

FINAL
SUMMARY REPORT
FULL COUNCIL II
SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
December 2024

NOAA Fisheries Reports

The Southeast Regional Administrator (RA) and the Deputy Director for Science and Council Services provided updates to the Council.

Southeast Regional Office

The RA highlighted developments related to Giant Manta Ray and advised the Council to be aware of potential impacts to managed fisheries. Details were provided in the [Protected Resources Update](#) included in the Council's briefing book.

The RA indicated that permit data from August 2021 until now are still unavailable due to unresolved issues at the Southeast Permits Office. The RA assured the Council the agency is doing everything possible to make the data available to fishery managers, including providing data "snapshots" to support developing amendments.

Southeast Fisheries Science Center

- The SEFSC's ageing laboratory building in Beaufort, NC, has been condemned so this may create some setbacks for SEFSC outputs.
- A new vessel was acquired with station holding technology that will increase the agency's survey abilities.
- The SEFSC, in collaboration with NCOOS and BOEM, has been involved in marine spatial planning discussions to ensure offshore wind development takes into account the many ocean uses including commercial fisheries, migratory corridors, and protected resources.
- Some additional information was provided on the update to the red snapper assessment that is currently underway. The stock assessment update to SEDAR 73 (red snapper) does not include significant amounts of updated data. It was undertaken under a special circumstance to support NMFS' development of the Secretarial amendment.
- The Council was commended for the risk scoring process implemented through the new ABC Control Rule Amendment and it was acknowledged determining risk tolerance is within the purview of the Council. However, the SEFSC is concerned about discussion of risk relative to SPR proxies.
- Commercial electronic logbook amendment – implementation by June 2025 will not happen. Will be pushed back to late 2025 or early 2026. This is due to improving the database. If fishermen are interested in volunteering for beta testing, reach out to SEFSC. Once the electronic reporting system is operational, the SEFSC intends to remove the option to submit paper logbooks.

Outreach and Communication Advisory Panel Report

Scott Baker, Chair of the OC AP provided a summary of the AP's discussions and recommendations during their October 2024 meeting. The Council had no comments or questions.

Scientific and Statistical Committee feedback on items not on the December agenda

Dr. Marcel Reichert, SSC Chair provided the SSC's input on risk rating and SPR proxies.

Workplan

Council staff reviewed changes to the Council workplan based on committee and Council actions during the week. The Council had the following guidance for staff to address the excessive workload that is likely for future meetings:

- The Commercial Sub-Committee actions need to be incorporated into the workplan as a possible amendment starting in the latter half of 2025.
- Add the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Unit (FMU) re-evaluation to the workplan.
- Note the Unassessed Species Catch Levels Amendment may go away if the Council initiates work on an evaluation of species within the FMU
- To allow more time on Council meeting agendas, schedule state agency reports to every other meeting (6-month update instead of 3-month). Retain liaison reports at every meeting.
- Consider modifications to management measures for golden tilefish in a separate amendment (perhaps in conjunction with blue-line tilefish) and modify catch levels thru an abbreviated framework.
- Suggest SPR presentation from the SEFSC be brought up to March 2025 meeting.
- Receive NOAA Office of Law Enforcement and US Coast Guard briefs every six months (stagger with state agency reports).