



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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

AGENDA

Full Council Session I

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

Tuesday, March 3, 2026, 8:30 am – 12:00 noon

8:30 am to 10:00 am

- Call to order and introductions
- Adoption of agenda
- Approval of minutes (December 2025 and January 2026)
- Litigation brief

1. Reports

- a. State agencies
- b. Council liaisons
 - Gulf Fishery Management Council (*Attachment 1a*) – Johnny Marquez
 - Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (*Attachment 1b*) – Sonny Gwin
- c. Staff (*Attachment 1c*)
- d. Law Enforcement Advisory Panel (*Attachment 1d*) – Maj. Michael Paul Thomas, Chair

--Break--

10:45 am to 12:00 noon

- e. Resilient Fisheries Projects (*Attachment 1e*) – Lara Klibansky
- f. Habitat and Ecosystem Advisory Panel (*Attachment 1f-1h*) – Stacie Crowe, Chair

– Lunch –

Tuesday, March 3, 2026, 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm

- g. Lines of Communication – North Carolina
- h. Shrimp Workgroup (*Attachment 1i*)
- i. National Marine Fisheries Service
 - Southeast Regional Office
 - Protected Resources (*Attachment 1j*)

- Southeast Fisheries Science Center
- 2. Update on NMFS' Value/Risk Matrix for Managed Stocks
 - a. Background (*Attachments 2a and 2b*) – John Carmichael
 - b. Presentation (*Attachment 2b*) – Clay Porch, SEFSC
- 3. Review SAFMC comments on Proposed Rule for Commercial Atlantic Blacknose Shark and Recreational Atlantic Shark Fisheries (*Attachments 3a-3c*) – John Hadley

Attachments:

Attachment 1a: Gulf Council Liaison Report

Attachment 1b: Mid-Atlantic Council Liaison Report

Attachment 1c: Staff Report

Attachment 1d: Law Enforcement Advisory Panel Report

Attachment 1e: Resilient Fisheries Projects Report

Attachment 1f: Habitat and Ecosystem Advisory Panel Report

Attachment 1g: Habitat and Ecosystem Advisory Panel Report Presentation

Attachment 1h: Habitat and Ecosystem Advisory Panel Annual Report for 2025

Attachment 1i: Shrimp Workgroup Update

Attachment 1j: Protected Resources Report

Attachment 2a: NMFS' Update to EDs on proposed risk/value matrix for managed stocks, January 2026

Attachment 2b: CCC response to NMFS' risk/value matrix

Attachment 2c: NMFS' Update to SAFMC on risk/value matrix (*available on 2/25*)

Attachment 3a: Draft comments on Proposed Rule for Commercial Atlantic Blacknose Shark and Recreational Atlantic Shark Fisheries

Attachment 3b: Summary presentation on the Proposed Rule for Commercial Atlantic Blacknose Shark and Recreational Atlantic Shark Fisheries

Attachment 3c: Draft Environmental Assessment, Regulatory Impact Review, and Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis for a Rule to Revise Commercial Management Measures for Atlantic Blacknose Sharks and Recreational Management Measures for Atlantic Sharks

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

OVERVIEW

Full Council Session I

The Council will approve the minutes from the December 2025 meeting and the agenda for the March 2026 meeting.

[December 2025 Full Council I Report](#)

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

Description: Representatives and staff will provide reports to the Council.

Council Action: None

2. NMFS' Risk/Value Matrix for Managed Stocks (*Attachments 2a-2c*)

Description: At the May 2026 CCC meeting NMFS discussed the need to “narrow the scope of NMFS management and science” to accommodate future agency resources and capabilities. Updates on this process were expected during the October 2025 CCC meeting, but the meeting was cancelled due to the federal government shutdown. As an alternative, in January 2026 the Council Executive Directors were provided with an update on the process and briefed on next steps planned for the process (*Attachment 2a*). John Carmichael will summarize the January 2026 briefing. Also included is a letter (*Attachment 2b*) from the CCC to NMFS expressing concerns with the process as developed so far, in particular the lack of Council involvement. Clay Porch, SEFSC, will provide an overview of efforts to begin populating the data components of the priority matrix (*Attachment 2c*).

Council Action: Provide input on the overall process and recommend a plan for completing the NMFS request for information by June 30, 2026.

3. Draft comments on Proposed Rule for Commercial Atlantic Blacknose Shark and Recreational Atlantic Shark Fisheries (*Attachments 3a-3c*)

Description: NOAA Fisheries Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) has announced a proposed rule to revise commercial Atlantic blacknose shark and recreational Atlantic shark fisheries management measures. In commercial shark fisheries the rule would:

- Remove the blacknose shark management boundary in the Atlantic region.
- Modify the commercial retention limit for blacknose sharks in the Atlantic region.
- Remove commercial management group quota linkages.

In recreational shark fisheries the rule would:

- Revise the recreational minimum size limits for Atlantic sharks.
- Revise the recreational retention limits for Atlantic sharks.

The public comment period for this rule is open through March 6, 2026. Council staff have developed a draft comment letter for the Council to review (*Attachment 3a*).

Council Action: Confirm that the Council would like to comment on the proposed rule and provide edits to the draft comment letter.