

# **SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

## **COUNCIL SESSION**

**Hilton Wilmington Riverside Hotel  
Wilmington, NC**

**December 6-7, 2012**

### **SUMMARY MINUTES**

#### **Council Members:**

David Cupka, Chair  
Mel Bell  
Martha Bademan  
John Jolley  
Tom Burgess  
Dr. Michelle Duval  
Doug Haymans  
Charlie Phillips

Ben Hartig, Vice-Chair  
Dr. Roy Crabtree  
Anna Beckwith  
Steve Amick  
Tom Swatzel  
LCDR Scot Gibson  
Dr. Wilson Laney

#### **Council Staff:**

Bob Mahood  
Mike Collins  
Dr. Kari MacLauchlin  
Kim Iverson  
Julie O'Dell  
Anna Martin

Gregg Waugh  
John Carmichael  
Amber Von Harten  
Dr. Mike Errigo  
Dr. Brian Chevront  
Myra Brouwer

#### **Observers/Participants:**

Monica Smit-Brunello  
Dr. Bonnie Ponwith  
Otha Easley  
Lt. Brandon Fisher  
Jason Walker  
Red Munden  
Dr. Nick Farmer  
Steve Durkee

Dr. Jack McGovern  
Patrick O'Shaughnessy  
Phil Steele  
Capt. Jim Kelley  
Pres Pate  
Doug Boyd  
Scott Sandorf  
Mike Clark

Additional Observers Attached

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Call to Order, Chairman David Cupka.....	3
Approval of Agenda.....	3
Approval of September 2012 Minutes.....	3
Presentations.....	3
Roll Call.....	4
Public Comment.....	5
Snapper Grouper Committee Report.....	22
Ad Hoc Data Collection Committee Report.....	39
Joint Habitat & Ecosystem-Based Management Committee Report.....	48
Presentation on Amendment 5 to the HMS Species FMP.....	51
SEDAR Committee Report.....	60
Dolphin Wahoo Committee Report.....	62
Executive Finance Committee Report.....	66
Status Reports.....	68
NMFS SEFSC Status Reports.....	69
Experimental Fishing Permit Application.....	74
Outreach Update: Marine Resource Education Program.....	75
Agency and Liaison Reports.....	78
Upcoming Meetings and Other Business.....	82
Adjournment.....	87

The Full Council Session of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council convened in the Cape Fear Ballroom of the Hilton Wilmington Riverside Hotel, Wilmington, North Carolina, Thursday morning, December 6, 2012, and was called to order at 11:25 o'clock a.m. by Chairman David Cupka.

MR. CUPKA: I call the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council to order. The first order of business will be adoption of the agenda. Are there any changes to the agenda? Seeing none, then the agenda is approved. Next is approval of our September 2012 minutes. Are there any corrections or additions? Dr. Crabtree.

DR. CRABTREE: Yes, these are the Full Council September Minutes. On Page 51, at the bottom of the page there is a statement that starts with "Okay, other discussion. I'm going to ask who is in favor", et cetera, and it is listed as Dr. Crabtree, but that should be Dr. Duval. I just caught that when I read the minutes.

MR. CUPKA: Are there any other corrections or additions to our minutes? Seeing none, then those minutes are approved. I also want to take this opportunity to formally recognize and welcome three individuals to our meeting today. The first is Doug Boyd, who is the chairman of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. Welcome, Doug, we're always to have you here with us.

We have got Preston Pate, who is representing the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, and, Preston, we're glad to see you here. The third person I want to mention is Scot Gibson with the Coast Guard who is filling in at this meeting as our Coast Guard representative. Welcome to all of you.

As you know, we have three committees in which there is a member of the Mid-Atlantic Council serves on. These are Dolphin and Wahoo, Snapper Grouper and Mackerel Committee. For the past several years we have had an individual from the Mid-Atlantic Council who sits on those committees as a voting member to represent the interests of the Mid-Atlantic Council.

We wanted to take this opportunity to recognize him. Red Munden has filled that role for a number of years and Red retired earlier this year from the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries or maybe I should say semi-retired because I understand Louis has still got him doing some things for a while.

I had the pleasure of serving with Red also a number of years on some of the National Marine Fisheries Service Marine Mammal Take Reduction Teams. I can tell you he did an excellent job in representing the state of North Carolina and the fishermen in North Carolina not only in take team deliberations but also in deliberations at this council on species that also occur up into the Mid-Atlantic Region.

I don't know how long Red has served for North Carolina, but I seem to recall if memory serves right when I was just a little kid, six or seven years old, that he was working for North Carolina, so I know it has been a long time. We certainly want to take this opportunity while we're meeting in North Carolina to recognize Red for his years of dedicated service.

At this time we have a little memento that we want to give Red to remember us by. We have got a little box here that says, "Proudly presented by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council to Red Munden for his distinguished service as the Mid-Atlantic Council Liaison to the South Atlantic Council, September 2012."

If Red will come forward, I would like to present this to Red on behalf of the council. Thank you very much, Red. It has been a pleasure and we're going to miss you and wish you all the best. (Applause) Red said it was 43 years so I'm not as old as I thought I was. Okay, I want to go ahead and do a roll call and then we will get into our public comment period. Michelle.

DR. DUVAL: Present.

DR. LANEY: Wilson Laney, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

MS. BECKWITH: Anna Beckwith, North Carolina.

MR. BURGESS: Tom Burgess, North Carolina.

MR. JOLLEY: John Jolley, Florida.

MR. AMICK: Steve Amick, Georgia.

MR. PHILLIPS: Charlie Phillips, Georgia.

MR. HAYMANS: Doug Haymans, Georgia.

MR. MAHOOD: Bob Mahood, council staff.

MR. CUPKA: David Cupka, South Carolina.

MR. HARTIG: Ben Hartig, Florida.

MR. BELL: Mel Bell, South Carolina.

MR. SWATZEL: Tom Swatzel, South Carolina.

MR. PATE: Preston Pate; I am the liaison from the Mid-Atlantic Council and I'm also from North Carolina.

DR. CRABTREE: Roy Crabtree, NOAA Fisheries.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: Monica Smit-Brunello, NOAA General Counsel.

MR. STEELE: Phil Steele, NOAA Fisheries.

DR. PONWITH: Bonnie Ponwith, NOAA Fisheries.

MR. BOYD: Doug Boyd with the Gulf Council from Texas.

MR. EASLEY: Otha Easley, NOAA Office of Law Enforcement.

MS. BADEMAN: Martha Bademan, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

LT. FISHER: Brandon Fisher, Coast Guard.

LCDR GIBSON: Scot Gibson, Coast Guard District 7.

MR. CUPKA: Okay, we will go ahead into our public comment period now. We will conduct this as we normally do. The first person I have is Rusty Hudson.

**MR. HUDSON:** Good morning, Chairman Cupka, and thank you for the opportunity. My name is Rusty Hudson. I am president of Directed Sustainable Fisheries here representing the East Coast Fisheries Section. We constructed ten comments over the past several weeks, which we submitted I believe on time for council consideration. Everybody should have had copies of it and I hope you had a chance to review our position. I know some of you have had dialogue with me about that. Without going into a great deal of discussion about everything, the two that might be a little problematic for you is what had been Coral Amendment 7 is now Coral Amendment 8 on the Oculina Habitat Area of Concern Expansion from Cape Canaveral up towards St. Augustine.

We oppose any proposed expansion at this time until our legitimate concerns are vetted hopefully with a joint meeting of the Coral Advisory Panel, the Habitat Advisory Panel, the Deepwater Shrimp Advisory Panel and the Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel in particular that had not had a chance on their agenda at the recent meeting to really vet those situations. I did have an opportunity at the end of the business at the advisory panel to express our concerns. The item wasn't in the briefing book but under the Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel we had submitted our comments on an upcoming Regulatory Amendment 14 and that particular document was about eight pages long. Without getting into any of the details, I hope you read it all.

The next comment that was on your items to send to the secretary for review, Regulatory Amendment 13, we did have some concern about the rigidity of the end date of what was known as Boyles' Law; according to Roy eventually might be known as Bell's Law. That was a humorous thing that was stated back in Florida. Otherwise, we do approve of moving forward with that at this time simply because these ACLs and stuff with MRIP do need to be revisited and all that is implied by that. With Regulatory Amendment 15, we also agree to sending our preferred comments to the Secretary of Commerce for secretarial review. The first two actions had to deal with yellowtail snapper. We don't have issues with that. We are very supportive of the gentlemen down there in South Florida that rely on that particular fishery. You used an emergency rule to increase that particular quota recently and we also submitted a support letter on the emergency rule to Katie Michie. That increases that particular quota up to 1.6 million pounds.

Snapper Grouper Amendment 27, now we didn't have anybody to really submit that to except Phil Steele because his name was in the text and I didn't really have a decision document to really work off of, but essentially we are supportive of Action 6, Alternative 2; Action 7, Alternative 2; Action 8, Alternative 2 as preferreds. We have a little bit of concerns with the Nassau grouper situation because of the recent listing. Because Actions 1 through 5 in Amendment 7 were considered but rejected and put into that appendix; no issues there because the Gulf Council failed to make any movement on yellowtail and mutton snapper at their October meeting.

I know that we made some modifications or we, the council, made some modifications on that particular amendment and to go forward with those changes. We're supportive of that at this time. We will submit further comments during the public hearings. Amendment 28, to be able to go forward for the next season for the mini-seasons for both recreational and commercial, I know some modifications were done. Instead of the September opening, which would be the end of the spawning period in most areas, instead we're going to be looking at July just in case of some weather effect stuff. We definitely were not supportive of no action. We definitely want to go forward with having the ability to take those animals.

In defense of the spawning season, it does give the opportunity for the scientists not only get otoliths, which just work as they do, but to also be able to deal with the repros and stuff like that. That analysis is very important when we get to the 2014 stock assessment. Comprehensive Amendment 3, CE-BA 3, that was a 12-page comment and we did have a great deal of heartburn over situations, particularly not knowing if funding would be in place, particularly when you have nearly 700 snapper grouper permits; 123 of them are 225-pound trip limits; and the other nearly 500 and some odd are unlimited.

To require these people to put out the money first to buy the unit, to install the unit and to be able to develop the service for the unit, the outlay is probably going to be in the neighborhood of 32 to \$3,800 per person. It may take a couple of months to get their money back. Some may be having to exit the fishery. That was Action 4. Action 3 had to do with your ACCSP implementation. We have a concern there because there is no funding in place for that situation. Going on, since we're just about through, we submitted comment on the vermilion snapper update assessment. We are definitely supportive of any increases of the catch for both sectors. With the red porgy update assessment, being that was the very first SEDAR assessment, Table 24 I had included in my comment, we had a little bit of a heart attack when Luiz had said we were going to get zero pounds, but that got clarified. Gregg did a good job of explaining that we do have a rebuilding pattern in place, and I would rather see us just stay at the current allocation because at least the council listened and we have a full benchmark in the mix.

The last thing had to do with P-rebuild. It was real hard for the industry to get their brains around 50 percent and 62.5 percent and 66 percent. It is quite obvious that it hurts us next year and the following year with the projections that were given to us, and that is another loss of income, and I will guarantee you the recreational and commercial will not understand that. I would hope when the update assessment is available to the SSC April 9<sup>th</sup> that gets revisited to make sure that we do not have a decrease but based on the catch-per-unit efforts through the last

couple of years, both in the independent and dependent fisheries, that we see a significant increase to be able to keep fishermen fishing. With that, I will wrap it up. Thank you.

**MS. GASKILL:** I am Sandra Gaskill. I am from Harper's Island. My husband is a commercial fisherman in the snapper grouper fishery. Why I'm here I want to comment on the vessel monitoring system. I do not think that all commercial vessels should be equipped with a vessel monitoring system. You have heard the old saying this is the LAPD at their finest. Well, this would be the National Marine Fisheries at their worst if this was put on the commercial fishermen. The commercial fishermen have been forced to do many things in many fisheries to stay in compliance with everything that you as the council have decided for them is the right thing to do. It is the right thing for the fish but is it the right thing – is the right thing for the fish or is it the right thing for you?

Commercial fishermen should not be forced to buy or put these expensive monitoring systems on their boats. You are treating us like law-breakers, all of us, and we have pride, too. We don't have to be watched like convicts only to have tracking devices – they only have tracking devices on their ankles. When they're along the road picking up trash or something, they have tracking devices on their ankles. This will be tracking devices put on the boats with captains and crew aboard. Punish only the ones that are going in these marine protected areas. Most of these fishermen do not go in these areas and go by the law because they don't want a ticket or lose their permits.

Now I have a question for the council. Why is it that the commercial fishermen, you're thinking by putting these tracking devices on them, but why not the recreational fishermen. Why do they have more priority than the commercial man? They are out there in more numbers than commercial fishermen has ever been and they're catching fish and they're maybe going in these marine protected areas. Don't just look at me, the commercial fisherman, as saying we are doing wrong. We have trip tickets. The recreational fishermen should have trip tickets available for to show what they catch.

They have boats and I know it by a fact that under the holds of their boats they have got compartments that are full of fish when they go out and catch whatever they want, and they are filleted and put in these boxes underneath the deck of the boat. I suggest the Coast Guard might want to check underneath. I feel like if you're going to put these vessel monitoring systems on the commercial fishermen, and I hope and pray you don't, because my husband has been working for 47 years in the water and he has never had no one to follow him because he is out there making a living and feeding his family.

The recreational fishermen, they're not out there feeding their families. They're out there to do as they wish to do and they don't want the commercial fishermen in the water not whatsoever. Well, that water is a public resource and it belongs to all of us. We shouldn't be tagged by a monitoring system to say that we have the right to make a living and make money out of the water to feed our families and pay our bills. I hope you all consider this when you make your decisions and please don't put this monitoring system on those commercial fishermen. It is going to be a devastating debt. Yes, you know you say you're going to pay it back, but when we

will we get the money? If you don't have money for observers to go on these boats, you won't have money to give me for a monitoring system. Thank you.

**MR. BRAME:** Good morning; I'm Dick Brame with the Coastal Conservation Association. I'm here to speak in opposition to a motion you passed at the end of snapper grouper yesterday regarding transferred unused recreational quota to the commercial industry. First, there is a little bit of history here and it was cited in the limited discussion you all had about the issue with bluefish in the Mid-Atlantic. I went back and looked at that plan last night. That was an artifact of an ASMFC plan before it was a joint Mid-Atlantic/ASMFC plan. It allowed the transfer of some bluefish quota to the commercial side if the recreational guys didn't catch theirs up to think 10 million pounds. What it functionally did is change the allocation from 83/13 to 50/50 during the rebuilding period.

We were told we were going to have a bag limit on recreational fishermen and a size limit some years in order to restore the fishery so that in the future we could share in the fruits of that recovery and have a larger bag and size limit. Well, the fish were taken from us as the stock was rebuilding. It is still a very bitter, bitter pill to swallow for many of us in the Mid-Atlantic and South Atlantic. I think the same thing would happen here if you chose to move unused gag quota to the recreational side, especially since you've cut out four months of the season, which we supported, it is a spawning season closure, and you reduced the bag limit to one gag grouper. During a recession it is no surprise that there is not that much effort or that much catch with such a reduced bag and a reduced season.

Instead of looking as your first move moving the quota over to the commercial side, why not examine ways to increase the recreational catch if that is appropriate. Just increase the bag limit and maybe open a month of the season, I don't know, but why not have that as an option rather a carte blanche just we're going to change the quota over. I think it will not be well received. I think you will get a lot of comments about it and it will create a lot of angst. I would urge you to reconsider that vote yesterday and change it to figure out a way to allow the recreational fishermen to catch their part of the quota. If you're going to change the allocation, then say that is what you want to do, let's change the allocation and have that discussion, but don't just sort of slide if back and forth. Never mind all the problems that are inherent with – I can't even wrap my mind around exactly how you would do that, but it appears to be something that is done at the end of a meeting and not in the full light of day. I would hope you would reconsider that and come up with a better option. Thank you.

**MR. COX:** My name is Jack Cox. I'm from Morehead City. I've been fishing since 1979 out of Morehead. I've done some charter fishing in Hatteras in the early nineties. I'm in the wholesale/retail business. We do the best we can to support our local community and our local fishermen. I would just like to say that these are tough times right now. At the start of our snapper grouper meeting, I heard John over there say something about flexibility, and flexibility during these times is exactly what we need. When we go fishing and when we're catching vermilion snappers and we're having to throw back these red snappers and we're throwing back triggerfish and they're not making it, to me it is just simply poor management. I mean, it is just not working.



We've got to find a way in what we're doing here to be able to access all the species or a lot of them while we're out fishing. If we have dead discards, we certainly need to be able to bring those discards in and not look like a criminal when we do it. You catch a nice fish and you see that thing floating off behind the boat, that is the flexibility I'm talking about. We have got to find a way to work through that. I'm not in favor of the mini-seasons. It just seems like the mini-seasons just don't do us a lot of justice. It is like the gag season that opened for a week; we had three hours of fishing out of seven days. It would certainly seem like it would make more sense to take the underage on that particular species and let us catch that maybe the following season or let us have the gags as a little bit of a bycatch during the shallow water grouper season next year.

Then I want to talk about something here that I really don't understand why there is so much resistance, but the VMS system I feel like there is not enough education done on it. I think that – you know, I have heard fishermen saying it is a spying mechanism. I've heard fishermen saying that they don't want to give away their locations on where they're fishing, and I certainly understand that because a fisherman's location where he is catching fish is like a bank account to you guys. It is very important that the fishermen know how that information would be used. I think it goes back to educating on what VMS is all about and why it would even be considered. I have no problem myself putting VMS on my boat. I have talked to the longline captains that come to our dock. I talked to the guys in New England in the groundfish fishery. The AP has asked you guys for it. The enforcement has asked for it.

I just think there needs to be some education done on it. A vessel monitoring system means it is not a camera, but what it means is it is a tracking device and does let law enforcement know when there is a vessel coming in. When we have a trip limit on a certain species and we know somebody is going over the trip limit, well, it doesn't put us on a fair playing field. We all want to fish longer seasons. We want to stay at sea as long as possible, and what it does is it says, okay, well, I'm being accountable. This boat that comes in with 2,000 pounds of vermilions, maybe he won't do that and that will allow us to catch more fish later in the season. I see benefit of VMS.

I know the longline guys said that they weren't interested in it, but now I guarantee you that you would have a hard time taking it from them because they use it to communicate with their families, for texting. They use it to let the fish dealers know when they're coming in, what they have on board. I will certainly say that if the money is there to provide for that, I would love to put one on my boat now. The guys that want it, let us get it because I think eventually we're going to have to have it, especially if we're talking about these MPAs. And then the electronic logbooks; I have been using them for a long time. It certainly helps us with data. You guys can find out when these seasons are going to close early. I think it is something that we need to move forward on. I think the electronic logbooks, just like Ms. Gaskill was saying, the recreational sector needs to come here and say, hey, we want to be accountable as well. We want you guys to know what we're catching.

This doesn't need to be just about the commercial industry. I mean you guys know everything that we're catching and what we're getting for the stuff. The recreational sector at some point in time needs to do the same thing. I mean it is not right. I do want to commend the council for the

Visionary Workshop and Dr. Duval for putting that into place at this meeting. I think it went very well. I am certainly looking forward to seeing you guys follow through with and who is on the committee and how we can get to some of these places that I'm talking about. Also, I would like to commend the council on taking the trigger mechanism for our shallow water grouper complex, taking that gag mechanism that shut down our red groupers and our scamps out of place because we can certainly in North Carolina go catch red groupers and catch scamp groupers without a whole lot of interaction on the gags. Please get that in place as soon as possible and let us catch the rest of that ACL. Thank you.

**MR. McCAFFITY:** My name is Chris McCaffity. I am from Morehead City. Thank you for giving me a chance to give my comments. I would like to thank the council as well for taking that trigger mechanism out for shallow water grouper. You guys are listening to us, I believe. I would like to encourage my fellow fishermen to continue giving these comments and don't just think that it doesn't matter what you say because it really does. We need to talk with the council. We might not like this in a perfect world the way things are done, but this is what we have to deal with. The reality of the situation; we need to put our comments out there and make them heard and work within the guidelines of what the fishery managers have to work with, too.

That being said, I want to let you know that I oppose expanding or creating any new MPAs. The ones we have in place now, what we need to do is enhance them with artificial reef habitat to enhance the fish. You know, if want Warsaw grouper, put a big structure there that they can live on. Then you will have more Warsaw grouper living in those existing MPAs. We need to mark those with some sort of a visual marker, a data collection platform or a data buoy, even. That way we have data buoys out there and not put them in place on the MPAs so that fishermen know that is where it is and we don't go inside of that area. If you can see it, then you're too close. Then you could also have cameras on that to monitor the MPAs and make sure that we stay out of them.

You could also with radar make sure that we stay out of MPAs. Then that would cover everyone and not just the commercial sector, because I'm pretty sure the Magnuson-Stevens Act requires that when you do something to one sector it has to be applied to all. If you want to keep us out of these, just close them to all fishing. Don't let them go in there and troll, don't go do anything, stay out of the MPA, period, everyone. If we are caught going in the MPA, then put the monitoring device on us, force that on them as a punishment. Don't just punish all of us because a few bad apples make us look bad. We're not all criminals and we should not be treated as such. Then with the spy cameras on the boats to make sure that we're throwing away all of these fish during closed seasons and due to size limits – you know, Bonnie had a point last night about a full retention fishery. I support that. That is what my goal is, is that we have a full retention fishery managed with possession limits that are adjusted to levels that fill each individual quota without a long closure.

Then you can target fish with the high limit while still keeping those that you accidentally catch with lower limits; and if at the end of the trip you still have a few of the fish with lower quotas that you can keep, fine, go catch them, but that way you basically have no waste in the fishery. You get an accurate count of what is being killed and we should be allowed to keep more of our total allowable catch that way because you do not have to factor in the dead regulatory discards.

I would like to see that term used more often, regulatory discards replaced with bycatch. Bycatch is a bonus. When you catch something you're not targeting and you take it in, you can sell and you can make money for it. If you're forced by law to discard it, it is a regulatory discard. It is a government mandated waste of the resource.

That is what we need to get away from is wasting these resources. These are fish; they are gifts from God that he gave us to feed people with. If we manage them properly, they will be there forever. In our South Atlantic fishery we can have more fish than were there in the virgin fishery through the use of artificial reef habitat. Any new MPAs and even the existing ones should be offset with equal areas of artificial reef habitat. Also, the gag quota, you're planning next year to reduce that based on closing it early because you're not going to reduce the quota after a certain percentage has been caught. Why would you do that? Why not just manage the quota like you're talking about doing with some species up to 50 or 75 percent of quota, then adjust it to a level that fills the quota without a long closure.

You don't have the waste then; everything is legal to keep. The Magnuson Act requires that we make wise use of the resource, limit regulatory discards and promote the safety of fishermen at sea. Doing this with all of this waste, where we have to discard so much of what we're catching forces us to stay at sea longer in the worse weather as we try to make enough money to pay the bills, and that compromises our safety to the point that people are dying and they're at least being hurt in many cases. That is what pushed me into getting so involved in this was that I was fishing within miles of a man that lost his life as a direct result of the closures because we are required to fish out there and farther offshore than we should have been in that weather because we couldn't come inside and catch black sea bass or gags or whatever was in the shallower water. Anyway, I appreciate you guys taking the time to listen to me. I do feel like our voice is being heard. Again, I encourage my fellow fishermen please do give your comments. They do matter. If you don't want these vessel monitoring systems, we have to speak up. If we say nothing, they will be put in place on us. Thank you.

**MR. MATHIS:** My name is Bill Mathis. I own the fishing vessel Endangered Species out of Morehead City, North Carolina. The first thing I want to talk about is these tracking devices. I don't think we need them. People say you can't do this, you can't do that. The places I fish, if it is a computer, people can get into it and they can find out where you're fishing at. That is just like your savings account. Are you going to give me your numbers to your savings account and say, here, here is your numbers. It will be same thing, no difference. You say, well, they can't do it. They do it all the time with everything. Another thing I would like to talk about is the closures to everything. Like right now we cannot catch nothing but 120 pinkies and a hundred pounds of snowies. You can't make a living. That is four months out of the year we cannot make a living.

You cannot buy fuel, bait and ice and go out there and catch 120 pinkies and a hundred pound of snowies and make a living. It is not possible. This past year I lost my house on account of rules and regulations and it weren't right. What you're all doing, you're not looking at the overall people. You don't care; all we're worried about is the fish. Well, you've got to give something about the fishermen. You're ruining my business, every one of us, and it is not right. When you all make these laws, you make them – when I was out fishing this past trip, I had to go try to

make – total with my crew, after paying expenses, I made \$300; \$300 for four days, three people. That ain't making money.

You go out there and you're throwing away more than you're catching. B-liners, throwing them out; why; we can't keep them. You all are trying to save the fishery and honestly you're killing the fisheries. I'm throwing back more than I'm catching. You've got to give us a bycatch or something because I hate to pull fish up and watch them float off. Well, you say you vent them, they're going to go back down. Excuse me, less than 10 percent of them go back down. I have been doing it for 40 years. Forty years I have fished and I have seen it all go downhill since they have closed the pinkies back 15 years ago. There is more fish out there right now than there has ever been. Let us catch some. If you need to get a quota on them that you catch so many per trip, so many pounds per trip, whatever, that way you're not killing fish. It ain't helping nobody; it ain't helping y'all; it ain't helping the fish because you're throwing them away. Let the people keep them to make a living; have a bycatch. That's about all I got to say. Thank you.

**MR. MATHIS:** How y'all doing today, folks? My name is Gilbert Mathis. I'm from Morehead City; I'm a commercial fisherman for 40 years, and I'm against the VMS. The VMS is not really good for a commercial fisherman. If you're going to put it on a commercial fisherman, you need to put it on all the fishermen. You just can't – really, to me it is like discrimination against commercial fishermen putting a VMS that he has got to pay for. If I got to fish these areas like that, everybody should have to. Everybody should have to have one on a boat. It is just not good to single the commercial fishermen out.

I went fishing last week. I want to tell you about the throw-backs. I fished in deepwater 320 feet last trip. I threw away over \$4,000 worth of fish; approximately 8 to 900 pounds of B-liners, yelloweyes and grouper. It is a sin to close these fisheries down, put a quota on them and then close them down and then I got to throw them back. I'm throwing back more than I can keep. I get to keep maybe three or four hundred pound of fish a trip. It is wintertime; people are out of jobs. I'm just trying to keep a job so I can support my family and pay my bills. This is not happening and I say it is mismanagement of the fishery. You all need to come back to the table and think about common sense fishing.

You know, we're not out there to just kill fish. We're out there to make a living and it is hard to make a living the way you all manage this fishery. So many closures are in place all the time, it is a closure three or months, cut everything out early, it is just like the – we had the overage on the groupers. You let us have eight days to catch them. Well, that eight days, we couldn't catch them because the wind was blowing, but you say 98 percent was caught because the people in Florida, they had the better weather than we've got. We don't have that weather here in North Carolina. We shouldn't be grouped with Florida or Georgia. We should be grouped with South Carolina and North Carolina. The weather patterns are different. The water is a lot warmer down there than it is here this time of year.

People don't take into consideration about these weather patterns and stuff. We have to make a living, and the way it is right now I just say it is complete mismanagement of this whole council for the fishing industry. Maybe you should put trip limits in for each species. You know, give us a trip limit and then we won't have to worry about all these closures. I like to make my bills

just like anybody else does. I like to make my house payment. I want to pay my light bill. The way it is right now we're talking about jobs, they ain't no jobs; well, you're putting me out of a job. I need a job. I'm willing to work, but the way the fisheries are I can't make a living doing it. I lost a seafood business during this time for regulations.

All you people that is putting in a regulation; I lost a fish house; a hundred thousand dollar business down the drain that I worked for. Nobody give it to me; I worked for it. I work for everything I get. I'm not here for a handout. I just want you all to use some common sense when you all are managing this fishery. You need to look at a lot closer than what you're looking at it. Putting closures, it takes people's lives, it tears their lives apart, just like it is doing mine. When you can't – I went fishing this week and I didn't have enough money to pay my house payment because the fisheries are closed. You close things down in order what they should be and it's terrible. I wish you all would think about what you're doing when you're on this council and you think about people's lives up and down, you know what I mean. You've got to. We ain't here to lie. It just like the VMS; we write down on what we throw back on that trip limit. We're not liars. I tell the truth, you know, try to tell the truth about what it is. We have got a great fishery. The fish are in abundance but I have to three or four thousand dollars back every trip, every trip I go. Thank you for your consideration.

**MR. FEX:** My name is Kenny Fex; owner and captain of the fishing vessel Raw Bar. I made my comments on the AP the other day. I thank the council for choosing a very good AP. I would like to thank the council members that attended that was there to help facilitate and answer some of the questions because there were several questions. I attended the SSC meeting on the stock assessment. John Carmichael came to the AP and answered a couple of questions. I wasn't too happy on the MARMAP studies pretty much driving the indices of abundance on the red porgy assessment, but that is my opinion, the need for an independent research. Then Nick Farmer did his presentation and I noted he made some comments about regulations.

One of the regulations you guys haven't taken into consideration was the longline industry. I got shut down and transferred out to 50 fathoms back in '92 and then a couple of years later you took snowies out of it. Well, then you took that gear that went offshore in the deeper water and then you took it off the hard bottom where the snowies were, so pretty much longline gear is out of the fishery, and that was a pretty predominant gear that would catch the larger Warsaws and Kitty Mitchells in the deeper water. That was one thing you should take into consideration. Michelle Duval attended the meeting and made a comment at the AP meeting about the visionary. Well, a couple of years ago the AP had talked about a financial game plan. This is what we called it.

Zack Bowen commented that he would like his recreational fishery from May until October and that is understandable. That is when his recreational charter industry happens. The AP agreed on an eight-month fishery and starting everything in May since grouper and red porgy started then; and start all unassessed fish right after the end of the year and that way we would get away from these discards and the issue that we're having with the stock assessments where our landings are becoming less valuable in stock assessments because you're missing the CPUE because of delay in the regulations. That way we don't have a standard catch-per-unit effort so that is a concern with me knowing that MARMAP is going to be driving all our assessments.

In that meeting we made comments about the long-term consideration for sustainable management. Well, one of the comments was reducing uncertainty in stock assessments all data used in management matters, so all we're looking for is better data. That is why we made that comment or the AP's motion to try to get a stamp for the recreational fishermen to find out truly how many people are actually recreational fishermen. Well, I talked to a few state people and I think that could be actually used in the MRFSS data to try to grasp or behold how much were being caught.

The same thing on the charter industry, the AP made a motion to mandate reporting for the for-hire vessels that would get better data for that. One of the rationales is if you noticed the P-star are percentage cuts, the tier down and a lot is done with uncertainty. Well, if we secure more data we will have less cuts in the P-star, so that is one thing that you consider. Towards the trip limit on vermilion – Charlie, this is directed right at you, Buddy – what happens is we get cut out. The fishery gets shortened. A thousand pound trip limit is reasonable. Charlie made his point that a thousand pounds at three dollars a pound is only \$3,000 worth of fish and his boat can't sustain that. Well, if you notice, the fishery is a multi-fishery species. Vermilion only consist of about one-third of my actual take home. If you drop the limit down to a thousand pounds, we're inevitably extending the season, which we all would like to happen because we all would like to keep fishing. I think that is actually a reasonable amount and especially since the large vessel is only pretty much 20 percent of the fishery. We deal with mainly the 30- to 40-foot range of vessels in this South Atlantic fishery. I would hope you consider that as an option. I thank you for your time.

**MS. THOMPSON:** Good morning; I am Laurilee Thompson and I am co-owner of Dixie Crossroads Seafood Restaurant in Titusville, Florida. I would like to thank the council for setting up a joint meeting between the Coral AP and the Deepwater Shrimp AP. It was the best South Atlantic meeting I've ever been to. There were four council members who also attended and that was much appreciated because they were able to see how people with opposing interests were able to get in the same room and listen to each other and talk things out and come to some good conclusions. Before you take Coral Amendment 8 out to the public comment, I would like to see you have another joint meeting with all five of the APs that are affected by Coral Amendment 8, and that would be the Coral, Habitat, Law Enforcement, Snapper Grouper and the Deepwater Shrimp APs.

Each AP should be allowed to make their presentation so that the others can see how they're going to be affected by all of the different choices. I know it will be a lot for staff to handle, but you guys keep saying that you don't have money for this and you don't have money for that. To me having a meeting where you'd have all the APs together would be a lot more productive than having two APs meet here and two APs meet there and you're spending twice as much money to set up hotel rooms and stuff. In fact, you could have the meeting at my restaurant and I wouldn't even charge you a room charge. There are ways that you all can be creative and save some money, but this would be the fastest and the most fair way to get everybody together to come to some conclusions.

The people on the Snapper Grouper AP, they haven't even been involved in this process yet, and yet this Coral Amendment 8 greatly impacts a huge traditional fishing area that boats all the way

from Canaveral to St. Augustine use. Splitting the APs up, I heard it was suggested that the Coral AP and the Habitat Committee would meet and that the Deepwater Shrimp and Snapper Grouper Committee would meet; that is not productive. You're just like spinning your wheels because those APs, we're pretty much in agreement. You should have the Coral AP; they should be meeting with the Snapper Grouper AP, not the Habitat AP. That makes zero sense and you're just wasting money. Every AP needs to know how every alternative affects the other APS.

The new map that the staff proposed for the northern expansion of the Oculina HAPC, it looks different than what the Coral AP and the Deepwater Shrimp AP agreed on, we both agreed on in our joint meeting, and I would ask council if you could please take a look at the eastern boundary of the northern expansion from about halfway down, all the way down to the existing box to see is there some way that you can adjust it. I know that the boundary was moved out on the northern to protect some pinnacles that were up there on the north that kind of stuck out a little bit, but we're not in agreement with the way the line is drawn on the south end. It takes away some very productive rock shrimp trawls that are on the mud bottom, and I don't see any reason why that line has to be extended out to 110 meters down there.

The northern expansion of the Oculina HAPC is going to divide the area where the rock shrimpers work and so it is imperative that a transit provision is included so that the boats can cross the Oculina protected area with rock shrimp on board. We support Alternative 3 or Coral Amendment 8, Action 2. A lot of discussion took place to get the wording in that version and that is the one we want to move forward with. Before you move forward with planning more MPAs, I would ask that you consider how the northern expansion of the Oculina HAPC is going to affect the fishery. When you take away the ability to anchor in the Steeples, you are going to really greatly reduce the amount of fishing pressure that takes place out there.

We note the Coral Committee has often said that one of the reasons it needs to be protected is because there is Warsaw and speckled hind grouper out there, please, before you add to the MPAs – and I like Chris' suggestion, too, of enhancing the MPAs, but before we add to the MPAs please take a look at what is already in place. Then, finally, the restaurants and the suppliers are impacted by your decisions just as much as the fishermen. My family has been in the restaurant business for 40 years now and our reputation has been built on serving excellent domestic seafood. We do not serve imported seafood. It continues to get harder and harder to have a consistent supply. When tilefish opens up, it is like, oh, great, we have tilefish now. By the time I get my guests used to eating tilefish – because it is an education process with your customers. They want grouper.

They all know grouper and everybody that comes to Florida they want to eat grouper so you've got to educate them on tilefish. By the time I get them to where they're actually asking for tilefish, boom, the season is over, and there is no grouper. I'm going to ask you to do anything that you can to extend some of these seasons. If you have got to make trips have less poundage or whatever – I think the tilefish trip now is 4,000 and you could take it down to 2,500 or 3,000 and it wouldn't hurt the boats that much and it would help extend the season. Better yet would be two weeks and two weeks off. You could conceivably double the length of the tilefish season just with something simple like that and it would really help the restaurants and suppliers. It would help the boats be able to fish longer, too. Thank you.

**MR. EDIE:** My name is Jimmy Edie. I am from Morehead City. I run the fishing vessel Zigzag. I've been a commercial fisherman for about 25 years. I strongly oppose the black boxes to track us because we can just go ahead and call the Coast Guard when we leave the inlet and let them know we're going out fishing and what our intentions are and when we will be back and let them know. Like Ms. Sandy said, if you want to treat us like criminals, that is when to do it, but I don't think it is necessary, because, you know, if you've got a record of doing it, that would be one thing; but if not you can let the Coast Guard know because you've got to go right by the inlet when you go out and right by the inlet when you come in, and it ain't no big deal to put some box on us that would be to track us.

For another reason, anybody that has got a laptop on their boat, that has got the software to get in it, can track anybody and just write down the GPS numbers where they stop, put it in their book. And then I go down here in South Carolina, track them, just go to their places, hit their places, go to another area, and it is not right. I think the South Atlantic Council should be split up where South Carolina and North Carolina or actually North Carolina separated from all three of them because all the boats up from Morehead City and Wilmington most of time stay from Wilmington on up toward Morehead City. We go up to Ocracoke and Hatteras, but maybe that is about it. I think like she said, I think that the stocks, instead of having where we have the closures and all, just, you know, five, six, seven hundred pounds for all the species, have a bycatch and just do it that way on the stuff that we catch accidentally that way to make up for it. Ain't none of us want to catch no little fish. We want to keep them growing. We'll throw them back. We want to keep the decent sized fish.

You know, most of the little fish, they go back down if you're in the shallow water; and the deep water, they'll go down, they'll come right back out. Once you get off anchor, they will come right back up to the top and float right off. Most of them float right off. There is very few that go down, and all the ones that do go down, they're going to get eat up by other animals. They're away from their habitat. We're talking about like three, four, five, six hundred foot of water. That's all I've got to say.

**MR. HARRIS:** Guys, my name is Andy Harris. Thanks for letting me talk. I live in Key West. I'm a full-time fireman and then I work on an ambulance as well as a paramedic. I'm just new to this. I'm just getting into it. Let me tell you it is awfully expensive. I'm way over-budget already trying to get into this. I do have a license down in Key West. I spearfish and I also yellowtail snapper. We talk about bycatch – and I was listening to the gentleman talk about throwing out \$4,000 worth of fish and how he made \$300 in four days of fishing. I find that unacceptable. To me that is just horrible. It is hard work; it is expensive. I just couldn't imagine just going out and doing that and he had been at it for 40 years. It is really, really amazing that happens.

The VMS, it is almost as if it is an ankle bracelet for us; you know, we're going out and we're wearing the ankle bracelets. I don't break the law; I abide by it. I find that usually the people that are breaking these laws are recreational and they're coming in with over their limits. They don't buy these licenses. They're weekend warriors is what we call them. They come out and they really rape it and they really hit it hard, and we're the ones that pay for this. We pay a lot of money if we're caught at it. Like I said, I'm new at this, but this is something I want to do down



the road. Like I said, I'm a full-time fire department and then I work on an ambulance. I have a day off here and there. Then once a month I come up here.

I give credit to you guys that have been at this, and I just see it being a dying breed. There are not that many licenses out there. The offenders that I usually see are what I call weekend warriors; they're the recreational. I'm not pinpointing and saying that it is everybody, that it is the commercial that follows the law but I'm sure all these people that I have been meeting do follow it. It is a shame that we're going down this road. But the VMS, I think a solution could be is if you're caught breaking the law, then, okay, then you've got to get a VMS. Why make people have to have a VMS or why even think that if we're following the law and we're abiding by these rules.

If someone breaks it, then put that ankle bracelet on them and make them have it, but just to say, you know, or even think that we should have these, I just think is a big mistake and big expense that I can't afford right now. I mean, I'm a fireman and I'm not rich by any means, but I'm putting a lot of money out there right now to be able to try to do this and hopefully it pans out, but we will see. I want to have this for the future for when I retire. I just think that is a mistake. I don't really have bycatch. The closure of grouper; I don't have bycatch. I go down and I know what I'm shooting at. I see the gag was closed earlier this year, so all the other ones are closed, but I also see that a fisherman is out there throwing \$4,000 away and just throwing it back in the ocean. It just blows my mind. Thanks for listening and hopefully you won't consider this VMS. Thanks, guys.

**MR. TUCKER:** Good afternoon. My name is David Tucker. It is actually pretty good that I went right after Andy because I'm just 33 years old. I got an economics degree from UNC-Chapel Hill in 2001 and got an MPA from East Carolina in 2004. When I was in college and graduate school, I was down fishing with my partner, Jack. We made a game plan to come in and support local fishermen and sell local seafood to restaurants and local consumers that wanted to eat local North Carolina seafood. We specialize in these fish we're talking about here, black grouper, red grouper, vermilion snappers, triggerfish. I'm a hundred percent vested in this industry, and I want to do this for my whole life. I've got a one-year-old little boy and another one coming in January. I want them to be able to do this.

I don't want to get into my life. I don't want to talk about how frustrating it is not to be able to fish because we have heard that from Gilbert and these other fishermen. I want to use my educational background to talk to you guys about things that are not being really considered. I walked into Walgreen's in Morehead City on Saturday with my wife. There is a waitress at a high-end restaurant in Beaufort, North Carolina. She came up to me and she was so upset because the restaurant she works at is closing for two or three months this winter. The restaurant has never closed before in ten years of business I have done with him. This particular restaurant has been a big business selling day-boat black grouper. He can't get day-boat black grouper anymore. He is having to sell speckled trout on his menu.

His customers are not wanting – they come in to eat grouper. I have other restaurants that sell triggerfish. They say on a given night they might do 50 dinners and 30 or 40 people order just the triggerfish. Now people are coming into these restaurants and they are walking out and

going to eat at Applebee's or Outback Steak House because these small family owned businesses, these small restaurants, they have nothing to set themselves apart from the chain restaurants. They only get black grouper for a few months out of the year. They only get triggerfish for a few months out of the year.

This one restaurant in Beaufort, this is just one restaurant of 30 different restaurants I deal with just in Carteret County. These chefs are so frustrated; I've tried to get them to come here. I can't get them to come here. They're just trying to work and trying to hang on and trying to stay in business. They going to let 10 and 20 people off work; they're going to have to let them go, going on the unemployment line. These are people that are not directly in the fishing business. These are just waitresses and cooks that are losing jobs because of all this. I just really want you guys to understand that, that it is not just the fishermen that are suffering. Jack and I have nine full-time and part-time employees. How can we continue to keep our employees employed when we don't have local seafood to sell? We don't want to have to buy fish from Panama and Mexico and places like that. We want to use local seafood. We're not saying that we have got to have tons and tons of fish. We have got to have fish year-round to be able to stay in business. We can't make it just in five or six months out of the year.

We have got to have fish year-round. That is a big thing now. People want to eat local, they want to support local people, and it is impossible to do right now with the way the fishery is set up. I'll close with just – I want you guys to really think about the long-term fishery. It is going away. I have been doing it the last ten years. I'm seeing it just declining. It is just going away because of these regulations. Let people work, let people fish, let them do it year-round. People have great ideas here. Take these into account and let us work. Thank you.

**MR. RAMBEAUT:** My name is Ricky Rambeaut. I run a boat called Pez Bello. Pez Bello is supposed to "beautiful fish", but it ain't beautiful no more because there is not the money to sustain it like it used to be. Excuse me, I'm not a very good speaker, but I'm trying to be. If North Carolina don't stand up and have a regional – take care of their own you ain't going to have no more fishermen here. We are in with Florida and Georgia and the rest of the crowd who has got warm water. All the fish goes south, as you know that, and we're sitting up here sustaining no fishery at all, more or less. I think it is time for you all to go looking out for us in North Carolina or you ain't going to have no fishermen and you ain't going to have no restaurants or no fish dealers or nothing else. You all can take for what you want, but I have raised three boys and me and my wife ain't been on a vacation in about 25 years on this account of raising these young 'uns. I live in my little, old house; ain't much left to it; and I can't afford fixing no more. I live by the rules. I don't go in the MPAs. I catch fish; I'm just as good a fisherman as anybody else. But I'm telling you if we don't get some help, you can forget us. Thank you.

**MS. PORT MINER:** Good afternoon. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment today. I'm Samantha Port Miner speaking on behalf of Ocean Conservancy. First we would like to thank you for your work this week moving forward through a number of difficult issues as usual. We will be submitting detailed comment letters in the near future. Today I would like to highlight our recommendations for data collection. We support council's current preferred alternative to require VMS on all snapper grouper commercial vessels. VMS is important not

only for enforcement but can provide additional data for future assessments and research. Further, VMS can help reduce uncertainty in estimates by validating logbook data and other information on fishing effort. It can also help produce and refine habitat maps which we have seen with speckled hind and Warsaw grouper, and that can have strong impacts on management going forward.

We would also like to see the council have the no fishing reports for the electronic reporting on the same schedule as the weekly fishing reports. No fishing reports help remove some of the uncertainty in the landings projections and increases their accuracy; and as strange as it sounds, knowing there is no data is still very important data and useful for the modelers. We also encourage the council to continue their progress on developing electronic logbooks and reporting for the headboat and in the near future the charterboat sectors. I would encourage the South Atlantic Council to ensure that this council and the Gulf of Mexico Council are working in concert to create one system for southeast electronic reporting. I want to close with briefly thanking council for their discussions on Monday for the long-term visioning in the snapper grouper fishery. We look forward to council and stakeholders putting the meeting-to-meeting fishery management plan decisions into the context of a series of shared goals that can help merge our conservation and management interests of both the fishermen and the fish. Thank you.

**MR. HAGUE:** Good afternoon. My name is John Hague. I'm the owner of Hague and Sons Seafood. I am a wholesale seafood operator out of Oak Island, North Carolina. I am on the board of – well, we have a catch group called Brunswick Catch and it was modeled after Carteret Catch in Carteret County. We have just recently formed a group and I'm on the board of the North Carolina Catch. Both groups, much like my colleagues in Morehead City and Beaufort, have gone to highlighting and done marketing with the support of the Department of Agriculture to highlight all our locally produced seafood. We have run into – in all these efforts over the past three, four or five years to market our locally caught seafood, we have run into numerous roadblocks in regards to our federal and state regulations.

Each year it seems we have some agencies trying to assist us in developing new markets for our fish and yet because of the regulations and because of the closures, we have run into major problems with just inconsistency and supply. As I mentioned yesterday, the biggest issue in the fishing industry as far as distribution of your product is just having a consistent supply and where it can be controlled. I think the council has to take into effect the impact that it has with openings and closings and the structure where we have available of product, don't have the availability of product has in the marketplace has created total havoc. As it was brought up before especially with the restaurants and regarding restaurants, essentially most people know and I'm sure everybody on the council knows that anywhere between 60 and 70 percent of the seafood consumed in the U.S. is through the medium – it is consumed in restaurants and not on a retail level or in grocery stores.

A lot of our chefs and our culinary experts are interested basically on a great deal – they are more empowered as far as dictating what is really in demand and helping to direct market prices on products. In this kind of situation that we're dealing with now, it has made it, as was said before, extremely difficult for restaurants to deal with the fact that one day we have fish and then

next month we don't. As the trend has gone, I deal with – every year I have to deal with more and more and more imported products coming out of Central America or globally sourced. I can remember 20 years ago where it was maybe a little bit over 60 percent and now we're up – just in the last two or three years 91 percent of the seafood consumed in the U.S. comes from outside the U.S. It is just a matter of if there is any way that the council can manage the fisheries to allow for availability, it would help to maintain a source of the product where people would be acceptable; because what we have run into are situations where you have fish and then you don't have fish where you lose markets. It just opens the door for more imports to come in.

Going back to the boats, it is the same situation with the boats that are fishing. Now the way it is structured, our boats have a difficult time making what you would describe as a trip, and so their operational expenses, especially driven by the cost of fuel, have gotten so high that the actual threshold of cost effectiveness is – we're barely just above that. So even all the talk and control about the resource has gotten to the point where we are at a critical threshold right now where it doesn't make any sense. It is no longer profitable.

You could talk to any of the – I think there is probably 30 – this is in the snapper grouper fishery – 30 permit holders that have catches of over 10,000 pounds a year; and out of that whole group, I don't think any of them are living under their expense budget. There is just not money there. Like any small business, none of them are running profitably. And so continuing along these lines, I don't see how anybody – any of this group in the snapper grouper fishery will be able to stay in business. And so in analyzing what is going to be open and what is not going to be open and having even like trip limits, I think more information has to come back and forth between even understanding what the expenses are for the boat to go out and also what market prices are like at that time. And the people in these catch groups, too, what we have tried to do is further do more direct marketing and they actually owe X-vessel prices to the boats just to keep them in business. But we have run into a crossroads is again everybody wants to operate cost effectively and everybody looks at their food costs when it comes to restaurants serving products, and they will immediately turn to using imports when we run into this situation.

**CHAIRMAN CUPKA:** Can you wrap it up, please? I have let you go over quite a bit.

**MR. HAGUE:** Okay. And I think that is really what we want to consider is just the feedback from the council to the people that are actually fishing to find out, okay, no different where we just had a brief opening, but we had five days' notice essentially before it could be – well, this is no time for anyone to get ready to work out a situation where they could actually make a trip, and so we just need some more work along those lines. And I thank you.

**MS. BINNS:** Good morning, Chairman Cupka and council members. My name is Holly Binns and I'm here today to represent the Pew Environment Group. I have some brief comments today on the data collection measures that were in CE-BA 3 on red snapper and the proposed MPAs to protect speckled hind and Warsaw grouper. The improvements to data collection and monitoring that were proposed in CE-BA 3 can seem complex and some of those are going to require coordination with other managers; but if they're done right, the following could really enhance our ability to do the kind of fisheries management that the resource in this region and the fishermen deserve.

Some of those things include more timely data to track landings and monitoring no catch limits, spatially explicit data that could help to enforce habitat protection, but I think more importantly would assist the council in a range of decisions down the road by providing detailed information on the location of fishing effort. The measures that are intended to better quantify bycatch I think is a critical first step so that we can then determine how best to reduce discard mortality in this region, which is a huge issue. We recognize that it is going to take some time to address issues that were raised during committee yesterday. As long as the council doesn't kick the can down the road indefinitely, we hope that we can work collaboratively with you, the council, and with the stakeholders in this region to move forward on this really important issue.

For red snapper, our primary concern is that the rebuilding plan stays on track. The preferred alternative that was selected by the Snapper Grouper Committee is a reasonable way to move forward. It includes appropriate measures to account for any potential overage from the 2012 mini-season, and it opens a window of opportunity for red snapper fishing in 2013 that could also provide some really important biological data for the upcoming benchmark stock assessment.

We also wanted to thank Dr. Farmer for his informative and detailed presentation yesterday on what could be achieved through reconfiguring the existing deepwater MPAs. We support the council's plan to reconvene that expert workgroup to share that information and that they get their input on potential alternatives for the council to look at during your March meeting. I had the opportunity to observe the first meeting of that expert workgroup back in May, and I was really impressed at the level of expertise and the input and just the experience that group of people brought to the table. It was an impressive group. We really agree with the council that getting additional input from this group is the logical next step. We also wanted to urge you to consider convening a sub-group of that expert workgroup and potentially reaching out to folks from the science center and the agency and relevant council staff, but to start now to develop that draft monitoring and research plan for you to review and not to wait until sort of the end of the process of sort of figuring out if you're going to reconfigure the MPAs and what that might look like, but just start thinking now about what a research and monitoring plan should look like, what the elements are, what the costs are, all that.

We were also pleased to see yesterday some consideration of sliding possession or trip limits as a strategy to extend the fishing season for vermilion snapper and possibly for gag grouper. As you guys know, we talked last meeting about the on-line dialogue we have had with North Carolina fisherman Chris McCaffity earlier this year, and this was one of the things we found that we had some agreement on that could be beneficial. Finally, the council had discussed how to deal with third party stock assessments earlier this week, and that was prompted by the recent outside assessment of wreckfish at the October SSC meeting.

We support the council's decision to wait for the SSC to provide input on what the potential criteria and standards for receiving third party assessments should be. We recommend that you don't take any action on the assessments presented to the SSC until you've got a real process in place that ensures that science products that are generated by folks outside of this process, whether it be from industry or from NGOs or from academia, that they meet the SEDAR standards. That is it and I really appreciate the opportunity to share this input with you guys and

we really look forward to continuing to work with you on science-based and sustainable management.

**MR. CUPKA:** We have obviously gone over on our schedule a little bit, but I felt like it was important to give everyone a chance to speak without breaking for lunch. It is about 12:45 or a few minutes after now, instead of an hour and a half, how about if everyone makes it back here by two o'clock and we will reopen to see if anybody wishes to make additional public comments. We will reconvene at two o'clock.

The Full Council Session of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council reconvened in the Cape Fear Ballroom of the Hilton Wilmington Riverside Hotel, Wilmington, North Carolina, Thursday afternoon, December 6, 2012, and was called to order at 2:00 o'clock p.m. by Chairman David Cupka.

**MR. CUPKA:** I would like to reconvene the meeting of the council. At this point I want to ask is there anyone in the room who didn't get to make public comments in our earlier comment period that wished to do so now. All right, we have one. Is there anyone else here besides Tony?

**MR. AUSTIN:** My name is Tony Austin. Some of you know me; and those who don't are lucky. I have been in the fishing business a long time. I'm a New Englander from Cape Cod. When I started fishing, we didn't have these problems. You get 20 miles offshore, you never saw any recreational fishermen. In those days the only hyperbolic navigation system available was the LORAN A. The units were one cathode ray tube and a bunch of dials. We worked on 1H3, 3H4, 3H5 and 1H7. You had to know what you were doing with those units to use them effectively, and dingbatters didn't use them. They got out of sight of land they got scared. It would be a far better fishery right now if that was still true.

Listening to the fishermen who spoke this morning, it occurred to me that it is time for the council to revisit catch shares. It is the only answer to a constant supply of seafood. You fish when you want to and you will not have the discard problem you have now, hopefully. I don't think you can successfully manage a multispecies fishery species by species. You're going to run into discards any way you cut it unless you're into catch shares. That should cut it down considerably. I don't know who in his infinite wisdom put the representative of the North Carolina Fisheries Association on the Catch Shares Study Committee, but it was a mistake. It seems to be working in the Gulf, and I think it would work here. I will only say about VMS, those who are vehemently opposed to it, don't want anybody to know where they are, I don't give a damn. Most fishermen who know what they're doing don't care if anybody knows where they are. Thank you very much.

**MR. GREINER:** I'm Tim Greiner. Thanks for giving me the opportunity to speak here. What I would like to see happen with particularly our grouper snapper fishery is for us here in North Carolina, we really, really are interested in having a regional community-supported fishery that we can sustain. It is really important that we are able to manage this fishery locally so that we can provide in a sustainable fashion the various fish that are in this complex over the course of the entire year or at least nine months of it. We have a huge demand for this product locally.

We can't do it the way that we're going now. What unfortunately happened this year, if we look at our historical landings for gag grouper in North Carolina alone, we came up 50,000 pounds short of what we would normally catch. That is a travesty to leave those fish out there and not be able to provide them to the consumers here in North Carolina. I think there is a way to go about a regional fishery. It is just going to take some thought.

There are a lot of smart people in this room that can get it done. The overall goal here is to be able to manage a fishery in a sustainable way, and I think that it can be done. We just need some help doing it, and that is going to require a few changes. We really and truly have got to look at this on a regional and a local basis. I don't think many of the gag grouper from North Carolina are visiting Florida. I don't think they ever go down to Florida. I think they come from our estuaries and they move in and out, but they don't move down to Florida. The only other comment I would like to make in regards to the VMS system; I think one of the most important things in consideration with this VMS system is that the funds are truly there to do it. We can't start the system and then run out of money and the last guys that submit a voucher to get reimbursed are left dangling in the wind. It is going to be an expensive proposition. We have got to get our arms around how much this thing really is going to cost and make sure that the funds are truly available. That's all; thank you.

**MR. McKINLEY:** My name is Randy McKinley and I'm not a public speaker. I'm a fisherman. I grew up at the end of a fishing pier at Wrightsville Beach back in the 1970's. I have dealt with fish and fishermen all my whole life. I think I have got a pretty good feel of the ocean. I have been on it for all these years. I also operate a small fish-packing business. I deal with about eight or ten federal grouper snapper permit holders and we're suffering. I'm trying to sell these fish, open markets, keep all this stuff in North Carolina, keep good fish here in North Carolina for our people to eat.

And when like this year you have to tell people that you can only get fresh grouper five months out of the year, that was devastating. I think that the whole goal of the fishery should be that we keep as much fish possible open for the longest period of time. It is just the only way. Otherwise, it is just all – every year it seems like more and more of the markets get closed up, the restaurants go to other fish and all that stuff. I just feel it is so critical. I work with Kenny Fex a lot. He calls me a lot to ask me his ideas. I think that whatever we can do, if we come in with – you know, once these quotas get to 75 percent, we need to reduce the trip limits to keep the fishing going. I have got a real problem with the black bass. I think every fisherman out there from North Carolina will tell you it is the most it has ever been.

I think back in the eighties when the grouper snapper industry really started with the event of the LORAN and stuff, you know, everything changed 30 years ago. Now what has happened is you're coming in and you're letting all these black bass be out there – they're just everywhere. I know a lot of the other fishermen said that, that eating up – there is no telling how many little B-liners and stuff that are eaten up and those are the kinds of impacts that I don't think that anybody is addressing.

Those ledges got the way they were – back in the eighties when this started, a lot of the big fish were caught up but the whole ledge system changed, and now you're bringing in all these black

bass, they're not being caught, they're eating up all these little fish. The big red drums are out there right now; they're eating up stuff on the ledges because there is no season on them. I think all these kind of things need to be addressed. The VMS, I think it has got some benefit to it. I'm not really for it until they do a lot more studies on it and how it is going to benefit and what it could be potentially used against us in the future. That is all I've got to say.

MR. CUPKA: All right, that's all the cards I have at this time for people wishing to speak so we're going to go ahead and go into our committee reports. The first is Snapper Grouper.

DR. DUVAL: The Snapper Grouper Committee met in Wilmington on December 4 and 5, 2012. The first thing we did was go over reports from the Regional Office and the Southeast Fisheries Science Center on the status of commercial and recreational landings for snapper grouper species respectively. The committee was informed of possible commercial closures in 2012 of blue runner, snowy grouper and wahoo, as well as possible reopenings for red snapper and gray triggerfish before the year's end.

The presentation of recreational landings included summary tables showing annual landings as well as tables showing current landings by sector and figures depicting both landings and effort. Committee members indicated they would like to see a column in the annual summary tables showing the percentage of the ACL that was caught for a given year.

The Fisheries Science Center proposed to present the summary tables once per year when the data for the year are finalized. However, the committee indicated their preference to receive more detailed information on recreational landings as the SEFSC has been providing in committee meeting. The presentation on recreational landings did not include headboat landings for most species. However, the science center indicated that once the requirement for weekly reporting for the for-hire sector is implemented, headboat landings would be included in the quarterly report.

We then went through the status of amendments under review. The emergency rule to adjust the commercial ACL for yellowtail snapper was implemented. Action 4 in Amendment 18A, which was the black sea bass pot endorsement and transferability, was approved by the secretary on November 21<sup>st</sup> and the final rule published today, actually. I think we got some Fisheries Bulletins out.

Amendment 18B, golden tilefish, the comment period for the amendment ends on December 26<sup>th</sup>. The proposed rule is under review in Headquarters. Amendment 20A, which is wreckfish, the final rule implementing 20A published on September 26, 2012. Regulatory Amendment 12, the final rule for Regulatory Amendment 12 published on October 9<sup>th</sup>. The Generic Dealer Amendment, the amendment was submitted for secretarial review on October 30<sup>th</sup> and the proposed rule package is under review in the region.

Next, Dr. Luiz Barbieri, chairman of the Scientific and Statistical Committee, gave a presentation summarizing discussions that took place during the October 23<sup>rd</sup> through 25<sup>th</sup> SSC meeting in Charleston. Below are summaries of relevant discussions and recommendations.



With regard to black sea bass, the SSC revised their P-star probability of overfishing recommendation based on application of their control rule.

The new recommendation was for a P-star level of 37.5 or a P-rebuild, which is the probability of rebuilding of 62.5 percent. The committee made the following motion: **The motion is to request that the update to the black sea bass assessment contain a projection at the revised black sea bass P-rebuild of 62.5 percent. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none, that motion stands approved.**

Next the SSC reviewed the update to the vermilion snapper stock assessment and concluded that the update was well done and suitable for management. The update indicated that the vermilion snapper stock is neither overfished nor undergoing overfishing. The SSC applied the ABC Control Rule and revised the P-star recommendation to 40 percent. The SSC recommended that the next assessment be conducted in 2015. Dr. Barbieri indicated that the update accounted for some of the uncertainty by using an actual MSY estimate instead of a proxy.

The regional office expressed concern that using actual estimates instead of proxies in stock assessments may introduce a lot of fluctuation in the status of the stock and thus complicating management and negatively impacting public perception. Therefore, continuity in stock assessments would be beneficial. Dr. Barbieri acknowledged that less stability could indeed be a result; however, the SSC is most interested in providing the truest representation of the dynamics of the stock. The SSC will, to the extent possible, consider continuity in stock assessments.

With regard to red porgy, the SSC reviewed the update to the red porgy stock assessment and concluded the update was well done and suitable for management. The update indicated that red porgy was no longer undergoing overfishing but the stock was still overfished. None of the projection scenarios including F equals zero allowed for rebuilding within the time allowed.

There was concern that the steepness estimate was low reflecting decreased productivity of the stock. Further, instability in headboat landings before 1980 created difficulties for the model fit. Because these issues could not be explored further with the recommendation provided in the update, the SSC recommended a benchmark assessment and one is already scheduled for 2014.

The SSC recommended setting an ABC for red porgy based on the yield at 75 percent Fmsy. The committee made the following motion. **The motion was to accept the SSC's recommendation for red porgy ABC set at the yield at 75 percent Fmsy based on Table 24 of the red porgy assessment report, using landings in thousands of pounds for 2013-2018. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none, that motion stands approved.**

Next is the wreckfish analysis. Dr. Barbieri briefed the committee on two third party analyses that were presented to the SSC. The analyses were exploratory in nature and the SSC did not have enough documentation to evaluate them. The SSC considered adopting a SEDAR-like process to properly vet the data and the methodology that was employed. The committee stated that a process to address third party assessments was necessary and could perhaps be discussed by the Executive Finance Committee.

Dr. Barbieri stated that the SSC would also discuss the issue further but no changes to the wreckfish ABC were being recommended at this time. Mr. Jim Atack, vice-chair of the Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel, provided the AP's input as needed throughout the committee's discussions.

Next was consideration of an emergency rule request to adjust the vermilion snapper ACL and council staff gave an overview of how the ABC for vermilion snapper could be adjusted based on the results of the stock assessment update and suggested that the committee consider a request for emergency action by NMFS to modify the ACL.

The regional office indicated that emergency action could be considered, but at least two and a half months would be needed for implementation. Further, if the council desired to make other modifications to vermilion snapper regulations, those changes could not be accomplished via emergency action. Therefore, the committee opted to request that the council and the regional office staff begin development of a new regulatory amendment, Regulatory Amendment 18, and move the appropriate actions currently under Regulatory Amendment 14 into that amendment.

The committee made the following motions. **The first was to direct staff to begin work on a regulatory amendment to adjust the vermilion snapper ACL, adjust other management measures currently included in Regulatory Amendment 14 for vermilion snapper and adjust the red porgy ACL and management measures as appropriate. On behalf of the committee I so move. Any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none, that motion stands approved.**

**The next motion was to accept the ABC values for vermilion snapper recommended by the SSC based on the control rule. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none, that motion stands approved.**

**The next motion was to move Action 8 from Regulatory Amendment 14 to Regulatory Amendment 18; remove Alternatives 2, 4 and 5; include an additional alternative as recommended by the Snapper Grouper AP. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none, that motion stands approved.**

There was a substitute motion to move forward with just Alternatives 1, 2 and 3, but that substitute motion failed. There was another motion to move Action 9 from Regulatory Amendment 14 to Regulatory Amendment 18 and make Alternative 1, which is no action, the preferred, but that motion was withdrawn.

**The next motion was to remove Alternatives 2 and 3 from Action 9 in Regulatory Amendment 14. On behalf of the committee I so move. Any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none, that motion stands approved.**

**The next motion was to move Action 10 from Regulatory Amendment 14 to Regulatory Amendment 18. On behalf of the committee I so move. Any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none, that motion stands approved.**

**The next motion was to move Action 11 from Regulatory Amendment 14 to Regulatory Amendment 18 and include an additional alternative, Alternative 3, to remove the recreational season closure. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none, that motion stands approved.**

**The next motion was to remove Alternative 2 from Action 11 in Regulatory Amendment 18. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none, that motion stands approved.**

**The next motion was to remove Actions 12 and 13 from Regulatory Amendment 14 pertaining to red porgy. On behalf of the committee I so move. Any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none, that motion stands approved.**

The next item was Regulatory Amendment 13, and council staff presented an overview of this amendment which considers adjustment of ACLs, AMs and ACTs to incorporate MRIP estimated recreational landings, interdisciplinary plan team recommendations and SSC recommendations. Jim Attack presented recommendations from the AP. The committee made the following motions. **The first motion was to select Alternative 2 as the preferred and accept the purpose and need as written.** On behalf of the committee I so move. Any discussion? Monica.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: I would just like to make some comments about Regulatory Amendment 13, including the purpose and need. In reviewing Regulatory Amendment 13, I noticed that the words “revision of allocations” were on the cover and stated in the document, including the purpose for the action.

When I reviewed the Snapper Grouper Framework Process, it doesn’t allow for changes to allocations as those changes need to be made via the FMP amendment process. Then I looked at the Comprehensive Allocation Amendment that you did about a year ago, and in that amendment the council specified allocations using the allocation formula we fondly call Boyles’ Law.

Then I went back and looked at Regulatory Amendment 13 again, because what it does is it revises the ACLs based on replacing the MRFSS information with the new updated MRIP estimates, and you should do that because that is the best scientific information available. When you include the MRIP information, there might – and there are some changes to the amount of fish allowed to be harvested by the recreational and commercial sectors, but I don’t consider those as changes to the allocation that you developed and approved in the Comprehensive ACL Amendment.

My conclusion is that it is fine to consider this a framework amendment and I think it is proper to do it in the framework. I would suggest to not send the wrong message to the public that you should think about striking the words “revision to allocations” from the cover and in the purpose of the document. If you give staff latitude, I would be glad to go through the document and where we find those words to just further explain that this is not a change to the allocations but there will be some change to the amount of harvest allowed.

DR. DUVAL: Does everybody understand what Monica has laid out here, her concerns about public perception of this? Would it be acceptable to staff to have the latitude to make those changes to the purpose? We do have a motion that will be offered on behalf of the committee to give staff and the chairman editorial license to make corrections to the document. I don't know if that is sufficient to deal with this or if a motion specific to that effect would be preferred.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: As long as the council gives some direction that they agree with the way I laid it out and that you would like to see that done, then that is fine. I think that the staff can do that with the editorial license you give them and then the chairman of the council will again review the document before it is submitted.

MR. WAUGH: And just to make you aware, too, that wording appears in the wording of the action, so we would be changing that. It would just be going through the whole document and changing from any place it occurs in the title that we are changing the allocation. The actual percentages, as Monica has said, do change but they change because of applying the formula that is not changing with new data. It is a subtlety but we don't want to have it look like we're violating our procedures in the framework.

DR. DUVAL: Is everyone comfortable then with simply using the editorial license that we give the staff and the chairman to go ahead and make those changes? It seems like everybody is. Okay, is there anymore discussion on this motion? **Is there any opposition to this motion? Seeing none, that motion stands approved.**

**The next motion was to approve Regulatory Amendment 13 for formal review and deem the codified text as necessary and appropriate. I believe this is a roll call vote. On behalf of the committee I so move.**

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Cupka.

MR. CUPKA: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Hartig.

MR. HARTIG: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Amick.

MR. AMICK: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Ms. Bademan.

MS. BADEMAN: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Ms. Beckwith.

MS. BECKWITH: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Bell.

MR. BELL: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Burgess.

MR. BURGESS: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Dr. Crabtree.

DR. CRABTREE: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Haymans.

MR. HAYMANS: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Jolley.

MR. JOLLEY: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Phillips.

MR. PHILLIPS: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Swatzel.

MR. SWATZEL: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Chairman Duval.

DR. DUVAL: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: It passes unanimously.

**DR. DUVAL: The next motion is to give staff and the chairman editorial license to make edits as necessary to the Regulatory Amendment 13 and the codified text. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none, that motion stands approved.**

Next the committee discussed Regulatory Amendment 15 and council presented an overview of the amendment and recommendations from the IPT and the SSC. Jim Atack addressed input and recommendations from the AP. The committee made the following motions. **The first motion was to accept the purpose and need in Regulatory Amendment 15. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none, that motion stands approved.**

**The next motion was to select Alternative 2 as the preferred under Action 1 in Regulatory Amendment 15. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there discussion? Any objection? Seeing none, that motion stands approved.**

**Next was a motion to select Alternative 1, which is no action, as the preferred for Action 2 in Regulatory Amendment 15. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that stands approved.**

**The next motion to select Alternative 3 under Action 3 in Regulatory Amendment 15, which pertains to the gag and shallow water groupers. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.**

**The next motion is to approve Regulatory Amendment 15 for submission to the Secretary of Commerce. On behalf of the committee I so move. This is another roll call vote.**

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Cupka.

MR. CUPKA: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Hartig.

MR. HARTIG: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Amick.

MR. AMICK: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Ms. Bademan.

MS. BADEMAN: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Ms. Beckwith.

MS. BECKWITH: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Bell.

MR. BELL: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Burgess.

MR. BURGESS: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Dr. Crabtree.

DR. CRABTREE: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Haymans.

MR. HAYMANS: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Jolley.

MR. JOLLEY: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Phillips.

MR. PHILLIPS: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Swatzel.

MR. SWATZEL: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Chairman Duval.

DR. DUVAL: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: It passes unanimously.

**DR. DUVAL: Since we did this in two different motions, we will need a roll call vote for the next motion as well, which was to approve the codified text as necessary and appropriate. On behalf of the committee I so move.**

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Cupka.

MR. CUPKA: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Hartig.

MR. HARTIG: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Amick.

MR. AMICK: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Ms. Bademan.

MS. BADEMAN: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Ms. Beckwith.

MS. BECKWITH: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Bell.

MR. BELL: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Burgess.

MR. BURGESS: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Dr. Crabtree.

DR. CRABTREE: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Haymans.

MR. HAYMANS: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Jolley.

MR. JOLLEY: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Phillips.

MR. PHILLIPS: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Swatzel.

MR. SWATZEL: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Chairman Duval.

DR. DUVAL: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: The codified text passes unanimously.

**DR. DUVAL: The next motion was to give staff and the council chairman editorial license to make changes to the document as necessary prior to submission. On behalf of the committee I so move. Any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.**

Next was Amendment 28. Council staff gave an overview of the amendment. In particular the committee discussed the outcome of the various subalternatives under Alternative 2, which was specify how to calculate the ACL for red snapper. The committee received a presentation from council staff that illustrated the results of the three proposed equations under different scenarios.

Council staff stated any recommendations from the IPT and SSC, and Jim Atack presented input and recommendations from the AP. The committee made the following motions. **The first**



**motion was to approve the purpose and need for Amendment 28. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.**

**The next motion was to select Subalternative 2C as the preferred to calculate the red snapper ACL. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.**

**The next motion was to select Subalternative 3A for specifying the commercial fishing season for red snapper. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.**

**The next motion was to select Subalternative 4A as the preferred for the recreational red snapper season. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.**

**The next motion was to indicate in the language of Alternative 4 that recreational fishing weekends would be consecutive. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.**

**The next motion was to select Alternative 5 as a preferred. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.**

**The next motion was to select Subalternative 6D as the preferred for a commercial trip limit for red snapper. We then had a substitute motion to select Subalternative 6C as the preferred. The substitute motion was approved by the committee, which then became the main motion. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.**

**The next motion was to select Alternative 7 as a preferred. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.**

**The next motion was to include language in Alternatives 3 and 4 to give the regional administrator authority to delay opening of fishing seasons in the event of a tropical storm or a hurricane affecting the South Atlantic. On behalf of the committee I so move. Any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.**

**The next motion was to approve Amendment 28 for submission to the Secretary of Commerce. On behalf of the committee I so move. Since both this motion as well as the following motion require roll call votes, I would like to go ahead and offer the next motion on behalf of the committee as well, which is to deem the codified text for Amendment 28 as necessary and appropriate. Mr. Mahood.**

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Cupka.

MR. CUPKA: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Hartig.

MR. HARTIG: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Amick.

MR. AMICK: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Ms. Bademan.

MS. BADEMAN: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Ms. Beckwith.

MS. BECKWITH: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Bell.

MR. BELL: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Burgess.

MR. BURGESS: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Dr. Crabtree.

DR. CRABTREE: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Haymans.

MR. HAYMANS: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Jolley.

MR. JOLLEY: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Phillips.

MR. PHILLIPS: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Swatzel.

MR. SWATZEL: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Chairman Duval.

DR. DUVAL: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: The amendment passes unanimously.

**DR. DUVAL: The next motion is to give staff and the council chair editorial license to make changes to the amendment document as appropriate prior to submission. On behalf of the committee I so move. Discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.** Monica.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: I think the codified text – let me bring you back to the motion where you give the RA the authority to delay opening in the event of a tropical storm or hurricane affecting the South Atlantic. I believe the codified text goes a little bit further than that in interpreting because “affecting the South Atlantic” can mean a lot of things.

It can mean swells; it could mean that because there was a storm somewhere else. I just want maybe a little bit of discussion on the record that I assume you’re pretty much talking about a direct strike somewhere in the South Atlantic. You’re not talking about weather that would be affected somewhat but not that much. I know you talked about this a little bit the other day, but if I could have a little more discussion, it would be helpful.

MR. HAYMANS: That just goes back to the slip that I said about projected to make landfall. Really I guess it is if the comb of the depression is sweeping through the South Atlantic.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: That is good enough for me.

MR. PHILLIPS: Yes, I don’t think we need landfall, per se; i.e. Sandy didn’t make landfall but you definitely didn’t need to be out there. I mean if we deem that it is dangerous or just not – we don’t want to put anybody’s life in danger doing this, so I think it is pretty clear.

MR. BELL: It will be clear-cut in terms of what NOAA Weather says is about to happen, but something could be going on in Florida and in North Carolina could be a nice day. I guess if it is somewhere in there, it is just somewhere in there, that is fairly cut and dry.

DR. DUVAL: Is that thorough enough discussion for you, Monica?

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: It is for me. I know John Jolley wants to say something, but I think this will help. Thank you.

MR. JOLLEY: Just a point in the definition, the South Atlantic is south of the Equator. I know what everybody means but this is the Western North Atlantic. I don’t know if you need to be that specific, but we’re always referring to the South Atlantic. That bugs me because it is not exactly correct.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: We could think about changing the name of the council to the Western North Atlantic Council, but I know what you mean. I run into that all the time.

DR. DUVAL: Okay, are we ready to move on from Amendment 28? The next amendment discussed was Amendment 27. Council staff gave an overview of the amendment and recommendations from the IPT and the SSC. Jim Atack addressed input and recommendations from the AP. The committee made the following motions.

**The first motion was to move Actions 1 through 5 in Amendment 27 to the considered but rejected appendix. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that stands approved.**

Because we moved those actions dealing with the management of yellowtail and mutton snapper from this amendment, we actually need to consider a motion that would direct staff to edit the purpose and need statement in Amendment 27 to reflect that removal of Actions 1 through 5. I would entertain a motion to that effect at this time. Charlie.

**MR. PHILLIPS: Madam Chair, I would make the motion to direct staff to edit the purpose and need statement in Amendment 27 to reflect removal of Actions 1 through 5.**

**DR. DUVAL: Motion by Charlie; second by Tom Burgess. Is there any discussion on this motion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion stands approved. The next motion was to select Alternative 2 under Action 6 as a preferred. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.**

**The next motion was to select Alternative 2 under Action 7 as a preferred. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.**

**The next motion was to remove Alternative 5 under Action 8 and move to the considered but rejected appendix. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.**

**The next motion was to modify the language of Alternative 2 to remove the phrase “and place in the CMP management unit”. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.**

There was also a motion to select Alternative 2 as amended as the preferred. This motion failed. There was also a substitute motion to select Alternative 3 as the preferred and the substitute motion was withdrawn. **The next motion was modify Alternative 3 as follows: Alternative 3. Retain blue runner in the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan but allow commercial harvest and sale of blue runner for vessels that have been issued a Spanish mackerel permit or a snapper grouper permit. Specify that gillnets are an allowable gear for blue runner only in the snapper grouper fishery. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none, that motion stands approved.**

**The next motion was to move the placement of the word “only” in Alternative 3 and place in front of the phrase “blue runner”, so that would read “Specify that gillnets are an allowable gear for only blue runner in the snapper grouper fishery”. On behalf of the**

**committee I so move. Any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none, that motion stands approved. The next motion was to approve Amendment 27 for public hearings in January of 2013. On behalf of the committee I so move. Any discussion? Monica.**

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: I am going to do some additional work on looking at abbreviated frameworks. There are some that I've already been given from other councils that they use and then some other thoughts I had. Would the council object if I was able to draft something up and send it to Myra and Gregg in time for the public hearings, if that could be included in the document?

You have Action 7, which is modify the snapper grouper framework procedure, and you have chosen – there are not too many alternatives in there, but that is okay, we discussed all that, but if I come up with some additional language on additional ways we could abbreviate the framework process, should that be included in the public hearing draft or would you want me to bring that for the first time back to you all at the March meeting?

DR. DUVAL: I think if you can have something ready in time for the public hearing draft, we will certainly be able to review it when we see the document again in March. It would probably be good to actually get it out there in front of the public if there are other examples that you feel would be prudent to include.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: That is what I was thinking, too, that we could get some public comment on it. Of course, you would see it in March, but I just want to get your direction on that.

MR. CUPKA: I had a question that when we started dealing with this action, we selected Alternative 3 as the preferred but then that was substitute motion that was withdrawn. Then we modified Alternative 3 as follows, but we never did go back and consider whether we wanted to make that a preferred or not; is that correct? Right now there is no preferred for this particular action; correct?

DR. DUVAL: Right, I think the discussion was that we didn't need to go out with a preferred at this point, so we do not have a preferred alternative for this action, so everybody is clear on that. The motion that we have in front of us right now that has been offered is to approve Amendment 27 for public hearings in January of 2013. Monica has indicated that she will try to get some additional language on framework options into the document before then. Is there anymore discussion on this motion? Any objection to this motion? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.

The next item that was discussed was Regulatory Amendment 17, which is MPAs for speckled hind and Warsaw grouper. The committee received a presentation from the regional office staff on the impacts of reorienting existing MPAs on the protection of speckled hind and Warsaw grouper.

**The committee made the following motion, which was to reconvene the Expert MPA Working Group between now and March 2013 meeting and ask Nick Farmer to make his**

**presentation on reconfiguration of MPAs and additional MPAs; and based on the outcome of the working group have a presentation of reconfigurations and additional sites at the March 2013 meeting. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there discussion on this motion? Any objection to this motion? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.**

Under other business the committee addressed several items and made the following motions. **The first motion was to add an action to Amendment 27 to allow dually permitted vessels to have four crew members on board similar to the action in Gulf Reef Fish Amendment 34. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.**

**The next motion was to direct council staff to work with the regional office staff to finalize the regulations' spreadsheet and bring options to the committee in June 2013 that consider changes to accountability measures. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.**

**The next motion was to direct staff to investigate data to determine recreational catches of blue runner. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.**

Council Vice-Chair Ben Hartig expressed interest in reviewing the composition of two of the complexes within the snapper grouper fishery. Mr. Hartig made the motion that I will offer below and indicated that a draft options paper would be provided to the council staff for review and subsequent discussion at a council meeting.

Similarly Mr. Hartig stated the need to evaluate the possibility of redistributing the sector ACLs in season under specific circumstances. Mr. Hartig will provide a draft document to council staff. **The first motion was to review the Jacks Complex and the Deepwater Grouper Complex with the intent to bring an options paper to modify those complexes to the committee in March of 2013. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.**

**The next motion was to develop an options paper to review unharvested ACLs and allow for moving ACLs between sector allocations. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there discussion? Is there any opposition? The motion passes with one in opposition.**

Next we have our timing and tasks motion. I want to give folks time to actually read through the timing and tasks. We have several tasks. I'm just making sure folks have a chance to see all of those. We will be approving Regulatory Amendment 18; submitting Regulatory Amendment 13, 15; submitting Amendment 28 for formal review; changes to 27; Expert Workgroup reconvening; options paper for Regulatory Amendment 14, we will be seeing that; and the last few items we just discussed. At this time I would entertain a motion to adopt the timing and tasks as below. Charlie.

**MR. PHILLIPS: Michelle, I make the motion that we adopt the Timing and Tasks as listed.**

**DR. DUVAL: Motion by Charlie; seconded by Tom Burgess. Is there any discussion on this motion? Any objection to this motion? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.**

(The following timing and tasks were adopted by the council.)

1. Request that the update to the BSG assessment contain a projection at the revised BSB Prebuild of 62.5%.
2. Begin development of Regulatory Amendment 18 to adjust the ACLs for vermilion snapper and red porgy and changes in management actions for vermilion snapper previously contained in Regulatory Amendment 14.
3. The council will approve Regulatory Amendment 18 for formal review at the March 2013 meeting.
4. Submit Regulatory Amendment 13 to NMFS for formal review.
5. Submit Regulatory Amendment 15 to NMFS for formal review.
6. Submit Amendment 28 to NMFS for formal review.
7. Make changes to Amendment 27 (including adding an action to allow dually-permitted vessels to have 4 crew members on board) and prepare the document for public hearings in January 2013.
8. Convene the MPS expert workgroup before the March council meeting and request that SERO staff give presentation on SH and WG MPAs.
9. Have a presentation of reconfigurations of existing MPAs and additional sites at the March 2013 meeting.
10. Prepare Regulatory Amendment 14 options paper for the March council meeting.
11. Work with SERO staff to finalize the regulations spreadsheet and bring options to the committee in June 2013 that consider changes to AMs.
12. Investigate data to determine recreational catches of blue runner.
13. Ben Hartig to prepare draft options papers on modifications to the jacks and DW complex and ACL allocations to bring to the committee in March 2013.

DR. DUVAL: Mr. Chairman, that concludes my report.

MR. CUPKA: Thank you, Madam Chairman, excellent job. I want to thank you and all the committee members and council members for getting through a very long and hard agenda. You get the pleasure of doing the next one.

DR. DUVAL: Next was the Data Collection Committee. The Ad Hoc Data Collection Committee met on December 5, 2012. The agenda was adopted and the minutes of the September 2012 were approved. The committee received the following presentations. The first was a presentation by NMFS on the post-stratification methodology used to arrive at recreational landings estimates, including whether the methodology had been reviewed and whether it is used in other regions. Dr. Nick Farmer of the regional office led us through that.

We also received a presentation on the results of the live demonstration of the NMFS Quota Monitoring System for council staff. Gregg Waugh, council staff, and Dr. Bonnie Ponwith both went through that. The committee discussed the reports and requested that a letter be sent to NMFS Headquarters on behalf of the council encouraging sufficient resources be provided to

continue implementation of the Quota Monitoring Systems and to highlight the importance of this program.

The committee received a status update on the Joint Gulf and South Atlantic Council Generic Dealer Amendment. The amendment was submitted for formal secretarial review on October 30, 2012. A regulatory package is being prepared in the regional office. The following milestones for implementation were provided.

The first is that all reporting requirements, electronic, weekly, purchase and/or no purchase form would be effective 30 days after the publication of the final rule. Second was the generic dealer permit. This would be issued starting 30 days after the publication of the final rule. The current dealer permit or the new generic dealer permit would be required four months after the publication of the final rule.

The current dealer permit would be phased out with the renewal on an applicant's birth date. Council staff reviewed the Gulf Council motions and the public comments received. The committee then discussed the four actions in CE-BA 3 and split into action into a separate amendment as shown below. The committee approved the following motions.

**In discussing the quota monitoring system, on behalf of the committee I move the following motion that the chair work with the council chair and staff to prepare an appropriate letter to NMFS Headquarters to encourage provision of adequate resources to maintain the system and to highlight the importance of the system. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.**

The committee discussed Action 1, for-hire reporting, and the following motions were made. The first motion was to keep the headboat reporting in CE-BA 3 and that motion was withdrawn. **The next motion was to move Action 1 into a generic amendment to the snapper grouper, dolphin and wahoo and coastal migratory pelagics FMPs, and on behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.**

**The committee discussed Action 2, commercial reporting, and the following motions were made; remove Action 2 from CE-BA 3 and work with the Gulf Council on a joint amendment to address commercial logbook issues, such as address compliance with reporting timelines, no fishing reports, mandatory electronic reports with provision for extreme events. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.**

The committee then discussed Action 3, which is bycatch reporting, and the following motions were made. **First was to accept the IPT recommendations for Action 3 and on behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motions stands approved.**



The committee discussed Action 4, which was commercial VMS, and the following motions were made; move the VMS requirement into a separate Snapper Grouper Amendment 30 and bring back to the committee in March. On behalf of the committee I so move. Discussion?

**MR. SWATZEL: Madam Chair, I would like to offer a substitute motion that the council not pursue a VMS requirement for the snapper grouper fishery.**

DR. DUVAL: There is a substitute motion by Tom Swatzel that the council not pursue a VMS requirement in the snapper grouper fishery; seconded by Tom Burgess. Discussion? Roy.

DR. CRABTREE: My understanding that we had the other day was that the AP supported the VMS requirement. I know Tom questioned that. Then subsequent to that, I think we have all gotten an e-mail from Robert Johnson, who I believe – is he the vice-chair of the AP?

DR. DUVAL: He is the chair of the AP.

DR. CRABTREE: And he said they did not support the VMS requirement, and I guess my question is did they pass a motion? I am trying to understand why there is so much confusion.

DR. DUVAL: At the AP meeting in November a motion was offered that if the council were to pursue VMS in the snapper grouper fishery, that it be required for all vessels. I believe that is the wording of the motion. There was some discussion of that motion and it failed, so that was the motion that failed. I will leave it at that. That was the motion that was offered and it failed.

DR. CRABTREE: Then I'm assuming that given the chairman's e-mail, then the correct thing is that the AP did not support VMS in this fishery.

MR. WAUGH: I discussed this with Myra and our interpretation coming away from that meeting was that the AP didn't support it for both sectors. Our interpretation may be incorrect because they did disapprove that motion. Our understanding of their intent was then it fell back to their previous position where it at least supported on the commercial.

I discussed with Myra should we try and contact the full AP membership and see what their position is. They are scheduled to meet again in April; and so if were to pursue this amendment, we would have another AP meeting and we would get the clarification. I guess the honest answer is we don't know anymore what their intent was.

DR. CRABTREE: Okay, I guess if this motion passes we're done with it; but if the motion doesn't pass and we move with this, we will know before we take final action, and that is the critical thing.

DR. DUVAL: Is there other discussion on the substitute motion? Charlie.

MR. PHILLIPS: I was there and there was a lot of discussion about it. There was a lot of discussion about the inequality of one sector being having to do it and the recreational not. What

they did not discuss was a lot the stuff that Otha brought us, and that discussion did not happen to my knowledge. There was no discussion of how it could affect data collection.

I don't even think they brought up safety issues with it. I still want this to go forward. I want it to go back to public hearing. I want to have fleshed out on what it can do and what it can't do. I would rather not see it die on the vine right here because people are still going to have plenty of time to put input into this and really look at it and see what we're going to get or what we're not going to get.

MR. SWATZEL: I think today that the public testimony that we got is a pretty good example of where VMS stands with the commercial fishermen. It effectively it was about seven to one today against, and I think that is pretty consistent. I think if you took it out for public hearing you would probably see that up and down the coast.

The one thing we did hear today, too, was the dire financial straits of the fishermen; and to expect the fishermen right now to be able to ante up probably on the average about \$3,300 in advance to fund this at this time, probably the worse financial situation the fishery has ever had, is just not fair.

Then you look at the issues of the cost of maintaining the equipment, it is about forty dollars a month, which is almost \$500 a year for every fisherman. If you look at it fleet-wide, you're talking about over \$300,000 a year in annual cost that you just imposed on fishermen. That doesn't even count when it comes time to replace the unit, which is probably going to be five years down the road based on what we heard and which there is not going to be any reimbursement for that cost.

It is certainly not the time to be imposing those kinds of costs on the fishermen. This is not the first time this council has pursued VMS for snapper and grouper. It came up in Amendment 14 in 2006 and the same reaction occurred. There was a lot of opposition to it and in the final analysis the council voted unanimously to remove it from Amendment 14.

This is not the first time the issue has come before this council and it is not the first time it has been proposed for snapper and grouper. Of course, Amendment 14 was for the MPAs. I would just ask the council at this time and now is the time certainly not to pursue this, and I just ask for your support of the motion.

MR. AMICK: My comment is not necessarily towards this motion; but having been on the AP for many years or a good bit of time, this situation, when the AP comes forward and gives a report to the council, having been on the AP and sitting back and listening to the report, many times I have seen it is not exactly what represented the intent of the AP. Maybe in the future we can address the fact to avoid this kind of situation in the future. I will stop at that.

MR. BELL: I'm a big believer in expanding our toolbox for things that we can use. I know there is a tie obviously to VMS and the success of MPAs if we're ever to actually succeed in that. I have been attached to the MPA process and I do believe they are potentially a useful tool.

I think is VMS is tied to that at some point. Having said all that, I'm a lot less enthusiastic right now after things I have learned here and some of the stuff we have heard.

Given some of the concerns that Tom has mentioned about moving very quickly on this right now, I would just feel very uncomfortable about instituting this quickly. I think if the process involved a little bit more deliberation – I think one of the things that we have heard is it is kind of an education issue here. VMS is not meant to be a punitive thing.

It is not in any way meant to be a punitive thing, but the perception of a lot of fishermen is that it is a punishment or it is a burden that we're placing on them because we don't trust them. It is not meant to be that. I believe eventually in the future we will move in that direction as other councils have and other fisheries have, but I just feel real uneasy about the timing right now, given the economy, given other considerations of just sort of pushing this.

I realize one consideration is there is money sitting there right now and we don't really know if that money will be there in a year, in two years, in five years. That is one of the things that is kind of pushing against that, but I feel kind of uncomfortable about moving too quickly with this.

MR. HARTIG: Those are all great comments. If we take this back out to hearing, we will get some more – I mean we put a lot on the record yesterday about what VMS can do other than being an angle bracelet. Part of our job is when we put in the discussion we talk about the different aspects of VMS that can help fishermen and that can help the science.

I would like to see at least that part of it go back out to the fishermen to let them be able to see those additional things. We put quite a bit in yesterday, so I was happy about that. I would still support us moving forward through the public hearing process. I certainly wasn't supportive of doing it yesterday, boom.

I believe we need to go out to the public and have some more education and let them comment on a more reasoned basis based on all the input we had from the experts from VMS and then from some of the science side aspects of it as well. I still speak in favor of at least taking it to public hearing.

MR. AMICK: Along those lines, when the gentleman made the presentation on VMS, it was an eye opener for me as well not knowing the system and I learned a lot, and perhaps we could run that same presentation in front of the AP and get another take on it.

MR. CUPKA: If the substitute motion were to fail, we would go back to the main motion, which means that this document would be further fleshed out and brought back to us in March, but not brought back to us in March for any kind of approval other than maybe to go for additional public comment?

If we didn't take final action on it in March, it would also give us an opportunity to get further input from the AP. I guess it is a long way of going about what I'm asking; what is the intent in March? Is it to revisit it and go back out again because that I could support. But if it is to take final action, I'm not sure.

DR. DUVAL: What we discussed yesterday, there was concern that given that our current set of public hearings at the end of January and beginning of February was too soon in order for this to be fleshed out in a separate amendment. We would not have the opportunity to see that, and staff informed us that if we wanted to put this in a separate amendment and have it fleshed out, bring in some of the information that we heard about yesterday, it would come back to us in March.

We would review that document and then it could be taken out for public comment at hearings that would occur between March and June. That is what the discussion was yesterday. I think Gregg has our list of timing and tasks up on the screen there, and he has highlighted I guess it would be Task Number 8, which indicates what we took on action on yesterday to move the VMS action from CE-BA 3 to separate amendment, bring it to the council in March 2013 for approval for public hearing.

Public hearings would be held in April or May and final action would be considered at the June 2013 council meeting. Staff was directed to include all additional benefits from VMS and information from the Gulf Council's amendment related to VMS; also to correct the Snapper Grouper AP's position on requiring VMS. That is all on the timing and task motion. Anna.

MS. BECKWITH: I hear Tom's concerns and I have them as well. At the moment even though I'm leaning towards the viewpoint that VMS is not the right thing for North Carolina even from our JEA aspect and concerns, I am willing to look at this document more fleshed out. I think there has been a lot of emphasis on the enforcement aspect of VMS rather than the data collection benefits.

Were I to support VMS on the off chance, it would have to be from a data viewpoint rather than solely the enforcement aspect of it. I am willing to look at this document in March. I have all of Tom's concerns, but I am not going to support his motion at the moment because I would like to see some of these questions dealt with. Tom and I spent an hour at lunch picking the brains of Otha and Pat; and while we learned a lot, we also recognize that there are an immense number of questions and nuances to VMS and its implementation. I gathered an education but I also developed a number of additions questions.

MR. BELL: My question was actually David's question about timing and all, and I applaud Tom for bringing this up. Like Anna I have the same concerns, but I feel a little bit better about given an understanding of the timetable and further review and ability to perhaps educate and to get a lot more input.

Again, I am a believer that it is a useful tool for us and properly implemented at the time it will work, but I don't want to see us rush to failure, so to speak. I'm a little more comfortable with the timeframe that was explained, so I think I would be inclined to not support the new amendment there.

DR. CRABTREE: I am a supporter of VMS and I think it is something we ought to have in our fishery, but I am sensitive to Tom's point. The fishermen are hurting and it is a bad economic time and that does cause me to pause and worry me. But on the other side of that, I believe Otha told us that the reimbursement money is likely not to be there after mid-2014. If we don't move

pretty quickly with this, we may lose that ability to have the fishermen reimbursed for the purchases and that may not be something that repeats and seen again. If we delay this for long, the ultimate cost to the fishermen to do this may go up. It is a tough dilemma, but at any rate I think fleshing out the document and going through public hearings is what we ought to do. I think we're all going to have a difficult decision come June.

MR. SWATZEL: Well, just given the limited council resources that we have, is this worth pursuing given what I view as immense opposition. I would just urge – I just got a copy of the September 2006 Snapper Grouper Committee Meeting Minutes where this issue came up relating to Amendment 14 and Roy probably remembers this.

It is the discussion of the region-wide public hearings concerning the MPAs and the requirement for VMS in that amendment. The one thing that was universal in there was the opposition to VMS, and I am sure there was an educational component involved at that time, too, concerning what it meant. I just don't think things will change based on fishermen's perception of VMS plus it is just a bad time to be pursuing it. Again, is it worth the council's effort in terms of council resources and staff time to pursue this at this time?

MR. EASLEY: I think Tom brought up some good points. Based on today's public comment, one thing that was pretty evident in my mind is that a lot of the fishermen can use some education on what it is. They're heard what VMS can do and what it is about. They seem to have a pretty good perspective of the law enforcement use for it.

It is the negative end of the law enforcement perspective is what I've heard today, but no mention or very little mention of the good perspective from the law enforcement aspect. I see law enforcement as one-half to one-third of the benefit of having VMS in various fishery industries.

When I heard these public commenters speaking about VMS, I thought of the analogy of, say, the state highway patrol and radar guns. A lot of folks would rather them not have radar guns to do their jobs. Many in this room probably would rather not see that, but in any event they have that tool and it is a necessary tool for the state highway patrol.

And just from the law enforcement perspective, it is a good tool to have for the fishing industry; but education and letting them know of all the reasons that it benefits them otherwise as far as scientific use of it, the management's use of it here and stable fisheries use of it, bringing more timely logbooks to the science center, VMS can have a pretty significant role in that and that might not be very evident. I would hope that it would go forward to at least give us the opportunity to give them some additional information on how VMS would benefit them and they can make a more educated choice and decision on what they want to share with you all.

DR. DUVAL: Are there any other comments on the substitute motion? Mel and then our new Coast Guard representative.

MR. BELL: Just to follow up on Otha's comments, I think what is key to this is going to be the education aspect. I admit coming into this meeting I didn't know of a lot of the potential benefits

myself and hadn't researched it necessarily. But, what might be helpful in this education process is an understanding from some fishermen in other areas where it is used. If our fishermen could hear from fishermen in the Gulf or some other places sort of the success stories of why they find it valuable and why they find it useful. That might help a little bit in terms of who is kind of pitching the benefits of this. I think if we could relay on some of the success stories so far, that would really help.

LCDR GIBSON: Just real quick, from an enforcement perspective we all understand why it is good for us and for the council. When you talk about running MPAs in places where we can't mark these closed areas, where you visually see them, VMS has proven to us over and over again it is a great tool from both sides.

And just like Otha was saying, I can echo that, that I think the fishermen are seeing the negative aspects of it and not the positive, which could mean they're fishing longer without a boarding team on board when we know where they're at. When VMS is there, they're not going to be bothered as much. It is better for an enforcement perspective. I think we have done the search and rescue perspective also for VMS. And once again, just like Mel is saying, in the northeast we have seen this VMS work on quite a few different fisheries and the positive aspects of that from those fishermen.

DR. DUVAL: Are there any other comments? Is there anyone else around the table who would like the opportunity to comment on the substitute motion who has not had the opportunity to do so? I do think this was, again, an important discussion to have on the record. This is certainly not an action to be taken lightly. Is everyone ready to vote on the substitute motion?

I would like to ask for a show of hands for those in favor of the substitute motion that the council not pursue a VMS requirement in the snapper grouper fishery, two in favor of the substitute motion; those opposed, nine opposed. The substitute motion fails. The main motion still stands, which is to move the VMS requirement into a separate Snapper Grouper Amendment 30 and bring back to the committee in March. Is there anymore discussion on the main motion?

Can I ask for a show of hands of those who are favor of the main motion, ten in favor; those opposed, two opposed. The main motion is approved. The next motion was a motion to select Alternative 2 as the preferred. That motion was withdrawn.

**The next motion was to ask staff to craft a new Alternative 3 with the contingency and make that our preferred. That alternative would be that VMS would be required contingent upon available funding. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there discussion on this motion? Is there opposition to this motion? I see two in opposition. Any abstentions? The motion passes.**

**The next motion was to accept the IPT wording for Alternative 2 and on behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Any opposition? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.**

Next is the draft timing and task motion. I would like to give everyone the opportunity to make sure that they can see the timing and tasks. Just to kind of review, we're going to be working on a letter to Headquarters for support for the quota monitoring system. We have split up the actions that were originally within CE-BA 3 into separate documents.

We will be sending for-hire reporting in a separate document to the Gulf Council for their approval before we see it again to take final action and we will continue to work with the Gulf Council on a couple of different joint amendments with regard to headboat reporting, commercial reporting. One of the other items that we talked about was removing some of the reporting items on the commercial logbook form, so I guess we will be looking to Bonnie for an update on that. Chairman Cupka.

MR. CUPKA: Again, it is important here in Item 3 that we request the Gulf Council to not only review but approve as part of not only their agenda but in the notice that is sent out. That was part of the problem we had at their last meeting. It was not on their agenda as a motion to be approved but simply to be reviewed, which doesn't help any. We need to make sure that staff works with their staff and that it is properly noticed so that they can take action on it if they wish to.

DR. DUVAL: That is a good point, David; and I think with having Phil here and Chairman Boyd and Gregg, I am certain that staff will coordinate to make sure that notice is properly given. If everyone has had a chance to review the timing and tasks, I would entertain a motion to approve the timing and tasks as presented.

MR. PHILLIPS: **Michelle, I would like to make a motion to approve the timing and tasks as presented.**

DR. DUVAL: Motion by Charlie; seconded by Martha. Is there any discussion on this? Any opposition to this motion? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.

(The following timing and tasks were adopted by the council.)

1. Send letter to NMFS HQ indicating support for quota monitoring system.
2. Move CE-BA 3, Action 1. For-hire Reporting into a separate Generic SAFMC Amendment.
3. Request the Gulf Council, at their February 2013 meeting, review and approve for formal review the new Generic SAFMC For-Hire Reporting Amendment; coordinate the Gulf Council's review and approval. SAFMC will approve for formal review at their March 4-8, 2013 meeting.
4. Coordinate work with the Gulf Council on a Generic Headboat Reporting Amendment during 2013.
5. Request the Gulf Council, at their February 2013 meeting, discuss working with the SAFMC on a new Generic SA/GM Generic Commercial Reporting Amendment; coordinate the Gulf Council's review and input.
6. Coordinate with the SEFSC on removal of several reporting items on the commercial logbook form.
7. Make the modifications to CE-BA Action 3. Bycatch reporting and bring CE-BA 3 that only includes one action (bycatch) back for final approval at the SAFMC March 2013 meeting.

Directed staff to add information from Shrimp Amendment 6, additional cost information, and any relevant information on bycatch data collection from the NEFSC.

8. Move CE-BA 3, Action 4. VMS to a separate Snapper Grouper Amendment 30 and bring to the Council in March 2013 for approval for public hearings. Public hearings would be held in April or May and final action would be considered at the June 2013 SAFMC meeting. Directed staff to include all additional benefits from VMS and information from the Gulf Council's amendments related to VMS; also to correct the Snapper Grouper AP's position on requiring VMS.
9. Directed staff to keep the Council informed of progress on the Gulf Council's Generic Amendment addressing Charter Reporting

DR. DUVAL: Mr. Chairman, that concludes my report.

MR. CUPKA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Our next committee is the joint Habitat and Ecosystem-Based Management Committee; but I think before we do that let's take about a ten-minute break.

CHAIRMAN CUPKA: I would like to reconvene. Our next committee report is the joint Habitat and Ecosystem-Based Management Committee.

MR. HAYMANS: The joint Ecosystem-Based Management and Habitat and Environmental Protection Committee met on Monday, December 3, 2012 in Wilmington, NC. The committee received a report on the status of landings for octocorals from SERO and from FWC. Because the management unit was shortened to include octocorals in waters off the South Atlantic where harvest is prohibited, the committee requested that future reports of octocoral landings be provided on an annual basis from FWC.

Mike Merrifield, Chair of the Deepwater Shrimp AP, and Steve Blair, Chair of the Coral AP, reviewed recommendations for Coral Habitat Areas of Particular Concern that resulted from the joint Coral and Deepwater Shrimp AP meeting on October 18, 2012. Roger Pugliese provided a review of the Habitat AP report from their November 14-15, 2012, meeting. The committee reviewed the Coral Amendment 8 Options Paper which considers modifications to the Oculina Bank, Stetson-Miami Terrace, and Cape Lookout Coral HAPCs.

The joint Ecosystem-Based Management and Habitat and Environmental Protection Committees developed the following motions in the discussion of Coral Amendment 8 Options Paper. **Motion 1, proceed with the Option 1 timing. On behalf of the committee I so move. Any discussion? Any opposition? The motion is approved.**

**Motion 2; proceed with planning a joint Law Enforcement and Deepwater Shrimp AP Meeting and also a joint Coral and Habitat AP Meeting. On behalf of the committee I so move. Any discussion? Any objection? Yes, Michelle.**

DR. DUVAL: Well, I guess just based on some of the public comment that we heard today about a multi-multi AP, a mega AP meeting, I just wanted to make sure that folks took the time to consider whether or not that was something that they wanted to pursue. I know we had set up



two different joint AP meetings, so I just wanted to make sure before we breeze through, that it still good with everyone. That's all.

MR. PHILLIPS: And just for clarification, are we going to ask the chairmen from the Shrimp and Deepwater Shrimp Committee to sit on the Coral and Habitat AP just to answer – for clarification were they going to sit in?

MR. HAYMANS: Yes, if you will notice in the handout from this, it says that the committee discussed giving to the deference to the staff for determining the appropriate timing and details and scheduling in the 2013 AP meetings. The committee also discussed having a representative from each AP at the respective meetings, so, yes. But if it would be the committee's pleasure, we could always have a substitute motion to allow staff to determine the most appropriate method in how these AP meet. Seeing no motion, I will move on. Michelle.

**DR. DUVAL: Well, Mr. Chairman, I would be happy to make a substitute motion that we allow staff to determine the most appropriate format in which to have the APs meet.**

MR. HAYMANS: There is a substitute motion; seconded by Charlie. Any discussion on that? We have some discussion.

MR. WAUGH: Sorry, thanks but no thanks. I apologize for jumping in like this, but this is something we would like you all to provide your guidance to. Our concern is if we get four APs together like that, it is going to be difficult. We have already had a lot of that joint input thus far and we don't have a lot of issues remaining on these areas right now based on the previous work.

The idea behind doing the joint Coral and Habitat APs is that they have a lot of other business to deal with, and they are dealing with habitat and we're talking about bringing in the chairs from those other APs.

The joint Law Enforcement AP, we have already got a meeting scheduled with them with our Outreach. The issue of VMS is only one issue and we're not that far off on the transit issue that would necessitate a whole meeting. I think we can get this resolved. That is just some of our concerns.

DR. DUVAL: So with that having been said, then I guess with the committee and seconder's concurrence I would withdraw that motion. I just wanted to make sure that we consider that; that's all. I appreciate those comments and I would withdraw my motion with the committee's concurrence.

MR. HAYMANS: And as it is a committee motion, we need to make sure that – is there any objection to the withdrawal? Seeing none, then we still have Motion 2 and we need to vote on that. Ben.

MR. HARTIG: Before you vote on it, didn't we have some discussion about the snapper grouper in this as well?

MR. HAYMANS: We did but snapper grouper is going to be meeting in April and would be able to take up this in April.

MR. HARTIG: And one other thing I just want to make sure of is that in these meetings we're going to have someone from each of these respective APs attending the coral and the habitat meeting?

MR. HAYMANS: Yes, we were trying to cross-pollinate these meetings. Bob.

MR. MAHOOD: Yes, and traditionally throughout the years the Coral and Habitat APs have met jointly to discuss habitat issues. It wasn't until most recently that we started cross-pollinating with other APs.

MR. HAYMANS: And I think the main thing is just that we give all of these groups an opportunity to input again. There was some desire for the Shrimp Committee to be able to hear the other committees' input, but at this point I think that may be difficult and we're going to keep it the way is if the committee chooses to do that here. Any additional discussion on the motion? Is there any opposition to the motion? Seeing none; that motion is approved.

**Motion Number 3 was to accept the IPT's recommendation for purpose and need statement. On behalf of the committee I so move. Any discussion? Any opposition? Seeing none; that motions carries.**

**Motion 4 was to add Subalternative 2E to Action 1 for further analysis. You have got it printed there in front of you. On behalf of the committee I so move. Any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion carries.**

**Motion 5; move Subalternatives 2B, 2C and 2D to the considered but rejected appendix. On behalf of the committee I so move. Any discussion? Any opposition? Seeing none; that motion carries.**

**Motion 6; do not consider the fishery access area recommendation at this time until further information warrants council discussion. That is the shrimp fishery access areas. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any additional discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion carries.**

**Motion 7; add Alternative 3 to Action 2 for further analysis. Again, you see the alternative there. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion carries.**

**Motion 8; include a new Alternative 4 under Action 3, and this would replace the existing Alternative 2 and move Alternative 2 to the considered but rejected appendix and renumber as appropriate. I think you see the correct version below there. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion carries.**

**Motion 9 is our timing and task motion. There are two timing and tasks dealing with the AP meetings and with VMS. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any additional discussion? Any opposition? Seeing none; that motion carries.**

(The following timing and tasks were adopted by the council.)

1. Council staff will coordinate scheduling of AP meetings (Deepwater Shrimp, Law Enforcement, Snapper Grouper, Coral, Habitat APs) in the spring of 2013 to review updated analyses and modifications to Coral HAPCs.
2. Council will review updated VMS analyses at the March 2013 meeting and consider approval of Coral Amendment 8 for public hearings at the June 2013 meeting.

MR. HAYMANS: Mr. Chairman, that concludes the joint Ecosystem-Based Management and Habitat and Environmental Protection Committee Meeting.

MR. CUPKA: Okay, thank you. Moving to our next agenda item, we have a presentation scheduled by Steve Durkee and Mike Clark with the National Marine Fisheries Service on Amendment 5 to the Highly Migratory Species FMP.

MR. DURKEE: Good afternoon. My name is Steve Durkee and this is my colleague Mike Clark. We are from NOAA Fisheries Highly Migratory Species Management Division. We are here to discuss a new proposed amendment to our HMS FMP. This one deals exclusively with sharks in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Regions.

First off, the impetus for this rulemaking is three recent stock assessments that covered these several species and stocks. You can see that scalloped hammerheads came back with overfished and overfishing, and then dusky came back overfished and surprisingly came back overfishing as well. This is a stock that has been prohibited since the year 2000.

Sandbar came back with a still overfished and no longer overfishing, which is good news for us. We take that to mean that our current rebuilding plan is working, and so sandbar is not going to be addressed in this rulemaking. Blacknose sharks were also assessed. Previously blacknose were assessed as one stock across the Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico. However, new life history information had to split the stock in the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico.

The Atlantic stock, we got a status of overfished with overfishing occurring. However, the review panel did not accept the Gulf of Mexico blacknose stock, so that stock status still remains unknown. Then finally we did have a blacktip stock assessment that finished up and that stock looks pretty good; no overfishing and not overfished.

This action is divided into two sections. First is the TAC quotas and recreational alternatives and second is the pelagic longline and bottom longline effort controls, which my colleague Mike will go through. But starting with TAC quotas and recreational alternative suites, in the interest of time I'm just going to go through the preferred alternative suite and not get into some of our

other options. We will have some other information available for you if you're interested in those.

However, under this preferred alternative suite, what we would do is remove the hammerhead complex from the LCS shark complex – that is the large coastal shark complex – and establish its own separate regional hammerhead quotas separate from the large coastal shark quota. We would also remove Gulf of Mexico blacktip sharks from that Gulf of Mexico large coastal sharks species complex.

Then we would establish regional TACs and quotas for blacknose sharks as well as separate ones for the non-blacknose small coastal shark species complex. Then since of these species are caught together on the same gear and during the same time, there are some quota linkages that we have proposed as well to make sure that if one species reaches its quota that it is not going to be additional mortality from incidental capture in other directed fisheries.

Then finally we looked at several recreational measures. One of them is increasing the minimum size from 54 inches to 96 inches, and 96 inches is the size at which 50 percent of dusky females have reached maturity. We also are proposing a recreational reporting of any hammerhead sharks that are landed and then also engage in some outreach to make sure that recreational anglers understand what dusky sharks look like and that they are prohibited.

I have just got a summary slide on what all of our preferred alternatives are going to do to the quotas for large coastal shark species. What you see up here on this graphic, to the left is the Gulf of Mexico and to the right is the Atlantic. Within each region, the bar to the left is the 2013 LCS quota and then the right to right in each region is the proposed quota and how it is going to be broken down.

Essentially, if you look at the blue areas in each of the proposed areas of Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic, those are the proposed hammerhead quotas. Those are calculated by taking the TAC from the stock assessment, subtracting out other sources of mortality – you know, recreational landings, dead discards and research landings – and then dividing that quota among the two regions using historical proportion by hammerhead catch.

For instance, in the Atlantic typically 54.2 percent of the hammerheads are caught versus the Gulf of Mexico we're at 45.8 percent, so that total overall commercial quota is divided among those two regions using that proportional breakdown. Second, look at the big yellow area there, that is blacktip sharks.

The blacktip quota was calculated by taking the average annual percentage of LCS landings that were blacktips and then taking that percentage off the quota and giving it exclusively to blacktips. Again, this is the stock that just came back as a healthy stock status; not overfished and overfishing not occurring, so we would separate it out and have its own quota separate from the LCS.

That remaining black area in each of the proposed columns is the remaining aggregate LCS quota in each region. It is the remaining species in that LCS quota. The large coastal shark

species complex includes silky, tiger, bull, spinner, lemon, nurse, the hammerhead sharks and blacktip sharks. The remainder would be – in the Gulf of Mexico the hammerheads and the blacktips would be taken out and the remainder in the Atlantic would just be the hammerheads taken out.

Here is a similar graphic for small coastal shark fisheries. Again, on the left-hand side you see Gulf of Mexico; on the right-hand side you see the Atlantic Region. Similarly in each of the regions the left-hand bar is just recent landings and the right-hand area is the proposed quota. We are using recent landings; we're talking pretty much just 2011. We had a large rulemaking that affected small coastal sharks in 2009, and we also did not want to use 2010 data because of the Deepwater Horizon Closure in the Gulf of Mexico, so that us why we're only using 2011 data.

First, the non-blacknose small coastal shark quota, that is currently applied to both regions, and so what we're proposing to do is actually separate out that small coastal shark species complex quota across both regions using the percentage of historical landings breakdown. What that comes out to is in the Atlantic that is 89.3 percent, the vast majority the small coastal shark landings, and then in the Gulf of Mexico 10.7.

That's why you see large black bars in the Atlantic and smaller bars in the Gulf of Mexico. That is just dividing up that quota based on historical landings. Second, the Atlantic blacknose quota, the green area in the Atlantic, that quota up there is simply the TAC from the stock assessment minus other sources of mortality, which would include recreational landings, dead discards and research landings, and then that leaves us with a quota for the Atlantic Region.

Then under this preferred alternative the quota for blacknose, you can't see it in the Gulf of Mexico because it is so small, it is two metric tons dressed weight. That is the 2011 landings in the Gulf of Mexico. Note that blacknose have been linked to the small coastal shark quota so that if either the blacknose or the small coastal shark quota has been captured, both quotas close.

Fishermen have been avoiding blacknose in the Gulf of Mexico and that is why you're seeing such low landings there. As for quota linkages, as I mentioned before, species that are in or were in the large coastal shark species complex are oftentimes caught together on the same gear and during the same time.

If we're separating out the quotas for some of these species that were at one time underneath large coastal shark species complex, there is a potential if you close like, for instance, the hammerhead quota, they could still be caught while somebody is fishing for blacktips. We're proposing to link all of these quotas so you will see in the Gulf of Mexico, the lower left-hand corner, we would actually link the Gulf of Mexico LCS quota with the Gulf of Mexico hammerhead quota and the blacktip shark quota in the Gulf of Mexico. If any one of these quotas was reached, all three quotas would close.

It is a similar situation in the Atlantic, in the bottom right, but blacktips aren't in the equation. It is just hammerheads and large coastal sharks' quota. If either one of those quotas was reached, both would close down. And exactly the same situation for small coastal sharks; it is in the Gulf

of Mexico and in the Atlantic. Those quotas would be linked so if either one was reached, both the quotas in that particular region would close to ensure no incidental mortality in the directed fishery.

This is just a quick summary slide of all the alternatives. We will have some copies of the presentation in the back. If you're interested, you can read it a little bit further. I do just want to point out – and actually the Suite A2 is what I went through there, that first column full of some management options.

I do want to point out under Suite A3 and Suite A4 in the blacktip area, you will there are some options we have for increasing the quota. Under A3 it is a 48 percent increase in quota and under A4 it is a 676 percent increase in the quota. This is due to projections in the stock assessment. Depending on which projection you looked in, this healthy stock could take some increased mortality, between 48 percent and 676 percent increase.

However, there are some uncertainties in the stock assessment, and at this point we're not real comfortable with trying to increase the quota that much. At this time NOAA Fisheries is preferring to stick with average annual landings for the blacktip quota. That will wrap up I believe the TAC and quota section, and I will pass it off to Mike now for pelagic and bottom longline.

MR. CLARK: Again, as Steve mentioned, I just want to reiterate we're basically trying to distill a 600-page document down to a 15-minute presentation and allow for plenty of time for council comment. Again, I would like to talk about the preferred alternatives, focusing on the preferred alternatives that would control effort in the pelagic longline and bottom longline fisheries.

As Steve mentioned, dusky sharks, based on the recent assessment, continue to experience overfishing and are overfished. They have been a prohibited species since 2000. The guidance we received from the stock assessment was to further reduce fishing mortality by two-thirds, and so that is what these measures aim to do.

Steve touched on the measures that would affect the recreational fishery, the increase from 54 inches 96 inches for all sharks as a means of reducing mortality that continues to occur in the recreational fishery. What I'm going to focus on are additional measures to try and reduce F in the commercial bottom longline and pelagic longline fisheries.

Here you can see the total dusky shark interactions from 2008 to 2010. The data for pelagic longline are based on logbook data. For the bottom longline it is based on observed interactions in that fishery. For the recreational fishery this is basically based on our survey data, either MRFSS or MRIP data.

Again, focusing to the total and then our reduction targets; the reduction targets represent a two-thirds reduction, which is our goal through these measures. Again, just to reiterate, the recreational minimum size would increase from essentially four and a half feet to eight feet, which is the size at which 50 percent of female dusky sharks are essentially mature; and then also increasing outreach efforts so that fishermen can better identify what they're interacting

with on the recreational side of things; and then also trying to via our shark research fishery, modifying that, potentially changing some of the – we have some more flexibility in that fishery.

Vessels are selected on an annual basis and essentially these are the vessels that still continue to target sandbar sharks from Maine to Texas. For the most part, most of our applicants have been fishing in the areas off North Carolina south through to Louisiana and the Gulf of Mexico. And then, again, on the commercial side basically we have identified, based on the logbook data, some hotspots where fishermen are more likely – times in areas where fishermen are more likely to interact with dusky sharks.

On the top left there, the map that you see, that basically shows all of the pelagic longline sets reported in the HMS logbook from 2008 to 2010. We further refine that. On the map to the right there you can see they're essentially one by one degree grid cells, and from 2008 to 2010 each of those numbers for the cells represents the total numbers of interactions with dusky sharks.

Then also correspondingly some of the – you know, essentially the average set revenue based on that logbook data in terms of – you know, obviously the fishermen are fishing there for a reason because that is where a lot of the target catch is as well. In looking at – you can see some of the proposed closures that we have that are part of our preferred alternative in terms of trying to reduce interactions in the pelagic longline fishery.

In the map on the right we are assuming that the fishing effort would be redistributed and for the purposes of this analysis we're assuming that the effort would stay within those respective – these are ICCAT statistical reporting areas; so starting from the bottom, you see the Florida east coast, South Atlantic Bight, Mid-Atlantic Bight and then the northeast coastal and then the Sargasso Sea.

For instance, the Charleston Bump, the hotspots that are proposed to be closed, we would assume that the effort would stay within the South Atlantic Bight and so on and so forth with the other closures that you see there in white on the map. This shows our current closures in black – these are all specific to pelagic longline – and then the proposed closures in red.

Again, the proposed closures would be – they're all at least one month, but I guess just starting from the south there is a larger Charleston Bump hotspot that would be closed in May and the smaller box within that would be closed in November. Then you see the larger black box; that is an existing closure. The Charleston Bump is closed every year from February through April.

Moving up the coast you see the Hatteras Shelf Closure. That would be proposed to be closed in May, June and November. There are three closures that are represented by the Mid-Atlantic Bight Canyons. Those would all be closed for the month of October. And then you see that parallelogram there off to the right, the southern Georges Bank Closure would be proposed to be closed in July and August of each year. That is overlaid on top of the existing northeast closure, which is the month of June.

This figure shows the proposed economic impacts after redistributing the effort, the CPUEs that occur in each of the proposed hotspots to their respective ICCAT statistical reporting areas. You

see the – again moving up from south to north, the Charleston Bump, the May closure, the economic impacts and then the number of duskies that would be potentially not interacted with by the closure, and then the smaller box would be the November closure, economic impact and the number of duskies and so on and so forth.

Overall we predict the total economic impact on an annual basis to be approximately \$385,000. That is across the entire fleet. Total dusky shark interactions with redistribution of effort would be reduced by about 50 percent or 854 sharks. This is not a preferred alternative but something we are certainly interested in comment on.

One option that we did explore would be to implement bycatch caps where each of these areas would be closed. However, if a fishing vessel were selected for observer coverage in their respective area, those vessels would be able to enter these proposed closed areas with an observer.

We would establish a 10 percent threshold based on the interactions that I showed for each of the areas, and so fishing would continue with observer coverage until that 10 percent threshold was met for an individual closure. Once that threshold was met, then the area would become closed; but until then it would be open to vessels that were selected for observer coverage. Moving on to the different measures away from the pelagic longline fishery, this shows currently we have a closure off of North Carolina between January 1<sup>st</sup> and July 31<sup>st</sup> every year.

The state of North Carolina has asked us, since implementing that closure, to consider the timing of this closure with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission closure that is in adjacent state waters, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and New Jersey. Those states open on July 15<sup>th</sup>. North Carolina feels as if they're disadvantaged having to wait that additional two weeks to be able to fish in those waters.

What this preferred alternative would do is essentially move the timing of the closure back two weeks; so instead of January 1<sup>st</sup> the closure would start on December 15<sup>th</sup> and then reopen on July 15<sup>th</sup> as opposed to July 31<sup>st</sup>. Again, this is a bottom longline closure; it is not for pelagic longline or any other gears.

We would also consider, in order to reduce dusky shark interactions in our shark research fishery, have a little bit more flexibility in terms of that fishery applicants apply on an annual basis, they have observers on all of the trips. Sort of an annual basis we have research objectives that could be modified in order to avoid interactions with dusky sharks and reach our goal of a two-thirds reduction across all fisheries.

These include limiting the soak time, the number of hooks or potentially restricting areas where dusky shark interactions are more likely. In terms of specific requests for public comment, obviously we're interested in any and all comments especially from our colleagues with the council.

In terms of the bycatch caps, obviously we're faced with limited resources of the pelagic longline observer program, how this might work including options that might include industry-funded



observer coverage. In terms of just sort of a housekeeping measure, is there a better name than aggregated large coastal sharks? In terms of better getting the word out in terms of what are the other resources that we could use with the recreational community to improve their awareness and hopefully reduce the number of landings that continue to occur in the recreational fishery for dusky sharks.

And then also in addition with the – in conjunction with the new proposed closures for the pelagic longline fishery, measures that might allow vessels to transit the closed areas and look at some gear stowage provisions that might work on the water. The comment period closes on February 12<sup>th</sup>. We're certainly interested in any and all comments that you might have today and hope we have time for that. You can see on the slide there we provide all the relevant information in terms of how to submit a comment and we look forward to receiving any comments that you have right now. Thank you very much for your time.

MR. CUPKA: Thank you, Steve and Mike. Are there any questions for either one or comments? Ben.

MR. HARTIG: With all those boxes you added; is VMS a requirement in this fishery?

MR. DURKEE: Yes, sir.

MR. HARTIG: Wow; look at that! No, I mean here you can actually look at these areas where you have hotspots on dusky sharks. With VMS you're able to target those areas specifically. Otherwise, you would have had to close the entire area probably based on the rebuilding schedule for dusky for a longer period of time.

MR. CLARK: We get set-specific information. In the HMS logbook we get set-specific information that gives us the lat/longs and that is actually where we got a lot of our interaction data. Currently the VMS requirements, the unit needs to be fired up two hours before they leave port. We do allow them to shut them off because we have comments in the past that the transmission costs, when they're just tied at the dock, are excessive.

We allow them to shut them down and they have to turn on the units two hours before they leave port and then every hour they provide a position report until they get back to port. They don't use the VMS units to report their catch specifically. The hotspots were derived exclusively from the logbook data that they provide. We have set-by-set information on that.

MR. CUPKA: But you can compare the two, though, to make sure that they get the right data. It is not that they aren't reporting right but that is kind of a check I guess against the logbook generally and not specifically.

MR. CLARK: Yes, and frankly one of the primary reasons we have VMS requirements is because we have a lot of gear-based time area closures; so if a vessel were to remove the spool, then we wouldn't consider them to have pelagic longline gear on board; therefore, they wouldn't have the requirement to use VMS.

Basically the vessels that are fishing with bottom longline gear not in the vicinity of our time area closures for bottom longline off the state of North Carolina, outside of that timeframe, those aren't required to use VMS, so it essentially derives from the fact that we need to know which vessels are in those areas.

Starting January 1<sup>st</sup> we have the requirement going into effect for the enhanced MTU VMS. Vessels, when they fire up the unit, they will have to declare their target species and what gear they have on board. Again, this is so that we can have a better idea in terms of what regulation should apply to a particular vessel. If they pelagic longline gear on board, then obviously that is a better means of monitoring the pelagic longline closed areas.

MR. HAYMANS: Mr. Chairman, if you will indulge me, I came along with a few questions. First of all, why didn't the pre-draft of this have any – and most of my questions or all of them are recreational – why didn't it have any mention of a recreational size adjustment in the pre-draft that went out and it only appeared when the draft impact statement came out?

MR. DURKEE: Yes, the 96 inches itself was not in the pre-draft; I don't recall if we discussed examining whether or not to increase the minimum size. I think we might have mentioned that. However, it is not a requirement for us to include in the pre-draft. We put that pre-draft out there to get some ideas on management measures, and that is definitely one that we heard from the recreational community as well as that perhaps these trophy-sized sharks are what they're after, anyway, so perhaps this large a minimum size might not matter.

MR. HAYMANS: I will let you know about that in just a second. The size limit will include everything other than the small sharks, right? It is not just for large coastals?

MR. DURKEE: That is correct, yes.

MR. HAYMANS: So in the state of Georgia that is going to knock us down to about five species that we can keep, period, and that is not going to fly. Our comments back to the federal consistency request are going to show that. The way we're looking at it, between five and seven species is all our recreational fishermen are going to be able to harvest.

I think this council has already had an experience this week about linking species. Specifically, I think if you want to take one lesson back from us, it is the gag example which we just pulled off. As a comment there, I don't know that linkage is going to work for you. You started off by saying that the first thing you were going to do was try to educate folks as to identification of duskies. If duskies is the issue, work on duskies and not affect everything else. I know it is going to hurt us. I am sure northeast Florida and a few others are going to be affected as well.

MR. DURKEE: And this is specifically in the recreational fishery?

MR. HAYMANS: Yes. I guess finally – and this is a burr under one of my colleague's saddle and maybe this is directed towards Roy and the rest of NMFS, but it sure would be nice if HMS had to operate under the exact same rules that we did with regards to the SSC and independent review and all that kind of good stuff. How in the world they can continue to operate without

that when we do because of Magnuson defies my colleague in particular but me as well. That's it.

MR. DURKEE: Now, the SEDAR assessments were independently reviewed. That's why the Gulf of Mexico blacknose shark assessment we cannot use because it was not accepted, so there is independent review of these assessments..

MR. HAYMANS: Yes, I guess it is the SSC or the lack thereof which is really the issue.

MR. PHILLIPS: Were these shark fishermen reimbursed for their VMS?

MR. CLARK: Yes, actually there was – well, back in 2004 I believe there were loaner units that were given to the shark fishermen. Yes, they are currently eligible to be reimbursed. I think it is \$3,100; not for the installation or not for the transmission costs, but it is the initial. I think that \$3,100 corresponds with one of the cheaper units. You could spend more than that but you will only get reimbursed up to \$3,100.

MR. JOLLEY: That was a good presentation. My comments are about the recreational fishery as well. I'd like to know what your experience is with the release ethic in shark fishing now. Is that something that is being promoted? Are you seeing that; and if not, why not? In South Florida, of course, we have a historical release ethic especially with sailfish that has been tremendously successful.

I would think that this is saleable idea for sharks as well. If we've got trouble with sharks and the recreational fishery is concerned about maintaining that availability, I would be shocked that they wouldn't want to get on this release ethic bandwagon. You don't even need them anymore in the taxidermy industry. They can mount a fish that will last longer because it doesn't have any of the real parts that fall apart as they get older. I'm interested in the educational potential here and what your experience is and whether or not this is increasing significantly over time.

MR. DURKEE: Yes, I don't have any data broken down as far as when a shark fisherman catches a shark, whether he or she releases it or keeps it. However, the ethic that you're describing we see it in the shark fishery as well. There is definitely an ethic there to release sharks at times. I couldn't give you a percentage breakdown on how often that occurs.

MR. CLARK: There was an ICCAT stock assessment on shortfin makos. The one preceding the one that happened this year actually – the most recent one said they're not overfished and overfishing is not occurring, but the one prior said they weren't overfished but overfishing was occurring.

In our Amendment 3 several years ago we tried to launch an app basically or a means that fishermen could basically call in or use their phones to report a release of shortfin mako specifically because we know that is obviously one of the more popular tournament species, too. It has been pretty well received. We have probably gotten, I don't know, 80 or 90 releases that we know of in a couple of years. Obviously it could be better, but, yes, it is something that we should definitely explore more especially with the tournaments.

MR. JOLLEY: Well, not to belabor this, but in the bill fishery we use a flag system so that charter boatmen can come in and they could brag, you know; and as a sales incentive, of course, the more flags you run up the more likely you are to get the next charter. At least that used to be the case.

I'm wondering why something couldn't be developed like that to encourage more of this release ethic in the shark fishery. It is an absolute perfect fish for this kind of thing. I would think that NOAA would want to be on the education bandwagon on this thing. The success we have had with billfish is historic and it is easily applicable to other fisheries.

MR. AMICK: Just to John's point as far as the release, I'm not even sure if I can identify the difference between bull, lemon or duskies offshore. I don't know, for the last ten or fifteen years in the headboat/charterboat mode offshore we just overall just say, well, those things are protected and we cut them loose. On our inshore boat we have a boat that a fisherman, he catches tiger sharks and he releases – I think he has caught ten big females this year and tags them and releases them. There is a good bit of releasing in our fishery off of Georgia.

MS. BADEMAN: Just to follow up on Doug's comments, in Florida we have the current 54-inch minimum size limit for recreational, but we do have an exception to that for several species like bonnetheads. We will have more complete comments at the HMS meeting and in our consistency letter, but we have some issues with this as well.

MR. CUPKA: Are there other comments? Seeing none, then I want to thank Steve and Mike and remind you that they do have some material I guess you have made available in the back if you want to pick that up. It has the address and the contact information on there. All right, I think the way we're going to proceed from here is maybe take one or two short committee reports and then close the day with a legal briefing from Monica, which would be a closed session. Then we will pick up again in the morning.

I want to go ahead and give the SEDAR Committee Report. The SEDAR Committee met on December 3, 2012, and received reports on current SEDAR activities and the SEDAR Steering Committee meeting of October 2012. The provided guidance on future assessment priorities and made approvals for 2013 assessments of black sea bass, snowy grouper, blueline tilefish and gray triggerfish.

A number of motions were made at the committee meeting and I would like to go through those. **First is a motion that a benchmark assessment of red porgy be conducted in 2014. On behalf of the committee I would so move. Is there any discussion on the motion? Is there any objection? Seeing none; then that motion is approved.**

**A motion to remove the red porgy update from the 2015 list, and on behalf of the committee I would so move. Is there any discussion on the motion? Any objection? Seeing none; then that motion is approved.**

**Motion 3 was to remove the vermilion update from the 2015 list of assessments, and on behalf of the committee I would so move. Is there any discussion on the motion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion is approved.**

**A motion that the priority stocks for 2015 are gray snapper, dolphin and wahoo benchmarks; and golden tilefish and red grouper updates. On behalf of the committee I would so move. Is there any discussion on the motion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion is approved.**

**There was a motion to approve the terms of reference for the black sea bass update with a P-rebuild based on 66 percent and an alternative that was considered by the Snapper Grouper Committee. In a minute I will entertain a motion to deal with the other P-rebuild, but on behalf of the committee I want to move this. Is there any discussion on this motion? Is there any objection? Seeing none, then that motion is approved.**

Based on the action that the Snapper Grouper Committee, we will need a motion to include a P-rebuild based on 62.5 percent in the terms of reference for our black sea bass update assessment. Do I have a motion? Michelle.

**DR. DUVAL: Mr. Chairman, I move that we include a P-rebuild based on 62.5 percent in the black sea bass update terms of reference.**

MR. CUPKA: Second by Ben. Is there any discussion on the motion? Is there any objection? Seeing none; that motion is approved. **There was a motion to approve the SEDAR 32 terms of reference, and on behalf of the committee I would so move. Is there any discussion on the motion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion is approved.**

**A motion to approve the SEDAR 36 schedule and the terms of reference, and on behalf of the committee I would so move. Is there any discussion on the motion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion is approved.**

**A motion to appoint the following individuals to SEDAR 32: Mike Schmidtke to the data workshop; Steve Cadrin as the review workshop chair; Jim Berkson to the review workshop; and Mark Brown to the data workshop. On behalf of the committee I would so move. Is there any discussion on the motion? Any objection? Seeing none; then that motion is approved.**

**The final motion was to appoint the following individuals to SEDAR 36: from the South Atlantic Council SSC would be Doug Vaughan, Eric Johnson, Chip Collier and Marcel Reichert; from the MARMAP staff, Dave Wyanski, Joey Ballenger, Tracey Smart. Michelle Pate; from our AP Jack Perret and Rob Harris; and the council representatives would be Michelle Duval and Anna Beckwith. On behalf of the committee I would so move. Is there any discussion on the motion? Any objection? Seeing none; then that motion is approved.** That concludes the report of the SEDAR Committee Meeting. I would ask Tom if he is prepared at this time to give the Dolphin and Wahoo Committee Report.

MR. SWATZEL: I am prepared, Mr. Chairman. The Dolphin and Wahoo Committee met on December 3, 2012. The committee reviewed sector landings versus their quotas for the current

fishing year and discussed an options paper for Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 5. The Committee reviewed four actions prepared by staff to 1) update the ABC, ACLs (including sector ACLs), sector allocations, and the recreational ACT for dolphin and wahoo;

2) Adjustments to the framework to reflect the fisheries management language from the revised Magnuson-Stevens Act; 3) revisions to the sector allocations for the dolphin fishery; and 4) whether or not to allow for-hire bag limit sales of dolphin and/or wahoo. The committee discussed AMs and consistency across species and directed staff to develop an action that could possibly revise AMs to take out to scoping as a part of Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 5.

The Committee gave direction to staff to change the wording of the title of Action Number 1 in the amendment to indicate that the updates are due to MRIP values, as specifically indicated in the alternatives. Direction was given by the committee to add a table showing how many pounds the commercial and recreational sectors landed in recent years indicating whether they were over or under the different allocation scenarios in the discussion for Actions 1 and 3. The committee recommended the council vote to send the actions listed in the options paper out for scoping in January 2013.

**The committee adopted the following motion: Direct staff to develop revisions to include additional AMs for both dolphin and wahoo in the scoping document. On behalf of the committee I would so move. Is there any discussion? Is there any opposition? Hearing none; the motion is approved.** Before I offer the next motion, Mel Bell has asked to be recognized to make a new motion.

MR. BELL: I apologize; I didn't think we were going to be at this point until tomorrow morning. **I would like to move that we remove Action 4 from the Dolphin and Wahoo Options Paper and public scoping process before moving forward with Amendment 5.**

MR. HARTIG: Second.

MR. SWATZEL: We have a motion and a second. Any discussion?

MR. BELL: I will explain myself. Again, I apologize for jumping in here. From my perspective as a state fisheries manager and watching the council for a long time now and then sitting here for a little while, I have been under the impression that the council was moving towards a clear distinction between recreational and commercial sectors.

Magnuson is set up all around a clear distinction between a commercial sector and a recreational sector. We, of course, went through the whole process with snapper grouper and you can't sell a recreational bag limit of snapper grouper any longer. It seems like the council has been moving in this direction with other fisheries; and that was my assumption as a state fisheries manager from a South Carolina perspective.

But I think kind of moving forward with the way this is worded right now – and I am sensitive to things that Monica said about public perception – I think if that is not our intention, we're kind

of sending the public a mixed signal here potentially by kind of leaving this on the table and being discussed.

If we're going to make an exception for dolphin and wahoo, why not go back and revisit snapper grouper? What about king mackerel and cobia? What about the other fisheries? I just think there are some very clear benefits to distinctions between the sectors. I am even more convinced now after hearing some of the testimony we have heard today about markets, sensitivity of available product to commercial fisheries, those sorts of things.

It just seems like what we're potentially setting ourselves up for if we kind of try to have this blended world is putting one sector at a disadvantage where another sector can basically do things that influence the other sector. In other words, if you have the ability to sell recreationally caught fish, you're entering those fish into the market and that affects market conditions.

I'm a little more sensitive to it perhaps in South Carolina because some of our fisheries are kind of small and perhaps more sensitive to those sorts of things. It seems like it is a potential to create a situation where the recreational sector is doing things that can have a negative impact on the commercial sector.

In other words, if there is available product there for the commercial sector to take advantage of but you allow the recreational sector to kind of have that piece of the market, then the commercial guys can't get into it even if they wanted to, perhaps. That is what I'm really sensitive to. It really hit me after some of the testimonies we've heard today and some of the things yesterday about just how tough it is right now for a lot of these guys to make it.

If we could do things that didn't provide other potential negative consequences for them, I think that would be wise. In an overarching sense it just seemed to me that there needs to be a clear distinction between the sectors. I understand the value of these fish to the recreational side, to the for-hire folks or whatever, but again their business is based on a model that allows them to take people out for hire. The commercial guys, all they do is bring the fish back. That is it for them; they can't take people out for hire.

Also, the way things are set up even with snapper grouper right now, you can do both activities. You just have to be appropriately licensed and permitted to be both. I know in South Carolina we have 11 charterboat captains who are dually licensed and permitted and they operate in one mode as a commercial fisherman and in another mode as a recreational fisherman.

They are either or the other. They are never both at the same time. That is what I'm just really afraid of here is as long as we kind of keep this open, we're just potentially confusing the public as we move along. Maybe that is just from perspective with our fisheries and how we're constructed, but that is what I'm really sensitive to right now, and that is why I have some trouble with even taking it back to the public like this.

MR. HAYMANS: Mel, I appreciate the well thought out and well-delivered argument for your motion. Though I may agree with a lot of what you said and may eventually come down that

way, I still want to see it go through the process. I realize this is an option and we have got a long way to go. I hope that we maybe see some ideas come out about proper licensure and ways.

If these charter guys are going to have commercial licenses, maybe we need to be moving some more of the recreational ACL over to the commercial side to allow for that happen; but by shutting it down right here we won't hear that. That is sort of the same argument we have with VMS. We could have ended the discussion and not gone through the whole process and not heard all the opinions the way we did with catch shares. We never took it through, so for that reason I am going to vote against the motion. I would like to hear the rest of the story.

DR. CRABTREE: This prohibition on sale went into place April 16<sup>th</sup> of this year and here we are revisiting it and doing it again. We've made some decisions and we've built a record. We've got a lot of work to do and I don't have any desire to go back and reargue all these and deal with them again. I just don't see how we can – you know, it is just too soon and I'm going to support the motion. I just don't want to go through this again.

MR. JOLLEY: I will keep mine very short. I couldn't object more strongly.

MR. HARTIG: Objection noted. We are going down this path trying to professionalize commercial fisheries and it is a minority of charterboats that sell these fish. If it was every charterboat fisherman in the South Atlantic coming before me and saying that we absolutely have to have this to stay in business, that might be different, but that is not the case.

People have different business plans and plenty of them are still in business just running the charter end of it without selling their catch. There are people who don't believe in selling their catch, and that is one of the things that is different between the two competing factions. One of the other problems I have is this is coming right on the heels in the mackerel discussions of Spanish mackerel, king mackerel and cobia.

If we make an exception here, do we make the exception in those fisheries? Certainly those fisheries in the past have had a significant impact on actually the amount that we get paid in certain weeks with large amounts of recreational king mackerel entering the market from the Keys during the wintertime. The other thing is Mel talks a little bit about the competitive aspects. I can tell you this from a fact that if I'm out there and catching dolphin, my trips, I'm not going to get back until right before the specific restaurants have paid the highest price close. Most of the time when I come in there, I either call or I go by the restaurant to find out if they need any dolphin. If there is dolphin available, those guys get in earlier than I do. It puts me in a disadvantage on a daily basis trying to sell these animals for the best price that you can get commercially. That's one of the problems.

MS. BADEMAN: I think you all kind of know where I stand on this one. I am going to vote against this motion. I think we can probably work through some of the double-counting issues. I have talked a little bit some of the economic importance of these fish in South Florida. I am going to speak against the motion.



MR. CUPKA: I guess one of the disadvantages of being involved in this process so long is you know what has gone before, and this is the third time we have been down this path. The first time we allowed it. Then we changed it and didn't allow it, and now we're talking about allowing it again.

We wonder why the fishermen stay confused. We have been back and forth on this thing, and I hate to see us deviate from the direction we have been going in. I'm sensitive to all the concerns but I have been down this road a couple of times before, and I'm getting tired of going down that road.

DR. DUVAL: I struggled with this. I think I would probably – I very much appreciate everything that Mel said and what he laid out, and I feel like consistency is a good thing. That said, I would tend to echo some of Doug's comments that I'm willing to let it go through the process, but I acknowledge all the problems with it. As I see it, it sets up inconsistency but I'm willing to let it go through the process and make a final decision later.

MR. BELL: I appreciate Martha's comments about double-counting. I'm not so much worried about double-counting although it is a pain. What really dawned on me at this meeting was dealing with market issues and things. We tend to make a lot of decisions kind of focused – number one, we're focused on that ACL because of National Standard 1 and all.

But what I'm more sensitive to is the market intricacies and things and just how complex these things are. It just seems like doing this sort of costs the sector accommodation. We're setting ourselves up maybe in the future for making things even more complex or putting one sector at a disadvantage when perhaps they shouldn't.

I think we could figure out how to count things but I think it is more the market issues I'm concerned with. I know I as a state, perhaps it is unique to South Carolina. Eventually we would have to change some state laws to accommodate this, which is never a lot of fun.

MR. BURGESS: I believe one of the motions in here is to change the allocation back to the 13 percent 87 percent; isn't that correct? I think the commercial sector has a lot to gain by it. It was supported by the advisory panel, so I would like to see it go out to public scoping.

DR. CRABTREE: This is just to remove the one action to allow recreational sale, Tom. The rest of it – with this, we just remove that and the allocation issue, unless someone removes that, would still go out.

MR. SWATZEL: Okay, we have a motion and that is to remove Option 4 from the Dolphin and Wahoo Amendment 5 Scoping Document. All those in favor raise your hand, six in favor; all those opposed, six. I vote in favor of the motion; the motion carries.

**Okay, that brings us to the second motion that the committee approved to recommend that the council vote to send the Dolphin and Wahoo Amendment 5 Options Paper to public scoping. On behalf of the committee I so move. Any discussion? Is there any opposition?**

**Hearing none; that motion is approved.** Mr. Chairman, that concludes the Dolphin and Wahoo Committee Report.

MR. CUPKA: Thank you, Tom. I think what we're going to do at this time, as I indicated earlier, is we're going to go into a closed session for a briefing from Monica on some legal issues. Following that, we're going to recess for the day.

The Full Council Session of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council reconvened in the Cape Fear Ballroom of the Hilton Wilmington Riverside Hotel, Wilmington, North Carolina, Friday morning, December 7, 2012, and was called to order at 9:00 o'clock a.m. by Chairman David Cupka.

MR. CUPKA: Our final committee report is the Executive Finance Committee. The Executive Finance Committee met on December 6, 2012, in Wilmington. The minutes from the September 2012 Executive Finance Committee were approved. The committee received presentations on the following agenda items:

Calendar Year 2012 Council Budget Expenditures: Mr. Mahood briefed the committee on the council's final expenditures for Calendar Year 2012. He indicated that we are in very good shape for 2012 having expended only 74 percent of the budget to date. We will have funds available to carry forward and have positioned ourselves where we will be able to weather future anticipated budget reductions. Conserving our funds is critical to the council's future operations as we brace for potential budget cuts of 13 and 19 percent of our five-year grant.

Draft Calendar Year 2013 Council Activities Schedule: Bob directed the committee members to Attachments 2 and 3, which included the Draft Calendar Year 2013 Council Administrative and SEDAR Activity Schedules. He explained how these documents are used as the basis for developing our Calendar 2013 Budget. Bob outlined the procedure for developing the activity schedules and how the final numbers are generated. He also explained the role of the SEDAR Steering Committee in establishing the SEDAR Activities Schedule. The Activities Schedules fluctuate during the year as the council addresses changing priorities. Chairman Cupka noted that committee chairmen should take a good look at the scheduled activities for their committees and to contact staff if they have any questions.

Next was a discussion on our Draft Calendar Year 2013 Council Budget. Bob directed the members to the Draft 2013 Administrative and SEDAR Budgets found under Attachment 4. He explained how the budget was developed using fixed costs such as rent, administrative costs and salaries and the functions outlined in the activities schedules. He noted that we did not have a 2013 funding level to date. It is anticipated we will receive this information at the February 2013 CCC Meeting.

The next agenda item was the joint South Florida management issues and meeting schedule. The committee was briefed on the status of the progress in establishing an ad hoc joint committee to consider management of South Florida fisheries. The committee has been formed consisting of our executive committee and five Gulf Council members, two FWC representatives and NMFS Southeast Regional Office staff.

There was discussion about various topics that should be addressed by the ad hoc committee. Issues to be addressed include but are not limited to yellowtail snapper, grouper, coral, et cetera, as well as compatible regulations for co-occurring species in the two jurisdictions. The first meeting will be held at the Southeast Regional Office in St. Petersburg, Florida, prior to the council's March 2013 meeting. Bob will conduct a doodle poll to determine the best time to schedule the first meeting.

Next we discussed SSC review responsibilities. John Carmichael directed members to Attachment 5, which is the job description for our SSC. He gave the background as to how we arrived at the current job description, how it has worked to date and potential changes to the job description the council may want to consider.

The committee discussed the role of the SSC for reviewing the various council actions, including amendments, regulatory amendments, framework actions, et cetera. It was determined that the SSC should be provided detailed guidance via the SSC roadmap meeting document as to which aspects of the documents they should address.

There was also discussion of the role of the SSC in reviewing SEDAR assessments and providing recommendations to the council. Bob led a committee discussion of third party stock assessments, both solicited and unsolicited. He provided information on how five of the other councils addressed third party assessments.

There currently is no continuity or common policy among the councils. There was extensive discussion relative to the SSC's role in dealing with third party stock assessments and other issues related to this. John Carmichael indicated that our SSC had formed a sub-group to address the issue of third party assessments coming before the SSC.

It was decided to wait until the SSC had concluded their work on this issue before proceeding, probably at the June meeting. Monica raised the question as to how the two wreckfish assessments that were recently presented to the SSC should be handled. It was decided to wait until the SSC had completed their work and address the overall question as to how these case should proceed.

Next we discussed establishing priorities and timing for council actions. Gregg Waugh briefed the committee on the two documents provided for their consideration; the followup and detailed FMP Amendment and Framework Table that indicates timelines for development of the various council actions.

Gregg reviewed where the council stood on current ongoing amendments and plan activities. He briefed the committee on the details that were provided in the amendment and timelines table. He pointed out that the schedule was very full and that council guidance to staff is needed. Committee members reviewed the various priorities and approved a motion to accept the FMP, amendment and framework timelines as presented.

Under other business there was a brief discussion on the visioning exercise. Chairman Cupka indicated that he would meet with the executive director next week to discuss development of a

plan for proceeding with the visioning group and naming participants. Next was tracking ACLs. Dr. Crabtree asked the council to provide guidance as to how they would like him to proceed when a fishery is closed before 100 percent of the quota is taken.

The committee discussed this issue and indicated that if you can get within 95 percent of the quota being reached, generally the fishery should not be reopened. There was one motion. **It was to approve the Draft FMP, Amendments and Frameworks Timelines Table as presented for the upcoming year. On behalf of the committee I would so move. Is there any discussion on the motion? Any objection? Seeing none; then that motion is approved.** That completes the report of the Executive Finance Committee. That brings us down to status reports. Roy, do you want to cover the status reports.

DR. CRABTREE: We have updated the commercial landings on our Regional Office Webpage if you're interested in looking at that. The final rule which allows the transfer of black sea bass endorsements is going to publish today. Jack, the endorsements will be transferable 30 days from now; is that correct?

DR. McGOVERN: Yes.

DR. CRABTREE: Okay. We have already went over it but I will repeat it. Blue runner will close Monday, December the 10<sup>th</sup>. We expect closures of snowy grouper and wahoo the week of December 19<sup>th</sup>. Red snapper and gray triggerfish will reopen on Wednesday, December the 12<sup>th</sup>, for seven days.

We are conducting status review for two petitions; one to list Nassau grouper and another to list queen conch under the Endangered Species Act. Based on the information that comes out of the status review, we anticipate making a decision of some sort in the summer of 2013. If we decide listing is not warranted, that will be end of it.

If we decided listing was warranted, then there would be a publication of a proposed rule and a 60-day public comment on that before anything was finalized. Most of you are probably aware that we issued a proposed rule to list 66 species of corals recently. Seven of these corals occur off of Florida and down in the Florida Keys. Five would be endangered; two proposed as threatened. We also propose to up-list elkhorn and staghorn corals, which are currently listed as threatened, to endangered. We anticipate a final determination on that in December of 2013.

I know Atlantic sturgeon was an issue for many folks. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission is planning to complete a stock assessment for Atlantic sturgeon in 2014. Then, of course, the outcome of that assessment will likely have some bearing on the status of the stock and there may, depending on how that comes out, be petitions to revisit that issue. We're also currently working on designating critical habitat for Atlantic sturgeon. I think I will let it go at that.

DR. LANEY: Roy, any additional word on when the northeast region might issue a final decision on river herring?

DR. CRABTREE: I don't know.

MR. CUPKA: Any other questions for Roy? Seeing none, we will move on to our next agenda item, which is the Southeast Fisheries Science Center Status Reports. Dr. Ponwith.

DR. PONWITH: Mr. Chairman, I have got three very short presentations that give you some written materials. One of them is bycatch monitoring update. The other one is the headboat survey update, and the third is just a quick update on where we with SEFIS. While we're queuing those up, I have two additional things that I would like to report on.

The committee met and blessed the schedule for the upcoming SEDAR stock assessment slate for this year. One of the things that is on this year is snowy grouper. Some late-breaking information and looking at the amount of hard parts we have for snowy grouper has bubbled up to a proposal.

If we would be willing to give the Southeast Fisheries Science Center and the SEDAR staff a little of latitude in the scheduling of the update for snowy grouper, it would still happen within this year, but it would be offset to a later part of the year. We believe that we could get the snowy grouper otoliths cut and read for 2012. That would enable us to have an additional year's worth of data in that update. My view on that from a science perspective is that would be a great advantage in the update. I just wanted to raise that to you for your consideration.

MR. CUPKA: Is there any discussion on the proposal or any objection. It seems to me if we could get that 2012 data included, it would be a much better assessment and we still won't be slipping off our schedule. Roy, did you have a question?

DR. CRABTREE: No, I agree we should do that.

MR. CUPKA: Okay, Bonnie.

DR. PONWITH: The second thing is someone asked about the independent programmatic reviews that are being done among the science centers, and I just wanted to report on that. In fact, last week the NOAA Fisheries Service's Science Board met. The Science Board is comprised of the six fisheries science center directors, my peers throughout the country; the Director of the Office of Science and Technology; and our chief scientists. We have spent the last year planning a programmatic review cycle and a suite of kind of review standards that all of the science centers would adhere to.

Right now the proposed programmatic review cycle goes like this. 2013 would be on data inputs to Magnuson Act stock assessments, so that would be fishery-independent data and fishery-dependent data. The year would be a programmatic review of the stock assessment process itself at each of the science centers for Magnuson-Stevens Act species.

The third year would be protected resources science, and the fourth year would be ecosystems science, and then the fifth year would likely focus on our economic and social sciences

programs. We have put together a draft terms of reference for those to serve as the overarching guidelines.

The notion would be that we would have an overarching set of guidelines that each of the science centers would construct their reviews based on, but then customized within that because, of course, each ecosystem that we serve is different and we would want to have the latitude to customize to deal with some of those idiosyncrasies.

The terms of reference are not complete yet. We expect those to be done within the next week or two weeks. The peer review teams would be comprised of scientists who are within fisheries but outside of the science center, scientists who are within NOAA but outside of fisheries and scientists who are completely outside of NOAA.

They would be brought in as a panel to conduct that review. The reviews would be open. We expect to be doing some rollout of the details of these reviews to the broader scientific community, to the councils, to the public probably beginning within a couple weeks from now. There will be a lot more details available.

The timing of them is difficult. As you can imagine conducting a programmatic review of this scope is almost the equivalent of doing a data workshop in a SEDAR. It is a big undertaking and so we're looking at some time in the spring, probably in the beginning – I guess I won't say the date right now because it is still soft. As soon as a date has been selected, I will make sure that the councils are aware of that. Again, more information will be coming out within the next couple of weeks in a more formal rollout and then I will be able to talk in more detail on this at the next meeting.

The notes for the headboat survey, we are expected to have the captains' logs e-reporting to be completed probably within the week. This is the programming that we're going to be using for the electronic reporting for the headboats. We will be working with each of the captains to get the software loaded and be ready to start early in the calendar year, in January 2013.

One of the projects that we're working on right now is logbook validation. Here are some of the notes; we have talked about most of this already. The integrated data system for collecting this is going to have some significant advantages over the existing system. Port agents will have more time to actually do hands-on sampling, the collection of biological samples, the collection of catch-per-unit effort information because they won't have to be going in and getting the paperwork.

The data entry will be dramatically reduced because basically the captains are doing the data entry. It does simplify things like the data base management to have a standardized recipient of all of those data coming in. The system right now can support paper reports if they do come in, but the electronic reporting again will make the data more timely and increase the ability of the port samplers to be out there doing the catch-per-unit sampling.

Then another project that we're working on is the logbook validation. Again, this is an MRIP-funded project and it is looking at the methodologies we're using to validate the data that are

coming in on the voluntary logbooks. The results of this are going to benefit not only our region from Texas all the way up to North Carolina, but the results will benefit the sampling programs that exist in New England as well. Before we move on from headboat, any questions on that?

MR. CUPKA: Are there any questions for Bonnie on the headboat survey? Ben.

MR. HARTIG: Bonnie, it is not really on headboat but it was on the report you gave before that. You talked about independent reviews and then you talked about a programmatic review. What is the difference and is there going to be an independent review outside the agency of the data collection and the stock assessment program?

DR. PONWITH: The programmatic reviews are this collection of the five-year cycle where we're looking at a programmatic level. These programmatic reviews will be considered an independent review because the center scientists will not be involved in the review panel. Again, the reviewers will be people from other science centers, people from NOAA but outside of NOAA Fisheries and then the majority of the people on the review panel will be from outside of NOAA completely, like academic scientists. From that standpoint it would be considered an independent review.

By programmatic I mean we won't be looking at the data for gag grouper or the data for red snapper. It is looking at how the data collection, both the independent and the fishery-dependent data collections are operated, the balance between those two, how the data are managed, the QA-QC procedures for them and to look at how we're expending our resources and the balance of how those resources are being expended to give us feedback on things like quality, timeliness and the whole data portfolio and are there ways that we could increase our statistical precision by reorienting that balance.

MR. CUPKA: Are there other questions for Bonnie? Okay, you had a presentation, too, on bycatch I believe, Bonnie.

DR. PONWITH: Correct and that is in your briefing books. It is Attachment 4A.

MR. CUPKA: Excuse me, Bonnie; do you have a question, Steve?

MR. AMICK: Bonnie, I was just curious about there was a backlog of 5,000 black sea bass otoliths, and I was just curious on the status of those being aged.

DR. PONWITH: I don't have an update in my back pocket for that, but I can find that out and get back to the council staff to distribute that.

MR. BELL: I am not speaking for MARMAP but I think that was moving along nicely. Because of weather they lost a sea days and I think that actually helped him expedite that, but I think that is coming along fine.

MR. CUPKA: That was the impression I had, but it would be good to know. Bonnie.

DR. PONWITH: Here is a little update on bycatch monitoring. The National Bycatch Report was 43 fisheries in the southeast. We have observer programs for six of these. You will see in the next bullet the list of the fisheries where we do have observers on the vessels. We have electronic effort logging in the Gulf of Mexico, which also helps us with things like catch-per-unit effort and validating the effort.

What that gives us is the location of vessel and a more refined value for effort. These are some of the recent coverage rates that we have got for bycatch monitoring in each of these fisheries. Again, these are statistically designed surveys to give us the best data that we can afford to have to give us the ability to create these estimates.

You will remember I think last meeting I gave you an overview on the National Bycatch Report. The data that we collect will be used to generate bycatch estimates and goes into the bycatch report that will be reported nationally. These are some of the improvements that we're working on right now.

We're in the middle of a review of the Commercial Fishery Observer Programs and the bycatch estimation methods that are used as a result of that. We expect that final report to be coming out very soon. Again, the objectives of that was to recommend estimation approaches, take a look at the estimation approaches we were using and give us advice on new advances in the statistical approaches to give us better more refined estimates.

Particularly we asked them to focus on bycatch estimation for rare event species because that is a very, very difficult challenge statistically. We completed our pilot project for the logbook validation. Actually it is underway way right now and that is the one we talked about in the last presentation. Of course, the electronic system that we're working on in the shark fishery is well on underway. We have got on-board computers in hardened cases and we will be testing the feasibility of electronic reporting in that fishery. I guess that's it for that report.

MR. CUPKA: Okay, are there any questions for Bonnie on the bycatch report?

DR. PONWITH: And then the last report is just an update on where we are on SEFIS. Again, SEFIS is just a fantastic addition to the data that we have got in the South Atlantic and extremely critical for our reef fish stocks. An overview of 2012 is we used a combination of the MARMAP/SEAMAP, and the SEFIS Program chevron traps, underwater video sampling.

In 2012 the sample area stretched from Cape Hatteras down to the St. Lucie Inlet in Florida. We set a record number of video sampling stations this year. It was over 1,300. We also did some benthic mapping. This is a wonderful addition to our work to be able to be out there on the Pisces and use the acoustics that we have got on that to do this benthic mapping because it helps us understand bottom characteristics and where the hard bottom is and helps us refine the sampling protocols that we have got.

Most unfortunately we have had to give up on our short and longline sampling surveys. We are doing some bottom longline surveys, but they're at a reduced rate. The short bottom longline



surveys we have had to cut completely, and that is because of the reduction in funds in MARMAP, which as you know were cut by 40 percent.

It remains to be seen what is going to happen in 2012 but under a continuing resolution we're funded at the same level as were last year, which means until the budget is resolved we're also at that 40 percent cut, which is really bad news. The decisions on what to cut out of the program were painful, but they were based on an independent peer review that we did of the SEFIS and MARMAP and SEAMAP Programs to look at what the data bring to the table in terms of their ability to describe what is out there.

Hopefully, if we can get those funds reinstated, we can also reinstate the longline sampling, which I think is a good complement to what we were doing. Again, in 2013 the planned number of days at sea for those three partnership programs is about 130 days, which is quite good. I believe that is my report. Any questions on the fishery independent?

DR. DUVAL: Not really a question and just more of a comment. I just wanted to commend the science center for continuing with SEFIS. I think one of the things that has always been certainly frustrating for me is the northern range hasn't had as much sampling in the past. SEFIS is really helping to take care of some of that.

I remain hopeful that we might have some funding miracles. I have been fortunate to be able to go over to the Beaufort Lab and see some of the results of that, which has really been incredible. I just wanted to express my support for that program because I think the sampling up there is very key.

MR. JOLLEY: Bonnie, what actually happens when they cut MARMAP 40 percent? Do you kind of go across the board and just reduce your sample size in the various programs or did you actually cut some programs out altogether?

DR. PONWITH: No, we took a very strategic approach rather than a peanut butter approach. The reason is because for some of those sampling efforts we're at the tipping point in terms of if you cut them, then you have to ask the question do you have the scientific rigor that you need for it to be of value.

We sat down with the MARMAP folks and looked at the balance of the amount that is used for staff and the amount of money that is used for things like cutting and reading otoliths and the amount that is used for at-sea data collections and decided that based on the independent peer review that we did on the data collections and what each of those collections brought to the stock assessment in terms of their statistical power, the place that were going to cut was that short bottom longline. Basically that was cut completely.

In fact, we went to the SEAMAP folks who do short bottom longline and discussed – well, they didn't have the problem with the 40 percent cut. Because this is a giant puzzle with each of the pieces contributing to the whole, we went to SEAMAP and explained the rationale for why we were cutting the short bottom longline and recommended for their consideration that they do the same and use the money from those cuts to enhance the other types of sampling they were doing,

so that we didn't have this little fragment that didn't have partnership data from the other piece. The answer is it was a very strategic decision, a very painful decision.

MR. CUPKA: Are there other questions for Bonnie? Did you have anything else, Bonnie, you wanted to bring up at this time?

DR. PONWITH: Just reflecting on Michelle's comment and that is that there is a cooperative research project in Florida that is being led by the state in conjunction with some very energetic fishermen. It has been doing some vertical sampling and getting data on the otoliths and catch-per-unit effort.

We leveraged that effort by putting in a proposal for a similar project using the same protocols that was focused more in the northern reaches of our range so that those data could be combined and used to reflect the geographic range of our jurisdiction. That kind of collaboration of both north and south and collaboration of the agencies with the people in the industry are really commendable to try and get the very most we can out of those data for these upcoming stock assessments.

MR. CUPKA: Okay, in this age of instant communication Mel received a response from the MARMAP people within about 30 seconds in response to Steve's question on black sea bass otoliths. I am going to ask Mel to relay to us the information that he received.

MR. BELL: Short and sweet; Dr. Joey Ballenger, who is the lead on the aging part for us says they've finished the aging of the fish this week and they're beginning to analyze the data. They have actually done the aging so we're on schedule.

MR. CUPKA: Yes, and that is really important news and great news to receive. I think we need to commend all the individuals who have pulled together to get this work done. The black sea bass update is an extremely important assessment and we ought to commend those individuals who put forth the effort to get that information for that assessment. Kudos to all the people involved and all the states. All right, Roy, in our briefing book there an experimental fishing permit application from Texas A&M. Did you want to bring that up?

DR. CRABTREE: Yes, I am going to ask Jack to come up and go over it with you.

DR. McGOVERN: That request for an EFP is Tab 9, Attachment 3. It is from Dr. John Gold at Texas A&M and he has requested an EFP to allow a charterboat captain to sample 7t to 100 red snapper in the area south of the Florida Keys near the Dry Tortugas. The samples would be part of a MARFIN Project and it is designed, among other things, to look at genetic connectivity between sample locations in the Gulf and the South Atlantic and to estimate the effective number of breeding adults at each location.

Of particular interest, he is interested in looking at a recent expansion of red snapper along the southwest coast of Florida where red snapper are thought to have been historically abundant. Two major questions he is looking at is the geographic origin of the red snapper south of the Florida Keys, whether they are from the east coast or west coast of Florida; and the degree of

connectivity among red snapper in the Dry Tortugas area and red snapper along both coasts of Florida. The fish would be collected over two or three months. In addition to genetic information on these fish age and growth information would be obtained on them.

MR. CUPKA: Are there any questions for Jack in regard to this application? Seeing none, the way we generally handle this is if we have no objection to it we will pass a motion recommending that the regional administrator issue the experimental fishing permit. If there is no objection, is someone willing to offer that motion? Charlie.

MR. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a motion that we approve the experimental permit.

MR. CUPKA: Well, we wouldn't approve it; we would recommend that Roy approve it.

MR. PHILLIPS: Well, recommend that it be approved.

MR. CUPKA: **Okay, Charlie's motion is to recommend approval of the experimental fishing permit from Texas A&M. Second by John. Is there any discussion on the motion? Any objection? Seeing none; then that motion is approved.** All right, I believe that brings us down to our next agenda item, which is an outreach update on the Marine Resources Education Program. I guess Kim is going to give that presentation.

MS. IVERSON: I put a few slides together to kind of walk us through where we are with the program and in the South Atlantic the development of the Marine Resources Education Program. Just to kind of refresh your memory, the program originated in New England and is being facilitated through the Gulf of Maine Research Institute.

It is a workshop-based program designed to foster relationships and to increase knowledge in fisheries science and fisheries management. It is a program designed by fishermen for fishermen. The steering committee was developed to lead the way for this program development in the South Atlantic.

I thought it may be helpful this morning to quickly go through the MREP Program goals just to kind of refresh our memories on what it is that we're trying to achieve and what the workshops are designed to do. Bring fishermen and scientists and managers together in a neutral setting, outside of the regulatory process. Again, it is a fisheries program designed by fishermen.

Increase the number of people that work in their region's fisheries who are comfortable working with fishery data and the management system; help policymakers and scientists become more familiar with the inner workings of the fishing communities, so it is a two-way exchange here; increase the number of fishermen involved in collaborative research and pursuit of the best available science.

I think we just heard Dr. Ponwith talking about the desire to continue to work with fishermen and involve them in collaborative research in the South Atlantic. And then to develop leadership and promote trust, and I think we all agree that is something that we all need to work on throughout

the council system. Bringing the Marine Resources Education Program to the South Atlantic involved program funding. Kim Amendola was instrumental with NOAA Fisheries in the Southeast Regional Office to get funding through NMFS and the National Fish and Wildlife Federation.

The steering committee was developed to guide the development. Again, the steering committee is made up of fishermen and fishing industry representatives. We're planning to have joint workshops in 2013 and then further refinement for the program from 2014 and beyond, focusing more with the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico and also the Caribbean Council eventually having workshops within their own regions or council jurisdictions, I should say.

The steering committee was formed in July and August. They include leaders from the Gulf and South Atlantic recreational fishermen, commercial fishermen, industry representatives. For the South Atlantic Ben Hartig, Duane Harris and Kenny Fex were our representatives. Bill Kelly and Doug Gregory – Bill Kelly, of course, with Monroe County Commercial Fishermen's Association or Florida Keys Commercial Fishermen's Association; and Doug Gregory with Sea Grant were also on the steering committee representing their perspective industries and constituents.

There is a complete list of the representatives from both the South Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico in Attachment 5. And please forgive because I misspelled the word "Maine", as Doug pointed out earlier, in the report. The steering committee meeting was held in Tampa. We were kind of sequestered into a room, quite honestly,

Alexa Dayton, who is a wonderful facilitator with the Gulf of Maine Research Institute, came down and led the two-day workshop or the two-day steering committee meeting, I should say. She will continue to provide direction and working with the steering committee on bringing the program here to the South Atlantic or to the southeast region.

The steering committee worked diligently for two days. Like I said, we were really sequestered into the hotel there in Tampa. Even the social and the dinners and everything were served so that we had a chance to interact with all of the members of the steering committee. We kind of did brainstorming sessions where we targeted workshop participants who would be invited to participate in the first series of workshops.

We talked about current issues and challenges. We used flip charts to go through this process and had lengthy discussions and a long list of challenges that are faced by both the South Atlantic and Gulf Councils. The workshop participants looked at the curriculums for New England.

Those are the curriculums for the introductory to fishery science and also to fisheries management and then tweaked those curriculums, taking items out of the curriculums that were currently New England and that weren't relevant to the South Atlantic or the Southeast Region and then identified relevant components and possible presenters for the upcoming workshops.

As I said, there were a lot of flip charts involved and all of these notes are being compiled by the Gulf of Maine Research Institute. Alexa and her staff are working now to compile all of these into a report. Alexa has been in contact with Bob Gill and Duane Harris and they have agreed to lead the steering committee efforts to further identify the curriculum and help lead the workshop efforts in the region.

Council staff will continue to be involved, working with Kim Amendola at the regional office as well with Charlene Ponce and Emily Milstein and myself. We were all at the steering committee meeting and we will continue to be involved and provide support. But there again, the members of the steering committee will continue to drive this program.

We will have two workshops in 2013. The first workshop will be the science workshop, introduction to fishery science. They will be three-day workshops. We're looking at two separate dates in early April. I think we will have a conference call this coming week and then pin those states down and go ahead and make arrangements.

We're hoping to have the science workshop at FWC's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute in St. Petersburg. Then the second workshop will be the management workshop in early September. I believe that we will probably use that same hotel that we had the steering committee meeting in Tampa. It seemed to work very well.

Alexa e-mailed me this morning and said that the applications for the workshops will be made available through the Research Institute in January, so we're moving forward with that. We need a new name. The steering committee had mulled over this somewhat, so I have put this out for the council members as well if you have some suggestions.

Alexa pointed out at the steering committee meeting that it is our program. It is the fishermen's program in this region and the steering committee can make it whatever they wish it to be. They can just use the information that they received through the Gulf of Maine Research Institute and the program as it currently exists in New England and mold it and shape it and make it our own.

If you have any suggestions that we could get away from the MRIP/MREP acronym, we're open to suggestions. There is a lot of information for the Gulf of Maine Research Institute and their current program for New England and the curriculum on their website. I identified that information as well in the attachment if anybody has any questions.

I would also like to mention one other item. I know Ben may have some things that we want to add and also Kenny Fex is here. Kenny is on the steering committee as well. When we left the steering committee meeting, Kenny contacted myself and Amber and he talked with Myra about having a town hall meeting in Southport.

He was inspired I think at the steering committee to take it a little bit further and hold an informal town hall meeting in Southport. Unfortunately, the timing didn't work out. We wanted to do that and work with Kenny prior to this meeting. We're still planning on doing that, but we were really encouraged with the followup.

Thank you to all the members of the steering committee that were willing to participate, especially to Bob Gill and Duane Harris for agreeing to take the lead. I'm really excited about it. I think there was a lot of enthusiasm that was generated. It was awesome to have people from both the South Atlantic and the Gulf fishermen at the same time, commercial representatives. It is my understanding that the Caribbean Council will be involved as we move forward with the program.

MR. CUPKA: Thank you for that report. I know at one of our recent CCC meetings we received a presentation on the New England Program. It is an excellent program and I am glad to see that it is coming into our region. Are there any questions for Kim? Michelle.

DR. DUVAL: Kim, thank you so much for telling us about this. I have sort of heard details in the background about this program getting going down here. I see this as a component that is going to fit in really well with the visioning process that we're looking to shape and undertake. I'm fully supportive. I think this is awesome.

MR. CUPKA: Are there other comments or questions for Kim? Seeing none, then we will move ahead in our agenda to our agency and liaison reports. I'll start down here with the Coast Guard and see if they have anything they want to bring to our attention.

LCDR GIBSON: Mr. Chairman, just real quick, for the Oculina Bank we have had ten surface assets provide coverage on the Bank in the closed area there. One of them is our new 154-foot class of cutters. We had the Richard Etheridge come through, and that was the first one of those to do any coverage for fisheries. We have had four flights over Oculina Bank.

We have two major cases of note. They were both shrimp vessels out of the Jacksonville area and it was no permit. Just to give the council a little bit more information on what the Coast Guard is doing down in District 7, we have got a push of assets out to the Caribbean Region. We're seeing a little bit more activity out there for fisheries.

The reason for that are other enforcement actions; you know, to counter smuggling and things like that. The murder rate has gone up a lot in Puerto Rico so the secretary at the department level has made it a push for us to get out there and get more assets on scene out there. You will see the Caribbean Region is going to see more activity just because we have more assets on scene out there. We have had four major cases out there. Three of them were lobster and one was a shark case. Barring any questions, that is all I have, sir.

MR. CUPKA: All right, are there any questions for LCDR Gibson? Wilson.

DR. LANEY: With regard to the two shrimp vessels in Oculina, were they actively fishing at the time?

LT. FISHER: They were boarded; they had small amounts of catch on board, but they weren't in the Oculina Bank. There were just somewhere in the Jacksonville area, but they weren't in the bank itself.

MR. CUPKA: Are there other questions? If not, we will move on to Martha for Florida.

MS. BADEMAN: We had a commission meeting this week. That is where Jessica is. One of the things that was finalized at our meeting that is relevant to the South Atlantic is we finally went consistent with the black sea bass rules that are in place in federal waters. That will be in February. The next time you should see Jessica in this chair. As far as I know there are no conflicts and she will be here. I appreciate you letting me be here and be at the table. That's all I have.

MR. CUPKA: Okay, are there any questions for Martha? We appreciate you being here, too, Martha. Otha, is there anything from law enforcement?

MR. EASLEY: Sure, I will touch on a few things. First some overall general statistics for the year as far as case activity. The total cases for fiscal year 2012 ending in October, there were 937 cases made – this is not just South Atlantic but this also includes the Gulf – which is 200 more than last year.

I've got a little breakdown there. Seven of those have been dealing with the Atlantic Tunas Act; 229 ESA; 50 have been Lacey Act violations, interstate; 341 Magnuson Act violations; 198 MPA violations or cases; and 97 Sanctuary cases and 15 other federal/state regulations. That information as well as more detailed information along those lines are in the quarterly report, which is now on the South Atlantic Council Website.

I mentioned earlier in the week a couple of cases we have done dealing with dealer reporting. Both of those were in federal or in district court. One of the penalties, which is nor normal or usual – I would say is normal but not a usual penalty is for the defendant to give a public apology. I wanted to read his apology to you. This particular fisherman was in Tallahassee, and his apology reads like this:

“My name is Mark Easterling. I am a Tallahassee commercial fisherman and seafood wholesaler. On November 19, 2012, I pleaded guilty in Federal District Court in Tallahassee, Florida, on a misdemeanor count of making false statements to the U.S. government. The charge arose from my false reporting to the NOAA the quantity of harvested fish I had obtained.

“I sincerely apologize for submitting false reports to NOAA and accept full responsibility for my actions. The different species of fish commercial fishermen harvest are subject to quotas set by NOAA. The quotas are set annually to ensure that the protected species are maintained in healthy populations. The quotas also level the competitive field for all fishermen to harvest the different species of fish.

“It is clear to me, as it should be to all involved in the fishing industry, that accurate reporting is not only good for our business, it is required by law, and failure to comply fully can result in prosecution. I have instituted compliance control measures to prevent any such misreporting in the future. The guilty plea stemmed from an investigation by NOAA and the FFWC.”

That pretty much captures what our issues are with reporting, and so I wanted to go ahead and highlight that particular penalty. The other one was a fisherman out of Jupiter who has no public comment there. Right now he has been indicted; Mr. Jason Cardinale; 12-count indictment. Of course, he is still considered innocent until proven guilty. The trial has not been set yet.

In the near future my office will be reaching out again for the council's input on law enforcement priorities. That plan is being written up and should be released at least to my office in the next office or two and then we will reach out to the council for some input on where you'd like for us to concentrate our enforcement efforts. That concludes my report unless there are any questions.

MR. CUPKA: Are there questions for Otha? Seeing none, Bonnie, did you have anything else? All right, Mel.

MR. BELL: Well, we have mentioned the MARMAP good news with the black sea bass. Of course, we're looking at the federal budget just like everybody else is for next year and hoping for no more cuts. That would be a nice thing. Just one interesting thing related I guess back to Amendment 9 of the Shrimp Plan where we had worked out a new mechanism if in the event we have a really bad winter we can respond and do something to save hopefully some of our spawning stock.

We have been tracking water temperatures, which we have a lot of data on that, and David Whitaker, who tracks this stuff closely and has been around a while, is kind of suggesting that this year seems to be setting up very similarly to 1976, which I don't remember back that far in terms of being there, but apparently it was a rather bad winter.

So when you start looking at all these curves, the historical data and you look at the – we use a 60-year mean to kind of compare to. At this time of the year our water temperatures are a good bit lower than the mean and they're also tracking along about the same pattern as they were back in '76. That doesn't mean that is going to happen, but we start getting nervous a little bit about water temperatures this time of the year or actually a little bit later.

We will see how that goes, and I don't know if the timing will work for us. Hopefully we won't have to deal with it this year, but that is just something interesting and sort of coincidental, I guess. State budget-wise we're in pretty decent shape right now and we're not hemorrhaging at the moment, so we're hoping to kind of maintain what we have got right now. We're going to be dealing with some legislative issues this coming year, which really don't impact council-related fisheries. Things are pretty decent right now.

MR. CUPKA: Are there any questions for Mel? Seeing none, then we will move on to Michelle, North Carolina.

DR. DUVAL: I guess probably the biggest thing for us is we have a new administration coming in January, so there are lots of meetings going on. I know Louis was scheduled to have a couple of meetings this week with legislative leaders and with Governor-Elect McCrory's transition team. That is probably the biggest unknown for us.



I think I have mentioned in the past that there was a legislative study commission looking at the organization of fisheries management in North Carolina with a couple of other agencies, our Wildlife Resources Commission and the Department of Agriculture and trying to determine if efficiencies could be met or if there were duplications in effort between the three different agencies. That report has been submitted to the legislature. It is unclear at this point what the incoming administration and the new legislature is going to do with that. Other than, we're continuing to work on a couple of incidental take permits; one for Atlantic sturgeon and one for sea turtles. That is about it.

MR. CUPKA: Are there questions for Michelle? Seeing none, then we will move on to Georgia.

MR. HAYMANS: I guess the one thing that I would mention would be for about six meetings now I have talked about our trying to match federal regulations and some way get some regulations such that we could do that. I am pleased to announce that as of January 1<sup>st</sup> we will have the ability to do some of that if we want to.

Probably the way that Georgia would use this is to match closed recreational seasons as ACLs are met. I don't know that we want to bounce around with size limits. Well, actually we can't with that, but it gives our commissioner a lot more flexibility than he has in the past. We have been working on it for about 18 months, and it was passed in May and will get implemented January 1<sup>st</sup>. I guess the only other thing I have is the social is at Susan's in March. We're going to Susan's house. If you think that boat over there is haunted, she lives on a graveyard.

MR. CUPKA: Are there questions for Doug? Seeing none, then we will go on to Wilson, Fish and Wildlife.

DR. LANEY: Mr. Chairman, I will just mention a few things. There isn't anything new as far as I know with regard to the American eel status review. The last I heard our attorneys were in discussion with the petitioners' attorneys and settlement discussions were underway. I presume that is still the case since I haven't heard anything new.

The Service is working with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission and other partners looking at genetics now as a basis for not only management of striped bass, American eel and river herring in North Carolina but also exploring the potential similar to the red snapper experimental fishing permit that we just discussed a while ago, for using these genetic samples to estimate effective population size for breeding adults in a given year.

Under the terms of the Gas and Roanoke Hydropower License, Dominion Generation and the agencies are obligated to try and estimate American shad populations on the Roanoke. We have been doing that hydro-acoustically, but that has some issues so we decided to supplement that work with a genetic approach and hope that will yield some useful information.

I am working with Dr. Roger Rulifson at East Carolina and our partners at North Carolina DMF and Maryland DNR and ASMFC to get things all squared away for the Cooperative Winter Tagging Cruise, which will be coming up January 7-18 or thereabouts are the tentative dates. We will also be doing ten charter hook-and-line trips for tagging striped bass.

I am working with the Southeast Fisheries Science Center folks in Pascagoula and Beaufort to get all the logistics squared away and also working with the Protected Resources Folks to get our Section 7 consultation done and secure all the necessary authorizations.

Just on another quick note; some of you may know already, but the Nature Conservancy is being funded by the South Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative – and I think the Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership is involved in that – to do an aquatic connectivity study in the southeast, so basically looking at dams throughout the geography of the South Atlantic LCC, similar to what they did in the northeast region.

There is a really great Northeast Aquatic Connectivity Report, if you haven't seen that, that looks at the impact of dams and other blockages on aquatic connectivity. That is going to kick off in January and I think it is a one-year program. Some of us were out last week on the Roanoke River for two or three days looking at the hydrology of the flow plain and impacts there from hydropower operations from both the Corps of Engineers Flow Control Dam at John H. Carr and also the two Virginia Power dams at Roanoke Rapids and Gaston.

We have a relatively new regional hydrologist, Dr. John Faustini, who was out with us. We were giving him a briefing. Hopefully we will begin to understand more about how those operations affect those flows and can ultimately address those in the long run. There is also a 216 Study going on at John H. Carr, so we will be developing our formal recommendations to that and certainly we will collaborate with our colleagues in the NMFS Habitat Conservation Program on that project.

And then the last thing is the passage of American eels continues at Roanoke Rapids Dam on the Roanoke River. After getting close to two and three-quarter years of operations, we have passed almost a million eels now at that one facility. We're talking about doing some additional mark/recapture work using coded wire tags and small batches of eels to try and get a little bit better handle on the efficiency of passage at the two eelways at that dam. That is my report, Mr. Chairman. I will send an expanded written version out with contact information. If people have any questions, they can get in touch with those contacts.

MR. CUPKA: Are there any questions for Wilson? Seeing none, we will move ahead. Bob, did you want to say anything about our upcoming meeting in March?

MR. MAHOOD: I think everyone knows we have met at Sea Palms before. I believe it is going to be under new management. It is a nice facility. You're going to have a lot of room in the place you're staying. It is a decent meeting facility. There are a lot of good restaurants on St. Simons.

We do have our series of public hearings and public scopings, January 22-31, and then, of course, our council meeting is March 4-8. I did put a little fun fact historical locations' meeting sheet in there. It is interesting, if you haven't had a chance to look at it, where we have met and where we haven't met and we have only met some places one time and why we quit going places because they tore down our hotels, things like that. It is just interesting to look at it over time. It

only dates back to when I became the executive director, which was January of 1986. That's all I have, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CUPKA: Are there questions for Bob? Is there any other business to come before the council. Anna.

MS. BECKWITH: Mr. Chairman, I apologize in advance for bringing this up at the end of the meeting. I had Mike send around an e-mail to you guys that has the current wording for the captain and crew are currently not allowed to retain bag limits of grouper aggregates and vermilion.

I meant to bring this up during the Snapper Grouper Committee, but my steel trap of a brain slipped up. I would like to have a quick discussion of the possibility about reconsidering that prohibition on captains and crew to retain a bag limit of the grouper aggregates and vermilion. I was chatting with Myra and she said that if the council approved of that reconsideration, an appropriate vehicle would be Amendment 27 since it is a plan amendment.

That would require adding an action to Amendment 27 it could go out to public hearings this round. If not, the next opportunity for that would be Amendment 22 I think that we won't see until June, if I'm not mistaken. My personal preference, of course, would be add an action that would eliminate the prohibition of bag limit retention for captain and crew on charter trips for the grouper aggregates and vermilion snapper, but before I brought that up as a motion I would like to hear any comments from the council.

DR. DUVAL: Anna mentioned this to me and I certainly don't have a problem with including it in Amendment 27. I would be looking to staff for a little bit of guidance on that with regard to workload and ensuring that the document is ready to go out for public hearing.

This is something that Myra and I had talked about before mostly just in terms of the inconsistency of captain and crew are allowed to retain bag limits for some species but not for others. It was sort of an item hanging out there with regard to just trying to have some consistency. I would be interested to hear others' feelings on the issue.

DR. CRABTREE: Well, I used to be a captain on a fishing guideboat in the Keys and we were allowed to keep – everybody could keep a bag limit. What it amounted to is my customers got to have a higher bag limit than anybody else because they're the ones fishing; I wasn't. If they wanted to fish they got to keep them.

I have been out on a lot of charterboats and generally it is the customers who are fishing. The mate is baiting up and taking hooks off and the captain is up in the wheelhouse driving. I am not saying it is that way all the time, but I think that is generally how it works. It seems to me what this really does is it gives the paying customers on charterboats higher bag limits than anybody else gets. I'm not really sure why we would want to do that. Is it worked differently in your fisheries?

MS. BECKWITH: Certainly, it would be nice to be able to bring home some fish for personal consumption. We don't get our gags because we don't go out on our free days to go fishing. I think the captains at least on the smaller vessels certainly do some of the fishing as well and take some of those fish.

If we're allowed to keep our bag limits for snapper species, I just don't understand the inconsistency of allowing some snapper species to be kept and grouper species not. If it was an issue with certain populations that are overfished or overfishing is occurring and that is one of the methods that we're trying to truncate harvest, then that is an acceptable argument. But for those species that are doing okay and we're not reaching our ACLs, for example, on the recreational for gag, it would be nice to be able to bring a gag home and put it in the freezer.

DR. CRABTREE: Well, I do agree with you that we ought to be consistent with it and I don't know that we are.

MS. BADEMAN: I was trying to remember because this was a couple of years ago that it went into place, and it was when we were – I think vermilion was overfished and the same with grouper and that is why we did it? Okay, I was trying to remember.

MS. BECKWITH: So unless there is some major problem with it, may I bring forth a motion?

MR. CUPKA: You sure can.

MS. BECKWITH: Myra, is there any concern with the staff that this will implicate the amendment being ready for public hearings?

MS. BROUWER: Well, we could definitely add the action obviously with the understanding that there is going to be very little analysis included. We may be able to put some qualitative stuff in there but certainly it is not going to be fully fleshed out.

MR. MAHOOD: Myra, I think if you go back, I believe when we took the ability away from the captain and crew to maintain a bag limit there was some reduction in fishing mortality associated with that, and I am sure somewhere in Gregg's archives that he keeps in his office that we might be able to find some background information on what some of the impacts were – the positive impacts of reducing fishing mortality by not allowing the captain and crew.

I was just telling David it is all cyclic. We go through these cycles where we do and then we undo and then we redo. We will probably have some information. Phil, maybe you can remember. It seems like the reason we did it is at the point in time, like Martha said, we were trying to reducing the fishing mortality and that did to some degree reduce the fishing mortality.

MR. STEELE: I think we did this in Amendment 16. I talked to Jack and he said it reduced the fishing mortality just a couple of percentage points there, but we would have to take a look at it.

MS. BECKWITH: I would like to move that we add an action to Amendment 27 to eliminate the prohibition of bag limit retention for captain and crew on charter trips for the grouper aggregate and vermilion snapper.

MR. CUPKA: Okay, we have a motion; is there a second?

MR. JOLLEY: Yes, sir.

MR. CUPKA: Seconded by Mr. Jolley. Is there discussion on the motion? Tom.

MR. SWATZEL: Well, just a couple of thoughts. One, is it just charterboats or was it for-hire in general is what it should be? The other thing is that if we're not on the recreational side meeting the ACLs and there are fish being left over, one of the approaches is to look at increasing the bag limit overall for everybody would be the better approach as far as I am concerned. Thanks.

MR. BELL: I had the same question; did you say for-hire across the board? The other thing I was just the scenario Roy was talking about. I guess from a law enforcement standpoint if your customers end up over their personal bag limit and then the fish are in a cooler or they're on the dock, they would have to just know that. If you're caught in possession over the bag limit, that might kind of preclude that from happening or a bad thing might happen. It is something to think about.

DR. DUVAL: The regulation, as it states right now, the prohibition is on all for-hire. It is headboats and charterboats, so this would eliminate that. I guess the only thing I would ask is if in the alternatives we could – as I have expressed, I am interested in this more from a consistency perspective, either allow it for all species or disallow it for all species. I guess I would just ask that we give some direction to staff that when developing some alternatives, those alternatives are in there.

Obviously eliminating the bag limit retention would allow it for all species, but I would also like to see an alternative that does not allow bag limit retention for captain and crew for all species, if possible, just in the interest of consistency. I could argue this either way, that if our recreational ACLs are not being met, this is certainly one means to help achieve optimum yield and meet those ACLs. The argument on the opposite side is for biological reasons and rebuilding our fisheries. I am certainly willing to go forward.

MR. CUPKA: Are there other comments. **The motion is to add an action to Amendment 27 to eliminate the prohibition of bag limit retention for captain and crew on for-hire trips for the grouper aggregate and vermilion snapper** with I guess direction to staff to look at other species as well.

DR. DUVAL: I guess when I was referring to consistency within the snapper grouper complex is what I'm saying, either it be allowed for all the species within the complex or none of the species. That's all. I think Roy might have had a comment on that.

DR. CRABTREE: Well, that is going to be my other comment, what Michelle made. I think we ought to tweak the motion a little bit to say to reevaluate the prohibition or something like that. I think we could have an alternative to get rid of it, but I think we ought to have another alternative to apply it to all snapper grouper species.

MR. AMICK: I have mixed emotions about it. The first thing that comes to my mind is that in the for-hire business, headboat or charter, the main successful business is taking care of the client. I can remember when they eliminated, you know, excluding captain and crew in gags and the vermilion snapper. I wasn't opposed to it because I'm worried about my clientele.

At the same time I think Michelle mentioned that it apply consistently across all species. Believe it or not, it is nice to retain some fish to bring to the house and eat. I make a point during the course of a day season when sea bass is open that I like to bring back my five sea bass to the house to eat. I have missed emotions. I would support that.

I have seen I think it is in the FWC they have basically the same motion. It goes either way, but I am not against this. I understand the consistency, but at some point I would like to be able to, fishing for many years, bring a few home for myself.

DR. CRABTREE: Steve, when you do that, do you get out a rod and go in the back and catch your five sea bass or do your customers catch them and you take them home?

MR. AMICK: Well, the recreational bag limit are so low that we count – like if we have a private charter, it is different from a headboat from a private charter. On a headboat you have an individual, that individual gets his bag limit and that is it. If we put it on a stringer, he has five vermilions and five sea bass.

On the private charters we will fish up to the boat limit. We add the captain and crew – like if there is ten extra sea bass; you know, it depends how the trip has progressed. If we have had a good trip and the customers are satisfied, then we would like to have our five sea bass to come to them. Many times we will leave it to the people on the boat.

DR. CRABTREE: If the customer said, no way, I want them, they're theirs, right?

MR. AMICK: I am not going to argue with the customers, no.

MR. BELL: And this is a question; so our current survey methodologies through MRIP or the dockside headboat for-hire intercept stuff; will they account for these fish if they're in the possession of the captain and the mate or whatever. I'm not sure how it is set up. I just want to make sure they're not missed. They need to be accounted for. Will the system right now account for them?

DR. CRABTREE: Well, it is dockside interviews where we get the species composition and all that, so they board the boat and count the fish, but it will show up in the MRFSS data, I suspect, maybe as people exceeding the bag limit. I am not quite sure how they count how many people. I don't know about that part of it, but I think the catch would show up.

MR. CUPKA: Well, we aren't going to make a change here. This is just to possibly add it to Amendment 27 to take a closer look at it. We will be getting more input. Is there further discussion on the motion? Steve.

MR. AMICK: Just real quickly; when we fill out the headboat logbooks at the end, there is a slot where it says how many passengers and you will say ten; and then how many anglers fished and we will say ten. So the bag limit for like let's say black sea bass would be fifty black sea bass for the anglers. On many of the logbook reports you will see we have ten anglers and we have landed sixty sea bass, because basically we add to it. When it hits the dock, it is not necessarily clear where those fish go, but in the logbook reporting, even with ten anglers, we still see a 60 sea bass landing.

MR. HAYMANS: I guess I would just say quickly this is the sort of thing I would hope to look at that through the visioning workshops and reevaluating these sorts of issues as opposed to the last motion on the last day of the council.

DR. DUVAL: I was just going to say that I had similar question as Mel did with regard to just how this is accounted for in the data. The only other thing I will say is that if it ends up that there – you know, Myra has already indicated that this can be put in Amendment 27. The analysis may not be as extensive as we would like. We can always move the action itself to another amendment, potentially Amendment 22 to allow for additional analysis if the committee so chooses. I think I wouldn't get hung up on the level of analysis I guess is what I'm saying.

MR. CUPKA: All right, the cat is starting to get flat; so unless there is any overwhelming desire to comment further, I am going to go ahead and call the question. **All those in favor of the motion please signify by raising your hand; opposed. The motion is approved.** Is there any further business to come before the council? Seeing none, then we are adjourned.

(Whereupon, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 o'clock a.m., December 7, 2012.)

Certified By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Transcribed By:  
Graham Transcriptions, Inc.  
December 20, 2012

## **INDEX OF MOTIONS**

### **SNAPPER GROUPEL COMMITTEE MOTIONS**

PAGE 25: Motion to request that the update to the black sea bass assessment contain a projection at the revised black sea bass P-rebuild of 62.5 percent. Motion carried on Page 25.

PAGE 25: Motion to accept the SSC's recommendation for red porgy ABC set at the yield at 75 percent Fmsy based on Table 24 of the red porgy assessment report using landings in thousands of pounds for 2013-2018. Motion carried on Page 25.

PAGE 26: Motion to direct staff to begin work on a regulatory amendment to adjust the vermilion snapper ACL, adjust other management measures currently included in Regulatory Amendment 14 for vermilion snapper and adjust the red porgy ACL and management measures as appropriate. Motion carried on Page 26.

PAGE 26: Motion to accept the ABC values for vermilion snapper recommended by the SSC based on the control rule. Motion carried on Page 26.

PAGE 26: Motion to move Action 8 from Regulatory Amendment 14 to Regulatory Amendment 18; remove Alternatives 2, 4 and 5; include an additional alternative as recommended by the Snapper Grouper AP. Motion carried on Page 26.

PAGE 27: Motion to remove Alternatives 2 and 3 from Action 9 in Regulatory Amendment 14. Motion carried on Page 27.

PAGE 27: Motion to move Action 10 from Regulatory Amendment 14 to Regulatory Amendment 18. Motion carried on Page 27.

PAGE 27: Motion to move Action 11 from Regulatory Amendment 14 to Regulatory Amendment 18 and include an additional alternative, Alternative 3, to remove the recreational season closure. Motion carried on Page 27.

PAGE 27: Motion to remove Alternative 2 from Action 11 in Regulatory Amendment 18. Motion carried on Page 27.

PAGE 27: Motion to remove Actions 12 and 13 from Regulatory Amendment 14 pertaining to red porgy. Motion carried on Page 27.

PAGE 27: Motion to select Alternative 2 as the preferred and accept the purpose and need as written. Motion carried on Page 28.

PAGE 28: Motion was to approve Regulatory Amendment 13 for formal review and deem the codified text as necessary and appropriate. Motion carried on Page 28.



PAGE 29: Motion to give staff and the chairman editorial license to make edits as necessary to the Regulatory Amendment 13 and the codified text. Motion carried on Page 29.

PAGE 30: Motion to accept the purpose and need in Regulatory Amendment 15. Motion carried on Page 30.

PAGE 30: Motion to select Alternative 2 as the preferred under Action 1 in Regulatory Amendment 15. Motion carried on Page 30.

PAGE 30: Motion to select Alternative 1, which is no action, as the preferred for Action 2 in Regulatory Amendment 15. Motion carried on Page 30.

PAGE 30: Motion to select Alternative 3 under Action 3 in Regulatory Amendment 15, which pertains to the gag and shallow water groupers. Motion carried on Page 30.

PAGE 30: Motion is to approve Regulatory Amendment 15 for submission to the Secretary of Commerce. Motion carried on Page 31.

PAGE 31: Motion to approve the codified text as necessary and appropriate. Motion carried on Page 32.

PAGE 32: Motion to give staff and the council chairman editorial license to make changes to the document as necessary prior to submission. Motion carried on Page 33.

PAGE 33: Motion to approve the purpose and need for Amendment 28. Motion carried on Page 33.

PAGE 33: Motion to select Subalternative 2C as the preferred to calculate the red snapper ACL. Motion carried on Page 33.

PAGE 33: Motion to select Subalternative 3A for specifying the commercial fishing season for red snapper. Motion carried on Page 33.

PAGE 33: Motion to select Subalternative 4A as the preferred for the recreational red snapper season. Motion carried on Page 33.

PAGE 33: Motion to indicate in the language of Alternative 4 that recreational fishing weekends would be consecutive. Motion carried on Page 33.

PAGE 33: Motion to select Alternative 5 as a preferred. Motion carried on Page 33.

PAGE 33: Motion to select Subalternative 6C as the preferred. Motion carried on Page 33.

PAGE 33: Motion to select Alternative 7 as a preferred. Motion carried on Page 33.

PAGE 34: Motion to include language in Alternatives 3 and 4 to give the regional administrator authority to delay opening of fishing seasons in the event of a tropical storm or a hurricane affecting the South Atlantic. Motion carried on Page 35.

PAGE 35: Motion to approve Amendment 28 for submission to the Secretary of Commerce and to deem the codified text for Amendment 28 as necessary and appropriate. Motion carried on Page 35.

PAGE 35: Motion to give staff and the council chair editorial license to make changes to the amendment document as appropriate prior to submission. Motion carried on Page 35.

PAGE 36: Motion to move Actions 1 through 5 in Amendment 27 to the considered but rejected appendix. Motion carried on Page 36.

PAGE 36: Motion to direct staff to edit the purpose and need statement in Amendment 27 to reflect removal of Actions 1 though 5. Motion carried on Page 36.

PAGE 36: Motion to select Alternative 2 under Action 6 as a preferred. Motion carried on Page 36.

PAGE 36: Motion to select Alternative 2 under Action 7 as a preferred. Motion carried on Page 36.

PAGE 36: Motion to remove Alternative 5 under Action 8 and move to the considered but rejected appendix. Motion carried on Page 36.

PAGE 36: Motion to modify the language of Alternative 2 to remove the phrase “and place in the CMP management unit”. Motion carried on Page 36.

PAGE 37: Motion to modify Alternative 3 as follows: Alternative 3. Retain blue runner in the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan but allow commercial harvest and sale of blue runner for vessels that have been issued a Spanish mackerel permit or a snapper grouper permit. Specify that gillnets are an allowable gear for blue runner only in the snapper grouper fishery. Motion carried on Page 37.

PAGE 37: Motion to move the placement of the word “only” in Alternative 3 and place in front of the phrase “blue runner”, so it would read “specify that gillnets are an allowable gear for only blue runner in the snapper grouper fishery”. Motion carried on Page 37.

PAGE 37: Motion to approve Amendment 27 for public hearings in January of 2013. Motion carried on Page 38

PAGE 38: Motion to reconvene the Expert MPA Working Group between now and March 2013 meeting and ask Nick Farmer to make his presentation on reconfiguration of MPAs and additional MPAs; and based on the outcome of the working group have a presentation of reconfigurations and additional sites at the March 2013 meeting. Motion carried on Page 38.

PAGE 38: Motion was to add an action to Amendment 27 to allow dually permitted vessels to have four crew members on board similar to the action in Gulf Reef Fish Amendment 34. Motion carried on Page 38.

PAGE 38: Motion to direct council staff to work with the regional office staff to finalize the regulations' spreadsheet and bring options to the committee in June 2013 that consider changes to accountability measures. Motion carried on Page 38.

PAGE 38: Motion to direct staff to investigate data to determine recreational catches of blue runner. Motion carried on Page 38.

PAGE 38: Motion to review the Jacks Complex and the Deepwater Grouper Complex with the intent to bring an options paper to modify those complexes to the committee in March of 2013. Motion carried on Page 38.

PAGE 39: Motion to develop an options paper to review unharvested ACLs and allow for moving ACLs between sector allocations. Motion carried on Page 39.

PAGE 39: Motion to adopt the Timing and Tasks as listed. Motion carried on Page 39.

#### **AD HOC DATA COLLECTION COMMITTEE MOTIONS**

PAGE 40: Motion that the chair work with the council chair and staff to prepare an appropriate letter to NMFS Headquarters to encourage provision of adequate resources to maintain the system and to highlight the importance of the system. Motion carried on Page 40.

PAGE 40: Motion to move Action 1 into a generic amendment to the snapper grouper, dolphin and wahoo and coastal migratory pelagics FMPs. Motion carried on Page 41.

PAGE 41: Motion to remove Action 2 from CE-BA 3 and work with the Gulf Council on a joint amendment to address commercial logbook issues, such as address compliance with reporting timelines, no fishing reports, mandatory electronic reports with provision for extreme events. Motion carried on Page 41.

PAGE 41: Motion to accept the IPT recommendations for Action 3. Motion carried on Page 41.

PAGE 41: Motion to move the VMS requirement into a separate Snapper Grouper Amendment 30 and bring back to the committee in March. Motion carried on Page 47.

PAGE 41: Substitute motion that the council not pursue a VMS requirement for the snapper grouper fishery. Motion was defeated on Page 46.

PAGE 47: Motion to ask staff to craft a new Alternative 3 with the contingency and make that the preferred. Motion carried on Page 47.

PAGE 47: Motion to accept the IPT wording for Alternative 2. Motion carried on Page 47.

PAGE 47: Motion to approve the timing and tasks as presented. Motion carried on Page 47.

**ECOSYSTEM-BASED MANAGEMENT AND HABITAT AND ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION COMMITTEE MOTIONS**

PAGE 49: Motion to proceed with the Option 1 timing. Motion carried on Page 49.

PAGE 49: Motion to proceed with planning a joint Law Enforcement and Deepwater Shrimp AP Meeting and also a joint Coral and Habitat AP Meeting. Motion carried on Page 49.

PAGE 49: Substitute motion to allow staff to determine the most appropriate format in which to have the APs meet. Motion withdrawn on Page 50.

PAGE 50: Motion to accept the IPT's recommendation for purpose and need statement. Motion carried on Page 50.

PAGE 50: Motion to add Subalternative 2E to Action 1 for further analysis. Motion carried on Page 50.

PAGE 50: Motion to move Subalternatives 2B, 2C and 2D to the considered but rejected appendix. Motion carried on Page 50.

PAGE 51: Motion to not consider the fishery access area recommendation at this time until further information warrants council discussion. Motion carried on Page 51.

Page 51: Motion to add Alternative 3 to Action 2 for further analysis. Motion carried on Page 51.

PAGE 51: Motion to include a new Alternative 4 under Action 3, and this would replace the existing Alternative 2 and move Alternative 2 to the considered but rejected appendix and renumber as appropriate. Motion carried on Page 51.

PAGE 51: Motion to adopt the timing and tasks. Motion carried on Page 51.

**SEDAR COMMITTEE MOTIONS**

PAGE 61: Motion that a benchmark assessment of red porgy be conducted in 2014. Motion carried on Page 61.

PAGE 61: Motion to remove the red porgy update from the 2015 list. Motion carried on Page 61.

PAGE 61: Motion to remove the vermilion update from the 2015 list of assessments. Motion carried on Page 61.

PAGE 61: Motion that the priority stocks for 2015 are gray snapper, dolphin and wahoo benchmarks; and golden tilefish and red grouper updates. Motion carried on Page 61.

PAGE 61: Motion to approve the terms of reference for the black sea bass update with a P-rebuild based on 66 percent and an alternative that was considered by the Snapper Grouper Committee. Motion carried on Page 61.

PAGE 61: Motion to include a P-rebuild based on 62.5 percent in the black sea bass update terms of reference. Motion carried on Page 61.

PAGE 61: Motion to approve the SEDAR 32 terms of reference. Motion carried on Page 61.

PAGE 61: Motion to approve the SEDAR 36 schedule and the terms of reference. Motion carried on Page 61.

PAGE 61: Motion to appoint the following individuals to SEDAR 32: Mike Schmidtke to the data workshop; Steve Cadrin as the review workshop chair; Jim Berkson to the review workshop; and Mark Brown to the data workshop. Motion carried on Page 62.

PAGE 62: Motion to appoint the following individuals to SEDAR 36: from the South Atlantic Council SSC would be Doug Vaughan, Eric Johnson, Chip Collier and Marcel Reichert; from the MARMAP staff, Dave Wyanski, Joey Ballenger, Tracey Smart, Michelle Pate; from our AP Jack Perret and Rob Harris; and the council representatives would be Michelle Duval and Anna Beckwith. Motion carried on Page 62.

### **DOLPHIN WAHOO COMMITTEE MOTIONS**

PAGE 62: Motion to direct staff to develop revisions to include additional AMs for both dolphin and wahoo in the scoping document. Motion carried on Page 62.

PAGE 62: Motion to remove Action 4 from the Dolphin and Wahoo Options Paper and public scoping process before moving forward with Amendment 5. Motion carried on Page 66.

PAGE 66: Motion that the council send the Dolphin and Wahoo Amendment 5 Options Paper to public scoping. Motion carried on Page 66.

### **EXECUTIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE MOTIONS**

PAGE 68: Motion to approve the Draft FMP, Amendments and Frameworks Timelines Table as presented for the upcoming year. Motion carried on Page 68.

### **FULL COUNCIL SESSION MOTION**

PAGE 75: Motion to recommend approval of the experimental fishing permit from Texas A&M. Motion carried on Page 75.

**MOTION MADE UNDER FULL COUNCIL OTHER BUSINESS**

PAGE 86: Motion to add an action to Amendment 27 to eliminate the prohibition of bag limit retention for captain and crew on for-hire trips for the grouper aggregate and vermilion snapper. Motion carried on Page 87.

# South Atlantic Fishery Management Council 2012 - 2013 Council Membership

## COUNCIL CHAIRMAN:

✓ **David M. Cupka**  
P.O. Box 12753  
Charleston, SC 29422  
843/795-8591 (hm)  
843/870-5495 (cell)  
palmettobooks@bellsouth.net

## VICE-CHAIRMAN

✓ **Ben Hartig**  
8277 Sharon Street  
Hobe Sound, FL 33455  
772/546-1541 (ph)  
mackattackben@att.net

✓ **Steve Amick**  
6902 Sandnettlles Drive  
Savannah, GA 31410  
912/429-3537 (ph)  
912/898-0361 (f)  
SteveAmicks@aol.com

✓ **Mel Bell**  
S.C. Dept. of Natural Resources  
Marine Resources Division  
P.O. Box 12559  
(217 Ft. Johnson Road)  
Charleston, SC 29422-2559  
843/953-9007 (ph)  
843/953-9159 (fax)  
bellm@dnr.sc.gov

✓ **Anna Beckwith**  
1907 Paulette Road  
Morehead City, NC 28557  
252/671-3474 (ph)  
AnnaBarriosBeckwith@gmail.com

✓ **Tom Burgess**  
P.O. Box 33  
Sneads Ferry, NC 28460  
910/327-3528  
tburgess@embarqmail.com

✓ **Dr. Roy Crabtree**  
Regional Administrator  
NOAA Fisheries, Southeast Region  
263 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue South  
St. Petersburg, FL 33701  
727/824-5301 (ph); 727/824-5320 (f)  
roy.crabtree@noaa.gov

✓ **Dr. Michelle Duval**  
NC Division of Marine Fisheries  
3441 Arendell St.  
PO Box 769  
Morehead City, NC 28557  
252/726-7021 (ph); 252/726-0254 (f)  
michelle.duval@nodenr.gov

✓ ~~Lt. Mario Gil~~ **LCDR SCOT GIBSON**  
U.S. Coast Guard  
Brickell Plaza Federal Building  
909 S.E. First Avenue  
Room 876/ DRE  
Miami, FL 33131-3050  
305/415-6768 (ph)  
305/415-6791 (f)  
Mario.gil@uscg.mil

✓ **Doug Haymans**  
Coastal Resources Division  
GA Dept. of Natural Resources  
One Conservation Way, Suite 300  
Brunswick, GA 31520-8687  
912/264-7218 (ph); 912/262-2318 (f)  
doughaymans@gmail.com

✓ **John W. Jolley**  
4925 Pine Tree Drive  
Boynton Beach, FL 33436  
561/732-4530 (ph)  
jolleyjw@yahoo.com

**Deirdre Warner-Kramer**  
Office of Marine Conservation  
OES/OMC  
2201 C Street, N.W.  
Department of State, Room 5806  
Washington, DC 20520  
202/647-3228 (ph); 202/736-7350 (f)  
Warner-KramerDM@state.gov

✓ **Dr. Wilson Laney**  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
South Atlantic Fisheries Coordinator  
P.O. Box 33683  
Raleigh, NC 27695-7617  
(110 Brooks Ave  
237 David Clark Laboratories,  
NCSU Campus  
Raleigh, NC 27695-7617)  
919/515-5019 (ph)  
919/515-4415 (f)  
Wilson\_Laney@fws.gov

✓ ~~Jessica McCawley~~ **MARTHA BADEMAN**  
Director,  
Florida Fish and Wildlife  
Conservation Commission  
2590 Executive Center Circle E.,  
Suite 201  
Tallahassee, FL 32301  
850/487-0554 (ph); 850/487-4847 (f)  
jessica.mccawley@myfwc.com

**Robert E. Beal**  
Acting Executive Director  
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries  
Commission  
1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200 A-N  
Arlington, VA 20001  
703/842-0740 (ph); 703/842-0741 (f)  
rbeal@asmfc.org

✓ **Charles Phillips**  
Phillips Seafood / Sapelo Sea Farms  
1418 Sapelo Avenue, N.E.  
Townsend, GA 31331  
912/832-3149 (ph); 912/832-6228 (f)  
Ga\_capt@yahoo.com

✓ **Tom Swatzel**  
P.O. Box 1311  
Murrells Inlet, SC 29576  
843/222-7456 (ph)  
tom@swatzel.com

# South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Staff

## Executive Director

✓ Robert K. Mahood  
robert.mahood@safmc.net

## Deputy Executive Director

✓ Gregg T. Waugh  
gregg.waugh@safmc.net

---

## Public Information Officer

✓ Kim Iverson  
kim.iverson@safmc.net

## Fishery Outreach Specialist

✓ Amber Von Harten  
amber.vonharten@safmc.net

## Senior Fishery Biologist

Roger Pugliese  
roger.pugliese@safmc.net

## Fishery Scientist

✓ Myra Brouwer  
myra.brouwer@safmc.net

## Coral Reef Scientist

✓ Anna Martin  
anna.martin@safmc.net

## Fishery Biologist

✓ Dr. Mike Errigo  
mike.errigo@safmc.net

## Fisheries Social Scientist

✓ Dr. Kari MacLauchlin  
kari.maclauchlin@safmc.net

## Staff Economist

✓ Dr. Brian Chevront  
brian.chevront@safmc.net

## Science and Statistics Program Manager

✓ John Carmichael  
john.carmichael@safmc.net

## SEDAR Coordinators

Dr. Julie Neer - julie.neer@safmc.net  
Julia Byrd - julia.byrd@safmc.net

## SEDAR Admin/Outreach

Andrea Grabman  
andrea.grabman@safmc.net

## Administrative Officer

✓ Mike Collins  
mike.collins@safmc.net

## Financial Secretary

Debra Buscher  
deb.buscher@safmc.net

## Admin. Secretary /Travel Coordinator

Cindy Chaya  
cindy.chaya@safmc.net

## Purchasing & Grants

✓ Julie O'Dell  
julie.odell@safmc.net

PATRICK O'SHAUGHNESSY  
BRANDON FISHER  
PRES PATE  
DHA EASLEY  
BRANDON FISHER  
SCOT GIBSON  
JACK MCGOVERN  
DOUG BOYD  
NICK FARMER  
SCOTT SANDORF  
BONNIE POWERS  
JIM KELLEY  
JASON WALKER  
MONICA SMIT-BRUNELLO  
PHIL STEELE  
RED MUNDEN



# FULL COUNCIL – ROLL CALL VOTE

Date: December 2012

Meeting Location: Wilmington, NC

Issue: REG AMENDMENT 13 / CODIFIED TEXT

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
CUPKA	X		
HARTIG	X		
AMICK	X		
BADEMAN	X		
BECKWITH	X		
BELL	X		
BURGESS	X		
DR CRABTREE	X		
DR DUVAL	X		
HAYMANS	X		
JOLLEY	X		
PHILLIPS	X		
SWATZEL	X		

# FULL COUNCIL – ROLL CALL VOTE

Date: December 2012

Meeting Location: Wilmington, NC

Issue: RBG AMENDMENT 15 / CODIFIED TEXT

	YES		NO	ABSTAIN
CUPKA	X	X		
HARTIG	X	X		
AMICK	X	X		
BADEMAN	X	X		
BECKWITH	X	X		
BELL	X	X		
BURGESS	X	X		
CRABTREE	X	X		
DUVAL	X	X		
HAYMANS	X	X		
JOLLEY	X	X		
PHILLIPS	X	X		
SWATZEL	X	X		

# FULL COUNCIL – ROLL CALL VOTE

Date: December 2012

Meeting Location: Wilmington, NC

Issue: SNAPPER/GROUPER  
AMENDMENT 28 AND CODIFIED TEXT

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
CUPKA	X		
HARTIG	X		
AMICK	X		
BADEMAN	X		
BECKWITH	X		
BELL	X		
BURGESS	X		
CRABTREE	X		
DUVAL	X		
HAYMANS	X		
JOLLEY	X		
PHILLIPS	X		
SWATZEL	X		

# PLEASE SIGN IN

So that we will have a record of your attendance at each meeting and so that your name may be included in the minutes, we ask that you sign this sheet for the meeting shown below.

## SAFMC December 2012 Council Meeting:

Council Session

December 6, 2012

Wilmington, NC

<u>NAME &amp; ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>AREA CODE &amp; PHONE NUMBER</u>	<u>EMAIL ADDRESS</u>	<u>P.O. BOX/STREET CITY, STATE &amp; ZIP</u>
Mike Cleah and Steve Durbin			WYES PMS Stee Png
Tim Briner	980-722-0918	Tim.Briner@nccharlottesville.com	Charlottesville NC
Randall M. Rubin	612-5268 910-220-2710	EmilRubin3@msi.com	Hampstead, N.J.C.
Ken Stump consultant	202-350-9520	managprod@comcast.net	200P 28443
Rusten O'Johnson	386-239-0948	rusten@ojs.com	32126-9351
Bob Rogers	910-232-4755	RD10RENZ@ERR.com	WILMINGTON, NC 28409
Aaron Paddy	856-321-3690	apaddy@pactrust.org	
Holly Bings	856-322-7845	hbings@partners.org	321305 2107 Malboro Rd
Samantha Port-Mermer			

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201

North Charleston, SC 29405

843-571-4366 or Toll Free 866/SAFMC-10

# PLEASE SIGN IN

So that we will have a record of your attendance at each meeting and so that your name may be included in the minutes, we ask that you sign this sheet for the meeting shown below.

## SAFMC December 2012 Council Meeting:

*Council Session*

*December 6, 2012*

*Wilmington, NC*

<u>NAME &amp; ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>AREA CODE &amp; PHONE NUMBER</u>	<u>EMAIL ADDRESS</u>	<u>P.O. BOX/STREET CITY, STATE &amp; ZIP</u>
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<i>Ken Stump, consultant Helen Trude-Henrichsen, EBF</i>	<i>202-358-9520</i>	<i>maggie@edgmail.com htrude@edff.org</i>	
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South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

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North Charleston, SC 29405

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# PLEASE SIGN IN

So that we will have a record of your attendance at each meeting and so that your name may be included in the minutes, we ask that you sign this sheet for the meeting shown below.

## SAFMC December 2012 Council Meeting:

Council Session

December 7, 2012

Wilmington, NC

<u>NAME &amp; ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>AREA CODE &amp; PHONE NUMBER</u>	<u>EMAIL ADDRESS</u>	<u>P.O. BOX/STREET CITY, STATE &amp; ZIP</u>
Grether Marki		gmarki@etf.org	28411
Bob Long (REC. FISHER)		R520RENZ@ECRR.COM	WILMINGTON
Robt S Hawks		Jerry.HS@flhwr.com	Little River P.O.
Aaron Fodel	850-331-3690	afodel@retrists.org	
Pushy Johnson	252 386-239-0948	DSE2009@aol.com	38120-9351

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council  
 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201  
 North Charleston, SC 29405  
 843-571-4366 or Toll Free 866/SAFMC-10

DFRL2J

Jerry Hume 407-465-7473 channel News 13  
~~IF 700~~ KATHLEEN - 543-2574

~~3) the details for the Oct 10th~~

~~whatever that ever you do~~

~~When you do move forward with Coral Amendment~~

Thank for setting up the joint meeting between the Coral AP + Deep water Shrimp AP.

It WAS the best SA meeting I've ever been to. 4 council members attended - that was much appreciated.

Before you take Coral Amendment 8 out to public comment

Need another joint meeting with ALL 5 APs that are affected by Coral Amendment 8 - Coral, Habitat, LAW Enforcement, Snapper Groupers + Deep water Shrimp -

EACH AP make their presentation so others can see

It will be a lot for staff to handle - But would save money and have better results - ~~its~~

The ~~people~~ Snapper Grouper AP hasn't even been involved, yet this Amendment greatly impacts a huge traditional fishing area that boats from Canaveral to St Augustine use -

Splitting the Aps up and having smaller meetings will not be as productive

Putting ~~the~~ similar Aps together - like putting Coral AP & Habitat together won't accomplish anything - they both ~~agree~~ - agree on the same goals -

~~the~~ HABITAT  
Coral APs need to hear from Snapper Grouper AP and Deepwater Shrimp APs -

EACH AP needs to know how every alternative affects the other APs -

The only way to do that ~~is~~ in a ~~fast~~ fair and fast manner is to get everyone together in one room at the same time - you can do it at my restaurant and I won't charge you for the room.

~~The letter~~

The new map that STATE proposed for Northern Expansion of Oculina HABPC looks different than what Coral AP & DW Shrimp AP agreed on in their joint meeting - Can you please take a look at the eastern boundary from about half way down to see if it can be adjusted from there to where it connects to the ~~to~~ box for South Oculina HABPC so that ~~the~~ the bottom on offshore side of



steeples where Rock shrimpers work  
will not get taken away -

The two committees agreed that ~~the~~ setting  
the east boundary at 100 meters would ~~protect~~  
~~be~~ be sufficient to protect the coral -  
I understand that the boundary was moved  
offshore on the north end to provide a buffer  
for some pinnacles up there - But please  
take a look at the Southeast end to see  
if the eastern boundary can be adjusted  
to save those trawls.

~~It is critical that~~  
~~with the northern~~

The northern expansion of the Oculina  
HAPC will divide the area where Rock  
shrimpers fish - A transit provision is  
critical for the safety and economy  
of the boats that fish there.

Please choose Alternative 3 for  
Coral Amendment 8 - Action 2 - A lot  
of discussion took place to get to that  
wording. ~~and~~

3 ~~before~~ before you move forward with more MPAs  
to protect Warsaw grouper & speckled hind, ~~please~~ please  
consider how the northern expansion of the Oculina HAPC  
will affect the fishery - Gotta harder to fish if you can't anchor

2013  
1975  
38

And finally - ~~for my own restaurant~~

My family has operated owned & operated seafood restaurants since 1975 - nearly 40 years - Our reputation is built on serving excellent domestic seafood -

It ~~just~~ keeps getting harder & harder to get a consistent supply of domestic seafood to serve in my restaurant -

Restaurants & suppliers to restaurants are ~~suffering~~ impacted by your decisions as much as the fishermen -

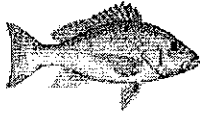
It will help us all if you all can work to reduce the amount of time between closures

One suggestion for tilefish was to allow fishing for two weeks on then two weeks off this could conceivably double the length of tilefish season - That would really help

~~Another suggestion~~ us to have a guaranteed supply of fresh fish during our busy season & Lent since no one can catch snapper and grouper is closed for spawning season that time of the year, you should consider timing the openings & closures of seasons so that they don't overlap and a ~~constant~~ consistent supply of fresh fish

Laurilee Thompson can be available.

# SOUTHEASTERN FISHERIES ASSOCIATION (SFA)



## EAST COAST FISHERIES SECTION (ECFS)

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Tuesday November 13, 2012

Regard to: Proposed Coral Amendment 7 Oculina Habitat Area of Concern (OHAPC) Expansion North

To: South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC),

The Southeastern Fisheries Association (SFA) East Coast Fisheries Section (ECFS) appreciates the opportunity to submit the following comments to the SAFMC about proposed actions with Coral Amendment 7 to expand northward the current OHAPC.

SFA ECFS opposes any proposed expansion north of the Oculina HAPC at this time.

The first reason is there are not sufficient ground-truthing north of the present OHAPC, indicating Oculina reef development that warrants the northern expansion option. Live and/or hard bottom is not the same as live Oculina coral.

The second reason is the Snapper Grouper (SG) AP has not met with the Coral AP (CAP) as SFA ECFS recommended during the past two SAFMC meetings. The CAP did meet with the SAFMC Deep Water Shrimp AP (DWSAP) and some members from the Habitat AP (HAP) on October 18, 2012 in Cape Canaveral, Florida. That meeting produced alternatives which may mitigate unexpected consequences from previous alternatives affecting transit and historical shrimping areas. Any new Oculina coral information needs vetting by all of the APs that have interests in mitigating negative effects.

A third compelling reason to SG fishermen are alternatives that go inshore of 50 to 70 meters in depth (164 feet to 229 feet) with regions for western boundary choices and then seaward to 100 to 110 meters in depth (328 feet to 360 feet) on the east side that would forbid anchoring on historical fishing areas. In particular the Big Ledge (also known as the 28 fathom ledge) and the Steeples found in 220 feet to 300 feet of depth at the base of these high relief natural structures that are found in those proposed regions. There are also several wrecks that are commonly fished in those depths for over 50 years.

About 20 miles to the north of the main body of Steeples is an area of bottom nearly 20 miles in size known as the Roll down where snowy grouper, blueline tilefish, red porgy, vermilion snapper, red snapper and shallow water groupers are found in large concentrations. The Roll down is mostly low relief hard bottom from 220 feet out to 300 feet of depth.

All of these regions could be affected by the proposed OHAPC expansion and such an action may not be warranted at all in our opinion. More research is required before an arbitrary decision is made by the SAFMC and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) causing more economic impacts to fishing communities. With the NMFS facing budget constraints we are wondering when the ground-truthing can be accomplished correctly.

These legitimate concerns need to be vetted during a joint meeting of the CAP, HAP, DWSAP and SGAP as soon as possible. SAFMC staff has mentioned to the SFA ECFS consultant they may organize such a meeting during early to mid-2013.

Thank you for considering the SFA ECFS comments and we look forward to developing solutions to these problem issues.

Jimmy Hull, Chairman  
SFA ECFS  
rhh

# SOUTHEASTERN FISHERIES ASSOCIATION (SFA)



## EAST COAST FISHERIES SECTION (ECFS)

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Thursday November 01, 2012

To: South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC) Snapper Grouper (SG) Advisory Panel (AP),

The Southeastern Fisheries Association (SFA) East Coast Fisheries Section (ECFS) appreciates the opportunity to submit the following comments about proposed actions in Regulatory Amendment 14. In cases of Preferred Alternatives for the 14 Actions, this SFA ECFS comment will note a Preferred Choice in red color font and in cases where the document does not have an Alternative for an Action we will add one in red color font.

Thank you for considering the SFA ECFS comments.

Jimmy Hull, Chairman  
SFA ECFS  
rhh

### **Proposed Actions in Regulatory Amendment 14**

*NOTE: This amendment will be developed in 2013. The Council has requested an Options Paper to review at the March 2013 meeting.*

#### **Greater Amberjack Actions:**

#### **Action 1. Modify the commercial fishing year for greater amberjack.**

**Alternative 1 (No Action).** The current commercial fishing year begins on May 1 and ends on April 30. [SFA ECFS Preferred Alternative]

**Alternative 2.** Modify the commercial fishing year for greater amberjack to begin on January 1 and end on December 31.

**Alternative 3.** Modify the commercial fishing year for greater amberjack to begin on March 1 and end on February 28.

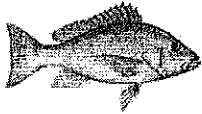
#### **Action 2. Reduce the trip limit for greater amberjack.**

**Alternative 1 (No Action).** The current trip limit is 1,200 pounds gutted weight (gw).

**Alternative 2.** Reduce the commercial trip limit to 1,000 pounds gw.

[Alternative 3. Increase the commercial trip limit to 1,500 pounds gw.]  
[SFA ECFS Preferred Alternative]

# SOUTHEASTERN FISHERIES ASSOCIATION (SFA)



## EAST COAST FISHERIES SECTION (ECFS)

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**Alternative 3.** Implement a reduction in the bag limit to 5 mutton snapper per person per day during May and June.

**Alternative 4.** Implement a reduction in the bag limit to 3 mutton snapper per person per day during May and June.

**Alternative 5.** Modify the commercial spawning season closure for mutton snapper.

**Sub-alternative 5a.** All commercial and recreational harvest is prohibited during May and June.

**Sub-alternative 5b.** All commercial and recreational harvest is prohibited during April, May and June.

*NOTE: Bag limit changes for mutton snapper are already being considered in Amendment 27 (if the transfer of management to the SA Council proceeds as planned).*

[As to bag limit changes SFA ECFS prefers to wait on SG Amendment 27 to evolve for management choices before commenting further.]

**Alternative 6.** Reduce the bag limit of mutton snapper year-round.

**Sub-alternative 6a.** Reduce the bag limit of mutton snapper year-round to 3 per person per day (included in the aggregate 10-snapper bag limit).

**Sub-alternative 6b.** Reduce the bag limit of mutton snapper year-round to 5 per person per day (included in the aggregate 10-snapper bag limit).

**Sub-alternative 6c.** Reduce the bag limit of mutton snapper year-round to 7 per person per day (included in the aggregate 10-snapper bag limit).

### **Gray Triggerfish and Hogfish Actions:**

**Action 4. Change the measurement method for gray triggerfish to have consistency between state and federal waters.**

**Alternative 1 (No Action).** Currently, the minimum size limit for gray triggerfish is specified in inches total length (TL) in federal waters off east Florida only. In Florida state waters, the minimum size for gray triggerfish is specified in inches fork length (FL).

# SOUTHEASTERN FISHERIES ASSOCIATION (SFA)



## EAST COAST FISHERIES SECTION (ECFS)

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### **Action 6. Modify the fishing year for the black sea bass recreational sector.**

**Alternative 1 (No Action).** The recreational fishing year for black sea bass begins on June 1 and ends on May 31.

**Alternative 2.** Modify the recreational fishing year for black sea bass to begin on January 1 and end on December 31.

**Alternative 3.** Modify the recreational fishing year for black sea bass to begin on April 1 and end on March 31.

**Alternative 4.** Modify the recreational fishing year for black sea bass to begin on October 1 and end on September 30.

[**Alternative 5.** The recreational fishing year for black sea bass begins on May 1 and ends on April 30.] [SFA ECFS Preferred Alternative]

### **Action 7. Modify the fishing year for the black sea bass commercial sector.**

**Alternative 1 (No Action).** The commercial fishing year for black sea bass begins on June 1 and ends on May 31.

**Alternative 2.** Modify the commercial fishing year for black sea bass to begin on July 1 and end on June 30. [SFA ECFS Preferred Alternative]

**Alternative 3.** Open the black sea bass commercial season only to the hook and line sector on June 1, with a trip limit of 50 pounds. The trip limit ends with the opening of the black sea bass pot season.

**Alternative 4.** Open the black sea bass commercial season only to the hook and line sector on May 1, with a trip limit of 50 pounds. The trip limit ends with the opening of the black sea bass pot season. [SFA ECFS Preferred Alternative]

### **Vermilion Snapper Actions:**

#### **Action 8. Modify the commercial trip limit for vermilion snapper.**

**Alternative 1 (No Action).** The current commercial trip limit is 1,500 pounds gutted weight (gw). [SFA ECFS Preferred Alternative]

# SOUTHEASTERN FISHERIES ASSOCIATION (SFA)



## EAST COAST FISHERIES SECTION (ECFS)

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January 1 and ends on June 30 (6 months). The second season begins on July 1 and ends on December 31 (6 months). [SFA ECFS Preferred Alternative]

**Alternative 2.** Modify the commercial fishing year for vermilion snapper.

**Sub-alternative 2a.** The first season begins on January 1 and ends on May 31 (5 months). The second season begins on June 1 and ends on December 31 (7 months).

**Sub-alternative 2b.** The first season begins on January 1 and ends on April 30 (4 months). The second season begins on May 1 and ends on December 31 (8 months).

### **Action 11. Modify the recreational closed season for vermilion snapper.**

**Alternative 1 (No Action).** Recreational harvest of vermilion snapper is prohibited annually from November 1 to March 31 (5 months).

**Alternative 2.** Modify the recreational closed season for vermilion snapper.

**Sub-alternative 2a.** Recreational harvest of vermilion snapper is prohibited annually from November 1 to January 31 (3 months). [SFA ECFS Preferred Alternative]

**Sub-alternative 2b.** Recreational harvest of vermilion snapper is prohibited annually from December 1 to February 28 (3 months).

**Sub-alternative 2c.** Recreational harvest of vermilion snapper is prohibited annually from October 1 to April 30 (7 months).

### **Red Porgy Actions:**

*(Note: Actions may change as a result of the red porgy stock assessment)*

[SFA ECFS Note: The recent red porgy update stock assessment has issues that does not reflect what fishermen see on the water. This will effect management actions such as allocation and bag limits since the analysis used by NMFS for 2013 may require a reduction of the ABC by nearly 25%. The current ABC is 395,304 pounds gw and the proposed 2013 ABC is 306,000 pounds gw and ACL's for both sectors are set using a 50/50 split. By the 2018 rebuilding period end the ABC may be 401,000 pounds gw. SFA ECFS recommends a Full Benchmark assessment for Red porgy ASAP.]

# SOUTHEASTERN FISHERIES ASSOCIATION (SFA)



## EAST COAST FISHERIES SECTION (ECFS)

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Monday November 26, 2012

Re: Snapper Grouper (SG) Fishery Management Plan (FMP)  
To: South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC)

Regulatory Amendment 13 (RA-13)  
[SGRegAmend13Comments@safmc.net](mailto:SGRegAmend13Comments@safmc.net)

Thank you for considering this Southeastern Fisheries Association (SFA) East Coast Fisheries Section (ECFS) written comment with regard to the SG FMP RA-13 choice for Action 1 and the Alternatives being proposed currently by the SAFMC. [See paste below.]

We understand that the recent changes to the past recreational fishing sector's estimated landings from the old Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS) to the new Marine Recreational Informational Program (MRIP) will result in some needed changes to the acceptable biological catch (ABC) for 37 unassessed SG species. In turn this will change the annual catch limits (ACLs) currently in place for both the commercial and recreational fishing sectors.

### Proposed Action 1 in Regulatory Amendment 13

#### **"2.1 List of Alternatives**

**2.1.1 Action 1: Revise the acceptable biological catches (ABCs), annual catch limits (ACLs, including sector ACLs), allocations, and annual catch targets (ACTs) for select un-assessed species in the snapper grouper fishery management unit (FMU).**

*Alternative 1. No action. Do not revise ABCs, ACLs (including sector ACLs), allocations, and ACTs for select un-assessed species in the snapper grouper FMU. Data would not be updated with data from Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP), commercial, and for-hire landings.*

*Alternative 2. Revise the ABCs, ACL, (including sector ACLs), allocations and ACTs for select un-assessed species in the snapper grouper FMU. Data will be updated with data from MRIP, commercial, and for-hire landings."*

The SFA ECFS Board is concerned about the formula known as "**Boyle's Law**" developed during the Spring of 2008 and used in the 2012 Comprehensive Annual Catch Limit Amendment. With the rigid end date of 2008 continuing to be used and how revising it so the end date is 2012 or beyond, instead of 2008, is an issue that needs solution apparently through a Full Amendment to the SG FMP. **Will the SAFMC solve this ongoing formula for allocation issues soon by starting a Full Amendment?**

We have some reservations with MRIP currently, as well as with the old MRFSS landings estimates from before 1986. SouthEast Data, Assessment and Review (SEDAR) modeling use data from before 1986 in many of the Full Benchmark Assessments conducted for the SG complex.

**The SFA ECFS Board approves of the SAFMC moving forward with their SG FMP RA-13 Action 1, Alternative 2 proposal to be reviewed by the US Secretary of Commerce.**

Jimmy Hull, Chairman  
SFA ECFS  
rhh



# SOUTHEASTERN FISHERIES ASSOCIATION (SFA)



## EAST COAST FISHERIES SECTION (ECFS)

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Monday November 26, 2012

Re: Snapper Grouper (SG) Fishery Management Plan (FMP) Regulatory Amendment 15 (RA-15)

To: South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC) [SGRegAmend15Comments@safmc.net](mailto:SGRegAmend15Comments@safmc.net)

Thank you for considering this Southeastern Fisheries Association (SFA) East Coast Fisheries Section (ECFS) written comment with regard to the SG FMP RA-15 choices for the 3 Actions and the various Alternatives being proposed currently by the SAFMC. [See paste below from RA-15 Summary.]

SFA ECFS preferred choices [and notes] will be listed below the particular Action and Preferred Alternative and are ***underlined and in bold font, with italics***.

We agree to sending our Preferred Alternatives for SG FMP RA-15 to the US Secretary of Commerce for Secretarial Review and we hope the SAFMC concurs with our choices.

### Proposed Actions in Regulatory Amendment 15

#### 2.1 Action 1. Revise Annual Catch Limit (ACL) and Optimum Yield (OY) for Yellowtail Snapper

**Alternative 1 (No Action).** For yellowtail snapper, establish ACL = OY = ABC.

Commercial ACL = 1,142,657

Recreational ACL = 1,031,218

Recreational ACT = 897,160

(all values pounds whole weight and landings only)

Note: These values are based upon the results of SEDAR 3 (2003); an ABC per the SSC recommendation and ABC Control Rule of 2,898,500 lbs whole weight; jurisdictional allocations of South Atlantic = 75% of ABC and Gulf of Mexico = 25% of ABC [South Atlantic ABC = 2,173,875 lbs whole weight (GOM = 724,625 lbs whole weight)]; sector allocations of commercial = 52.56% and recreational = 47.44%; and a recreational sector ACT definition of  $ACL * (1 - PSE)$  or  $ACL * 0.5$ , whichever is greater, whereas the average percent standard error for MRFSS for yellowtail snapper during 2005-2009 is 13%.

A temporary rule through emergency action is currently being developed for implementation beginning in fall 2012 and extending into 2013. If this action is implemented, the values would be as follows: ***[SFA ECFS Note: The temporary rule was effective on November 07, 2012 and prevented the commercial closure for Yellowtail snappers.]***

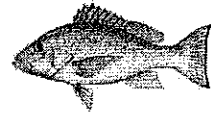
In 2012 for yellowtail snapper, establish ACL = OY = ABC.

Commercial ACL = 1,596,510

Recreational ACL = 1,440,990

Recreational ACT = 1,253,661

# SOUTHEASTERN FISHERIES ASSOCIATION (SFA)



## EAST COAST FISHERIES SECTION (ECFS)

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The intent is for the ACLs to become effective during the 2013 fishing year and remain in effect each year until modified.

### **2.2 Action 2. Yellowtail Snapper: Commercial and Recreational Fishing Year and Commercial Spawning Season Closure**

**Alternative 1 (No Action).** Retain the calendar year as the commercial and recreational fishing year for yellowtail snapper. Do not establish a spawning season closure for the commercial sector for yellowtail snapper.

***SFA ECFS supports Action 2, Alternative 1 for No Action for fishing year and spawning.***

**Alternative 2.** Modify the commercial fishing year for yellowtail snapper.

**Sub-alternative 2a.** Commercial fishing year begins on June 1 and ends on May 31.

**Sub-alternative 2b.** Commercial fishing year begins on July 1 and ends on June 30.

**Sub-alternative 2c.** Commercial fishing year begins on August 1 and ends on July 31.

**Sub-alternative 2d.** Commercial fishing year begins on September 1 and ends on August 31.

**Alternative 3.** Modify the recreational fishing year for yellowtail snapper.

**Sub-alternative 3a.** Recreational fishing year begins on June 1 and ends on May 31.

**Sub-alternative 3b.** Recreational fishing year begins on July 1 and ends on June 30.

**Sub-alternative 3c.** Recreational fishing year begins on August 1 and ends on July 31.

**Sub-alternative 3d.** Recreational fishing year begins on September 1 and ends on August 31.

**Alternative 4.** Establish a yellowtail snapper spawning season closure for the commercial sector.

**Sub-alternative 4a.** Prohibit commercial harvest of yellowtail snapper annually Apr 1 to Jun 30.

**Sub-alternative 4b.** Prohibit commercial harvest of yellowtail snapper annually Jun 1 to August 31.

**Sub-alternative 4c.** Prohibit commercial harvest of yellowtail snapper annually April 1 to May 31.

**Sub-alternative 4d.** Prohibit commercial harvest of yellowtail snapper annually June 1 to July 31.

### **2.3 Action 3. Gag and Shallow Water Groupers: Commercial Annual Catch Limit and Accountability Measures**

**Alternative 1 (No Action).** Retain the gag ACL and the following three commercial AMs:

(1) If gag commercial landings, as estimated by the SRD, reach or are projected to reach the quota, the AA will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close the commercial fishery for gag and all other South Atlantic shallow water grouper (SASWG) for the remainder of the fishing year. SASWG includes gag, black grouper, red grouper, scamp, red hind, rock hind, yellowmouth grouper, yellowfin grouper, graysby, and coney

# SOUTHEASTERN FISHERIES ASSOCIATION (SFA)



## EAST COAST FISHERIES SECTION (ECFS)

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Wednesday November 28, 2012

Re: Snapper Grouper (SG) Amendment 27

[Phil.Steele@noaa.gov](mailto:Phil.Steele@noaa.gov)

To: South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC)

Thank you for considering this Southeastern Fisheries Association (SFA) East Coast Fisheries Section (ECFS) written comment with regard to the SG Amendment 27 choices for the 3 remaining Actions and the various Alternatives being proposed currently by the SAFMC.

SFA ECFS supports Action 6, Alternative 2, Action 7, Alternative 2 and Action 8, Alternative 2 as the Preferred.

## Summary of Effects

**NOTE:** Actions 1-5 would deal with the Gulf of Mexico Council relinquishing management of yellowtail and mutton snapper, which was discussed at their October 2012 Council meeting. At that meeting the Council chairman suggested that a joint steering committee be developed and tasked with developing recommendations for joint management of yellowtail and mutton snapper. The Gulf of Mexico Council did not vote on whether or not to hand over management of yellowtail and mutton snapper to the South Atlantic Council during their October 2012 meeting.

**IPT Recommendation:** Move Actions 1-5 to the Considered But Rejected Appendix

### **Action 6. Extend the South Atlantic Council's area of jurisdiction for management of Nassau grouper to include the Gulf of Mexico**

**Alternative 1 (No Action).** Nassau grouper harvest is prohibited in the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico. The South Atlantic Council's area of jurisdiction for management of Nassau grouper is limited to federal waters of the South Atlantic.

**Alternative 2.** The South Atlantic Council would extend its jurisdictional authority for management of Nassau grouper to include federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico. Harvest of Nassau grouper in the Gulf of Mexico EEZ would continue to be prohibited.

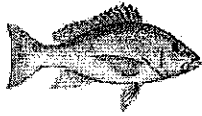
**SFA ECFS supports Action 6, Alternative 2 to extend the SAFMC jurisdiction.**

**SNAPPER GROUPE AP RECOMMENDATION:** The Council should request that NMFS thoroughly research the historical distribution of Nassau grouper and known spawning aggregations in the South Atlantic.

**SFA ECFS supports the Snapper Grouper AP recommendation.**

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# SOUTHEASTERN FISHERIES ASSOCIATION (SFA)



## EAST COAST FISHERIES SECTION (ECFS)

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### **Action 8. Modify placement of blue runner in a fishery management unit and/or modify management measures for blue runner**

**Alternative 1 (No Action).** Blue runner is managed under the Snapper Grouper FMP. A federal South Atlantic Unlimited or 225 Snapper Grouper Permit is required to commercially harvest and sell blue runner. A federal Commercial Dealer Permit is required to purchase blue runner. The commercial ACL for blue runner is 188,329 pounds whole weight (ww) and the commercial allocation is 15% of the total ACL. If the commercial ACL is met or is projected to be met, all subsequent purchase and sale is prohibited. If the commercial ACL is exceeded, the Regional Administrator will publish a notice to reduce the ACL in the following season by the amount of the overage, but only if the species is overfished.

The recreational ACL for blue runner is 1,101,612 ww. There is a recreational annual catch target (ACT) for blue runner, which equals  $ACL \times (1 - \text{percent standard error})$  or  $ACL \times 0.5$ , whichever is greater. If the annual recreational landings exceed the recreational ACL in a given year the following year's landings will be monitored in-season for persistence in increased landings. The Regional Administrator will publish a notice to reduce the length of the recreational fishing season as necessary.

**Alternative 2.** Remove blue runner from the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Unit and place in the Coastal Migratory Pelagics Fishery Management Unit. (Highlighted text is recommended for removal.)

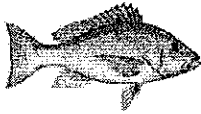
**SFA ECFS supports Action 8, Alternative 2 with the highlighted text removed as the Preferred.**

**Alternative 3.** Retain blue runner in the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan but allow commercial harvest of blue runner with a gillnet for vessels that have been issued a Spanish mackerel Permit. Require a blue runner endorsement for Spanish mackerel permitted vessels for the commercial harvest and sale of blue runner.

**Alternative 4.** Retain blue runner in the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan but exempt it from the Snapper Grouper permit requirement for purchase, harvest, and sale.

**Alternative 5.** Remove blue runner from the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Unit in order for the state of Florida to assume management responsibilities for the species.

# SOUTHEASTERN FISHERIES ASSOCIATION (SFA)



## EAST COAST FISHERIES SECTION (ECFS)

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Thursday November 29, 2012

Re: Snapper Grouper (SG) Amendment 28

[SGAmend28Comments@safmc.net](mailto:SGAmend28Comments@safmc.net)

To: South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC)

Thank you for considering this Southeastern Fisheries Association (SFA) East Coast Fisheries Section (ECFS) written comment with regard to the SG Amendment 28 choices for this Action and the various Alternatives being proposed currently by the SAFMC.

SFA ECFS supports submitting the Preferred Alternatives to the US Secretary of Commerce for Secretarial Review.

### **Alternatives**

1. No action. In 2012, ACL=13,067 fish (20,818 lbs comm./9,399 fish rec). In 2013, ACL = 0 (landings) and prohibition. **SFA ECFS does not support Alternative One (1).**

2. Computing ACL

2a. Equation 1: 2012 Temporary Rule Method

**Preferred Sub-alternative 2a. Uses average of 2 prior year's estimated removals + prior years' ABC (SG AP) SFA ECFS supports the SG AP Preferred choice.**

2b. Equation 2: Previous Year Ratio Method

2c. Equation 3: Two Previous Years Ratio Method

Note: **Sector ACLs** will be calculated through the established allocations for red snapper (28.07% commercial; 71.93% recreational).

3. Commercial fishing season

**Alternative 3.** Establish commercial fishing seasons. NMFS will announce the commercial ACL and the opening of the fishing season through the *Federal Register* and other methods deemed appropriate. The end of the commercial red snapper season will close when the sector ACL is met or projected to be met. Commercial landings will be monitored by the SEFSC's quota monitoring program. The commercial fishing season will not open if the projected season length is three days or less.

3a. Begins 12:01 AM on 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday in July

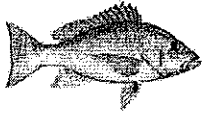
3b. Begins 12:01 AM on 1<sup>st</sup> Monday in August

3c. Begins 12:01 AM on 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday in September

**Preferred Sub-alternative 3c. The commercial season will begin at 12:01 A.M. on the second Monday in September. (SG AP) SFA ECFS supports the SG AP Preferred choice.**

Note: The operator of a vessel with red snapper in excess of the bag or possession limit aboard must have landed such red snapper prior to 12:01 a.m., local time, on the day following the closure, and all sale or purchase of red snapper must occur prior to 12:01 a.m., local time, on the day

# SOUTHEASTERN FISHERIES ASSOCIATION (SFA)



## EAST COAST FISHERIES SECTION (ECFS)

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Thursday November 29, 2012

Re: Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 3 (CE-BA 3)

[CEBA3Comments@safmc.net](mailto:CEBA3Comments@safmc.net)

To: South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC),

Thank you for considering this Southeastern Fisheries Association (SFA) East Coast Fisheries Section (ECFS) written comment with regard to the CE-BA 3 choices for the four Actions and the various Alternatives being proposed currently by the SAFMC.

Provided below is a brief description of the CE-BA 3 Amendment found for the SAFMC December 2012 Ad Hoc Data Collection Committee meeting summary;  
<http://www.safmc.net/Meetings/CouncilMeetings/December2012CouncilMeeting/tabid/751/Default.aspx>

DX

- **Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment (CEBA) 3** - *Improvements to Data Reporting and VMS - the amendment includes actions to modify permits, data reporting (for-hire and commercial sectors) improvements to bycatch monitoring and the use of Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) in the commercial snapper grouper fishery. **The Council is scheduled to approve the amendment for Secretarial review.***

### Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel input

The Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel (AP) has recommended on numerous occasions that the South Atlantic Council consider a requirement to carry VMS for both recreational and commercial vessels in the South Atlantic. In April 2010, the Snapper Grouper AP approved a motion to recommend mandatory VMS for all vessels that interact with snapper grouper species in the EEZ and AMs that would prevent fishing in the absence of VMS. Again, in April 2012, the Snapper Grouper AP approved a motion to recommend the South Atlantic Council require VMS for any vessel harvesting fish in South Atlantic waters.

**SFA ECFS agrees that requiring only the commercial snapper grouper vessels to be burdened with having VMS installed while the recreational sector is not included is a regulatory inequity.**

Pasted below are the proposed Actions from the CE-BA 3 Decision Document. The SFA ECFS written comments may follow after each proposed Action and will appear in **bold font, italics and underlined and includes the following statements.**

**The SFA ECFS is apprehensive about the CE-BA 3 Actions & Alternatives going to the US Secretary of Commerce for Secretarial Review. It may be better to go out to public hearings during January 2013 and after the March 2013 SAFMC be sent to the Secretary for review. The CE-BA 3 Actions and Alternatives have not been fully vetted by the public in our opinion.**

**The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Science and Research Director (SRD), Dr. Bonnie Ponwith currently has the ability to put electronic logbooks and/or video equipment on board the**

# SOUTHEASTERN FISHERIES ASSOCIATION (SFA)



## EAST COAST FISHERIES SECTION (ECFS)

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**Alternative 2.** Require that vessels submit fishing records to the Science and Research Director (SRD) weekly via electronic reporting (via computer or internet). Weekly = 7 days after the end of each week (Sunday).

**Sub-Alternative 2a.** Charter

**Sub-Alternative 2b.** Headboat

**Alternative 3.** Require that vessels submit fishing records to the Science and Research Director (SRD) daily via electronic reporting (via computer or internet). Daily = by noon of the following day.

**Sub-Alternative 3a.** Charter

**Sub-Alternative 3b.** Headboat

**Preferred Alternative 4.** Require that vessels submit fishing records to the Science and Research Director (SRD) weekly or at intervals shorter than a week if notified by the SRD via electronic reporting (via computer or internet). Weekly = 7 days after the end of each week (Sunday).

**Sub-Alternative 4a.** Charter *The SFA ECFS wonders why the Charter boats are not Preferred?*

**Preferred Sub-Alternative 4b.** Headboat *The SFA ECFS agrees with the Preferred choice.*

### **What's currently in place for charter and headboat vessels in fisheries for snapper grouper, coastal migratory pelagic, and dolphin/wahoo?**

The owner or operator of a vessel for which a charter vessel/headboat permit for South Atlantic snapper-grouper has been issued, who is selected to report by the Science and Research Director must participate in the NMFS-sponsored electronic logbook and/or video monitoring reporting program as directed by the Science and Research Director.

### **Action 2. Amend the Snapper Grouper, Dolphin and Wahoo, Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources, and Golden Crab Fishery Management Plans to modify data reporting for commercial vessels**

**Alternative 1. (No Action)** Retain existing data reporting systems for the commercial sector. Snapper grouper logbooks for snapper grouper, coastal migratory pelagic, and dolphin/wahoo are required to be submitted 7 days after the end of each trip. Golden crab logbooks must be submitted not later than 30 days after sale of the golden crab offloaded from a trip. If no fishing occurred during a calendar month for snapper grouper, coastal migratory pelagic, dolphin/wahoo, or golden crab, a report so stating must be submitted on one of the forms postmarked not later than 7 days after the end of that month. The owner or operator of a vessel for which a commercial permit for South Atlantic snapper grouper has been issued, who is selected to report by the SRD must participate in the NMFS-sponsored electronic logbook and/or video monitoring reporting program as directed by the SRD.

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# SOUTHEASTERN FISHERIES ASSOCIATION (SFA)



## EAST COAST FISHERIES SECTION (ECFS)

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**Sub-alternative b.** Require that logbooks (landings/economic and bycatch) be submitted within 21 days after the end of each trip.

Note: It is the Council's intent that Action 2 alternatives apply to all vessels with a king or Spanish mackerel commercial permit fishing for Atlantic migratory groups of king and/or Spanish mackerel or cobia.

### **What's currently in place for commercial vessels?**

If selected by NMFS, a snapper grouper vessel fishing in the EEZ must carry an observer and install an electronic logbook and/or video monitoring equipment provided to them. Participants in the fishery may also be selected by the Science and Research Director to maintain and submit a fishing record on provided forms.

One system is used for all stocks managed by the South Atlantic Council. Compliance monitoring, as well as projections and expansions for non-reporting dealers is built into the commercial landings monitoring system. There is built-in quality control, which checks the landings reports against ACCSP and GulfFIN master code lists. The Southeast Fisheries Science Center identifies which dealers with reporting requirements have not reported and expands landings for non-reporting and compiles compliance monitoring reports. The Southeast Fisheries Science Center provides reports to NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office every two weeks, and landings are posted on NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office's Web site. In addition, timing of possible closures is estimated through the commercial landings monitoring system.

At the June 2012 Council meeting, the SEFSC provided an update on the timeliness of logbook reporting (**Appendix L**). The SEFSC indicated between 20 and 40% of logbooks from fisheries for coastal migratory pelagic, dolphin/wahoo, and snapper grouper are submitted on time. However, a large percentage of the logbook reports are submitted 1-49 days late, and a small percentage are greater than 50 days late with logbook reports (**Figures S-1 and S-2**).

### **Action 3. Modify bycatch and discard reporting**

**Alternative 1 (No Action).** Adopt the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) Release, Discard and Protected Species Module as the preferred methodology. Until this module is fully funded, require the use of a variety of sources to assess and monitor bycatch including: observer coverage on vessels; logbooks; electronic logbook; video monitoring; MRFSS; state cooperation; and grant funded projects. After the ACCSP Bycatch Module is implemented, continue the use of technologies to augment and verify observer data. Require that commercial vessels with a snapper grouper permit, for-hire vessels with a for-hire permit, and private recreational vessels if fishing for snapper grouper species in the EEZ, if selected, shall use observer coverage, logbooks, electronic logbooks, video monitoring, or any other method deemed necessary to measure bycatch by NOAA Fisheries.



# SOUTHEASTERN FISHERIES ASSOCIATION (SFA)



## EAST COAST FISHERIES SECTION (ECFS)

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management measures that, to the extent practicable and in the following priority: (A) minimize bycatch; and (B) minimize the mortality of bycatch which cannot be avoided; assess the type and amount of fish caught and released alive during recreational fishing under catch and release fishery management programs and the mortality of such fish, and include conservation and management measures that, to the extent practicable, minimize mortality and ensure the extended survival of such fish.

With regard to bycatch reporting National Standard 9 at § 600.350 states:

(1) *Promote development of a database on bycatch and bycatch mortality in the fishery to the extent practicable.* A review and, where necessary, improvement of data collection methods, data sources, and applications of data must be initiated for each fishery to determine the amount, type, disposition, and other characteristics of bycatch and bycatch mortality in each fishery for purposes of this standard and of section 303(a)(11) and (12) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

In accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Act, **a standardized reporting methodology is in place to collect bycatch information in the snapper grouper, coastal migratory pelagic, dolphin/wahoo, and golden crab fisheries** (see Section 4). Furthermore, actions have been taken in amendments to fishery management plans to these fisheries to reduce bycatch (**Appendix H**). **Alternative 1 (No Action)** would continue programs in place to collect information on bycatch in South Atlantic fisheries for snapper grouper, coastal migratory pelagic, dolphin/wahoo, and golden crab. The U.S. National Bycatch Report (NMFS 2011) has reviewed bycatch programs currently in place in the Southeast Region as well as through the United States and has made recommendations for improvement. **When funding is available, Alternative 1** would implement the ACCSP bycatch module. In contrast to **Alternative 1**, **Alternative 2** would immediately implement the ACCSP bycatch module, which would improve bycatch reporting if funding were available and have positive biological effects.

**Table S-1.** The degree that the ACCSP bycatch standards have been met in the South Atlantic in terms of bycatch reporting for the snapper grouper, coastal migratory pelagic, and dolphin/wahoo fisheries.

ACCSP Standards	Fulfilled?	Method
<b>Reporting Requirements (Discards)</b>		
<i>Commercial</i>	Partial	Supplemental Discards logbook (20% permit holders/year)
<i>For Hire</i>	Full	MRFSS & Headboat Survey
<i>Private/Recreational</i>	Full	MRFSS
<b>Required Reporting (Protected Species Interactions)</b>		
<i>Commercial</i>	Partial	-Supplemental Discards logbook (20% permit holders/year)
<i>For-Hire (All vessels)</i>	Partial	Reporting of protected resources interactions not mandatory.

# SOUTHEASTERN FISHERIES ASSOCIATION (SFA)



## EAST COAST FISHERIES SECTION (ECFS)

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1. Reporting of protected species interactions (including threatened species and protected finfish species) would be mandatory.
2. The module would utilize at-sea observer coverage to collect bycatch and effort information from commercial fisheries. Vessels would carry at-sea-observers as a condition of permitting in commercial fisheries.
3. The minimum level of sampling would vary between 2% to 5% of total trips depending on the priority assigned to the respective fishery. For fisheries with a high bycatch potential, it is recommended that the target sampling level be set at 5% of total trips or at a level that achieves a 20-30% proportional standard error. In addition, data would be collected at the haul level on each observer trip.
4. Pilot surveys can be used to determine the appropriate level of observer coverage to meet relevant management objectives.
5. Minimum data elements, an extensive set of sampling protocols and quality control/assurance procedures developed by the ACCSP would be used for at-sea observer programs.
6. Training programs, as well as certification of qualifications, would be provided for all new at-sea observers by the ACCSP and program partners.
7. Observer data would be utilized in combination with information obtained from fishermen.
8. ACCSP approved standardized data elements, sampling strategies, priorities and data management would be included in the commercial fishermen reporting system.
9. Required reporting of protected species interactions information is mandatory for the ACCSP commercial reporting system and is mandatory for the for-hire vessels that fall under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) requirements. Reporting of discards or releases through the catch and effort reporting system is strongly encouraged, although voluntary for non-protected discards or releases of other marine organisms.
10. The ACCSP qualitative release, discard and protected species interactions monitoring program for commercial fisheries would include interviews by state and federal port agents to verify finfish reporting in the fishermen trip report as well as stranding and entanglements data.
12. All partners would develop outreach and training programs to improve reporting accuracy by fishermen.

The ACCSP standards and the degree to which those standards are met through existing data collection programs for the snapper grouper, coastal migratory pelagic, and dolphin wahoo fisheries are identified in **Summary Table 3**.

**\*\*\*However, funding is currently not available to implement the ACCSP.\*\*\***

As **Alternative 2** would use only ACCSP to collect bycatch information, presumably no bycatch data could be collected for any of the fisheries in the South Atlantic unless funds became available.

Further, it is possible that **if the bycatch module was funded that monies would be taken from other data collection projects** in the South Atlantic. Therefore, if ACCSP bycatch module was implemented under **Alternative 2**, positive indirect biological effects could be expected for fisheries in the South Atlantic; however, if funds were taken from other programs in the Southeast, implementation of the ACCSP bycatch module could have negative biological effects.

# SOUTHEASTERN FISHERIES ASSOCIATION (SFA)



## EAST COAST FISHERIES SECTION (ECFS)

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The IPT (interagency planning and review team that compiles the documents and develops analyses) has recommended the Council consider the following changes to the language of Action 4 and the alternatives at their next meeting (December 2012):

- Change language of action to state: **Action 4. Amend the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan to require all commercial snapper grouper fishing vessels to be equipped with VMS**

- Change the language of Alternative 2 to state:

**Alternative 2.** Require all commercial snapper grouper fishing vessels *with a Federal unlimited or trip-limited permit* to be equipped with VMS. The purchase, installation, and maintenance of VMS equipment must conform to the protocol established by NMFS in the Federal Register. Purchase of VMS equipment will be reimbursed by the NOAA Office of Law Enforcement *from the VMS reimbursement account* **if funding is available. Installation, maintenance, and communication costs will be paid for or arranged by the permit holder.**

### Summary of Effects

**Biological: Alternative 1 (No Action)** would not require commercial vessels with a snapper grouper permit to use VMS. **Alternative 2 would provide more detailed information on fishing and catch location that could be incorporated into future stock assessments; this would give a much finer resolution to the time/area strata where fishing mortality takes place.** Indirect positive biological impacts would result from greater law enforcement, especially for placed-based management (e.g., MPAs, Oculina Experimental Closed Area, etc.).

**Economic: Alternative 1 (No Action)** would not have an economic impact on the snapper grouper fleet. **Alternative 2** would require the 693 South Atlantic Snapper Grouper Permit holders (both the Unlimited and 225-lb Limited Permits) to have VMS onboard. The NOAA Office of Law Enforcement has a fund that would pay for VMS hardware (**Table S-2**). Installation of VMS units is estimated to be approximately \$300 per unit. All installation, maintenance, and communications charges would be paid by the permit holders. **Economic impacts for individual vessels implementation of VMS (Alternative 2)** is described in **Table S-3**.

**Table S-2.** NMFS-approved VMS units and costs.

<b>Brand and Model</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Boatracs FMCT-G	\$3,095
Thrane and Thrane TT-3026D	\$2,495

# SOUTHEASTERN FISHERIES ASSOCIATION (SFA)



## EAST COAST FISHERIES SECTION (ECFS)

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Thursday November 29, 2012

Re: Vermilion snapper Update Assessment emergency action

To: South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC),

Thank you for considering this Southeastern Fisheries Association (SFA) East Coast Fisheries Section (ECFS) written comment with regard to the SAFMC Snapper Grouper Committee choice to discuss a request of emergency action to increase the annual catch limit (ACL) and make management adjustments for Vermilion snapper being proposed. We welcome any increases of the ACL to keep fishermen fishing.

Recently the SAFMC Scientific & Statistical Committee (SSC) met during October 2012 to recommend an acceptable biological catch (ABC). Vermilion snapper is not overfished, nor is it experiencing overfishing based on the recently completed Update Assessment. The current combined ACL for both sectors is set around a million pounds gutted weight.

Based on the Table 19 from the recent assessment and pasted below landings should be increased to the optimum yield for both sectors with current allocations from the ABC set at 68% for the commercial sector and 32% for the recreational sector.

Year	F	P*	SSB	Pr(SSB < MSST)	R	D(1000 lb)	L(1000 lb)	ABC(1000 lb)
2012	0.544	0.355	6.12	0.25	2926	53	1321	—
2013	0.574	0.4	6.12	0.29	2890	56	1372	1429
2014	0.543	0.4	6.09	0.31	2836	55	1312	1367
2015	0.524	0.4	6.17	0.32	2800	53	1289	1343
2016	0.506	0.4	6.28	0.33	2740	51	1269	1322

The SFA ECFS recommends increasing the ACL for the commercial and recreational fishing sectors with an emergency rule to establish the increase for the 2013 first commercial Vermilion snapper fishing season ACL until a final amendment to the fishery management plan can be completed to make it permanent.

We also concur with the SAFMC SSC recommendation to hold the next Vermilion snapper assessment by 2015 if possible.

It may be a good idea to shorten the Vermilion snapper closure that currently prohibits recreational harvest from November 01 to March 31. In recent years the recreational sector has not caught the allocation. Perhaps opening February and March would be a good choice.

Jimmy Hull, Chairman  
SFA ECFS  
rhh

# SOUTHEASTERN FISHERIES ASSOCIATION (SFA)



## EAST COAST FISHERIES SECTION (ECFS)

Thursday November 29, 2012

Re: Red porgy Update Assessment emergency action

To: South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC),

Thank you for considering this Southeastern Fisheries Association (SFA) East Coast Fisheries Section (ECFS) written comment with regard to the SAFMC Snapper Grouper Committee discussions about Red porgy next week.

Recently the SAFMC Scientific & Statistical Committee (SSC) met during October 2012 to recommend an acceptable biological catch (ABC) level. Red porgy is still considered overfished, but it is no longer experiencing overfishing based on the recently completed Update Assessment.

Based on the Table 24 from the recent assessment and pasted below the future landings could be decreased for both sectors for several years.

*Table 24. Scenario 6 projection results (projection years=15) with fishing mortality rate fixed at 75%F<sub>MSY</sub> (F = 0.13) and 2012 landings based on the average landings in 2010 and 2011.*

Year	F(per yr)	Pr(SSB > SSB <sub>MSY</sub> )	SSB(mt)	R(1000)	D(1000)	D(klb)	L(1000)	L(klb)	Sum L(klb)
2012	0.12	0.00	1854	1400	12	24	133	300	300
2013	0.13	0.00	1915	1391	13	25	138	300	606
2014	0.13	0.00	2019	1423	15	28	144	309	914
2015	0.13	0.00	2147	1476	16	28	159	328	1242
2016	0.13	0.01	2281	1540	17	30	175	354	1596
2017	0.13	0.02	2412	1603	18	31	187	379	1975
2018	0.13	0.03	2542	1663	19	33	198	401	2376
2019	0.13	0.05	2671	1721	20	35	208	423	2799
2020	0.13	0.07	2797	1775	21	37	218	445	3244
2021	0.13	0.10	2920	1827	22	38	227	466	3710
2022	0.13	0.12	3040	1876	23	40	237	487	4197
2023	0.13	0.15	3157	1921	24	42	246	508	4705
2024	0.13	0.19	3269	1965	24	43	255	527	5232
2025	0.13	0.22	3377	2005	25	45	263	546	5778
2026	0.13	0.25	3479	2043	26	46	272	565	6343

The SFA ECFS felt the recent Update Assessment was hampered by the fact that the original Full Benchmark Assessment occurred in 2002. It is highly recommended that a Full Benchmark Assessment be scheduled as soon as possible for Red porgy. **Also, no attempt should be made to decrease the annual allocations to both sectors** until the Full Benchmark is complete. The recent update assessment results do not reflect what the fishing community sees on the water with Red porgy harvests.

Jimmy Hull, Chairman  
SFA ECFS  
rhh

# SOUTHEASTERN FISHERIES ASSOCIATION (SFA)



## EAST COAST FISHERIES SECTION (ECFS)

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Thursday November 29, 2012

Re: Black Sea Bass (BSB) P-rebuild 50% vs 62.5% vs 66%

To: South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC),

Thank you for considering this Southeastern Fisheries Association (SFA) East Coast Fisheries Section (ECFS) written comment with regard to the SAFMC Snapper Grouper Committee discussions about Black Sea bass next week.

Recently the SAFMC Scientific & Statistical Committee (SSC) met during October 2012 and calculated a new P-rebuild. The quote below from the November 2012 Snapper Grouper (SG) advisory panel (AP) meeting presentation sums up the P-rebuild change potential.

- Black sea bass: The original rebuilding plan for black sea bass was based on a 50% probability of success. The SSC briefly discussed P-rebuild when the SEDAR 25 assessment was reviewed in November 2011 but a revised P-rebuild was not provided at that time. In Snapper-Grouper Amendment 18A the Council specified that the rebuilding plan should have a 66% chance of success. Because the 66% chance of success was based on assessment evaluations of the previous rebuilding program (fixed harvest of 847,000 pounds) the Council requested that the SSC review the previous assessment and provide a P-rebuild recommendation.

Based on application of the ABC control rule, the SSC recommended:

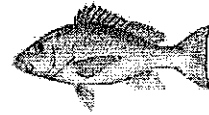
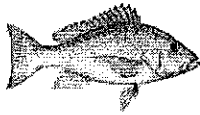
P-star: 37.5%

P-rebuild: 62.5%

The SFA ECFS prefers the SG AP recommendation for using a P-rebuild of 50% probability of success. The revised SSC P-rebuild calculation of a 62.5% probability of success might have to change again when the new BSB Update Assessment is complete and presented to the SSC during the April 2013 meeting. The other option recently developed of 66% is not desired.

Jimmy Hull, Chairman  
SFA ECFS  
rhh

# SOUTHEASTERN FISHERIES ASSOCIATION (SFA)



## EAST COAST FISHERIES SECTION (ECFS)

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NOAA Fisheries  
Southeast Regional Office  
Sustainable Fisheries Division  
c/o Kate Michie  
263 13th Avenue South  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

Friday November 30, 2012

Re: Yellowtail snapper emergency rule

NOAA-NMFS-2012-0207

To: Kate Michie,

Thank you for considering this Southeastern Fisheries Association (SFA) East Coast Fisheries Section (ECFS) written comment with regard to the effective date of November 07, 2012 for the temporary rule to increase the commercial annual catch limit (ACL) for Yellowtail snapper in the South Atlantic Council region.

SFA ECFS supports the 180-day temporary rule to increase the commercial ACL to 1,596,510 pounds whole weight, up from 1,142,589 pounds whole weight. We also support the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan Regulatory Amendment 15 which will make the commercial and recreational ACL increase permanent. If the NOAA Fisheries needs to extend the temporary rule for an additional 186-days, we support that action also.

Jimmy Hull, Chairman  
SFA ECFS  
rhh



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
 4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201  
 NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

## PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

### Public Comment Session - December Council Meeting

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE) Wilmington, NC		DATE OF MEETING December 6, 2012
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT) Rarely McKenley		TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE) Cell 612-5260 910-270-4518
MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE) 21170 Hwy 17		
EMAIL ADDRESS (IF APPLICABLE) Hamstead, N.C.		
BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE) McKenley Fisheries		
CHECK IF YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SG Reg Amendment 13	<input type="checkbox"/> SG Reg Amendment 15
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> SG Amendment 28	<input type="checkbox"/> CE-BA 3 (Data Reporting & VMS)



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
 4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201  
 NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

## PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

### Public Comment Session - December Council Meeting

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE) Wilmington, NC		DATE OF MEETING December 6, 2012
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT) TIM GRINER		TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)
MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)		
EMAIL ADDRESS (IF APPLICABLE)		
BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)		
CHECK IF YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SG Reg Amendment 13	<input type="checkbox"/> SG Reg Amendment 15
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> SG Amendment 28	<input type="checkbox"/> CE-BA 3 (Data Reporting & VMS)





SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
 4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201  
 NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

## PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

### Public Comment Session - December Council Meeting

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)

Wilmington, NC

DATE OF MEETING

December 6, 2012

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

Rushy Hudson

TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

PO Box 9351

32100-9351

EMAIL ADDRESS (IF APPLICABLE)

DSF2009@aol.com

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Directed Sustainable Fisheries / East Coast Fisheries Sector

CHECK IF YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT

SG Reg Amendment 13

SG Reg Amendment 15

Other

SG Amendment 28

CE-BA 3

(Data Reporting & VMS)



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
 4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201  
 NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

## PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

### Public Comment Session - December Council Meeting

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)

Wilmington, NC

DATE OF MEETING

December 6, 2012

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

Sandra Gaskill

TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

567 Bayview Drive

EMAIL ADDRESS (IF APPLICABLE)

Harkers Island NC 28531

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Commercial Fishermen

CHECK IF YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT

SG Reg Amendment 13

SG Reg Amendment 15

Other

SG Amendment 28

CE-BA 3

(Data Reporting & VMS)



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
 4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201  
 NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

**PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD**

**Public Comment Session - December Council Meeting**

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)

Wilmington, NC

DATE OF MEETING

December 6, 2012

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

DICK BRAME

TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

EMAIL ADDRESS (IF APPLICABLE)

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

CHECK IF YOU WISH TO  
MAKE A STATEMENT

SG Reg Amendment 13

SG Reg Amendment 15

Other

SG Amendment 28

CE-BA 3  
(Data Reporting & VMS)



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
 4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201  
 NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

**PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD**

**Public Comment Session - December Council Meeting**

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)

Wilmington, NC

DATE OF MEETING

December 6, 2012

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

JACK COX

TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)

252-728-9548

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

2010 Bridges Street

EMAIL ADDRESS (IF APPLICABLE)

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Blue Ocean Market

CHECK IF YOU WISH TO  
MAKE A STATEMENT

SG Reg Amendment 13

SG Reg Amendment 15

Other

SG Amendment 28

CE-BA 3  
(Data Reporting & VMS)



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
 4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201  
 NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

## PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

### Public Comment Session - December Council Meeting

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)

Wilmington, NC

DATE OF MEETING

December 6, 2012

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

CHARIS MCCAFFEY

TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)

252-269-9817

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

110 SALEM ST. MOREHEAD NC, 28557

EMAIL ADDRESS (IF APPLICABLE)

FreeFish7@hotmail.com

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

CHECK IF YOU WISH TO  
MAKE A STATEMENT

SG Reg Amendment 13

SG Reg Amendment 15

Other

SG Amendment 28

CE-BA 3

(Data Reporting & VMS)



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
 4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201  
 NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

## PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

### Public Comment Session - December Council Meeting

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)

Wilmington, NC

DATE OF MEETING

December 6, 2012

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

Milton Mathis

TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

1904 Calhoun Dr. Morehead City NC

EMAIL ADDRESS (IF APPLICABLE)

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

CHECK IF YOU WISH TO  
MAKE A STATEMENT

SG Reg Amendment 13

SG Reg Amendment 15

Other

SG Amendment 28

CE-BA 3

(Data Reporting & VMS)



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
 4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201  
 NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

**PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD**

**Public Comment Session - December Council Meeting**

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE) Wilmington, NC	DATE OF MEETING December 6, 2012
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT) Gilbert Mathis	TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)
MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE) 5120 Midyette Ave, Morehead City NC 28551	
EMAIL ADDRESS (IF APPLICABLE)	
BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE) F/V Atlantic Runner	
CHECK IF YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SG Reg Amendment 13	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SG Reg Amendment 15
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CE-BA 3 (Data Reporting & VMS)
<i>MAYBE</i>	



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
 4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201  
 NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

**PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD**

**Public Comment Session - December Council Meeting**

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE) Wilmington, NC	DATE OF MEETING December 6, 2012
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT) Kenny Fea	TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE) 910-620-5847
MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)	
EMAIL ADDRESS (IF APPLICABLE)	
BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE) owner/captain Paw Ban AP ma	
CHECK IF YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT	
<input type="checkbox"/> SG Reg Amendment 13	<input type="checkbox"/> SG Reg Amendment 15
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> CE-BA 3 (Data Reporting & VMS)
<input type="checkbox"/> SG Amendment 28	



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
 4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201  
 NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

## PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

### Public Comment Session - December Council Meeting

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE) Wilmington, NC		DATE OF MEETING December 6, 2012
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT) Laurie Thompson		TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)
MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE) PO Box 307 Mims Pl 32754		
EMAIL ADDRESS (IF APPLICABLE) laurie.thompson@aol.com		
BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE) Dixie Crossroads Seaford Restaurant		
CHECK IF YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SG Reg Amendment 13	<input type="checkbox"/> SG Reg Amendment 15
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> SG Amendment 28	<input type="checkbox"/> CE-BA 3 (Data Reporting & VMS)



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
 4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201  
 NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

## PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

### Public Comment Session - December Council Meeting

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE) Wilmington, NC		DATE OF MEETING December 6, 2012
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT) Jimmie M EADY III		TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)
MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE) 1904 CALICO DR WICKLEHEAD CITY		
EMAIL ADDRESS (IF APPLICABLE)		
BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE) O/O FV 219 ZAB		
CHECK IF YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SG Reg Amendment 13	<input type="checkbox"/> SG Reg Amendment 15
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> SG Amendment 28	<input type="checkbox"/> CE-BA 3 (Data Reporting & VMS)



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
 4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201  
 NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

**PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD**

**Public Comment Session - December Council Meeting**

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)

Wilmington, NC

DATE OF MEETING

December 6, 2012

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)

Andy Haveris

305 896 4474

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

1611 Venetian Drive Key West FL 33040

EMAIL ADDRESS (IF APPLICABLE)

Andy Haveris 76 @ Hotmail.com

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

EEZ. Fishing, INC.

CHECK IF YOU WISH TO  
MAKE A STATEMENT

SG Reg Amendment 13

SG Reg Amendment 15

Other

SG Amendment 28

CE-BA 3

(Data Reporting & VMS)



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
 4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201  
 NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

**PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD**

**Public Comment Session - December Council Meeting**

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)

Wilmington, NC

DATE OF MEETING

December 6, 2012

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)

David Tacker

Blue Ocean

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

EMAIL ADDRESS (IF APPLICABLE)

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

CHECK IF YOU WISH TO  
MAKE A STATEMENT

SG Reg Amendment 13

SG Reg Amendment 15

Other

SG Amendment 28

CE-BA 3

(Data Reporting & VMS)



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
 4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201  
 NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

## PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

### Public Comment Session - December Council Meeting

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)

Wilmington, NC

DATE OF MEETING

December 6, 2012

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

*Ricky Lambert*

TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

*11 DOLPHIN DR AMPSTEAD*

EMAIL ADDRESS (IF APPLICABLE)

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

CHECK IF YOU WISH TO  
MAKE A STATEMENT

SG Reg Amendment 13

SG Reg Amendment 15

Other

SG Amendment 28

CE-BA 3

(Data Reporting & VMS)



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
 4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201  
 NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

## PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

### Public Comment Session - December Council Meeting

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)

Wilmington, NC

DATE OF MEETING

December 6, 2012

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

*Samantha Port-Minner*

TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)

*727-369-6613*

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

*449 Central Ave, Suite 200, St. Petersburg FL 33701*

EMAIL ADDRESS (IF APPLICABLE)

*sport-minner@oceanconservancy.org*

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

*Ocean Conservancy*

CHECK IF YOU WISH TO  
MAKE A STATEMENT

SG Reg Amendment 13

SG Reg Amendment 15

Other

SG Amendment 28

CE-BA 3

(Data Reporting & VMS)



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
 4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201  
 NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

## PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

### Public Comment Session - December Council Meeting

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)

Wilmington, NC

DATE OF MEETING

December 6, 2012

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

JON M HAAG

TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)

910 278-1234

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

7901 E OAK ISLAND DR

EMAIL ADDRESS (IF APPLICABLE)

fishmongerokra@gmail.com

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

HAAG + SONS SEAFOOD

CHECK IF YOU WISH TO  
MAKE A STATEMENT

SG Reg Amendment 13

SG Reg Amendment 15

Other

SG Amendment 28

CE-BA 3

(Data Reporting & VMS)



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
 4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201  
 NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

## PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

### Public Comment Session - December Council Meeting

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)

Wilmington, NC

DATE OF MEETING

December 6, 2012

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

Holly Binns

TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

2107 Mulberry Blvd, Tallahassee FL 32303

EMAIL ADDRESS (IF APPLICABLE)

hbinns@pewtrusts.org

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Pew Environment Group

CHECK IF YOU WISH TO  
MAKE A STATEMENT

SG Reg Amendment 13

SG Reg Amendment 15

Other

SG Amendment 28

CE-BA 3

(Data Reporting & VMS)





SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
 4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201  
 NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

## PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

### Public Comment Session - December Council Meeting

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE) Wilmington, NC		DATE OF MEETING December 6, 2012
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT) Kathy Mathes		TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)
MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE) 5120 Myrtle Ave, Marshfield NJ		
EMAIL ADDRESS (IF APPLICABLE)		
BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE) F/R Marshfield NJ maybe?		
CHECK IF YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SG Reg Amendment 13	<input type="checkbox"/> SG Reg Amendment 15
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> SG Amendment 28	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CE-BA 3 (Data Reporting & VMS)



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
 4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201  
 NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

## PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

### Public Comment Session - December Council Meeting

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE) Wilmington, NC		DATE OF MEETING December 6, 2012
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT) David Newman		TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE) 212 727 4557
MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE) NRDC 400 W. 42 St NY NY 10011		
EMAIL ADDRESS (IF APPLICABLE) dnewman@nrdc.org		
BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE) NRDC		
CHECK IF YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SG Reg Amendment 13	<input type="checkbox"/> SG Reg Amendment 15
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> SG Amendment 28	<input type="checkbox"/> CE-BA 3 (Data Reporting & VMS)



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
 4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201  
 NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

## PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

### Public Comment Session - December Council Meeting

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE) Wilmington, NC		DATE OF MEETING December 6, 2012
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT) Brian Gorski		TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE) 407-854-7002
MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE) P.O. Box 568886, Orlando, FL 32856		
EMAIL ADDRESS (IF APPLICABLE) bgorski@ccafloida.org		
BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE) CCA Florida		
CHECK IF YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SG Reg Amendment 13	<input type="checkbox"/> SG Reg Amendment 15
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> SG Amendment 28	<input type="checkbox"/> CE-BA 3 (Data Reporting & VMS)



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
 4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201  
 NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

## PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

### Public Comment Session - December Council Meeting

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE) Wilmington, NC		DATE OF MEETING December 6, 2012
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT) Ken Stump		TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE) 202-370-9520
MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE) 2747 Ordway St, NW		
EMAIL ADDRESS (IF APPLICABLE) magpiewdc@gmail.com		
BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE) Independent consultant with PEG		
CHECK IF YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SG Reg Amendment 13	<input type="checkbox"/> SG Reg Amendment 15
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> SG Amendment 28	<input type="checkbox"/> CE-BA 3 (Data Reporting & VMS)



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
 4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201  
 NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

**PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD**

**Public Comment Session - December Council Meeting**

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE) Wilmington, NC		DATE OF MEETING December 6, 2012
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT) Anthony Austin		TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)
MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE) 276 Goose Creek Rd		
EMAIL ADDRESS (IF APPLICABLE) Anthony.Austin@nc.dnr.com		
BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)		
CHECK IF YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SG Reg Amendment 13	<input type="checkbox"/> SG Reg Amendment 15
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> SG Amendment 28	<input type="checkbox"/> CE-BA 3 (Data Reporting & VMS)



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
 4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201  
 NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

**PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD**

**Public Comment Session - December Council Meeting**

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE) Wilmington, NC		DATE OF MEETING December 6, 2012
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT) RED MUNDEN		TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)
MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE) PO Box 1165 MOREHEAD CITY, NC		
EMAIL ADDRESS (IF APPLICABLE)		
BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)		
CHECK IF YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SG Reg Amendment 13	<input type="checkbox"/> SG Reg Amendment 15
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> SG Amendment 28	<input type="checkbox"/> CE-BA 3 (Data Reporting & VMS)



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
 4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201  
 NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

## PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

### Public Comment Session - December Council Meeting

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE) Wilmington, NC		DATE OF MEETING December 6, 2012
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT) Helen Takade-Henmacher		TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE) 919-881-2923
MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE) 4000 Westchase Blvd, ste 510, Raleigh, NC <del>27607</del> 27607		
EMAIL ADDRESS (IF APPLICABLE) htakade@edf.org		
BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE) EDF		
CHECK IF YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SG Reg Amendment 13	<input type="checkbox"/> SG Reg Amendment 15
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> SG Amendment 28	<input type="checkbox"/> CE-BA 3 (Data Reporting & VMS)



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
 4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201  
 NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

## PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

### Public Comment Session - December Council Meeting

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE) Wilmington, NC		DATE OF MEETING December 6, 2012
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT) Melissa Locke		TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE) 919 881 2909
MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE) 4000 Westchase Blvd Raleigh NC 27607		
EMAIL ADDRESS (IF APPLICABLE) mlocke@edf.org		
BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE) EDF		
CHECK IF YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SG Reg Amendment 13	<input type="checkbox"/> SG Reg Amendment 15
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> SG Amendment 28	<input type="checkbox"/> CE-BA 3 (Data Reporting & VMS)



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
 4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201  
 NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

**PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD**

**Public Comment Session - December Council Meeting**

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)

Wilmington, NC

DATE OF MEETING

December 6, 2012

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

Gretchen Bath Martin

TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)

910-319-7563

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

1039 Canady Road, Wilmington, NC 28411

EMAIL ADDRESS (IF APPLICABLE)

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Environmental Defense Fund

CHECK IF YOU WISH TO  
MAKE A STATEMENT

SG Reg Amendment 13

SG Reg Amendment 15

Other

SG Amendment 28

CE-BA 3

(Data Reporting & VMS)



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
 4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201  
 NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

**PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD**

**Public Comment Session - December Council Meeting**

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)

Wilmington, NC

DATE OF MEETING

December 6, 2012

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

Susan Shipman

TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)

912-222-9206

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

920 Rose Cottage Rd. SSI GA 31522

EMAIL ADDRESS (IF APPLICABLE)

susanshipman@att.net

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

CHECK IF YOU WISH TO  
MAKE A STATEMENT

SG Reg Amendment 13

SG Reg Amendment 15

Other

SG Amendment 28

CE-BA 3

(Data Reporting & VMS)



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201  
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

## PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

### Public Comment Session - December Council Meeting

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)

Wilmington, NC

DATE OF MEETING

December 6, 2012

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

Leda Dunmore

TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)

305-393-0934

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

114 Bee St

EMAIL ADDRESS (IF APPLICABLE)

Tavernier FL 33070

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Pew Env't Corp

CHECK IF YOU WISH TO  
MAKE A STATEMENT

SG Reg Amendment 13

SG Reg Amendment 15

Other

SG Amendment 28

CE-BA 3

(Data Reporting & VMS)

**Generated**

Dec 11, 2012 06:47 AM PST

## General Information

<b>Webinar Name</b> SAFMC Council Meeting - Day 4 of 5 (Thursday)	<b>Webinar ID</b> 327187682
<b>Actual Start Date/Time</b> Dec 06, 2012 09:05 AM EST	<b>Actual Duration (minutes)</b> 460
<b>Clicked Registration Link</b> 68	<b>Opened Invitation</b> 35
<b>Total Attended</b> 32	

## Session Details

<b>plowden,david</b>	<b>dplowden@ec.rr.com</b>
<b>Attended</b> Yes	
<b>Registration Date</b>	Dec 06, 2012 09:17 AM EST
<b>City</b>	wil
<b>State</b>	NC
<b>Unsubscribed</b>	No

[In Session](#)

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Dec 06, 2012 09:18 AM EST	Dec 06, 2012 03:40 PM EST	114.25

**Interest Rating**

**Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:** 43

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

<b>Byrd,Julia</b>	<b>julia.byrd@safmc.net</b>
<b>Attended</b> Yes	
<b>Registration Date</b>	Nov 30, 2012 11:19 AM EST
<b>City</b>	Charleston
<b>State</b>	SC
<b>Unsubscribed</b>	No

[In Session](#)

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Dec 06, 2012 09:05 AM EST	Dec 06, 2012 04:46 PM EST	460.37

**Interest Rating**

**Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:** 30

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

\*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

**c,m** **mec181@yahoo.com**

**Attended** Yes

**Registration Date** Dec 06, 2012 10:23 AM EST

**City** mtp

**State** SC

**Unsubscribed** No

[In Session](#)

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Dec 06, 2012 10:24 AM EST	Dec 06, 2012 04:46 PM EST	382.12

**Interest Rating**

**Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:** 46

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

**Johnson,Robert** **jlfishing@bellsouth.net**

**Attended** Yes

**Registration Date** Dec 06, 2012 08:23 AM EST

**City** St Augustine

**State** FL

**Unsubscribed** No

[In Session](#)

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Dec 06, 2012 09:05 AM EST	Dec 06, 2012 04:46 PM EST	460.53

**Interest Rating**

**Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:** 38

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

\*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.



**Mehta,Nikhil** [nikhil.mehta@noaa.gov](mailto:nikhil.mehta@noaa.gov)

**Attended** Yes

**Registration Date** Nov 14, 2012 03:38 PM EST

**City** St.Petersburg

**State** FL

**Unsubscribed** No

[In Session](#)

<b>Join Time</b>	<b>Leave Time</b>	<b>In Session Duration* (minutes)</b>
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Dec 06, 2012 09:05 AM EST	Dec 06, 2012 11:48 AM EST	163
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**Interest Rating**

**Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:** 50

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

**Lamberte,Tony** [tony.lamberte@noaa.gov](mailto:tony.lamberte@noaa.gov)

**Attended** Yes

**Registration Date** Dec 06, 2012 10:24 AM EST

**City** St. Petersburg

**State** FL

**Unsubscribed** No

[In Session](#)

<b>Join Time</b>	<b>Leave Time</b>	<b>In Session Duration* (minutes)</b>
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Dec 06, 2012 10:24 AM EST	Dec 06, 2012 04:46 PM EST	381.88
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**Interest Rating**

**Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:** 31

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

\*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

**merritt,rita** **miridon@ec.rr.com**

**Attended** Yes

**Registration Date** Dec 06, 2012 10:00 AM EST

**City** wrightsville beach

**State** NC

**Unsubscribed** No

[In Session](#)

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Dec 06, 2012 10:01 AM EST	Dec 06, 2012 04:46 PM EST	405.23

**Interest Rating**

**Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:** 63

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

**Davis,Greg** **gcdavismarine@gmail.com**

**Attended** Yes

**Registration Date** Dec 06, 2012 12:05 PM EST

**City** Wilmington

**State** NC

**Unsubscribed** No

[In Session](#)

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Dec 06, 2012 12:08 PM EST	Dec 06, 2012 04:46 PM EST	277.97

**Interest Rating**

**Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:** 32

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

\*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

**mershon,wayne** **kenyonseafood@sc.rr.com**

**Attended** Yes

**Registration Date** Dec 06, 2012 02:44 PM EST

**City** murrells inlet

**State** SC

**Unsubscribed** No

[In Session](#)

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Dec 06, 2012 02:44 PM EST	Dec 06, 2012 02:53 PM EST	9

**Interest Rating**

**Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:** 70

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

**phillips,todd** **tphillips@oceanconservancy.org**

**Attended** Yes

**Registration Date** Dec 06, 2012 12:02 PM EST

**City** austin

**State** TX

**Unsubscribed** No

[In Session](#)

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Dec 06, 2012 12:02 PM EST	Dec 06, 2012 02:10 PM EST	128.48

**Interest Rating**

**Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:** 23

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

\*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

**Bresnen,Anthony** **anthony.bresnen@myfwc.com**

**Attended** Yes

**Registration Date** Nov 14, 2012 04:05 PM EST

**City** Tallahassee

**State** FL

**Unsubscribed** No

[In Session](#)

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Dec 06, 2012 01:16 PM EST	Dec 06, 2012 04:46 PM EST	209.22

**Interest Rating**

**Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:** 26

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

**travis,michael** **mike.travis@noaa.gov**

**Attended** Yes

**Registration Date** Nov 15, 2012 02:58 PM EST

**City** clearwater

**State** FL

**Unsubscribed** No

[In Session](#)

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Dec 06, 2012 02:27 PM EST	Dec 06, 2012 02:45 PM EST	17.28

**Interest Rating**

**Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:** 40

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

\*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

**Michie, Kate** [kate.michie@noaa.gov](mailto:kate.michie@noaa.gov)

**Attended** Yes

**Registration Date** Dec 06, 2012 09:15 AM EST

**City** St. Petersburg

**State** FL

**Unsubscribed** No

[In Session](#)

<b>Join Time</b>	<b>Leave Time</b>	<b>In Session Duration* (minutes)</b>
Dec 06, 2012 09:15 AM EST	Dec 06, 2012 03:59 PM EST	403.28

**Interest Rating**

**Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:** 30

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

**Neer, Julie** [julie.neer@safmc.net](mailto:julie.neer@safmc.net)

**Attended** Yes

**Registration Date** Dec 06, 2012 06:59 AM EST

**City** Charleston

**State** SC

**Unsubscribed** No

[In Session](#)

<b>Join Time</b>	<b>Leave Time</b>	<b>In Session Duration* (minutes)</b>
Dec 06, 2012 09:05 AM EST	Dec 06, 2012 03:48 PM EST	403.28

**Interest Rating**

**Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:** 28

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

\*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

**Ballenger, Joseph** ballengerj@dnr.sc.gov

**Attended** Yes

**Registration Date** Dec 06, 2012 09:44 AM EST

**City** Charleston

**State** SC

**Unsubscribed** No

[In Session](#)

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Dec 06, 2012 09:44 AM EST	Dec 06, 2012 04:46 PM EST	421.28

**Interest Rating**

**Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:** 29

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

**Player, David** playerd@dnr.sc.gov

**Attended** Yes

**Registration Date** Dec 06, 2012 11:11 AM EST

**City** Myrtle Beach

**State** SC

**Unsubscribed** No

[In Session](#)

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Dec 06, 2012 11:12 AM EST	Dec 06, 2012 04:46 PM EST	333.97

**Interest Rating**

**Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:** 29

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

\*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

**Mitchell,Warren** **warren.mitchell@noaa.gov**

**Attended** Yes

**Registration Date** Dec 06, 2012 02:46 PM EST

**City** Beaufort

**State** NC

**Unsubscribed** No

[In Session](#)

<b>Join Time</b>	<b>Leave Time</b>	<b>In Session Duration* (minutes)</b>
Dec 06, 2012 02:46 PM EST	Dec 06, 2012 04:46 PM EST	119.68

**Interest Rating**

**Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:** 23

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

**Eich,Anne Marie** **annemarie.eich@noaa.gov**

**Attended** Yes

**Registration Date** Dec 06, 2012 08:58 AM EST

**City** St Pete

**State** FL

**Unsubscribed** No

[In Session](#)

<b>Join Time</b>	<b>Leave Time</b>	<b>In Session Duration* (minutes)</b>
Dec 06, 2012 09:05 AM EST	Dec 06, 2012 04:35 PM EST	449.77

**Interest Rating**

**Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:** 30

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

\*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

**DeVictor,Rick** [rick.devictor@noaa.gov](mailto:rick.devictor@noaa.gov)

**Attended** Yes

**Registration Date** Dec 06, 2012 09:44 AM EST

**City** St Pete

**State** FL

**Unsubscribed** No

[In Session](#)

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Dec 06, 2012 09:45 AM EST	Dec 06, 2012 04:24 PM EST	398.85

**Interest Rating**

**Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:** 30

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

**pugliese,roger** [roger.pugliese@safmc.net](mailto:roger.pugliese@safmc.net)

**Attended** Yes

**Registration Date** Dec 06, 2012 08:01 AM EST

**City** charleston

**State** SC

**Unsubscribed** No

[In Session](#)

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Dec 06, 2012 09:07 AM EST	Dec 06, 2012 12:43 PM EST	173.9

**Interest Rating**

**Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:** 52

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

\*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.



**holiman,s** **stephen.holiman@noaa.gov**

**Attended** Yes

**Registration Date** Dec 06, 2012 09:15 AM EST

**City** st pete

**State** FL

**Unsubscribed** No

[In Session](#)

**Join Time** **Leave Time** **In Session Duration\* (minutes)**

Dec 06, 2012 09:18 AM EST Dec 06, 2012 03:30 PM EST 372.1

**Interest Rating**

**Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:** 40

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

**Laks,Ira** **captaindrifter@bellsouth.net**

**Attended** Yes

**Registration Date** Dec 06, 2012 09:53 AM EST

**City** Jupiter

**State** FL

**Unsubscribed** No

[In Session](#)

**Join Time** **Leave Time** **In Session Duration\* (minutes)**

Dec 06, 2012 09:53 AM EST Dec 06, 2012 01:26 PM EST 205.48

**Interest Rating**

**Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:** 20

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

\*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

**Clemens,Anik** [anik.clemens@noaa.gov](mailto:anik.clemens@noaa.gov)

**Attended** Yes

**Registration Date** Nov 30, 2012 03:48 PM EST

**City** Saint Petersburg

**State** FL

**Unsubscribed** No

[In Session](#)

<b>Join Time</b>	<b>Leave Time</b>	<b>In Session Duration* (minutes)</b>
Dec 06, 2012 09:44 AM EST	Dec 06, 2012 03:55 PM EST	370.83

**Interest Rating**

**Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:** 29

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

**Teehan,William** [ptsquid@nettally.com](mailto:ptsquid@nettally.com)

**Attended** Yes

**Registration Date** Dec 06, 2012 02:30 PM EST

**City** Tallahassee

**State** FL

**Unsubscribed** No

[In Session](#)

<b>Join Time</b>	<b>Leave Time</b>	<b>In Session Duration* (minutes)</b>
Dec 06, 2012 02:30 PM EST	Dec 06, 2012 02:52 PM EST	22.15

**Interest Rating**

**Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:** 26

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

\*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

**Heil,Dave** **dheil331@gmail.com**

**Attended** Yes

**Registration Date** Dec 01, 2012 09:51 AM EST

**City** Winter Park

**State** FL

**Unsubscribed** No

[In Session](#)

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Dec 06, 2012 09:05 AM EST	Dec 06, 2012 11:57 AM EST	155.87

**Interest Rating**

**Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:** 24

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

**woodward,chris** **chris.woodward@bonniercorp.com**

**Attended** Yes

**Registration Date** Dec 06, 2012 09:57 AM EST

**City** Brunswick

**State** GA

**Unsubscribed** No

[In Session](#)

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Dec 06, 2012 09:58 AM EST	Dec 06, 2012 11:37 AM EST	99.15

**Interest Rating**

**Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:** 26

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

\*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

**mccaffity,william** saltydogmk1979@yahoo.com

**Attended** Yes

**Registration Date** Dec 06, 2012 09:47 AM EST

**City** havelock

**State** NC

**Unsubscribed** No

[In Session](#)

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Dec 06, 2012 11:02 AM EST	Dec 06, 2012 12:00 PM EST	57.42

**Interest Rating**

**Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:** 45

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

**Gore,Karla** karlagore@gmail.com

**Attended** Yes

**Registration Date** Dec 06, 2012 11:59 AM EST

**City** Sarasota

**State** FL

**Unsubscribed** No

[In Session](#)

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Dec 06, 2012 11:59 AM EST	Dec 06, 2012 04:46 PM EST	287.4

**Interest Rating**

**Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:** 33

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

\*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

**sedberry,george** **george.sedberry@noaa.gov**

**Attended** Yes

**Registration Date** Dec 06, 2012 08:08 AM EST

**City** savannah

**State** GA

**Unsubscribed** No

[In Session](#)

<b>Join Time</b>	<b>Leave Time</b>	<b>In Session Duration* (minutes)</b>
Dec 06, 2012 09:10 AM EST	Dec 06, 2012 04:12 PM EST	337.35

**Interest Rating**

**Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:** 30

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

**Helies, Frank** **fchelies@verizon.net**

**Attended** Yes

**Registration Date** Dec 06, 2012 09:17 AM EST

**City** Tampa

**State** FL

**Unsubscribed** No

[In Session](#)

<b>Join Time</b>	<b>Leave Time</b>	<b>In Session Duration* (minutes)</b>
Dec 06, 2012 09:17 AM EST	Dec 06, 2012 04:45 PM EST	447.97

**Interest Rating**

**Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:** 31

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

\*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

**Dukes,Amy** **dukesa@dnr.sc.gov**

**Attended** Yes

**Registration Date** Nov 30, 2012 04:55 PM EST

**City** Charleston

**State** SC

**Unsubscribed** No

[In Session](#)

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Dec 06, 2012 10:04 AM EST	Dec 06, 2012 11:58 AM EST	113.7

**Interest Rating**

**Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:** 24

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

**Tsao,Fan** **fan.tsao@noaa.gov**

**Attended** Yes

**Registration Date** Nov 21, 2012 02:21 PM EST

**City** Silver Spring

**State** MD

**Unsubscribed** No

[In Session](#)

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Dec 06, 2012 09:08 AM EST	Dec 06, 2012 03:49 PM EST	401.47

**Interest Rating**

**Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:** 35

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

\*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

**Reeder, Bernie** **berniereeder@gmail.com**

**Attended** No

**Registration Date** Nov 28, 2012 11:41 AM EST

**City** Southport

**State** NC

**Unsubscribed** No

[In Session](#)

**Join Time** **Leave Time** **In Session Duration\* (minutes)**

**Interest Rating**

**Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:**

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

**Lloyd, Vic** **vic\_lloyd@bellsouth.net**

**Attended** No

**Registration Date** Dec 02, 2012 09:26 AM EST

**City** Atlantic Beach

**State** FL

**Unsubscribed** No

[In Session](#)

**Join Time** **Leave Time** **In Session Duration\* (minutes)**

**Interest Rating**

**Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:**

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

\*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

**Reichert,Marcel** reichertm@dnr.sc.gov

**Attended** No

**Registration Date** Nov 27, 2012 04:34 PM EST

**City** Charleston

**State** SC

**Unsubscribed** No

[In Session](#)

**Join Time** **Leave Time** **In Session Duration\* (minutes)**

**Interest Rating**

**Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:**

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

**FARMER,NICK** nick.farmer@noaa.gov

**Attended** No

**Registration Date** Nov 14, 2012 03:39 PM EST

**City** ST PETERSBURG

**State** FL

**Unsubscribed** No

[In Session](#)

**Join Time** **Leave Time** **In Session Duration\* (minutes)**

**Interest Rating**

**Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:**

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

\*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.



## Generated

Dec 11, 2012 06:48 AM PST

## General Information

**Webinar Name**  
SAFMC Council Meeting - Day 5 of 5 (Friday)

**Webinar ID**  
332919226

**Actual Start Date/Time**  
Dec 07, 2012 08:41 AM EST

**Actual Duration (minutes)**  
110

**Clicked Registration Link**  
23

**Opened Invitation**  
46

**Total Attended**  
12

## Session Details

<b>pugliese,roger</b>	<b>roger.pugliese@safmc.net</b>
<b>Attended</b> Yes	
<b>Registration Date</b>	Dec 07, 2012 08:04 AM EST
<b>City</b>	charleston
<b>State</b>	SC
<b>Unsubscribed</b>	No

### In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Dec 07, 2012 09:00 AM EST	Dec 07, 2012 09:51 AM EST	51.28

### Interest Rating

**Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:** 50

### Registration Q & A

### Questions Asked by Attendee

### Poll Questions

### Post Session Survey Questions

<b>Ballenger,Joseph</b>	<b>ballengerj@dnr.sc.gov</b>
<b>Attended</b> Yes	
<b>Registration Date</b>	Dec 07, 2012 08:28 AM EST
<b>City</b>	Charleston
<b>State</b>	SC
<b>Unsubscribed</b>	No

### In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Dec 07, 2012 08:41 AM EST	Dec 07, 2012 10:32 AM EST	111.03

### Interest Rating

**Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:** 32

### Registration Q & A

### Questions Asked by Attendee

### Poll Questions

### Post Session Survey Questions

\*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

**Mehta,Nikhil** [nikhil.mehta@noaa.gov](mailto:nikhil.mehta@noaa.gov)

**Attended** Yes

**Registration Date** Nov 14, 2012 03:40 PM EST

**City** St.Petersburg

**State** FL

**Unsubscribed** No

[In Session](#)

<b>Join Time</b>	<b>Leave Time</b>	<b>In Session Duration* (minutes)</b>
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Dec 07, 2012 08:53 AM EST	Dec 07, 2012 10:31 AM EST	98.02
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**Interest Rating**

**Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:** 76

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

**g,a** [andrea.grabman@safmc.net](mailto:andrea.grabman@safmc.net)

**Attended** Yes

**Registration Date** Dec 07, 2012 09:46 AM EST

**City** chas

**State** SC

**Unsubscribed** No

[In Session](#)

<b>Join Time</b>	<b>Leave Time</b>	<b>In Session Duration* (minutes)</b>
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Dec 07, 2012 09:46 AM EST	Dec 07, 2012 10:10 AM EST	23.72
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**Interest Rating**

**Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:** 23

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

\*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

**sedberry,george** **george.sedberry@noaa.gov**

**Attended** Yes

**Registration Date** Dec 07, 2012 08:42 AM EST

**City** savannah

**State** GA

**Unsubscribed** No

[In Session](#)

<b>Join Time</b>	<b>Leave Time</b>	<b>In Session Duration* (minutes)</b>
Dec 07, 2012 08:44 AM EST	Dec 07, 2012 10:31 AM EST	107.3

**Interest Rating**

**Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:** 30

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

**Helies, Frank** **fchelies@verizon.net**

**Attended** Yes

**Registration Date** Dec 07, 2012 08:52 AM EST

**City** Tampa

**State** FL

**Unsubscribed** No

[In Session](#)

<b>Join Time</b>	<b>Leave Time</b>	<b>In Session Duration* (minutes)</b>
Dec 07, 2012 08:52 AM EST	Dec 07, 2012 10:31 AM EST	99.02

**Interest Rating**

**Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:** 34

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

\*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

**Eich,Anne Marie** [annemarie.eich@noaa.gov](mailto:annemarie.eich@noaa.gov)

**Attended** Yes

**Registration Date** Dec 07, 2012 09:07 AM EST

**City** St Pete

**State** FL

**Unsubscribed** No

[In Session](#)

<b>Join Time</b>	<b>Leave Time</b>	<b>In Session Duration* (minutes)</b>
Dec 07, 2012 09:08 AM EST	Dec 07, 2012 10:32 AM EST	84.15

**Interest Rating**

**Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:** 30

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

**Byrd,Julia** [julia.byrd@safmc.net](mailto:julia.byrd@safmc.net)

**Attended** Yes

**Registration Date** Nov 30, 2012 11:20 AM EST

**City** Charleston

**State** SC

**Unsubscribed** No

[In Session](#)

<b>Join Time</b>	<b>Leave Time</b>	<b>In Session Duration* (minutes)</b>
Dec 07, 2012 08:41 AM EST	Dec 07, 2012 10:31 AM EST	110.13

**Interest Rating**

**Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:** 30

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

\*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

**Bresnen,Anthony** **anthony.bresnen@myfwc.com**

**Attended** Yes

**Registration Date** Nov 14, 2012 04:05 PM EST

**City** Tallahassee

**State** FL

**Unsubscribed** No

[In Session](#)

**Join Time** **Leave Time** **In Session Duration\* (minutes)**

Dec 07, 2012 08:41 AM EST Dec 07, 2012 10:31 AM EST 110.12

**Interest Rating**

**Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:** 33

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

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**Lloyd,Vic** **vic\_lloyd@bellsouth.net**

**Attended** Yes

**Registration Date** Dec 02, 2012 09:27 AM EST

**City** Atlantic Beach

**State** FL

**Unsubscribed** No

[In Session](#)

**Join Time** **Leave Time** **In Session Duration\* (minutes)**

Dec 07, 2012 09:09 AM EST Dec 07, 2012 10:32 AM EST 83.43

**Interest Rating**

**Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:** 31

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[Poll Questions](#)

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\*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

**DeVictor,Rick** [rick.devictor@noaa.gov](mailto:rick.devictor@noaa.gov)

**Attended** Yes

**Registration Date** Dec 07, 2012 09:14 AM EST

**City** St Pete

**State** FL

**Unsubscribed** No

[In Session](#)

<b>Join Time</b>	<b>Leave Time</b>	<b>In Session Duration* (minutes)</b>
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Dec 07, 2012 09:16 AM EST	Dec 07, 2012 10:31 AM EST	75.03
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**Interest Rating**

**Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:** 32

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

**c,m** [mec181@yahoo.com](mailto:mec181@yahoo.com)

**Attended** Yes

**Registration Date** Dec 07, 2012 08:44 AM EST

**City** mtp

**State** SC

**Unsubscribed** No

[In Session](#)

<b>Join Time</b>	<b>Leave Time</b>	<b>In Session Duration* (minutes)</b>
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Dec 07, 2012 08:45 AM EST	Dec 07, 2012 10:32 AM EST	107.75
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**Interest Rating**

**Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:** 34

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

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\*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

**Reichert,Marcel** reichertm@dnr.sc.gov

**Attended** No

**Registration Date** Nov 27, 2012 04:35 PM EST

**City** CharlestoN

**State** SC

**Unsubscribed** No

[In Session](#)

**Join Time** **Leave Time** **In Session Duration\* (minutes)**

**Interest Rating**

**Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:**

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

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**Clemens,Anik** anik.clemens@noaa.gov

**Attended** No

**Registration Date** Nov 30, 2012 03:49 PM EST

**City** Saint Petersburg

**State** FL

**Unsubscribed** No

[In Session](#)

**Join Time** **Leave Time** **In Session Duration\* (minutes)**

**Interest Rating**

**Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:**

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\*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

**Collier,Chip** **chip.collier@ncdenr.gov**

**Attended** No

**Registration Date** Dec 07, 2012 10:38 AM EST

**City** Wilmington

**State** NC

**Unsubscribed** No

[In Session](#)

**Join Time** **Leave Time** **In Session Duration\* (minutes)**

**Interest Rating**

**Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:**

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

**austin,anthony** **redress@ec.rr.com**

**Attended** No

**Registration Date** Dec 07, 2012 10:44 AM EST

**City** hubert

**State** NC

**Unsubscribed** No

[In Session](#)

**Join Time** **Leave Time** **In Session Duration\* (minutes)**

**Interest Rating**

**Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:**

[Registration Q & A](#)

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\*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.