



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Melvin Bell, Chair | Stephen J. Poland, Vice Chair
John Carmichael, Executive Director

AGENDA **Full Council Session I** September 13, 2021

Town and Country Inn
2008 Savannah Highway
Charleston, SC 29407

Monday, September 13, 2021 - 1:00 P.M. to 5:30 P.M. (Times subject to change)

Call to order and introductions

Adoption of agenda

Approval of minutes

1. Reports (state agencies, Council liaisons, NOAA Office of Law Enforcement, US Coast Guard) (*Attachment 1a and 1b*)
2. Acceptable Biological Catch Control Rule Amendment (*Attachments 2a and 2b*)
 - a. Overview of Decision Document – Michael Schmidtke
 - b. SSC Recommendations – Genny Nesslage, SSC Chair
3. Allocations Decision Tool (*Attachments 3a-3c*)
 - a. Overview
 - b. Feedback from advisory panel chairs
4. Citizen Science Update (*Attachment 4*)
5. Outreach and Communications Update (*Attachment 5*)
6. Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan Update (*Attachment 6*) – SERO, Protected Resources
7. Brief on Congressional directive to NMFS on shark and dolphin depredation issues in South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico fisheries (*Attachment 7*) – SERO

Attachments:

Attachment 1a. Gulf Liaison Report (*in Late Materials*)

Attachment 1b. NOAA OLE Report (*in Late Materials*)

Attachment 2a. ABC Control Rule Amendment Decision Document

Attachment 2b. NMFS Guidance on ABC Carry-Overs and Phase-Ins

Attachment 3a. Allocations Decision Tool Draft Document

Attachment 3b. Allocations Decision Tool Presentation

Attachment 3c. Allocations Decision Tool Feedback from AP Chairs

Attachment 4. Citizen Science Update Presentation

Attachment 5. Outreach and Communications Update Presentation

Attachment 6. Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan Update Presentation (*in Late Materials*)

Attachment 7. Letter requesting SAFMC comments on NMFS Congressional Directive

Staff Lead: John Carmichael (john.carmichael@safmc.net)

OVERVIEW

Full Council Session I

1. Reports (*Attachment 1a and 1b*)

State representatives, Council liaisons, NOAA OLE, and the USCG will provide reports to the Council.

2. Acceptable Biological Catch Control Rule Amendment (*Attachments 2a and 2b*)

The Council discussed this amendment most recently in March 2021 and provided guidance to staff. The SSC reviewed topics related to this amendment most recently in April 2021. The Council reviewed action and alternatives language for phase-ins in March 2021. Staff will present the most recent actions and alternatives language drafted by the IPT concerning the acceptable biological catch (ABC) control rule, carry-overs, and revisions to framework procedures. The SSC Chair will provide SSC recommendations on ABC control rule and carry-over alternatives. The Council will provide further guidance for development of the draft amendment.

3. Allocations Decision Tool (*Attachments 3a-3c*)

Making sector allocation decisions can be a difficult and complicated process. To help the Council incorporate multiple sources of information when making sector allocation decisions, the Council is exploring the use of a Decision Tree Approach to help determine relevant issues when discussing sector allocations and develop an objective and systematic approach to such discussions (*Attachments 3a-3c*). At the September 2020 meeting, the Council approved the concept of the Decision Tree Approach and directed staff to work on developing the approach with input from its advisors. The Council expressed concerns over establishing an approach that would be overly prescriptive in nature and wanted to maintain flexibility in allocation decisions on a species-by-species basis. As such, the approach design seeks to be informative in a methodical and objective manner without being prescriptive in the exact outcome that would obligate the Council to make a specific decision.

Council staff will over the draft Decision Tree Approach that has been developed so far, review the questions and potential outcomes within the decision tree along with feedback provided during public meetings from the Council's advisors. Council staff will request feedback and guidance on how to proceed with the developing the Decision Tree Approach.

4. Citizen Science Update (*Attachment 4*)

Staff will provide an update on the Citizen Science Program, highlighting program and project activities that have occurred since the June 2021 Council meeting.

5. Outreach and Communications Update (*Attachment 5*)

Staff will provide an update on outreach and communication efforts, including information on the ongoing website redesign project, For-Hire Electronic Reporting,

topics for discussion at the next Outreach and Communications Advisory Panel Meeting, the Marine Resources Education Program (MREP), and Climate Change Scenario Planning.

6. Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan Update (*Attachment 6*)

NOAA Fisheries intends to begin a rulemaking process that will amend the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan (ALW TRP) to reduce the risk of mortalities and serious injuries of North Atlantic right whales and other large whales caused by entanglement in commercial trap/pot and gillnet fisheries along the U.S. East Coast. GARFO Protected Resources staff will present information on the management options discussed by the ALW Take Reduction Team (TRT). A series of scoping meetings will be held to solicit public input on the ALW TRT's efforts (see the [Notice of Intent](#) for more information).

7. Brief on Congressional directive to NMFS on shark and dolphin depredation issues in South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico fisheries (*Attachment 7*)

Fishermen have reported to the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Councils, and NOAA Fisheries, that sharks and bottlenose dolphins are impeding fishing activities by following fishing vessels and eating fish when hooked or released. The Joint Explanatory Statement accompanying the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, included language directing NOAA Fisheries to review and report on this issue. More specifically, NOAA Fisheries must assess and better understand the occurrence of conflicts between sharks and dolphins with commercial, for-hire, and recreational fishing vessels in the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico. The Congressional directive states that the review should provide: "(1) a quantification, to the extent practicable within existing resources, of the degree to which dolphins and sharks interfere with commercial, charter, and recreational fishing; and (2) recommendations for non-lethal methods to deter dolphins and sharks from interfering with commercial, for-hire, and recreational fishing, in accordance with existing laws." In addition, NOAA Fisheries shall consult with the Marine Mammal Commission, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, the Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel, and conduct outreach to commercial, for-hire, and recreational fishermen.