

FINAL
SUMMARY REPORT
FULL COUNCIL SESSION I
SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
Beaufort, North Carolina
December 6, 2021

The Council approved the agenda for the session and approved five sets of minutes from 2019, 2020 and 2021.

Reports

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

Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM) Review

The Council received a presentation on the Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM) Review. SBRMs are required for every federal fishery management plan. A final rule requiring review of SBRM's every 5 years was published in February 2017.

Dr. Genny Nesslage, SSC Chair, presented the SSC's comments and summary feedback on the review. The Council approved the motion below.

MOTION 1: THE REVIEW SATISFIES THE LANGUAGE IN THE FINAL RULE FOR STANDARD BYCATCH REPORTING

Exempted Fishing Permits

SERO staff briefed the Council on two exempted fishing permit (EFP) applications. One application was submitted by the Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF) requesting authorization to test non-containment traps in the South Atlantic to harvest lionfish. The second EFP application was submitted by the South Carolina Aquarium requesting authorization to allow harvest of Council-managed species in federal waters.

A third request was submitted by Sustainable Seas Technology to test Acoustic Subsea Buoy Retrieval Systems (ASBRS) in the commercial black sea bass pot fishery in federal waters. Kim Sawicki delivered the brief on this application to the Council. The project seeks to build upon previous research and continue to examine the potential usefulness of the modified pot gear in minimizing impacts to protected species.

The public had the opportunity to comment on the applications during the comment period on Wednesday, December 8, 2021. No comments from the public were received. The Council approved the motion below.

MOTION 2: RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE THREE EFP APPLICATIONS PRESENTED TO THE COUNCIL.