

Final
SUMMARY REPORT
SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
Full Council Session I (Closed Session)
June 9, 2025

The Council met in Closed Session on Monday, June 9, 2025, and discussed the following items:

Review of Advisory Panel Applications and Recommendations for Appointment

The Council reviewed applicants for open seats on the Dolphin Wahoo, Habitat and Ecosystem, Law Enforcement, Mackerel Cobia, Outreach and Communications, Snapper Grouper, and Wreckfish Advisory Panels and *provided the following draft motions as recommendations for consideration by the Council during open session:*

MOTION: REAPPOINT JAY KAVANAGH, DANIEL OWSLEY, AND PAUL PANCAKE TO THE DOLPHIN WAHOO AP.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: APPOINT MICHAEL SCHAD AND DAVID WAMER, III TO THE DOLPHIN WAHOO AP.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: APPOINT CAMERON LUCK TO THE HABITAT AND ECOSYSTEM AP.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: REAPPOINT WILLIAM PALMER TO THE MACKEREL COBIA AP.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: APPOINT MICHAEL HALL TO THE OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS AP.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: REAPPOINT CAMERON SEBASTIAN AND APPOINT DARRIN WILLINGHAM TO THE SNAPPER GROUPE AP.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: APPOINT JAKE HARMON TO THE WRECKFISH AP.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Review of Advisory Panel Application Form

The Council received guidance from NOAA General Counsel regarding any additional questions that may be added to the AP application form to aid in law enforcement background checks for applicants. The Council currently requests LE background checks for fisheries violations from NOAA Office for Law Enforcement, and recently, from individual state law enforcement agencies.

After considering options, the Council determined the current application form is adequate and directed staff to make minor edits to clarify background checks are done at both the federal and state level and consider the prior 3 years.

Appointments to the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and Social and Economic Panel (SEP)

The Council reviewed applicants for open seats on the SSC and the SEP. *The Council provided the following draft motions as recommendations for consideration by the Council during open session:*

MOTION: REAPPOINT GENNY NESSLAGE, MARCEL REICHERT, AND JEFF BUCKEL TO AT-LARGE SSC SEATS FOR 3-YEAR TERMS BEGINNING JULY 1, 2025 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2028.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: REAPPOINT JARED FLOWERS TO THE GA STATE-DESIGNATED SEAT FOR A 3-YEAR TERM BEGINNING JULY 1, 2025 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2028.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: APPOINT LUIZ BARBIERI TO THE FL STATE-DESIGNATED SEAT FOR A 3-YEAR TERM BEGINNING JULY 1, 2025 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2028.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: APPOINT CATHERINE “CJ” SCHLICK AND KELSEY ROBERTS TO AT-LARGE SSC SEATS FOR 3-YEAR TERMS BEGINNING JULY 1, 2025 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2028.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: REAPPOINT ADAM STEMLE TO AN AT-LARGE SEP SEAT FOR A 5-YEAR TERM BEGINNING JULY 1, 2025 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2030.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: APPOINT KATHI KITNER TO AN AT-LARGE SEP SEAT FOR A 5-YEAR TERM BEGINNING JULY 1, 2025 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2030.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Council Committee Membership

The Council noted that there is a need to clarify the roles of Council Liaisons as well as committee members from organizations other than the Council, and supports the regional projects underway to evaluate committee operations and membership. The Council supported the suggestion to develop written requests for comment on actions that affect neighboring Councils and inviting staff from other Councils to provide factual input on IPTs.

Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

The Council reviewed nominees from its Law Enforcement Advisory Panel to receive the 2024 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award. Two nominees are recommended to receive the award: (1) The FWC SRA Offshore Patrol Vessel Team consisting of Lt Edwin Harp, Senior

Officer Specialist David Moss, Officer Specialist Casey Schroer, Officer Specialist Alexander Bruder, and Officer Zachary Dudas; and (2) SCDNR Law Enforcement's PFC Andrew Alexander. The following motion is presented as a recommendation:

MOTION: AWARD THE 2024 LAW ENFORCEMENT OF THE YEAR AWARD TO THE FWC SRA OFFSHORE VESSEL TEAM AND SCDNR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER PFC ANDREW ALEXANDER.
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Other Business

The Council discussed the need to appoint participants to the SEDAR 90 (South Atlantic Red Snapper) Assessment Workshop and provided the following motion as a recommendation:

MOTION: APPOINT LUIZ BARBIERI AND WILL PATTERSON TO THE SEDAR 90 ASSESSMENT PANEL.
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

The Council also recognized the retirement of Pat O'Shaughnessy with NOAA Office of Law Enforcement and his replacement, ASAC Benjamin Boots, based in Jacksonville, FL. ASAC Boots will serve as the NOAA OLE representative on the Council's Law Enforcement AP.

In addition, LT Loeffler, Commanding Officer at the US Coast Guard Fisheries Training Center in Charleston, SC has been transferred, and his replacement will serve on the Outreach and Communications AP.

DIRECTION TO STAFF

- Readvertise an open commercial seat on the Law Enforcement Advisory Panel to be addressed at the December 2025 Council meeting.
- Request that the MAFMC update its representation on the Mackerel Cobia AP due to attendance issues with current representatives and include the recent applicants from their region for consideration.
- For the Wreckfish AP, clarify that shareholder members are not allowed to designate a proxy.
- Conduct an orientation session for newly appointed advisory panel members prior to the September 2025 Council meeting.
- Modify the language on the online advisory panel application form for applicants to indicate law enforcement background checks will be conducted by NOAA Office for Law Enforcement and state marine resource agencies.
- Contact the Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel for recommendations for a recreational representative on the SEDAR 90 Assessment Panel
- Evaluate SSC and SEP seats and committee size to ensure Council needs are being met and committee size is optimized.
- Send decision letters to applicants by June 30, 2025.