

**FINAL**  
**SUMMARY REPORT**  
**SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**  
**Full Council I**

The Council approved the agenda for the meeting and the minutes from March 2023.

**Reports**

NOAA Office of Law Enforcement, state agencies, and Council liaisons provided reports to the Council.

**Highly Migratory Species Update**

NOAA Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) staff provided a presentation on the proposed rule for Amendment 15 to the 2006 Consolidated Atlantic HMS Fishery Management Plan (FMP), Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) on electronic reporting, and scoping for Amendment 16 to the 2006 Consolidated Atlantic HMS FMP. [Amendment 15](#) includes modifications to spatial management and electronic monitoring for commercial longline gear. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Amendment 15 published in May 2023 and the comment period is open until September 15, 2023. The [ANPR](#) covers options to convert commercial paper logbooks to electronic logbooks as well as other changes to monitoring and reporting, and [Amendment 16](#) considers a range of options to modify commercial and recreational shark fishery management measures based on revised catch levels for some shark stocks implemented through Amendment 14. The comment periods for both the ANPR and Amendment 16 are open until August 18, 2023.

**GUIDANCE TO STAFF:**

PREPARE A COMMENT LETTER FOR AMENDMENT 16 INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING:

- Support for measures that would increase shark catches and expand markets for shark meat.
- Issues with shark depredation continue. Encourage opportunities to expand shark harvest.
- Impact to shrimp fishery from sharks interacting with fishing gear.
- Depredation is impacting both commercial and recreational industries.

PREPARE A COMMENT LETTER FOR AMENDMENT 15: LOOK AT PREVIOUS LETTERS.

**Commercial Electronic Logbook Amendment**

Council staff reviewed progress on the amendment since the March 2023 Council meeting:

- Draft document is being completed.
- SEFSC has provided cost estimates for development of the program and maintenance and administrative effects section is being drafted. RIR and other portions of the amendment will be drafted based on cost estimates provided.
- Public hearings will be held via webinar in late July or early August.

- Doing separate from Gulf Council but looking to get SEFSC participation to demo the software and be there to address technical questions about the workings of the program and implementation.
- Staff will ensure the Mid-Atlantic Council is aware of the hearings so they can encourage fishermen who have permits in the GARFO region and the Southeast to attend.

SEFSC staff delivered a presentation on the coastal logbook program and a demonstration of the eTRIPS software.

**MOTION 1: REQUEST SEFSC STAFF PARTICIPATE IN PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR THE COMMERCIAL ELECTRONIC LOGBOOK AMENDMENT.**

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

DIRECTION TO STAFF:

- REQUEST PARTICIPATION FROM VENDORS WHO DEVELOPED THE SOFTWARE APPLICATION
- REQUEST A BRIEFING ON “BACK-END” ISSUES OCURRING AT THE PERMITS OFFICE DURING THE SEPTEMBER MEETING

### **SAFMC Research Recommendations**

Council staff presented the 2023-2027 South Atlantic Research and Monitoring Plan, including revisions by the SSC and various advisory panels. Staff and Council developed a list prioritized research and monitoring items which are highlighted in the revised research and monitoring plan. The Council recommended highlighting the need for socio-economic information on the headboat fishery, changing the years for the assessment section, and highlighting the need for research on regime shift for Red Snapper and winter spawned species. Staff also revised two research recommendations (highlighted in yellow below):

- Develop a socio-economic profile of commercial and recreational participants involved in Council managed fisheries (commercial captain and crew, for-hire captain and crew, private, charter, or headboat anglers, etc.).
- Develop a socio-economic profile and economic impact model for the South Atlantic headboat component of the for-hire sector.

The revised document will be posted on the Council’s website: <https://safmc.net/science-sedar/>

**MOTION 2: APPROVE THE 2023-2027 SAFMC RESEARCH AND MONITORING PLAN, AS MODIFIED.**

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

DIRECTION TO STAFF:

ADD TO RESEARCH RECOMMENDATIONS:

- EVALUATE THE COMMERCIAL DISCARD LOGBOOK PROGRAM TO DETERMINE TIME SERIES TO CONSIDER FOR DEVELOPING ALLOCATION OF TOTAL REMOVALS.

Note: Above direction was added in response to a motion approved during Other Business in Snapper Grouper Committee.

SEFSC staff provided an update on activities related to the 2021-2025 Research and Monitoring Plan.