

FINAL
SUMMARY REPORT
FULL COUNCIL II
SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
December 2025

The Council met in open session on Friday, December 12, 2025, to finalize committee reports from the week, discuss the workplan, and review upcoming meetings for 2026. The Council also reviewed and approved a list of agenda topics for the January 2026 meeting of its Law Enforcement Advisory Panel.

Marcel Reichert went over SSC feedback on topics that were not included in the Council meeting's agenda for the December meeting. Dr. Reichert answered Council member questions. Regarding black sea bass, a genetic study that was reviewed by the SSC did not explore the reason why black sea bass abundance in the southern portion of their range has diminished so much. The study focused on genetics of the population. Dr. Reichert stated the SSC looks forward to discussing with SEFSC how to increase throughput on assessments.

Workplan Discussion

- The Council clarified that work on an amendment to address state management of red snapper should begin after the recently submitted state EFPs are underway. Council directed staff to prepare a scoping draft for consideration in September 2026.
 - Council will receive an update on state red snapper EFPs at the March 2026 meeting.
- The Council clarified that the results of the wreckfish MSE will be addressed as part of the review of the ITQ program, in 2027.
- The Council requested that sufficient time be allocated (at least 2.5 hours) at the March 2026 meeting for the Snapper Grouper Commercial Sub-Committee to discuss the trip limit action in detail. The Council requested that specific data be available for the discussion, including three years of trip limit data by month and state, combining GA with SC.
- Add a review of the SMZs sunset provisions to the March 2026 agenda to ensure the amendment can be prepared over three meetings, before the sunset occurs.
- Retain the topic to consider including sector-specific discard estimates in sector allocations on the workplan to address in the future.
- Regarding SERO's priorities for rulemaking, the RA stated the black sea bass and blueline tilefish amendments would be prioritized. SERO is also reviewing the state's EFPs ahead of soliciting public comment early next year and will address the Coral 11/Shrimp 12 amendment.
- Council members asked whether a potential government shutdown at the end of January would prevent the Coral 11/Shrimp 12 amendment from moving forward if it was submitted during a shutdown. The RA answered he is an essential employee so he would not be furloughed and would ensure the amendment stayed on track.
- The Council will meet via webinar on January 23, 2026, from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm to consider approving the Coral 11/Shrimp 12 amendment. Due to the short turn around

time and the limited sections to be updated, the briefing materials will be provided one week prior to the meeting.

- Retain Snapper Grouper Amendment 61 (FMU revision) on the Council's agenda for at least one more meeting to obtain information with which to make a more informed decision on whether to continue development or stop. The concern is that the amendment has the potential to add regulations instead of removing them (as the Council intended).