



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Melvin Bell, Chair | Carolyn N. Belcher, Ph.D., Vice Chair
John Carmichael, Executive Director

REVISED AGENDA **Full Council Session I (Open Session)** The Beaufort Hotel Beaufort NC 28516

Monday, December 6, 2021 **10:00 A.M. to 12 Noon (Times subject to change)**

Call to order and introductions

Adoption of Agenda

Approval of minutes

- September 2021 Full Council Session 1
- September 2021 Full Council Session 2
- March 2020 Committee of the Whole meeting
- March 2020 Shrimp Committee meeting
- September 2019 joint meeting of the Habitat, Shrimp, and Golden Crab Committees

1. Reports (NOAA Office of Law Enforcement, US Coast Guard, state agencies, Council liaisons) (*Attachments 1a and 1b*)
2. Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodologies (SBRM) Review (*Attachments 2a and 2b*)
 - a. Overview of review document – Frank Helies, NMFS SERO
 - b. SSC recommendations – Dr. Genny Nessler, SSC Chair
3. Exempted Fishing Permits Brief (*Attachments 3a-3d*) – Rick DeVictor, NMFS SERO

Attachments:

Attachment 1a: NOAA OLE Report

Attachment 1b: Gulf Liaison Report

Attachment 2a: SBRM Review Presentation

Attachment 2b: SBRM Review Draft Document

Attachment 3a: EFP letter for REEF

Attachment 3b: EFP application for REEF

Attachment 3c: EFP letter for SC Aquarium

Attachment 3d: EFP application for SC Aquarium

Attachment 3e: EFP letter for Sustainable Seas Technologies (available at meeting)

Attachment 3f: EFP application for Sustainable Seas Technologies

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

OVERVIEW

Full Council Session I (Open Session)

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

Description: NOAA Office of Law Enforcement, US Coast Guard, state agencies, and Council liaisons will provide reports to the Council.

2. Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM) Review (*Attachments 2a and 2b*)

Description: The Council will receive a presentation (Attachment 2a) on the Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM) Review with particular emphasis towards fishery management plans for the South Atlantic region. SBRMs are required for every federal fishery management plan. A final rule requiring review of SBRM's every 5 years was published in February 2017. The first review of the SAFMC's SBRMs was conducted by NMFS with help from SAFMC staff (*Attachment 2b*).

At their October 2021 meeting, the SSC was asked to comment on the review including methodology design considerations such as data elements, sampling designs, sample sizes, and reporting frequency. Dr. Genny Nesslage, SSC Chair, will present the SSC's comments and summary feedback on the review.

Required Council Action: Provide feedback and consider approving the SBRM review.

3. Exempted Fishing Permit brief (*Attachments 3a-3f*)

Description: SERO staff will brief the Council on two pending exempted fishing permit (EFP) applications and Kim Sawicki will brief the Council on the third application.

The first EFP application (*Attachment 3b*) was submitted by the Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF) requesting authorization to test non-containment traps in the South Atlantic to harvest lionfish. The intent of this application is to design and test modifications to a non-containment trap to make it more effective as a lionfish trap while also reducing bycatch.

The second EFP application (*Attachment 3d*) was submitted by the South Carolina Aquarium requesting authorization to allow harvest of marine species including snapper grouper, Spanish mackerel, king mackerel, golden crab, dolphin, wahoo, Atlantic cobia, spiny lobster, and shrimp in federal waters off South Carolina and less frequently in federal waters off North Carolina (Attachment 3d, Appendix A). The purpose of the collections is to incorporate native species into educational exhibits at the South Carolina Aquarium in Charleston, South Carolina, and teach the public about stewardship and habitat preservation. This EFP would be valid from July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2027.

The third request (*Attachment 3f*) is from Sustainable Seas Technology to test Acoustic Subsea Buoy Retrieval Systems (ASBRS) in the commercial black sea bass pot fishery in federal waters. ASBRS are an example of innovative gear that store buoys and their retrieval devices at depth. The project seeks to build upon previous research and continue to examine

the potential usefulness of the modified pot gear in minimizing impacts to protected species. The EFP would be valid through August 31, 2024, commencing on the date the EFP is issued.

The public will have the opportunity to comment on the applications during the comment period scheduled for Wednesday, December 8, 2021, at 4 PM.

Required Council Action: Provide feedback on the three EFP applications.