



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Trish Murphey, Chair | Jessica McCawley, Vice-Chair
John Carmichael, Executive Director

AGENDA (Revised)

Full Council Session I

Hilton Garden Inn Outer Banks/Kitty Hawk
5353 N. Virginia Dare Trail
Kitty Hawk, NC

[September 2025 Full Council 1 Report](#)

Tuesday, December 9, 2025, 10:45 am – 5:00 pm

10:45 am – 12:00 noon

- Call to order and introductions
- Adoption of agenda
- Approval of minutes (September 2025)
- Litigation brief

1. Reports

- a. Council liaisons
 - Gulf Fishery Management Council (*Attachment 1a*) – Dakus Geeslin
 - Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (*Attachment 1b*) – Sonny Gwin
- b. Staff (*Attachment 1c*)
- c. Lines of Communication – November 2025, Georgia (*Attachment 1d*)
- d. Law Enforcement
 - NOAA Office of Law Enforcement (*Attachment 1e*) – Matt Walia, NOAA OLE
 - US Coast Guard (*Attachment 1f*) – Lt. Tom Pease

--- Lunch ---

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm

Reports (cont'd)

- e. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
 - Southeast Regional Office (SERO) (*Attachment 1g*) – Andy Strelcheck
 - Southeast Fisheries Science Center – Clay Porch
- f. Scientific and Statistical Committee report on items not discussed in committee – Marcel Reichert, SSC Chair

2. Presentation on Management Program Review Project (***Attachment 2***) – Aaron Kornbluth, Akorn Environmental Consulting LLC; **Steve Poland (presenter)**, Cynoscion Environmental Consulting, LLC; Purcie Bennet-Nickerson, Bennett Nickerson Environmental Consulting
3. Presentation on Marine Recreational Information Program Fishing Effort Survey Revisions (***Attachment 3***) – Katherine Papacostas, NMFS Office of Science & Technology

--- Break ---

3:15 pm – 5:00 pm

4. Presentation on SERO Permitting System Updates (***Attachment 4***) – Kevin McIntosh, NMFS Operations, Management, and Information Services
5. One-Stop Reporting Update (***Attachment 5***) – Jessica Stephen, NMFS SERO

Attachments:

• **SSC Report (October 2025)**

Attachment 1a: Gulf Council Liaison Report

Attachment 1b: Mid-Atlantic Council Liaison Report

Attachment 1c: Staff Report

Attachment 1d: Lines of Communication November 2025 Summary

Attachment 1e: NOAA OLE report (*Available on December 3*)

Attachment 1f: USCG report (*Available on December 3 or at the meeting*)

Attachment 1g: Protected Resources Update

Attachment 2: Presentation on Management Program Review Project (*Available on December 3*)

Attachment 3: Presentation on Marine Recreational Information Program Fishing Effort Survey Revisions (*Available on December 3*)

Attachment 4: Presentation on SERO Permit Information Management System Updates

Attachment 5: Presentation on One-Stop Reporting progress

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

OVERVIEW

Full Council Session I

The Council will approve the minutes from the September 2025 meeting and the agenda for the December 2025 meeting.

September 2025 Full Council 1 Summary Report

1. Reports (*Attachments 1a-1g*)

Description: Representatives will provide reports to the Council.

Council Action: None

2. Management Program Review Project (*Attachment 2*)

Description: This project aims to enhance the Council's responsiveness to changing fisheries and ecosystems by improving regulatory processes and governance structures. It will focus on three objectives: resolving regulatory bottlenecks, optimizing the Council's committee structure and coordination, and developing a more robust risk policy framework. The study includes internal assessments and comparisons with other Councils to ensure recommendations reflect best practices and legal obligations under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, NEPA, and APA. Case studies of recent amendments will help illustrate challenges and opportunities. Stakeholder engagement is central, involving a wide range of Council and industry participants. The outcomes will provide strategies for more adaptive management in evolving ecosystems and regulatory contexts. Project outcomes and recommendations will be coordinated with the Ecosystem Information Review project.

Council Action: None

3. Marine Recreational Information Program Fishing Effort Survey Revisions (*Attachment 3*)

Description: The NOAA Office of Science and Technology (OST) has concluded data collection and analysis as part of a [large-scale study conducted throughout 2024 to test improvements to the Fishing Effort Survey](#) (based on results from prior studies). The preliminary study, completed in 2023, indicated the order of fishing questions had an impact on the overall estimates of recreational effort, but a more robust study was necessary to confirm findings. This more comprehensive study was completed in summer 2025 and underwent a peer review by the [Center for Independent Experts](#) to help fine-tune the revised methods for obtaining recreational effort estimates. In addition, a [calibration model](#), developed to rescale the historical effort estimates produced from the current Fishing Effort Survey, also recently underwent peer review. The Council will receive an update on the status of the follow-up study, calibration, and associated peer review processes, along with additional relevant programmatic updates.

Council Action: None

4. Presentation on SERO Permitting Information Management System Updates (*Attachment 4*)

Description: Kevin McIntosh, Assistant Regional Administrator for NMFS Operations, Management and Information Systems, will deliver a presentation outlining the history, successes, and future enhancements of the Southeast Region Permitting System (PIMS), which was launched in 2007.

Council Action: None

5. One-Stop Reporting Update (*Attachment 5*)

Description: Jessica Stephen, SERO Branch Chief, will deliver a presentation on progress towards One-Stop Reporting, including reporting of highly migratory species, the Southeast Coastal Logbook, the Southeast For-Hire Integrated Electronic Reporting (SEFHIER) program, and Vessel Trip Reports requirements, as well as how commercial discards and for-hire reporting will be handled moving forward.

Council Action: None