is Action 1, which deals with – Actions 1 and 2 deal with yellowtail snapper. Action 1 is partial delegation of commercial and/or recreational management of yellowtail snapper to the state of Florida for federal waters adjacent to the state of Florida. We've got a couple of IPT notes. I've also inserted the Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel motion. They support Alternative 1, no action, for Action 1. You will see consistently the Snapper Grouper AP has advised Action 1 to under the delegation alternative.

DR. DUVAL: I guess just to explain that a little bit more – and our Advisory Panel Chair, Jim Atack, is here – the AP voted no action on almost all of these actions because their recommendation

was that the snapper grouper fishery management unit boundary be moved around to that Shark Point boundary.

In their estimation that would be the solution to the problem of inconsistent regulations. Certainly, it would allow for consistent federal regulations. I think the issue would just be with the state of Florida, the FWC. I just want to make sure that was clear for all those actions. Actually, Jessica, I was wondering if you might be able to sort of outline – you know, we spoke yesterday about how these actions have been structured by species and sort of grouped by species. There is a little bit of uniqueness to the issues surrounding each one of these species, and I was wondering if you could just sort of briefly highlight what those are for yellowtail snapper.

MS. McCAWLEY: One of the issues that we talked about yesterday that kind of surrounds yellowtail is the circle hook requirement. There are people that want the circle requirement removed. You'll see under these delegation options that it is listing what specifically would be delegated to the state of Florida here for yellowtail.

It is separated out for recreational and commercial; so that could be the size limit, the season, the bag limit or gear change. I can tell you that on the Gulf yesterday they removed Option 2D and 3D so that it would not allow modification to gear. That kind of makes sense because there are other actions in this document that would modify circle hook requirements. But for yellowtail snapper, FWC does do the stock assessment; so we conduct the stock assessment for the species.

I brought this up yesterday. We had an issue a couple years ago where on the commercial side; that since the ACL is split, that on the South Atlantic the people that were landing, all of a sudden the commercial sector was closed because it was thought that the ACL was met. Then it turned out that maybe some of those landings that were being reported to the South Atlantic's ACL really should have come off of the Gulf's ACL. There were a lot of issues.

Ultimately the yellowtail snapper fishery I believe opened back up, but part of this was because of the ACL that is split between the Gulf and the Atlantic. Part of it is the reporting issues associated with that. If it was delegated to the state of Florida; then in a future action here the way that I understand that would work would be that a portion of that overall ACL would be delegated to Florida to manage the size limit, season, bag limit or whatever the councils choose.

Then there would be, say, a portion set aside in case yellowtail were caught in other areas of the Gulf, other areas of the Atlantic, and I believe that the fishery would close when that overall ACL was met; so the issue of the landings being counted on the wrong coast of Florida and maybe prematurely closing early, that would be alleviated by this overall ACL for the state of Florida.

Also, the IPT note that is at the bottom of Page 6 of this document is talking about how this relates to Magnuson. The delegation – and I think we talked about this a little bit yesterday – it requires a two-thirds vote by the council to delegate a particular species to a state. Then as you might see at the bottom of this page, the state of Florida would have to submit a management plan about their intent to manage prior I think to this being finalized.

One more thing I'd like to point out is that after the last reauthorization, there was a lot of discussion then about actually turning over yellowtail and mutton to the state of Florida; and that seemed to be the preference of the councils at the time. The state of Florida wrote a letter saying that we did not want those species turned over to Florida at that time because we could not require the federal permit; so if those species were just removed from the FMP and given to the state of Florida in that manner, we could not require a federal permit.

It would be a more open access fishery until the state could get some type of endorsement program in place. This delegation option actually works for us better because it would allow the federal permit requirements to remain in place. It would also keep the FMP in place. The council could still make some overall management decisions; so I think this fits with that original intent of allowing the state of Florida to make some tweaks within some bounds as listed here and allowing those permit requirements to remain in place and allow the Magnuson requirements and everything else to remain in place.

DR. DUVAL: Thank you for that. I think that's helpful for everyone around the table to hear that, because I think there has been some concern on the part of constituents that delegation means the FWC would be completely taking over management of species; and so clarifying that it is actually better for the state, better for the constituents, better for the fishery that the councils maintain the species within the fishery management plan so that we're the one setting the ACL, the accountability measures and simply delegating those pieces to the state of Florida that are causing the inconsistencies.

MS. McCAWLEY: Exactly. Wilson.

DR. LANEY: I will just note from the habitat and environmental protection perspective; my understanding is EFH would remain in place as well.

MS. McCAWLEY: That is my understanding as well, too. Gregg, as we go through this document if you're thinking that we should pick preferreds here or we should do that when we get – I know that the Gulf picked some preferreds throughout the document yesterday, so I don't know if the committee wants to pick preferreds now or wait until we get into the joint meeting on Thursday.

MR. WAUGH: That's up to the committee, however you feel best to deal with it.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: Just a note the devil is in the details sometimes; and so just keep in the back of your mind if you do delegation – and that's fine if you choose to go that route – we're going to have to kind of figure out how we work out NEPA and those sorts of things if you delegate to Florida and letting them do size limits, season, bag limits, that sort of thing. There might be some additional actions or some kind of detail that needs to be put in here if you go that route. It is just for future reference, I guess.

MR. HAYMANS: Madam Chair, I'm not on your committee. The Gulf has recommended removing 2D and 3D; so if we match that, then Florida wouldn't have the opportunity to remove circle hooks for those species, correct?

MS. McCAWLEY: Right; and as I mentioned earlier, that's covered under another action; so that would leave that decision with the councils and not give the state of Florida the ability to do that for just yellowtail.

MR. HAYMANS: My question really gets to if you take away the circle hook requirement for yellowtail; then are you still allowed to have other species on the boat. Right now we require circle hooks for all snapper grouper species; and so if I've got all J-hooks on my rods, can I have other species or do I just have to demonstrate that I've got circle hooks on the boat? I think we had that discussion previously.

DR. DUVAL: Doug, our circle requirement only applies north of 28 degrees on the South Atlantic side. That's where the inconsistency is that it is required on the Gulf side, but it is not required on the Atlantic side when using natural baits. My understanding, actually from talking to Ben and others, is that it was the yellowtail fishery that was in mind specifically with this unique fishing method that Jessica described yesterday. That was the reason why we did not implement that requirement south of 28 degrees north latitude on our end.

MR. HAYMANS: Thank you for that reminder.

MS. McCAWLEY: Also, I brought up here from FWC Captain Rob Beaton. Can you ask your question one more time and maybe he could help get us the answer.

MR. HAYMANS: Well, that helped me on the 28 degrees. Basically if you're not required to have a circle hook for yellowtail but we are for other species and all of your riggings have J-hooks in them, can you have other species?

CAPTAIN BEATON: For yellowtail, I'm sure everybody is aware it is like a surface fishery. They usually just use a bare hook, the lightest monofilament possible so they don't spook the fish and get more bites. If we pulled up, we'd be able to see what type they're using for the yellowtail. If they just had the short-shanked J-hooks, that would be easy enough to determine.

A lot of the fishermen will also drop down something deep for maybe a grouper that comes up because of all the chum. That one would obviously have a circle on it. It is kind of check them while they're fishing to see what kind of hooks they're using. If they've got yellowtail and other species that require the circle hooks on the boat and we stop them in transit, we won't be able to make a case.

DR. DUVAL: Doug, that was one of the things I was going to bring up was do we remove 2D and 3D here to mirror what the Gulf has done and try to deal with this in this other action, which would actually be sort of begging the Gulf to complement this south of 28 degrees. I'm looking at Chester and he is nodding his head. Chester is part of the workgroup; so I think if we can –

MR. BREWER: Workgroup but not the committee.

DR. DUVAL: Well, you should feel free to speak up during this discussion because you have been involved in all of this. I think if other folks are comfortable, I think in the spirit of harmony

maybe removing Option 2D and Option 3D from Action 1; that might help us out a little bit and making the case to the Gulf that it would be helpful if they would complement this regulation. I would go ahead and make that as a motion.

MS. McCAWLEY: **Okay, the motion is to remove Options 2D and 3D from Action 1. Charlie seconded.** Once again, this is just removing the minor modifications to existing allowable gear that would be a possible option that could be delegated to the state of Florida for yellowtail. Chester, did you have something to add here.

MR. BREWER: I was just going to say I'm a huge, huge proponent of circle hooks; but in the working group we had several of the commercial guys come in and explain to us that because of the way that they fish for yellowtail, they're actually causing more damage using circle hooks than if they were using J-hooks and made a pretty cogent argument or statement of whatever that it makes a lot more sense to use J-hooks with yellowtail the way they're fished.

MR. BOWEN: Chester, just to clarify your statement, you said you're a huge proponent of circle hooks?

MR. BREWER: Yes, I am.

MR. BOWEN: But you told me yesterday you don't snapper grouper fish.

MR. BREWER: No; what I'm saying is that for the kind of fishing that I do and the stuff that I've been involved with in the past, like through ICCAT and whatnot, I'm a huge proponent of the use of circle hooks. But, in this instance with regard to yellowtail, we had a couple of commercial guys come in and explain to us how they pursue that fishery and what they do. They made a very good argument that, hey, you don't want to use circle hooks.

Zack, following up on our conversation outside yesterday, no, I don't do much snapper grouper fishing anymore. The point I was trying to make is that we were presented with some pretty evidence, argument or whatever you want to call it that circle hooks were not the appropriate gear to be used in the commercial yellowtail fishery.

MR. BOWEN: Thank you; I've been trying to express that with the for-hire sea bass and vermilion fishery for several years now.

MS. McCAWLEY: Okay, is there more discussion on the yellowtail snapper delegation option. Does the committee want to pick a preferred here under this action? **Is there any objection to this motion? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.** Now, is there anything else that the committee would like to do here relative to yellowtail snapper?

MR. WAUGH: We have Action 2 that deals with the ABCs and ACLs.

MS. McCAWLEY: So if we select a preferred on this action, it might help us on the next action and some sequent actions. I am wondering if the committee would like to pick a preferred here.

MR. PHILLIPS: What did the Gulf do; did they pick a preferred?

MS. McCAWLEY: I think that the Gulf chose Alternative 2 for recreational as the only preferred on this action. Ben.

MR. HARTIG: Based on comments that we've heard from the commercial fishery and based on the comments from our AP; I would move that we choose what the Gulf's action was for this action, which is Alternative 2 as the preferred; determine specific recreational management items for delegation to the State of Florida for yellowtail snapper.

MS. McCAWLEY: **We have a motion to choose Alternative 2 for Action 1 as the preferred. Seconded by Charlie.** Is there any discussion on this? Michelle.

DR. DUVAL: I'm going to support this motion. I hear the concerns of the commercial fishermen with regard to delegation to the FWC. I think that there is probably a lack of understanding of how this is actually going to work. My personal preference would also be to select Alternative 3 because I think Jessica has clearly outlined that really the issue has been on the commercial side in terms of almost, well, exceeding yet not exceeding the ACL that one year. That is where the problem has been, but I will support this motion.

MR. PHILLIPS: I don't want to get halfway down the road and not really take care of the problem. I'm thinking I can support the motion; but again if we delegate the commercial, we haven't fixed what we started out to fix, I'm afraid.

MS. McCAWLEY: It says that we're choosing Alternative 2 so I assume that means that would include all the options, Option 2A, 2B, 2C; so that would be size limit, season and bag limit, because we've already removed Option 2D, so that's one point. I agree with what both and Charlie and Michelle that one of the problems is on the commercial side. I do think that there is some lack of understanding and not understanding that the Magnuson requirements would still remain in place and that the FWC would have to follow those. I agree the problem would still be out there if this is the only preferred that's chosen. Ben.

MR. HARTIG: Well, I don't you're going to convince the commercial fishermen that they're ready to go in this direction. To me in moving this forward with something to get to the state and the recreational component is so large in the state of Florida; that we accomplish a tremendous amount by allowing the state to deal with recreational component of the fishery.

I understand in yellowtail with that seasonal problem we had and things of that nature; but there is this undercurrent of – well, for lack of a better term – distrust from the commercial fishery about what is going to happen with this delegation. I don't think you're going to be able to explain it out of their mind in the joint meeting. Talking to the Gulf members as well – this was in sidebar discussions when we were having our meetings within the sub-group – they just didn't feel commercial management was feasible.

MS. McCAWLEY: Okay, anymore discussion on the motion that is on the board? **Any objection to the motion that's on the board? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.** Does anybody want to select another preferred or are we ready to move on to Action 2? Charlie.

MR. PHILLIPS: Well, I'm not sure I want to totally walk away from the commercial management. Alternative 3 is a possible preferred, but I'm thinking maybe we just need to bring that up in joint and hash it out because they're still going to have federal oversight. I think that would probably take care of it, but we'll talk about it.

MR. BREWER: Put it in and you can always bargain it away later during the joint.

MR. PHILLIPS: Well, under Lawyer Chester's suggestion, I'll make the motion that we choose Alternative 3 as a preferred.

MS. McCAWLEY: Seconded by Michelle. **Under discussion, the motion is choose Alternative 3, Options 3A through 3C for Action 1 as preferred. This under discussion. We've actually already had considerable discussion on this; do we need more discussion on this motion? Any objection to this motion? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.** Gregg.

MR. WAUGH: The next item is Action 2. This is on Page 9. This deals with establishing and consolidating the ABCs and ACLs for yellowtail snapper. Alternative 1 would maintain the current commercial and recreational ACLs based on the South Atlantic Council's Fishery Management Plan and current total ACL for yellowtail snapper in the Gulf. We have it broken it out by sector; they have a total.

Alternative 2 would manage snapper grouper as a single unit, both South Atlantic and Gulf, with an overall combined multijurisdictional ABC and annual catch limit. That would address this issue of one area closing commercially before the full area closed. Alternative 3 would use both councils' agreed-upon ABC for yellowtail snapper and allocate the commercial and recreational ACLs for the Gulf and South Atlantic.

And then 3A uses the allocation formula based on the ratio of landings with 50 percent of the weighting given to the mean of the landings from '93 through 2008 and 50 percent based on 2009 through 2013; 3B would use the landings from 2009 through 2013; 3C would use 2004 through 2013. Again, your AP recommended no action.

There is a Table 5 on Page 11 that shows you what those allocations would be. I've got that projected here; so 3A would be 76 percent commercial/24 percent recreational; Option 3B would be 80 percent commercial/20 percent recreational; 3C would be 73 percent commercial/27 percent recreational.

DR. DUVAL: In just reading some of the text that is in the decision document, which states that Alternative 2 could still have within it recreational and commercial fishing allocations – and I think the allocation issue was very important to the commercial fishermen on the advisory panel from what I heard; so it seems like if we selected Alternative 2 as a preferred but wanted to maintain

sector allocations; then we would also need to select something under Alternative 3. Is that correct, Gregg?

MR. WAUGH: Yes; or you could create another alternative using the language that's there for Alternative 2 and pull the options under Alternative 3. You would have an overall unit in the South Atlantic and Gulf, but then you would use the recreational/commercial allocations that are outlined under Alternative 3. The way the Alternative 2 is envisioned right now is you just have one overall combined ABC and ACL, and it applies to both areas and applies to commercial and recreational combined.

MS. McCAWLEY: Yes; that Gregg just mentioned might be the easiest option is to make this additional alternative and then you're kind of combining 2 and 3. Monica.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: I should know the answer to this, but the Gulf for some species doesn't allocate between the recreational and commercial sector. For yellowtail do they have just one overall ACL or did they divide that up one recreational and commercial?

MR. WAUGH: There is one overall ACL for commercial and recreational.

MS. McCAWLEY: On the Gulf?

MR. WAUGH: Yes; on the Gulf.

DR. McGOVERN: One thing I think would be good to put in the no action is – because we're dealing with ABC and ACL here – is that both the Gulf and the South Atlantic have set ACL equal to ABC; and I think that's relevant to the other alternatives.

MS. McCAWLEY: That's a good point. Ben.

MR. HARTIG: Yes; and for several species that are in this amendment the Gulf does that; they manage it as a single overall ACL. That creates some problems for the Gulf. They have to do more than we do to be able to – unless we did what they did and manage it as one ACL. The problem with that on our side – I mean you have two sides with totally different sector participation.

On our side you have a large recreational component and a large commercial component where the recreational fishery usually comes close to catching their ACL and the commercial fishery, relatively speaking, comes close as well. In the Gulf you don't have a big recreational fishery. You have a small recreational component – and I can't remember how close they come to catching their ACL – and you have a small commercial component.

It is hard to match the two together; because if you put them in one combined ACL, then you have the problem of a recreational fishery that we have possibly shutting down the commercial fishery. That's the problem we get into. In the Gulf, if it was all the same, if it acted the same, you wouldn't have that problem because neither one of them catch the allocation, but in our area both of them

are close or do. If we went the Gulf way, we would have that problem. This is an overarching observation that we're going to see in a couple of these things.

DR. DUVAL: Did the Gulf select a preferred under this; do you know?

MS. McCAWLEY: I think that they got confused about this yesterday and a little tired working through this document. I don't believe that they selected a preferred on this alternative. Let me point out a couple things that might help us. What Ben brought up was a lot of what was discussed, as you guys probably remember at the committee, is talking about how on the Atlantic side we have already split the ACL between recreational and commercial and Gulf hasn't.

By going through this action, this is helping to kind of bring that all together here in the state of Florida because that's where the fishery is occurring; and then it is coming up with how is that going to be split up between recreational and commercial if this fishery is going to operate with one overall ACL. First it was split between the Gulf and the South Atlantic and then the South Atlantic furthest split it into recreational and commercial and the Gulf did not. You can see how that is adding to some of the confusion. Ben.

MR. HARTIG: The other concern I had was if you're going to look at the allocations, you're going to have to look at them within bounds of each Gulf and Atlantic; set the allocations in each one because they're going to be different. I don't think you can take this timeframe and apply it to the whole yellowtail stock because you have different participation parameters from each side. I don't think it would wrong. I may be wrong; but that is just my first impression.

MS. McCAWLEY: To get where Ben is saying I think you'd have to add a new alternative to do that. I think what we've been talking about so far is partly what Alternative 2 would do is manage this as a single; but then you would have to figure out, what is Alternative 3, how you would split it up between recreational and commercial.

Just speaking from the state of Florida, I would like to be a council decision. I would like the council to be able to figure out what that split is going to be, which there is an option here outlined in Alternative 3. I would prefer that to be a council decision and not State of Florida Commission decision.

DR. DUVAL: Right; and I would prefer that as well; and that's why I asked the question that I did because just in noting in the text in the document that Alternative 2 can be selected and you can still have sector allocations. It almost seems like to me like you select Alternative 2 and something from Alternative 3; but if from an IPT perspective it is going to be cleaner to simply form a new Alternative 4 that combines 2 and 3, then let's go ahead and do it.

MS. McCAWLEY: Okay, then I suggest we try to craft what that new Alternative 4 would look like. Do you want to take a shot at that, Michelle?

DR. DUVAL: I guess it would be to form a new alternative to combine Alternatives 2 and 3 that would take the total ABC from the stock assessment and then apply – so you take the total ABC

that crosses both Gulf and South Atlantic jurisdictions; set a total multijurisdictional ACL; and then apply an allocation formula to that; and that would be a council-level decision.

MR. WAUGH: If I could just ask for some clarification; Alternative 2 would change what we're – because right now both councils have the same ABC, we have the same ACL, and then the councils have agreed on how to split that between the South Atlantic and the Gulf. In the South Atlantic we divide it recreational/commercial; in the Gulf they don't.

The way Alternative 3 is worded, that would use that same ABC and ACL and then it seems the intent of that is to have one ACL that you would then divide between recreational and commercial. It seems that achieves what we want to unless in Alternative 3 we're still splitting Gulf and South Atlantic.

MS. McCAWLEY: Yes; the way I read it is that 3 is still splitting the Gulf and South Atlantic, which is why you would need this other alternative. I think I'd pick this alternative that Michelle is working on crafting. Michelle.

DR. DUVAL: I'm just looking at what Gregg has up here on the screen where there would be a new Alternative 4 that captures the language of Alternative 4 to manage yellowtail snapper as a single unit with an overall combined multijurisdictional acceptable biological catch and annual catch limit. It seems like we might need a sentence in there before we get into the different options to state allocate the ACL according to one of the following formulas or something like that. I think this kind of extends from a little bit of misunderstanding or misinterpretation of the wording of Alternative 3 versus Alternative 2.

MS. McCAWLEY: I agree; I'm going to wait for the discussion between Gregg and Jack to conclude. Charlie, go ahead.

MR. PHILLIPS: I'm just curious for clarification is the South Atlantic's allocation formula one of these that are listed or is it another one?

MS. McCAWLEY: It is similar to "A"; so it is "A"; and you remember that during our committee, Ryan Rindone from the Gulf gave us a lengthy presentation showing a breakdown of how that's figured out and how, when it was originally put in place, it kind of double-weighted a particular option, so this is kind of getting that fixed up so that maybe the South Atlantic's original intent, when that was put in place, is at play here in Option 3A. Ben.

MR. HARTIG: Just to be clear in my mind, if we do this the Gulf won't have to go in and separate out and do this allocation scenario. This is a much a better fit for their – okay, that is what I need to be clear on.

MS. McCAWLEY: Right, this is the cleaner way to do it. Since we're in a joint amendment right here, this is how that is happening is to create – so that's why we created this Alternative 4. Gregg is getting it on the board – it is in yellow – to manage yellowtail as a single unit and then those sub-options would actually be determining what that recreational and commercial split is going to

do and how that's going to work. As Charlie was asking, the one that matches what the South Atlantic had done originally, after the reauthorization, is the "A" option.

DR. DUVAL: Right; so Option 3A is currently how we have allocated our portion of the ABC. Jack was just saying that the table that Gregg referenced on Page 11; those proportions of allocation are actually – well, it says those would be results of applying Alternative 3. The assumption was that Alternative 3 was actually doing what we are doing in Alternative 4. Just for everyone's benefit; so we might need a little bit of language tweaking to Alternative 3 just to make it perfectly clear that you would be simply applying an allocation formula to each council's ACL.

MS. McCAWLEY: While Gregg is maybe thinking about how Alternative 3 needs to be tweaked so that is clear you're applying that to each council; are there more questions about this? I know it is confusing but basically we're ultimately getting to better place with one ACL; and then this joint amendment is determining the recreational and commercial split for that overall ACL.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: I have one question. With Alternative 4, as best I can read it, you still get into one single ACL for the – yes, the split between the recreational and commercial, so there would be one split; in the whole South Florida area, one ACL for the recreational sector and one ACL for the commercial sector that would apply regardless of whether you were in the Gulf or South Atlantic?

MS. McCAWLEY: It is not just South Florida; it would be throughout both the Gulf and South Atlantic jurisdictions. It just so happens that yellowtail is mostly a South Florida fishery; but it would be throughout both council's jurisdictions, yes. Everything else that you said is correct. While folks are conferring at the front of the room, I wanted to remind people that as we work through this document, for each species that we come to we're going to be doing the same thing.

We're going to discuss delegation; then we're going to discuss the ABC/ACL recreational/commercial allocation split. We're going to do this for every species. Now, some species like mutton, black grouper, et cetera, have some other things that we need to look at, but know that this kind of structure and how we're stepping through the document is how we're going to step through this for all the species. It is broken down by species; so once we kind of get this in place for yellowtail, then we do the same thing for the other species. Michelle.

DR. DUVAL: I think again the questions that I originally started with was I was reading the text that you could have an overall combined ABC and ACL, which would be Alternative 2; and also once you combine that, apply an allocation to it, which would be some selection of Alternative 3. I really think it is simply a semantics, wordsmithing issue that makes it not necessarily clear.

I think the IPT structured Alternative 3 thinking that was a combined Gulf plus South Atlantic ACL to which you would apply one of these sector allocation formulas; and so probably the IPT concern is going to be redundancy with this new alternative that we have created. Jack, I don't know if you want to speak to that Alternative 3 was envisioned as this smooshing together of both councils' ACLs and then applying an allocation formula to it.

DR. McGOVERN: I was just looking at Table 5 before, and I think Gregg talked about this and you talked about it. It just looks like it applies to the overall ACL for both regions rather than individual regions.

MR. WAUGH: And Jack is right; that calculation does show that. I think where we're getting hung up here is Alternative 2 would do away with the jurisdictional split. The way Alternative 3 was envisioned is it would main that jurisdictional split. There were suggestions that you could just pick both Alternative 2 and Alternative 3 as your preferred, and then that would basically get rid of the jurisdictional split and then use one of these options to do the allocation. Whether you think that is clear enough or whether you want to use a new alternative that takes Alternative 2 that gets rid of the jurisdictional split and then allocates the recreational and commercial for the overall ACL; to me that seems like a more clear way of doing it.

MS. McCAWLEY: Yes; I agree. Michelle.

DR. DUVAL: I move that we add a new Alternative 4 as written on the screen: New Alternative 4: Manage yellowtail snapper as a single unit with an overall combined multijurisdictional acceptable biological catch and annual catch limit. Allocate the ACL according to one of the following formulas:

Option 4a: use the following sector allocation formula: divide the sector allocations based on the ratio of landings with 50 percent of the weighting given to the mean of the landings from 1993-2008 and 50 percent on the mean of the landings from 2009-2013. Option 4b: base sector allocations on average landings from 2009-2013; Option 4c: base sector allocations on average landings from 2004-2013.

MS. McCAWLEY: Seconded by Charlie. We've already had some discussion on this? Is there more discussion or more clarification needed about adding Alternative 4? Chester.

MR. BREWER: I'm not on the committee, but I'm favor of Alternative 4. I did want to make a point, and that is we're doing allocations based exclusively on landings, prior historic landings. That's not exactly what is called for in Magnuson. Magnuson calls for OY. However, being realistic and understanding the objections that you might see coming more so I think out of the Gulf, it is the only realistic way to do it here. I just wanted to make the point this is not OY.

MS. McCAWLEY: Yes; and the point that Chester brought up, for those of you that aren't on the committee, we talked about this at the South Florida Committee meeting, so Chester does have a good point. Is there more discussion on this motion? The motion is just to add the new Alternative 4 as seen on the screen. **Any objections to that motion? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.** Now based on the fact that we've added this new alternative, would you like to choose that new alternative as the preferred? Michelle.

DR. DUVAL: I move that we select new Alternative 4 as the preferred under Action 2.

MS. McCAWLEY: Seconded by Charlie. Under discussion; we've already had a lot of discussion on this. Anybody else want to comment on this before we vote on the motion, which is to select

new Alternative 4 for Action as preferred. **Is there any objection to this motion? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.** I'll turn it back over to Gregg as we move into mutton snapper.

MR. WAUGH: That takes care of yellowtail; so Actions 3 through 6 deal with mutton snapper. The first item there is the same thing we dealt with in yellowtail; and what you did there was you removed Options 2D and 3D and you approved Alternatives 2 and 3 as preferred for yellowtail. You may want to consider doing the same here for mutton.

DR. DUVAL: I move that we delete Options 2D and 3D from Action 3.

MS. McCAWLEY: Seconded by Ben. Once again, what that is doing is it is doing the same thing that we did with yellowtail and it is removing the option to delegate allowable gear to the state of Florida. Anymore discussion on that motion? **Is there any objection to that motion? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.**

MR. WAUGH: Action 4 deals with consolidating the ABCs and ACLs for mutton snapper.

MS. McCAWLEY: Before you move on, Gregg, do we want to select a preferred here on Action 3 for delegation on mutton?

MR. HARTIG: Charlie, do you want the same as you had? Well, make the motion, then.

MR. PHILLIPS: Jessica, I'd like to make the motion we make Alternative 2 and Alternative 3 our preferred under Action 3.

MS. McCAWLEY: Seconded by Ben. Gregg, I don't know if you want to add the sub-options to that. Michelle.

DR. DUVAL: Jessica, I was wondering if you could just recap sort of the mutton issues so that folks are clear that we've got a little spawning season bag limit issue.

MS. McCAWLEY: The spawning is one of the biggest issues. We have a ten-fish bag limits. We don't have any kind of special closure during the spawning season. We have that same bag limit year round, so it is not like we're dropping the bag limit down during the spawn and then there is a different bag limit for the regular season.

A lot of what we heard at the workshops and at the public comment during the committee meeting was that the councils should consider either a spawning season closure for mutton or making two different bag limits; so a bag limit during the regular season and a bag limit during the spawning season, which would be significantly lower than the regular season bag limit.

The suggestions were really all over the map for that. Just as a reminder, like yellowtail the mutton snapper assessment is conducted by the FWC. I believe we might have recently had a mutton snapper stock assessment come out, and I don't know if Luiz Barbieri would like to come to the microphone and tell us about that assessment.

DR. BARBIERI: The short answer is no basically because I will have more details about the assessment, including some projections to show you during the regular SSC report this afternoon. I think it will be more informative than have to disrupt your discussion now and post some of those slides up.

MS. McCAWLEY: Can you give us a bottom line; wasn't the assessment good?

DR. BARBIERI: Yes, it was good. It was not overfished and not undergoing overfishing. This was an update assessment and it turned out positive; so no major drama or nothing there that would concern us.

MS. McCAWLEY: Perfect; thank you. That's kind of a little synopsis of what is going on with mutton. In looking at the motion that's the board, I'm not sure that it is clear that is selecting 2 and 3 and all of the sub-options. Michelle.

DR. DUVAL: Yes; to clarify, one of the inconsistencies that we're dealing with here is on the commercial side where in the Atlantic we have this retention-only of the recreational bag limit, which is ten fish per person per day and the Gulf does not have – and we don't have any commercial trip limit the rest of the year. The Gulf does not have such a bag limit restriction on the commercial side.

MS. McCAWLEY: Yes; that's a nice clarification. We have a motion on the board. Do we need more discussion on this particular motion? **The motion is to select Alternative 2 and 3 and all of the options, including 2A through 2C and 3A through C, under Action 3 as preferred. Any objection to that motion? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.**

MR. WAUGH: That moves us to Action 4, which deals with establishing and consolidating the ABC and ACLs; and what you did for yellowtail was clarify that Alternative 3 would maintain the existing jurisdictional split and then you added a new Alternative 4 that combined 2 and the options under 3A.

DR. DUVAL: I would like to make a motion that we add a similar new Alternative 4 under Action 4 as we did under Action 2, only this one be tailored to mutton snapper: **New Alternative 4: Manage mutton snapper as a single unit with an overall combined multijurisdictional acceptable biological catch and annual catch limit. Allocate the ACL according to one of the following formulas:**

Option 4a: use the following sector allocation formula: divide the sector allocations based on the ratio of landings with 50 percent of the weighting given to the mean of the landings from 1993-2008 and 50 percent on the mean of the landings from 2009-2013. Option 4b: base sector allocations on average landings from 2009-2013; Option 4c: base sector allocations on average landings from 2004-2013.

MS. McCAWLEY: Seconded by Ben. Let's let Gregg get that on the board. While he is working to get that on the board, any discussion on adding a similar alternative like we added to yellowtail snapper? Jack.

DR. McGOVERN: Not to that, but just like yellowtail snapper, I think we should clarify in the no action alternative that ACL equals ABC for both councils.

MS. McCAWLEY: Thank you for reminding us. This is to add a new Alternative 4 under Action 4; and once again this is similar to what we just did for yellowtail. It is basically managing mutton as a single unit with an overall ABC and ACL, and then it has the options underneath to separate into recreational and commercial. **Is there any objection to this motion? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.** Michelle.

DR. DUVAL: I move that we select new Alternative 4 under Action 4 as the preferred.

MS. McCAWLEY: Seconded by Charlie. Any discussion of that motion? Jack.

DR. McGOVERN: There are options under this new Alternative 4 and does this committee need to select options under that Alternative 4?

MS. McCAWLEY: My suggestion would be – and I’m not sure if we did this correctly on yellowtail, but my suggestion would be to go with the “A” option since that’s what the South Atlantic used following the reauthorization when we went back and put this in place. Monica.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: Although in this one you don’t have in front of you the analysis which would show how it would break out. I don’t know if I cautioned you on the other one. I can’t recall whether you selected the preferreds; but I think I would urge you to not select a preferred at this time until you see how it all breaks out in terms of landings.

MS. McCAWLEY: Right; I agree with that; and part of me thinks it would be similar, so, for example, for mutton to Table 7, that breakdown that is already in there, but we can also wait until we see the analysis. Gregg.

MR. WAUGH: The numbers in Table 7 actually are similar with yellowtail. Those do reflect your intent of Alternative 4. That’s the allocations without a jurisdictional split and with those alternatives. Those would be the percentages; and the same thing for yellowtail. We did not select a preferred option for yellowtail either.

MS. McCAWLEY: So we’ll go back to that for yellowtail, but do we want to select – under 4, do we want to select a particular sub-option? It seems like we need to do that, so let’s take care of mutton first. Would the committee like to select a sub-option under 4 as the preferred? Michelle, I think you were the motion maker.

DR. DUVAL: I’ll go ahead and select Alternative 4, Option 4A as a preferred.

MS. McCAWLEY: I believe, Charlie, were the seconder; are you okay with that? **All right, the motion is to select new Alternative 4, Option 4A as preferred for Action 4.** Monica.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: For clarification for the record, Table 7, the way it is broken out for commercial and recreational; that takes into account the combined South Atlantic and Gulf area on the amount of harvest.

MR. WAUGH: That's correct.

MR. HARTIG: I need to be clear on this. 3A is what the council used, the so-called Bowtie Approach, or not? It is the Bowtie Approach. I don't have any interest in ever using the Bowtie Approach again. Frankly, I did a whole lot of work on that back when we were going through this exercise. Given what Ryan had come up with in the double-weighting exercise, I don't care to use that.

MR. WAUGH: It is a modification of our Bowtie Approach in that it does not use the overlapping year. You will see it is '93 through 2008 and then the more recent years 2009 through '13. At least it addresses that issue of using one year in both time series.

MR. HARTIG: Thank you very much. As long as we've cleaned that up and doesn't do the double-weighting issues that we had, I have no problem with that.

MS. McCAWLEY: Anymore discussion on this motion? Michelle.

DR. DUVAL: I'll just note that the hope is that we can come to some agreement at the joint committee level to take this out to the public. If the public doesn't want that, we have the opportunity to change that preferred later.

MS. McCAWLEY: Correct. Is there any objection to this motion? **Seeing none; that motion stands approved.** I think we should back up to the yellowtail snapper where we chose the preferred on Action 2. Just to clarify, I believe that the analysis for this action is in Table 5. It is listed as Options 3A, 3B and 3C; but we really think it is more reflective of what is in the new Alternative 4. Would someone like to modify this particular motion or actually give us a new motion? Michelle.

DR. DUVAL: I move that we select Alternative 4, Option 4A as a preferred.

MS. McCAWLEY: Seconded by Charlie. Under discussion, any questions about what we just did here? All right, any objection to this motion? Seeing none – Monica.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: No objection; just maybe for the record a little explanation as to why that one was chosen.

MS. McCAWLEY: I think I can explain and then, Michelle, you can add in since you were the maker of the motion. I believe what we're doing here is we're choosing what I'd call the modified Bowtie Approach that was how the South Atlantic had implemented this in the first place. We've basically taken that Bowtie Approach, gotten rid of the double-weighting that Ben just brought up, and that is resulting in what is now 4A. We're also updating the years in which we're pulling

landings from. **Okay, is there any objection to this motion? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.**

MR. WAUGH: Now we're on Action 5 on Page 19. This deals with modifying the recreational bag limit in the Gulf and South Atlantic. Alternative 1 is where we have mutton snapper as part of the ten snapper aggregate bag limit in the Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic and the state of Florida. Alternative 2 would remove mutton snapper from the recreational aggregate bag limit and change the recreational bag limit for mutton snapper during what we're calling the regular season, July through April, and during what we're calling the spawning season, May through June.

2A is a ten fish per person per day bag limit in regular season; two during the spawning season. 2B is five during the regular season; two during the spawning season. 2C is four during the regular season and two during the spawning season. Alternative 3 would retain mutton snapper within the ten snapper aggregate bag limit and then have similar options; 3A, ten during the regular season, not more than two during the spawning season may be mutton snapper; 3B is no more than five in the regular season and no more than two during the spawning season; Option 3 are four in the regular season and two in the spawning season.

You've got some analyses of this. Table 9 shows the species' composition; ten shows the current regulations. Table 11 shows the South Atlantic recreational broken out private, charter and headboat mutton snapper landings by wave. Then the percent reduction in landings for various bag limits is shown in Table 12. You can see from Table 12 that you have to get a fairly sizable reduction in the bag limit before you start impacting the catch very much at all. We've got distributions shown in Figure 2 and Figure 3. We'd be glad to answer any questions you about those analyses.

MS. McCRAWLEY: Okay, a couple of point here. As I mentioned, this is one of the main concerns is some folks believe that mutton snapper during the spawn should be closed. Other folks believe that there should be a regular season bag limit that is maybe lower than what it is right now and then an even lower bag limit during the spawning season.

I believe in the document we have the spawning season defined as May through June. Like I've mentioned, there was considerable discussion on this at the public workshops and also the public comment at the South Florida Committee meetings. One point to note here is that since in one of the previous actions for mutton the preferred that was chosen was delegation; then I don't necessarily know if the council needs to spend a significant amount of time picking a preferred here.

If the council would like to have some discussion and offer some insight into whether they're thinking something like a regular season limit that would be lower and then a spawning season limit or spawning season closure, I think that would be helpful. I think maybe also thinking about the aggregate limit a little bit. Michelle.

DR. DUVAL: I was just going to address a couple of the IPT concerns. I agree with you that since we've selected a preferred under Action 4, we don't need to spend a lot of time here selecting a preferred. We may have a different discussion tomorrow; but there is not a whole lot of

difference between Options 2B and 2C or 3B and 3C. I just throw that out there. We could always eliminate 2C and 3C.

One of the items under delegation was that the state of Florida would submit an implementation plan for what the proposed regulations would be; so I think the state of Florida would be submitting something with regard to bag limits during the spawning season and commercial limits during the spawning season. I hesitate to get into a protracted discussion here about what those might be until we absolutely have to.

MS. McCAWLEY: And I'm good with that. Ben, did you have your hand up?

MR. HARTIG: Yes; I'm just trying to figure out the direction now. Are you saying that if we do the delegation that the state is willing to do this in a subsequent action?

MS. McCAWLEY: Correct. Yes; I believe what Michelle is saying is that she would like to see a plan; so if we're going move forward with preferred options for state of Florida delegation, then the state of Florida would need to come back to the councils with a plan for how they would step forward with the management, including something like whether or not they would consider a step-down bag limit or a spawning closure or how they would go about doing that.

MR. HARTIG: At least from my perspective, I don't think we need a spawning season closure for mutton snapper. Based on the assessment, based on Riley's Hump, based on the Tortugas closure, based on a whole number of other management options that we have for this animal that seems to be working, I don't think a closure is necessary.

I do think the step-down in bag limit – I think the current bag limit of ten is probably too high – have some kind of bag limit in the normal season and then a step-down from that in the spawning season. I think that would work for the species as well.

I will add additionally that the AP has discussed this and they think if you possibly get one more special spot like Riley's you may not need any other regulations and you may let your area regulations dictate how you manage those species. It seems like mutton, once you get the primary spawning spots closed, they do pretty well on their own.

MS. McCAWLEY: So just to clarify, are you thinking a step-down bag limit for both recreational and commercial?

MR. HARTIG: Yes; I would include both in that. I know it creates some heartburn for the Gulf in the longline fishery in the Gulf, but I still think it is valuable. Those fish will be spawning somewhere in the Gulf during that same timeframe.

MR. WAUGH: So then it seems like we're considering at some point perhaps moving this to the considered but rejected appendix; and when you want to do this is up to you. That seems like since we've picked a preferred on delegation, then we're going to let the state handle how they do this. At some point this would move to considered but rejected.

MS. McCAWLEY: Yes; and we might want to save that discussion for Thursday. Charlie.

MR. PHILLIPS: Just for clarification; you'll bring your management plan to the council and we could have some input on – maybe tweak it one way or the other, but the final decision is going to be with Florida.

MS. McCAWLEY: Yes; that is how I see it happening. I think the state would like to get input from the councils, but, yes, ultimately the final decision would from our commissioners.

MR. MAHOOD: I think the control the council has is the council can always come in and take away what they gave. They're not going off and say, okay, we've listened to you, but we're going to do this anyway.

MS. McCAWLEY: Yes; I believe the MSA has provisions to shut down what Florida would be doing if it doesn't comply with the overall fishery management plan. Monica.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: Right; I guess Section 306(3)(B) talks about whatever a state does, if a state has been given – if the councils and the Service has delegated authority to the state to do something; then the state's regulations have to be consistent with the FMP. What I'm curious about, Jessica, is where the idea of Florida needing to submit a plan to the council comes from.

Maybe that's part of the devil-in-the-details thing I brought up earlier regarding NEPA and how we're going to get through the other applicable law part that factors in anytime the council doesn't an amendment and dealing with the state of Florida and their regulations and all that. I don't see anything in the Act that says specifically you have to submit a plan to the council. However, I assume if Florida wanted to, there is probably a way to accommodate that. I'm just a little unsure because we've never done this before.

MS. McCAWLEY: Back on Page 6 of this document, it is under the yellowtail action, the first action. It was a recommendation of this joint committee; that they would be asking the state of Florida to submit a management plan outlining changes for review and approval by the Gulf and South Atlantic Councils. This is talking about how it is not required, just like Monica said, but I believe it was the intent of that committee to see a plan from the state. Michelle.

DR. DUVAL: And just to add to that; this is something that is done at the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission level. Whenever the commission passes a new amendment or an addendum, one of the more recent developments has been asking the states for an implementation plan; because that process requires in each state's administrative process to go forth and put regulations in place; so how do you plan to do it and when they will be in place. Generally it is a pretty simple thing, but it was suggested to give another measure of comfort with regard to what types of management measures a state would be anticipating putting in place.

MR. WAUGH: And I believe the Gulf removed that requirement when they were talking about so we'll need to resolve this when we talk tomorrow. But, too, the state says here is what we're going to do, gets the input from the councils; does then NMFS put in regulations to handle the

federal zone or Florida does it for state waters and then – how does that work or is that something yet to be resolved.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: That is that devil-details thing. If the council really wants to go down this route with delegation, I guess we'll have to work that out and figure that out. I know there is some delegation done in different areas of the country and so we can look to that as an example. We can also figure it out. I think it almost seems like it would have to be referenced in the federal regulations as to what Florida's requirements are. However, we can figure that out.

MS. McCAWLEY: Yes, I agree. My understanding and my knowledge basically comes from discussing this at the Gulf Council on red snapper; but it is my understanding that the state would be able to implement regulations in federal waters through some mechanism. I was hoping as this document moves forward; that maybe some of those details could come back with the document.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: And I think that they absolutely should so we'll get on that.

MR. PHILLIPS: Okay, I heard you say that you would submit a plan for approval, which tells me that the South Atlantic is going to have a box; and as long as whatever your plan is inside the box, we would approve it and it would go forward; but if your plan was outside of our box and we didn't approve it, you wouldn't go forward with that.

MS. McCAWLEY: Kind of. I think the box might be the FMP; so I think that the plan would have to be in compliance with the existing fishery management plan is how I understand it. That might be the box; and then I think it is up to the councils to decide if you're going to approve this plan or not.

As Gregg mentioned, the Gulf took this language out that says that the state of Florida did not have to submit a plan. As Michelle said like ASMFC, I don't mind us submitting a plan that says this is what the state of Florida intends to do to regulate these species and then it can be reviewed by the council. I'm not sure exactly how that would work. I'd have to kind of see some more details of how this would worked out. Charlie.

MR. PHILLIPS: And just to follow up a little bit, I think that would give a lot of the fishermen a little more comfort that are skeptical, for lack of a better term. Yes, I think this will work.

DR. DUVAL: Can we move on from this action? We're not selected any preferreds. Was there any modification that needed to be done in that regard?

MR. WAUGH: No; I think you all have indicated what your intent is and we'll see the discussion tomorrow, and perhaps tomorrow this will be move to considered but rejected. It seems the same thing would apply to Action 6, which is to deal with the mutton snapper commercial trip limit. That's the next action.

MS. McCAWLEY: I think that's Action 6 and I guess to me the same argument applies. I don't know if we necessarily need to talk about this action. Michelle.

DR. DUVAL: Yes; and again the reason these actions are just in here is in the event that delegation would not be selected for moving forward.

MR. WAUGH: That brings us to Action 7 and 8 that deal with black grouper. This is on Page 34. Action 7 deals with partial delegation of just recreational management measures of black grouper. The issue here is this is part of the Gulf ITQ Program; so that's why the committee is just recommending dealing with recreational.

Alternative 1, no action, would retain recreational management of black grouper in the Reef Fish and South Atlantic FMPs. Alternative 2 would determine specific recreational management items; and as you did before, you may want to consider removing Option 2D and then approving Alternative 2, Options 2A through 2C as your preferred. That's what you did for yellowtail and mutton.

DR. DUVAL: Madam Chair, I would move that we eliminate Alternative 2, Option 2D.

MS. McCAWLEY: Second by Charlie. Is there any discussion on this motion? This is the same thing we did with those other actions by removing this alternative. **The motion is to eliminate Alternative 2, Option 2D in Action 7. Is there any objection to that motion? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.** Michelle.

DR. DUVAL: I would make a motion to select Alternative 2, Options 2A, 2B and 2C as preferreds under Action 7.

MS. McCAWLEY: Seconded by Charlie. Under discussion. Charlie.

MR. PHILLIPS: Well, I'm reading in the note that the AP supported no action; but again I think the council is going to have some oversight over this, so I think we'll be okay unless there is something that I don't know about.

DR. DUVAL: Charlie, the advisory panel supported no action for everything except for I think it was Action 11, to harmonize bag and size limits; and their recommendation was to move the boundary of the snapper grouper fishery management unit around to Shark Point. That's why they made that recommendation for no action everywhere.

MS. McCAWLEY: Okay, we have a motion on the board to select Alternative, Options 2A through 2C in Action 7 as preferred. Any more discussion on this motion? **Any objection to this motion? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.**

MR. WAUGH: Next is Action 8 on Page 37. This deals with consolidating the ABCs and ACLs. You've got Table 18 that shows the allocations. Alternative 3A would vary annually based on yield projections. 3A through 3D show you what the percentages would be.

Again, what we did for the other two species was add a new alternative that combines Alternative 2 with the wording from the Options in Alternative 3 and clarify that Alternative 3 maintains the council jurisdictional split whereas the new alternative would not.

MS. McCAWLEY: I think we could still add a new action here. It is just going to be a little bit different than the other ones because this is only for the recreational. It is not recreational and commercial; so just to keep that in mind. Michelle, did you have your hand up?

DR. DUVAL: Yes; Madam Chair, I was going to make a motion to add a new Alternative 4 that combines Alternative 2 and the options under Alternative 3, similar to what we did for yellowtail and mutton snapper, but apply only to the recreational sector.

MS. McCAWLEY: Okay, let's let Gregg get that up there for us. Seconded by Charlie. While Gregg is getting that up there, I think I have a question for Ryan Rindone, who has come over from the Gulf Council to help us. Ryan, can you talk a little bit about how the Gulf separates black grouper between recreational and commercial since the commercial is in an IFQ. Is there an allocation split; how does that work?

MR. RINDONE: In the Generic ACL/AM Amendment, there was an allocation split that was done. Black grouper are included as part of the shallow-water grouper IFQ Program; and so there is a poundage that counts towards that. My understanding is the IFQ Program reports groupers not specifically by species, but species are teased out through the trip ticket information.

MS. McCAWLEY: So basically you're closing the fishery when the overall ACL for recreational and commercial is anticipated to be met; is that what is happening?

MR. RINDONE: Basically, yes; the commercial side gets a certain poundage and that is monitored pretty accurately. And then the recreational side; the recreational landings of black grouper in the Gulf are lower than they are in the South Atlantic, for sure. It is mostly a commercial fishery.

MS. McCAWLEY: **The motion was to add a new Alternative 4: Alternative 4: Manage black grouper as a single unit with an overall combined multijurisdictional acceptable biological catch and annual catch limit and allocate the recreational ACLs for the Gulf and South Atlantic:**

Option 4a: Combine the current recreational allocations (i.e., 63.12 percent of the ACL for the South Atlantic and 27 percent of the ACL for the Gulf) for black grouper into a single recreational allocation. Option 4b: Use the following sector allocation formula: divide the sector allocations based on the ratio of landings with 50 percent of the weighting given to the mean of the landings from 1993-2008, and 50 percent on the mean of the landings from 2009-2013. Option 4c: Base sector allocations on average landings from 2009-2013. Option 4d: Base sector allocations on average landings from 2004-2013.

The language is on the board. Once again, this is only for the recreational portion of black grouper. Gregg, I see that it is listed as Alternative 2 and then the options are listed as 3. Okay, we have a motion on the table and we have a second. **Is there any objection to this motion that is going to add this new alternative? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.**

Might I make a suggestion if we are going to pick a preferred here, I'm wondering if instead of choosing Option B, which is the Bowtie Method, it might be better for the Gulf if we choose Option A, which is taking into account what they already have in place.

DR. DUVAL: I will go ahead and make a motion to select Alternative 4, Option 4A as a preferred under Action 8.

MS. McCAWLEY: Seconded by Charlie. **The motion is to select Alternative 4, Option 4A as the preferred for Action 8. Under discussion. Is there any objection to this motion? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.**

MR. WAUGH: Okay, we move to Page 41 and Actions 9 and 10 pertain to seasonal closures in the shallow-grouper fisheries in the Gulf and South Atlantic. Action 9 would modify the shallow-water grouper species' composition and seasonal closures. I don't know if you have any general discussion you want to have first based on what the Gulf did or how we might want to restructure this.

MS. McCAWLEY: I think what the Gulf did, if I understand it correctly, is they took from the restricted document. They took I believe it was Action 6, 7 and 8 to replace Actions 10 and 11 in the decision document/full amendment. That might be difficult for folks to look at, but Actions 6, 7 and 8 in the restructured document are doing almost the same thing. It is just set up in a more cleaner way so that there aren't two or three things happening in one action. I'll wait until Gregg can get some stuff on the board for us.

MR. WAUGH: This is Attachment 4B in your Executive Finance materials. Action 6 would standardize recreational season closures for grouper in the South Florida Management Area within the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Councils' jurisdiction. Alternative 2 would remove the shallow-water grouper recreational closure for all affected grouper species. Alternative 3 would adopt the Gulf Council's recreational shallow-water grouper seasonal closure, excluding gag, of February 1 through March 31 outside the 20-fathom depth contour.

Alternative 4 would adopt the South Atlantic Council's recreational shallow-water grouper seasonal closure January 1 through April 30. Alternative 5 would establish a gag recreational season closure for any of the following months in South Florida, January, February or March. You could, if you wanted to, pick – if you wanted a January/February, you would pick two of those alternatives. If you wanted January, February and March, you pick three of the options. A black grouper recreational season closure is the same thing for those months; red grouper, the same thing for those months. It references the South Florida Management Area.

MS. McCAWLEY: To try to explain what that is, the restructured document had an option that had already been moved to considered but rejected by the committee for creating a South Florida Management Area. I think if we got rid of the words "South Florida Management Area"; that this might be a place to start here with this action, although the action does only consider recreational closures and it does leave out some species that are in the South Atlantic's Shallow-Water Grouper Complex.

MR. WAUGH: You have the option if that wording out, then it applies throughout both councils' EEZs. If you leave it in, then we would need to specify what that South Florida area was. It is Action 3 in the revised document that we're looking at now. That would either be the Monroe/Collier Line or the Shark Point Line. It is up to you.

MS. McCAWLEY: My preference would be to not go back and consider this special carve-out for South Florida. The committee discussed it at multiple meetings and didn't want to consider that. I would like to not think about that as a carve-out area. I don't know what the best way to handle this is because now we're talking about changing the compositions throughout both councils' range. Gregg.

MR. WAUGH: And if I understand it, what the Gulf did was they adopted Actions 6, 7 and 8, but they didn't adopt the action that specifies the South Florida management area; so it seems the net effect of that is they're applying it through the whole EEZs of both councils.

MS. McCAWLEY: Yes; that's how I would understand that as well.

MR. WAUGH: Ryan is saying part of their rationale of doing that was waiting until the two councils got together to resolve that. We need to know what our position is going into that discussion.

DR. DUVAL: I like the way these three actions in Attachment 4B are restricted. I do think it is cleaner. It does only deal with the recreational side. I think there are a few other species that are left out. I'm thinking specifically of scamp where I know there is different size limits for scamp in both areas. I'm not sure about others; I can't recall off the top of my head.

It seems like maybe because we have this outstanding discussion of a South Florida management area that it just might be in the state of Florida. I don't know; that might be a little bit cleaner considering that some of the preferreds that we have selected deal with delegation to the state of Florida. I just throw that out there as a suggestion.

MS. McCAWLEY: Yes; that's a good point. Also, based on the species that you brought up, I noticed that things like scamp and yellowmouth are in Action 7 and they're not in Action 6. I think we're also missing rock hind, red hind, graysbys; so we're missing some other species here, too. I think what we like about it is the structure and how it is cleaner doing the seasonal closure, the bag limit composition, et cetera, in separate actions.

I'm not sure how the committee would like to handle this. We know that the Gulf brought these three into the document in hopes that they would get modified at the meeting on Thursday. I'm not sure what the committee's pleasure is on how we would like to deal with these three restructured actions that the Gulf pulled out. Michelle.

DR. DUVAL: I would make a suggestion – and I'm happy to make this in the form of a motion, but I'd think like a little bit input – to bring these restructured actions into this document to replace Actions 9 and 10 – was it 9, 10 and 11 that they replaced?

MS. McCAWLEY: I think so.

DR. DUVAL: Ten and eleven. I would make the suggestion that we do that. I don't know if we want to get into modifying some of that language like I've suggested just having this apply to Florida rather than a South Florida management area.

If we simply want to note as direction that would be our preference based on the preferred alternatives we have already selected but that we would like to see some of these other species that are missing added, such as in Action 7 scamp, yellowmouth and yellowfin, are included; that we would want to see those species included in Action 6 as well just to make sure we're getting the complete picture as well as the other groupers like coney, graysbys – I can't remember exactly what the differences are behind –

MS. McCAWLEY: Right; I like that suggestion. One thing that I'm noting that is the difference between the two is so it keeps Action 9 in the document. It keeps Action 9 in the regular decision document/amendment; and Action 9 covers both species' composition and seasonal closures. With bringing the restructured 6, 7 and 8 over, we would be talking about Action 6 is seasonal closures, Action 7 is bag limits, and Action 8 is size limits; and Action 9 remains as talking about the species' composition or we do this another way. I like the suggestion of noting that some of these species need to be added and noting that our intent would be maybe to all of the state of Florida. Ben.

MR. HARTIG: Yes; the question I have is if we add the species that the Gulf doesn't have into that shallow-water complex for the South Florida area in particular; did they have to put them into their management unit? Ryan is shaking his head yes.

MR. RINDONE: I think we have landings for about six coney a year. Those species aren't managed by the Gulf because the landings are so incredibly low, if non-existent. The Gulf Council didn't remove Action 9 for the same reason they didn't remove entire actions elsewhere in the document because they're waiting to talk to you guys about it; but addressing species' composition in light of accepting the revised Actions 6, 7 and 8 didn't seem like it was necessary.

Using Actions 6, 7 and 8 kind of allows everyone to keep their own species' compositions and apply whatever recommended regulations result from 6, 7 and 8 to your own specific species' compositions without one council have to change the species they manage to suit another or to find some middle ground on that.

MS. McCAWLEY: I agree; it would be cleaner to keep the species' composition for each council. However, that doesn't necessarily help folks in South Florida. What does the committee think? Michelle, would you like to make your suggestion maybe in the form of a motion??

DR. DUVAL: Yes; I'll go ahead and move that we pull into the document Actions 6, 7 and 8 from Attachment 4B, which is the proposed restructured document, and still maintain Action 9 in our decision document. **Gregg has got the motion up there to replace Actions 10 and 11 with Actions 6, 7, and 8 from the restructured document, which is Attachment 4B, and retain Action 9; and noting that some species may be need to added and that our suggestion was rather than a South Florida management area; that some of that wording could be changed**

to apply to just the state of Florida. I guess that's something we can just discuss when the get to the joint committee meeting on Thursday.

Action 6. Standardize Recreational Seasonal Closures for Grouper in the South Florida Management Area within the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Councils' Jurisdictions. Alternative 1: No action. Retain the existing respective shallow-water grouper recreational seasonal closures in the Gulf and South Atlantic Councils' areas of jurisdiction. Alternative 2: Remove the shallow-water grouper recreational closures for all affected grouper species. Alternative 3: Adopt the Gulf Council's recreational shallow-water grouper seasonal closure (excluding 10 gag) of February 1 - March 31 outside the 20 fathom depth contour. Alternative 4: Adopt the South Atlantic Council's recreational shallow-water grouper seasonal closure of January 1 - April 30.

Alternative 5: Establish a gag recreational season closure for any of the following months in the South Florida management area: Option 5a: January; Option 5b: February; Option 5c: March. Alternative 6: Establish a black grouper recreational season closure for any of the following months in the South Florida management area: Option 6a: January; Option 6b: February; Option 6c: March. Alternative 7: Establish a red grouper recreational season closure for any of the following months in the South Florida management area: Option 7a: January; Option 7b: February; Option 7c: March.

Action 7. Recreational Grouper Bag Limits in the South Florida Management Area within the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Councils' Jurisdictions. Alternative 1: No Action. Maintain currently established bag limits in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic, with black grouper included as a component of the shallow-water grouper and reef fish aggregate bag limits. Alternative 2: Standardize black grouper recreational bag limits. Option 2a: 1 fish per person per day – current South Atlantic bag limit (black or gag); Option 2b: 2 fish per person per day – current Gulf of Mexico bag limit (part of shallow-water grouper aggregate bag limit);

Alternative 3: Standardize gag recreational bag limits. Option 3a: 1 fish per person per day – current South Atlantic bag limit (black or gag); Option 3b: 2 fish per person per day – current Gulf of Mexico bag limit. Alternative 4: Standardize red grouper recreational bag limits. Option 4a: 3 fish per person per day – current South Atlantic aggregate bag limit; Option 4b: 2 fish per person per day – current Gulf of Mexico bag limit. Alternative 5: Standardize scamp, yellowmouth, and yellowfin grouper recreational bag limits; Option 5a: 3 fish per person per day – current South Atlantic aggregate bag limit; Option 5b: 4 fish per person per day – current Gulf of Mexico aggregate bag limit.

Action 8: Modify Recreational Grouper Size Limits in the South Florida Management Area within the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Councils' Jurisdictions. Alternative 1: No action – Retain the current respective jurisdictional size limits for species in shallow-water grouper complexes. Alternative 2: Adopt one of the following recreational minimum size limits for black grouper. Option 2a: 24 inches TL – current South Atlantic size limit. Option 2b: 22 inches TL – current Gulf of Mexico size limit.

Alternative 3: Adopt one of the following recreational minimum size limits for gag. Option 3a: 24 inches TL – current South Atlantic size limit; Option 3b: 22 inches TL – current Gulf of Mexico size limit. Alternative 4: Maintain red grouper recreational minimum size limits or consider another size limit. Option 4a: 20 inches TL – current South Atlantic limit; Option 4b: 20 inches TL – current Gulf of Mexico limit. Alternative 5: Standardize scamp, yellowmouth, and yellowfin grouper recreational size limits. Option 5a: 20 inches TL – current South Atlantic size limit for all three species; Option 5b: 16 inches TL for scamp – current Gulf of Mexico size limit; 20 inches TL for yellowfin – current Gulf of Mexico size limit; No size limit for yellowmouth – current Gulf of Mexico size limit¹².

MS. McCRAWLEY: I would say our intent would be to kind of start with this, which is similar to what they did, and then work this out on Thursday. Is there a second to this motion; seconded by Ben. The motion is to replace Actions 10 and 11 with Actions 6, 7 and 8 from the restructured document, which is Attachment 4B, and retain Action 9. It also noted that some species may need to be added and that we would like for this to apply to the entire state of Florida. Anymore discussion on this? **Any objection to this motion? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.**

MR. WAUGH: That brings to Action 12, which is on Page 52. This is changes to the circle hook requirement in the Gulf and South Atlantic. No action would retain the current circle hook requirements in the EEZ of both councils. Alternative 2 would remove the requirements to use circle hooks when fishing with natural bait for yellowtail snapper in the EEZ of the Gulf of Mexico. There are options for recreational and commercial.

Alternative 3 would remove the requirement to use circle hooks when fishing with natural bait for yellowtail snapper south of 28 degrees north latitude and again in the EEZ of the Gulf of Mexico. Options for recreational and commercial. Alternative 4 would require the use of circle hooks when fishing with natural bait for all snapper grouper species south of 28 degrees north latitude in the EEZ of the South Atlantic. We've got recreational and commercial.

Alternative 5 would remove the requirement to use circle hooks when fishing with natural bait for all species in the snapper grouper complex north of 28 degrees north latitude in the EEZ of the South Atlantic; again recreational and commercial. Alternative 6 would remove the requirement to use circle hooks when fishing with natural bait for yellowtail snapper in federal waters from the Dade/Monroe County Line on the east coast of Florida to Shark Point on the west coast of Monroe County, Florida; and again options for recreational and commercial. The IPT recommends removal of Alternative 5 as it is outside the scope of this amendment. The area being referenced in Alternative 5 includes areas north of the state of Florida.

MS. McCRAWLEY: Okay, let me see if I can give some explanation. First, the note that is at the top of this action that I think was put in there by the IPT that this action may be selected in conjunction with Actions 1, 3 and 7; I think that this action could be selected in conjunction with any of the actions in the document. We might need to modify that. It is the part that is in italics right under the blue text.

Also, as Gregg mentioned, there has been a suggestion – so remember when I gave the presentation yesterday that we talked about how the Gulf Council and the South Atlantic Council kind of had

different philosophies in approaching this; so we have added some actions here on the South Atlantic side that are definitely beyond the scope of this amendment and they wouldn't necessarily require – they wouldn't be required to be in a joint amendment because the South Atlantic could take that action all by themselves.

Unfortunately, Zack is not here but some of these alternatives that are in here were the ones that Zack had suggested get added and he wanted them added to an amendment that was already underway, and that's why they got added to this particular amendment because there was already something in here about circle hooks.

My suggestion would maybe be that they get removed from this amendment because they do not need to be moved forward in a joint amendment and maybe they go into some of kind a parking lot and get brought back up during the Snapper Grouper Committee as do we want to move this forward; and if so, in what amendment. Michelle.

DR. DUVAL: I would agree with that approach. I would just note the AP recommended removing the circle hook requirement in the South Atlantic for the recreational sector, so that's something to keep in mind. The circle hook requirement is something that has come up multiple times during the Snapper Grouper Visioning Process. We heard about it during many port meetings. There are widely diverse opinions regarding the use of circle hooks on both the commercial side and the recreational side. I think sort of putting it in the visioning parking lot would be a good idea for this amendment, but that's my opinion.

MR. BROWN: I can agree with that, too, but also I wanted to note that when we're dealing with any of these assessments; that the use of the circle hook also helps us with the assessments as far as the discards go and mortality. With SEDAR 41 coming up, the use of circle hooks actually adds 10 percent back into the discard mortality rate.

DR. DUVAL: Well, Madam Chair, I see that Mr. Bowen is back in the room. I don't know if you'd just want to recap a little bit what we just mentioned for his benefit, and then I'd be prepared to make a motion.

MS. McCAWLEY: What we're doing here, Zack, is we're talking about the circle hook requirement that is in this document. As you might remember yesterday when I gave the presentation, we talked about how the philosophy that the Gulf Council used and the philosophy that the South Atlantic Council used with this document were different. On the Gulf they were just looking at the issues that are affecting extreme South Florida.

The South Atlantic, you might remember with the circle hook we decided to add in some actions that would look at circle hook requirements throughout the South Atlantic Council's range because this amendment was already underway and there was already an action in here for circle hooks. The Gulf Council and the IPT are suggesting that the circle hook alternatives that deal with areas outside of the South Florida Region be removed from this document.

That is what we were just discussing; that we think that they could be removed and then put in some kind of parking lot, and we can discuss this under snapper grouper and talk about which

amendment these alternatives would need to be moved to. Michelle was suggesting that maybe they go into an amendment that is inclusive of things that are coming out of visioning. Do you have an opinion or anything that you'd like to say on this particular topic, because I think Michelle is prepared to make a motion to remove these ones that would occur north of Florida outside this region to another document?

MR. BOWEN: First of all, I'd like to apologize. This is one of the negative impacts of being self-employed sometimes when I have to leave the room; so I apologize for that. All I'm going by is what I have seen on the water with the circle hooks. The mortality for me – and maybe it is the way we're fishing out of Georgia, but it is the unanimous consensus from the charterboat fleet in Georgia that the circle hooks are increasing the discard mortality, and that is what I'm going on.

Whether we address it here or whether we address it later, I just feel 100 percent that it needs to be addressed. I understand where Mark is coming from with reducing the discard mortality as far as the red snapper assessment, SEDAR 41; but in real life and what we're seeing on the water, the discard mortality has drastically increased since we've been mandated to go to circle hooks.

MS. McCAWLEY: Thanks, Zack; so I think, Michelle, your motion is in order if you'd like to make it.

DR. DUVAL: I move that we remove Alternatives 4 and 5 from Action 12 to the Snapper Grouper Visioning Marina for later consideration. Doug corrected me and told me that it was a marina and not a parking lot.

MS. McCAWLEY: Seconded by Mel. Anymore discussion on this? Let me read the motion again. The motion is to remove Alternatives 4 and 5 from Action 12 to the – do we add another verb about putting them in the South Atlantic Council Visioning Amendment? Okay, let me start over.

The motion is to move Alternatives 4 and 5 from Action 12 to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Visioning Amendment. Is there any objection to this motion? Seeing none; that motion stands approved. Before we leave that, I'm not sure if we are wanting to pick a preferred out of the remaining items that are listed here or if this is something that we would like to hold for discussion for the joint meeting on Thursday. What is the committee's preference?

DR. DUVAL: I was just wondering if we could ask Ryan Rindone if he could communicate any preferences that the Gulf chose on this action.

MR. RINDONE: They didn't choose a preferred for this one; but from the discussions with the fishermen, the main concern has to do with yellowtail more than anything else in the South Florida area; primarily yellowtail, mangrove snapper, just with how they fish for those species. They chum behind the boat and the fish are right up there on the surface and they literally just cane pole them out right on the surface.

It mostly affects those fishermen as far as the circle hooks go. In the proposed restructuring document, circle hooks are addressed in what would be a new Action 9 just for commercial fishing

in Gulf Council jurisdictional waters since J-hooks are allowed in South Atlantic Council waters. There are two alternatives.

One would remove the requirement to use circle hooks when commercial fishing with natural bait for yellowtail south of 28 degrees north in the EEZ in the Gulf. Alternative 3 would remove the requirement to use circle hooks when commercial fishing with natural bait for yellowtail from the Dade/Monroe Line on the east coast of Florida to Shark Point on the west coast. It shrinks the scope of the circle hood amendment down to what the IPT had perceived as what the fishermen's main concern was.

MS. McCAWLEY: One that I heard you mention was yellowtail and did you say mangrove; and so this action only affects yellowtail. The action that would from the restructured document only affects yellowtail and only affects commercial. I'm not sure if that's our intent; but once again I think that may be a bigger issue over on the Gulf side; and it might be my suggestion to wait until we get to Thursday before we try to do anything else on circle hooks.

MR. WAUGH: Are we ready to move to the next one?

MS. McCAWLEY: I think so.

MR. WAUGH: Okay, that's Action 13, and this deals with accountability measures. This is on Page 57 of the document. I'm not going to read or go through those alternatives specifically. If you look at the bottom of Page 58, it talks about our council would like to see the language in Alternatives 3, 4 and 5 to mirror what is in our Generic AM Amendment.

We just worked on that and submitted it. What you see here is new language provided by the Southeast Regional Office; and this is more similar to the language NMFS is using or recommending in multiple other documents. The Gulf Council did not support at their previous meeting modifying the language as presented. I asked Ryan and they took no action when they went through this.

MS. McCAWLEY: Gregg, do you mind pulling up that restructured document, Action 10, and is that cleaner? Does it actually say the same thing but maybe is only listing the items that are currently being used by the Gulf and South Atlantic Councils? I was just wondering if we could look at that; because if that's case, if they are similar in other way, then it might be a little cleaner to take the action from the restructured document.

MR. WAUGH: I haven't looked at those in detail in the restructured document to be able to tell you whether they're similar to what we have in there.

MS. McCAWLEY: So, we might want to hold off again on this accountability measure action. It would be my suggestion that we would choose an action that would be something very similar to what we're already doing here in the South Atlantic. Since we're not sure of the complete differences between the restructured action and actions that we have now; does the committee want to wait until we get to Thursday to discuss these accountability measures? Ryan.

MR. RINDONE: I can actually answer that previous question for you. Alternative 2 in Action 10 of the revised document is a cleaned-up version of Alternative 2. The main document you guys have been reviewing, Alternative 3 pairs with Alternative 3. Alternative 3 in the proposed pairs with Alternative 3 in the old document and so does Alternative 4 pair up.

Alternative 5 and 6 in the old document are not included in the proposed Action 10. If you were to use Action 10 from the proposed document, you would lose those last two. The way that it is described is that Alternative 2 is the Gulf's approach and then Alternative 3 and 4 are the South Atlantic approaches divided by sector.

DR. DUVAL: I just want to clarify that Alternative 5 is also the South Atlantic approach because we've put in Amendment 29, which will become effective July 1st, an in-season closure for the recreational sector, with the exception of black sea bass where we have a pre-season accountability measure of establishing the season start-and-close dates ahead of time. This was one of the actions that we took in Amendment 29. I'm pretty sure we did. We put in an in-season closure for the recreational sector. Jack, if I'm wrong, let me know.

DR. McGOVERN: I think that is in the Generic AM Amendment.

DR. DUVAL: I'm confusing things; yes, okay.

DR. McGOVERN: Yes; I don't think that is in Amendment 29.

MS. McCAWLEY: Okay, is it the committee's pleasure that we wait and discuss this further on Thursday? Okay, I only have one other thing. I believe that's all the actions in the document. I only had one other item is that those actions that we looked at for yellowtail, mutton, and black grouper; I was wondering if the landings' analysis – by the time we move forward if we need to include landings from 2014? I know that the analysis that is done right now might only go through 2013.

MR. WAUGH: We talked about that at the IPT level, and we agreed just to go through I believe 2013. 2014 landings won't be finalized until some time June/July of this year; so we don't want to have to go back – or August, maybe – we don't want to have to go back and redo all these analyses; so we were just using through 2013.

MS. McCAWLEY: Okay, and then I don't know if we want to have a discussion about – and we can also discuss this on Thursday – about where we want to see this amendment go if folks think that's it ready for scoping – or not scoping, public hearings; or do we want to send this back to the South Florida Committee – I don't know if I'd recommend that – or do we want the councils to just continue to consider it in the way that they've been doing where the Gulf Council considers it through their Reef Fish Committee and we consider it through Executive Finance? I don't know if we want to have some of this discussion. Gregg.

MR. WAUGH: I think given that the South Florida Committee developed a set of options in a document and provide it to two councils; it seems to us, in discussing this with Bob, that the best

approach now is to have each councils' committee deal with it and get it ready to go out to public hearing, whenever you all deem that is ready.

MS. McCAWLEY: Right; I actually think that would be best. It is kind of confusing to meet the South Florida Committee where not everybody around the table can hear the discussions and then to try to bring that back to the council at the next meeting. I agree; I think my preference would be that it continues on through the councils and committees that already have it, which is Reef Fish and Executive Finance. I don't know if we need to have more discussion on that.

DR. DUVAL: I'm fine with that approach. I think the document is in a format now that I think everybody is kind of up to speed on it so we can continue in this fashion.

MS. McCAWLEY: Unless Gregg tells us otherwise, I think that concludes going through that South Florida Amendment that we needed to get through for Thursday.

MR. WAUGH: Right; and when we get towards the end of this discussion tomorrow give staff some guidance as to whether you think it is ready for the – obviously, the IPT and staff would have to do some more work on it to get it ready; but if you feel comfortable that the actions and alternatives are ready to go out to hearing or whether you want to see this again at your next meeting.

MS. McCAWLEY: I yield time back to the chairman and for him to decide whether he wants to go back to the Snapper Grouper Committee before lunch.

(Whereupon, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 o'clock a.m., June 10, 2015.)

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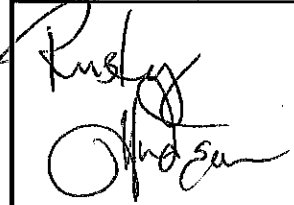


**South Atlantic Fishery Management Council -
June 2015 Council Meeting
Key West, FL**

Date: Tuesday, June 9, 2015 Committee: Executive Finance

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On File	Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NGO <input type="checkbox"/>
		Recreational <input type="checkbox"/>	Govt. <input type="checkbox"/>
		Charter/For-hire <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <u>Consul</u> <i>Describe</i>
(FOR 6/10) • Justin Gribica • George Sedberry	<input type="checkbox"/> On File	Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	NGO <input type="checkbox"/>
		Recreational <input type="checkbox"/>	Govt. <input type="checkbox"/>
		Charter/For-hire <input type="checkbox"/>	Other _____ <i>Describe</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dick Brame • Chris Horton • Joe Klosterman • Van Hubbard • Charlie Garcia 	<input type="checkbox"/> On File	Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	NGO <input type="checkbox"/>
		Recreational <input type="checkbox"/>	Govt. <input type="checkbox"/>
		Charter/For-hire <input type="checkbox"/>	Other _____ <i>Describe</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leda Dunneir • Trip Aucherman • Rusty Hudson • Lora Clarke 	<input type="checkbox"/> On File	Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	NGO <input type="checkbox"/>
		Recreational <input type="checkbox"/>	Govt. <input type="checkbox"/>
		Charter/For-hire <input type="checkbox"/>	Other _____ <i>Describe</i>
		Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	NGO <input type="checkbox"/>
		Recreational <input type="checkbox"/>	Govt. <input type="checkbox"/>
		Charter/For-hire <input type="checkbox"/>	Other _____ <i>Describe</i>
		Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	NGO <input type="checkbox"/>
		Recreational <input type="checkbox"/>	Govt. <input type="checkbox"/>
		Charter/For-hire <input type="checkbox"/>	Other _____ <i>Describe</i>



**South Atlantic Fishery Management Council –
June 2015 Council Meeting
Key West, FL**

Date: Tuesday, June 9, 2015 Committee: Executive Finance

PLEASE SIGN IN -

In order to have a record of your attendance at each meeting and your name included in the minutes, we ask that you sign this sheet for the meeting shown above.

Name:	Mailing Address/E-mail: <i>(Check box if information is on file)</i>	How do you participate in South Atlantic fisheries? <i>(Check all that apply)</i>	
<i>[Signature]</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> On File	Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NGO <input type="checkbox"/>
		Recreational <input type="checkbox"/>	Govt. <input type="checkbox"/>
		Charter/For-hire <input type="checkbox"/>	Other _____ <i>Describe</i>
<i>Carrie Simmons</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On File	Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	NGO <input type="checkbox"/>
		Recreational <input type="checkbox"/>	Govt. <input type="checkbox"/>
		Charter/For-hire <input type="checkbox"/>	Other _____ <i>Describe</i>
<i>Lara Clarke</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> On File	Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	NGO <input type="checkbox"/>
		Recreational <input type="checkbox"/>	Govt. <input type="checkbox"/>
		Charter/For-hire <input type="checkbox"/>	Other _____ <i>Describe</i>
<i>Joe Klostermann Gale Klostermann</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On File	Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	NGO <input type="checkbox"/>
		Recreational <input type="checkbox"/>	Govt. <input type="checkbox"/>
		Charter/For-hire <input type="checkbox"/>	Other _____ <i>Describe</i>
<i>DICK BRANE</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On File	Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	NGO <input type="checkbox"/>
		Recreational <input type="checkbox"/>	Govt. <input type="checkbox"/>
		Charter/For-hire <input type="checkbox"/>	Other _____ <i>Describe</i>
<i>Chris Horton</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On File	Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	NGO <input type="checkbox"/>
		Recreational <input type="checkbox"/>	Govt. <input type="checkbox"/>
		Charter/For-hire <input type="checkbox"/>	Other _____ <i>Describe</i>

Registration Report

GoToWebinar

Generated

Jun 17, 2015 9:40 AM EDT

General Information

Webinar Name
SAFMC Council Meeting - Day 2 of 5 (Tuesday)
Scheduled Start Date
Jun 9, 2015
Scheduled Start Time
8:00 AM EDT
Scheduled Duration (minutes)

Webinar ID
156-169-035
Registered

Opened Invitation

30

31

Clicked Registration Link

540

47

Registrants

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