

FINAL
SUMMARY REPORT
SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
Full Council I

The Council approved the agenda for the meeting and the transcripts from September 2022.

Reports

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

Commercial Electronic Logbook Amendment

Council staff reviewed progress on the amendment since the September 2022 Council meeting, reviewed a revised development timeline, and summarized input received from advisory panels (AP) that met in Fall 2022. The Interdisciplinary Development Team (ITP) will continue to develop the amendment for the March 2023 meeting, when the Council would consider approval for public hearings.

Proposed Hudson Canyon National Marine Sanctuary

Hudson Canyon was nominated as a National Marine Sanctuary in 2016. The National Marine Sanctuaries Act requires the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) to “provide the appropriate Council with the opportunity to prepare draft fishing regulations as the Council may deem necessary to implement the designation”. Councils can recommend draft fishing regulations, recommend that fishing regulations are not necessary, or choose not to act on the matter. LeAnn Hogan, ONMS Eastern Region Operations Coordinator, delivered a presentation to the Council and answered questions.

DIRECTION TO STAFF: Prepare a letter to be submitted by February 1, 2023, to:

- Express interest in engaging with the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries and appoint a staff person to serve in the Sanctuary Advisory Council;
- Reiterate that the Magnuson Stevens Act provides the most appropriate framework for fisheries management through a science-based, transparent, and participatory process;
- Provide any input from the Coastal Migratory Pelagics and Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panels;
- If necessary, provide draft fishing regulations for these fisheries when the Hudson Canyon designation process is further along.

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Proposed Rule

Council staff reviewed draft comments on the proposed changes including the APs’ input on the proposed rule. A Shrimp AP webinar has been scheduled in January 2023 to provide members an opportunity to provide input on the proposed rule. The Gulf of Mexico Shrimp AP will be notified of the webinar and be invited to participate in the discussion. The Council had no additions or modifications to the recommendations developed to date and directed staff to continue to coordinate with FWC in completion of the Council comments.

Acceptable Biological Catch Control Rule Amendment

Staff presented the draft amendment, including draft rationale for each action. The Committee reviewed the draft amendment, made the following motions, and gave the following guidance:

- Revise the Purpose statement by making “control rule”, “control rules”.
- Revise Action 3 discussion language to clarify that in addition to the Council being able to set additional conditions on a stock-by-stock basis for annual carry-over eligibility, the Council can also set additional limitations on the amount of underharvest that may be carried over. These additional conditions and limitations must be included in the amendment that specifies ABC with carry-over when applicable.
- Staff provided the full draft language for proposed framework procedures via email and will include this language in an appendix to the ABC Control Rule Amendment.
- Add language to clarify that Sub-Alt 2b includes up or down deviations, framework appendix, and the following language to the discussion:
 - 1) Using a 50% probability of overfishing implies negligible scientific uncertainty and sets $OFL=ABC$.
 - 2) At $P^* = 0.50$, removals above ABC caused by deviations in biological parameters (e.g. M, recruitment) will cause an overfishing determination and delay rebuilding plans.
 - 3) Adjusting P^* above the value set by the SSC should be infrequent and well justified based on new scientific understanding and the Council’s risk tolerance.

MOTION: APPROVE THE COMPREHENSIVE ACCEPTABLE BIOLOGICAL CATCH CONTROL RULE AMENDMENT TO THE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR THE SNAPPER GROUPER FISHERY OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC REGION, DOLPHIN AND WAHOO FISHERY OF THE ATLANTIC, AND GOLDEN CRAB FISHERY OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC REGION FOR FORMAL SECRETARIAL REVIEW AND DEEM THE CODIFIED TEXT AS NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE. GIVE STAFF EDITORIAL LICENSE TO MAKE ANY NECESSARY EDITORIAL CHANGES TO THE DOCUMENT/CODIFIED TEXT AND GIVE THE COUNCIL CHAIR AUTHORITY TO APPROVE THE REVISIONS AND RE-DEEM THE CODIFIED TEXT.
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

East Coast Climate Change Scenario Planning Workshop

Jonathan Star presented an update of the East Coast Scenario Planning Initiative. He introduced a set of 4 scenarios that each describe different conditions that fishery managers might face over the next 20 years as climate change continues to impact fisheries. He explained that the process is now in the application phase – where fishery managers apply these scenarios, using them as a platform to identify specific challenges and opportunities, and to generate ideas about how best to prepare for a future of climate change.

This application phase started with a series of three manager meetings in Fall 2022, ideas from which informed this SAMFC scenario workshop. Similar workshops will be held with ASMFC, NEFMC and MAMFC. The ideas emerging from these workshops in aggregate will be prioritized and discussed in a Summit Meeting to be held in February 2023.

Council participants recognized many features described in the scenarios, suggesting that some aspects are already in evidence today, including difficulty coordinating management actions across jurisdictions, challenges of stock assessments, low levels of trust, and problems with water quality and pollution. Council members noted more optimistic examples that surfaced in other scenarios, such as the emergence of boutique fisheries and public private partnerships to fix habitats. Participants also stressed the importance of being realistic about competing ocean uses. Offshore wind and aquaculture are sure to be highly influential.

Council members were asked to prioritize several issues that will be discussed and addressed in more detail at a forthcoming summit meeting involving representatives from SAFMC, MAMFC, NEFMC and ASMFC. The three highest ranked issues were: (i) the balance of funding and attention for data and science, (ii) challenges of the cross-jurisdictional structure, and (iii) implications of making decisions in situations of less clarity and certainty.