

FINAL
SUMMARY REPORT
SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
Full Council Session I (Closed Session)
June 8, 2026

The Council met in Closed Session on Monday, June 8, 2026, and discussed the following items:

Advisory Panel Appointments

The Council reviewed applicants for open seats on the Habitat and Ecosystem, Law Enforcement, Mackerel Cobia, Snapper Grouper, Spiny Lobster, and Citizen Science Projects Advisory Panels (APs) and provided the following draft motions as recommendations for consideration by the Council during open session:

MOTION 1: APPOINT SHANNON MCASKILL, DEREK DETWIELER, CHRISTIAN COMMANDER, CAMERON BRINTON, AND ERIC WEATHER TO THE HABITAT AND ECOSYSTEM AP.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION 2: APPOINT MATTHEW TROY AND KELLIE RALSTON TO THE HABITAT AND ECOSYSTEM AP.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION 3: APPOINT SPUD WOODWARD TO THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AP.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION 4: RE-APPOINT KEVIN AMAN TO THE MACKEREL COBIA AP.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION 5: APPOINT STEPHEN ENGLISH TO THE MACKEREL COBIA AP.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION 6: RE-APPOINT CHRIS KIMREY, JOE MATTHEWS, ANDREW FISH, JOHN POLSTON, AND CHRIS MILITELLO TO THE SNAPPER GROUPE AP.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION 7: APPOINT ROBERT JOHNSON, TIM GRINER, GEORGE BEYER, STEPHEN GROSS, JEFF HUDSON, AND VINCENT BONURA TO THE SNAPPER GROUPE AP.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION 8: APPOINT JEFFREY MARINKO TO THE SPINY LOBSTER AP.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION 9: APPOINT KEVIN SPANIK TO THE CITIZEN SCIENCE PROJECTS AP.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

DIRECTION TO STAFF:

- Habitat and Ecosystem AP: Provide correction on Florida coastal zone management seat to better characterize the agency of the member holding the seat.
- Law Enforcement AP: Re-advertise the open commercial and recreational seats for appointment at the December 2026 meeting.
- Snapper Grouper AP: Re-visit the possibility of adding a for-hire representative from North Carolina at a future meeting.

Clarification on Term Limits for AP Members

The Council was asked to discuss AP member term limits and provide clarification on how to account for AP member 3-year term limits in years when an AP does not meet. The Council provided the following guidance with the intent of reviewing revisions to the AP Policy at a future meeting:

- Add Spiny Lobster to the list of APs that are exempt from term limits.
- For APs that do not meet annually:
 - Do not count years when an AP does not meet against the 3-year terms for that AP's members. Terms for AP members are intended to last at least 3 AP meetings.
 - Council staff will check-in with AP members 3 years after the date of their appointment to confirm that they are willing to continue to serve on the AP for the remainder of their term. This is not intended to replace the re-appointment process but will help ensure that AP members are still engaged in the fishery and the management process.
 - Example: An AP member is appointed in December 2026.
 - That AP meets in 2027, skips meeting in 2028, and meets in 2029 (i.e. 2 AP meetings in 3 years).
 - Instead of that AP member going through the re-appointment process in December 2029 (i.e. 3 years after their initial appointment), Council staff would check in with that AP member to make sure that they are willing to continue to serve.
 - That AP member's term would then expire after the next AP meeting and that member would then go through the re-appointment process if eligible.
- Revise term limits to allow the Council flexibility to appoint AP members for additional years once an AP member's term limit has been met.
 - This will allow the Council to exercise judgment to maintain specific expertise on an AP in circumstances when the applicant pool does not allow replacement of that expertise.
 - The Council clarified that the three consecutive 3-year term limit will remain in place unless the Council provides rationale to make an exception.

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

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

MOTION 10: RE-APPOINT WALTER BUBLEY, JIE CAO, CHRISTINA PACKAGE-WARD,

AMY SCHUELLER, STEVE TURNER, AND JASON WALSH TO THE SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE.
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION 11: RE-APPOINT JENNIFER SWEENEY-TOOKES TO THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PANEL.
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION 12: APPOINT MAY LEHMENSIEK AND ROBERT LORENZ TO THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PANEL.
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR) Panel Appointments

The Council reviewed SEDAR panel appointments and provided the following draft motions as recommendations for consideration by the Council during open session:

MOTION 13: APPOINT MARCEL REICHERT TO THE SEDAR 94: FLORIDA HOGFISH REVIEW PANEL.
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION 14: APPOINT JIM GARTLAND, JARED FLOWERS, AND JEFF BUCKEL TO THE DATA WORKSHOP PANEL FOR THE NEXT SPANISH MACKEREL ASSESSMENT.
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Additionally, the Council discussed member attendance to SEDAR 94 (Florida Hogfish), SEDAR 90 (South Atlantic Red Snapper), and SEDAR 104 (Dolphin MSE).

Review of 2025 Law Enforcement Officer of Year Nominees

The Council reviewed nominees for the 2025 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award. The following motion is presented as a recommendation:

MOTION 15: PRESENT THE 2025 LAW ENFORCEMENT OF THE YEAR AWARD TO SPECIAL AGENT KEVIN MITCHELL FROM NOAA OLE.
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Other Business

The Council identified topics for future discussion, including potential changes to the online public comment process, the interaction of state and federal partners when gathering data for update assessments, opening membership on the Executive Committee to additional members, and changes to the state rotation of the Chair to better accommodate interested members holding non-agency seats.

Timing and Tasks:

MOTION 16: DIRECT STAFF TO DO THE FOLLOWING:

- Send notification letters to appointees and email notifications to applicants not selected.

- Conduct an orientation for new AP, SSC, and SEP members.
- Prepare revisions to the AP Policy for review at the September 2026 meeting.
- Present the 2025 LEOY award during the September 2026 meeting.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL