

# **SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

## **FULL COUNCIL SESSION**

**Hilton Wilmington Riverside Hotel  
Wilmington, NC**

**December 6, 2013**

### **SUMMARY MINUTES**

#### **Council Members:**

Ben Hartig, Chair  
Mel Bell  
Phil Steele  
Jessica McCawley  
Chris Conklin  
Doug Haymans  
Dr. Wilson Laney  
David Cupka

Dr. Michelle Duval, Vice-Chair  
Jack Cox  
Anna Beckwith  
Charlie Phillips  
Lt. Morgan Fowler  
John Jolley  
Zack Bowen

#### **Council Staff:**

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

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

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

Monica Smit-Brunello  
Dr. Bonnie Ponwith  
Otha Easley

Dr. Jack McGovern  
Doug Boyd  
Pres Pate

Additional Observers Attached

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The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council convened in the Cape Fear Ballroom of the Hilton Wilmington Riverside Hotel, Wilmington, North Carolina, December 6, 2013, and was called to order at 8:30 o'clock a.m. by Chairman Ben Hartig.

MR. HARTIG: I would like to call the Council Session to order. I would like to welcome our liaisons, Preston Pate from the Mid-Atlantic and Doug Boyd from the Gulf. Thanks for being here all week and getting us straight on a couple of issues. The first order of business is the adoption of the agenda.

Are there any changes to the agenda? I have got one. Kenny has got to leave before lunch, so I'll bring him and Kim in for the MREP discussion. Seeing no other changes; the agenda is adopted. The next item of business is approval of the September 2013 minutes. Are there any corrections or changes to the minutes? Seeing none; the minutes are approved. That brings right to Vice-Chairman Michelle Duval, the Snapper Grouper Committee Report.

DR. DUVAL: I think Mike has sent around the draft report to everybody so I'm not going to read this verbatim, but I will touch on the major topics before getting into the motions. We received our usual reports from the Southeast Regional Office on the status of commercial and recreational catches.

We also received reports from our Scientific and Statistical Committee Chair and Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel. We reviewed the deliverables identified in Snapper Grouper Amendment 13A regarding the Oculina Experimental Closed Area and received some updates on timing for the re-evaluation of that. We provided some guidance to staff regarding that.

We received a number of presentations providing updates on outreach, research and monitoring and law enforcement in the closed area since 2007. We also received reports from council staff and law enforcement representatives and the MARMAP Program, Marcel Reichert; outreach, enforcement and research and assessment activities in our Deepwater Marine Protected areas before getting into Regulatory Amendment 17, which is the marine protected areas.

We received presentations on outreach, a couple of different presentations on law enforcement, research and assessment and the MARMAP Program. We discussed the results and noted that law enforcement continues to be a challenge given the level of funding and resources. Research and monitoring accomplishments were highlighted.

We gave direction to staff to work on the system management plan to evaluate what needs have been met and what needs remain and to bring recommendations on priorities to the council in 2014. We then got in to Regulatory Amendment 17 and received presentations done on the work in the proposed sites on a state-by-state basis. We received the research from Stacey Harter with the Fisheries Science Center, from Marcel Reichert and then Tracey Smart on the MARMAP Program and the MPA Expert Workgroup recommendations.

We also had the opportunity to review the Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel input on this and the Chair and Vice-Chair input into those discussions. With regard to Regulatory Amendment 17, the committee the following motions: The first was to postpone Regulatory Amendment 17 until

after the results from visioning are available and the council develops their vision. That motion was not approved.

**The next motion was to take all alternatives to scoping in august and have the advisory panel receive the presentations and provide their recommendations to the council at the council's June 2014 meeting. On behalf of the committee; I do move. Is there discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.**

Next we got in Regulatory Amendment 16, which is the Black Sea Bass Pot Closure. **We reviewed actions and alternatives and made the following motion to approve Regulatory Amendment 16 for public scoping; and on behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.**

Next we got into Amendment 31, which dealt with blueline tilefish. Staff went over the scoping document and comments and gave a presentation to clarify the stock assessment projections and present options for setting the ACL. We had quite a bit of discussion regarding blueline tilefish and several requests of the SSC; namely, that they review the blueline tilefish projections as soon as possible considering impacts of the new MRIP methodology that was implemented in 2013 and the influence that may have had on recreational landings.

We also discussed potentially having an update in 2014 or an aging study to determine age composition of the recent year classes that were not included in the assessment; requested some additional projections with 2014 catch levels at an ACL of the yield at 75 percent SSBmsy; removal of blueline tilefish from the deepwater complex; and establishment of management measures through a plan amendment.

Dr. Crabtree indicated that the council would be receiving a letter from the agency to inform us of the overfishing status of blueline tilefish. We made several motions. **The first was to direct staff to develop a regulatory amendment to modify the definition of MSST for blueline tilefish as well as any other appropriate snapper grouper species with similar low natural mortality and bring to the council for review and approval in March 2014. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.**

**The next motion was to accept the alternatives below as proposed by staff and give them latitude to add alternatives as needed. These alternatives refer to the options to redefine minimum stock size threshold for those species.**

**Action 1. Redefine minimum stock size threshold for select species in the snapper grouper fishery management unit:**

**Alternative 1 (no action). Retain the current definition of minimum stock size threshold for species in the snapper grouper fishery management unit. For golden tilefish, red grouper, and snowy grouper, MSST equals 75percent of SSBmsy. For the remaining species in the snapper grouper fishery management unit, MSST equals  $SSB \times (1 - m \text{ or } 0.5, \text{ whichever is greater})$ .**

**Alternative 2: The MSST for select species in the snapper grouper fishery management unit will automatically change to 75 percent of SSB<sub>msy</sub> if the estimation of the natural mortality rate is changed following a peer-review report (e.g. a SEDAR stock assessment).**

**Sub-alternative 2a: Change MSST if the estimation of  $m$  is 0.15 or lower.**

**Sub-alternative 2b: Change MSST if the estimation of  $m$  is 0.20 or lower.**

**Sub-alternative 2c: Change MSST if the estimation of  $m$  is 0.25 or lower.**

**On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.**

The next motion was to add a management measure alternative to Amendment 31. I believe it actually 32 now, Myra. We're having another little numbering issue. We're doing too much work. **The next motion was to add a management measure alternative to Amendment 32 that would set a commercial trip limit for blueline tilefish of 100 pounds from January to April and 2000 pounds from May onwards. When 80 percent of the ACL is caught, the trip limit would be reduced to 100 pounds. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.**

We also gave guidance to staff to develop a range of trip limit alternatives from 1,500 pounds to 2,500 pounds for May onwards. **The next motion was to request an emergency rule to implement the following ACLs for blueline tilefish and the remainder of the deepwater complex as shown below: 1. Blueline tilefish ACL = yield at 75 percent  $F_{msy}$  = 224,100 pounds whole weight (source: SEDAR assessment)**

**2. Deepwater Complex ACL without blueline tilefish = 79,684 pounds whole weight.**

**3. It is the council's intent that these values be implemented as soon as possible in 2014 in order to prevent catches from exceeding these levels.**

**On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there discussion? Monica.**

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: You will need a roll call vote for this.

DR. DUVAL: So on behalf of the committee I so move; and, Mr. Executive Director.

MR. MAHOOD: Ms. Beckwith.

MS. BECKWITH: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Bell.

MR. BELL: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Bowen.

MR. BOWEN: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Conklin.

MR. CONKLIN: Yes

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Cox.

MR. COX: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Dr. Crabtree's designee, Mr. Steele.

MR. STEELE: No. We need to remind the council that I'm required to vote no on emergency rules to preserve the authority of the secretary during the rule-making process.

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Cupka.

MR. CUPKA: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Haymans.

MR. HAYMANS: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Jolley.

MR. JOLLEY: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Ms. McCawley.

MS. McCAWLEY: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Phillips.

MR. PHILLIPS: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Chairman Hartig.

MR. HARTIG: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Dr. Duval.

DR. DUVAL: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: **The motion passes with one negative vote.**

DR. DUVAL: The only other thing I will mention under here is having some conversation with Bonnie and other folks about the possibility of getting some blueline tilefish aging done between potentially North Carolina staff and other folks. There is a reference collection so hopefully that is something we will be able to do, but we'll keep talking about that. Bonnie.

DR. PONWITH: It is possible to do some additional aging. We can't begin until we finish the gag aging because the person who is our expert on blueline is the one that's working on gag right

now. We think that he would be able to begin looking at blueline some time in February, so it is possible.

The good news is that due to some resources that we got to bolster our aging capabilities to try and clear backlogs, the 2012 data are completely done; and 2013 data are about halfway done. We are in some decent shape in terms of that. The issue with collaborating – certainly, we welcome help but help comes at a cost.

There is an inefficiency from the standpoint of blueline tilefish are notoriously difficult to age. They're not one of those straightforward species, so it will require an aging workshop and the ability to do cross-calibration from lab to lab. That said, I think getting through some of those otoliths in the springtime is doable.

The question then remains will it be enough otoliths to be able to detect a spike in the year class? My understanding is we have a typical number of otoliths for '13 for blueline tilefish. I think it's around a thousand otoliths. In terms of an update assessment, I was asked to evaluate the potential for having an update assessment early enough to influence some of these decisions; and the news on that is a little more challenging.

I have to look into the recreational data of preliminary versus final, but the commercial data aren't considered basically final-final in terms of the landings until May. It just makes getting the otoliths cut and running an update in the spring virtually impossible to be able to meet. Now, we can take a look and see what could be done for bumping one of the update assessments for 2015 and slipping tilefish in there.

That's a discussion we could have if that is of interest unless you prefer to defer that discussion and decision until we see what happens with otoliths. The other thing that we want to be careful about is just also that we don't do anything that puts us off target for those gray triggerfish spines, because that really is one of the sanctioned assessments coming up in the fall.

DR. DUVAL: Bonnie, I really appreciate that input, and I think we're just going to have to continue to have some conversation about that between now and the first part of the year. I much appreciate that update. Obviously, in North Carolina we're talking among staff to potentially provide some augmented assistance with aging.

The next item that the committee discussed was Amendment 22, which is the recreational harvest tag program. Staff presented an overview of the options paper and updated everyone on the discussions that the state representatives had regarding the states' ability to administer such a program. General Counsel is still waiting on feedback regarding whether or not this would be a limited access privilege program. We elected to suspend development of the amendment until receiving that updated information.

The next item we addressed was Amendment 29, which was the Only Reliable Catch Stocks Approach and gray triggerfish. We reviewed the decision document and made the following motions. **The first thing we did was approve the purpose and need; and on behalf of the**

**committee I so move. Is there discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.**

**The next motion was to approve restructuring of Actions 1 and 2 as suggested by the IPT; and on behalf of the committee I so move. Is there discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.**

There was also guidance to staff to add a column to those tables under Action 2 showing the overexploitation and scalar, so we will have that done. **The next motion was to select Alternative 2 under Action 1 as a preferred; and on behalf of the committee I so move. Is there discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.**

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

**The next motion was to select Sub-Alternative 3B under Action 2 as a preferred; and on behalf of the committee I so move. Is there discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.**

**The next motion was to select Sub-Alternative 4A under Action 2 as a preferred; and on behalf of the committee I so move. Is there discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.**

**The next motion was to remove hogfish from Action 2 in Amendment 29; and on behalf of the committee I so move. Is there discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.**

**The next motion was to accept the IPT's recommended changes to the language of Action 3; and on behalf of the committee I so move. Is there discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.**

**The next motion was to select Alternative 3 under new Action 3 as a preferred; and on behalf of the committee I so move. Is there discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.**

**The next motion was to add Alternative 4 to set the minimum size limit for gray triggerfish at 14 inches fork length; and behalf of the committee I so move. Is there discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.**

**The next motion was to accept the IPT's recommendation to add Alternative 3 to new Action 4; and on behalf of the committee I so move. Is there discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.**

**The next motion was to accept the IPT's recommendation to add Alternative 3 to new Action 5; and on behalf of the committee I so move. Is there discussion? Any objection?**



**Seeing none; that motion stands approved.** There was also guidance to staff to include a range of 200 to 750 pounds.

**The next motion was to approve Amendment 29 for public hearings; and on behalf of the committee I so move. Is there discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.**

The next item on our agenda was a discussion of the Comprehensive Allocations and Accountability Measures Amendment. Staff presented a broad overview of this amendment and we had a quite a bit of discussion and expression of concerns regarding addressing the issue of allocations when we're also addressing other controversial issues as well as embarking on visioning.

**Based on those concerns the committee made the following motion, which is to delay public scoping for allocations for snapper grouper species until after visioning and until after the MPA discussions are completed; and to retain action on dolphin wahoo allocations and snapper grouper and golden crab accountability measures. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.** I think there were a couple items under other business that I know folks wanted to discuss. I didn't know if we wanted to do that before we get into the draft timing and task motion. Doug.

MR. HAYMANS: We need to perhaps think about the snapper grouper fillets, skin on fillet issue. Do you need that as a motion or guidance to staff to address similar regulations or similar council intent as we had for dolphin and wahoo?

DR. DUVAL: I spoke with staff a little bit about this yesterday as the dolphin and wahoo discussion was going on. The thinking was that perhaps we could include an action in what is now Amendment 32 dealing with blueline tilefish, to also deal with this issue of snapper grouper fillets and leaving the skin on. I think we would need a motion to direct staff to include an action in Amendment 32 regarding transport of snapper grouper fillets from the Bahamas in order to address that.

MR. HAYMANS: I would so move once Myra catches up.

DR. DUVAL: So a motion by Doug and seconded by Charlie. The motion reads right now to direct staff to include an action in Amendment 32 to address the issue of transporting snapper grouper fillets from the Bahamas. I don't know if it would be guidance to staff to construct that action similar to the one that is currently included in Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7. Would that be satisfactory?

MR. HAYMANS: Yes.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: Why wouldn't you want to include the snapper grouper action in the dolphin wahoo amendment? Well, I'm just asking because they're dealing with the same kinds of issues.

If you include it in the Dolphin Wahoo Amendment, obviously it becomes part of the Snapper Amendment – I mean, you either could deal with it there or in any other amendment or just include it so that these same kinds of issues are addressed in the same amendment. If you want to split it up, that's fine. I'm just wondering why.

DR. DUVAL: I think it was really a procedural issue yesterday of the Dolphin Wahoo Committee making motions that pertain to snapper grouper fillets. Personally I don't have a preference whether the motion reads to – it would actually be development of a new amendment, really. It would have to be a plan amendment in my understanding. Myra is suggesting that perhaps the motion could be modified to just direct staff to include an action in the appropriate amendment to address this issue and then they can place it where it needs to be. Monica.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: That sounds good.

MR. HAYMANS: I'm willing to modify the motion to ask staff to do that.

DR. DUVAL: Great! Charlie, you're okay with that? **Okay, so the motion now reads to direct staff to include an action in the appropriate amendment to address the issue of transporting snapper grouper fillets from the Bahamas.** Is there any other discussion on this motion? Is there any objection to this motion? Seeing none; **that motion stands approved.**

I had one item that I wanted to request that the Socio-Economic Panel of the SSC, at their April meeting, possibly address – during public comment last night, Dick Brame brought up an analysis that has been conducted I think by the science center with regard to looking at economic impact and allocations and sort of that as a potential tool.

I just wanted to see if it might be possible – and this may be a John Carmichael question – for the Socio-Economic Panel to have that put on their agenda as we're going down this road of looking at allocations. I think including that as part of the questions we're asking for input on from the public during visioning, I think it would behoove us to look at other tools that may be out there. I would just like our SSC to take a look at it. I do not know how others feel about that. Bonnie.

DR. PONWITH: There are a couple of ways of handling this; but one is while you're pondering whether you want to use that as one more way to look at this problem, you could put in a request for the Southeast Fisheries Science Center to provide some feedback to the council on if the data are there to support that type of analysis.

If that is a deal breaker, then there is no use kind of twisting in the wind on this one. If the data are readily available in hand to be able to support that kind of analysis, then it's worth contemplating whether it's something you'd like to include in your deliberations.

DR. DUVAL: I think that is an excellent idea, Bonnie; so if you're making that offer, then I am making that request. Could we add that to the timing and task motion? Do folks have any problem with requesting the science center to provide – how would you phrase it – provide input or evaluation as to whether or not data are sufficient to support the use of an economic impact tool. How would phrase it?

DR. PONWITH: I would steer clear from “impact”, because that’s a term of art which defines, but, yes, to determine whether sufficient data exists in hand to support an economic efficiency analysis or net benefit analysis.

MR. MAHOOD: Bonnie, the fact we’re talking about this, is that our request or do you need something in writing from us?

DR. PONWITH: I think that this is satisfactory. I will get a note out to my colleagues right now and we’ll call that good.

MR. CUPKA: This is exactly what Roy and I were talking about yesterday when we were having these discussions about seeing what data might be available, if it was even feasible to do that; but again I would remind people that it was something we looked at several years back when we had the Allocation Committee. We didn’t proceed with it because the data was not available at the time. It would be good to get some idea of whether there might be some data available now to consider that. I would definitely support that.

DR. DUVAL: Thanks, David, and thank you for that reminder of the discussions that occurred previously when we had that committee. Okay, that was the item that I had; and I know that Mr. Bowen had a couple of items that he wanted to discuss. Zack.

MR. BOWEN: It is just one item, **but I would like to make a motion that the council consider establishing a moratorium on snapper grouper for-hire permits in the South Atlantic with a control date of September of 2010, which has already been established by the council.**

DR. DUVAL: We have a motion by Zack that the council consider establishing a moratorium on the issuance of for-hire permits with a control date of 2010.

MR. BOWEN: September of 2010.

DR. DUVAL: September of 2010. Is there a second to that motion? Is anyone willing to second for the sake of discussion?

MR. HARTIG: I’d second it.

DR. DUVAL: Ben seconded it. Discussion? Zack, would you like to explain why you’re making this motion?

MR. BOWEN: I just feel like it gives the people with those permits value. I think the Gulf has done that. I have talked to some captains in the Gulf that have this permit, and they’ve kind of told me that they just feel like, when they’re ready to get out of the business, it gives them something that they can sell. It adds value to their vessels as well.

MR. HARTIG: Well, for one thing we can’t do it just based on economic considerations. You really need to have a reason why. If you want to limit effort in the for-hire industry, if you want

to have a fixed number of participants over time so that gives us some stability in our for-hire fleet, that is the reason you could go.

I think that's a good reason to do it; and the Gulf has done it. The economic thing really to me is secondary. That just happens because you are addressing a problem that you see in the fishery with the for-hire industry; that you'd like to see some stability, you don't want to see more people get into that industry. That I think would be a valid reason to do it on our side; but just for the economics, we can't do it. Monica, am I correct, we just can't do an economic – maybe I'm wrong.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: The Magnuson Act allows you to – really what you're talking about is establishing a limited access system for these permits. The Magnuson Act allows you to do that. If you want to do that, you would go ahead and ask staff to develop an amendment. I'm sure there would be a variety of eligibility criteria that you would consider in deciding who would be eligible for these permits and who wouldn't be.

When you put in "moratorium", you're really discussing eligibility. The Magnuson Act says to do that, you discuss present participation in the fishery, historical fishing practices in and dependence on the fishery, the economics of the fishery, the capability of fishing vessels used in the fishery to engage in other fisheries, the cultural and social framework relevant to the fishery and any affected fishing communities, the fair and equitable distribution of access privileges in the fishery, and any other relevant considerations.

Really, I think what you're asking is staff to develop an amendment looking at this; and it would be your suggestion that one of the eligibility criteria would be that control date. Then that date and maybe others would get put into the hopper and evaluated; and then that would all come back to you for a decision. It is up to you, but those are the kinds of things that have to be considered when you want to do these kinds of things like put a moratorium on the permits.

DR. DUVAL: I was just going to say when we walked this road with the commercial permits, one of the reasons that was done was resource concerns and having lower quotas and things like that and constraining catches within those quotas. Now, that may not quite be the case with the for-hire industry in terms of ACLs; but for resource concerns is another reason to walk down that path. Zack.

MR. BOWEN: And the reason I mentioned September of 2010 is because it has already been established by this council at some point a few years ago; and the council just never moved forward with the September of 2010 control date. I'm recalling from memory, but it's on the record somewhere.

MR. BELL: I was going to say that's a rather significant structural modification to the snapper grouper fishery or that particular sector, perhaps. Given the visioning process with snapper grouper, I'd be a little hesitant to kind of come in with some preconceived direction or something, perhaps. It is certainly a valid thing to consider, but it sounds like we keep coming back to this visioning thing. It is a rather significant structural change; so I'd just keep that in mind as we approach engaging in visioning for the future of the snapper grouper fishery.

DR. DUVAL: And I think that's certainly something that could be incorporated into some of those questions that we're asking constituents in visioning. Anna.

MS. BECKWITH: We're also having additional discussions on ways of having the for-hire industry report, taking them out of MRIP and having logbooks, potentially, so I think all of this discussion needs to be more thoroughly vetted prior to moving this forward. I'm not a hundred percent opposed to the idea; just about 90 percent opposed to the idea at the moment.

In terms of resource concerns, we have ACLs; so we do manage the amount of fish that can be caught. Before going down this road, I don't even know that we have enough information in terms of reporting in effort from the for-hire industry to figure out if we need a reduction in effort. Right now what we have is the number of permits; but unlike the commercial fishery, we don't know what is latent effort and what is not latent effort.

How do you make the assessment that we have to reduce effort in the for-hire industry and created a limited entry if you can't tell us how much effort the for-hire industry is really putting into it. I would caution us before moving forward; so I'm going to vote against this for the moment.

MS. McCAWLEY: I'm going to vote against this motion. I don't really think that we need to do this at this time for multiple reasons. One is the visioning process; but also saying that the moratorium would stabilize the fishery or fisheries, I really can't get on board with that right now. In the Gulf, where they have done this, it has really gotten to a point where the number of for-hire permits is declining, which I think is another negative situation. We don't really want to end up that in the long term, so I'm going to vote against this motion.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: Just a quick note on control date; if the council has already established that date as the control date, they could use that date or not use that date. They could pick some other date. It is all to be evaluated by the council to figure out what would be the best date to use, if they're going to use a date for eligibility criteria.

What control dates do is they announce to the world, supposedly, that if you're interested in getting in this fishery after a certain date, you're not guaranteed participation, but it also doesn't mean that the council is really going to do anything with that. It is kind of just a marker thrown out there by the council to let people know that, hey, we're considering down the road some future action and we're putting this date out there so if you get into this fishery just be aware you may not be guaranteed participation in the future; or maybe we won't use that date. I mean, it is kind of interesting concept.

MR. PHILLIPS: I'm like Jessica; I'm going to vote against it. If we come back from visioning and we have some support for it in visioning, then I think that would be the time to look at it. I think we should go like that.

MR. HAYMANS: I don't know how I'm going to vote; I may abstain, but it does say "consider". It is not a hard and fast we're going to do it now and it may wind up as a rank eleven

or whatever and wait until after visioning, but it does say “consider”. It doesn’t lock us in; and we’re considering it right now.

DR. DUVAL: We are considering it; and I guess in considering it if the council should want to move forward instead of a full-blown amendment, I would suggest an options paper or something like that be a first step, if the council decides it wants to go down this road. Is there any other discussion on the motion? Zack.

MR. BOWEN: And that’s all I’m asking is consideration.

MR. BELL: It’s like Doug said, we’re considering it. I understand exactly what you’re getting at; but when we put something down like that on the record and in writing, it takes on a little bit of a life of its own and consider becomes interpreted perhaps a little bit differently for folks. I would say we are considering it, and I understand exactly what you’re getting at.

MR. BOWEN: I’m starting to feel like Dr. Crabtree. If this visioning ordeal that we’re trying to do is going to postpone all these actions and amendments, then maybe we should reconsider that.

**DR. DUVAL: All right, the motion reads council consider establishing a moratorium on the issuance of for-hire permits in the South Atlantic with a control date of September 2010. Could I please see a show of hands of those in favor of the motion; those against. All right, the motion fails.**

I think it was a good discussion, though, and I certainly think that this may indeed be one of the things that comes up during visioning discussions. I’m sure it will be mentioned and that would definitely be an appropriate forum within the port meetings to perhaps ask a question in that regard.

MS. BROUWER: Well, just from logistics and just to give staff guidance; do you want us to go ahead and include a question that would give you feedback on whether this is something that people are interested in?

DR. DUVAL: I think so; maybe a question about do you feel that limited entry should be considered for the for-hire industry, something along those lines that would get to the point.

MR. HAYMANS: And not to belabor, but we talked yesterday just a moment about the fact that – you know, I’ve got 150 guides and roughly two-thirds of those have a federal permit, but I know that I’ve got a lot of guides who are fishing in federal waters without a permit. As I talk to those who don’t have it, a lot of them are ill informed about the cost of the permits and the process for getting the permit; and I’ve actually turned a few. I would say 99 percent of my guides who have a state license are actually fishing out there. I would love for those guys to actually get legal. Moving forward right now with this would kind of oppose that. I’m going to work on the rest of my guides to get them legal.

DR. DUVAL: That will be your Christmas project, right. All right, if there is no other business to discuss, then we're going to look at the draft timing and task motion, so, Myra, do you mind running us through that, please.

MS. BROUWER: I've got the draft timing and task motion up on the screen; and there are lots for us to do:

1. Oculina Experimental Closed Area 10-year evaluation – convene the Oculina Evaluation Team to conduct the evaluation and bring a final report to the Council at the June 2014 meeting.
2. Snapper Grouper Regulatory Amendment 17:
  - a. The committee gave direction to staff to work on the System Management Plan to evaluate what needs have been met, which needs remain, and to bring their recommendations on priorities to the Council in 2014.
  - b. The committee gave direction to staff to have the same presentations given to the Snapper Grouper AP at their April 2014 meeting and to have Will Heyman present his approach to choosing MPA sites. Any additional presentations on work in the South Atlantic and/or Gulf that would be helpful should also be considered. The committee also directed staff to prepare charts with the catch by logbook grid (similar to those presented to the committee) for use at the Snapper Grouper AP meeting.
3. Regulatory Amendment 21 – initiate development to redefine the MSST for snapper grouper species with low natural mortality, including blueline tilefish.
4. Amendment 32 (formerly Amendment 31) – proceed with development once the SSC has reviewed the projections and recommended an ABC for blueline tilefish. Include actions to establish management measures for blueline tilefish.
5. Request that the SSC review the blueline tilefish projections as soon as possible and recommend appropriate changes based on their evaluation.
6. Request that NMFS take emergency action to set the blueline tilefish ACL at 75 percent Fmsy for 2014.
7. Request that the Southeast Fisheries Science Center provide a projection for blueline tilefish with a 2014 catch level at 75 percent of Fmsy.
8. Regulatory Amendment 16 – conduct scoping in January 2014.
9. Amendment 22 – suspend work on the amendment pending NOAA GC feedback.
10. Amendment 29 – conduct public hearings in January 2014.
11. Request that the Southeast Fisheries Science Center provide feedback as to whether existing data are sufficient to support the use of the economic efficiency analysis/net benefit analysis.

**DR. DUVAL: Thank you, Myra; so quite a number of tasks and I would entertain a motion to accept the timing and tasks as outlined by staff.**

MR. PHILLIPS: Madam Chair, I so move.

**DR. DUVAL: Seconded by Doug. Is there any discussion? Any objection? The timing and task motion is approved.** Mr. Chairman, that concludes my report.

MR. HARTIG: Thank you, Michelle; I appreciate that. Next is the Mackerel Committee Report. The agenda was adopted and the minutes of September 2013 were approved. The committee

received an update on the status of commercial catch. The update on recreational catch had been presented on Tuesday during the Snapper Grouper Committee.

NMFS also provided a report on Amendment 20A, which was submitted for secretarial review and is under review in the region. The South Atlantic Coastal Migratory Pelagic Framework 2013 was still under review by council staff and chair and will be submitted for secretarial review soon.

For Amendment 20B; the South Atlantic Council took final action on Amendment 20B, but the Gulf Council made a change in the preferred alternative under Action 1 at their October meeting. The committee reviewed the Gulf Council actions and made a change to the preferred alternative under Action 2. The committee approved the following motions:

**Under Action 1, which was the commercial hook-and-line trip limits for Gulf migratory group king mackerel, the motion was to select Alternative 4, Option C, as the preferred and deselect Alternative 2, Option C, as the South Atlantic preferred. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Is there any objection? Seeing none; that motion is approved.**

**Under Action 2, the fishing seasons for Gulf group king mackerel, the motion was to deselect Alternative 2A as the South Atlantic preferred. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Is there any objection? Seeing none; that motion is approved.** Then there is one other action that I'd like to bring before you.

There was a motion that was developed – we talked somewhat about it yesterday – in framework where we used to have an item in the framework that allowed us to change – specifically for king mackerel, it allowed us to change – or actually it was Spanish mackerel; to change a catch level by 10 percent.

We lost that by default in a wording change between the region and the council. We had some discussion yesterday about maybe doing this for all coastal pelagic species, which is a draft motion to add a provision to the framework procedure that would allow a transfer of unused ACL not to exceed 10 percent for coastal migratory pelagic species, king mackerel, Spanish mackerel and cobia, between sectors. If someone would like to make that motion; motion by Michelle; second by Charlie. Is there discussion? Michelle.

DR. DUVAL: My understanding is just that this restores a provision of the framework that was inadvertently removed; correct?

MR. HARTIG: Yes. Is there any other discussion? Monica.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: We're on Amendment 20B and you anticipate taking final action on Amendment 20B at this meeting; right? So, this is just being added in at this time?

MR. HARTIG: Yes.



MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: I don't think you can just add it in at the last minute like this. I thought that the items in the framework that had been in the Mackerel Framework all along, that somehow got dropped off Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 18; I thought that most all of those had been dealt with and tried to put back in this particular amendment previously, right, in this document.

I know about the South Atlantic will be able to manage Atlantic mackerel and Atlantic Spanish and the Gulf will be able to do the same for the Gulf stocks. I thought anything else that was inadvertently – because it was inadvertently – left out of the framework in Amendment 18 had already been put into Amendment 20B.

MR. WAUGH: I know that was our intent at the start. I can't remember where we ended up with the allocation switch, if they decided to add that or not. Do you recall, Kari?

DR. MacLAUCHLIN: Just from conversation and kind of watching this from the outside, like we had talked about this before. It was in the framework procedures specific for Atlantic Spanish that you can move 10 percent through a framework. When you used to do the framework adjustments every year in the eighties and the nineties, you would take whatever information and used that as your rationale, and you could make the tweaks and move them around.

I think while we are talking allocations in Amendment 24 and kind of talking about, well, what about if there is some kind of flexibility where instead of making permanent changes to the sector allocations, that having some kind of mechanism where you could just move a little a bit, and this one is not exceed 10 percent. Obviously, this wouldn't happen if both sectors are bumping up against their ACLs.

It would only happen for those species like Atlantic Spanish mackerel where the commercial is hitting their ACL or exceeding it and then the recreational for the past few years has only been at 50 percent or something – because obviously you would want all your recreational representatives on the council on board as well.

I think that being able to do this through a framework instead of a plan amendment, which is what 20B is right now and what the current 20B will be, obviously all plan amendments take a long time in mackerel because they're joint; and once 20B goes through and the councils can do their own frameworks without having to be approved, we can do this quickly.

You can do it for one fishing season. That is what this specifies is that you can do it through a framework one designated fishing season based on whatever information. If it is information from the fishermen, if it is the last three years of landings, we can get the rationale, but that it will automatically go back and that will give the flexibility that you need to manage this fishery, this CMP species.

That is like my outside view of why you want to do this and why you want to – we've talked about this, but it really I feel like hasn't been, oh, this needs to go back into the framework

procedure – in 20B until we really started talking about the allocations in Amendment 24 and talking about how there is no flexibility at this point to do that.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: I'm all for that idea; I think it's a great idea. I think previously had been in the framework is that you could do 10 percent for Spanish mackerel was my recollection, and it didn't include – well, obviously it wouldn't have included cobia, but it didn't include kings either. I'm all for doing something like this. I think that would be a great idea, but I don't think you can just throw it in for the first time in this amendment now. I think that you need to develop it and put it in whatever next amendment –

DR. McGOVERN: Mackerel 24.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: Mackerel 24, Jack says, and then analyze it in there so that you know what the effects could be instead of putting it in here now.

MR. HARTIG: No, those are sage words and I appreciate that. I appreciate you getting us back on track. Sometimes in this process I said, well, this is what we should have done and we do this, and then you straighten out and we can move forward and do it the way we should do it. That's all good. We will withdraw this motion and address it at the appropriate time.

DR. DUVAL: I withdraw the motion.

MR. HARTIG: Yes; and the seconder agrees; so we're good. Charlie.

MR. PHILLIPS: Well, do we want to direct staff to write up an options paper so we can kind of start to see where we want to go?

MR. HARTIG: Yes; can we add it to scoping for 24?

DR. MacLAUHLIN: Yes, and I think you can just give direction to staff to include that in the scoping document for Amendment 24.

MR. HARTIG: Well, when we get to Amendment 24. Why don't you hold that motion in abeyance until then?

DR. MacLAUHLIN: Really quickly, you received the revised codified text for Amendment 20B from Mike Collins this morning. It replaces Mackerel Attachment 3C. That is the codified text that you will be deeming as necessary and appropriate.

**MR. HARTIG: Okay, so the motion would be to approve Amendment 20B for secretarial review. The council will deem the revised codified text as necessary and appropriate and give staff editorial license to make any necessary editorial changes to the document and codified text, and give the council chair authority to approve the revisions and redeem the codified text. On behalf of the committee I so move.**

MR. MAHOOD: Dr. Duval.

DR. DUVAL: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Ms. Beckwith.

MS. BECKWITH: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Bell.

MR. BELL: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Bowen.

MR. BOWEN: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Conklin.

MR. CONKLIN: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Cox.

MR. COX: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Steele.

MR. STEELE: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Cupka.

MR. CUPKA: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Haymans.

MR. HAYMANS: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Jolley.

MR. JOLLEY: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Ms. McCawley.

MS. McCAWLEY: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Phillips.

MR. PHILLIPS: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Chairman Hartig.

MR. HARTIG: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: **The motion passes unanimously.**

MR. HARTIG: All right, that brings us to Joint Framework Actions for Spanish Mackerel ACLs. In June 2013 the Mackerel Committee received recommendations for the ABC and OFL for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel from the SSC. The South Atlantic Council requested that the SSC review the projections at their October 2013 meeting.

The committee received the revised recommendations for the ABC and OFL from Dr. Barbieri, SSC Chair. These are included in the actions to revise the ACL for Atlantic group Spanish mackerel in the Joint Framework Actions. The committee approved the following motions. **The first was to approve the purpose and need as stated; and on behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Is there any objection? Seeing none; that motion is approved.**

**Under Action 1, modify annual catch limits for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel, the motion was to approve the language for Alternatives 1 and 2 and include as the alternatives under Action 1. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Is there any objection? Seeing none; that motion is approved.**

**The next motion we had under that action was to select Alternative 2 under Action 1 as the preferred. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Is there any objection? Seeing none; that motion is approved.**

**For Action 2, modify the ABC and ACL for Gulf migratory group Spanish mackerel, the motion was to approve the language for alternatives under Action 2; and on behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Is there any objection? Seeing none; that motion is approved.**

**Then we had a motion to approve the amendment for public hearings; and on behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Is there any objection? Seeing none; that motion is approved.**

Under Amendment 24, the reviewed the options paper draft scoping document for Amendment 24, which would examine the recreational and commercial allocations for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel and possibly Gulf migratory group king mackerel. The committee provided input to staff for the scoping document, including which stocks to include and approved the following motion. **The motion was to approve Amendment 24 Draft Document for scoping; and on behalf of the committee I so move. Is there discussion?** Michelle.

DR. DUVAL: Just to be clear, this is the point where we would give direction to staff to include in Amendment 24 an action to include in the framework an allowance for a 10 percent shift in allocations on an annual basis.

MR. HARTIG: Kari knows what she wants to put in there.

MR. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chairman, do we want to limit it to 10 percent on an annual basis; is it going to be cumulative; or is it just only 10 percent from the original allocation; or do we want a range of options in that scoping?

MR. HARTIG: Well, I don't know that we need to get that detailed going into scoping. We're taking this out to scoping as in general what do you think; should we do this; should we not do it; do you have any suggestions on how we should do it. I think we're good. Direction to staff is fine. The motion was to approve Amendment 24 for scoping. **Is there anymore discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion is approved.**

Under Amendment 26, separate permits, the committee also reviewed the options paper draft scoping document for Amendment 26, which would consider ways to separate the commercial permits for Spanish mackerel and king mackerel into Atlantic and Gulf permits. The committee directed staff to scope the amendment very broadly to get input from the public on possibly separating the permits.

**The committee approved the following motion. The motion was to approve Amendment 26 for scoping; and on behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Is there any objection? Seeing none; that motion is approved.**

On Amendment 23, the tournament sales, in March 2013 the council approved a motion to address tournament sales of king and Spanish mackerel in a separate amendment, Amendment 23. However, the Gulf and the South Atlantic Councils addressed tournament sales in Amendment 20A and a separate amendment is not needed.

**The committee approved the following motion to cease work on Amendment 23; and on behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Is there any objection? Seeing none; that motion is approved.**

**Okay, we will need a motion to adopt the timing and task items as presented; and those would be to prepare Joint Coastal Migratory Pelagic Amendment 20B for submission to the Secretary of Commerce; make the necessary revisions to the Joint Framework Actions for public hearings in January 2014 and for the March 2014 meeting; prepare a scoping document and hold scoping meetings for Joint Coastal Migratory Pelagic Amendment 24; and prepare a broad scoping document and hold scoping meetings for Joint Coastal Migratory Pelagic Amendment 26.**

**That is the motion and Charlie would like to make it; seconded by Doug. Is there discussion? Is there any objection? Seeing none; that motion is approved.** Okay, that concludes the Mackerel Committee Report. The next item on the agenda is the Dolphin Wahoo Committee Report.

MS. BECKWITH: The Dolphin Wahoo Committee met on December 5, 2013, and received updates on the status of commercial and recreational catches as well as the status of Dolphin

Wahoo Amendment 5. The committee discussed the Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7 and the Comprehensive Allocation and Accountability Amendment.

The committee voted the following motions as recommendations to the council. **Motion 1; modify Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7 to allow dolphin wahoo fillets be brought into the U.S. EEZ consistent with Bahamian bag limits as long as the skin is on the fish; there are valid Bahamian cruising and fishing permits on board; and explore a hail-in or VMS provision.** On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Mel.

MR. BELL: We talked about what we meant by a fillet; we didn't go into that.

MS. BECKWITH: That's in the following motion. Is there any additional discussion? Any opposition? That motion is approved with one in opposition. **Motion 2; set bag possession limits for dolphin and wahoo brought into the U.S. EEZ from the Bahamas to allow two fillets per fish for a maximum of 36 fillets or 18 fish intact or any combination. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Any opposition? One opposed; the motion passes.**

The committee gave the following direction to staff in reference to Amendment 7; one, run the Modified Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7 by the LEAP; two, explore the sale of fish from the Bahamas caught under these provisions; three, fishermen would not be allowed to bring in dolphin and wahoo caught in the Bahamas into the U.S. if those species are currently closed or prohibited under U.S. law; four, confer with FWC biologists, managers, LE and legal representatives regarding sale issues for dolphin and wahoo recreationally caught in the Bahamas (prohibited species, possession limits, what to do during U.S. EEZ closures, problems with bag/vessel limits in fish versus number of pounds – the Bahamian limits are multispecies and not all of those species are regulated by the councils – issues of no checkout from the Bahamas; hail-in concerns, how and with whom would they do that; and using caution in granting exemptions. Finally, we decided not to consider changes to the wahoo allocations in the Comprehensive Allocation Accountability Measure Amendment. Brian.

DR. CHEUVRONT: There is one thing that the council needs to do and this is a good place to go ahead to do it. We still have two actions remaining in the Comprehensive Allocation Accountability Measure Amendment. One is the action that looks at accountability measure modifications for the snapper grouper species and for golden crab.

The second is that you kept the dolphin and wahoo allocation action in there. What we just really need to do is really more just sort of a technical thing is we just to need to get a motion to send this out for public scoping. The council right now has said that they're probably going to do this on February 3<sup>rd</sup> via webinar. That is the plan, and we just need to make sure that this is consistent with what the council's desire is.

I'm just letting you know that we went from a much larger potential amendment there with all the actions in it. We just pulled out the snapper grouper allocation actions out of there and just left in dolphin and this accountability measure; because you had said in your discussions you would like to continue going forward with those right now, and we'll look at allocation once you

get finished with visioning. We should think about going ahead with these other two actions at this point.

**DR. DUVAL: Madam Chair, I would make a motion that we send the Comprehensive Allocation Accountability Amendment to scoping.**

MS. BECKWITH: Charlie seconds. Is there any discussion? Jessica.

MS. McCAWLEY: I just had a question. The webinars that are occurring on February 3<sup>rd</sup>; are those going to include the stuff about the Bahamas? Can you tell me what is going on February 3<sup>rd</sup>; I'm confused?

DR. CHEUVRONT: No, nothing about the Bahamas. That is Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7. That is a completely different thing. The timing for that amendment still needs to be figured out because you've got a lot of work that needs to be done on that. I can't say, but I'm sure we will be discussing it next week with staff and come up with some timing for that specifically unless the council wants to give us specific direction on how and when they want that to occur. We're just trying to go ahead with those two actions under the Comprehensive Allocation and Accountability Amendment. That is all we're doing.

**MS. BECKWITH: Is there any additional discussion? Any opposition? Seeing none; that motion carries.** Brian, did you need anything else?

DR. CHEUVRONT: That's it.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: I had a question – and, Brian, if I missed this, I'm sorry. There are a number of things that need to be done under the Bahamian Amendment, Amendment 7; and was there a direction from council for the timing on this as to how quickly it should be done?

DR. CHEUVRONT: There was not. I think what we have to do is figure out – I mean, the council gave us direction on a lot of steps they want to have taken; and we need to figure out how much time it is going to take to get the answers to some of these questions. I think some of it is not real straightforward, and it is going to take a fair amount of research.

Now, if the council wants to tell us they want this done by a specific time at this meeting, that is the council's prerogative. I think part of it is going to be dependent on when everybody voted or whatever they said is their priorities for getting the amendments and all those things done; that will probably influence as well. I have not spoken with Gregg, who basically is going to give me my marching orders on what things I'm working on, and he may have other things that he wants me to spend my time on. I can't really give any idea about timing on it at this point.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: That's fine; thank you.

MR. HARTIG: Okay, Anna is done and we're moving forward. The visioning update, Vice-Chairman Duval.

DR. DUVAL: We had our fifth visioning workshop on Monday morning from 9:15 to noon. We did a little introduction and recap of what occurred at the September 2013 workshop. We moved down and reviewed and had some continued discussion of our revised Snapper Grouper Strategic Goal Statements and Objectives.

We reviewed the goal statements that were developed by the Visioning Workgroup and provided additional edits to the goal statement for communication and inclusion of habitat considerations. Council members gave staff guidance to maintain the four strategic goals under science, communication, management and governance rather than framing the strategic goals around the ten initial standards.

We briefly discussed proposed edits to some of the Snapper Grouper FMP objectives and council expressed interest in looking at developing target metrics for implementing these goals and objectives in the future. Then we moved into a discussion of port meetings. Staff asked council to brainstorm a list of key issues for which the council would like feedback from stakeholders at the port meetings.

That list included discards; confusing and conflicting regulations; views on electronic reporting and monitoring, including VMS and other tools; a definition of localized depletion; alternative management strategies such as full retention or no size limits; issues of data quality, understanding that the council does not collect data but does have the ability to include in amendments the data that needs to be collected; allocations, how to effectively and fairly establish allocations between sectors; spatial management, should there be established criteria to guide the council on when to use spatial management, shifting pressure to other fisheries, regional approaches to management; and the best way to communicate with stakeholders.

Then we talked about facilitation questions for port meetings and staff reviewed the revised questions to use during port meetings to address the different strategic goals. Council provided feedback on those broad framework questions about communication and management; the sector-specific questions aimed at getting feedback on specific fisheries' issues.

Those sector-specific questions included for the commercial sector questions dealing with species that are targeted and discards; ideas about full retention versus size limits; allocation issues; using electronic reporting and monitoring; regulatory issues; spatial management; and data collection ideas.

For the for-hire sector, very similar questions; there was inclusion of views on electronic reporting and monitoring; artificial reefs; healthy ecosystems in the context of eco-tourism. For recreational, again similar questions regarding targeted species; allocation issues; artificial reefs; healthy ecosystems; electronic reporting.

We also had some for chefs and dealers regarding supply chain and demand issues and seasonality, as well as some for coastal tourism and marine-related businesses dealing with seasonality, outreach needs, tournament and fishing events and healthy ecosystems. We then reviewed materials for port meetings.



Staff is going to prepare an introductory presentation to include the purpose of the visioning project, the council's jurisdiction, a brief explanation of roles and responsibilities of each agency and the process, including Congress and how the information from port meetings will be used. We will create posters to hang at each port meeting that include commonly used acronyms, list of snapper grouper species, information on the Magnuson Act and mandates that the council has to operate under and a list of the ten national standards.

We will provide informational handouts on stock assessment, SEDAR, marine protected areas and other management issues. We also reviewed some additional needs for collecting stakeholder input, which were to create a web-based comment form for each sector to submit comments via the website, work with NOAA General Counsel to determine requirements for using a web-based comment form to collect that feedback and determine Federal Register Notice requirements.

When compiling feedback from the port meetings and online, consider organizing by both sector-specific feedback as well as geographic areas. With regard to the format and locations for port meetings, we reviewed that. Staff will facilitate port meetings. Amber will be the lead and another staff person should be a tech staff on a rotating basis.

Staff then led a discussion about hosting sector-specific meetings, where meeting locations will influence the sectors in attendance at each meeting. Members of the Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel also offered to host meetings in their respective state. State representatives on the council would provide a list of specific meeting locations by state by Thursday morning.

I don't know if everybody got their homework done. The port meeting schedule will be developed by the Visioning Workgroup. In regards in pre-port meeting outreach, staff reviewed the draft outreach flier that would be mailed to all federal snapper grouper permit holders, commercial, for-hire and dealers, and provided feedback on the content and wording and expressed support for this type of outreach.

The workgroup will continue to work on outreach strategies for private recreational anglers and other stakeholders. I asked Amber if she would sort of display on the screen the results of your homework assignment with regard to where and I think also feedback was asked for with regards to timing as well. I am going to let Amber run through that.

MS. VON HARTEN: Based on everybody's feedback, this is kind of a proposed meeting schedule. The top one here is North Carolina; and based on feedback, it looks like we're going to need at least four days. You will notice that it will have us traveling in one city in the morning and then another city in the evening; hopefully close by. We tried to pair them together to reach different sectors and be sensitive to the time of day of when different sectors would need to meet. This is how it is fleshed out. Everybody did their homework. I don't know if you want me to go through each thing.

DR. DUVAL: I think if we can send this around to all council members so that everybody can review it. There may be some additional input. I know that Mel and I had talked about some of

those border locations for South Carolina and North Carolina. We may be able to capitalize on that and be efficient in our use of resources.

I think particularly some of the inland locations; Columbia is not that far away from Charlotte. There are lots of private anglers that are located inland in North Carolina, certainly, and I'm suspecting it is also the same in other states; so it is really important to reach that sector as well. I think if folks can review that; that would be great.

MS. VON HARTEN: I just wanted to note I kind of also put what sectors would be reached at each meeting; C for commercial; FH for for-hire; R for recreational; CH for chefs and T for tourism. That is what those symbols mean.

DR. DUVAL: Awesome! And then also I think as we discussed during snapper grouper including in one of those questions for visioning something about input on the use of limited entry for the for-hire sector; so we would include that. Is there anything else that you need from us, Amber, at this point?

Clearly, I think there is a lot of work to do between now and when we would embark on these. I know the workgroup is going to need to schedule a call before Christmas here to kind of go over what the tasks are so I would I think just put all council members on notice that we will probably be asking for some input on review via e-mail. Anna.

MS. BECKWITH: When is that flyer going to be sent out to folks?

MS. VON HARTEN: We're thinking after the holidays, and also we wanted to make sure we had possibly the ability to put at least the meeting dates, locations – at least the locations at this point where the meetings might happen on the flyer. We wanted to wait until after this meeting.

DR. DUVAL: And I think we can probably talk about that on the next workgroup call and just send something around via e-mail to all council members to just kind of get the final consensus to hit the button and send those out and let everybody review one more time, maybe.

MS. VON HARTEN: One other thing we do need feedback on is the timing as far as what month and what state or if we need to consider possibly looking at going to do the commercial meetings first and then – or later after vermillion is closed or whatever. Some states have given feedback on the timing of months, so that would be helpful. We can talk about that with the workgroup.

DR. DUVAL: Are there any other questions or comments with regard to progress on visioning? I just want to thank everybody for their efforts. I think we've made a lot of progress in really a short period of time. A year is not that much time; and, Anna, what is it, 15 hours I think now of council time. I think the need for more workgroup calls and e-mail communication with council members in the interim is going to increase. I'm excited; I'm a little nervous. I hope you all are as well. That concludes my report, Mr. Chairman.

MR. HARTIG: I'm not nervous, but thank you. Under your leadership and then the willingness of staff to get all this work done; I know it was a tremendous workload, and we sincerely appreciate your efforts. Okay, Mel Bell; we will do Mel's Data Workshop Report and then we'll take a break.

MR. BELL: The Council's Data Workshop was conducted the afternoon of December 2<sup>nd</sup>. It was divided into two sections. The first were presentations. The first presentation, George Lapointe gave a presentation on regional electronic monitoring and electronic reporting input for NOAA's policy of electronic technologies and fishery-dependent data collection.

The committee asked a number of questions and provided some general guidance to George. I might note that in his presentation recall that he provided us some references to the white papers, policy directive, best management practices. I'd take a look at those; those are really good. Remember that what George was looking for was input from us, and I think he got that this time.

Also, what was interesting about that as well was there is a timeline and a plan in place to develop a plan by the winter of 2014. That will be occurring concurrently with what we're doing with visioning and all, and George will perhaps be able to draw off of some of our resources related to contacts that council is aware of. That will be good for that process.

The second presentation was Dr. Steve Turner. His presentation was on the commercial quota monitoring program. In answer to a question, Dr. Turner stated that the contractor developed this system and one other project for a total cost of \$185,000. That was the start-up cost; but the annual operating costs he really couldn't define specifically, but currently 1.5 full-time positions were devoted to the project as well as the supervisory level assistance and also assistance from IT. Funding has been provided by NMFS headquarters from the statistics line item for that.

Then Mike Cahall gave a very detailed overview of the history and how ACCSP operates. That was very detailed and a number of questions were asked there. Then the second session was a hands-on session for us. That started out with Dr. Mike Larkin from the Southeast Regional Office walking us through the MPA decision tool.

That will be something that is useful as we move along with Amendment 17. It basically allowed us to play around with one variable of putting X's on and taking X's off, and it kind of gave you a feel for the potential estimated impact of some of the decisions based on combinations of MPAs or not.

Then Roger Pugliese from council staff walked us through the council information management system. The information in this system will also be helpful as we continue to deal with Regulatory Amendment 17. That is an online interactive thing and loaded with a lot of data. Again, that is something we can continue to kind of play around with and use, and it may also be continued to be refined with additional data. There were no motions made as a result of the workshop and that concludes my briefing, Mr. Chairman.

MR. HARTIG: Mel, thank you very much. Okay, we'll take a ten-minute break and then we'll come on back and have the MREP Update. Thank you.

MR. HARTIG: Our next agenda item will be the MREP Update; Kim.

MS. IVERSON: We will go through this presentation fairly quickly. Kenny Fex is up here from our advisory panel and also as a member of the steering committee to help go through this presentation, so we will do it together. Just a reminder, it is MREP and not MRIP. It is the Marine Resources Education.

It is administered through the Gulf of Maine Research Institute. A similar program was implemented a several years ago in New England. It is a workshop-based program and designed to foster relationships and increase knowledge and understanding both of fishery science and fisheries' management, with the emphasis on a program developed by fishermen for fishermen.

I've put the goals up here. I won't read through these goals; but as we were talking about visioning process throughout the week, I was reminded of the goals of the MREP Program and how they meld and jell very closely with the council's goals and objectives that they have outlined through their draft visioning process or through the visioning process.

I guess it's not in a draft format anymore. I've put these up here; and if you take a few minutes, you can go to the website and look through those, but it really is a facilitation process. It is an exchange of information not only from the scientists and the other facilitators that are involved in the workshop but the attendees. The fishermen and the other folks that are attending also provide feedback, so it is a two-way process.

There was a science workshop that was held back in April, the 2<sup>nd</sup> through the 4<sup>th</sup>, in St. Petersburg, Florida, and it included representatives from the South Atlantic, the Gulf and the Caribbean Fishery Management Council areas. The introduction to management workshop was held in September 24<sup>th</sup> through the 26<sup>th</sup> in Tampa.

Of course, workshops are being planned now and scheduled through 2014, and we will address that here shortly. The fishery science workshop was held at FWRI. Luiz Barbieri and his staff were instrumental in making that a really wonderful workshop. We had participants from the charter, recreational, for-hire, commercial fishermen, industry representatives and some media folks that were also in attendance.

The management workshop was held in September in Tampa. I was a little nervous about it because we were kind of sequestered in a hotel for three days. When you sequester fishermen in a hotel room for three days, some things can get a little antsy. We were fortunate that it poured rain for three days. The weather was terrible.

We were also in a room without windows and someone at the workshop likened it to being in Vegas where there are no clocks. There was no clock on the wall and there were no windows, so you really didn't know what time of long you had been in there. I took that at first as an insult, but they were like, no, the time went by really, really quickly, so it was good.

Of course, we had similar representation. We had 23 participants in the management workshop and the majority of those had attended the science workshop, and so they had attended both.

Again, we were in a meeting room. We had lots of presentations. Council staff from all three management councils were present.

We had representation from the Southeast Fisheries Science Center, from the Southeast Regional Office, from NOAA General Counsel, from NOAA Office for Law Enforcement. We had great representation across the board. We covered the council process and how it works and some basics. John Carmichael was there to talk about science and the role of science in management.

He was instrumental in the science workshop back in the spring, so those folks had a definite advantage of having gone through that science workshop. Charlene Ponce, myself, and Deanna Martina from the Caribbean Council talked about public involvement and how to get involved within in the process.

Monica Smit-Brunello and Shepherd Grimes were there representing NOAA General Counsel and gave presentations on how that process works and what the councils' mandates are. Tracy Dunn from the Office of Law Enforcement came down from headquarters and provided a good overview of the law enforcement capabilities of the agency and the responsibilities.

We had representatives to talk about the role of Congress and the judiciary process in fisheries' management. Then we had all of the executive directors from each of the three councils in attendance as well as Dr. Crabtree from the Regional Office in attendance all three days, which was really wonderful. They were able to provide an overview on current issues.

Bob talked about our visioning process and what the council was working on there and sustainable fisheries' issues. Each of the executive directors and the deputy director from the Gulf Council was also there to provide input. Then we had a mock council meeting, which was really, really interesting.

We broke into three groups – Kenny can jump in here at any point – so I was assigned with Miguel Rolon from the Caribbean Council as the executive director. Each of the meeting attendees was provided with an SSC Report, and then they were given different roles to play. That included staff, which was really wonderful. Kenny, tell them what role you played.

MR. FEX: I was playing Regional Administrator. (Laughter) I felt pretty comfortable there. But, no, it was a great experience and the neat part is actually separating you from your norm by making some people be NGOs. I think John Carmichael became one and couple of other people. It really made people think, and I thought that was really a good exercise.

Actually the role, like how you used Roberts' Rules and the parliamentary procedures you guys go through. People really didn't understand them and it kind of gave them a good idea on how much it goes into it and discussions that go on. It was neat to see how these people reacted to it, but they all did a great job.

I think it was a very good idea by all means and the games that they played. She didn't comment about it, but that was a neat way to break the tension of learning. By all means, the people that attended were very interested in it, and I believe you'll get a good outcome from it. I think

you'll see a lot more people attending meetings and coming up with your presentations. I've already noticed that in the public comment. People think them out and they are well thought out. By all means, I hope this project keeps going.

MS. IVERSON: One of the things that we had to come up with after the role-playing exercise was a list of recommendations for ACLs and allocations for our superfish. We named it Superfish –

MR. FEX: Great fish.

MS. IVERSON: Great fish; and so the recommendations; they really put a lot of thought into it, but we decided that for next year what we'd like to have is our committee meetings and then we'll break for lunch, because they want to be able to, quote-unquote, network as their representatives and then come back and then provide reports to the full council.

It was an exercise in Roberts' Rule, too, in making motions and amending motions, but the role playing was great. I know Rick DeVictor was just ecstatic to be able to take a side. He was a commercial fisherman and John was an NGO representative. It was fun, it was enjoyable. It was a little stressful from time to time, but I think they really enjoyed it. That was the highlight.

The game that Kenny alludes is to Charlene went out and bought buzzers – so it's like an easy button – and we had trivial pursuit to kind of break out the meeting at points. It went by quickly. In September the steering committee – if you recall, the program is guided through a steering committee that is made up of fishermen and people that are involved in the fishing industry.

The steering committee met. There was just a one-page summary that was sent around as part of your briefing book materials. The agenda covered the program achievements, the curriculum and presentations that were given this year, the evaluation forms – there were evaluation forms completed for both the science and management workshops and recommendations. Kenny, do you have some things that you want to add for the steering committee meeting?

MR. FEX: Yes, we analyzed the whole program. I was glad to be a participant. When I was at the steering committee, I could actually make points. We evaluated what was some overlapping issues, whether it be a presentation overlapping another presentation, whether a presentation was hard to understand.

Monica had one. I apologize to point it out, but it wasn't PowerPoint so it was hard for people to read along as you did. I know you were short on time so don't take this personal, by no means. That was the one presentation I think we might have all got lost on, but all the other presenters did well. Like I said, it is no offense that you didn't have a PowerPoint.

Everything else went really good. I think the social where we actually sat around the table and ate lunch and ate dinner was really informative, just like outreach. I know when I sit in the audience out there I talk to everybody that is around and that really helps to learn everybody's problems and solutions maybe, too.

At first I was kind of skeptical about this. Kim can vouch for this. When she said that Roy brought this together, I thought, man, Roy is trying to make some council members of his own. It is kind of ironic. Actually, after I got done with the meeting, you kind of are making council members, you're making advisory panel members, you're educating these people at the levels that you guys all are. I think it's really good. I hope it continues, like I said, and people really got a good feedback from it. I by all means hope it continues.

MS. IVERSON: I will point out that Duane Harris and Bob Gill were really wonderful facilitators for this year's workshops. Kenny has been nominated to facilitate and is a facilitator for the 2014 workshops. The dates for the science workshop are April 22<sup>nd</sup> through the 24<sup>th</sup>; and again it hopefully will be at FWRI. We are planning for the workshop to be in St. Petersburg.

I will note one thing. I believe when we did the last update we had talked about dividing the workshops up and having one for the South Atlantic and one for the Gulf and that you had recommended that not happen because that interaction between the – and that cross-pollination is a good thing. I think they have listened to that and the workshops will continue to be held at a regional level. Does anyone have any questions? I did want to point out that the briefing book materials and all of the presentations are available at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute Website.

MR. FEX: One other point; they did make browsing the web on any of the agenda items real easy. You click right on and it brought the presentation up. They really coordinated it well for people to browse through.

MR. HAYMANS: Are these workshops not going to move up the coast; you're going to have them all in St. Pete?

MR. HARTIG: That's a good point.

MR. FEX: Well, the reason they're doing that is because it is centrally located. Otherwise, you're going to have to take all them presenters and send them all to travel. St. Pete is actually centrally located if you think Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean and South Atlantic. I think having them people available so close was beneficial. I understand your point.

MR. HAYMANS: I didn't realize the program was always going to be for all three councils combined. I would have thought if we wanted to get more South Atlantic folks, you should at least move up the coast a little bit and maybe go to Charleston or something. Is there payment for the participating – is there per diem for the participating fishermen or is it on their own?

MS. IVERSON: Yes, there is travel. Per diem is covered, Doug. There was some discussion by this council as to whether they wanted to see the program moved – and the location is determined by the steering committee, so I really don't have a say in that. They decided I guess for next year to continue on. It worked out well to have it at FWRI and have the individual classroom or work stations set up there. That is determined by the steering committee as far as the locations are concerned. They're not paid but there is a stipend.

MR. HARTIG: But I would carry your concerns to the steering committee and then we'll have that discussion. I will bring back an answer to you about the best way to move forward, but it is a good question. Chris.

MR. CONKLIN: I just wanted to speak to the program. I went to the very first one, the science section. I think Jack and I did. Speaking to Roy the other evening, he said there may not be funding and grants available forever. I encourage anyone who knows fishermen or anybody who is going to start being a part of the process and you want to get involved to make sounder comments and be more proactive as someone who will actually talk down the line on the docks and educate other people; to go ahead and get them involved in case it is not around that long.

It is pretty helpful. I'd say doing that and then the new council member training and more training, I finally started getting it a little bit. So, the more the merrier; take advantage of it; and scholarships available for the travel and all definitely helps to take advantage of it while it is available, because it is certainly a pretty good deal.

MR. HARTIG: Chris, you're absolutely right. You go and you get exposed to all the concepts and stuff in the science module and in the management module; and like just as you said, it has worked with me. With continued exposure, you get to actually participate at a higher level over time, and that's all good. That is exactly what it is designed to do is to develop people for the council process, like Kenny had said. To participate in the SEDAR process is critical I think.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: You've probably already done this, but dates sounds really familiar like they might coincide with the SSC meeting for the South Atlantic; although that might be the next week. I would just thinking of your future date, April 22<sup>nd</sup> through 24<sup>th</sup>.

MR. MAHOOD: One of the things I enjoyed most is the interaction with other folks here. As a matter of fact, Chris McCaffity and I have probably talked many times on the telephone. I've heard Chris talk at the meetings. He and I sat down and had a few drinks and dinner one night, and we got a much better understanding where each other was coming from.

Chris is a sharp guy and he has got some good ideas. He and I went back and forth about we can't do some of the things he wants to do under the constraints we're under. I have seen him over time come around and being a very good person for giving input to the council and being able to benefit the council with his knowledge. That was kind of an interesting part of my experience at this. Then Kenny over there, he told me he tried to assert himself like Roy Crabtree, but he kept getting shot down.

MR. HARTIG: All right, are there any other questions? Thanks, Kim and Kenny; that was good. All right, that brings us to the Joint Habitat and Ecosystem-Based Management Committee. Who is going to give the report, Doug or Wilson? Doug.

DR. LANEY: Since I'm a non-voting member, Mr. Chairman, I can't make motions at Full Council, so Doug has to do it, which suits me just fine.



MR. HAYMANS: A Joint Meeting of the Habitat and Environmental Protection and Ecosystem-Based Management Committees was held on December 3, 2013, in Wilmington, North Carolina. The committee received a status report that Coral Amendment 8 was submitted for formal secretarial review on November 26, 2013.

The committee discussed requests that have come forward since the September 2013 meeting from representatives of the rock shrimp industry to further modify coordinates along the southeast boundary of the northern extension of the Oculina Bank Habitat Area of Particular Concern. The committee provided guidance to map the new coordinates provided by Mike Merrifield, the Deepwater Shrimp Advisory Panel Chair, and bring the new options back to the March 2014 council meeting for further discussion.

The committee received a summary presentation of the Council's Cooperative Agreement with the Coral Reef Conservation Program. The presentation included an overview of past projects included under previous funding cycles of the Cooperative Agreement Grant. Council staff also reviewed the proposal recently submitted under a Cooperative Agreement Grant that included a project requesting funding for Fiscal Year '14 through '16 that continues characterization of benthic habitat and fauna in the Oculina Experimental Closed Area and the marine protected areas.

Council staff provided an overview of recommendations developed during the Habitat and Environmental Protection AP Meeting held at FWRI in St. Petersburg, Florida, on November 5 and 6, 2013. The AP provided input for the committee's consideration on revised essential fish habitat policy statements for aquaculture, in-stream flow, submerged aquatic vegetation and estuarine invasive species.

Additionally, the AP is reviewing and updating the energy policy, beach dredge-and-fill policy, and will further develop two new policy statements on artificial reefs and restoration and provide those for council consideration as completed. Further, the committee received an update on the development process for the Fishery Ecosystem Plan 2.

Council staff also provided an update on plans for a Climate and Governance Workshop to be held in March of 2014. The following motions were developed during the joint committee session. **Direction to staff to map the coordinates submitted by Mike Merrifield that change latitude and longitude points: Option 1, Points 16 through 25; Option 2, Points 20 through 25; bring the new options to be reviewed by the council at the March meeting. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Any opposition? Seeing none; that motion carries.**

**The second motion was to accept the Habitat and Environmental Protection AP's recommendations and move forward; and on behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion is approved.** Those three recommendations are listed below.

**Third is our draft timing and tasking motion, and I will need a council motion on those. First is to develop GIS information for the council's review during the March 2014 council**

**meeting; new GIS options relate to the northern extension of the Oculina Bank Habitat Area of Particular Concern and are based on coordinates provided by Mike Merrifield; and secondly is the committee provided direction to staff to update several council policy statements; staff will merge the estuarine and marine policy statements; work with the Habitat AP to expand the in-stream flow policy statement; and explore development of a new EFH policy statement. I've got a motion from Charlie and a second from Mel. Any additional discussion? Any opposition? Seeing none; that is approved.** Mr. Chairman, that concludes my report.

MR. HARTIG: Thank you, Doug. Okay, that brings us down to Protected Resources Committee Report. David Cupka.

MR. CUPKA: The committee met on December 3<sup>rd</sup> and received an update from Andy Herndon with the Southeast Regional Office Protected Resources Division in regards to two ongoing formal consultations for fisheries managed by this council. Currently a formal consultation is underway for the CMP triggered by the listing of a couple of distinct population segments of Atlantic sturgeon as endangered. The biological opinion on that is currently in progress.

Additionally there was an ongoing consultation for the Southeast Shrimp Fisheries to examine the effects of skimmer trawls without TEDs. The draft biological opinion is under internal review and is expected to be finalized late this year or early next year. The committee also received a presentation from staff on the ESA Working Group, the joint working group to make recommendations to increase the transparency and improve confidence in the Endangered Species Act Consultation of fishery management plans.

The working group was scheduled to have finalized their recommendations in October, but that was delayed because of the government shutdown. The recommendations are due to be reviewed by the MAFAC this month and by the Council Coordinating Committee in February of next year and should be available for our March council meeting.

Lastly, Wilson Laney provided an update on the status review for American eel. Currently the core team has not determined if the status review team will be assembled and there will be workshops for interested parties to provide information. Additional information will be provided as the status review continues.

For the record I just want to mention that subsequent to this report being sent out, that Wilson reviewed his part of the report dealing with American eel and made some editorial changes and asked staff to include those in the final committee report that will become a part of the permanent council record. There were no motions made during the committee, Mr. Chairman, and that concludes my report.

MR. HARTIG: Thanks, David; any questions for David? All right, that brings us to the SEDAR Committee. The SEDAR Committee met on December 3<sup>rd</sup> and received reports on current SEDAR activities; SSC recommendations on future assessment planning; presentations of SEDAR assessment results; and the administrative actions for the 2014 gag grouper update and the SEDAR 41 benchmark.

The committee supported the SSC request to hold a workshop prior to the April 2014 SSC meeting for a discussion of long-term assessment priorities and scheduling. In addition to the topics identified, the SSC has asked to consider a decision tree approach for selecting appropriate assessment models for stocks.

The committee discussed presentations of SEDAR assessments to the SSC. In-person presentations are desired for all assessments and considered critical for SEDAR standard assessments. All presentations should be provided to the SSC two weeks prior to the meeting. The committee approved the terms of reference for the gag grouper update and the schedule and terms of reference for SEDAR 41. An additional terms of reference were added to SEDAR 41 to require comparison with the Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper Assessment.

Participants for SEDAR 41 were approved during a closed session. The committee received a progress report on the wreckfish assessment and was briefed on the scheduled events to be completed between now and the SSC consideration of the assessment in April of 2014. The committee received further updates on the Southeast Fisheries Science Center fishery-dependent sampling efforts and recommended convening a workshop to develop a fishery-dependent sampling program for the snapper grouper fishery.

The committee also received an update on recent National Standard 2 revisions. **There were several motions that came out of the above discussions; and the first on behalf of the committee I would move that the council support the SSC request to devote a workshop to assessment planning in 2014. Is there any discussion? Is there any objection? Seeing none; that motion is approved.**

**The next motion and on behalf of the committee I move to approve the Terms of Reference for the Gag Grouper Update. Is there any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion is approved.**

**On behalf of the committee I move to add a term of reference to the SEDAR 41 Data Workshop to compare and contrast the life history traits between the Gulf and South Atlantic stocks; to add a term of reference to the SEDAR 41 Assessment Workshop to compare and contrast productivity measures and assessment assumptions between the Gulf and South Atlantic stocks; and add a term of reference to the SEDAR 41 Review Workshop to compare and contrast assessment uncertainties between Gulf and South Atlantic stocks. Is there any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion is approved.**

**On behalf of the committee I move to approve the schedule and Terms of Reference for SEDAR 41. Is there any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion is approved.**

**On behalf of the committee I would move to convene a workshop to develop a Comprehensive Fishery-Dependent Sampling Program for the Snapper Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic. Is there any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion is approved.**

**On behalf of the committee I move to accept the SEDAR 41 participants' list. Is there any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion is approved.** We need to have another motion to – and John has got it over there. We did not appoint Marcel I guess in the Data Workshop and the Assessment Workshop.

**DR. DUVAL: Mr. Chairman, I move to appoint Marcel Reichert to the SEDAR 41 Data and Assessment Workshops.**

**MR. HARTIG:** Motion by Michelle; seconded by Charlie. **Discussion? Is there any objection? Seeing none; that motion is approved.** That concludes my SEDAR Report. Okay, Advisory Panel Selection; Doug Haymans.

**MR. HAYMANS:** The Advisory Panel Selection Committee met December 3, 2013, and reviewed applications for seats on the following advisory panels: Coral, Habitat and Environmental Protection, Information and Education, King and Spanish Mackerel, Law Enforcement, Snapper Grouper and the SEDAR Pool.

The committee reviewed the structure of the Coral Advisory Panel and the Information and Education Advisory Panel and provided recommendations. In addition the committee reviewed applicants for open seats and provided recommendations for appointments. The committee approved the following motions as recommendations of the council.

**Motion 1: Accept staff recommendations for the Coral Advisory Panel composition. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there discussion? Opposition? Seeing none; the motion carries.**

**Motion 2: Have either the chair or the vice-chair of both the Golden Crab AP and Deepwater Shrimp AP serve on the Coral AP. On behalf of the committee I so move. Any additional discussion? Any opposition? Seeing none; that motion carries.**

**Motion 3: Reappoint John Cramer to the Coral AP. On behalf of the committee I so move. Any discussion? Any opposition? Seeing none; that motion is approved.**

**Motion 4: Reappoint Dr. Patrick Halpin to the Habitat AP. On behalf of the committee I so move. Any discussion? Any opposition? Seeing none; that motion carries.**

**Motion 5: Restructure the Georgia commercial seat on the Habitat AP as an at-large Georgia seat. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Is there objection? Seeing none; that motion carries.**

**Motion 6: Appoint Dr. Dustin Kemp to the Habitat AP, filling the at-large Georgia seat. On behalf of the committee I so move. Any discussion? Any opposition? Seeing none; that motion is approved.**

**Motion 7: Designate four state agency seats on the Information and Education AP. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Any opposition? Seeing none; that motion is approved.**

**Motion 8: Reappoint Dr. John Dean and appoint Katie Latanich and Shelly Krueger to the Information and Education AP. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Any opposition? Seeing none; that motion is approved.**

**Motion 9: Have the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Council Outreach Staff serve on the Information and Education AP; one staff member from each council, contingent upon each council covering the expenses for staff travel. On behalf of the committee I so move? Any discussion? Any opposition? Seeing none; that motion is approved.**

**Motion 10: To recommend the appointment of Captain Judy Helmey to the King and Spanish Mackerel AP. On behalf of the committee I so move. Any discussion? Chris.**

MR. CONKLIN: I just want to clarify we're appointing and reappointing everyone else, but this one we're going to recommend appointment; is that the same as appoint?

MR. HAYMANS: Yes; it is the same as appointed. When the council votes on it; then they're appointed. The committee is recommending the appointment to the council. Any other discussion? That's a good point, so thank you. **Seeing none; is there any opposition? Seeing none; that motion is approved.**

**Motion 11: To appoint Nickey Maxey to the Law Enforcement AP; and on behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Any opposition? Seeing none; that motion is approved.**

**Motion 12 is to appoint James Freeman to the Wreckfish Subpanel on the Snapper Grouper AP. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Opposition? Seeing none; that motion is approved.**

**Motion 13: To reappoint Jim Atack and Scott Osborne to the Snapper Grouper AP. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Opposition? Seeing none; that motion is approved.**

**Motion 14: To appoint Dave Snyder to the Snapper Grouper AP. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Opposition? Seeing none; that motion is approved.**

**Motion 15: To appoint David Moss to the Snapper Grouper AP. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Opposition? Seeing none; that motion is approved.**

**Motion 16: To appoint Jimmie Hull to the Snapper Grouper AP. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Opposition? Seeing none; that motion is approved.**

**Motion 17: To appoint David Heil to the SEDAR Pool. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Any opposition? Seeing none; that motion is approved.** Michelle has asked to have just a moment to discuss the Snapper Grouper AP arrangement.

DR. DUVAL: I know that in the past we used to have designated seats on the Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel and then went through a period where it was it very difficult to get people to actually fill those seats. Now we're in a position where we've had like a standing waiting list of 20 to 30 people sitting around for years, and very qualified people as well, interested in being appointed to this advisory panel.

I know that the new term limit policy that we adopted at the last meeting is going to allow for some new people to come onto this advisory panel. I'm just wondering if the council would entertain asking staff to consider restructuring of the Snapper Grouper AP to just ensure I think that there is some geographic balance. I was just looking at all of the folks who have been appointed and reappointed. Like for North Carolina we have one commercial representative; and Kenny is a rock star, but even he can't represent the geographic range of our commercial fishing industry.

I hesitate to say, well, let's create another seat and I'd like to add another commercial representative for North Carolina on there because the panel is pretty big. I think there is a total, Kim, of 18 members on there now, something like that.

MR. HAYMANS: There were 23 at last count.

DR. DUVAL: Twenty-three; and I don't know – you know, Doug and I talked about this a little bit, but maybe just looking at perhaps having a certain number of seats per each state, and then the states can kind of figure out how they'd like to apportion those amongst different interest groups or constituencies.

I think if during this appointment and reappointment process one state might pick up a few extra advisory panel seats and then they almost become like de facto that state's seats. It just starts to concern me when I know that there are folks from North Carolina who have submitted their applications multiple times. Term limits will help bring new people into the process, but I just wanted to throw that out there for discussion, and Doug was kind enough to let me do that.

MR. HAYMANS: Certainly, and perhaps we could add guidance to staff at this point, someone to bring back a couple of options for ways to apportion seats by state; if that's a motion.

**DR. DUVAL: Mr. Chairman, I would make a motion that we direct staff to develop some options for apportioning seats on the Snapper Grouper AP by state and bring that back at maybe the June meeting, I guess.**

MR. HAYMANS: And Zack is the second?

MR. BOWEN: Yes, I agree 100 percent with Dr. Duval and I second that motion.

MR. HAYMANS: Any additional discussion? Mel.

MR. BELL: One of the things that seems to have come out recently is we've kind of got some interest in other groups like restaurants and things; so when we're doing this, we ought to make sure you've got your standard sector representation, but that might come under other or other useful.

There are certain skill sets and knowledge you could bring in if you have some flexibility to include some other people that aren't necessarily standard recreational or commercial. That just needs to be included – and NGOs and the whole thing.

MR. PHILLIPS: Well, I'm thinking because some these ports are right next to state lines. I remember Michelle talking to Jack about Little River and some of that stuff. You may want to consider people from regions more so than states or at least in the talking stage.

MR. BELL: And I'm sensitive to the fact that Florida is pretty big, and the Keys are not Jacksonville; and so when you're looking at regions, Florida has got differences within the state; whereas, Georgia is maybe a lot smaller or we're smaller. Just keep that in consideration.

DR. DUVAL: I totally agree. Clearly, Florida has a huge geographic range in terms of just the composition of its fisheries and the different species, the different I think conditions that people are dealing with in terms of distance offshore that folks are having to go. We have those same issues in North Carolina; and I think it's difficult to have one person try to represent that whole range of concerns that they aren't necessarily with it. That's all.

MR. BOWEN: And to Mel's point; I think if my memory serves me correctly, our Georgia, if you will, representation on the Snapper Grouper AP or at least one member actually resides in Georgia, but the last time I spoke with him, he fished out of Florida. He keeps his vessel in Fernandina; so to that point that Mel made, I agree.

MR. HAYMANS: Anyone else; good discussion. Okay, we have a motion by Michelle and a second by Zack to direct staff to develop options for apportioning seats for the Snapper Grouper AP and to bring to council in June. **Any additional discussion? Seeing none; is there any opposition to this motion? Seeing none; the motion is approved.** Mr. Chairman, that concludes the AP Selection Committee Report.

MR. HARTIG: Thank you, Doug. The Executive Finance Committee met on December 5<sup>th</sup>. We approved the minutes and we received presentations on the following items. The first one was the 2013 budget expenditures. Bob briefed the committee on the council's expenditures. It was noted that we are in good shape for 2013 because the funds were available to carry forward from the 2012 offset the reductions the council experienced.

We have been able to operate under a budget that accomplishes our goals for the year. In the 2014 budget it was pointed out that we do not have a budget – well, the rest of the country doesn't either – as Congress has not passed a budget to date. The proposed budget in Attachment 2 was developed by staff assuming the council would receive level funding for 2014.

However, it was noticed that there is no assurance we will receive level funding and adjustments to this budget may be necessary. The executive director also explained how staff developed the budget based on expected council activities for 2014. He then further explained how the council's share of the overall congressional line item for the regional councils came about and how we started receiving additional funding from several NMFS' line item categories, such as NEPA, regulatory streamlining and ACL.

The council followup and priorities; for the benefit of new council members, Gregg provided a detailed overview of what the council follow-up presentation is and the information included in the document and how it is used to track the council's activities. It is a living document that the council members can use to stay up to date relative to where various amendments and other actions are in the developmental process.

They can also use the followup for planning purposes. The council will receive the follow-up document following each meeting after the council and regional office staff have finalized it. Gregg briefed the committee on the status of the council's 2012-13 priorities and on the potential list of activities for 2014. A form was provided to the council members to prioritize the list of proposed activities for 2014 by rating a particular activity as high, medium or low. The forms were completed and returned to staff by the end of the day.

The forms are now tabulated and they will be used during the council session as the basis for prioritizing 2014 activities. There was significant committee discussion relative to how the members should proceed with making their decisions on ranking the various activities. The Committee for South Florida Management Issues and the Ad Hoc Goliath Grouper Joint Council Steering Committee; the executive director provided the committee with background information on the makeup of the joint committee.

The joint meeting of these groups is scheduled for January 7<sup>th</sup> through the 9<sup>th</sup> in 2014 in Key Largo. Jessica has graciously taken the lead in developing the agenda and briefing materials for this meeting. The ROA Agreement; Bob Mahood provided the committee with background on how the Council/NMFS Regional Operating Agreement evolved from the formal document developed in 2006 to the current ROA document the committee is being asked to approve.

The renewed effort to revise the original 2006 ROA as a formal signatory document is being done in response to the recent Inspector General's Report on the National Marine Fisheries Service. The ROA before the committee for approval today has been modified to reflect how the Southeast Regional Office, the Southeast Fisheries Science Center and the Council currently operate.

**There was a motion under the ROA Agreement and that motion was to approve the Regional Operating Agreement as presented by staff; and on behalf of the committee I so**



**move. Is there any discussion? Is there any objection? Seeing none; that motion is approved.**

The next item of business was the CCC Webinar. We talked about the webinar and pros and cons of the webinar. That was the first one we've had. Discussion items included the councils need to address allocation issues and changes in NOAA leadership and budgets. The committee also discussed the potential management and administrative cost assessment proposed to be applied to the council, perhaps as high as 16 percent.

Dr. Crabtree briefed us on that and said it will not be implemented in 2014; but due to other reviews in the agency, we're not sure how that is going to proceed in the future. In other business the executive director requested the committee recommend to the council that staff receive an additional retirement-related benefit – specifically a one-time benefit to help to with financial planning prior to their retirement.

**The committee approved the request and the motion would be to approve the executive director's request to allow a one-time benefit for staff to have a financial planning consultation. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion on that motion? Is there any objection to that motion? Seeing none; that motion is approved.** We have got the followup on the priorities. Gregg, are you going to do that?

MR. WAUGH: Yes. You also have a hard copy of this, which will be easier for you to see. What this has done now is for each for a high; that gets three points; for medium, two; and low, one. That is where you get this ranking number here on the right. They go from high to low. I did receive one additional form this morning, and I'll point out where that made a slight adjustment.

Visioning came out as our number one item and come right down to Snapper Grouper Regulatory Amendment 16. With that new sheet in, the Charterboat Reporting Amendment would just come up a couple of slots under that. I will make this revision to the final list and it will be attached in the followup. The Snapper Grouper Amendment 32 would move up one slot.

The Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7 would move up one slot, and the Fishery Ecosystem Plan would move up one slot. That is the order and our intent would be to show this in the followup with this as your list of priorities. We will flesh out the timing for these various amendments. We will be getting that to the region before the end of this year. We will give them a couple of weeks, so look for this some time in the middle to the end of January you will be getting the revised followup with the timing and showing this priority. I'll be glad to answer any questions.

MR. HARTIG: I'm not seeing any questions; nice presentation.

MR. WAUGH: Thank you, but I think we need a motion to approve that as the priorities.

**DR. DUVAL: I move that we approve the list of council priorities as presented by staff.**

MS. McCAWLEY: Second.

MR. HARTIG: Motion and a second. **Anymore discussion? Objection? Seeing none; that motion is approved.** That concludes that committee report. Okay, that brings us to the Data Collection Committee Report; Mel Bell.

MR. BELL: The council's Data Collection Committee met on December 5<sup>th</sup>. The agenda was adopted, and the minutes of the September 2013 meeting were approved. It started out with a series of presentations. The first one, Dr. Jack McGovern reported on the Joint Gulf and South Atlantic Council General Dealer Amendment; that the amendment was sent to the National Marine Fisheries Service for formal secretarial review on September 26, 2013. The proposed rule package is under review in the region and is expected to be submitted to headquarters soon.

The next presentation by Dr. McGovern was on the Joint South Atlantic and Gulf Council Generic For-Hire Reporting Amendment; South Atlantic only. That the amendment was sent to the National Marine Fisheries Service for secretarial review on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Notice of Availability of the amendment was published in the Federal Register on September 18<sup>th</sup>, and comments were accepted through November 18<sup>th</sup>. The proposed rule published on September 18<sup>th</sup>, and the comment period ended on 11/18/13. The decision day is December 18, 2013.

The next presentation by Dr. McGovern was on the Gulf Framework to implement For-Hire Reporting; Headboat only. That amendment was sent to the National Marine Fisheries Service for secretarial review on July 18<sup>th</sup>. The proposed rule published on October 25<sup>th</sup>, and the comment period ended on November 25<sup>th</sup>. The final rule package is under review in the region. Anna Martin reviewed the council's motion from the March 2013 meeting requesting a presentation from NOAA GC and stated that the presentation has been rescheduled for the March 2014 council meeting. That was a presentation on the Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 3.

Next, Dr. Ponwith gave an Update on the Commercial Logbook Pilot Study. She updated the committee on the status of this project and delays resulting from the recent government closure. The Southeast Fisheries Science Center is still aiming for full implementation of the project during 2016 depending on funding.

Next the council staff reviewed the status of work on the subcommittee to work on the technical issues related to the Joint South Atlantic & Gulf Council Generic Charterboat Reporting Amendment, the councils' intent, and the need for additional members of the committee that need to be appointed. The committee discussed the intent and clarified the direction to be provided to the technical group. There were two motions.

**Motion Number 1 was the councils' intent is to remove charterboats from the Marine Recreational Information Program Reporting System and have charterboats report catches electronically at a minimum of weekly as is being implemented for headboats. It is the council's intent that this information be updated on the Southeast Regional Office Website on some regular period. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion on the motion? Any objection to the motion? Seeing none; then that motion carries.**

**The second motion is to direct staff to draft a letter from South Atlantic and Gulf Councils to the agencies and partners (MRIP, HMS, SEFSC, SERO, ACCSP AND ASMFC) requesting they appoint representatives prior to the South Atlantic Council's March 2014 meeting. On behalf of the committee I so move. Any discussion on the motion? Any objection to the motion? Seeing none; then that motion carries.**

Next would be dealing with timing and task, so we'll need an actual motion here. There is some draft language for that motion. The draft language here would approving the timing and task as presented:

1. Directed staff to work with the Gulf Council staff to draft a letter from the two councils requesting agencies to appoint members to work on the technical committee examining the potential of removing charterboats from the MRIP program and have them report electronically.
2. Provided general guidance that the technical group meet during 2014 and provide recommendations to the councils by the December 2014 council meeting.

**MR. CUPKA: Mr. Chairman, I would move that we approve the timing and task motion.**

MR. BELL: Seconded by Charlie. **Is there any discussion of that motion? Any objection to the motion? Then that motion carries.** That concludes my report.

MR. HARTIG: Thank you, Mel. That brings us down to the status reports from agencies; Phil.

MR. STEELE: You can see Attachment 1; the Recreational and Commercial Quota Monitoring Tables have been updated on the SERO Website. We expect another report from the science center next week, and we'll update them in a timely fashion. Mike has sent out the letter to you, Mr. Chairman, on blueline tilefish, identifying its status.

We will work with the council on the emergency rule that you passed this morning to deal with that with a subsequent amendment to make the conditions permanent. The only other action I would like for you to consider this morning; we have an exempted fishing permit from the North Carolina Aquarium. This is fairly standard.

We have dealt with these and issued them in 2009 and 2011 as we do most of the aquariums in the southeast. There are a couple of species of concern on here that we'll have to evaluate. Goliath grouper is one and also the collection of live rock. The way we usually handle live rock is through other permits, and we'll have to run this through our attorneys and see how we find. We would like a recommendation from the council whether they would like to go forth with this and request approval of this EFP from the Regional Administrator.

**DR. DUVAL: Mr. Chairman, I move that the council recommend approval of the North Carolina Aquarium's EFP Request to the Regional Administrator.**

MS. McCRAWLEY: Second.

MR. HARTIG: Seconded by Jessica. Any further discussion? Zack.

MR. BOWEN: I just have a question. You mentioned the Goliath grouper; can you further discuss that?

MR. STEELE: Well, these are protected and zero harvest on them. We have allowed the collection of Goliath groupers in other aquariums, so this is just something we evaluate on a case-by-case basis. I don't really see it as a problem; but let's just wait how – once we go through the whole EFP review process, we'll make a determination on this. That concludes my report, Mr. Chairman.

MR. HARTIG: **We've got a motion and a second. Discussion? Is there any objection? The motion is approved without objection.** That brings to Dr. Ponwith.

DR. PONWITH: We will walk into just a quick update on how we're doing on the Headboat Survey. Since the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2013 we have been collecting headboat data electronically. Over that time period, as of I believe the 1<sup>st</sup> of November, we had accumulated just under 20,000 trip reports from the system.

Again, as of the 1<sup>st</sup> of November we had roughly 92 percent of the headboats on the survey were reporting electronically. Our contract company has been awarded the contract to include clickable maps and some socio-economic information on the electronic log, which will improve again sort of the depth of the data that we've got available.

We are continuing kind of the behind-the-scenes work continuing to transition to the Oracle System. This is simply how we manage those data once they're received. This creates a much more limber system for us and makes it a lot more easy for us to manage the data internally and serve up the data ultimately. We are for the first time using the electronic data for generating the actual catch estimates for the headboat program.

Because of that, we're going to be able to have the estimates based on those electronic data as early as March of this year, which is good. I know we have talked about this within the council. Ultimately I believe we should be shooting toward being able to generate in-season estimates. I think right now we're targeting for roughly the same periodicity as the MRIP Program.

The main reason is we need to accumulate enough data to be able to convert the landings from fish to pounds. We need to have enough data to be able to do that reliably. I will continue to update you on the progress of that as we make that progress. That is my report, Mr. Chairman.

MR. HARTIG: Thanks, Bonnie. We'll start with Doug; agency and liaison reports.

MR. HAYMANS: I was just sitting and thinking about that when you said it. I want to correct one thing that I had said on the record previously regarding the number of permitted charter captains we have in Georgia. I felt like this was a good place to do it. We do have 150, but I had my federally permitted reversed. We've only got 35, give or take a few, federally permitted charterboats out of that 150. I am working on some of them.

There is definitely a need to maintain MRIP resources to continue to survey those non-federal charterboats. I guess the only other things that I would add as far as an agency report is we've got a lot of rulemaking going over 2013 and working on hammerheads for the HMS and ASMFC changes that were made.

Actually going into effect January 1<sup>st</sup>; we're removing seasons for AJ, cobia and Spanish mackerel that were put in place a long time ago as a result of things that the council was thinking about, but we're going to open those back up until such time as we need to close again. Other than rulemaking, that's about where I am these days.

MR. BELL: Of interest to us here – and we'll get you the link – Amber and Kim stumbled across a really good link. I guess there was a Post and Courier Article yesterday. The Deep Reef that is part of our system of eight deepwater reefs; there is a dedication ceremony scheduled for the 15<sup>th</sup> of December. The intended date of sinking I think is the 16<sup>th</sup>.

Of course, that will all be weather permitting. We'll get you the link and you can see a picture of what the first – it's a 270-foot by 60-foot barge that has been configured with a lot of superstructure on it to give it some relief. That is supposed to go down this month, and then we will finally have some material out on that deep site.

That will be followed by a second barge of the same size as soon as they can prep that. That will be good. The other things that kind of touch on federal is due to the significant rainfall we had this year, which were record-setting in our area, we're having the worse white shrimp season ever in terms of our landings, so we had a serious issue with white shrimp.

The council has helped us with dealing with issues associated with temperature and that sort of thing. Well, this is the first time I've ever had rainfall really throw us a loop like this; so not temperature can affect white shrimp for us but water or the lack of water. We're going to continue to allow an experimental jellyball fishery in state waters. A lot of that occurs in federal waters, and that is something that pops us. I know Georgia has been dealing with it for twelve years or so now.

A lot of that activity does occur in federal waters; and in federal waters, of course, there is no requirement for use of TEDs in that particular fishery. We require it; and as well as Georgia, we require them to use TEDs in state waters. That is just something else of interest. We have been getting a lot of kind – tying to jellyballs; we've been getting a lot of interest lately from western Pacific markets and dealers on the west coast interested in product; jellyball, sea cucumbers, roe mullet, live shrimp.

There is a lot of interest from the other side of the Big Pond over there related to tying into certain products. Where that goes in the future – I mean, if you think about it, certain areas over there are increasing in terms of their economic ability. There is a growing middle class in China, which is a heavy demand on – they can afford protein. We will see where that goes, but it is just kind of an interesting dynamic and we have been getting a number of calls, actually. That is really all I have to report, Mr. Chairman.

DR. LANEY: Mr. Chairman, I've just got a few items I'll mention. We still have different staff rotating into be acting regional directors for fisheries. Ricky Ingram is the one who is going to be rotating in next. I inquired as to when they thought that position may be filled with a permanent replacement for Linda Kelsey and they're thinking it may be April.

Some of you may be interested. The Service has released its new hatchery evaluation report at long last. If you want to see it and if you have comments on it, because comments are being solicited from partners, it is on our FWS Website. If you go to the website and go over to the left and go to the fish and aquatic conservation button and punch that, the report is the first thing that pops up. You can download it and all the appendices.

With regard to American eel, as far as ASMFC activity goes, we had a conference call yesterday – we being the stock assessment subcommittee and the technical committee – and the board has charged us with giving them an update at their February meeting. What we considered yesterday was how much information we could provide them in terms of updated landings and glass eel monitoring data.

The consensus from the technical committee was that we could do the glass eel but probably wouldn't be able to do the landings except maybe through 2012. We will be working on that and providing that information to the board. The Atlantic Sturgeon Stock Assessment Subcommittee and technical committee also met yesterday via conference call. We reviewed the terms of reference for the assessment and for the peer review.

The data call was issued to all of the states and the federal agencies. A tagging data workgroup was appointed. I have since contacted Dr. Joe Hightower and Dr. Ken Pollock, and both of them have indicated an interest in possibly serving on that tagging data workgroup, which would be great to snag those two gentlemen to work on that. We also discussed a genetic analysis of Atlantic sturgeon. There is interest in taking a second look at the DPS designations.

We will be working with NMFS to verify what tissues are in the Atlantic Sturgeon Data Repository in Charleston and making sure that all of those that are confirmed young of year or sexually mature adults from different watersheds have been analyzed, so we can get better genetic data on the stock structure there.

The last thing I'll mention is – I've talked to some of you about this already, but I inherited an additional duty which is to be the FERC Hydropower Coordinator for the whole region. My geographic scope will be expanding, but hopefully that will not occasion any changes with regard to my commission and council representation. At least I told them I didn't want to do that unless I could keep doing this. I haven't gotten any feedback to the effect that I can't continue to be the council representative, so hopefully I'll be seeing you for a good many years to come.

MR. HARTIG: Thanks, Wilson; doing more with less and I don't mean that in a bad way. Are there any questions for Wilson? Michelle.

DR. DUVAL: Just a couple of things of note; our Marine Fisheries Commission at their recent November meeting approved rules that would give our director proclamation authority for

sheepshead management within state waters, so those will be effective next April. We're moving along on that front.

I think I had mentioned previously we had some legislative changes specifically for the licensing structure for our for-hire industry in North Carolina. Those have been passed and approved; and one of the components of those changes was reporting via a logbook. Our staff is actually looking into electronic reporting and is actually working and has consulted with Ken Brennan at the Beaufort Lab to look at the headboat electronic reporting app that has been used there. We're hopeful that we can piggyback on what they've already done and potentially use that for our purposes for reporting.

The only other thing I'll mention is something that I had mentioned during I think the SEDAR Committee, but our staff is actually getting together next Tuesday to actually go over dependent and independent sampling regimes sort of at-large, looking at some of those very same questions that we were talking about like trying to balance sample size needed for models that are becoming more sophisticated with the resources and ability to actually collect those samples. Hopefully, that can feed into whatever we do on this.

MS. McCAWLEY: I only have a couple of things. First, I wanted to note that our commission took final action on blue runner; so we are poised to extend the regulations into federal waters when the secretary approves that modification. They took that action the week before Thanksgiving.

I also wanted to come back to the Lake Okeechobee letter that I said I was going to research and get back to folks on. I've talked to our legislative staff. I've mentioned in the past that there was a special committee formed by our legislature to look at Lake Okeechobee issues. That special committee has completed its charge.

After talking to our folks, I think that our letter might actually cause more harm than good and not necessarily be valuable or productive at this time. I would recommend that we hold that letter in our back pocket and maybe send it at a more appropriate time at this point. Thank you. That concludes my report.

MR. HARTIG: And we'll do that and thank you. Any questions for Jessica? Wilson.

DR. LANEY: Was that Lake Okeechobee, Jessica, or were we talking about Indian River Lagoon? It is all tied up together because of the water delivery system?

MS. McCAWLEY: The committee was looking at all of those things combined; you're right.

MR. HARTIG: Are there any other questions? Lt Fowler; nothing? Okay, Otha, you've been very vocal at this meeting; have you got anything else?

MR. EASLEY: I'm done. Thank you, nothing additional to report.

MR. HARTIG: Doug, anything from the Gulf?

MR. BOYD: No; just that we've got our upcoming meeting in February and hope to see you there. Thank you for hosting me.

MR. HAYMANS: Mr. Chairman, could I amend my agency report. We put out a 240-foot barge a couple of weeks ago with no fanfare. Zack is over here why aren't you mentioning the Hopper Barge. Because there was no fanfare, I forgot about it.

MR. BOWEN: And I said you can mention it but don't give the numbers.

MR. HAYMANS: And quite honestly that's the thing about a lot of our artificial reefs. It is nine miles offshore in fairly shallow water, which is where we've chosen to spend a lot of our SFR dollars so the guys can get to them. We do have three permitted deepwater reefs from 55 to 70 miles offshore with limited materials deployed on those, but no funds to take more materials that far out.

MR. BOWEN: And I was kidding about the numbers; those numbers are public; and we want our recreational fishermen fishing those artificial reefs.

MR. BELL: You should have the link now to the Deep Reef announcement. That would not have been possible without – that was a council initiative. It started 19 years before the amendment in 2009 that actually approved those eight sites. To those of you – and I especially recognize David here, because David actually goes back to the Artificial Reef Program when it was with the Wildlife Department.

So any of you that can make it that, great, but keep in mind it has sort of taken on a different life because of the funding that the Memorial Reef folks went out and raised almost half a million dollars on their own. That is kind of featured but underneath that; that site would not be there if it weren't for the work of the council over a long period of time. We really appreciate that and I think it will be beneficial for us in the long run to help demonstrate some concepts and things. Anyway, for all you that were around all those years, thank you, and here we are years later finally getting something done.

MR. HARTIG: And that's great and we continue to hear through our public hearing process and talking with people that the artificial reef idea is right there in the forefront of how they think we should proceed in the future to some degree; and adding more material some way in the future if we can find that and how to do that would be a good thing. That partnership is a really unique way to do it. Those types of models going forward will be something to really consider. Okay, other business and upcoming meetings. Is there any other business to come before the council? I don't see any. Bob.

MR. MAHOOD: Upcoming meetings; they're all listed on Page 52 of the followup. We're going to be in Savannah, Georgia, at the Hilton Savannah DeSoto in March of this coming year. Don't miss the cutoff date of making your room reservation on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. You've got plenty of time now. All the information is in the followup; and book early and get the best rooms.



Then the other one is Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, in June; Charleston in September; and then back in New Bern, North Carolina, in December. Mike is in the process of lining the other ones up for 2015. If you have any ideas for your state, let us know.

MR. HARTIG: Are there any questions on upcoming meetings? Seeing none; I'd like to thank everybody for their work this week. There was a lot to do, a lot of tough issues to deal with, controversial issues as well. I appreciate the efficiency of the reports today. We're getting out three hours early because of that. I'd certainly want to wish everyone Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year and enjoy the holidays. The South Atlantic Council Meeting is adjourned.

(Whereupon, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 o'clock a.m., December 6, 2013.)

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

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## **INDEX OF MOTIONS**

### **SNAPPER GROUPEL COMMITTEE MOTION REGULATORY AMENDMENT 17**

PAGE 4: Motion to take all alternatives to scoping in August and have the advisory panel receive the presentations and provide their recommendations to the council at the council's June 2014 meeting. Motion carried on Page 4.

### **REGULATORY AMENDMENT 16**

PAGE 4: Motion to approve Regulatory Amendment 16 for public scoping. Motion carried on Page 4.

### **AMENDMENT 32**

PAGE 4: Motion to direct staff to develop a regulatory amendment to modify the definition of MSST for blueline tilefish as well as any other appropriate snapper grouper species with similar low natural mortality and bring to the council for review and approval in March 2014. Motion carried on Page 4.

PAGE 4: Motion to accept the alternatives below as proposed by staff and give them latitude to add alternatives as needed. Motion carried on Page 4.

PAGE 5: Motion to add a management measure alternative to Amendment 32 that would set a commercial trip limit for blueline tilefish of 100 pounds from January to April and 2000 pounds from May onwards. When 80 percent of the ACL is caught, the trip limit would be reduced to 100 pounds. Motion carried on Page 5.

PAGE 5: Motion to request an emergency rule to implement the following ACLs for blueline tilefish and the remainder of the deepwater complex as shown below:

1. Blueline tilefish ACL = yield at 75 percent Fmsy = 224,100 pounds whole weight (source: SEDAR assessment)
2. Deepwater Complex ACL without blueline tilefish = 79,684 pounds whole weight.
3. It is the council's intent that these values be implemented as soon as possible in 2014 in order to prevent catches from exceeding these levels. Motion carried on Page 6.

### **AMENDMENT 29**

PAGE 7: Motion to approve the purpose and need. Motion carried on Page 8.

PAGE 8: Motion to approve restructuring of Actions 1 and 2 as suggested by the IPT. Motion carried on Page 8.

PAGE 8: Motion to select Alternative 2 under Action 1 as a preferred. Motion carried on Page 8.

PAGE 8: Motion to select Sub-Alternative 2B under Action 2 as a preferred. Motion carried on Page 8.

PAGE 8: Motion to select Sub-Alternative 3B under Action 2 as a preferred. Motion carried on Page 8.

PAGE 8: Motion to select Sub-Alternative 4A under Action 2 as a preferred. Motion carried on Page 8.

PAGE 8: Motion to remove hogfish from Action 2 in Amendment 29. Motion carried on Page 8.

PAGE 8: Motion to accept the IPT's recommended changes to the language of Action 3. Motion carried on Page 8.

PAGE 8: Motion to select Alternative 3 under new Action 3 as a preferred. Motion carried on Page 8.

PAGE 8: Motion to add Alternative 4 to set the minimum size limit for gray triggerfish at 14 inches fork length. Motion carried on Page 8.

PAGE 8: Motion to accept the IPT's recommendation to add Alternative 3 to new Action 4. Motion carried on Page 8.

PAGE 8: Motion to accept the IPT's recommendation to add Alternative 3 to new Action 5. Motion carried on Page 9.

PAGE 9: Motion to approve Amendment 29 for public hearings. Motion carried on Page 9.

## **COMPREHENSIVE ALLOCATIONS AND ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES AMENDMENT**

PAGE 9: Motion to delay public scoping for allocations for snapper grouper species until after visioning and until after the MPA discussions are completed; and to retain action on dolphin wahoo allocations and snapper grouper and golden crab accountability measures. Motion carried on Page 9.

PAGE 10: Motion to direct staff to include an action in the appropriate amendment to address the issue of transporting snapper grouper fillets from the Bahamas. Motion carried on Page 10.

PAGE 14: Motion that the council consider establishing a moratorium on the issuance of for-hire permits in the South Atlantic with a control date of September 2010. Motion was defeated on Page 14.

PAGE 15: Motion to accept the timing and tasks as outlined by staff. Motion carried on Page 15.

## **MACKEREL COMMITTEE MOTIONS**

### **AMENDMENT 20B**

PAGE 16: Under Action 1, motion to select Alternative 4, Option C, as the preferred and deselect Alternative 2, Option C, as the South Atlantic preferred. Motion carried on Page 16.

PAGE 16: Under Action 2, motion to deselect Alternative 2A as the South Atlantic preferred. Motion carried on Page 16.

PAGE 18: Motion to approve Amendment 20B for secretarial review. The council will deem the revised codified text as necessary and appropriate and give staff editorial license to make any necessary editorial changes to the document and codified text; and give the council chair authority to approve the revisions and redeem the codified text. Motion carried on Page 20.

### **SOUTH ATLANTIC SPANISH MACKEREL FRAMEWORK**

PAGE 20: Motion to approve the purpose and need as stated. Motion carried on Page 20.

PAGE 20: Motion to approve the language for Alternatives 1 and 2 and include as the alternatives under Action 1. Motion carried on Page 20.

PAGE 20: Motion to select Alternative 2 under Action 1 as the preferred. Motion carried on Page 20.

PAGE 20: Motion to approve the language for alternatives under Action 2. Motion carried on Page 20.

PAGE 20: Motion to approve the South Atlantic Spanish Mackerel Framework for public hearings; Motion carried on Page 20.

### **JOINT SOUTH ATLANTIC/GULF AMENDMENT 24**

PAGE 20: Motion to approve Amendment 24 Draft Document for scoping. Motion carried on Page 21.

### **JOINT SOUTH ATLANTIC/GULF AMENDMENT 26**

PAGE 21: Motion to approve Amendment 26 for scoping. Motion carried on Page 21.

### **OTHER MACKEREL COMMITTEE MOTIONS**

PAGE 21: Motion to cease work on Amendment 23. Motion carried on Page 21.

PAGE 21: Motion to adopt the timing and task items as presented: to prepare Joint Coastal Migratory Pelagic Amendment 20B for submission to the Secretary of Commerce; make the

necessary revisions to the Joint Framework Actions for public hearings in January 2014 and for the March 2014 meeting; prepare a scoping document and hold scoping meetings for Joint Coastal Migratory Pelagic Amendment 24; and prepare a broad scoping document and hold scoping meetings for Joint Coastal Migratory Pelagic Amendment 26. Motion carried on Page 21.

### **DOLPHIN WAHOO COMMITTEE MOTIONS**

PAGE 22: Motion to modify Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7 to allow dolphin wahoo fillets be brought into the U.S. EEZ consistent with Bahamian bag limits as long as the skin is on the fish; there are valid Bahamian cruising and fishing permits on board; and explore a hail-in or VMS provision. Motion carried on Page 22.

PAGE 22: Motion to set bag possession limits for dolphin and wahoo brought into the U.S. EEZ from the Bahamas to allow two fillets per fish for a maximum of 36 fillets or 18 fish intact or any combination. Motion carried on Page 22.

PAGE 23: Motion to send the Comprehensive Allocation Accountability Amendment to scoping. Motion carried on Page 23.

### **HABITAT AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND ECOSYSTEM-BASED MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES' MOTIONS**

PAGE 33: Motion to direct staff to map the coordinates submitted by Mike Merrifield that change latitude and longitude points: Option 1, Points 16 through 25; Option 2, Points 20 through 25; bring the new options to be reviewed by the council at the March meeting. Motion carried on Page 33.

PAGE 33: Motion to accept the Habitat and Environmental Protection AP's recommendations and move forward. Motion carried on Page 33.

PAGE 33: Motion to adopt the following timing and tasking motion: to develop GIS information for the council's review during the March 2014 council meeting. New GIS options relate to the northern extension of the Oculina Bank Habitat Area of Particular Concern and are based on coordinates provided by Mike Merrifield; and secondly direction to staff to update several council policy statements; staff will merge the estuarine and marine policy statements; work with the Habitat AP to expand the in-stream flow policy statement; and explore development of a new EFH policy statement. Motion carried on Page 34.

### **SEDAR COMMITTEE MOTIONS**

PAGE 35: Motion that the council support the SSC request to devote a workshop to assessment planning in 2014. Motion carried on Page 35.

PAGE 35: Motion to approve the Terms of Reference for the Gag Grouper Update. Motion carried on Page 35.

PAGE 35: Motion to add a term of reference to the SEDAR 41 Data Workshop to compare and contrast the life history traits between the Gulf and South Atlantic stocks; to add a term of reference to the SEDAR 41 Assessment Workshop to compare and contrast productivity measures and assessment assumptions between the Gulf and South Atlantic stocks; and add a term of reference to the SEDAR 41 Review Workshop to compare and contrast assessment uncertainties between Gulf and South Atlantic stocks. Motion carried on Page 35.

PAGE 35: Motion to approve the schedule and Terms of Reference for SEDAR 41. Motion carried on Page 35.

PAGE 35: Motion to convene a workshop to develop a Comprehensive Fishery-Dependent Sampling Program for the Snapper Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic. Motion carried on Page 35.

PAGE 36: Motion to accept the SEDAR 41 participants' list. Motion carried on Page 36.

PAGE 36: Motion to appoint Marcel Reichert to the SEDAR 41 Data and Assessment Workshops. Motion carried on Page 36.

#### **ADVISORY PANEL SELECTION COMMITTEE MOTIONS**

PAGE 36: Motion to accept staff recommendations for the Coral Advisory Panel composition. Motion carried on Page 36.

PAGE 36: Motion to have either the chair or the vice-chair of both the Golden Crab AP and Deepwater Shrimp AP serve on the Coral AP. Motion carried on Page 36.

PAGE 36: Motion to reappoint John Cramer to the Coral AP. Motion carried on Page 36.

PAGE 36: Motion to reappoint Dr. Patrick Halpin to the Habitat AP. Motion carried on Page 36.

PAGE 36: Motion to restructure the Georgia commercial seat on the Habitat AP as an at-large Georgia seat. Motion carried on Page 36.

PAGE 36: Motion to appoint Dr. Dustin Kemp to the Habitat AP, filling the at-large Georgia seat. Motion carried on Page 36.

PAGE 37: Motion to designate four state agency seats on the Information and Education AP. Motion carried on Page 37.

PAGE 37: Motion to reappoint Dr. John Dean and appoint Katie Latanich and Shelly Krueger to the Information and Education AP. Motion carried on Page 37.

PAGE 37: Motion to have the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Council Outreach Staff serve on the Information and Education AP; one staff member from each council, contingent upon each council covering the expenses for staff travel. Motion carried on Page 37.

PAGE 37: Motion to recommend the appointment of Captain Judy Helmey to the King and Spanish Mackerel AP. Motion carried on Page 37.

PAGE 37: Motion to appoint Nickey Maxey to the Law Enforcement AP. Motion carried on Page 37.

PAGE 37: Motion to appoint James Freeman to the Wreckfish Subpanel on the Snapper Grouper AP. Motion carried on Page 37.

PAGE 37: Motion to reappoint Jim Atack and Scott Osborne to the Snapper Grouper AP. Motion carried on Page 37.

PAGE 37: Motion to appoint Dave Snyder to the Snapper Grouper AP. Motion carried on Page 37.

PAGE 37: Motion to appoint David Moss to the Snapper Grouper AP. Motion carried on Page 37.

PAGE 38: Motion to appoint Jimmie Hull to the Snapper Grouper AP. Motion carried on Page 38.

PAGE 38: Motion to appoint David Heil to the SEDAR Pool. Motion carried on Page 38.

PAGE 38: Motion to direct staff to develop some options for apportioning seats on the Snapper Grouper AP by state and bring to the council at the June meeting. Motion carried on Page 39.

#### **EXECUTIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE MOTIONS**

PAGE 40: Motion to approve the Regional Operating Agreement as presented by staff. Motion carried on Page 41.

PAGE 41: Motion to approve the executive director's request to allow a one-time benefit for staff to have a financial planning consultation. Motion carried on Page 41.

PAGE 41: Motion to approve the list of council priorities as presented by staff. Motion carried on Page 42.

#### **DATA COLLECTION COMMITTEE MOTIONS**

PAGE 42: Motion that the councils' intent is to remove charterboats from the Marine Recreational Information Program Reporting System and have charterboats report catches electronically at a minimum of weekly as is being implemented for headboats. It is the councils'

intent that this information be updated on the Southeast Regional Office Website on some regular period. Motion carried on Page 42.

PAGE 43: Motion to direct staff to draft a letter from South Atlantic and Gulf Councils to the agencies and partners (MRIP, HMS, SEFSC, SERO, ACCSP AND ASMFC) requesting they appoint representatives prior to the South Atlantic Council's March 2014 meeting. Motion carried on Page 43.

PAGE 43: Motion to approve the timing and tasks as presented. Motion carried on Page 43.

#### **OTHER COUNCIL MOTIONS**

PAGE 43: Motion that the council recommend approval of the North Carolina Aquarium's EFP Request to the Regional Administrator. Motion carried on Page 44.



## FULL COUNCIL - ROLL CALL VOTE

Date: December 2013

Meeting Location: Wilmington, NC

Issue: Bluebonnet Tile Emergency Rule

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
HARTIG	✓		
DUVAL	✓		
BECKWITH	✓		
BELL	✓		
BOWEN	✓		
CONKLIN	✓		
COX	✓		
CRABTREE		✓	
CUPKA	✓		
HAYMANS	✓		
JOLLEY	✓		
MCCAWLEY	✓		
PHILLIPS	✓		

# FULL COUNCIL - ROLL CALL VOTE

Date: December 2013

Meeting Location: Wilmington, NC

Issue: MACKEREL AMENDMENT 20B AND CODIFIED TEXT

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
HARTIG	✓		
DUVAL	✓		
BECKWITH	✓		
BELL	✓		
BOWEN	✓		
CONKLIN	✓		
COX	✓		
CRABTREE	✓		
CUPKA	✓		
HAYMANS	✓		
JOLLEY	✓		
MCCAWLEY	✓		
PHILLIPS	✓		

# South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

## 2013 - 2014 Council Membership

### COUNCIL CHAIRMAN:

#### Ben Hartig

✓ 9277 Sharon Street  
Hobe Sound, FL 33455  
772/546-1541 (ph)  
mackattackben@att.net

### VICE-CHAIRMAN

#### Dr. Michelle Duval

✓ NC Division of Marine Fisheries  
3441 Arendell St.  
(PO Box 769)  
Morehead City, NC 28557  
252/808-8011 (ph); 252/726-0254 (f)  
michelle.duval@ncdenr.gov

#### Robert E. Beal

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

#### 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

#### Zack Bowen

✓ 11 Kingsridge Court  
Savannah, GA 31419  
912/398-3733 (ph)  
fishzack@comcast.net

#### Chris Conklin

✓ P.O. Box 972  
Murrells Inlet, SC 29576  
843/543-3833  
conklincc@gmail.com

#### Jack Cox

✓ 2010 Bridges Street  
Morehead City, NC 28557  
252/728-9548  
Dayboat1965@gmail.com

#### ~~Dr. Roy Crabtree~~ PHIL STEELE

✓ 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

#### David M. Cupka

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

#### LT Morgan Fowler

✓ U.S. Coast Guard  
510 SW 11<sup>th</sup> Court  
Fort Lauderdale FL 33315  
morgan.m.fowler@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

✓ 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

#### Charles Phillips

✓ Phillips Seafood / Sapelo Sea Farms  
1418 Sapelo Avenue, N.E.  
Townsend, GA 31331  
912/832-4423 (ph); 912/832-6228 (f)  
Ga\_capt@yahoo.com

DOUG BOYD  
OTHA EASLEY  
JACK MCGOVERN  
BONNIE POWWETH  
MONICA SMIT-BRUNELLO  
PRES PATE

# 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. Karl MacLauchlin  
karl.maclauchlin@safmc.net

### Staff Economist

✓ Dr. Brian Cheuvront  
brian.cheuvront@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

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.

# South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

## December 2013 Meeting

## Full Council Session:

**Friday, December 6, 2013**

<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>
Rusty Nicks STA EFS	386-239-0948	Ast72009@aol.com	32120-9351
Kenny Fee HP	910-630-1847	kensurf@earthlink.net	122 NE 35th St 32465
Liam Parr	843-819-8169	leam@parrots.org	PB 609 Chas SC 29402
Familia Helnick DEW			
J.P. BROOKER	OCEAN CONSERVANCY	727 286 0338	
Gretchen Wirth FDF			

# December 2013 SAFMC Meeting Public Comment

I am Chris McCaffity, a commercial fisherman and advocate for the responsible harvest of healthy fisheries. These are my public comments regarding the Visioning Project, Regulatory Amendment 17, and Amendments 22, 29, and 31. I would like to start with a Japanese proverb. "Vision without action is a dream and action without vision is a nightmare." The laws that were rushed to meet Congressional hard deadlines without a clear vision using "fatally flawed data" have resulted in a nightmare of wasted seafood, financial devastation, and even death. The Visioning Project provides a wonderful opportunity to rebuild confidence in the council process.

Managing a multi-species fisheries boils down to figuring out how much of each species can be harvested without overfishing, splitting each fish's Acceptable Biological Catch between sectors, and then managing individual quotas with appropriate possession limits so they are filled but not exceeded while avoiding total closures. Some seafood should have higher possession limits than others based on the amount of quota available. Fishermen could target fish with higher limits while still keeping most of what we catch with lower limits. Quotas should be managed to make discards rare while encouraging fishermen to release illegal seafood so it has the best chance of survival. We should also try to use every part of every kind of seafood we harvest and create markets for underutilized species. Once quotas are established and properly managed, we should look at ways to enhance habitat so it produces more seafood and recreational opportunities while protecting our renewable resources for future generations.

It is extremely sad how bad our commercial quotas are being mismanaged. Why is the council planning ahead to waste hundreds of tons of seafood every year rather than managing quotas with appropriate possession limits to avoid multiple extended closures and excessive discards? Stakeholders should be able to decide how we want our share of each species' quota to be managed with a 2/3 majority vote of participating permit holders. We did an exercise in the Marine Resource Education Program using Robert's Rules in a mock council vote. That vote was anything but thoughtful or deliberate. The most aggressive person dominated a rushed and chaotic process. We should think things through to find solutions that follow all MSA mandates including the ones to limit waste, make efficient use of our resources, and promote safety.

The Visioning Project should include ideas for working together on collecting better data to improve the confidence levels in new stock assessments. We should work on reducing the discard mortality rates used in stock assessments by promoting proper release techniques. We should be working together to enhance our fisheries by creating new artificial reef habitat in areas they will have the most benefit. We should work together toward what should be everyone's common goal of sustainable fisheries that are responsibly harvested with very little waste. We should learn from past mistakes while forming a positive vision for the future.

My comment on RA17 is that we should enhance existing Marine Protected Areas with appropriate artificial reef habitat rather than rushing to close more traditional fishing grounds based on "fatally flawed data". We should be releasing Warsaw Grouper and Speckled Hind suffering from barotrauma with decent assist devices to greatly improve survival rates. We should start a tagging program to collect much-needed data for credible stock assessments. Please listen to the elected officials and American citizens speaking out against RA17's MPAs.

My comment for Amendment 22 is that we should focus on drastically reducing the amount of our quotas that are allocated to dead discards every year by reducing regulatory discards and improving survival rates for what must be discarded. The council should also consider a tagging program for released fish to collect better data about abundance, distribution, and mortality.

My comment for Amendment 29 is that Gray Triggerfish should not have a size limit and the quota should be managed with split seasons that open with Vermilion Snapper. Appropriate possession limits should be used to avoid extended closures and excessive regulatory discards. Quotas for data poor stocks should be set at an average of the last ten years landings.

Here is an example of how the existing commercial Gray Triggerfish quota could be managed so it is filled without long closures.

Split the annual Gray Triggerfish quota into two seasonal quotas that align with Vermilion Snapper. Each season should start with a 500 pound possession limit until 75% of the quota has been landed. The final 25% of each seasonal quota should be used for a 100 pound by-catch allowance to avoid total closures and unnecessary discards. Any overages should be deducted from the next season and any leftover quota should carry over. This management plan should be applied to almost every quota in a multi-species fishery. The lower by-catch allowances will make it much easier to avoid overages while providing consumers with a dependable supply of fresh local seafood. The primary possession limit should increase as this stock quickly rebuilds. I want to stress that reduced possession limits for the final 25% of a quota should be considered as by-catch allowances that are intended to avoid total closures and regulatory discards. The reductions are not intended to continue a targeted fishery. By-catch allowances could also be used during spawning seasons to limit waste while protecting spawning aggregations. This solution would also limit gaps and uncertainty in stock assessment data.

My comment for Amendment 31 is that Blueline Tilefish should have a quota separate from the deepwater complex and be managed with appropriate possession limits to avoid total closures.

I would like to close by asking the council to make reducing regulatory discards and discard mortality rates as well as collecting better data top priorities for the Visioning Project.

Thank you for considering my comments. Anyone have any questions? [freefish7@hotmail.com](mailto:freefish7@hotmail.com)



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201  
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

## PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

### Council Meeting - Public Comment

Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7, Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 20B

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE) <b>Wilmington, NC</b>	DATE OF MEETING <b>December 5, 2013</b>
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT) <b>Susan Shipman</b>	TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE) <b>912-222-9206</b>
MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE) <b>920 Rose Cottage Rd. 581 GA 31522</b>	
EMAIL ADDRESS <b>susan.shipman@att.net</b>	
BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)	
CHECK IF YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT <input type="checkbox"/> Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Migratory Pelagics (Mackerel) Amendment 20B <input type="checkbox"/> Other	

*you don't want me to get me started :)*



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201  
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

## PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

### Council Meeting - Public Comment

Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7, Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 20B

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE) <b>Wilmington, NC</b>	DATE OF MEETING <b>December 5, 2013</b>
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT) <b>LIAM CARR</b>	TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE) <b>843-819-8169</b>
MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE) <b>P.O. Box 609 CHAS. SC 29402</b>	
EMAIL ADDRESS <b>lcarr@pewtrusts.org</b>	
BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE) <b>The Pew Charitable Trusts</b>	
CHECK IF YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT <input type="checkbox"/> Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Migratory Pelagics (Mackerel) Amendment 20B <input type="checkbox"/> Other	





SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201  
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

## PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

### Council Meeting - Public Comment

Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7, Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 20B

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)

Wilmington, NC

DATE OF MEETING

December 5, 2013

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

JON PAUL BROOKER

TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)

727 286 0338

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

449 CENTRAL AVE S. ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33701

EMAIL ADDRESS

jbrooker@oceanconservancy.org

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

OCEAN CONSERVANCY

CHECK IF YOU WISH  
TO MAKE A  
STATEMENT

☐

Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7

☐

Coastal Migratory Pelagics (Mackerel) Amendment 20B

☐

Other

NO



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201  
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

## PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

### Council Meeting - Public Comment

Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7, Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 20B

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)

Wilmington, NC

DATE OF MEETING

December 5, 2013

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

Erin Helnick

TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)

561 703 3977

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

P 8522 Jupiter FL 33458

EMAIL ADDRESS

ehelnick@pentrusts.org

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Pentrusts

CHECK IF YOU WISH  
TO MAKE A  
STATEMENT

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Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7

☐

Coastal Migratory Pelagics (Mackerel) Amendment 20B

☐

Other



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201  
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

## PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

### Council Meeting - Public Comment

Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7, Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 20B

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)

Wilmington, NC

DATE OF MEETING

December 5, 2013

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

Rusty Hudson

TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)

386-239-0948

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

PO Box 9351 Daytona Beach, FL 32120-9351

EMAIL ADDRESS

DSF2009@aol.com

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

SFA ECFS

CHECK IF YOU WISH  
TO MAKE A  
STATEMENT



Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7



Coastal Migratory Pelagics (Mackerel) Amendment 20B



Other



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201  
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

## PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

### Council Meeting - Public Comment

Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7, Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 20B

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)

Wilmington, NC

DATE OF MEETING

December 5, 2013

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

Charles Wilson

TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)

843 670-5028

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

P.O. Box 12561 Charleston S.C.

EMAIL ADDRESS

thecline@yahoo.com

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Freedom to fish and eat/live healthy

CHECK IF YOU WISH  
TO MAKE A  
STATEMENT



Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7



Coastal Migratory Pelagics (Mackerel) Amendment 20B



Other



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201  
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

## PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

### Council Meeting - Public Comment

Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7, Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 20B

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)

Wilmington, NC

DATE OF MEETING

December 5, 2013

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

Leda Dunmire

TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

114 Bee St Tavernier FL 33070

EMAIL ADDRESS

LDunmire@pewtrusts.org

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

The Pew Charitable Trusts

CHECK IF YOU WISH  
TO MAKE A  
STATEMENT

☐

Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7

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Coastal Migratory Pelagics (Mackerel) Amendment 20B

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Other



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201  
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

## PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

### Council Meeting - Public Comment

Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7, Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 20B

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)

Wilmington, NC

DATE OF MEETING

December 5, 2013

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

Kenny Fed AP member

TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

EMAIL ADDRESS

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

CHECK IF YOU WISH  
TO MAKE A  
STATEMENT

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Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7

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Coastal Migratory Pelagics (Mackerel) Amendment 20B

☒

Other



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201  
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

## PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

### Council Meeting - Public Comment

Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7, Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 20B

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)

Wilmington, NC

DATE OF MEETING

December 5, 2013

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

Harry Austin

TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

216 Coos Creek Rd

EMAIL ADDRESS

h.austin@nc.gov

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Fish

CHECK IF YOU WISH  
TO MAKE A  
STATEMENT

☐

Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7

☐

Coastal Migratory Pelagics (Mackerel) Amendment 20B

☒

Other



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201  
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

## PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

### Council Meeting - Public Comment

Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7, Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 20B

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)

Wilmington, NC

DATE OF MEETING

December 5, 2013

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

DICK BRAME

TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

EMAIL ADDRESS

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

CHECK IF YOU WISH  
TO MAKE A  
STATEMENT

☐

Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7

☐

Coastal Migratory Pelagics (Mackerel) Amendment 20B

☒

Other



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201  
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

## PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

### Council Meeting - Public Comment

Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7, Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 20B

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)

Wilmington, NC

DATE OF MEETING

December 5, 2013

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

Mark Speak

TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

441 Memorial Ave Sebastian FL 32958

EMAIL ADDRESS

CoyoteSeafood@gmail.com

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

CHECK IF YOU WISH  
TO MAKE A  
STATEMENT

☐

Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7

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Coastal Migratory Pelagics (Mackerel) Amendment 20B

☐

Other



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201  
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

## PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

### Council Meeting - Public Comment

Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7, Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 20B

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)

Wilmington, NC

DATE OF MEETING

December 5, 2013

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

JACK R ROBINSON

TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

8140 134th Street Sebastian FL 32958

EMAIL ADDRESS

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

CHECK IF YOU WISH  
TO MAKE A  
STATEMENT

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Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7

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Coastal Migratory Pelagics (Mackerel) Amendment 20B

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Other



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NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

## PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

### Council Meeting - Public Comment

Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7, Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 20B

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)

Wilmington, NC

DATE OF MEETING

December 5, 2013

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

Tom Swartzel

TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)

843-879-8585

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

PO Box 2398, Murrells Inlet, SC 29576

EMAIL ADDRESS

tom@sustainablefishing.org

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Council for Sustainable Fishing

CHECK IF YOU WISH  
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STATEMENT

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Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7

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Coastal Migratory Pelagics (Mackerel) Amendment 20B

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Other



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201  
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

## PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

### Council Meeting - Public Comment

Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7, Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 20B

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)

Wilmington, NC

DATE OF MEETING

December 5, 2013

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

Wayne Mershon

TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)

843-879-8585

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

P.O. Box 2398 Murrells Inlet, SC 29576

EMAIL ADDRESS

wayne@sustainablefishing.org

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Council for Sustainable Fishing

CHECK IF YOU WISH  
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Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7

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Coastal Migratory Pelagics (Mackerel) Amendment 20B

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Other



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201  
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

## PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

### Council Meeting - Public Comment

Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7, Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 20B

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)

Wilmington, NC

DATE OF MEETING

December 5, 2013

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

CAPT BILL KELLY

TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

POB 501404 MALATHON FL 33050

EMAIL ADDRESS

FRCCFA1@HOTMAIL.COM

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

FL KEYS COMM. FISHERMEN'S ASSOC

CHECK IF YOU WISH  
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Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7

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Coastal Migratory Pelagics (Mackerel) Amendment 20B

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Other LAW ENFORCEMENT



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201  
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

## PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

### Council Meeting - Public Comment

Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7, Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 20B

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)

Wilmington, NC

DATE OF MEETING

December 5, 2013

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

CHRIS MCCAFFEY

TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)

252-269-9817

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

110 SPOLEN ST. MOREHEAD CITY NC 28557

EMAIL ADDRESS

FRYEFISH7@HOTMAIL.COM

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

CHECK IF YOU WISH  
TO MAKE A  
STATEMENT

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Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7

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Coastal Migratory Pelagics (Mackerel) Amendment 20B

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Other

70	Takade-Heunacher, ...	<a href="mailto:htakade@edf.org">htakade@edf.org</a>	7 min
59	Mehta, Nikhil	<a href="mailto:nikhil.mehta@noaa.gov">nikhil.mehta@noaa.gov</a>	215 min
55	Merrifield, Mike	<a href="mailto:mikem@wildoceanmarket.com...">mikem@wildoceanmarket.com...</a>	130 min
48	holiman, stephen	<a href="mailto:stephen.holiman@noaa.gov">stephen.holiman@noaa.gov</a>	233 min
45	bruzzio, taylor	<a href="mailto:teaball@comcast.net">teaball@comcast.net</a>	67 min
39	Lloyd, Vic	<a href="mailto:vic_lloyd@bellsouth.net">vic_lloyd@bellsouth.net</a>	13 min
37	Gerhart, Susan	<a href="mailto:susan.gerhart@noaa.gov">susan.gerhart@noaa.gov</a>	149 min
36	DeVictor, Rick	<a href="mailto:rick.devictor@noaa.gov">rick.devictor@noaa.gov</a>	237 min
35	Bademan, Martha	<a href="mailto:martha.bademan@myfwc.com">martha.bademan@myfwc.com</a>	210 min
34	Eich, Anne	<a href="mailto:annemarie.eich@noaa.gov">annemarie.eich@noaa.gov</a>	222 min
33	Baker, Scott	<a href="mailto:bakers@uncw.edu">bakers@uncw.edu</a>	187 min
32	pugliese, roger	<a href="mailto:roger.pugliese@safmc.net">roger.pugliese@safmc.net</a>	157 min
30	Bresnen, Anthony	<a href="mailto:anthony.bresnen@myfwc.com...">anthony.bresnen@myfwc.com...</a>	191 min
28	sandorf, scott	<a href="mailto:scott.sandorf@noaa.gov">scott.sandorf@noaa.gov</a>	160 min
28	Helies, Frank	<a href="mailto:fchelies@verizon.net">fchelies@verizon.net</a>	160 min
27	Byrd, Julia	<a href="mailto:julia.byrd@safmc.net">julia.byrd@safmc.net</a>	404 min
27	Gore, Karla	<a href="mailto:karla.gore@noaa.gov">karla.gore@noaa.gov</a>	144 min
27	Package-Ward, Chri...	<a href="mailto:christina.package-ward@no...">christina.package-ward@no...</a>	141 min
27	Clemens, Anik	<a href="mailto:anik.clemens@noaa.gov">anik.clemens@noaa.gov</a>	122 min
26	Stump, Ken	<a href="mailto:magpiewdc@gmail.com">magpiewdc@gmail.com</a>	66 min
20	L, I	<a href="mailto:captaindrifter@bellsouth...">captaindrifter@bellsouth...</a>	99 min