



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Carolyn N. Belcher, Ph.D., Chair | Trish Murphey, Vice-Chair
 John Carmichael, Executive Director

AGENDA **Full Council Session I**

Villas by the Sea Resort
 1175 N. Beachview Drive
 Jekyll Island, GA

Monday, March 4, 2024 1:30 pm to 5:00 pm (Times subject to change)

Call to order and introductions

Adoption of agenda

Approval of minutes (December 2023)

1. Reports
 - a. NOAA Office of Law Enforcement (*Attachments 1a and 1b*)
 - b. Law Enforcement Advisory Panel (*LE AP report*)
 - c. Council liaisons (*Attachment 1c*)
 - d. US Coast Guard
 - e. State agencies

2. Best Fishing Practices and 2024 Outreach Update (*Attachments 2a and 2b*) – Ashley Oliver
 - a. Best Fishing Practices Initiative Update
 - b. 2024 SAFMC and Sea Grant Outreach Efforts

3. Potential Modifications to the Southeast For-Hire Integrated Electronic Reporting (SEFHIER) Program
 - a. Law Enforcement AP recommendations (*LE AP Report*) – Capt. Scott Pearce
 - b. Compliance with Charter Vessel Reporting in South Carolina (*Attachment 3a*) – Amy Dukes, SCDNR
 - c. Compliance with Southeast Region Headboat Survey Reporting (*Attachment 3b*) – Ken Brennan, NMFS SEFSC
 - d. SEFHIER program update (*Attachment 3c*) – Michelle Masi, NMFS SERO

4. Consideration of Limited-Entry in South Atlantic For-Hire Fisheries
 - a. Overview of available information and preliminary data (*Attachment 4*) – John Hadley and Myra Brouwer

Attachments:

LE AP Report

Attachment 1a: NOAA OLE Report

Attachment 1b: NOAA OLE presentation

Attachment 1c: Gulf Council Liaison Report

Attachment 2a: Best Fishing Practice Projects and Outreach Update Presentation

Attachment 2b: BFP Master Volunteer Program Overview

Attachment 3a: SCDNR For-Hire Reporting Compliance Presentation

Attachment 3b: Southeast Region Headboat Survey Compliance Presentation

Attachment 3c: SEFHIER Program Update

Attachment 4: For-Hire Limited Entry Discussion Document

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

OVERVIEW

Full Council Session I

1. **Reports (*Attachments 1a-1c & LE AP Report*)**

Description: Representatives will provide reports to the Council. The LE AP Chair will focus on items not included under committee agendas.

2. **Best Fishing Practices and 2024 Outreach Update (*Attachments 2a and 2b*)**

Description: Staff will provide an update on the ‘What It Means to Me’ video project and the upcoming Best Fishing Practices Master Volunteer Program. Additionally, staff will update the Council on completed SAFMC and Sea Grant outreach activities for 2024, and what is planned for the upcoming months.

Required Council Action: None

3. **Potential Modifications to the Southeast For-Hire Integrated Electronic Reporting (SEFHIER) Program (*Attachments 3a-3c & LE AP Report*)**

Description: In December 2023 the Council approved the following motion: *Initiate an action to modify SEFHIER to improve compliance, strengthen reporting requirements, and explore validation.* To inform discussion on which action(s) may be appropriate under the Council’s purview, three items will be provided: presentations focusing on compliance in the South Carolina for-hire reporting program and the NMFS’ Southeast Region Headboat Survey and an additional update from the SEFHIER program based on Council feedback from the December 2023 meeting.

Required Council Action: Discuss whether a plan amendment would be the appropriate means to improve the SEFHIER program. Discuss other actions the Council or NMFS (or both) could take to improve reporting compliance in the for-hire sector.

4. **Consideration of Limited-Entry in South Atlantic For-Hire Fisheries (*Attachment 4*)**

Description: In December 2023, the Council directed staff to initiate an amendment to consider a limited entry program for the for-hire components of the Snapper Grouper, Dolphin Wahoo, and Coastal Migratory Pelagics fisheries. The latter already operates under limited entry in the Gulf of Mexico. A control date of December 8, 2023, was requested. The Council also stipulated that *federal permit holders that have not reported snapper-grouper, coastal migratory pelagic, and/or dolphin and wahoo catch from the South Atlantic to the Southeast For-Hire Integrated Electronic Reporting program on or prior to December 5, 2023, will not be assured of future access should a management regime that limits participation in the sector be prepared and implemented.*

To inform discussion on next steps, Council staff gathered available information on the number of permits for the three fisheries from 2008 through 2020 (*Attachment 4*). Subsequent years of data are not currently available due to issues affecting the electronic permits system at the Southeast Regional Office. Additionally, staff summarized information from Snapper Grouper Amendment 47, which considered implementing a moratorium on for-hire permits in the Snapper Grouper fishery.

Required Council Action: Provide guidance on how the Council would like to move forward with a for-hire limited entry amendment, including topics that should be addressed in a scoping document and additional information that should be gathered to aid the Council's decision-making process.