



**Advisory Panel Feedback and Public Comment on Executive Order 14276
on Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness**
South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
September 2025

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council began discussion of Executive Order 14276 at its June 2025 meeting, acknowledging the importance of gathering perspectives from the public as a part of the response process. To that end, public input was solicited on what types of management actions may achieve the goals stated in the Executive Order. Public comments were accepted via the Council's website from July 28 through August 15, 2025. In addition to soliciting public comments, the Council hosted an online meeting of its advisory panels on August 11, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. to gather their feedback on the executive order.

The table below summarizes input provided via written comment and by the Citizen Science, Coral, Deepwater Shrimp, Dolphin Wahoo, Habitat and Ecosystem, Law Enforcement, Mackerel Cobia, Outreach and Communication, Shrimp, Snapper Grouper, Spiny Lobster and Wreckfish Advisory Panels.

[Executive Order 14276 Online Public Comment Link](#)

EO Category	Focus	Recommended By	Recommendation	Responsible Party	Staff Notes
Core Fisheries Functions	Snapper Grouper	Council	Remove or consider ecosystem component designation for species in the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan that are not in need of federal conservation and management. Removing species from the management plan will allow more focused scientific and management efforts.	Council	<i>The Council has initiated an amendment to consider removal or ecosystem component designation for 17 species currently in the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan.</i>

EO Category	Focus	Recommended By	Recommendation	Responsible Party	Staff Notes
Innovative Science and Management	Dolphin Wahoo	Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel	Better protect spawning dolphin and wahoo by identifying hot spots and protecting them at the appropriate times of the year to remove fishing pressure.	Council	
Innovative Science and Management	Habitat	Habitat and Ecosystem Advisory Panel	Integrate ecosystem indicators and ecosystem components into management measures, not just single species decisions.	Council	<i>This will be addressed through the <u>resilient fisheries projects</u>.</i>
Innovative Science and Management	Multiple FMPs	Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel	Establish a rubric to standardize prioritization of fisheries management needs based on commercial importance, community effects, and heritage to prioritize management measures more objectively.	Council	
Innovative Science and Management	Multiple FMPs	Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel	Gather and preserve the history and changes in fisheries over the last 50 years. This is critically important for understanding and managing future fisheries.	Council	<i>This has been done for Coastal Migratory Pelagics FMP but not presented to the Council or Advisory Panel.</i>

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Innovative Science and Management	Multiple FMPs	Public Comment	Implement alternative management approaches like harvest control rules tailored to the characteristics of recreational fisheries that incorporate more real time indices of stock abundance.	Council	
Innovative Science and Management	Multiple FMPs	Public Comment	Consider more regional or local management approaches to address the diverse ecosystems in the Council's jurisdiction.	Council	<i>The Council is beginning to discuss state management for some federally managed species.</i>
Innovative Science and Management	Multiple FMPs	Spiny Lobster Advisory Panel	Hold more frequent and collaborative advisory panel meetings to ensure timely and inclusive stakeholder input across regions and fisheries.	Council	
Innovative Science and Management	Multiple FMPs	Spiny Lobster Advisory Panel	Provide better representation and increase input opportunities for stakeholders during the Council decision making process.	Council	<i>Lines of Communication will provide another opportunity for stakeholder input.</i>

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Reducing Burdens and Increasing Production	Multiple FMPs	Citizen Science Advisory Panels	Review current regulations and make modifications to reduce uncertainty around for-hire regulations. Prioritize regulations that would set and confirm seasons and associated regulations at least a year in advance. Uncertainty around upcoming fishing seasons and regulations in the for-hire sector makes it challenging for businesses to plan and operate effectively. Having a more predictable system—such as setting and confirming seasons and regulations a year in advance—would provide valuable stability and improve business forecasting.	Council	
Reducing Burdens and Increasing Production	Spiny Lobster	Council	Shift management of spiny lobster to the state of Florida. The fishery largely occurs in Florida. Management for stock-wide OY under MSA is impractical due to the pan-Caribbean stock.	Council	<i>The Spiny Lobster AP was not in favor of this action. The current system provides needed checks and balances between the Council and the state of Florida.</i>

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Reducing Burdens and Increasing Production	Habitat	Council	Explore how the Council can support improvements to habitat for managed species in Florida.	Council	
Reducing Burdens and Increasing Production	Dolphin Wahoo	Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel	Implement more regulations that would help increase dolphin availability. More stringent fishery management measures, both domestically and internationally, would increase the economic output of the fishery. Further regulations may be needed to maximize economic profitability.	Council	
Reducing Burdens and Increasing Production	Dolphin Wahoo	Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel	Reinstate bag limit sales of dolphin by removing the prohibition on bag limit sales of dolphin for dually permitted (commercial and for-hire) vessels. This measure was previously supported by dealers, restaurants, and fishermen in South Florida. It would help for-hire operators and crew adjust to increase cost of living and doing business on the coast. With electronic reporting landings could be accurately accounted for to avoid double counting between sectors.	Council	

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Reducing Burdens and Increasing Production	Coastal Migratory Pelagics	Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel	Modify current management measures to prioritize commercial fishing that supplies seafood to the nation include allocations and other actions that would allow for year-round commercial access.	Council	
Reducing Burdens and Increasing Production	Coastal Migratory Pelagics	Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel	Improve the ability to transfer commercial Spanish mackerel quota between the Northern and Southern Zone by addressing the season.	Council	
Reducing Burdens and Increasing Production	Multiple FMPs	Public Comment	Identify excessive regulations and overly conservative management measures that restrict commercial fisheries and remove such regulations and measures to allow more harvest of species.	Council	
Reducing Burdens and Increasing Production	Multiple FMPs	Public Comment	Avoid the use of limited-access privilege programs in the recreational sector, as allowing harvest opportunities for small scale or new for-hire operators is critical.	Council	<i>This is status quo. No action would be needed.</i>

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Reducing Burdens and Increasing Production	Snapper Grouper	Public Comment	Allow a limit of closed season species for commercial harvest (snapper grouper).	Council	<i>The Council has begun work on Snapper Grouper Amendment 60 to consider management changes for the commercial sector.</i>
Reducing Burdens and Increasing Production	Snapper Grouper	Public Comment	Implement overlapping quota periods for red snapper and gag in May-June and October-December.	Council	
Reducing Burdens and Increasing Production	Multiple FMPs	Public Comment	Ensure regulations implemented do not unfairly harm small-scale or part-time fishermen (ex. usage requirements or income requirements).	Council	
Reducing Burdens and Increasing Production	Shrimp	Shrimp Advisory Panel	Remove the operator card requirement for the rock shrimp fishery. Law enforcement and fishery participant discussions when the requirement was removed from the Dolphin Wahoo fishery indicate that the operator card is not being used for enforcement and is onerous for fishermen. Removal would reduce overall regulatory burden for fishery participants.	Council	

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Reducing Burdens and Increasing Production	Shrimp	Shrimp Advisory Panel	Examine the rock shrimp limited access permit. Shrimpers felt that the limited access permit may be hindering new entrants into the fishery which could help remove barriers for young generations. Determine the original goal of the limited access permit and if there were a number of vessels in which the limited access aimed to achieve. Examine permit usage throughout time and the number of active permits. Determine whether limited access is still serving the rock shrimp fishery and remove if needed.	Council	

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Reducing Burdens and Increasing Production	Shrimp	Shrimp Advisory Panel	Examine other closed areas that could be open to shrimping. Shrimp fishermen noted that there may be other areas similar to the Oculina Bank HAPC that do not contain protected species or suitable habitat for said species that could be utilized by the fishery. These areas could benefit the fishery, specifically the rock shrimp fishery, especially since it experiences a lot of annual variability. Examine closed areas that may have little benefit to EFH/coral species that could be utilized by the fishery similar to the proposed Oculina SFAA. Shrimpers suggested establishing bottom current meters to ensure EFH is protected and validate conflicting predictions on bottom conditions.	Council	
Reducing Burdens and Increasing Production	Snapper Grouper	Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel	Develop regulations that minimize regulatory discards, including re-evaluating fishing seasons to determine the time of year that optimizes fishing efficiency and discard reduction.	Council	<i>The Snapper Grouper MSE is currently underway to explore optimizing efficiency and reducing discards.</i>

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Reducing Burdens and Increasing Production	Snapper Grouper	Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel	Address regulations that have safety at sea implications such as the recreational red snapper season.	Council	
Reducing Burdens and Increasing Production	Multiple FMPs	Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel	Develop separate regulations for the headboat component of the recreational fisheries since headboats operate differently.	Council	<i>The Council has begun discussing regulations for headboats and intends to continue in 2026.</i>
Reducing Burdens and Increasing Production	Multiple FMPs	Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel	Adjust trip limits to allow multi-day trips to harvest multiple days' worth of trip limits.	Council	<i>This is being considered in Snapper Grouper Amendment 60, which focuses on management changes for the commercial sector.</i>
Reducing Burdens and Increasing Production	Snapper Grouper	Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel	Expanding allowable harvest of red snapper. That is one of the few South Atlantic snapper grouper species that seems to be at higher-than-normal levels, but regulations continue to have very low limits on harvest.	Council	

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Reducing Burdens and Increasing Production	Snapper Grouper	Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel	Re-evaluating commercial seasons to ensure year-round availability of South Atlantic snapper grouper	Council	
Reducing Burdens and Increasing Production	Spiny Lobster	Spiny Lobster Advisory Panel	Increase catch levels for commercial and recreational spiny lobster in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia.	Council	<i>The Council has discussed this in the past but did not move forward due to other priorities at the time.</i>
Technology, Cooperative Research and EFPs	Habitat	Habitat and Ecosystem Advisory Panel	Maintain spawning SMZs and other spatial closures that were recommended by commercial fishermen. Maintain HAPCs and regulations associated with those. Maintain Council-designated MPAs, SMZs etc. attempt to maintain high-quality habitat and sustainable populations.	Council	<i>This is status quo. No action would be needed.</i>
Technology, Cooperative Research and EFPs	Multiple FMPs	Habitat and Ecosystem Advisory Panel	Address the lack of knowledge in the recreational fishery.	Council	<i>Lines of Communication will include a fisheries management education component.</i>

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Technology, Cooperative Research and EFPs	Multiple FMPs	Habitat and Ecosystem Advisory Panel	Integrate crews more via education or conversation to ensure they are aware our goals are long-term for the fishery, and their insight is included in the management process.	Council	
Core Fisheries Functions	Multiple FMPs	Public Comment	Re-envision the fisheries management process to ensure sufficient and accurate data is collected on recreationally important fisheries and assessment models are tailored for the information available to avoid highly precautionary management approaches.	Council and NMFS	<i>Ongoing.</i>

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Core Fisheries Functions	Multiple FMPs	Public Comment	Unfortunately, economic analyses of regulations proposed by federal fishery management councils or NOAA do not consider anglers or the recreational fishing industry beyond generally data-poor estimates of impacts to the for-hire component of the industry. This impedes the Council's ability to meet the requirements of National Standards 1 and 2. Include equipment manufacturing and sales, as well as shore-side support businesses such as tackle shops, boat dealers and repair shops, marinas and other businesses that provide goods and services for recreational anglers should be considered.	Council and NMFS	
Innovative Science and Management	Habitat	Habitat and Ecosystem Advisory Panel	Consider the habitat that is being used by competing sources for development. Before approving further development, look at the benefit versus the impact.	Council and NMFS	

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Innovative Science and Management	Data	Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel	Train fishermen or fish dealers to collect biological data, such as otolith samples from fish. This could be proposed as a new form of citizen science that would enhance data availability if proper incentives were provided.	Council and NMFS	<i>The Council hosts a Citizen Science Project Idea Portal for stakeholders to submit their citizen science project ideas.</i>
Innovative Science and Management	Multiple FMPs	Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel	Conduct more Citizen Science. There is a strong desire for more collaborative and cost-effective science involving fishermen from all sectors conducting surveys or data collection, leveraging existing vessels and expertise.	Council and NMFS	<i>The Council has a Citizen Science Program; funding would need to be prioritized.</i>
Innovative Science and Management	Snapper Grouper	Public Comment	Support state-led data collection and management as the pathway to improving data collection and management of the red snapper fishery	Council and NMFS	<i>Ongoing.</i>
Reducing Burdens and Increasing Production	Multiple FMPs	Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel	Establish an easier process for short-term leasing and permit transfers to allow fishermen more flexibility across seasons and regions.	Council and NMFS	

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Reducing Burdens and Increasing Production	Multiple FMPs	Staff	Remove reporting requirements for discard reporting in the commercial fishery. This would reduce regulatory burden for fishermen selected to report. NMFS has stated that discard logbooks are not considered BSIA and objected to their reporting.	Council and NMFS	
Technology, Cooperative Research and EFPs	Shrimp	Citizen Science Advisory Panel	Develop a shrimp cooperative research program. Shrimpers were willing to help conduct cooperative research programs outside of the observer program. Proposed project: cameras mounted on trawl doors to observe trawling conditions and bycatch.	Council and NMFS	

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Technology, Cooperative Research and EFPs	Data	Staff	Provide more opportunities and support for data collection through Citizen Science, cooperative research, and other non-traditional methods. Existing data collection programs don't provide all of the data needed for management decisions; Citizen Science and other non-traditional methods can be used to help fill data gaps more efficiently, at a lower cost, and provide a way for fishermen's on the water knowledge and experience into data to inform science and management decisions.	Council and NMFS	
Technology, Cooperative Research and EFPs	Multiple FMPs	Staff	Identify Citizen Science and/or Cooperative Research 'Research Priorities' This would help identify the data gaps and/or data deficiencies that would work well with Citizen Science or a collaborative approach. This could help focus supplemental data collection efforts on key data needs.	Council and NMFS	<i>Ongoing.</i>

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Reducing Burdens and Increasing Production	Snapper Grouper	Public Comment	Implement the 2026 red snapper season, annual catch limit, and 150-lb commercial trip limit.	NMFS	
Core Fisheries Functions	Multiple FMPs	Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel	Electronic trip reporting (e-trips) improvements are critical for obtaining timely, accurate data over paper logbooks that are often filled out late and inaccurately.	NMFS	
Core Fisheries Functions	Shrimp	Public Comment	Substantially increase the effectiveness of NOAA's enforcement of statutory mandate, known as the "Section 609 program," to prohibit the importation of shrimp from nations that have not been certified by the U.S. as having sea turtle conservation measures in place that are comparable in effect to that which the U.S. requires of U.S. shrimp fishermen including the required use of NOAA-approved Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs).	NMFS	

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Core Fisheries Functions	Shrimp	Public Comment	Substantially increase the effectiveness of NOAA’s enforcement of the Marine Mammal Protection Act to level the playing field for American fishermen including American shrimpers by leveraging access to the U.S. seafood market. Fully implement and aggressively enforce the MMPA Final Rule to prohibit the importation of fish and fish products that do not have marine mammal conservation measures comparable to those applied to U.S. fisheries pursuant to MMPA section 101(a)(2). This to include full compliance with the 2024 Settlement Agreement requiring NOAA to issue final “comparability findings for all harvesting nations” by September 1, 2025, and for NOAA to implement the prohibition of importation of non-compliant seafood on January 1, 2026.	NMFS	
Core Fisheries Functions	Data	Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel	Improve recreational data collection accuracy and timeliness.	NMFS	

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Innovative Science and Management	Shrimp	Advisory Panel	BRD and TED Innovation. Shrimp fishermen noted that in the Gulf there is much more research and innovation regarding BRDs and TEDs and would like to see those innovations translate to the South Atlantic.	NMFS	
Innovative Science and Management	Data	Public Comment	Recommend a fundamental shift in the program that relies more heavily on state-led data collection systems were supported by state agencies and interstate commissions, such as those that are currently being used in the Gulf of Mexico and the West Coast.	NMFS	
Reducing Burdens and Increasing Production	Multiple FMPs	Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel	Remove or reduce requirements for sea turtle release gear onboard charter vessels. Charter vessels rarely if ever catch sea turtles and requiring all vessels to carry release gear was overly burdensome. Either remove the requirement for release gear or require less gear.	NMFS	

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Reducing Burdens and Increasing Production	Shrimp	Public Comment	Suspend the ongoing NOAA Endangered Species Act Section 7 Consultations and any ensuing regulations regarding shrimp fisheries interacting with Smalltooth Sawfish and Giant Manta Rays in the South Atlantic and Gulf of America for a period of no less than 5 years. During the 5-year regulatory pause, conduct such research, including cooperative research with the shrimp industry.	NMFS	
Reducing Burdens and Increasing Production	Multiple FMPs	Public Comment	Reassess and reopen appropriate closed areas using modern data and technologies. Advocate for increased U.S. quota shares in international agreements (e.g., ICCAT) and improve recreational harvest tracking. Highly Migratory Species (HMS) such as tuna and swordfish are managed with outdated closures and underutilized quotas. Modern fishing gear and electronic monitoring systems have drastically reduced bycatch, yet regulations have not adapted to these advancements.	NMFS	

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Reducing Burdens and Increasing Production	Multiple FMPs	Shrimp Advisory Panel	Request NMFS simplify Endangered Species Act requirements that are currently very burdensome.	NMFS	
Reducing Burdens and Increasing Production	Multiple FMPs	Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel	Align renewal timing for federal permits (same date).	NMFS	
Reducing Burdens and Increasing Production	Multiple FMPs	Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel	Remove NOAA Fisheries Commercial Observer Program. It costs fishermen money without any benefit of those data informing management	NMFS	
Reducing Burdens and Increasing Production	Multiple FMPs	Staff	Avoid regional-based duplicative reporting for commercial and for-hire logbooks. Would reduce regulatory and reporting burden for fishermen.	NMFS	<i>NMFS is currently working on a method for “one-stop” reporting.</i>

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Technology, Cooperative Research and EFPs	Data	Citizen Science Advisory Panels	Recommend reinstating NOAA Fisheries' external Cooperative Research Program in the Southeast region. Citizen Science is more than a data collection tool—it's a powerful, cost-effective way to enhance trust, strengthen relationships, and empower fishing communities. Continued investment will support smarter science, stronger stakeholder engagement, and more resilient fisheries management in the South Atlantic.	NMFS	
Technology, Cooperative Research and EFPs	Snapper Grouper	Council	Explore use of exempted fishing permits to manage red snapper and black sea bass.	NMFS	
Technology, Cooperative Research and EFPs	Habitat	Habitat and Ecosystem Advisory Panel	Research on the spatial distribution of hardbottom habitat should be prioritized, a better seafloor map would be useful for fishermen.	NMFS	

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Technology, Cooperative Research and EFPs	Habitat	Habitat and Ecosystem Advisory Panel	Develop an offshore zooplankton survey (multi-region) to support larval connectivity, ichthyoplankton surveys numbers and sources, genetics larval and adult life stages and integrate into management measures.	NMFS	
Technology, Cooperative Research and EFPs	Data	Public Comment	Establish and implement simple recreational data programs that can be easily operated using cell phone and AI technology. Such programs would enhance recreational data collection and provide a means for more effective data collection and improved stock assessments.	NMFS	
Technology, Cooperative Research and EFPs	Data	Public Comment	Prioritize technology-driven data collection, such as underwater drones that can offer real-time maneuverable observations of fish stocks.	NMFS	

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Technology, Cooperative Research and EFPs	Data	Staff	Incorporate innovative sampling methods to better estimate vessel-based fishing effort. With the advancement and decreasing cost of drone technology and AI, develop innovative aerial survey methods to estimate vessel-based recreational fishing effort.	NMFS	
Core Fisheries Functions	Multiple FMPs	Law Enforcement Advisory Panel	Increase enforcement capacity and funding. The knowledge based of law enforcement officers needs to be strengthened. Officers don't only enforce; they also educate and help people abide by the regulations.	NMFS and Other Agencies	
Core Fisheries Functions	Shrimp	Public Comment	Provide authority for NOAA Office of Law Enforcement, including authority to work with other federal agencies as may be necessary, to carryout genetic of testing shrimp at restaurants which advertise they serve domestic shrimp in an effort to uphold and enforce domestic consumer protection regulations, while at the same time curbing illegal advertising that is harming the domestic shrimp industry.	NMFS and Other Agencies	

EO Category	Focus	Recommended By	Recommendation	Responsible Party	Staff Notes
Core Fisheries Functions	Multiple FMPs	Public Comment	Substantially increase the effectiveness of NOAA's enforcement of the Moratorium Protection Act to level the playing field for American fishermen including American shrimpers by leveraging access to the U.S. seafood market. Ensure that the President is fully and timely notified of any negative certifications of nations NOAA has issued pursuant to this statutory authority for IUU fishing, including the use of forced labor, and for failure to apply bycatch conservation measures to their fisheries that are comparable to that required of American fisheries. Pursuant to 16 U.S.C. § 1826a(b)(3), work with the White House and Department of the Treasury to prohibit the imports of fish and fish products from Nations receiving a negative certification, including imports from Mexico which has twice been negatively certified for IUU fishing for red snapper.	NMFS and Other Agencies	

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Core Fisheries Functions	Shrimp	Public Comment	Achieve the timely completion of the ongoing reform of the Seafood Import Monitoring Program (SIMP) to substantially increase the efficiency and effectiveness of NOAA's enforcement of this program to target high risk seafood imports such as shrimp in order to combat IUU fishing, seafood fraud, and to level the playing field for American fishermen including American shrimpers by leveraging access to the U.S. seafood market. Coordinate and collaborate these activities with other federal agencies including CBP, and with the FDA to prevent the importation of farm-raised seafood including shrimp that is contaminated with illegal antibiotics and other contaminants harmful to U.S. seafood consumers.	NMFS and Other Agencies	
Innovative Science and Management	Dolphin Wahoo	Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel	Prioritize dolphin management on the international level to boost domestic production of the fishery, both recreationally and commercially.	NMFS and Other Agencies	

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Innovative Science and Management	Multiple FMPs	Outreach and Communications Advisory Panel	Focus on developing mariculture and aquaculture before wild stocks are gone - enhance stocks.	NMFS and Other Agencies	
Innovative Science and Management	Multiple FMPs	Public Comment	The Council and NMFS should support and prioritize strategic placement of artificial structures in South Atlantic federal waters for the benefit of South Atlantic fisheries.	NMFS and Other Agencies	
Reducing Burdens and Increasing Production	Multiple FMPs	Public Comment	Use NOAA's authorities to prevent any adverse impacts of offshore wind energy and offshore aquaculture development in the Gulf on the South Atlantic and Gulf shrimp fisheries, resources and habitats	NMFS and Other Agencies	

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Technology, Cooperative Research and EFPs	Multiple FMPs	Citizen Science Advisory Panel	Continue to provide funding for organizations that help fishing industry participants. Organizations that support fishermen and fishing communities, like Sea Grant, provide critical value to the fishing industry and coastal communities. For example, 50% of Sea Grant's budget is dedicated to applied research that addresses state-level needs. The program directly benefits fishermen by supporting science-based solutions, training, and outreach. Organizations like this help elevate the voices of fishing communities.	NMFS and Other Agencies	

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Technology, Cooperative Research and EFPs	Multiple FMPs	Citizen Science Advisory Panels	<p>Invest in and support workforce development initiatives tailored to the fishing and seafood industry (ex. NC Sea Grant's successful fishermen training and career development activities). Commercial and for-hire fishermen, along with the broader seafood industry, need more reliable and consistent access to a skilled workforce. Labor instability in certain fisheries means that even when a fishery is open and operational, there may not be enough people available to work in the fishery (e.g., crab picking houses, oyster shucking, shrimp headers, fish cleaners). Ensuring access to a trained workforce would help maintain fishing operations and expand fishing access and economic opportunities.</p>	NMFS and Other Agencies	

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Technology, Cooperative Research and EFPs	Shrimp	Public Comment	Consistent with the Young Fishermen's Development Act, develop and fund a program to address recruitment and retirement challenges in the ageing commercial shrimp fishing industry by providing targeted career development opportunities for young shrimp fishermen including recruitment, training and mentoring.	NMFS and Other Agencies	
Technology, Cooperative Research and EFPs	Habitat	Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel	Support artificial reef and other habitat-creating programs.	NMFS and Other Agencies	
Core Fisheries Functions	Data	Public Comment	Work with Congress to substantially increase the allocation of funds deposited into the S-K fund for grants that support the original and current statutory purposes of the S-K Grant Program to "develop the United States fisheries and to expand domestic and foreign markets for United States fishery products."	Other Government Bodies	

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Core Fisheries Functions	Multiple FMPs	Public Comment	<p>Reinstate the requirement for balanced representation on fishery councils to ensure fair, science-based regulation and equity among all user groups. The 2007 reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act included a requirement for balanced representation among voting members of regional fishery management councils. This provision—requiring equitable representation from the commercial, recreational, charter, and academic sectors—expired in September 2012. While it was in place, the councils reflected a fair and diverse range of perspectives, resulting in more equitable decision-making. Since its expiration, the councils—particularly the Gulf and South Atlantic—have become skewed toward recreational interests. The commercial sector’s voice has been minimized, leaving it at a disadvantage when regulations are proposed.</p>	Other Government Bodies	

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Core Fisheries Functions	Multiple FMPs	Public Comment	Work with the USDA to establish a position and office in the Office of the Secretary solely responsible for the effective expansion and coordination of seafood policies and activities within the Department that will provide support for domestically harvested and processed seafood and domestic seafood producers.	Other Government Bodies	
Core Fisheries Functions	Shrimp	Public Comment	Work with the Department of Treasury to increase its understanding of the pervasive and profound economic impacts on the domestic shrimp industry of financing of foreign shrimp aquaculture production with the objective of permanently terminating any such financing in the future.	Other Government Bodies	

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Core Fisheries Functions	Shrimp	Public Comment	Working with US Trade Representative and other federal agencies, as necessary, consider a section 301 action or other trade action to prohibit all shrimp imports from countries that have proven to produce shrimp consistently contaminated with banned chemicals and/or through the use of forced labor from importation into the US market.	Other Government Bodies	
Reducing Burdens and Increasing Production	Multiple FMPs	Advisory Panel	Address issues with declining water quality. Shrimpers mentioned that pollution is a pervasive problem. Nutrient laden discharges from Lake Okeechobee affect both inshore and offshore habitats that shrimp rely on.	Other Government Bodies	
Reducing Burdens and Increasing Production	Multiple FMPs	Advisory Panel	Address the increasingly expensive cost of purchasing and replacing safety equipment as required by the Coast Guard.	Other Government Bodies	
Reducing Burdens and Increasing Production	Multiple FMPs	Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel	Support SHARKED Act	Other Government Bodies	

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Reducing Burdens and Increasing Production	Dolphin Wahoo	Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel	Implement measures such as quantity-based import limitations or tariffs meant to increase the price of imported dolphin. This may help level the playing field with domestically caught dolphin and raise the price of domestically harvested dolphin. Tracking of origin for seafood.	Other Government Bodies	
Reducing Burdens and Increasing Production	Dolphin Wahoo	Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel	Address increasing costs that are a barrier to entry into the dolphin wahoo fishery. Tariffs on fishing gear may serve as somewhat of a barrier to participating in South Atlantic fisheries since they will drive up the cost of the gear. Other fishing costs have gone up as well. Alternatively, most people are going to “do what they love to do” and will still go fishing, so increasing costs may not be a major barrier to entry.	Other Government Bodies	

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Reducing Burdens and Increasing Production	Multiple FMPs	Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel	Remove life raft requirement for properly permitted vessels that are only selling bag limit quantities (if bag limit sales for dolphin and wahoo are approved by the Council). One of the safety requirements for commercially permitted vessels is to have a life raft onboard. The AP member felt that this is not necessary for vessels that have a licensed captain onboard and are only selling bag limit quantities.	Other Government Bodies	
Reducing Burdens and Increasing Production	Multiple FMPs	Public Comment	Modernize USCG safety requirements for permitted vessels that carry observers. Vessel owners claim the safety requirements are antiquated and costly whereas switching to requiring equipment that relies on current technology would increase reliability and decrease cost.	Other Government Bodies	

EO Category	Focus	Recommended By	Recommendation	Responsible Party	Staff Notes
Reducing Burdens and Increasing Production	Multiple FMPs	Public Comment	Conduct an immediate review of the Shark Fin Sales Elimination Act to assess domestic economic impacts and unintended consequences and consider exemptions for legally harvested fins. The passage of this act in December 2022 banned the sale, possession, and transport of shark fins—even when those fins are harvested legally under highly regulated U.S. standards. This measure has devastated the domestic shark fishery and driven responsible operators out of business, while doing little to curb unethical international practices. This law inadvertently rewards unregulated foreign fleets while punishing compliant American fishers, leading to ecological imbalance (due to surging domestic shark populations), harm to other fisheries, and increased public safety concerns.	Other Government Bodies	

EO Category	Focus	Recommended By	Recommendation	Responsible Party	Staff Notes
Reducing Burdens and Increasing Production	Multiple FMPs	Public Comment	Amend the SSC authority to allow councils greater flexibility and incorporate stakeholder expertise and cooperative research findings in decision-making. The 2007 Act transferred excessive authority to Science and Statistical Committees (SSCs), prohibiting councils from adopting more liberal policies than SSC recommendations—even when credible new data is available. This rigidity undermines adaptive, real-time management and often ignores the vast, practical knowledge of seasoned fishers.	Other Government Bodies	

EO Category	Focus	Recommended By	Recommendation	Responsible Party	Staff Notes
Reducing Burdens and Increasing Production	Multiple FMPs	Public Comment	<p>Enforce country-of-origin labeling, enhance inspection standards, and provide support for domestic seafood industries competing against foreign subsidies and unfair practices. More than 90% of seafood consumed in the U.S. is imported, often from countries with poor labor practices, severe environmental violations, use of banned antibiotics, lack of regulatory requirements similar to U.S. requirements creating unfair playing fields and forced child labor practices. In many cases, U.S. funds have even supported the development of foreign aquaculture systems that now undercut American producers. Mislabeling is widespread, as restaurants and retailers sell imported shrimp as “fresh local” to unsuspecting consumers.</p>	Other Government Bodies	

EO Category	Focus	Recommended By	Recommendation	Responsible Party	Staff Notes
Reducing Burdens and Increasing Production	Multiple FMPs	Public Comment	Provide clear guidance from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Department Managers to instruct Park Superintendents to allow continued commercial fishing unless the fishing activity is proven to be harmful to the environment.	Other Government Bodies	
Reducing Burdens and Increasing Production	Multiple FMPs	Public Comment	Fully transition all fishery regulatory activities of the National Ocean Service associated with National Marine Sanctuaries to the National Marine Fisheries Service pursuant to its authorities under the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA). Rescind the unnecessary and burdensome regulatory restrictions on shrimp fishery access to the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.	Other Government Bodies	

EO Category	Focus	Recommended By	Recommendation	Responsible Party	Staff Notes
Reducing Burdens and Increasing Production	Multiple FMPs	Public Comment	Work with the U.S. Coast Guard and the U.S. fishing industry to modernize and increase the efficiency, competitiveness, and safety of the ageing U.S. commercial fishing fleet by removing current overburdensome and costly regulatory impediments to the construction of new U.S. flag fishing vessels including but not limited to those cost-prohibitive regulations requiring newly constructed U.S. fishing vessels to meet certain vessel classification requirements.	Other Government Bodies	

EO Category	Focus	Recommended By	Recommendation	Responsible Party	Staff Notes
Reducing Burdens and Increasing Production	Multiple FMPs	Public Comment	Establish a long-term marketing program for domestic seafood with the goals to increase US consumption of domestic seafood based on the nutritional health benefits which domestic seafood provides (brain health, heart health, maternal and infant health, etc.), and to educate consumers that they help sustain commercial fishing as an artisanal way of life when they choose to eat domestic seafood. This marketing program must focus on the marketing of domestic seafood as there is ample literature documenting the contamination of imported farm raised seafood with chemicals that are detrimental to human health. The aim of this program must be to promote domestic seafood and the US industry which produces it.	Other Government Bodies	
Reducing Burdens and Increasing Production	Multiple FMPs	Public Comment	Work with Congress and other federal agencies as necessary to require labeling of seafood as imported or domestic in all restaurants nationwide.	Other Government Bodies	

EO Category	Focus	Recommended By	Recommendation	Responsible Party	Staff Notes
Reducing Burdens and Increasing Production	Multiple FMPs	Shrimp Advisory Panel	Address regulations that hinder staffing for fishing vessels. Shrimpers noted that it is hard to secure staffing for their vessels. They explained that they rely heavily on undocumented workers and struggle to find affordable insurance or healthcare options for their fleets. There is a Coast Guard requirement of 75% American citizen /25% green card workers aboard a vessel which can be hinderance when staffing fleets.	Other Government Bodies	
Reducing Burdens and Increasing Production	Multiple FMPs	Shrimp Advisory Panel	Address the increase in space activities. Shrimpers said they would be willing to sign an FAA wavier to be inside closed areas so they could avoid lost profits. It was also suggested that shrimpers deserve compensation for when their gear is damaged or destroyed from space-related debris.	Other Government Bodies	

EO Category	Focus	Recommended By	Recommendation	Responsible Party	Staff Notes
Reducing Burdens and Increasing Production	Spiny Lobster	Spiny Lobster Advisory Panel	Improve advertising and marketing for domestic seafood and increase access to large chains to improve competitiveness against imported seafood.	Other Government Bodies	
Reducing Burdens and Increasing Production	Spiny Lobster	Spiny Lobster Advisory Panel	Reconsider tariffs that are having a negative effect on the ability to market domestic seafood abroad at a competitive price. Implement tariffs on imported seafood to level the playing field.	Other Government Bodies	
Reducing Burdens and Increasing Production	Spiny Lobster	Spiny Lobster Advisory Panel	Implement better labeling requirements to clearly distinguish between domestic seafood from imports to enhance consumer support for local fisheries.	Other Government Bodies	
Reducing Burdens and Increasing Production	Spiny Lobster	Spiny Lobster Advisory Panel	Provide funding and government support akin to crop insurance and subsidies for commercial fishermen.	Other Government Bodies	

EO Category	Focus	Recommended By	Recommendation	Responsible Party	Staff Notes
Reducing Burdens and Increasing Production	Multiple FMPs	Staff	Establish a process or program to aid in the protection and maintenance of working waterfront areas. Loss of working waterfront and increasing pressure from other industries (e.g. real estate) to acquire these lands has increased costs for watermen and fishing-related businesses, limiting their profitability. Set-aside working waterfront areas or assistance programs to maintain operations in these areas can stabilize or increase profitability of marine businesses and ensure their long-term persistence.	Other Government Bodies	

EO Category	Focus	Recommended By	Recommendation	Responsible Party	Staff Notes
Reducing Burdens and Increasing Production	Multiple FMPs	Staff	Rescind the Shark Fin Sales Elimination Act of 2023, while maintaining the Shark Conservation Act of 2010 and Shark Finning Prohibition Act of 2000. Re-allowing the sale of legally harvested shark fins would incentivize sustainable commercial shark harvest, reduce waste that is created by mandating fins to be disposed of or destroyed, and improve economic returns in the fishery. Could also alleviate shark depredation that has become very problematic in multiple other fisheries in the southeast.	Other Government Bodies	
Technology, Cooperative Research and EFPs	Multiple FMPs	Public Comment	Encourage youth participation in fishing and conservation.	Other Government Bodies	