

**FINAL**  
**SUMMARY REPORT**  
**SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**  
**Full Council Session I (Closed Session)**  
**June 12, 2023**

**Legal Briefing**

Monica Smit-Brunello, NOAA GC, briefed the Council on MSA requirements addressing closed session records. The Council is required to report the outcomes of closed session discussions and to take final actions on some topics in open sessions. Closed sessions minutes are not required. In response, the Council made a motion to discontinue recording closed session discussions.

**MOTION 1: MOVE TO DISCONTINUE RECORDING OF CLOSED SESSION DISCUSSIONS.**  
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

**System Management Plan (SMP) Workgroup, and Advisory Panel (AP) Appointments**

The Council reviewed applications for the SMP Workgroup and several APs. Applicants for the open seats were advertised following the March 2023 Council meeting and both new and applicants on file were presented for consideration.

**MOTION 2: APPOINT THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS TO THE SMP WORKGROUP AND ADVISORY PANELS.**

**SMP Workgroup**

APPOINT JOT OWENS TO THE NC RECREATIONAL SEAT ON THE SMP WORKGROUP.

**Habitat Protection and Ecosystem-Based Management AP**

APPOINT DR. BRENDAN RUNDE (NC CONSERVATION/NGO) TO THE HABITAT AP.

REAPPOINT JEFF SOSS (SC CHARTER) TO THE HABITAT AP AND REAPPOINT THOMAS JONES (GA RECREATIONAL) FOR A ONE-YEAR TERM ON THE AP.

**Law Enforcement AP**

APPOINT TRACY DUNN (NEW OPEN SEAT) AND JOSHUA BURTON (SC RECREATIONAL) TO THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AP.

**Mackerel Cobia AP**

APPOINT KEVIN AMAN (NC REC/RESEARCH) AND EDWARD OLSEN (FL COMMERCIAL) TO THE MACKEREL COBIA AP.

**Shrimp AP**

APPOINT NANCY JONES (FL COMMERCIAL), JODY SHIRLEY (FL COMMERCIAL), TIM WILLIS (NC SCIENTIST), AND STEPHEN MORRISON (GA COMMERCIAL) TO THE SHRIMP AP.

**Snapper Grouper AP**

REAPPOINT VINCENT BONURA (FL COMMERCIAL), ANDREW FISH (FL COMMERCIAL), CHRIS MILLITELLO (FL RECREATIONAL), JACK COX (NC COMMERCIAL), ROBERT FREEMAN (NC CHARTER), CHRIS KIMREY (NC

CHARTER), TONY CONSTANT (SC CHARTER), AND HARRY MORALES (SC RECREATIONAL) TO THE SNAPPER GROUPER AP.

APPOINT CHRIS CONKLIN (SC COMMERCIAL), JOE MATHEWS (GA RECREATIONAL), ROBERT HALLETT (FL RECREATIONAL) AND JOHN POLSTON (FL COMMERCIAL) TO THE SNAPPER GROUPER AP.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

**MOTION 3:** APPOINT KATHY KNOWLTON TO THE RECREATIONAL PERMITTING ADVISORY PANEL

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

### **Wreckfish AP and Golden Crab AP Structure**

The Council reviewed options for the structure of these two advisory panels and provided the following recommendations:

**MOTION 4:** APPROVE THE STRUCTURE OF THE WRECKFISH AP AS FOLLOWS WITH THE ADDITION OF A SEAT REPRESENTING A DEALER. APPROVE THE GOLDEN CRAB AP AS PRESENTED:

Wreckfish Advisory Panel:

- All current ITQ members (8 seats now but could expand with new entrants into the fishery)
- 1 commercial snapper grouper fisherman (non-ITQ, possible SG AP member)
- 1 recreational snapper grouper fisherman (with deepwater fishing experience)
- 1 law enforcement representative (possible LE AP member)
- Total Seats = 11

Golden Crab Advisory Panel:

- All current permit holders (11 permits currently held by 6 individuals, permit is limited access)
- 2 historical seats for past permit holders (as requested by the Golden Crab AP at their last meeting)
- 1 scientist seat (historically represented – possibly a deepwater coral scientist from Coral AP)
- Total Seats = 9 (max of 14 if permits were spread out)

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

### **Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Team**

**MOTION 5:** APPOINT KERRY MARHEFKA AS THE SAFMC REPRESENTATIVE TO THE BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN TAKE REDUCTION TEAM.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

### **Scientific and Statistical Committee Appointments**

**MOTION 6:** REAPPOINT WALTER BUBLEY (SCDNR), AMY SCHUELLER (NOAA FISHERIES), JIE CAO (NCSU), AND FRED SCHARF (UNC-W) TO THE SSC.

APPOINT JASON WALSH TO THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DESIGNATED SEAT OF THE SSC AND TO THE SEP.

APPOINT STEVE TURNER AND CHRISTINA PACKAGE-WARD TO THE SSC.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

**Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award**

**MOTION 7:** PRESENT THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THE YEAR 2022 AWARD TO BOTH NOMINEES (OFFICER JASON DOZIER, SCDNR AND OFFICER MATT TSIKLISTAS, GA DNR LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION).  
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

**SEDAR 89 (SA Tilefish) Topical Working Group Appointments**

**MOTION 8:** APPOINT BRENT WINNER TO REPLACE KEVIN THOMPSON AS THE FWC REPRESENTATIVE FOR SEDAR 89.  
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

**DIRECTION TO STAFF**

The Council discussed the current Advisory Panel Policy regarding meeting attendance and other requirements and provided the following direction to staff:

- The committee chairs will provide a letter to each AP reminding members of the AP Policy and participation requirements approved in March 2023.
- Staff will include AP Policy meeting requirements with individual upcoming AP meeting announcements.
- A letter from the Mackerel Committee Chair will be sent to AP members reminding them of upcoming issues to be addressed by the AP, the importance of obtaining their input on these issues, and the AP Policy meeting requirements approved in March 2023.

**MOTION 9: ACCEPT TIMING AND TASKS:**

- Send notification letters to appointees and email notifications to those not selected by June 30, 2023.
- Conduct an orientation of new AP members by the September 2023 SAFMC meeting.
- Advertise for open seats on advisory panels, SSC, and SEP as needed following the September 2023 Council meeting.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

**Closed Session on Tuesday, June 13, 2023**

In a closed session held under MSA section 302(i)(3)(B) on June 13, 2023, the Council discussed a letter received regarding health care reimbursement provisions for retired Council employees. The Council reviewed the letter and revisited their discussions on this topic held in a closed session at the March 2023 meeting. A motion was made to reconsider the Council's March 2023 decision to discontinue the post-retirement health care benefit. The motion was not approved.