

FINAL
SUMMARY REPORT
FULL COUNCIL II
SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
June 2026

The Council met in open session on Friday, June 12, 2026, reviewed its workplan, and finalized committee reports.

Workplan

The following changes were made to the Council's workplan:

- Moved the long-term snapper grouper amendment that will implement actions resulting from the Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) further into the future to bring it in line with progress of the MSE and to allow for the red snapper stock assessment to be incorporated into the MSE.
- Red Snapper ACL update and SEDAR 90: The Council expressed interest in considering a framework amendment to more quickly update the ACL based on SEDAR 90 results. This will require SEDAR 90 staying on track for the scheduled peer review in December 2026 and the Council convening the SSC in late January/early February to provide an ABC recommendation the Council can consider in March 2027. SEDAR 90 cannot be accelerated because it is awaiting revised MRIP estimates and requests to expedite those were rejected for procedural challenges. There was interest among Council members to hold a management level discussion relative to SEDAR 90 since a new catch level recommendations might prompt a revision or the sector allocation, which cannot be done via a framework amendment.
- Shifted approval for public hearings of Snapper Grouper Amendment 61 (FMU Revision) to December 2026 instead of September. This will not affect the anticipated approval in March 2027.
- Moved Dolphin Wahoo Regulatory Amendment 3 off the active amendments workplan.
- Moved Black grouper MSE response amendment to June 2027 because more time is needed to develop a catch level recommendation.
- Moved final approval for Snapper Grouper Regulatory Amendment 40 (changing seasonal closed area regulations for black sea bass pots) to March 2027.
- Council members brought up the need to better balance the harvest of Spanish mackerel between North Carolina and Florida.
 - There was interest in investigating whether unused ACL could be rolled over from one fishing year to the next. Rollovers are not included in the ABC control rule for the Coastal Migratory Pelagics FMP, because the CMP FMP was not included in the Council's ABC Control Rule Comprehensive Amendment due to the CMP FMP being a joint plan with the Gulf Council. The current control rule would need to be modified through an amendment to the FMP.

- Council members asked whether harvest balance could be improved through changing the fishing year to start on November 1. This could be a solution, however, a fishing year change in the CMP FMP cannot be done via framework so it is not a rapid solution. Therefore, the Council expressed interest in modifying the CMP framework to include changes to the fishing year and investigating opportunities to streamline joint FMP amendment processes with the Gulf Council.
- Given the discussion regarding the need to expedite changes to certain management measures, the Council directed that the comprehensive amendment to modify abbreviated framework procedures and “Sunday sale” be included on the December 2026 agenda.

The Council approved the following motion and provided additional guidance below:

MOTION 1: INITIATE AN AMENDMENT TO ADDRESS A FISHING YEAR CHANGE FOR SPANISH MACKEREL AND PROHIBIT TOURNAMENT SALES FOR KING MACKEREL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

- Bring this to the AP in the fall (will constitute scoping).
- Limit discussions with the AP to actions that are not dependent on the stock assessment for Spanish mackerel.
- It was clarified that given the Council’s current workload, this amendment would not likely start until March 2027.

Other Business

Executive Committee membership

- John Carmichael clarified the composition of the Executive Committee since the topic came up during closed session. The Council’s handbook lists the composition of that committee and if it were to be modified it will require a change in the handbook.
- Some Council members maintain that since the Council process is stakeholder-driven the Executive Committee should reflect this by providing the opportunity for all Council members to be a part of that Committee.
- Council chair and vice-chair positions are linked to the Executive Committee (both participate, according to the current handbook). Council members were encouraged to think about what changes they may want to explore ahead of the upcoming elections at the September meeting.
- Some Council members also expressed interest in potential changes to how chairmanship rotates among the states. Rotation can be changed and is not specified in the handbook.