

# **SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

## **FULL COUNCIL SESSION**

**Doubletree by Hilton New Bern/Riverfront  
New Bern, NC**

**December 5, 2014**

### **SUMMARY MINUTES**

#### **Council Members:**

Ben Hartig, Chair  
Mel Bell  
Dr. Roy Crabtree  
Jessica McCawley  
Chris Conklin  
Doug Haymans  
Dr. Wilson Laney

Dr. Michelle Duval, Vice-Chair  
Jack Cox  
Anna Beckwith  
Charlie Phillips  
Chester Brewer  
Mark Brown  
Zack Bowen

#### **Council Staff:**

Bob Mahood  
Mike Collins  
Dr. Kari MacLauchlin  
Kim Iverson  
Julie O'Dell  
Dr. Brian Chevront

Gregg Waugh  
John Carmichael  
Chip Collier  
Dr. Mike Errigo  
Myra Brouwer  
Amber Von Harten

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

Monica Smit-Brunello  
Dr. Bonnie Ponwith  
Pres Pate  
Tracy Dunn

Phil Steele  
Kevin Anson  
Dr. Jack McGovern  
Rama Shuster

Additional Observers Attached

The Full Council Session of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council convened in the Grand Ballroom of the Doubletree by Hilton New Bern/Riverfront, New Bern, North Carolina, December 5, 2014, and was called to order at 8:30 o'clock a.m. by Chairman Ben Hartig.

MR. HARTIG: I would like to call the order the council meeting today. The first item of business is adoption of the agenda. I know we have one change. Roy had asked that we move the Dolphin and Wahoo Joint Committee Discussion behind Snapper Grouper. I have talked to Anna and she is willing to do that, so we will do that.

Are there any other changes to the agenda? Seeing none; the agenda is approved. The next item of business is approval of the September 2014 Minutes. Are there any additions, corrections or changes to the minutes? Seeing none; the minutes are approved. That brings us to the Snapper Grouper Report, Dr. Michelle Duval.

DR. DUVAL: The Snapper Grouper Committee met on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in New Bern, North Carolina. We went through our usual status of landings, status of amendments. I would refer you to the Visioning Blueprint Summary Report for a discussion of visioning. We also received a Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel Report from Mr. Jim Atack and our Scientific and Statistical Committee Report from Marcel Reichert.

Then we got into the business of the committee beginning with Regulatory Amendment 16, dealing with the black sea bass pot closure. We received presentations from Dr. Mike Errigo, Barb Zoodsma, Bob Hoffman and Dr. Nick Farmer. Then Dr. Brian Chevront gave an overview of the decision document; and we still have a little bit of unfinished business here.

The committee made the following motions. The first one was to modify the need. That motion was withdrawn. **The next motion was to modify the need as follows: The need for the amendment is to minimize socio-economic impacts to black sea bass pot endorsement holders while considering the need to protect ESA-listed whales in the South Atlantic Region. There was a substitute to make this motion the main motion. That was approved by the committee; and on behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Roy.**

DR. CRABTREE: I would just recommend that generally speaking, when it comes to talking about economic impacts, you would be wise to avoid words like "minimize" and "maximize". The implications of minimize impacts to pot holders here seems to imply to me that you would eliminate the hook-and-line fishery because you would minimize the economic impacts to them if you let them catch the whole fishery; but I know that is not what your intent is.

I don't think you really intend to minimize. I think what you're trying to do here is increase socio-economic benefits, which is where you started. At any rate, I think when you use words like "minimize" and "maximize", often that is not really what you're trying to do.

DR. DUVAL: Any other comments or thoughts on the purpose and need? Any other discussion? **Is there any objection to that motion? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.** Then this substitute motion became the main motion; so on behalf of the committee,

I offer this as the main motion. Any further discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.

**The next motion was to accept the IPT's wording for Alternative 8 and Subalternatives 8A and 8B; 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 a new Alternative 9; 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 new Action 2, gear modification; and on behalf of the committee I so move. Is there discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.**

Now here is where we come to the sort of unfinished business. I know there was some discussion that we would want to add language to Alternative 3 under new Action 2 with regard to line-marking requirements. I'm actually going to ask Mr. Bell if he would like to address that.

MR. BELL: Yes; did you get what I sent you? We've got wording if you want to go through that or I can just explain what the concept was if that would work.

DR. DUVAL: Why don't you explain the concept and we'll get that on the record.

MR. BELL: The idea here was that we've had a lot of discussion about there has never been a documented occurrence of a sea bass trap and a whale; but there has been line – and the lines up until this point, there has been no marking requirements; so now we have these new marking requirements that are imposed based on the large whale take reduction plan; but the marking requirements do not distinguish specific fisheries.

My suggestion was that we can take the requirements of the large whale take reduction plan marking and simply add a distinguishing feature to it. All I was looking to do was there is a requirement for a 12-inch color band at the top, the middle and the bottom of the line; so just taking whatever they require for wherever you happen to be fishing; simply to the middle of that 12-inch color band add – and I decided a two-inch black band.

You'd have like, for instance, off of North Carolina they use orange, so orange is their color. There is a 12-inch orange band. In the middle of that 12-inch orange you just add a little two-inch black band to indicate that is a black sea bass pot. You'd use the same concept for wherever you were. That would allow us to determine – because one of my concerns is that the crabbers off of a particular area that would be fishing in federal waters would be using the same color band as the black sea bass traps; and you can't distinguish between the two.

Doug has brought up that with the requirements in place now for the crabbers; that they won't be fishing out there so much, but I think at least off of South Carolina there is still some interest in doing that, and they probably are doing it right now and will continue to do it particularly as the price of crabs is record high.

This would enable us to distinguish if there were ever a gear interaction with a crab pot or any other kind of gear, we'd be able to tell if it was or wasn't a black sea bass pot. That was the concept there. I've put some wording together to describe that, but that is as simple as I was looking to do was to just make this a distinguishable feature that would indicate that the gear is from the black sea bass trap fishery.

DR. DUVAL: Right, and, Mel, you got some response to what you put together for a black piece of tape; that this might not work just due to the type of tape and a different color would probably work better.

MR. BELL: Yes; and that is because that is the way Tom does that with flagging tape. The large whale take reduction plan doesn't care how you make the color, so you can use paint, you can use tape, you can use twine. Tom uses tape. When I went with black, he uses surveyor's tape and weaves it in the weave of the line.

There probably isn't black surveyor's tape I think is what he was saying. We had originally thought about white, but the plan allows for the use of white for other things, so white would be confusing. I don't know if that is a show stopper on black if we wanted to leave the color sort of open or something.

Because of the color selections they already use, there is not a lot of options as to how detailed we need to be. Tom was just concerned about since he uses flagging tape, surveyor's tape, they don't make black. I don't know if they do or not, but you could also just use any other material that would go through a pot hauler is what you want.

MR. COX: Mel, did you get Tom's e-mail he sent about 30 minutes ago? He had been talking with somebody up in the northeast office; and he is recommending that we go with an orange and yellow if we're going to add any colors or talk about colors at this point.

DR. DUVAL: That's what we were just talking about.

MR. BELL: The problem with that is they already use orange; so orange on orange isn't going to – you guys have to use orange. I think we use orange and blue, so that's why I stayed away from colors they were already using. I wanted it to be distinguishable. White was real distinguishable, but they also allow some white in there. I don't want to get us bogged down in color selection or something; but at this point does it need to be – do we need to be really, really specific on the exact color where we are right now for this to go forward.

DR. DUVAL: I think Myra is trying to get some words up on the board, but I think just adding – I don't think it would need to be a new action. It could just be an alternative underneath existing action for gear modification; so it would just be new Alternative 3 as opposed to new action to establish marking requirements.

While Myra and Brian are working to get the language of this alternative that would add to the existing gear-marking requirements, we could probably leave it open as to exactly what color

would work. I understand your point, Mel, that black would be a good alternative there, but maybe we don't have to be that specific at this point. Zack.

MR. BOWEN: Madam Chair, can you repeat why there is some hesitance with using black? The reason I'm asking is because I use black electrical tape on my anchor rope when I anchor. I do it in fifty feet or a hundred feet distances so I can tell how much scope I have out. There is pieces of tape I've had on my anchor rope for several, several years that I have not had to retape. It seems to hold up well on my anchor rope; and I didn't hear why there was some skepticism over using black.

DR. DUVAL: Because just wrapping a piece of tape around the line; it would get kind of chewed up in the pot hauler so that's why. They weave their tape in amongst the line and use surveyor's tape; and so as Mel was explaining, the guys weave that tape marking in between the line – in the weaving of the line as opposed to just wrapping a piece of something around there that is going to get chewed up in a pot hauler. It is not really about the color. It is about the color that is available in surveyor's tape; but there could be other options. That's why the color itself isn't necessarily that important but just having another distinguishing mark on top of the existing requirement.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: I was just going to agree with you that I don't know that you need to get into exact colors; but if you give the public a good idea of what you're after, I would assume you'd get quite a bit of comment back from the endorsement holders as to what they think would work or whether it wouldn't work or any other suggestions they might have.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Mel, in the language that we've got, towards the end you can see up there on the screen, is says a two-inch wide – it was black and then there was yellow highlighted band – could we just substitute black/yellow for just colored?

MR. BELL: Yes.

DR. CHEUVRONT: And then leave it at that; and this now matches everything that you sent in the e-mail to Michelle earlier with that one change. If this is the motion that you want to make for Alternative 3, to substitute what is currently in Alternative 3 for this new Action 2, then this is maybe the motion that you want to make.

MR. BELL: Yes; color would be fine as long as we can make – at some point we're going to have to say this is the color that needs to be used.

DR. DUVAL: Okay, Mel, would like to make that as a motion to substitute Alternative 3 under Action 2? I can read the motion; I just need someone to make it.

MR. BELL: All right, let me try. I would like to make the following motion – and are you going to read then the motion and we do it that way?

DR. DUVAL: Yes.

**MR. BELL:** Okay, so I move that – well, I would like to make the following motion as read by Dr. Duval.

**DR. DUVAL:** Which would be to substitute Alternative 3 under Action 2 with the language below, which reads, “Existing trap/buoy line-marking requirements established in the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan will be supplemented to include a distinguishing feature specifically linked to the South Atlantic Black Sea Bass Pot Fishery. In addition to the three 12-inch color marks at the top, midway and bottom sections of the buoy line specified for the individual management area in which the gear is deployed, a two-inch wide colored band will be added at the center of each required 12-inch colored mark.” Is there a second? Second by Zack. Discussion? Doug.

MR. HAYMANS: So that then turns their 12-inch requirement into two eight-inch requirements; and so I don’t think putting a two-inch in the middle of their 12-inch band is what we want to do. Really, this whole gear-marking idea is a very deliberative process of the TRT; and for us to do it in a hurry – and I realize we’re going to public comment, but I’m not real comfortable with doing it in a hurry.

MR. BELL: It just seemed the least intrusive way and you still have your original markings as required by the plan. You’ve just added this little feature to the middle. I was trying to keep what they had intact and simply supplement it with this additional little mark.

DR. DUVAL: The take reduction team is meeting in January, Doug; and I’m not certain, but I believe maybe Kari MacLauchlin is going to be attending so I think she might be able to explain and have the team discuss this particular alternative. It might be helpful. I agree with you; I think these things definitely should go through the take reduction team process, but I think this entire closure should have gone through the take reduction team process. Any other discussion on adding this alternative? **Is there any objection to this motion? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.** I understand that there are a couple extra alternatives under Action 1 that Florida would like to add. Jessica.

MS. McCRAWLEY: I provided those motion to Brian to put up on the board.

DR. DUVAL: And these are hybrid alternatives to – I think one is a combination of Alternative 4 and Alternative 6 and another is a combination of Alternative 6 and Alternative 8.

MS. McCRAWLEY: Right; the first one that you see that we have labeled as Alternative 10 is going to be a hybrid of six and eight; and then the second alternative is going to be a hybrid of six and four.

DR. DUVAL: Mike Collins, I am going to ask if you can forward this language to council members so that they can read this on their screens since it is pretty much impossible to read that. While we’re waiting for that to go through, new Alternative 10 being proposed, which is a hybrid of six and eight, would basically apply the black sea bass pot closure inshore of the points that are listed for Alternative 6, which are based on calving right whale habitat modeling work;

so off North and South Carolina, the sea bass pot closure would apply in the EEZ in waters shallower than 25 meters. What is missing from there is the date of the closure.

MS. McCRAWLEY: Correct.

DR. DUVAL: Mike just sent that around so folks should have that to take a look at. Jessica, did you have thoughts on a time frame because that is necessary for analysis; and was the intent for this closure to be consistently applied throughout the range? Was that the idea, because in Alternative 8 we have sort of a broken up – we have 8A and 8B where the closure is applied from November 15<sup>th</sup> through April 15<sup>th</sup> in the existing right whale habitat designated area off Florida and Georgia; and off the Carolinas the closure is applied from November 1<sup>st</sup> through December 15<sup>th</sup> and then March 15<sup>th</sup> through April 30<sup>th</sup>; so it is split up there.

MS. McCRAWLEY: I had staff work on this. I believe that the intent is to do it at the same time throughout the region. I was also going to mention that in Alternative 11 the depth would vary between 20 meters to 25 meters.

DR. DUVAL: So just give me a nod if folks are looking at this right now just so I know that people got it. I guess I ask a question about the depths just because of the way Alternative 6 in the existing document is phrased where it says that this is based on the Center for Biological Diversity Petition.

Based on calving right whale habitat modeling work off the coast of North and South Carolina, the closure extends from the coastline to 30 nautical miles offshore. I think it is easier to be consistent in terms of depth contours if that is what we're going to use throughout the alternatives. So for Alternative 11, you were saying that the depth would be between 20 and 25 meters offshore or was that Alternative 10?

MS. McCRAWLEY: That was eleven. The other thing I was going to mention was that the maps in the document and maps in the presentation have different depth contour lines that makes the comparison between the different alternatives difficult. In the document, it doesn't display those stat areas that we saw in the presentation; so that kind of compounds the ability to try to compare the alternatives. If there was some way in the document to display the alternatives with the same scale, with the same depth contours and add the stat areas; that would make the comparison between the alternatives easier.

DR. CHEUVRONT: I believe in Nick Farmer's paper he actually does that with those bins that he had set up by the grid squares for the different alternatives and what percentage of landings and all occurred in each one of those things. It is rather convoluted to read. The data I believe are there; and he could probably add this. We can talk to him about figuring out a way – I think his paper is going to end up as an appendix to the document; but that could probably be added somehow to the main document if that would be helpful.

MS. McCRAWLEY: Yes; I was talking about like an overlay on top of the map so that you could see the areas as well as the contour lines, if that was possible, but maybe that is not possible.

DR. CHEUVRONT: That probably is possible. We will talk to him. I think SERO is the one who developed those maps; is that right? Yes; SERO developed those maps; so we can talk to Nick, and I'm sure he can arrange to have that done.

DR. DUVAL: I think the point is that we just need some accurate maps if this is going to go out for public hearing that people can actually find informative in terms of providing their input.

MS. McCAWLEY: Right; and the fact that the comparison – because there was good information in the PowerPoint presentations that we saw, but it was difficult to look at the document and process exactly where those grid areas were because they weren't overlaid on top of the same maps with the contour lines. That might help the public as well.

DR. DUVAL: Okay. What we need to discuss is a time frame for the closure as proposed in these new alternatives before we actually get a motion to add them.

MS. McCAWLEY: Madam Chair, do you want me to throw out a time period?

DR. DUVAL: That would be great.

MS. McCAWLEY: How about November 1<sup>st</sup> through April 15<sup>th</sup>?

DR. DUVAL: For both alternatives or just Alternative 10 or just Alternative 11?

MS. McCAWLEY: I think for both.

MR. COX: I know that we had done a lot of discussion on November 1<sup>st</sup> through December 15<sup>th</sup> and February 15<sup>th</sup> through April 30<sup>th</sup>. That is something I think would be important to make sure we consider.

DR. DUVAL: So, Jack, would you be looking to potentially split the time frame similar to what is in Alternative 8B?

MR. COX: Yes; that is the intent.

MS. McCAWLEY: Could we have options underneath the alternative for a couple of different time periods for the area that we're considering?

DR. DUVAL: So that would be a subalternative under each of these similar to what is in 8A and 8B?

DR. CHEUVRONT: I think what you could do is you could take that last sentence, "This closure applies annually", and make that the subalternatives and change your dates for each of these sentences, however you wanted it to be; if you wanted it to apply only to certain areas or change – you know, however you wanted to work it out; and that would be your subalternatives for each of those alternatives.



MS. McCAWLEY: That sounds great.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Now, how did you want those closures laid out, then, time-wise and for what areas?

DR. DUVAL: I think I'm hearing from Jack that he'd like to see it split similar to Subalternative 8B where for the area off North and South Carolina the closure would apply annually from November 1<sup>st</sup> through December 15<sup>th</sup> and March 15<sup>th</sup> through April 30<sup>th</sup>, or February 15<sup>th</sup> – I mean, pick your time period. Then for the area off Georgia and Florida it would apply annually from November 15<sup>th</sup> through April 15<sup>th</sup> or November 1<sup>st</sup> through April 15<sup>th</sup>, whatever you want.

MR. COX: That's correct.

DR. DUVAL: Jack, can you please take a look at this and make sure that this Subalternative 10B reflects what you were referring to; that for the area off North Carolina and South Carolina the black sea bass pot closure applies annually from November 1<sup>st</sup> through December 15<sup>th</sup> and February 15<sup>th</sup> through April 30<sup>th</sup>.

DR. CHEUVRONT: And look at 10A as well to make sure that is correct.

DR. DUVAL: Right; and look at 10A as well in terms of the time frames. Gregg.

MR. WAUGH: Just to keep in mind when we were talking about this in the committee, we raised the concern that as you add alternatives the analysis is going to have to be redone. As you remember from Bob's presentation, the backlog in PR is hundreds of applications. We have a commitment from them now to provide their biological impact analysis prior to the Christmas holidays for the existing alternatives.

We have a lot of flexibility when we take a document out to public hearing; and as long as you're bracketing existing alternatives, we can make qualitative analyses of the impacts; but the DEIS would not be able to be completed until Nick reruns his model with all of these analysis and then PR completes their biological impact analysis. I don't see this impacting our public hearing schedule, but it will definitely delay the DEIS completion. I would just urge that caution as we continue to add alternatives.

DR. DUVAL: I appreciate that, Gregg. Jessica.

MS. McCAWLEY: I believe our intent in 10A would be a closure with no gap in between.

DR. DUVAL: For the entire area?

MS. McCAWLEY: Yes.

DR. DUVAL: I think what you're hearing from some folks is that they would like to see a gap somewhere in the Carolinas.

MS. McCAWLEY: It is in B; isn't it?

DR. DUVAL: Yes; you're right. I have to say I'm not seeing much difference between Alternative 10 and Alternative 11, especially if Alternative 11 is just applying between 20 and 25 meters offshore and Alternative 10 is inshore of 25 meters off Florida and Georgia. I mean, they're both based on the calving right whale habitat modeling work. I'm just not sure that it is adding anything to add Alternative 11. Jessica.

MS. McCAWLEY: Okay, first, I can't see 10; but I was hoping that the closure was through April 15<sup>th</sup> and not the 30<sup>th</sup> in 10A; November 1<sup>st</sup> through April 15<sup>th</sup>. If I look at these maps correctly, I believe that what we're doing is we're capturing a further southern area in Florida; so basically we're moving down to Cape Canaveral. I think the alternative you're talking about; I think they are different. Okay, staff is telling me that the depth off of Florida and Georgia is consistent, but the area off North Carolina and South Carolina does vary between the alternatives.

DR. DUVAL: But I'm saying I don't think it is by a whole lot more than what you're getting with Alternative 9 that is already in there. If it is between 20 and 25 meters and Alternative 9 –

MS. McCAWLEY: So Alternative 9 closes more area off Florida than 10 and 11 does.

DR. DUVAL: Are you sure, because it looks to me like the calving habitat expands the area off Florida.

MS. McCAWLEY: I'm going by what staff is telling me. I personally am having difficulty comparing with these maps; so it is very difficult for me.

DR. DUVAL: If folks can look at the report, Alternative 9 is just a modification of Alternative 8 and off Georgia and Florida it is the existing right whale critical – the existing right whale designated critical habitat area; so I believe in Florida that is a little bit shallower than the model calving area, but I could be wrong, just based on the maps in the document that we have right now. I'm just trying to find a way to cut down on alternatives if we don't need them, if there is very little difference between the two.

MS. McCAWLEY: For me, the new alternatives are better for Florida. If we're going to cut down on alternatives, I'd rather cut out some other ones that we don't think are viable, like number two.

DR. DUVAL: Okay, I'm fine with adding this. Let's just finalize what the depth contours are going to be for 11 – for the time period of closure, excuse me.

MS. McCAWLEY: Can we use the same A and B time periods that we had in 10 and paste those in 11?

DR. DUVAL: Sure; that would make it easy. Okay, before we get a motion to add these two new alternatives, I just want to make sure people understand what they are. Proposed New

Alternative 10 is a hybrid of Alternatives 6 and 8. It is based on modeling work for calving right whale habitat. Off the Carolinas the closure would apply in waters shallower than 25 meters.

Alternative 11, which is a hybrid of six and four, is again the calving right whale habitat modeling work, and off the Carolinas it is between 20 and 25 meters offshore. Is there any desire to change any of those depths or anything before we vote on these? Again, I think they're very similar.

MS. McCAWLEY: I'm just going to reiterate that 10 and 11 covers less of Florida, but the eastern boundary covers more than in Alternative 9.

MR. COX: In Alternative 11, what we've done is changed the depth contour to 20 meters.

DR. DUVAL: Which is consistent with what is in Alternative 9, I believe, that you all proposed the other day.

MR. COX: Right.

DR. DUVAL: If people are okay with adding these two new alternatives, we need someone to make a motion to that effect. Jessica.

**MS. McCAWLEY: I make a motion to add these two new alternatives that we have labeled 10 and 11. – add 10 and 11 here --**

**DR. DUVAL: To Action 1?**

**MS. McCAWLEY: Yes, to Action 1.**

**Alternative 10: The black sea bass pot closure applies to waters inshore of points 1-35 listed below (Table 1), basically Cape Canaveral, Florida, to Cape Hatteras, North Carolina.**

**Sub-alternative 10a. The black sea bass pot closure applies to the area annually from November 1 through April 15.**

**Sub-alternative 10b. For the area off North Carolina and South Carolina, the black sea bass pot closure applies annually from November 1 through December 15 and February 15 through April 30. For the area off Georgia and Florida, the black sea bass pot closure applies annually from November 15 through April 15.**

**Alternative 1: The black sea bass pot closure applies to waters inshore of points 1-18 listed below (Table 2), basically Cape Canaveral, Florida, to Cape Hatteras, North Carolina.**

**Sub-alternative 11a. The black sea bass pot closure applies to the area annually from November 1 through April 15.**

**Sub-alternative 11b. For the area off North Carolina and South Carolina, the black sea bass pot closure applies annually from November 1 through December 15 and February 15 through April 30. For the area off Georgia and Florida, the black sea bass pot closure applies annually from November 15 through April 15.**

**DR. DUVAL: Is there a second?**

**MR. COX: Second.**

DR. DUVAL: Is there any other discussion on this motion? **Is there any objection to this motion? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.** We've added a couple new alternatives to Action 1. We added a gear-marking alternative to Action 2. We've gotten a recommendation from staff to not remove any alternatives that we don't want at this point simply because of the analysis that has already been done; and that moving things to the considered but rejected appendix would actually complicate things. I'm going to ask Brian to elaborate on that.

DR. CHEUVRONT: I was talking with Nick Farmer after we had the Snapper Grouper Committee; and he really thought because of all the work that he had done and that Mike had done as well; that it would be much easier to add than it would be to subtract and edit because they would have to go through all the entire documents and take out every reference to the alternatives and modify the numbers based on what stayed in what stayed out.

The problem was they felt it left too much room for making mistakes in doing this and felt that it would just be much easier to go ahead and leave the alternatives in that are there. I said, well, you know, they're probably going to add some more; and he said that is okay. He would rather deal with added alternatives than trying to renumber everything and adding other alternatives, et cetera. Adding alternatives, not a problem; taking away probably would be.

DR. DUVAL: Thank you for that, Brian, much appreciated. The item of business under this amendment would be choose preferred alternatives. Is there a desire on the part of the committee to choose preferred alternatives? We have to do this. In order for Protected Resources to do their job in terms of analysis and a new biological opinion, we need to select a preferred alternative is my understanding. Roy.

DR. CRABTREE: Well, the problem is you've added alternatives that haven't been analyzed; so how do you have a basis. We aren't going to be able to start the biological opinion until all of the analysis is done and we get to the DEIS stage; and that seems to be a ways off. I guess I would not recommend choosing preferred alternatives yet until you've got all of these alternatives analyzed, but it is up to you.

MS. McCAWLEY: Can I just ask a question? Does that mean that we shouldn't go out and get public comment in January because they wouldn't have the analysis; is that what he is saying?

DR. CHEUVRONT: Well, what could happen is – I mean, if you guys want to send this out for public hearing; that is fine. You might want to hear what the public has to say regarding what you're thinking about. That doesn't mean that if things change later on, you couldn't go out to

public hearing again if you felt that was necessary. Those are your options. If you want to go out to public hearing, you can go out to public hearing with what you've got.

I think Roy's points are valid; that you're going to be sending some out with perhaps no analysis attached to them. It sounds like from the discussion you might be choosing among these new alternatives that have no analysis as your preferred alternatives. If you do decide to go out to public hearing – and I'm not trying to persuade you one way or the other – it would be really good if you can get on the record why you select whatever you select as a preferred alternative.

It doesn't mean it can't change later on, but somehow it would be great to be able to go out to the public and say and we're considering these alternatives for these reasons as opposed to the other alternatives. That would be really helpful because I would be the one who has to stand up in front of the public and explain why you're doing what you're doing.

MR. BOWEN: I'll be real frank; the alternatives that just got added, it is hard for me to see from here, and I'd like some time to look over them and study them. For me to sit here and pick a preferred with a good conscience, I couldn't do it this morning. I would have to abstain.

MR. COX: I'll tell you what I like about preferreds. We could kind of go through them to help Zack understand what we're talking about doing real quick and why we're doing it. What I like about preferreds is it gives the public an opportunity before they are able to have discussion on it what we're thinking about, what looks good here.

DR. DUVAL: And I think what Roy was saying is just that you don't have any analysis – with these new alternatives, you do not have any analysis to inform why you might choose them; and to that end Brian has stated the committee would simply need to build a rationale for why – if you select one of these new alternatives, why you would be selecting it. Jack.

MR. COX: We're at this place because we've just had presentations from Protected Resources and it has put us in a spot where we've had to make some changes in what we have been looking at before.

MR. BELL: It is just a process thing here. If we don't have the analysis complete before it goes to the public hearing aspect; would that then require a second public hearing round?

DR. CHEUVRONT: I don't know necessarily that it would, but at some point you need to have that analysis in there.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: Under the Magnuson Act, the public hearing process for you is pretty flexible on what you take to the public. I think in the past this council has had some pretty fleshed-out documents that have gone to public hearing and sometimes you have had documents that aren't as complete that you have taken to public hearing.

Sometimes you have taken an amendment out to public hearing a couple of times to get specific comments. If you want to go out to public hearing this time; I think that is fine. You may at some point, when you get more refined in some of the analysis and that sort of thing, want to

take it out again or you have public hearings at your council meeting as well. That also suffices for a public hearing; so you've got a lot of flexibility on what you want to do.

MR. BELL: To that, so then I guess we'd ask ourselves is there value in maybe having more than one set of public hearings to like the initial set being to help us get a sense we're on the right track in our thinking and help us better inform where we end up in terms of a final direction. I don't know if that would be useful or not. I'm just kind of asking.

DR. DUVAL: I do think if we're going to take this document out to the public in January as scheduled; that it would be helpful to choose some preferred alternatives only to let the public know what we're thinking; because I would anticipate that if we go out without a preferred, the overwhelming majority of comments that we're going to get back are going to be for Alternative 2. I don't know if that's the desire of the committee to completely remove the closure.

I don't know; I would certainly argue that evidence suggests that – right, and selecting a preferred will start the biological opinion – well, no, because as Roy has indicated he needs the analysis before they're going to start that.

DR. CHEUVRONT: But you have to have the analysis and a preferred. The analysis can come later.

DR. CRABTREE: Well, we have to have the biological analysis to do the biological opinion; but frankly my worry is if you choose a preferred today without any analysis, I don't have any confidence that will end up being the final preferred because the analysis may change it all. You can choose one if you want today; but until we have all the analysis, until we have a better defined rationale for what we're doing and see where all that goes, I'd be afraid this will all change.

I can't commit a lot of time to moving on something that I think is not stable enough to get there yet, which is why I'm we're not likely to start too much on the biological opinion and to the DEIS phase, which still seems to me to be a ways off. I suspect the DEIS, Jack, is probably after the March meeting.

DR. McGOVERN: It depends on when the analysis is done.

MS. McCAWLEY: I was going to ask if we could have this conversation in light of what the timing for the entire amendment was; public hearings in January; and then what, the council looks at it again in March? What is the overall timing; can we go over that again? That would help me.

DR. DUVAL: Right; the timing is on the last page of your decision document, which would be public hearings in January. We would review the public input, revise the document and approve all actions in March and submitting for formal review in June. Roy.

DR. CRABTREE: Well, we need to think about that, because I think Bob conveyed to me that you would want to see a draft biological opinion, which the earliest we could provide would be

June. It seems to me then you're going to have comments on it. I don't think you would take final action at that point, would you, necessarily?

DR. DUVAL: I guess it depends on what the comments were on the draft.

DR. CRABTREE: I guess that's right. The other thing is with my staff, I don't know if adding the alternatives, depending on how long all this analysis takes, we may or may not be able to deliver a product by June; but if this pushes the analysis off by a couple of months, then that may shift things.

MS. McCAWLEY: So was the ultimate goal to try to have regulations in place by the end of 2015; was that our ultimate goal?

DR. DUVAL: Yes; it was to try to have some closure on this issue by the winter of 2015 and 2016. Roy.

DR. CRABTREE: But I don't see how that will happen; because if we have draft biological opinion in June, we're going to get comments – and not just from the council; we're going to get comments from all kinds of other people as well. We will have to deal with all of those and produce a final biological opinion; and that will hold things up. That will put that into the fall; and so I just don't see how we get to a final rule by, what, November 1<sup>st</sup>. I think that is quite unlikely to fold out.

MR. COX: I was wondering if I could complicate things just a little bit more.

DR. DUVAL: By all means, go ahead, they're already very complicated.

MR. COX: Tom and I are communicating back and forth; and before he left the other day, he and I had talked about this. He just reminded me that we could live with Alternative 11B to the deeper depth in the spring of the year and going to 25 meters. Because the water is so cool; we're actually working deeper. If there was any way we could put that in there, I just talked to Myra about it, and I don't know how we could do it without changing a whole lot.

DR. DUVAL: I'm not sure I understand what you're saying. In 11B you had modified the depth to be 20 meters. Are you saying you want to change that back to 25?

MR. COX: No; what I'm saying is have two depth meters; have the fall of the year to be 20 meters and the spring of the year to be 25 meters. What it does is allow when those calves are coming through, those smaller whales are coming through back in the spring of the year, it gives them a little bit more room. It gives us a little buffer plus we're fishing deeper, anyway, because the water has been called off since the winter.

DR. DUVAL: I know we have a motion on the floor and we're discussing; and so if we make any modifications to these, it would have to be approval as modified. Staff is reminding me that we did complete our vote to add these two alternatives as they were; so, Jack, if you wanted to

do that, we would just need a motion to clarify that Alternative 11B would apply in waters shallower than 20 meters in the fall and 25 meters in the spring.

MR. COX: Yes; I would like to make that adjustment, if I could, please; so the intent would be in Alternative 11B, in the fall of the year for it to read “shallower than 20 meters”; in the spring of the year 25 meters.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Just to clarify, Jack, when you’re talking about “fall”, you mean that November 1<sup>st</sup> through December 15<sup>th</sup> closure and then in the spring you mean February 15<sup>th</sup> through April 30<sup>th</sup>?

MR. COX: That is correct.

**DR. DUVAL: So there is a motion by Jack to clarify that in Subalternative 1B the closure would apply to waters shallower than 20 meters in the fall months and shallower than 25 meters in the spring months. Is there a second; second by Ben. Charlie.**

MR. PHILLIPS: Well, I know it is a good intent and it is probably a reasonable plan. I’m worried about having yet moving the line for law enforcement and the fishermen, just keep moving the line every different season; so I’m going to be inclined to vote against it just because it is moving too many things too much too often.

DR. DUVAL: Any other discussion? **Could I please see a show of hands of those in favor of the motion, six hands up; those opposed, three opposed. The motion carries.** What is your pleasure; do you want to (a) send this out to public hearing without a preferred; (b), select a preferred and send it out to public hearing; or (c), wait until March to select a preferred alternative and send it out for public hearing? Jessica.

MS. McCAWLEY: I hate to complicate, but if we wait until March to select a preferred; are we then going to try to take it out again or are we just going to try to take comments at a council meeting? I guess I would like to –

DR. DUVAL: I would not recommend simply taking comments at a council meeting. I think that would be completely disingenuous to all pot endorsement holders up and down the coast. I think you need to have the public meetings as we had set up, but that is just my opinion. Zack.

MR. BOWEN: I agree with your sentiment 100 percent, Madam Chair.

MR. COX: Yes; I would just say that I think preferreds help people when they see it highlighted and make comments and they know where our thinking is.

DR. DUVAL: Well, it is not so much about preferreds but as to taking it out to public comment twice versus just having a public comment period at the council meeting.

MR. COX: Just having the public comment at the council meeting, I would think.



DR. DUVAL: The whole reason that we set up several of these public comment periods in their locations in January was specifically for this document; so that we would be going to those areas where the pot fishery is prosecuted and so that we would be bringing this document to the fishermen in the areas where they are. My concern is that if we just say, oh, we're taking comment at a council meeting in March; that we're not providing the opportunity for people to actually come and provide that comment. That is my concern. Jessica.

MS. McCAWLEY: So what I'm saying is are we going to – if we do not pick a preferred today; are we going to go out in January, then discuss this amendment by the council again in March, pick a preferred, and then go out to those same locations again following the March council meeting. That is what I'm asking; two rounds of directed public workshops at the exact same locations; one before a preferred is picked and one after a preferred is picked; that is what I'm asking?

DR. DUVAL: That is your call.

MR. HARTIG: I think you could do it if you gave the public an explanation about where the council is going and told them why we don't have a preferred at this time, because the analysis haven't been completed on the two additional options that we added. What I would say is to explain to the public that Alternative 2 is not an option the council is considering at this time.

It would not be a preferred alternative at this time; and the council is considering something within the critical whale habitat options that we have, the rest of the options that explain that; that the council is pretty much married to a closure of one of those with some of that habitat involved. Those are the alternatives that the council is really considering. If we had that explanation, I think that would help without picking a preferred. I think that is a possible way to move forward with the complications that are now within the amendment.

DR. DUVAL: So how do people feel about that? We could direct staff to add language at the top of the document that would explain why the council has not selected a preferred because we added a couple of additional alternatives at this meeting and also note that we're not considering Alternative 2 as a preferred at this time and then also going out to public hearings as scheduled in January. Jack.

MR. COX: I'm fine with that; it sounds good.

MR. MAHOOD: My concern would be if we're going to go out to public hearings and the public knows that they're going to take it up in March and then go out to public hearings with a preferred; we're not going to get any attendance at the first round of public hearings. We're going to send staff out there and there will be six staff members and two council members and one from the public. That is a consideration, too. We've learned unless you're very specific of what is going to happen with what you're proposing, the people are not going to come.

DR. DUVAL: Brian is suggesting that perhaps we could do a webinar hearing in January and specifically invite the endorsement holders. Charlie.

MR. PHILLIPS: That might be a good idea because they're really going to need some good explanations of the difference between even the new alternatives, which I'm like Jessica, I'm having a hard time grasping the subtle differences in it. That might be the best of all options.

MS. McCAWLEY: I agree with what Bob is saying, but I also agree with what Jack is saying. I'm just afraid if we go out now and we don't have a preferred picked, but I understand why we don't want to pick a preferred without some analysis; I just don't want the public to default to Alternative 2, because I just don't think that is viable. I think even it is in there even with an explanation; I'm afraid that people are just going to default to Alternative 2 and that hasn't really helped us.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: Just a note of caution to make sure that – you just said specifically invite the endorsement holders. Of course, these public hearings, as you know, are open to all members of the public, so you want to make certain that you're notifying all members of the public that they would be invited to the webinar.

DR. DUVAL: Right; so I think the clarification is that we would want to make that the endorsement holders knew that there was going to be a webinar held as well.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: Right; and I think that's fine.

DR. DUVAL: Okay, we can modify the document to add the explanations that Ben has suggested and either conduct a webinar in January or do these in-person public hearings; come back in March and if we have analysis, select a preferred; and go back out again if we want to. I would hate to go out for physical public hearings if we don't have a preferred based on what Jessica said of people defaulting or simply knowing that there is going to be another opportunity and not showing up; and then it is a huge expense and effort for the staff. Mel.

MR. BELL: I like the approach of using the webinar for the initial one and then just following the process you described that we pick the preferred in March and then we do an actual face-to-face set of public hearings after that. We've done it with other things in the past. We've done multiple public hearings when we wanted to get it right and we definitely wanted public input.

I think particularly with the webinar you're going to have some cost-savings there and it won't be as bad as trying to do two full-scale face to face. Like Bob says, you go through a lot of trouble and one guy shows up or something; but I think with the webinar that would enhance the ability for it to work.

DR. DUVAL: First of all, I would like to get some consensus or clarification from the committee that is the approach that you would like to take; that you would like to go ahead and hold a webinar with the appropriate explanations regarding lack of a selection of a preferred, new alternatives that have been added, council is not considering Alternative 2 at this time.

I'm seeing heads nod; so if that is the approach you all want to take; then in terms of the next steps, generally our public hearings are in-person hearings scheduled for January and August. Would you want to hold a special set of public hearings between March and June?

MR. COX: Yes; I think that is a good idea. I just want to throw this out there. One of the reasons we like picking preferreds before we leave is because it actually gives the whale team an opportunity to comment on what we have looked at. That is why I keep going back to that.

MR. MAHOOD: I don't know if you have settled the public hearing, but one of the things I'm hearing here this morning is everybody is saying, well, Alternative 2 is not going to be an acceptable alternative; is that what I'm hearing from people? Yet it is the one desirable one that the people are going to pick if we go out to public hearing with it.

Aren't we kind of laying a trap for ourselves as far as our credibility? We're taking it out to public hearing; we want your input; "Oh, you want two, well, we're not going to do two because we can't do it." I know we don't want to pull things out, but I just feel like we're walking into a trap or setting a trap for ourselves relative to what – we know what the fishermen are going to want if it is there and yet know we can't do it.

DR. DUVAL: Zack and then I'm going to make a decision.

MR. BOWEN: Two points; the March through June public hearing idea, we need to keep in mind we have a lot of our fishermen that are fishing the majority of the time during that time frame. And to Bob's point, could we move that to the considered by rejected?

DR. DUVAL: You just heard an explanation from staff that the recommendation is to not move that to the considered but rejected at this point because of the analysis that needs to be done with adding these new alternatives. Remember, the comparison of potential risk is all relative; so everything is relative to itself. It is relative to what exists now and relative to a complete removal of the closure.

MR. BOWEN: Well, I look forward to you making your decision right now, Madam Chair; let's do it.

DR. DUVAL: Well, based on what Bob has said, the hearings are scheduled January 13<sup>th</sup> in Key West; 20<sup>th</sup> in Ormond Beach; 21<sup>st</sup> in Cocoa Beach; 27<sup>th</sup> in Georgetown, South Carolina; and 28<sup>th</sup> in Sneads Ferry, North Carolina. My suggestion is if people are concerned about having an alternative in there that you may not have an intention of selecting as a viable alternative, that being a complete removal of the closure, then let's just wait until March to select a preferred when all the analyses are done. The only problem I see is that we've got a bunch of stuff that has already been scheduled. I think it is a good time for a break and come back in ten minutes.

All right, let's come on back to the table. I think we may have found a way forward. Considering that we don't have analyses for the new alternatives that have been added, we're not recommending choosing a preferred alternative at this time. The suggestion is to actually wait until March to choose a preferred alternative; but I think my recommendation might be, just based on what I have heard around the table – and I know this is contrary to the previous suggestion from staff – is simply to remove Alternative 2, which will completely remove the closure, to the considered but rejected appendix as it is not necessarily reasonable within the range of alternatives.

In March we would choose a preferred; we would have the additional biological and economic analysis of the alternatives at that point; and in between March and June the document would be revised based on our preferreds. We could come back to the council in June, review the document, and vote to send it out to the already scheduled August public hearings so that we wouldn't have to do a special round of public hearings.

In September we could review the public hearing comments and presumably the draft biological opinion at that point, since if we select a preferred alternative in March, that gives roughly six months for Protected Resources to develop the biological opinion; and then in December we would take a final vote on sending it to the secretary for formal review. That's what I'm suggesting; and Brian has that sort of typed up on the screen for folks to look at. Comments around the table?

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: Well, I have a question for NEPA purposes why Alternative 2 wouldn't be in the reasonable range of alternatives?

DR. DUVAL: Well, it doesn't fit the purpose and need as currently worded.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: So that would be the reason you would put it in the considered but rejected appendix because it doesn't fall within the purpose and need?

DR. DUVAL: Yes. Roy.

DR. CRABTREE: And I assume it is the part of the need about maintaining protections or adequate protections for right whales that we don't feel it would meet?

DR. DUVAL: That's correct. Charlie.

MR. PHILLIPS: Well, if we're saying that 30-something endorsement holders with the few pots that we have are negligible effort to whales, but indirectly we're saying that if we are going to take out Action 2 because they may be some degree of a threat to whales; it almost seems like you're – you know, in a way you're admitting that there is a jeopardy; and I think most people might argue they're not. Just a thought.

DR. DUVAL: Other comments on that? I don't disagree with you, Charlie, in terms of risk from this fishery versus risk from 15,000 lobster permit holders up the coast; but we've already wrapped ourselves around the tree a couple of times talking about going out to the public with that alternative in there and getting useful public comment on the other alternatives that are contained in there. I'm not really sure where we go. Chris.

MR. CONKLIN: Is there some reason why we just can't select Alternative 2 as our preferred and take it to the public comment, get the biological opinion and come back and let's meet in the middle and that will be our justification for having to switch it?

DR. DUVAL: You could certainly do that; but I think you don't have the remainder of the analysis for the other alternatives right now. Bob.

MR. MAHOOD: Chris, to answer your question, we have done that before. This council has done that and I don't think it was relative to a biological opinion; but we've been told we couldn't do things and we have done them and said if this is not right, then you shoot it down at the secretarial level. You can do those battles. Personally this is not one that is probably worth our time and effort to do it unless you feel very seriously about it. It has been done before; let's just put it that way.

MR. CONKLIN: I just was thinking with the impending threat of a biological opinion; isn't it about time that one of those gets done again, anyways, and it is not such a threat; so if this is going to trigger it, let's do it and get it done. You never know; they might come back and say that the black bass pot fishery isn't threat to right whales. I know that is a long way out but it is hopeful.

DR. DUVAL: Yes, Chris, to your point, we shouldn't be afraid of a biological opinion at all. A new one needs to be done. There have been a lot of changes in the fishery; and compared to other fisheries on this single population up and down the coast, ours is pretty small. I don't think there is any need to be afraid of a biological opinion under any of the alternatives. Ben.

MR. HARTIG: But I will add one thing. I mean how the measurement is going to be done is different than it was done the last time; and that is the critical thing. Like I said before, we painted ourselves in a corner and I won't elaborate. The way we measure the interaction rate is going to change from what was done previously. We're working from zero now and that is pretty hard to increase. I'm frustrated.

MR. CONKLIN: To Bob's point and yours as well, it probably wouldn't be the greatest idea to do that, but we're looking for good comments back on the suite of alternatives, excluding two, so we do need to get some good feedback on those.

MR. MAHOOD: Chris, I'm surely not trying to discourage you because I used to have a lot more fight in me and maybe that is the thing. We were told we couldn't have a Sargassum Plan and we have a Sargassum Plan. We sent it to the secretary and the secretary sent it back and said, well, you're not allowing any harvest. We tongue-in-cheek put in a little bit of harvest with no way to harvest it and sent it back and they approved it. You can do these things. You've just got to decide if it is worth the battle; and if you think it is worth the battle, make a motion for a preferred alternative.

MR. COX: Roy, I don't mean to put you on the spot, but what are your thoughts on all this and all this stuff that we're trying to offer up and where you think this may go?

DR. CRABTREE: Well, as I said in committee, I think your biggest problem right now is the lack of rationale for why you're doing this. Until you have some economic analysis that can demonstrate what the benefits are, I'm not sure you have a basis for doing this. I think that is your biggest hurdle right now; and we just don't have that analysis so we can't say what sort of economic benefits there from removing the closure or from any of these other alternatives that are in there.

To me, I think you're better off to come back in March when you have an analysis and make some decision there; but if you come back and it shows very little economic gain from removing the closure, then I think you have a real problem with the rationale. I also think you may end up having to look at other alternatives depending on how your rationale shifts as we move around. I think you'd be getting a little ahead of yourselves. Obviously, I wouldn't support Alternative Number 2. I don't think I will support that at any stage, but I certainly wouldn't support it today.

DR. LANEY: Well, just a question, Madam Chairman, if you selected Alternative 2 as the preferred, what is the chance people would look at that and say, "Oh, the council's preferred is exactly what we want to do, and so we don't need to go to the public hearing and express an opinion." That could possibly backfire on you.

DR. DUVAL: That is one point, Wilson. Chris.

MR. CONKLIN: This is probably directed to Brian a little bit; but as far as the timing on the economic analysis; didn't Bob say that we had to have a – or you said that we have to have a biological opinion before you can – no?

DR. CHEUVRONT: No; I don't need the opinion. I just need the analysis of the biological stuff. The work that had been by Nick and Mike Errigo; they have been working hard on this; but as you saw, some of the stuff was coming out literally as the meeting was beginning. We need numbers like they're talking about.

When I do an economic analysis, I have to make sure that the analysis and the way I'm looking at the alternatives and the data matches up with what is being done in the biological side at least from a fundamental theoretical perspective. Sometimes we can't always use the same datasets, but in this case we're all using logbooks. I've got some economic data in the logbooks, and there are some supplemental data that can come from the states that looks at grade of the fish and quality of the fish and price by grade. I know we've got some of that from both Carolinas.

That kind of stuff is available and could be used as supplemental economic information; but the other has to come first specifically in this case. For me to be able to say when that economic analysis could be done, it could be largely contingent on when the biological analysis – they say, okay, we're happy with what we have here, go ahead and use this. It doesn't mean I'm just going to sit around and wait until that point. I'll get my data ready, but I can't start any analysis until we know that biological analysis is pretty set.

MR. CONKLIN: I guess that just brings me back to what we were originally going to do is not select a preferred, but I'm thinking we should keep Alternative 2 in there as an option. It will help the staff to be able to expedite things a little bit and then take it out and let's get some good comments back on it.

DR. DUVAL: Well, how do people feel about leaving Alternative 2 in versus taking it out? We won't select a preferred alternative until March; and we could certainly remove then if we felt like it. Mel.

MR. BELL: Wasn't there some discussion about if you take it out, it is going to complicate or delay analysis or something? If we could just leave it in there, we'll pick a preferred in March.

MR. CONKLIN: Madam Chair, common sense from the public, if they see ten or eleven other alternatives other than number two, even if we don't have a preferred, kind of assume that Alternative 2 is not going to be what we choose.

DR. DUVAL: I'm not so sure that is the case. If it is included, it is seen as reasonable. Is everybody okay with this timeline that is up on the screen? I'll just run through it one more time. Here is where we can add or remove alternatives. In January we will review this with Kari going to the Large Whale Take Reduction Team Meeting; and we can get some of their thoughts on this.

Between now and the March council meeting, there will be additional analysis as a result of the completion of the biological information so Brian will be able to do some economic analysis. In March we would review the document, select preferreds, and that would kick off the draft environmental impact statement.

Between March and June the document would be revised; we'd see it again in June and vote to send it out to public hearings, which would occur in August. In September we would review those public comments and the draft biological opinion and then in December take the final vote. Is everybody cool with that? The final question is just Alternative 2; leave it in/take it out.

MR. HARTIG: Well, I'll take a motion to take it out and see what happens; how is that?

DR. DUVAL: There is a motion by Ben to remove Alternative 2. Is there a second; second by Jessica. Discussion? Charlie.

MR. PHILLIPS: I think we can take it out and justify taking it out. Even though we don't agree that if we left it in that it would be significant to the whales, we can easily justify it in saying that we are trying to work with the whale reduction team and come to a compromise and we don't think that would be part of the compromise.

DR. CRABTREE: Well, I do think this would probably reduce the amount of controversy that is going to be around the amendment from the marine mammal community; and it might reduce what I suspect the thousands of comments that we're likely to get.

DR. DUVAL: Good point. Mel.

MR. BELL: And taking it out might stimulate interest in the public hearing as opposed to leaving it in; so maybe that's a good idea.

DR. DUVAL: All right, any other comments; people ready to vote? **The motion reads remove Alternative 2 of Action 1 from consideration and move the alternative to the considered but rejected appendix. Any other discussion? Any opposition? Seeing none; that motion**

**stands approved.** Can we just provide direction to staff that the draft timeline for Snapper Grouper Regulatory Amendment 16 is what we want? Jessica.

MS. McCAWLEY: Do you need a motion?

DR. CHEUVRONT: Just something from the council saying this is your intent and this is what you want on the timeline I think would probably be sufficient.

DR. DUVAL: Go ahead and make a motion.

**MS. McCAWLEY: I make a motion to approve the new timeline for Amendment 16.**

**DR. DUVAL: Motion by Jessica; second by Charlie. Any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.** Are we done with Regulatory Amendment 16 at this time?

DR. CHEUVRONT: I think so.

DR. DUVAL: Great; I'd like to move on with the rest of the committee report; and I apologize for that taking a long time. The next item of business was Amendment 22. We received a presentation from Doug Mumford of the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries staff on the North Carolina Catch Card Program.

After that, we went into Regulatory Amendment 22 dealing with gag and wreckfish. The committee made the following motions. **The first motion was to modify the needs statement as follows: "The need for the amendment is to, one, address the recent stock assessment results for gag and wreckfish and prevent overfishing while minimizing to the extent practicable adverse social and economic impacts; and, two, to increase access to the gag resource and increase fishing opportunities, thus imparting socio-economic benefits to resource users." On behalf of the committee I so move.**

Now I would like to have some discussion because what we selected as our preferred alternative was status quo for gag with regard to the bag limit. The needs statement doesn't match the action that we selected; so as you can see in the committee report, there are some suggested edits to the purpose and need to address the choice of no action for Action 2.

The purpose of the amendment is to adjust annual catch limits and optimum yield for gag and wreckfish and assess the need to modify the recreational bag limit for gag. Need; "The need for the amendment is to, one, address the recent stock assessment results for gag and wreckfish and prevent overfishing while minimizing to the extent practicable adverse social and economic impacts; and, two, to ensure the gag recreational bag limit is set at an appropriate level to foster sustainable harvest rates of the species in response to new scientific information." Anna.

MS. BECKWITH: I'm just going to give you guys my thoughts and then I'll let you guys do what you're going to do. I actually don't like this new language. I feel like the original language, even though we chose no action at this time, was because there was discussion around



the table that we would like to have discussions on maybe altering the spawning season lengths as an alternate way to provide this potential access.

The new scientific information was really – I don't want to say not opinion but not scientific studies. It is on-the-ground knowledge so I want to be careful with the direction that we take this. I still feel like we're setting kind of a weird precedent. I still think that we should be looking to increase access and fishing opportunities.

Even though the committee decided not to move forward by increasing the bag limits at this time, part of the discussion was because we were going to also consider the spawning season closure length within an alternate amendment. I just want to be careful how we go forward. I've said my piece and I'll be quiet.

DR. DUVAL: But, Anna, we're not considering a modification to the spawning season closure in this amendment; that is the thing.

MS. BECKWITH: I understand that, but to ensure that the bag limit is set at an appropriate level to foster sustainable harvest in response to new scientific information; I'm having a problem with that new scientific information part.

DR. DUVAL: That is easily removed.

MS. BECKWITH: Okay, so work with me.

DR. DUVAL: And so remember, the impetus for this amendment was the stock assessments.

MS. BECKWITH: Right.

DR. DUVAL: So the gag assessment update as well as the wreckfish assessment. If you want to remove in that new suggested language "in response to new scientific information" and just leave it at "an appropriate level to foster sustainable rates of the species"; I think that would be fine as well.

MS. BECKWITH: That would certainly offend me less, yes.

MR. BOWEN: I think there was more rationale behind status quo because the last time that it was at two per person, the ACL was drastically exceeded. There was more rationale behind that than reconsidering the spawning season closure.

DR. DUVAL: How do folks feel about removing that last phrase from the end of the need, exiting out "in response to new scientific information"?

MR. HARTIG: I'll make a motion to remove "in response to new scientific information" from the need statement.

DR. DUVAL: Actually, Ben, I think we already have a motion on the floor which was modifying the need statement as we did it in committee; so what I would be asking for is I think a substitute motion to insert this new language, if that is okay.

**MR. HARTIG: Well, I make a substitute motion to insert the new language with the deletion of “in response to new scientific information”. Is that appropriate?**

**DR. DUVAL: Yes, please. Is there a second; second by Mel. Other discussion on this? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion stands approved. The substitute is now the main motion. Any other discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.**

The next motion was to deselect Alternative 2 and select Alternative 4 as the preferred for Action 1. **Then we had a substitute motion to deselect Alternative 2 and select Alternative 3 as the preferred for Action 1. The substitute motion became the main motion. The main motion was approved by the committee; and on behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.**

The next motion was to select Alternative 2 as the preferred for Action 2 and that failed. **The next motion was to select Alternative 1, no action, as the preferred for Action 2; and on behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Any objection? The motion passes with one objection. The next motion is to approve Snapper Grouper Regulatory Amendment 22 for secretarial review; and on behalf of the committee I so move. That is a roll call vote, I believe.**

MR. MAHOOD: Ms. Beckwith.

MS. BECKWITH: No.

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Bell.

MR. BELL: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Bowen.

MR. BOWEN: Yes.

MR MAHOOD: Mr. Brewer.

MR. BREWER: No.

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Brown.

MR. BROWN: 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. Haymans.

MR. HAYMANS: No.

MR. MAHOOD: Ms. McCawley.

MS. McCAWLEY: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Phillips.

MR. PHILLIPS: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Chairman Hartig.

MR. HARTIG: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Chairman Duval.

DR. DUVAL: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: The motion passes with three negative votes.

**DR. DUVAL: And we saved until full council deeming the codified text for Regulatory Amendment 22 as necessary and appropriate and giving staff the 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. I would need someone to make that motion, please.**

**MR. HARTIG: So moved, Madam Chairman.**

**DR. DUVAL: Motion by Ben and second by Charlie. Any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion stands approved. The next item of business was Amendment 36, which was the spawning SMZs. The first motion was to accept the IPT's recommended changes to the purpose and need; and on behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.**

**The next motion was to select Alternative 2 under Action 1 as the preferred; and on behalf of the committee I so move. Any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.**

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

**The next motion was to accept the IPT wording for revising Action 3 and the alternatives; and on behalf of the committee I so move. Any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.**

**The next motion was to accept the IPT recommendation for the changes to Action 4; and on behalf of the committee I so move. Any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.**

**The next motion was to accept the IPT's recommended changes for Action 5; and on behalf of the committee I so move. Any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.**

**The next motion was to accept the IPT's recommended changes for Action 6; and on behalf of the committee I so move. Any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.**

**The next motion was to select Alternative 2 under Action 7 as the preferred; and on behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion stands approved. The next motion was to remove Action 8 from Amendment 36; and on behalf of the committee I so move. Any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.**

**The next motion was to add an action to outline the transit provisions and anchoring provisions; and on behalf of the committee I so move. Any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.**

**The next item of business was Amendment 35, removal of species. The first motion was to accept the IPT's edits to the purpose and need; and on behalf of the committee I so move. Any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.**

**The next motion was to select Alternatives 2 through 5 as preferreds under Action 1; and on behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.**

**The next motion was to move Alternative 4 under Action 2 to the considered but rejected appendix; and on behalf of the committee I so move. Any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion stands approved. Now, here we also have some unfinished business.**

We did not select a preferred alternative under this particular action. That would be Action 2. We also need to approve this for public hearing. I would like to ask Ben if he has had the opportunity to discuss or consider whether or not to select a preferred alternative under this action. I don't know if you've had a chance to talk with Monica about that or not.

MR. HARTIG: Yes, we talked briefly. I went back and looked at it and thought about all the problems that might arise from what that one fisherman wanted us to do. What I think is that – did we remove Alternative 4 to the considered but rejected?

DR. DUVAL: Yes; that is what we just approved.

MR. HARTIG: Okay, thank you, that was the other thing I had. I think we should leave our preferred alternative as Alternative 3.

DR. DUVAL: We don't have a preferred so if you'd like to make that –

MR. HARTIG: Preferred Alternative 3 as a motion, Madam Chairman.

**DR. DUVAL: So a motion by Ben to select Alternative 3 as the preferred under Action 2; is there a second; seconded by Charlie. Discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion stands approved. Wilson.**

DR. LANEY: Madam Chairman, I'm not quite sure where this fits so I'll look to you for guidance. I had some discussion last evening with Chairman Hartig and with Myra about some concerns that I and some of our Habitat and Environmental Protection Advisory Panel members have about the EFH analysis in the portion of the amendment that deals with the removal of the four species from the fishery management unit.

I've put those down in writing and if you would prefer, I can just send an e-mail message outlining those concerns and some questions that we think should be answered by the IPT maybe as they further refine the document. If you wish me to handle it that way, I can do so; or if you want me to read the questions into the record, I'll be happy to do that; however you want to handle it. In the interest of efficiency it might be best for me just to send an e-mail message to everybody and deal with it that way.

DR. DUVAL: Wilson, I think if you didn't mind either sending your concerns to the entire council or sending them to Mike and Mike can send it around to everybody, I think that would be appropriate.

DR. LANEY: Okay, ten/four, I'll do that; and let me just say in a nutshell that the EFH analysis that is in the decision document and the conclusion about that analysis that is in the full amendment don't seem to jive with each other.

The other concern that we had was the fact that my understanding from consultation with some of the HEPAP members is that schoolmaster is an ecosystem component species; and we were wondering given that it doesn't need an ACL or an AM to be in place, we were wondering what

sort of impact of the effect of removing one of its few ecosystem component species would have on the council's overall movement toward ecosystem-based management. Those are the two primary concerns; and again a more detailed explanation and clarification in the message and we'll send that around.

DR. DUVAL: Thank you, Wilson. The next thing we would need to do is get a motion to approve Amendment 35 for public hearings.

**MR. HARTIG: I move that we approve Amendment 35 for public hearings.**

**DR. DUVAL: Motion by Ben; second by Charlie. Any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.** We have a timing and task motion to approve the following task and timing items. I was looking at prepare Regulatory Amendment 16 for public hearings, which obviously is not going to happen; so submit Regulatory Amendment 22 for final review and prepare Amendment 35 for public hearings is the additional items on that list. Is there anything else that needs to go on the timing and task motion? If not, could I please have someone make that motion?

**MR. HARTIG: I would move that we approve the timing and task motion as presented:**

**Direct staff/IPT to address monitoring/evaluation needs upfront in the Amendment 36 document and reference the Monitoring/Evaluation Appendix;**  
**Direct staff/IPT to look within the areas identified for Spawning SMZs off each state and, using bottom topography, bring alternative boxes back at the March 2015 meeting for the committee's consideration. Include any surveys of biomass in the areas that are available;**  
**Direct staff to discuss options for rebuilding plan for hogfish with Gulf Council;**  
**Direct staff to look into scheduling presentation(s) on sector management for March 2015 Council meeting;**  
**Direct staff to develop alternatives for an almaco trip limit. Bring to AP for their input in 2015. Develop alternatives that would allow for year-round fishery;**  
**Submit Regulatory Amendment 22 for formal review;**  
**Prepare Amendment 35 for public hearings.**

**DR. DUVAL: Is there a second; seconded by Mel. Any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.** Now, I know that there was one item under other business I think Jack wanted to discuss; and it had to do with red grouper.

MR. COX: You guys have heard my concern on red grouper over the last year; and last night at the public comment you heard from Tony Morris, the fisherman from Surf City, that came in that has been doing this fishery for quite a while. I just think it is time that we may want to take action as quick as possible on it. After talking with Michelle and Gregg on that; that we could do something in Amendment 37 under our priorities list that we worked on yesterday and turned in with those spawning measures on red grouper.

DR. DUVAL: So you would want to make sure that in Amendment 37 that we address the spawning season for red grouper, which I think is our plan to do that through visioning, anyway, address the entire shallow water grouper spawning closure.

MR. COX: Yes; just to bring back what he iterated is that during that May time period, when the season opens for grouper, that some of those fish are spawning the hardest and also maybe wanting to look at increasing the size limit on that fish as well.

DR. DUVAL: Thanks for that, Jack; we will add that to our items. Wilson.

DR. LANEY: And, Madam Chairman and Jack, would that be an appropriate time maybe to discuss what I think we've discussed in the past, which would be kind of a moving closure to try and accommodate any geographical differences in when spawning is actually occurring?

DR. DUVAL: That's one of the suggestions that came forward from visioning was looking at rolling spawning season closures as well as simply adjustment. Is there any other business to come before the Snapper Grouper Committee? Seeing none, Mr. Chair, I yield the floor back to you; and I apologize it took so long.

MR. HARTIG: Thank you for your patience in dealing with 16. That was a rough; thank you very much. I appreciate your efficiency. Dolphin and Wahoo is next.

MS. BECKWITH: From the Dolphin Wahoo and Joint Snapper Grouper Committee, we met on December 4, 2014, and received updates on the status of commercial and recreational landings for dolphin and wahoo species. The committee then discussed Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7/Snapper Grouper Amendment 33 and Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 8/Snapper Grouper Amendment 34.

The committee voted on the following motions as recommendations to the council. **In reference to Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7/Snapper Grouper Amendment 33, the committee approved a motion to accept the IPT's recommended language changes for the need. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Is there any opposition? Seeing none; that motion is approved.**

Under Action 1, a motion was offered but failed to select Alternative 1 as a preferred alternative. Under Action 2 there were no motions made by the committee, but I believe that Charlie wanted to speak to one.

MR. PHILLIPS: Madam Chair, we've had some discussion outside; and I'd like to make the motion that we deselect Alternative 3 and select Alternative 1 as our preferred.

MS. BECKWITH: So that would not exempt wahoo from our current U.S. limits. Do I have a second to that motion; Jessica. Do I have any discussion for that motion? Charlie.

MR. PHILLIPS: Well, I think this will make it easier on law enforcement. It basically is going to let them just enforce U.S. regulations no matter where they come from. I think it just makes it

easier for everybody. Law enforcement obviously would like more; but I think it would be a fair compromise. It still lets people bring back some fillets. It can help law enforcement; and I'll leave it at that.

MS. BECKWITH: Is there any further discussion on this motion? Ben.

MR. HARTIG: Yes; just one thing. Zack raised a question yesterday about identification of wahoo fillets, and I'm sorry I missed it. Yes, there is a distinguishing characteristic of the ladder lines that you can tell the difference of both of those fillets. That is just a point of clarification.

**MS. BECKWITH: Okay, we have a motion on the floor to deselect Alternative 3 as the preferred alternative and select Alternative 1, no action, as a preferred alternative for Action 2. Is there any further discussion? Is there any opposition to this motion? Okay, the motion passes with two opposed.**

**Under Action 3 there were no motions. Under Action 4 there was a motion to accept the IPT's recommended wording changes for gear stowage. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Is there any opposition? Seeing none; that motion passes.**

**Under Action 5 there was a motion to approve the IPT's recommended language changes. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Any opposition? Seeing none; that motion is approved.**

The committee also discussed the codified text and suggested that specific references to U.S. passports be revised to apply to any valid government passport; and that has already been done. Before we approve this, I do want to suggest that we add an additional motion that would clarify that the intent of this council is to not allow sale of any of these fillets in any form. Charlie, would you like to make that motion?

MR. PHILLIPS: Considering the discussion around the table, I make a motion that no fillets from recreationally caught fish can be sold, including –

MS. BECKWITH: Monica, is there some appropriate language that would –

MR. PHILLIPS: – including from Bahamian –

MS. BECKWITH: – that would work better?

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: So the idea here from the discussion around the table – let's just talk a little bit – that you do not want any of these fish that were harvested in The Bahamas and then brought into U.S. waters in filleted form, dolphin, wahoo or snapper grouper – your intent is that those species not be sold or purchased – purchased or sold, that kind of thing?

MS. BECKWITH: Correct.



DR. CHEUVRONT: Monica, does the fact that selling or purchasing these fillets would make it a Lacey Act violation; is that enough? The Bahamas prohibit the sale of recreationally caught fish; so is that sufficient?

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: I think it is a good idea to have this discussion because, yes, it would be a Lacey Act violation; but why not make it clearer since that is your intent under the Magnuson Act regulations also that you do not – it is clearer that you do not want these fish to be sold or purchased.

The other day I think we were kind of getting wrapped around the axle as to whether the current regulations in place now for snapper grouper and then also for dolphin and wahoo, whether those regulations right now would prohibit that kind of thing. I brought up the fact that snapper grouper has harvested or possessed in the EEZ and dolphin and wahoo doesn't "possessed".

I think rather than try to fit those regulations into this hole, I think if you made just a statement in the discussion – I like the idea of a motion, Anna. You had that discussion in the document. Then we would figure out where in the codified text to put that language and then the chairman could redeem that codified text when he is looking at the amendment. The motion right here is no fillets from recreationally caught fish from The Bahamas may be sold or purchased. I think that's find. Let me think about it a little bit; and I guess Bob has a question.

MR. MAHOOD: Shouldn't it just be no fish?

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: Yes. I think that's fine.

MR. MAHOOD: Whether you fillet them or not, you don't want them to sell a whole fish.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: Well, right, so fish is clear, too. It is probably better.

MR. PHILLIPS: Madam Chair, that is what I realized as we were talking about this; that would leave a loophole for whole fish being sold, so we absolutely want to just say no recreationally caught fish.

MS. BECKWITH: Okay; and I actually really think that it is no recreationally caught fish in The Bahamas may be sold or purchased – really, it is no fish from The Bahamas recreationally or otherwise, but we are trying to make it specific to recreational, because we don't allow sale from commercially caught fish in The Bahamas either. They don't allow a commercial fishery.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: I believe that is correct; but this amendment is specific to the bag-limit-harvested kinds of fish.

MS. BECKWITH: As long as the intent is clear on the record; is there any further discussion to this motion? Jessica.

MS. McCRAWLEY: I'm afraid to even bring this up, but do we need to say "marine species" so that people don't think that they can sell lobster or do we just need to let that go?

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: Well, this amendment deals with some tweaks to the snapper grouper exemption that is already in the regulations; and then it deals with dolphin and wahoo. I would advise you not to throw in any other species; but if you want to address that in the future in some other amendment or some other fashion, that would be fine. I'd suggest you not bring that up here.

MS. McCAWLEY: Yes; I'm good to leave it out.

MR. BELL: I'm just wondering; I know in South Carolina our definition of "fish" actually includes other – I don't know what the federal definition of "fish" is, but you might be covered.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: The federal definition is very broad; so it would include spiny lobster as well, yes.

MS. BECKWITH: And certainly we're relying on the regulation writers to decipher our intentions and correctly into the codified text; so I think the intention is clear. We're just trying to make sure that there are no loopholes to this amendment as it goes forward. Is there any further discussion? **The motion reads no recreationally caught fish from The Bahamas may be sold or purchased. Is there any opposition to this motion? Seeing none; that motion passes.**

**Then we had one additional motion, which was to approve the Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7 and Snapper Grouper Amendment 33 for secretarial review and deem the codified text as necessary and appropriate; give the staff editorial license to make any necessary editorial changes to the document/codified text and give the council chair authority to approve the revisions and redeem the codified text. On behalf of the committee I so move.**

MR. MAHOOD: Chairman Hartig.

MR. HARTIG: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Dr. Duval.

DR. DUVAL: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Bell.

MR. BELL: No.

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Bowen.

MR. BOWEN: No.

MR MAHOOD: Mr. Brewer.

MR. BREWER: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Brown.

MR. BROWN: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Conklin.

MR. CONKLIN: No.

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Cox.

MR. COX: No.

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Steele.

MR. STEELE: No.

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Haymans.

MR. HAYMANS: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Ms. McCawley.

MS. McCAWLEY: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Phillips.

MR. PHILLIPS: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Chairman Beckwith.

MS. BECKWITH: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: **The motion passes eight to five.**

MS. BECKWITH: Okay, the next amendment was the Generic Accountability Measure and Dolphin Allocation Amendment. **Under Action 1 we had a motion to remove red snapper from Action 1. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussions? Any opposition? Seeing none; that motion carries.**

**The next motion was to make the appropriate editorial changes as discussed. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Any opposition? Seeing none; that motion carries.**

We had one additional motion, which was to approve the Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 8/Snapper Grouper Amendment 34 for secretarial review and deem the codified text as necessary and appropriate; give the staff editorial license to make any necessary editorial changes to the document/codified text; and give the council chair authority to approve the revisions and redeem the codified text. On behalf of the committee I so move.

DR. CHEUVRONT: This also is a golden crab amendment; and so we need to modify this motion to include the golden crab amendment in here as well unless you're going to do two roll call votes for the same amendment.

MS. BECKWITH: Okay, so we can modify that.

MR. MAHOOD: Was it in the committee motion?

DR. CHEUVRONT: It is in the committee motions under golden crab, because golden crab met separately from Joint Dolphin Wahoo and Snapper Grouper. The Golden Crab Committee made the exact same motion; but instead of saying just Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 8 and Snapper Grouper Amendment 34, their motion read Golden Crab Amendment 9. If we simply add Golden Crab Amendment 9, you do one roll call vote and that covers everybody's amendment that has to go in here.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: That sounds like a great idea.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Okay, that is the motion now that includes Golden Crab Amendment 9.

**MS. BECKWITH: The motion reads approve the Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 8, Golden Crab Amendment 9 and Snapper Grouper Amendment 34 for secretarial review and deem the codified text as necessary and appropriate; give the staff editorial license to make any necessary editorial changes to the document/codified text; and give the council chair authority to approve the revisions and redeem the codified text.**

MR. MAHOOD: Chairman Hartig.

MR. HARTIG: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Dr. Duval.

DR. DUVAL: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Bell.

MR. BELL: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Bowen.

MR. BOWEN: Yes.

MR MAHOOD: Mr. Brewer.

MR. BREWER: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Brown.

MR. BROWN: 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. Haymans.

MR. HAYMANS: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Ms. McCawley.

MS. McCAWLEY: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Mr. Phillips.

MR. PHILLIPS: Yes.

MR. MAHOOD: Chairman Beckwith.

MS. BECKWITH: Yes.

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

MS. BECKWITH: Okay, that's it for me.

MR. HARTIG: Thank you, Anna; I appreciate that. The Mackerel Committee met yesterday. The committee adopted the agenda and approved the minutes from the September 2014 meeting. NMFS staff reported on the status of commercial catch and recreational catches in addition to updates on amendments under review.

Committee Chair Ben Hartig provided a report from the October 2014 meeting of the Gulf Council. Under SEDAR 38, SSC Vice-Chair Dr. Marcel Reichert provided a report on the SSC review of Atlantic King Mackerel Assessment and recommendations from the SSC. The SSC accepted the stock assessment as the best available science and adequate for use in management decisions.

Atlantic king mackerel is not overfished and not undergoing overfishing. The committee reviewed the options for setting the ACL for king mackerel based on the SSC recommendations that consider high, low and medium recruitment. The reason I read all that into the record now – we already did it in committee; but I did want to make sure that the staff explains the difference between what the SCC came out in their probabilistic run, which uses their P-star approach, versus the suggested ACL that the SSC put forth.

I think there is going to need to be some substantial discussion so the public understands exactly what they're looking at in that document. I see Kari shaking her head yes, so that is a great idea. Under Amendment 26, King Mackerel ACLs and Stock Boundaries, council staff reviewed the decision document for Amendment 26. The committee directed staff on which actions and alternatives to include in the amendment.

The committee also indicated what information should be included in the document in March 2015. The committee approved the following motions. **The first motion was add an action to revise King Mackerel ACLs with all six alternatives; and on behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion is approved.**

**The next motion under 26 was to add an action to adjust the stock boundary for king mackerel; and on behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion is approved.**

**The next motion was to add an action for allowing the sale of king mackerel bycatch in the shark gillnet fishery; and on behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion is approved.**

**The next motion was add an action to consider establishing a sub-quota specific for the new mixing zone; and on behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion is approved.**

**The last motion from 26 was to approve – well, maybe not, but the next motion was approve Amendment 26 for scoping; and on behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion is approved.** The committee also discussed separating the federal management plan in Amendment 28. The committee is interested in more information about how the FMP separation worked and all the components that would need to be addressed. Council and SERO staff will put together information to for the March meeting.

Under Amendment 24, Atlantic Spanish Mackerel and Quota Shift, the committee discussed if they should move forward with 24. **The motion that came was to postpone work on**

**Amendment 24 until 2016; and on behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion is approved.**

Since the timing and task isn't that long, I will read it into the record; and then if someone would like to make that motion, I think we can accomplish that. **The motion is adopt the timing and task items as presented: Prepare a scoping document for Amendment 26 and scope the amendment in January 2015; prepare Draft Amendment 26 for the March 2015 meeting, including information requested during discussion; and then prepare a discussion document on options and components of separating the FMP for March 2015. Mel.**

**MR. BELL: Mr. Chairman, I move we adopt the timing and task items as presented.**

**MR. HARTIG: Motion by Mel; seconded by Charlie. Discussion? Is there any objection? Seeing none; that motion is approved.** That, I believe, Kari, concludes king mackerel. After mackerel, we have SSC Selection; Dr. Duval.

DR. DUVAL: The SSC Selection Committee met on December 1<sup>st</sup>. We discussed the SSC policies and the appointment process and directed staff to update the SSC Policy and Job Description to reflect the current process and policies. Eventually this policy will be included as an appendix to the Council's Administrative Handbook.

We discussed a number of items that needed to be included in that revision, including designating a seat on the SSC for a representative of each state agency, retention of SSC applications on file and when to fill SSC vacancies occurring outside of regular terms. The committee supported convening the SSC via webinar prior to March and September council meetings, as well as the request to allow ad hoc subcommittees to review analyses in detail; and that recommendations of those ad hoc groups would be provided to the full SSC for review before coming to the council.

**We had one motion, which is to recommend that the council designate state agency seats on the SSC and include this direction in the SAFMC Administrative Handbook; and on behalf of the committee I so move. Any discussion? Any objection? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.** That, Mr. Chairman, concludes my report.

MR. HARTIG: I'll turn it right back over to you for the Council Member Visioning Workshop Report.

DR. DUVAL: The council had its Visioning Workshop for the Snapper Grouper Fishery on December 1<sup>st</sup>. The first thing we did was review the October Council Visioning Workshop. Staff provided an overview of that, including a review of the breakout session themes, the summary of the discussion for each sector.

Staff also reviewed a gap analysis that compared the issues and topics that were raised during the port meetings versus those discussed during the Council Visioning Workshop in October and received information on specific topics that were not addressed during the workshop that might need further consideration and discussion.

We next reviewed and discussed the strategic goals of management and communication. All that information from the October Council Visioning Workshop was compiled into Draft Vision Blueprint Strategic Goals for Management and Communication. Staff presented draft objectives, strategies and actions for each of those.

The council provided guidance on edits to the language of the document, revisions and additions and revised versions of those two documents will be presented to us in March. Then we reviewed planning for the next steps. In December we reviewed the management and communication draft vision blueprints, which, as I mentioned, we will see again in March.

In March we will review draft goals for science and governance for the Draft Vision Blueprint. At this point, March through June the plan is to collect input on the Draft Vision Blueprint. In June we would review that input and refine the draft; and then in July we would have another short visioning workshop to prioritize potential short-term actions; and then in September finalize those action items and begin development of Snapper Grouper Amendment 37.

For the March 2015 Visioning Workshop, we will review the revised documents for management and communication strategic goals; begin review of science and governance strategic goals; discuss and finalize strategies and timeline for collecting public input; and review a planning document for implementing listening stations to collect that input, as well as receive a list of resources outlining the potential capacity of the snapper grouper fishery.

I know that we have received comment on the draft vision blueprints thus far; and I just wanted to address some of those and encourage people to go through and read all the different port meeting summaries from the visioning port meetings that we had. There were a lot of different and conflicting ideas that came up sometimes within the same port meeting and sometimes within each of the different states.

I just want to make people understand that the draft strategic goal blueprints that we reviewed at this meeting; those are still draft. Nothing is set in stone; and we will have to approve a complete draft vision blueprint to go out for public input later, based on our timeline sometime between March and June.

That doesn't mean that everything that is in those draft vision blueprint goals for management and communication is going to stay in there; but I think it is important to get additional input on that. My concern is just that some of the comments we have received at this meeting and prior to the meeting and even more recently seem to be predicated on this is it and what folks saw in the briefing materials is what the council is going to do.

I want to assure people that those reflect the range and breadth of all the comments that were received at the port meetings. Some were more popular than others; some were not. I just want to encourage people that this is very much in draft format. Mr. Chairman, that concludes my review of our visioning workshop. I don't know if anybody else had anything to add at that point.



MR. HARTIG: Anyone else on visioning? I certainly appreciate your explanation about why certain things are in there and why they're not. Maybe we should collate everything together and have just a short summary of the different topics that people are concerned about and where they were mentioned. It may help.

MR. BROWN: I wanted to see about adding some language to the blueprint.

DR. DUVAL: Do you have that available?

MR. BROWN: Yes, I wanted to just add "specify recreational ACLs in numbers".

DR. DUVAL: So add that as a draft action?

MR. BROWN: Yes.

MS. VON HARTEN: I think, Chairman Hartig, you had an additional one that we talked about. Do you want me to add that one; the fishery performance reports?

MR. HARTIG: Yes; I do want to add that one, the fishery performance report. Thank you very much for reminding me.

MS. VON HARTEN: And if folks don't know what that is; the Mid-Atlantic Council produces these fishery performance reports. It is actually a report that is produced on an annual basis that their APs actually produce for the fishery that includes information about markets and how different regulations have impacted the fishery in that year. It is kind of a neat way to include anecdotal information from the APs and the fishermen themselves on an annual basis. The staff does some additional reports before that report is produced as well.

MR. HARTIG: The Mid-Atlantic has found it useful. The other thing is we tried this in our Snapper Grouper AP and the first time around it didn't work so great. I see this expanding from the AP as well into other fishermen and other people who comment to us. I see this happening on a yearly basis where we get fishermen from throughout the area to comment on what their experiences are with their fisheries. It could be helpful.

MR. HAYMANS: I was just going to simply ask for staff, when planning the July meeting, to please maybe poll everybody as to schedules. I sent you mine. There are five days in July that I cannot make a meeting. Thank you.

DR. DUVAL: All right, anything else under the topic of visioning? Maybe we could just add another bullet in there specific to addressing red grouper spawning, just to make sure that is captured. Okay, anything else? Seeing nothing else; that concludes my report, Mr. Chairman.

MR. HARTIG: All right, Habitat and Environmental Protection Committee Report, Dr. Wilson Laney.

DR. LANEY: The Habitat and Environmental Protection Committee met on December 1<sup>st</sup>. All members were present except for Mr. Beal. The agenda and minutes were adopted. Dr. McGovern reviewed Coral Amendment 8 for us. The amendment was approved by the secretary on August 20<sup>th</sup>, but the final rule hasn't been published because of an issue with regard to the ping rate. Additional information needs to be gathered on that; and once that estimate for what it would cost to change that ping rate is developed, then the final rule will be published.

We got an updated VMS analysis and bycatch information for the rock shrimp fishery from Chip Collier. We discussed the increased fishing effort during 2014 relative to past years in the area that will be closed in Coral Amendment 8. We decided to postpone making any final decision with regard to any further investigations until we get all of the data in for 2014.

We requested that be presented to the committee at our June meeting; and we will discuss that then. We also will seek some additional economic information from our AP Chair, Mike Merrifield, as well. We received a presentation from Dr. George Sedberry on the proposal for an Oculina National Marine Sanctuary, which had been submitted to NOAA.

That has already been reviewed by NOAA and a letter of insufficiency was sent. We anticipate that the proponents of that National Marine Sanctuary will be providing additional information back to NOAA and at some future point that will come back to the council again; and we can decide whether or not we would like to weigh in on that discussion.

We got a brief update from Phil Steele with regard to Miami Harbor Dredging and what is going on with respect to litigation and settlement on that particular issue. There were no motions, Mr. Chairman, but we do have a timing and task draft motion. I will read that into the record and then ask that someone make and second that motion for us.

Here is the motion; approve the task and timing as presented: (1) direct staff to provide an updated VMS analysis using all of the 2014 data and include information on vessels that are capable of fishing in the depth of the area that will be closed in Coral Amendment 8; an updated economic information for the area from Mike Merrifield; present results to the Habitat and Environmental Protection Committee by the June 2015 council meeting; (2), direct staff to update the council if new sanctuaries are proposed in the South Atlantic; (3); direct staff to develop a document that describes all the management actions taken by the council to protect habitats and managed fisheries off the coast of northeast Florida; present results to the Habitat and Environmental Protection Committee by the March or June 2015 council meetings.

I believe, Mr. Chairman, since I'm a non-voting member, I think you may have to ask for someone to make and second that motion and then conduct a vote on that.

MR. HARTIG: All right, we will need somebody to make Wilson's motion. Chris.

MR. CONKLIN: Sure; I'll make that motion.

**MR. HARTIG: The motion is to adopt the timing and task motion; made by Chris and seconded by Ben. Discussion? Is there any objection to that motion? Seeing none; that motion is approved.**

DR. LANEY: Mr. Chairman, that concludes the report of the Habitat and Environmental Protection Committee. Would you like me to move directly into the next one? Okay, the Protected Resources Committee also met on December 1<sup>st</sup>; and I believe everyone was present for that meeting. We had an update from the Southeast Regional Office, Protected Resources Division, Jenny Lee. We had an update from myself on American eel. I need to correct one piece of misinformation that I gave the committee; and that was due to confusion on my part about multiple American eel actions that are going on at the same time.

The eel has been added to the IUCN Red List as endangered; however, that doesn't affect import and export of that species, because that is covered under CITES. There has been no CITES listing as yet, although my understanding from our headquarters staff is that there is still some consideration of the Service submitting American eel to CITES for possible listing.

The action that had occurred that does affect import and export but of European eel was a decision by the European Union not to allow any import and export of that species during 2015. I provided a copy of that letter to some of you. If everybody wants to see it, I can send that around. That just corrects that misstatement that I had made in the record under American eel. We also discussed briefly the Atlantic Sturgeon Stock Assessment, which is ongoing. The current focus in that assessment is on gathering additional data. We discussed the proposed threatened listing for Nassau grouper. We have a draft that has been prepared by staff for our consideration. I know Chairman Hartig has some additional comments on that; so anyone who has comments on that letter is supposed to submit comments to Dr. MacLauchlin.

She will include those and we will finalize that letter for submittal before the end of the year. We had a discussion and presentation from Barb Zoodsma with regard to the current requirements of the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan for pot and gillnet fisheries in the South Atlantic. We had an extensive discussion about that in the context of Snapper Grouper Regulatory Amendment 16; and, of course, further discussion took place under the Snapper Grouper Committee.

We had some recommendations from the ESA Working Group with regard to an MOU between the council and the Protected Resources Division. The working group identified problem areas in all the regions and provided some recommendations on how to address those issues. The committee approved the following motion; but again since I'm not a voting member, I think, Mr. Chairman, if you would undertake to read that motion and then solicit approval of it from the full council, I would appreciate it.

MR. HARTIG: All right, since I don't have that committee report in front of me right now, go ahead and read the motion.

**DR. LANEY:** The motion is to direct staff to work with the Protected Resources Division to develop a Draft MOU per the Coordinating Council Committee Report regarding the council's involvement with the consultation process in March 2015.

**MR. HARTIG:** Was that on behalf of the committee?

**DR. LANEY:** I think it is; so I guess a committee member will have to move that.

**DR. DUVAL:** On behalf of the committee I so move.

**MR. HARTIG:** Is there any discussion on that motion? Is there any objection to that motion? Seeing none; that motion is approved.

DR. LANEY: Okay, thank you, Mr. Chairman. There was one more item and that is the South Atlantic Council representation on the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team; Dr. Duval noted a vacancy on the take reduction team that had been filled by David Cupka as the South Atlantic Council representative. The council can select a representative and notify NMFS and he or she will be added to the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team. I don't know whether you want to do that now or later, but that is an action that the council needs to take, I presume, if you want to fill that vacancy.

MR. HARTIG: I don't know that we're ready to do that formally now. I know Jack has offered to go to the next meeting. I think after that meeting maybe we can come to some kind of decision. If there is anyone who would like to serve on that, please contact staff and we can –

MR. COX: I would like to know what the duties are.

MR. HARTIG: I think that is appropriate, Jack. You will find out at the next meeting.

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

MR. HARTIG: I appreciate that, Wilson. Jack, when you come back and you feel comfortable, if you would like to fill that decision; that would be great. If you don't, we will see if there is anyone else who would like to serve. I can't do it. I would like to add one thing about the Nassau grouper.

I started working on my comments and as I went through them, they became more and more personal. My experience in that fishery over time – and, really, some of the opinions I've developed are really going to be my own and probably wouldn't be pertinent for the council to include those in that letter. I have at least that one item I mentioned before is the photographic evidence and I would like NMFS to pursue that and add that to the letter. If I have any others, I'll get them to you. I'm going to review that on the way home and get that done. I'll get it to you quickly. That brings us to the AP Selection Committee.

MR. HAYMANS: The Advisory Panel Selection Committee met on December 2, 2014, and reviewed applications for the following advisory panels. I am going to move right on into the motions.

**Motion to appoint Dr. Nicole Fogarty to the Coral AP. On behalf of the committee I so move. Any discussion? Any opposition? Seeing none; that motion is approved.**

**Motion to reappoint Fred Kinnard, Kyle Christiansen and Rosher to the Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel. On behalf of the committee I so move. Discussion? Opposition? Seeing none; that motion is approved.**

**Motion to appoint David Wilson, Glenn Hopkins, Wendell Barnett, Clay Bishop, Tim Scalise, Robert Barnett, Robert Frevert; and reappoint Harris Huddle to the Dolphin Wahoo AP. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Any opposition? Seeing none; that motion is approved.**

**Motion to reappoint Tim Nettles for one year to the Dolphin Wahoo AP. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Any opposition? Seeing none; that motion is approved.**

**Motion to reappoint Bill Parker, Thomas Jones, Mark Carter and Bill Kelly to the Habitat AP. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Any opposition? Seeing none; that motion is approved.**

**Motion to appoint David Harter, James Geiger and Dr. Steve Ross to the Habitat AP; and on behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Opposition? Seeing none; that motion is approved.**

**Motion to reappoint Stephen Swan to the Mackerel AP; and on behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Any opposition? Seeing none; that motion is approved.**

**Motion to appoint Selby Lewis, Robert Olsen, Mason Bowen, Ira Laks, and Steve English to the Mackerel AP. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Opposition? Seeing none; that motion is approved.**

MR. HARTIG: Stop! Before we leave the mackerel portion of that, I talked to Bill Kelly. We had some discussion during that committee. **After talking with Bill, I would move that we add Manny Herrera to the Mackerel AP.**

MR. HAYMANS: I wish I had had a little bit of a heads-up on that one, Mr. Chairman, because I don't have my count. Kim, do you have the count to make sure?

MS. IVERSON: I do not have it in front of me.

MR. HARTIG: It was my recollection in the discussion that we had that pending if we had the discussion with Bill; that there was a commercial seat open on the Mackerel AP and that we could add Manny after I talked to Bill.

MR. HAYMANS: Was that one that we were going to readvertise and now we don't need to?

MS. IVERSON: That's correct.

MR. HAYMANS: All right, the motion is to add Manny Herrera to the Mackerel AP. Is there a second?

MS. McCAWLEY: Second.

MR. HAYMANS: Is there any discussion? Is there any opposition? **Seeing none; that motion is approved.** You've got it noted, though, right, Kim?

MS. IVERSON: Yes, I do.

DR. LANEY: Just one minor edit; Doug, under Motion 6, James Geiger is Dr. James Geiger. It is actually Dr. Jaime Geiger.

MR. HAYMANS: Well, that is the case on a couple of other folks as well. I was just going to read it the way it was printed; but so noted. Okay, let's move on to the final three. **Motion to appoint Milton Mathis, Robert Lorenz, Wayne Mershon, Wes Covington, Judy Helmey, and Emily Helmick to the Snapper Grouper AP. On behalf of the committee I so move. Any discussion? Any opposition? Seeing none; that motion is approved.**

**Motion to appoint David Timpey and David Tucker to the SEDAR Pool. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Opposition? Seeing none; that motion is approved.**

**Finally, motion to reappoint Dick Brame for an additional year to the Mackerel AP. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Any opposition? Seeing none; that motion is approved.** If there is no other business, Mr. Chairman, that concludes my report.

MR. HARTIG: Thank you, Doug, well done. The next is the SEDAR Committee received a report from the October 2014 SEDAR Steering Committee Meeting. The committee discussed the revised schedule for SEDAR 41, South Atlantic Red Snapper and Gray Triggerfish. **From that, there was a motion to approve the modified SEDAR 41 schedule; and on behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Is there any objection? Seeing none; that motion is approved.**

The committee also discussed recommending assessing vermilion snapper on a three-year cycle in the future; and out of that came a motion. **On behalf of the committee, I so move to assess vermilion snapper every three years. Discussion? Is there any objection? Seeing none;**

**that motion is approved.** Before I conclude that, I'm going to ask John if I missed anything, because the last time I did.

MR. CARMICHAEL: Not that I'm aware of.

MR. HARTIG: Is there any other business before the SEDAR Committee? That concludes the SEDAR Committee Report. Executive Finance; the Executive Finance Committee met on December 4<sup>th</sup> in New Bern. We approved the minutes. We received a presentation on the following agenda items. Bob discussed the 2014 budget expenditures. We addressed the follow-up and priorities and at this time the results will be provided to the council from Gregg on the follow-up priorities.

MR. WAUGH: This was distributed to everybody. The number one priority was Snapper Grouper Amendment 37. It is going to be hard to show this so everybody can see it on the screen, but everybody has this. This column with the ranking are your priorities now. Number 1 is Snapper Grouper Amendment 37; two is Amendment 36; three, the System Management Plan for Snapper Grouper Amendment 14, MPAs.

Four is Amendment 38; five, Snapper Grouper Regulatory Amendment 16; six, Fishery Ecosystem Plan Update; seven, the Joint South Atlantic/Gulf Amendment South Florida Issues; eight, Joint Mackerel Amendment 28 – and we've got another tie, but that item will be picked up in 2016 – nine is Snapper Grouper Amendment 35; ten is Snapper Grouper Amendment 22; eleven, again an item from 2016; twelve and thirteen are items in 2016. We've got a tie for thirteen with Amendment 24. Those are your priorities for 2015. We will fold these into the revised follow-up document from this meeting. I'll be glad to answer any questions from anybody.

MR. HAYMANS: I was just going to ask Gregg if any of them surprised you, specifically the South Florida falling so low. Did any of them not really match up with the work that staff has been doing?

MR. WAUGH: Not really; because, again, these are items to complete during 2015. Again, we've got a few items that rank a little higher but that are being planned to work on in 2016. I don't see that as a big issue. We'll pick those up as we can. No, there is nothing that jumps out; I don't think.

MR. HARTIG: Any other questions for Gregg about the priorities? Thank you, Gregg, for putting all that together. The Executive Finance Committee also received an update on the Joint Committee on South Florida Management Issues and from that came a motion. **The motion was to remove Subalternatives 3A, 3B, 4A and 4B from the accountability measures action. On behalf of the committee I so move. Is there any discussion? Is there any objection? Seeing none; that motion is approved.** That concludes the Executive Finance Committee Report unless, Bob, do you have anything?

All right, the Golden Crab Report; the Golden Crab Committee received an update on commercial catches and reviewed Golden Crab Amendment 9. The motion that was made for

Amendment 9 was already dispensed under the Joint Dolphin Wahoo/Snapper Grouper Committee. That concludes my Golden Crab Report. Data Collection from Mr. Bell.

MR. BELL: The Data Collection Committee met December 4<sup>th</sup>. All members were present. The first thing was a status of work on bycatch reporting provided by Dr. McGovern. I will note we certainly appreciate the work of both the Center and the Regional Office and GC in kind of moving that whole process forward. This is helping us to move along.

We will receive an update in March on how that is going in terms of helping us with moving forward with bycatch reporting. We received a briefing from Mr. Steele on the electronic technology data collection monitoring; the regional implementation plan. Both Gregg and I kind of walked through that document.

We received input from the committee and the council members there. We have a homework assignment associated with that. If anybody has any additional input, remember we need that back by the end of next week so we can get back with the National Marine Fisheries Service on that. Then we received a status of implementation plan for commercial logbook electronic reporting.

Gregg provided an update on that. There are a number of items that we covered. Of note, one thing is there was a point where Gregg will follow up on the point that Phil brought up about access to the permit data; so we will follow up on that. We received an update on the commercial logbook pilot study by Dr. Ponwith; and then a briefing by Mike Errigo on the recommendations that came out of the Joint South Atlantic and Gulf Council Generic Charterboat Reporting related to that amendment and moving forward.

There were a number of recommendations that came from that team that was put together to look at that. Under other business, Dr. Ponwith and Dr. Boreman were available to discuss what was going on related to some changes in MRIP that are coming up. Of note there, Dr. Boreman did offer that if we have questions or things come up as we move along – and I am sure there will be questions as we move long in making adjustments to MRIP – that they'd be willing to have a webinar which might be useful in the future.

That is moving forward; and we do appreciate all the effort from everybody associated with that and trying to improve what we have there. **There were no motions from the committee, but I do have a timing and task motion, which I can go ahead and read, which would be to approve the task and timing as presented:**

**Direct staff to assist in providing input on the Draft Electronic Technology Regional Implementation Plan; direct staff to continue working with ACCSP, Mike Cahall, on developing a Commercial Logbook Electronic Data Entry Form. Gregg Waugh will be the staff person. Andy Strelcheck will represent NMFS SERO and Dave Gloeckner and Steve Turner will represent the Southeast Fisheries Science Center. Monica Smit-Brunello will represent NOAA GC. A status report will be presented to the council at the March 2015 meeting with the goal of implementation in early 2015. Direct staff to work with Gulf**



**Council staff to begin working on a Joint Charterboat Logbook Amendment. If I could someone to present that motion.**

**DR. DUVAL: So moved, Mr. Chairman.**

**MR. BELL: Seconded by Ben. Any discussion of the motion? Any objection to the motion? Okay, the motion approved.** Mr. Chairman, that concludes my report.

MR. HARTIG: Thank you, Mel, I appreciate it. Now we move on to status reports; and I think it is fitting that Phil gets to give his last report here from his perspective, anyway.

MR. STEELE: I don't have too much. The recreational and commercial quota monitoring tables have been updated on our website, SERO. Just to let you know; the commercial harvest of cobia will close on December 11<sup>th</sup>. The proposed rule for Amendment 29 will publish on December 8<sup>th</sup>. The comment period ends on that amendment January 17, 2015. The porgy complex will close on December 9<sup>th</sup>. We will be sending a Fisheries Bulletin out today. There are two EFP requests, Mr. Chair, that we need to consider. I will let Jack take care of those. That's it for me.

DR. McGOVERN: The EFP requests were sent out by Mike last Friday to council members. I want to go over them both together because they're both very similar. They deal with work on attracting devices for lionfish off of North Carolina. Dr. James Morris from the National Ocean Service is on both of these. He is the PI on one of them and a co-PI on the other.

The first one I'm going to talk about is an FMP request from Janelle Fleming. As I said, James Morris is a co-PI on this. She is a research scientist with UNC-Chapel Hill. She has funding from North Carolina Sea Grant to collect lionfish with Maine lobster pots and crab pot Christmas trees. She wants to test consumer preference for lionfish to see if Carteret County would support a consumer market for the species.

What she intends to do is to set two sets of five Maine lobster pots and crab pot Christmas trees connected by a chain with no buoy lines to the surface, along bottom features approximately 30 to 50 feet apart. The traps would not be baited. After deployment, the divers would verify the position to ensure that the traps are between 20 or 30 feet from any bottom feature.

She wants to deploy the gear year-round off of North Carolina from three miles out and up to sixty fathoms in depth. They would be deployed for at least 48 hours and no longer than three weeks. Divers would count and identify the number of fish inside and around the traps and they'd record video on what is there.

She would identify the fish species; do video; bycatch would be measured, released alive. Any egg-bearing lobsters would be released alive. The lionfish would be counted, measured and prepared for consumption. They would not be sold but instead they would be offered free of charge as patrons as part of a consumer demand assessment for the research project.

The other EFP request is from Dr. James Morris. He intends to use two of the same exact gear types as Dr. Fleming, the crab pot Christmas trees and the Maine lobster pots, but he also wants

to use another horizontal structure that replicates an overhanging cliff. These will not be baited. They will have no vertical lines that could potentially impact protected species. They're just going to be used to attract lionfish.

The design is very similar. They would be tethered together, spaced about 30 to 50 feet apart, and divers would assess the densities of fish and lionfish. They would release everything that was attracted or caught with the traps. They would be deployed for 48 hours for a maximum of one week. The experiment would be replicated twice during the summer season. The objective of Dr. Morris' study is to see if the experimental design and these trapping and aggregating devices are worth pursuing on a larger scale. That's it.

MR. HARTIG: Are there any questions? Go ahead, Zack.

MR. BOWEN: Jack, can you tell me the depths? I think I heard you say six to sixty fathoms.

DR. McGOVERN: Yes; that is what they have in there is three miles to sixty fathoms, which seems pretty deep for diving. I doubt they're going to go that deep.

MR. BOWEN: That was the point I was exactly fixing to make.

MR. HARTIG: I would expect that would be video work done on that gear, if you need a clarification on it, but that is what I would expect. Any other questions of Jack? Jack.

MR. COX: When I read through that report, I was just thinking about some of the things they may want to put to protect – in case they do lose some traps, so they don't continue to catch fish like we do with the bass pots.

MR. HARTIG: Has this been vetted through Protected Resources yet.

DR. McGOVERN: It has been. We've done a consultation memo and it has gone through Protected Resources; and they're okay with it because it has no vertical lines.

MR. HARTIG: Okay, I wasn't worried so much about the vertical lines as I was about the turtles getting trapped in the Christmas tree somehow. They love this kind of stuff. They swim in between it and everything else. Go ahead, Monica.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: Could you describe what the Christmas tree is; could you describe what this Christmas trap is like?

MR. HARTIG: I don't think I can describe it but I think Jack might be able to. I've seen pictures of it.

DR. DUVAL: It is just a crab pot that has been cut apart; and it sort of is unfolded so that it looks like a Christmas tree. People actually do use them in lieu of Christmas trees in North Carolina.

MR. COX: When I looked at that, I don't see how you would catch anything with it. I've seen folks make these things and sell them for Christmas decorations; so I was very confused when I saw that.

DR. McGOVERN: I don't think it is intended to catch anything. I think it is intended to attract lionfish and other things. It is just a structure to attract them. The Maine lobster pot could attract them, but I don't think the Christmas tree device would. It says in here that the Christmas tree pot is approximately 24 inches at the base diameter and 48 inches in height. They have a picture in here that says the picture with the lights removed; so they probably won't light it up on the bottom.

MR. HARTIG: That alleviates my turtle question. Any other discussion? I guess we need to approved this, right, Bob?

MR. MAHOOD: Recommend.

MR. HARTIG: Yes, a motion to recommend to the regional administrator that we accept these two EFPs. Motion by Jack?

MR. COX: Well, not yet. I just wanted to say that I still think they ought to have escape panels built into them. We ought to at least offer that suggestion before we move forward with it.

MR. STEELE: We can do that.

MR. COX: Then I would second it.

MR. HARTIG: Well, do you want to make it? Go ahead, Michelle.

DR. DUVAL: **I move that we recommend approval of the two EFP requests.**

**MR. HARTIG: Second by Jack. Any other discussion? Is there any objection to this motion? The motion passes with one objection.** Anything else from the NMFS arena? Monica, do you have anything?

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: I do not.

MR. HARTIG: All right, Bonnie.

DR. PONWITH: Mr. Chairman, just a couple of reports. First on commercial shrimp fishery observer coverage; when the report was put together, thus far we've got a total of 45 trips observed. Of that, 16 were from the mandatory coverage; and the remaining 29 were from the voluntary experimental program. That accounts for a total of 112 sea days and 431 tows.

Then on the headboat side, since the last report, some of the progress that we've made are after August we have added clickable maps that include lat/long degrees in minutes. We have

included some socio-economic questions; questions like the number of paying passengers, crew, gallons of gas, price per gallon. The feedback has been generally positive on this.

There was some pushback on the economic questions; but when we explained to them how we were using those data and what the potential benefit to the industry in providing those data were, the people were a lot more accepting of it; and that is always generally the case.

The progress that we're doing on the upgrades to the Oracle Database include storing the dockside and at-sea validation data, to be able to link that with the other data and to develop processing capabilities to validate link and merge the submitted data.; again, to load data into the existing data warehouse and then provide the web-based access for reporting and extraction; so the analysts who are using those data have it readily available.

We're continuing to analyze the survey protocols and methodologies, going through the historic – we talked a little bit about this, going through the historic data to understand the issues that were raised by the industry on the condition of the time series. We will be giving progress reports on that as we make our way through that analysis.

We expect that we will have the 2014 estimates for effort and landings for the headboat fishery by the end of February in 2015. As we talked about earlier, we do intend to shift to two-month waves for generating those estimates going forward. If the data can support more frequent reports than that, we will do that; but I do think that it is going to take some experimentation to understand kind of how the weight data comes in from those dockside intercepts to make sure we can do a really good job of those estimations since those estimations are fairly influential.

Again, those reports would be preliminary until we get the full round of data and can validate those poundages. That is my report with one exception. I do want to remind everybody – Dr. Duval raised this in one of her committee meetings earlier – and that is that the S-K Proposals are due to headquarters or on grants on line, I believe, by the 15<sup>th</sup> of December. I would be really thrilled to see some good, strong proposals coming from this region to tackle some of our information or data gaps in the region. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. HARTIG: Thank you, Bonnie, and I appreciate that explanation on the headboat data, the reporting of it, because we had some questions of that and you cleared it up. Jessica.

MS. McCAWLEY: I was just going to give an update of what we covered at our last Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Meeting. At our last meeting we talked a lot about the spiny lobster fishery. The meeting was in Key Largo; so we were focusing on Key-specific issues. We talked a lot about the spiny lobster commercial dive endorsement.

There is a moratorium on the transferability of that endorsement right now. That expires early next year, so we're trying to get something in place. Like if we're going to consider transferability, which is what the commission approved; the commission approved keeping the moratorium in place, but allowing transferability of that particular endorsement.

There were also lots of other comments on spiny lobster, including comments about bully-netting. We have the commercial dive endorsement for lobster; and we have the trap certificate program for the trap fishery; but we don't have a specific endorsement for the bully-netting portion of the fishery, which has increased considerably in the last couple of years, especially last year.

The commission also directed us to look into some type of more specific management for bully-netting, possibly an endorsement program. The commission also received updates on the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and their process. On the Gulf side, the commission approved a decrease in the bag limit for red grouper.

The Gulf Council recently passed an action to decrease the bag limit for red grouper in order to lengthen the season; and the commission approved a similar action for state waters of the Gulf. The commission also got an update on barracuda. We've been hearing a lot of concerns on barracuda. As you know, Mr. Chairman, you were at the South Florida Workshops where we heard a lot about that.

We were asking the commission to direct us to proceed with rulemaking and hold some workshops. They only approved us to hold workshops in Monroe County and to only consider the issue for Monroe County. They weren't all that excited about the prospect of regulating barracuda but asked us to return after we held a couple of workshops in the Keys.

Those are the most recent things that we have going on. We're also working on a lot of stuff with lionfish; and at our next meeting I'll probably have a lot more things to report on lionfish outreach. We gave a big presentation to the commission on all of our lionfish outreach efforts.

MR. HARTIG: Questions of Jessica? I actually have a couple. The one on barracuda; if you're just going to consider Monroe County, are you going to bring the Ciguatera into the discussion for Monroe County; because that is where that occurs, to my knowledge, more extensively in that area than any other area in Florida?

MS. McCAWLEY: Yes; that was brought up at the meeting. We had a list of what the public had brought forward. The public had a lot of different ideas about how to regulate barracuda as well as concerns like the Ciguatera concern. In relation to Ciguatera, we would probably be suggesting maybe a maximum size limit or a slot limit for barracuda in that respect.

We're hoping that we're going to get some input from these Monroe County, Key-specific workshops, and then bring that back to the commission and let them consider that. They weren't just jumping on board to want to regulate barracuda even though we've been hearing all these concerns. Part of it is because we don't have a barracuda stock assessment.

It would be very expensive to even get the data to complete that type of stock assessment. The type of data we have is RVC-specific data. It is the Citizen Science Group, that kind of data; so we have data that is not targeted barracuda, but we do have some information about it. We do have commercial and recreational landings. The commercial landings have – we have seen a huge spike in the past two or three years in Monroe County.

MR. HARTIG: I appreciate that. The other thing was the bully-netting. When I used to go to the Keys all the time, that was primarily a recreational endeavor but now that has morphed into the commercial and I did not know that.

MS. McCAWLEY: And part of that is because of the fact that the commercial live market has gone up so much for spiny lobster; so that has really driven up the price. Some people are getting twenty-two or twenty-five dollars a pound for a live lobster from the Keys; and bully-netting would be the preferred method to take those lobsters for the live market, because they don't enter a trap, they're not beat up by the trap in any way, so they would be a more pristine, higher-quality product coming from that bully-netting fishery.

MR. HARTIG: Thanks for that; I find that very interesting.

DR. DUVAL: I just had a quick question for Jessica. I think at the last council meeting Roy had asked you about complementary regulations for snowy grouper in state waters; and I just wanted to know sort of what the status was of that.

MS. McCAWLEY: At the previous commission meeting that we had, we brought that up and the commission chose not to take any action on that item at this time.

DR. DUVAL: So does that mean that you are still open in state waters for snowy grouper recreationally and is it one fish per person per day?

MS. McCAWLEY: I believe so; I'd have to look that up, but we're definitely still open.

MR. COX: Before we adjourn, Bonnie, I had a quick question for you. We're seeing such an increase in sharks; and I was just wondering with your bycatch logbook reports, are you noticing the same thing, especially sand tigers?

DR. PONWITH: That is a good question but at a higher level of specificity than I have in the back of my mind. I would be pleased to go back to my folks and ask if they're seeing trends like that. Is this specific to 2014 or is this a longer-term trend?

MR. COX: Over the last couple of years. I was just wondering if you could bring something to the next meeting, if you would, about shark interactions with the bycatch reporting.

DR. PONWITH: That would be fine; and it would be easiest for me if you could craft the question and send me an e-mail on it. That makes it easy for me to go out to my folks and task it out.

MR. HARTIG: Any other questions of Jessica? Doug.

MR. HAYMANS: Mr. Chairman, I will do my best to keep my comments brief. We are one month away from entering our legislative session. We have no proposed statutes for fisheries. One that is on the table that is probably of most interest, Wilson, and that is our buffer issue

around our marshes; and that is probably going to play out throughout the entire session this year. The only other thing is I welcome you to Georgia in March. We are planning another shindig at Susan's house with oysters and clams and all the fixins provided from Charlie. That's it.

MR. HARTIG: Any questions of Doug? Wilson, go ahead.

DR. LANEY: Doug, if you've got the specifics on the marsh buffer thing, if you would send that to me, I'll get it out to the Habitat AP. I think they would probably be interested in that.

MR. PHILLIPS: Doug may not be up on this, but we do have a – talking about marsh buffers and stuff; Andre – I forgot his last name – he is a scientist with Middle Georgia, and he is working on getting a grant to do check runoff and see how well marsh buffers – you know, how the marsh actually cleans pollutants out of the marsh, so we're working on some projects with the Georgia Conservancy and I'm not sure who else. I know it is at least with Georgia Conservancy. We're trying to document just how important the marsh is.

MR. HAYMANS: Those are coastal incentive grants, correct?

DR. DUVAL: Mr. Chairman, I think probably the item that is of most interest to the council is just the ongoing process that we're undertaking to implement for-hire logbooks within the state of North Carolina. You've heard a lot of information about that already at this meeting. Again, the rulemaking should hopefully be effective some time in April or May is what we're shooting for; as Preston indicated, a rollout in June.

We continue our outreach efforts as well as working with ACCSP and MRIP on that. Our legislative session also starts in about another month. I am not aware of any specific proposals that are of interest to the council. I'll just note that we're pretty busy with most of state fishery management plans.

We have statutory five-year reviews of all of our state fishery management plans; and the majority of our plans are in some stage of that review, whether it is the new assessment or the commission has approved the FMP and we're waiting on final approval of the rules or what; but it is a huge workload for staff at this point. That's it.

MR. HARTIG: Questions for Michelle? Zack.

MR. BOWEN: Not a question; just a comment. That is thrilling to my ears about the logbook. Maybe my home state of Georgia can follow suit.

DR. LANEY: Mr. Chairman, I'll just mention a few things. One is with regard to the ACCSP and Biological Sampling Matrix, it occurred to me that there might be some opportunity for collaboration there between the Fish and Wildlife Service's Refuge Inventory and Monitoring Program, which is responsible for doing inventory and monitoring of critters on national wildlife refuges, and the Biological Sampling Matrix to the extent that the Fish and Wildlife Service

refuge monitoring interests may overlap with those of the states and the councils as they put that matrix together.

I passed that information along to our I&M coordinator; and she is discussing it. We actually have an aquatic inventory and monitoring staff person who is stationed at Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge in South Carolina. Hopefully, something may arise out of that. I was thinking that if we have refuge staff who are out there collecting animals, there might be an opportunity, for example, for them to work with South Carolina DNR and the SEAMAP Program to get those aged; and/or vice versa, if some of the state partners have an interest in collecting specimens from national wildlife refuges, then it may be that our staff might be available to do some of that work and provide the animals to ACCSP partners or council partners for sampling, for hard parts and things like that. Hopefully, something will emerge out of that.

I'm working pretty hard to get the cooperative winter tagging cruise all finalized and ongoing. We're going to be using the Research Vessel Savannah this year. We will be working off North Carolina and Virginia pursuant to getting my approval from NMFS, which I haven't gotten yet, but hopefully that will be forthcoming.

We will be out there January 10<sup>th</sup> through the 19<sup>th</sup> this year, hopefully tagging striped bass. We're also going to be working with the NEAMAP folks to get a set of stations that we could conceivably use as survey stations and follow the NEAMAP protocol on those. There is some interest at least in having fishery-independent samples taken during the wintertime in the area that we use as our study area up there.

We're going to try that this year and see how that fits in with our overall program. Of course, our primary mandate is still to fulfill the ASMFC tagging targets for striped bass. I will mention, especially for those you of that might be interested, we'll be doing ten hook-and-line tagging trips during that same time frame.

For folks that would like to come up to Virginia Beach and go out on one of those hook-and-line tagging trips, that opportunity is available. You just need to let Charlton Godwin of the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries know that, and he will put you on the list. I'll just mention last year, as a means of incentive, one of our volunteer anglers got to reel in a 74-pound striped bass; so that was a pretty good incentive.

We have lots of volunteers and we use the Fishing Vessel Midnight Sun, which is based in Reedville, Virginia, but moves to Virginia Beach for the wintertime. If you're interested in that, shoot me an e-mail or shoot Charlton an e-mail and let him know. The red knot listing decision is still not out. I was expecting that on or about November 28<sup>th</sup>, but it hasn't arrived yet. As soon as that comes out, I'll let everybody know.

The last thing is a lot of my time these days is being spent working with a group of other service leadership from the South Atlantic part of the region, looking at Fish and Wildlife Service surrogate species and the South Atlantic Landscape Conservative Cooperative National Resource Indicators in determining how those two sets of indicators mesh up with each other and trying to prepare a three-year work plan for the Service to move us more from an opportunistic type of



approach to a more strategic approach with regard to conservation. I'll be happy to answer any questions, Mr. Chairman.

MR. HARTIG: Any questions? I appreciate that report. That brings us to Mel Bell.

MR. BELL: Nothing of major interest to this group. The Palmetto, which is our primary research vessel for MARMAP, won't be going into the yards this year; so I think Marcel is contemplating whipping people and making them go to sea earlier or something; so we'll see how that works with the schedule. The Palmetto is fine. She will be okay without the yard period. Our legislature will be going into session in about a month as well. Nothing on the agenda right now.

There was some discussion. Recall we discussed cobia at the last meeting and I think some folks were interested in maybe trying to do something to provide an additional degree of protection to fish that are spawning in our state waters, but that would be a state thing. Before we were to move forward with that, if we did, we would make sure we consulted with the council.

There might be some additional discussion there; but that may not happen until next year, if it does. I mentioned the jellyball fishery earlier. It is just something I think sooner or later we'll probably have to deal with, as Charlie said. What we've noticed in the experimental work we've done, the majority of the fishery is occurring in federal waters; so it is going on out there.

The processing part of it on land doesn't seem to be a popular concept with Beaufort County at the moment; so I'm not sure how that is going to go. We may not have a jellyball fishery or a place to process in South Carolina; but the fishery itself might end up being mostly a federal fishery; so just something to keep in mind for us.

I mentioned that the Charleston Deep Reef MPA; the Army Corps did approve our request to move the permit boundaries; so we'll have that shortly. Then we'll have to, of course, move forward with our process to match up the MPA boundaries with the permit boundaries. Anyway, that will be done and that was actually pretty quick.

Then related to MPAs, I can't remember if it was at our last meeting or if it was at a different meeting where we talked about the MPAs not necessarily being on the nautical charts. I think we've found out who to communicate with about that and how to do that. We've actually requested that the artificial reef permit boundaries be reflected on the chart; so that will at least be on the nautical charts at some point here.

I think it is the same people we need to talk to about making sure we get all of the MPA boundaries on there, if we'd like to do that. And then also just related to that whole concept of artificial reefs used as MPAs or used in a different way, we have Area 51 and 53 kind of on the table now, but we're, of course, interested in how this is all going to play out; and at some point I guess there will be a box on a chart.

But, you know, there is some sensitivity to that; but I think we definitely need to do what we're doing, which is move forward to provide official protection for those sites; and we would like to

use them actually as SMZs. And also if there is any interest on the council's part in kind of – you know, we've been hearing from the public a little bit more about, hey, why don't you go use artificial reefs for this, why don't you build artificial reefs and not fish them – you know, if you think back ten years, they would have never said that.

The fact that they're coming to us and saying please build some artificial reefs or work with us or allow us to do it and we won't fish them; that is a major step. If at some point the council is interested in some discussion of how we could maybe coordinate some efforts along those lines, multiple states or something, we'd be glad to help with that. I think there may be some interest in other states as well. Mr. Chairman, that's all I have.

MR. HARTIG: Any questions for Mel? Go ahead, Chester.

MR. BREWER: Actually not a question but a follow-up on what Mel has been talking about. Yesterday afternoon I was copied in on an e-mail from John Jolley, the dear departed; and he is corresponding with somebody I don't know by the name of John Bonsack. I asked Mike to put this on your e-mail; so it is there.

John has talked about the fact that the West Palm Beach Fishing Club is very interested in sinking a large ship, deep water, four to five hundred feet, and doing it in such a fashion that by sinking it so deep it would not be subject perhaps to fishing or diving. As you probably know, they did some work with artificial reefing down in Broward County; and as soon as it got loaded up with amberjack, the bandit rig guys came in and wiped it out.

It might be a good idea or a thought, anyway, at some point for this council to think about setting up MPAs in conjunction with others who are actually the ones that are sinking these ships. It might be that the council could help to fast-track that or could help to fast-track the permitting process, which is a big part of putting these boats down or whatever your putting down, be it concrete rubble or whatever.

I wanted to suggest or request that maybe at the next council meeting or maybe at the one after that an hour be set aside to get a presentation from some folks that have had a lot of experience with the process of artificial reefing. Tom Twyford might be a really good one; but at the next council meeting that we set aside an hour and let him come in – I know he has got videos of the Rybovich Wreck – and let people see what actually occurs. I think it will generate some real enthusiasm, quite frankly. That would just be my suggestion.

DR. LANEY: Chester, I think in our visioning commentary we've got a lot of things to consider about artificial reefs, the possibility that the council might want to develop kind of an artificial plan and/or either for public fishing or as MPA establishment. One thing I'll just mention to remind us all; there is an Artificial Reef Committee that ASMFC has that I think is now meeting as a Joint Gulf and South Atlantic Committee. That is a good source of information for us.

They recently I think have revamped or maybe they're in the process of revamping their whole guidance document for artificial reef creation and establishment. That is a good source of information for us; and we may want to – if we're going to solicit a presentation, it might be a

good idea to have maybe the chairman of the ASMFC Artificial Reef Committee come and just talk to us about what they're doing as well.

MR. HARTIG: Chester, your ideas are very similar to what I've had over the years. I've talked about having us get together with the different people who put structures out all up and down our jurisdiction and really just have a meeting of the minds and tell them what we're thinking about. When I was on the Artificial Reef Committee for Palm Beach County, my suggestion was we should put one out that we don't fish for every one we do – it was that simple – to offset any attraction that does occur. Attraction does occur; there isn't any doubt about that.

I think in visioning we're going to come to a point where we're really going to delve into this at least from my perspective and at least the artificial reef concept. Michelle is nodding her head as well. I think it will be something we pursue, for sure, coming in the not too distant future. I appreciate your comments on it. That brings us to Kevin Anson.

MR. ANSON: Mr. Chair, I'll be happy to provide an update of the last Gulf Council meeting that was held in Mobile October 20<sup>th</sup> through 23<sup>rd</sup>. It is just 16 pages long so I'll be brief – just kidding! We covered several issues, of course, during the meeting, and one of those was recreational red snapper sector separation.

Reef Fish Amendment 40, as it is also known, considers dividing the recreational red snapper sector into two distinct components; a private angling component and a for-hire component; and of sub-allocating the recreational portion of the ACL to each sector based on historical landings. After reviewing the document and listening to hours of public testimony, the council approved Amendment 40 after adding a three-year sunset provision. The amendment has been submitted to the secretary for approval.

During the meeting, regional management for recreational red snapper was also discussed; and that is called Reef Fish Amendment 39. That amendment considers dividing the federal recreational red snapper quota among states and giving the states the authority to manage them within their jurisdiction. The most recent version can be found on the council website.

Reef Fish Amendment 36, red snapper IFQ modifications, we reviewed a scoping document called Modifications to the Red Snapper IFQ Program and added a provision to consider allowing commercial fishermen to regularly lease allocation to have the opportunity to own IFQ shares. Scoping workshops will be held in early 2015.

Greater amberjack; over the summer the SSC reviewed the stock assessment and determined that greater amberjack did not meet the ten-year rebuilding plan that ended in 2012 and the stock continues to be overfished and experience overfishing. During the October meeting the council reviewed an options paper that considers adjusting the annual catch limit and commercial and recreational management measures to ensure that the stock is rebuilt and the mandates of the MSA are met.

Recreational red grouper seasons and bag limits; the council took final action on a framework action that will adjust the bag limit to two fish per person per day to reduce the likelihood of an

in-season quota closure. The framework also eliminates the automatic bag limit reduction accountability measure that currently occurs after the annual catch limit is exceeded.

The council considered changes to the recreational red grouper closed season, but decided to leave it February 1 through March 31 beyond 20 fathoms. The framework action will be submitted to the secretary for approval. Shrimp; the council added an alternative to Action 1.1. of Shrimp Amendment 15 that would set the overfishing threshold at Fmsy.

Amendment 15 considers revising the overfished/overfishing status of brown, white and pink shrimp to ensure consistency with the new model used to determine stock status. The council took final action on Shrimp Amendment 16, which adjusted the annual catch limit and accountability measures for royal red shrimp. That amendment was submitted to the secretary. The council also reviewed a scoping document for Shrimp Amendment 17, which will address the pending expiration of the moratorium on federal shrimp permits. The council decided to convene a Shrimp Working Group, as recommended by the SSC, to review the analysis necessary for addressing the expiration of the shrimp permit moratorium.

The council also decided to convene the Shrimp Advisory Panel and subject matter experts to evaluate the document and related issues to make recommendations to the council. Gag; a stock assessment completed this summer determined that the gag stock is not overfished and experiencing overfishing.

However, scientists are concerned that a large red tide had been occurring this last summer that may have negatively impacted the stock. The council's SSC recommended an increase in the gag ABC from 2.8 million pounds to just over 3 million pounds in 2015, which is a smaller increase than originally planned.

The council has asked that the SSC reevaluate the projected impact of the red tide, using the latest red tide information, and provide an updated acceptable biological catch for 2015 and 2016. Finally, king mackerel, just to review what has already been brought up here, but the king mackerel gillnet industry has asked that its trip limit be increased to 45,000 pounds. The council will hold a public workshop with participants in the fishery later on this month or early January to discuss potential options to address their concerns. Mr. Chair, that concludes my report. Thank you.

MR. HARTIG: Any questions of Kevin? Charlie.

MR. PHILLIPS: Your charterboats; are they going to do their fish kind of like the red snapper ITQ where they could shift shares or quota or pounds or something amongst themselves. I'm just curious how that works.

MR. ANSON: Presently the amendment that was passed only provided for separation of the sectors; and so there would still be fishing under a derby situation, if you will. The season was projected based on current information at hand. They were to go from nine days – it was assumed that we're going to have about an eight- or nine-day season when all sectors were combined to 33 to 34 days. They will have those 33 or 34.

It is projected to start June 1<sup>st</sup> and finish sometime early July is what it is currently going to happen. Now, they're certainly discussing things and they're going to potentially be bringing up some potential plans to tweak what is in there and looking ahead even to the future after the sunset provision expires as to what could be done next.

MR. HARTIG: Any other questions? Thank you, Kevin. That brings us to other business. Is there any other business to come before the council? Seeing none, Bob, upcoming meetings.

MR. MAHOOD: Well, the upcoming meetings are in your calendar in the last attachment. I think Doug has talked a little bit about the March meeting. We'll be staying on St. Simons Island at the old but I guess renovated King and Prince Hotel. That hotel is a landmark on St. Simons. It is in a very nice location and a good walking distance of a lot of nice restaurants and things like that. I think everyone will enjoy it. It is going to be a very full meeting.

Following that, of course, we have our joint meeting or the partially joint meeting with the Gulf Council in Key West in June. I think that is going to be an interesting experience for those that have not attended a Joint Gulf and South Atlantic Council Meeting. I think everyone will enjoy it. I look forward to it, Mr. Chairman, and I look forward to seeing everybody in March if not before then.

MR. HARTIG: Questions to Bob? I just would like to say thank you for all the productive discussions we've had this week. Everybody had their thinking cap on. I look forward to working with you in the new year.

(Whereupon, the meeting was adjourned at 12:40 o'clock p.m., December 5, 2014.)

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

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December 11, 2014

## **INDEX OF MOTIONS**

### **SNAPPER GROUPEL COMMITTEE MOTIONS**

#### **Regulatory Amendment 16**

Page 2: Motion to modify the need as follows: The need for the amendment is to minimize socio-economic impacts to black sea bass pot endorsement holders while considering the need to protect ESA-listed whales in the South Atlantic Region. There was a substitute to make this motion the main motion. Motion approved Page 2.

Page 3: Motion to accept the IPT's wording for Alternative 8 and Subalternatives 8A and 8B. Motion approved Page 3.

Page 3: Motion to add a new Alternative 9. Motion approved Page 3.

Page 3: Motion to add new Action 2, gear modification. Motion approved Page 3.

Page 6: Motion to substitute Alternative 3 under Action 2 with the language below, which reads, "Existing trap/buoy line-marking requirements established in the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan will be supplemented to include a distinguishing feature specifically linked to the South Atlantic Black Sea Bass Pot Fishery. In addition to the three 12-inch color marks at the top, midway and bottom sections of the buoy line specified for the individual management area in which the gear is deployed, a two-inch wide colored band will be added at the center of each required 12-inch colored mark". Motion approved Page 6.

Page 11: motion to add these two new alternatives that we have labeled 10 and 11 to Action 1. Alternative 10: The black sea bass pot closure applies to waters inshore of points 1-35 listed below (Table 1), basically Cape Canaveral, Florida, to Cape Hatteras, North Carolina. Sub-alternative 10a. The black sea bass pot closure applies to the area annually from November 1 through April 15. Sub-alternative 10b. For the area off North Carolina and South Carolina, the black sea bass pot closure applies annually from November 1 through December 15 and February 15 through April 30. For the area off Georgia and Florida, the black sea bass pot closure applies annually from November 15 through April 15. Alternative 11: The black sea bass pot closure applies to waters inshore of points 1-18 listed below (Table 2), basically Cape Canaveral, Florida, to Cape Hatteras, North Carolina. Sub-alternative 11a. The black sea bass pot closure applies to the area annually from November 1 through April 15. Sub-alternative 11b. For the area off North Carolina and South Carolina, the black sea bass pot closure applies annually from November 1 through December 15 and February 15 through April 30. For the area off Georgia and Florida, the black sea bass pot closure applies annually from November 15 through April 15. Motion approved Page 12.

Page 16: Motion to clarify that in Subalternative 1B the closure would apply to waters shallower than 20 meters in the fall months and shallower than 25 meters in the spring months. Motion approved Page 16.

Page 24: Motion to remove Alternative 2 of Action 1 from consideration and move the alternative to the considered but rejected appendix. Motion approved Page 24.

Page 24: Motion to approve the new timeline for Amendment 16. Motion approved Page 24.

### **Regulatory Amendment 22**

Page 24: Motion to modify the needs statement as follows: “The need for the amendment is to, one, address the recent stock assessment results for gag and wreckfish and prevent overfishing while minimizing to the extent practicable adverse social and economic impacts; and, two, to increase access to the gag resource and increase fishing opportunities, thus imparting socio-economic benefits to resource users.” Motion approved Page 26.

Page 26: Substitute motion to insert the new language with the deletion of “in response to new scientific information”. Motion approved Page 26.

Page 26: Motion to deselect Alternative 2 and select Alternative 4 as the preferred for Action 1. Substitute motion to deselect Alternative 2 and select Alternative 3 as the preferred for Action 1. Motion approved Page 26.

Page 26: Motion to select Alternative 1, no action, as the preferred for Action 2. Motion approved Page 26.

Page 26: Motion to approve Snapper Grouper Regulatory Amendment 22 for secretarial review. Motion approved Page 27.

Page 27: Motion to deem the codified text for Regulatory Amendment 22 as necessary and appropriate and give staff the 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. Motion approved Page 27.

### **Amendment 36**

Page 27: Motion to accept the IPT’s recommended changes to the purpose and need. Motion approved Page 27.

Page 27: Motion to select Alternative 2 under Action 1 as the preferred. Motion approved Page 27.

Page 27: Motion to select Alternative 2 under Action 2 as preferred. Motion approved Page 27.

Page 28: Motion to accept the IPT wording for revising Action 3 and the alternatives. Motion approved Page 28.

Page 28: Motion to accept the IPT recommendation for the changes to Action 4. Motion approved Page 28.

Page 28: Motion to accept the IPT's recommended changes for Action 5. Motion approved Page 28.

Page 28: Motion to accept the IPT's recommended changes for Action 6. Motion approved Page 28.

Page 28: Motion to select Alternative 2 under Action 7 as the preferred. Motion approved Page 28.

Page 28: Motion to remove Action 8 from Amendment 36. Motion approved Page 28.

Page 28: Motion to add an action to outline the transit provisions and anchoring provisions. Motion approved Page 28.

### **Amendment 35**

Page 28: Motion to accept the IPT's edits to the purpose and need. Motion approved Page 28.

Page 28: Motion to select Alternatives 2 through 5 as preferreds under Action 1. Motion approved Page 28.

Page 29: Motion to move Alternative 4 under Action 2 to the considered but rejected appendix. Motion approved Page 29.

Page 29: Motion to select Alternative 3 as the preferred under Action 2. Motion approved Page 29.

Page 29: Motion to approve Amendment 35 for public hearings. Motion approved Page 30.

Page 30: Motion to approve the timing and task motion as presented:

Direct staff/IPT to address monitoring/evaluation needs upfront in the Amendment 36 document and reference the Monitoring/Evaluation Appendix;

Direct staff/IPT to look within the areas identified for Spawning SMZs off each state and, using bottom topography, bring alternative boxes back at the March 2015 meeting for the committee's consideration. Include any surveys of biomass in the areas that are available;

Direct staff to discuss options for rebuilding plan for hogfish with Gulf Council;

Direct staff to look into scheduling presentation(s) on sector management for March 2015 Council meeting;

Direct staff to develop alternatives for an almaco trip limit. Bring to AP for their input in 2015.

Develop alternatives that would allow for year-round fishery;

Submit Regulatory Amendment 22 for formal review;



Prepare Amendment 35 for public hearings.

Motion approved Page 30.

**JOINT DOLPHIN WAHOO AND SNAPPER GROUPEE COMMITTEES MOTIONS**

**Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7/Snapper Grouper Amendment 33**

Page 31: Motion to accept the IPT's recommended language changes for the need. Motion approved Page 31.

Page 32: Motion to deselect Alternative 3 as the preferred alternative and select Alternative 1, no action, as a preferred alternative for Action 2. Motion approved Page 32.

Page 32: Motion under Action 4 to accept the IPT's recommended wording changes for gear stowage. Motion approved Page 32.

Page 32: Motion under Action 5 to approve the IPT's recommended language changes. Motion approved Page 32.

Page 34: Motion to not allow recreationally caught fish from The Bahamas to be sold or purchased. Motion approved Page 34.

Page 34: Motion to approve the Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7 and Snapper Grouper Amendment 33 for secretarial review and deem the codified text as necessary and appropriate; give the staff editorial license to make any necessary editorial changes to the document/codified text and give the council chair authority to approve the revisions and redeem the codified text. Motion approved Page 35.

**Generic Accountability Measure and Dolphin Allocation Amendment**

Page 35: Motion to remove red snapper from Action 1. Motion approved Page 35.

Page 35: Motion to make the appropriate editorial changes as discussed. Motion approved Page 35.

**Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 8/Golden Crab Amendment 9/Snapper Grouper Amendment 34**

Page 36: Motion to approve the Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 8, Golden Crab Amendment 9 and Snapper Grouper Amendment 34 for secretarial review and deem the codified text as necessary and appropriate; give the staff editorial license to make any necessary editorial changes to the document/codified text; and give the council chair authority to approve the revisions and redeem the codified text. Motion approved Page 37.

**MACKEREL COMMITTEE MOTIONS**

**Amendment 26**

Page 38: Motion to add an action to revise King Mackerel ACLs with all six alternatives. Motion approved Page 38.

Page 38: Motion to add an action to adjust the stock boundary for king mackerel. Motion approved Page 38.

Page 38: Motion to add an action for allowing the sale of king mackerel bycatch in the shark gillnet fishery. Motion approved Page 38.

Page 38: Motion to add an action to consider establishing a sub-quota specific for the new mixing zone. Motion approved Page 38.

Page 38: Motion to approve Amendment 26 for scoping. Motion approved Page 38.

Page 38: Motion to adopt the timing and task items as presented: Prepare a scoping document for Amendment 26 and scope the amendment in January 2015; prepare Draft Amendment 26 for the March 2015 meeting, including information requested during discussion; and then prepare a discussion document on options and components of separating the FMP for March 2015. Motion approved Page 39.

**Amendment 24**

Page 38: Motion to postpone work on Amendment 24 until 2016. Motion approved Page 38.

**SSC SELECTION COMMITTEE MOTIONS**

Page 39: Motion to recommend that the council designate state agency seats on the SSC and include this direction in the SAFMC Administrative Handbook. Motion approved Page 39.

**HABITAT AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMITTEE MOTIONS**

Page 42: Motion to approve the task and timing as presented: (1) direct staff to provide an updated VMS analysis using all of the 2014 data and include information on vessels that are capable of fishing in the depth of the area that will be closed in Coral Amendment 8; an updated economic information for the area from Mike Merrifield; present results to the Habitat and Environmental Protection Committee by the June 2015 council meeting; (2), direct staff to update the council if new sanctuaries are proposed in the South Atlantic; (3); direct staff to develop a document that describes all the management actions taken by the council to protect habitats and managed fisheries off the coast of northeast Florida; present results to the Habitat and Environmental Protection Committee by the March or June 2015 council meetings. Motion approved Page 42.

**PROTECTED RESOURCES COMMITTEE MOTIONS**

Page 43: Motion to direct staff to work with the Protected Resources Division to develop a Draft MOU per the Coordinating Council Committee Report regarding the council's involvement with the consultation process in March 2015. Motion approved Page 43.

**ADVISORY PANEL SELECTION COMMITTEE MOTIONS**

Page 44: Motion to appoint Dr. Nicole Fogarty to the Coral AP. Motion approved Page 44.

Page 44: Motion to reappoint Fred Kinnard, Kyle Christiansen and Rosher to the Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel. Motion approved Page 44.

Page 44: Motion to appoint David Wilson, Glenn Hopkins, Wendell Barnett, Clay Bishop, Tim Scalise, Robert Barnett, Robert Frevert; and reappoint Harris Huddle to the Dolphin Wahoo AP. Motion approved Page 44.

Page 44: Motion to reappoint Tim Nettles for one year to the Dolphin Wahoo AP. Motion approved Page 44.

Page 44: Motion to reappoint Bill Parker, Thomas Jones, Mark Carter and Bill Kelly to the Habitat AP. Motion approved Page 44.

Page 45: Motion to appoint David Harter, James Geiger and Dr. Steve Ross to the Habitat AP. Motion approved Page 45.

Page 45: Motion to reappoint Stephen Swan to the Mackerel AP. Motion approved Page 45.

Page 45: Motion to appoint Selby Lewis, Robert Olsen, Mason Bowen, Ira Laks, and Steve English to the Mackerel AP. Motion approved Page 45.

Page 45: Motion to add Manny Herrera to the Mackerel AP. Motion approved Page 46.

Page 46: Motion to appoint Milton Mathis, Robert Lorenz, Wayne Mershon, Wes Covington, Judy Helmey, and Emily Helmick to the Snapper Grouper AP. Motion approved Page 46.

Page 46: Motion to appoint David Timpey and David Tucker to the SEDAR Pool. Motion approved Page 46.

Page 46: Motion to reappoint Dick Brame for an additional year to the Mackerel AP. Motion approved Page 46.

**SEDAR COMMITTEE MOTIONS**

Page 46: Motion to approve the modified SEDAR 41 schedule. Motion approved Page 46.

Page 46: Motion to assess vermillion snapper every three years. Motion approved Page 46.

**EXECUTIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE MOTIONS**

Page 47: Motion to remove Subalternatives 3A, 3B, 4A and 4B from the accountability measures action. Motion approved Page 47.

**DATA COLLECTION COMMITTEE MOTIONS**

Page 48: Motion to approve the task and timing as presented:  
Direct staff to assist in providing input on the Draft Electronic Technology Regional Implementation Plan; direct staff to continue working with ACCSP, Mike Cahall, on developing a Commercial Logbook Electronic Data Entry Form. Gregg Waugh will be the staff person. Andy Strelcheck will represent NMFS SERO and Dave Gloeckner and Steve Turner will represent the Southeast Fisheries Science Center. Monica Smit-Brunello will represent NOAA GC. A status report will be presented to the council at the March 2015 meeting with the goal of implementation in early 2015. Direct staff to work with Gulf Council staff to begin working on a Joint Charterboat Logbook Amendment. Motion approved Page 48.

**OTHER MOTIONS**

Page 51: Motion to recommend approval of the two EFP requests. Motion approved Page 51.

# South Atlantic Fishery Management Council 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

P.O. Box 30825  
Savannah, GA 31410  
912/398-3733 (ph)  
fishzack@comcast.net

### W. Chester Brewer

250 Australian Ave. South  
Suite 1400  
West Palm Beach, FL 33408  
561/655-4777 (ph)  
WCBLAW@aol.com

### Mark Brown

3642 Pandora Drive  
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29466  
843/881-9735 (ph); 843/881-4446 (f)  
capt.markbrown@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

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

### 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

### 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

PHIL STEELE

BONNIE POWWITH

JACK MCGOVERNS

TRACY DUNN

PRES PATE

KEVIN ANSON

MONICA SMIT-BRUNELLO

RAMA SHUSTER

# 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

## Fishery Biologist

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

## Fisheries Social Scientist

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

## Fishery Scientist

✓ Chip Collier  
Chip.Collier@safmc.net

## Staff Economist

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

## Science and Statistics Program Manager

✓ John Carmichael  
john.carmichael@safmc.net

## SEDAR Coordinators

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

## 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



November 26, 2014

**Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission**

Mr. Ben C. Hartig  
South Atlantic Fishery Management Council  
4055 Faber Place Drive  
Suite 201  
North Charleston, South Carolina 29405

Re: Management regulations for gray triggerfish in Florida state waters

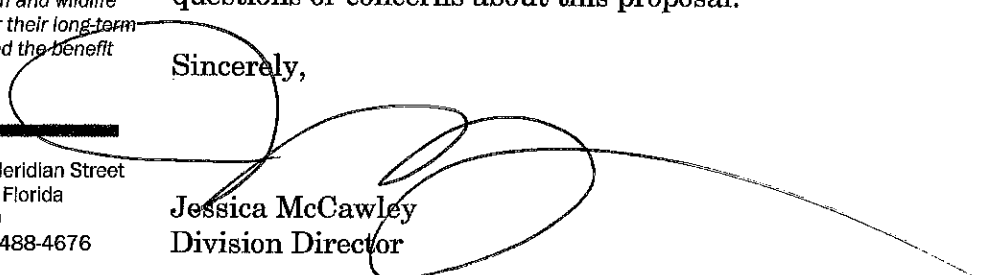
Dear Chairman Hartig:

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (Commission) has been monitoring the development of Snapper Grouper Amendment 29, which includes an action to increase the minimum size limit for gray triggerfish in federal waters off the east coast of Florida to 14 inches fork length (FL). We are aware that the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) has submitted this amendment to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce for approval. The Commission's staff representative to the Council has been supportive of the size limit and measurement method changes as they should help reduce confusion and they are consistent with existing regulations in state and federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico off Florida.

Currently in state waters off Florida's Atlantic coast, the minimum size limit for gray triggerfish is 12 inches FL. Commission staff plans to present a federal consistency rulemaking package in April 2015 that would change this minimum size limit in state waters to match the pending 14 inch FL minimum size limit for federal waters. Assuming the Commission approves this change, it would be implemented in state waters following approval of Amendment 29 by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce. These state and federal changes will create a uniform minimum size limit for gray triggerfish harvest across the State of Florida.

The Commission is committed to conserving fishery resources for the future, including gray triggerfish. We support the action taken by the Council in Amendment 29 to increase the minimum size limit for gray triggerfish and create uniform regulations in federal waters off Florida's coast, and we will pursue Florida regulations that further efforts towards a consistent size limit around the state. Please contact me at [Jessica.McCawley@MyFWC.com](mailto:Jessica.McCawley@MyFWC.com) or (850) 487-0554 if you have questions or concerns about this proposal.

Sincerely,

  
Jessica McCawley  
Division Director

eb/mb

cc: Roy Crabtree  
Nick Wiley

Commissioners  
Richard A. Corbett  
Chairman  
Tampa

Brian Yablonski  
Vice Chairman  
Tallahassee

Ronald M. Bergeron  
Fort Lauderdale

Richard Hanas  
Oviedo

Aliese P. "Liesa" Priddy  
Immokalee

Bo Rivard  
Panama City

Charles W. Roberts III  
Tallahassee

Executive Staff  
Nick Wiley  
Executive Director  
Eric Sutton  
Assistant Executive Director  
Jennifer Fitzwater  
Chief of Staff

Division of Marine  
Fisheries Management  
Jessica McCawley  
Director

(850) 487-0554  
(850) 487-4847 FAX

*Managing fish and wildlife resources for their long-term well-being and the benefit of people.*

620 South Meridian Street  
Tallahassee, Florida  
32399-1600  
Voice: (850) 488-4676

Hearing/speech-impaired:  
(800) 955-8771 (T)  
(800) 955-8770 (V)

MyFWC.com



November 26, 2014

**Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission**

Mr. Ben Hartig  
South Atlantic Fishery Management Council  
4055 Faber Place Drive  
Suite 201  
North Charleston, South Carolina 29405

Re: Removal of species from the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Unit

- Commissioners
- Richard A. Corbett**  
Chairman  
Tampa
  - Brian Yablonski**  
Vice Chairman  
Tallahassee
  - Ronald M. Bergeron**  
Fort Lauderdale
  - Richard Hanas**  
Oviedo
  - Allese P. "Llesa" Priddy**  
Immokalee
  - Bo Rlvard**  
Panama City
  - Charles W. Roberts III**  
Tallahassee

The State of Florida's Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (Commission) supports the development of Snapper Grouper Amendment 35, which includes actions to remove black snapper, dog snapper, mahogany snapper, and schoolmaster from the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Unit (FMU). This amendment was initiated following a request by the State of Florida's representatives to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council). The request was made to simplify management of these four species and to foster consistent regulations.

The Council is scheduled to review, and potentially approve for public hearings, the current draft of Amendment 35 at its December meeting. At this time, the Commission would like to reaffirm that if these species were to be removed from the Snapper Grouper FMU, the Commission plans to assume management of black snapper, dog snapper, mahogany snapper, and schoolmaster in federal waters off Florida in the absence of federal rules.

- Executive Staff
- Nick Wiley**  
Executive Director
  - Eric Sutton**  
Assistant Executive Director
  - Jennifer Fitzwater**  
Chief of Staff

Management on the state-level for black snapper, dog snapper, mahogany snapper, and schoolmaster is prudent as these species have relatively low commercial landings and are rarely caught, recreationally or commercially, outside of South Florida. State management of these four species in state and federal waters would create consistency in regulations across jurisdictional boundaries without reducing protection for the resource.

Division of Marine Fisheries Management  
**Jessica McCawley**  
Director

(850) 487-0554  
(850) 487-4847 FAX

The Commission is committed to conserving fishery resources for the future, including black snapper, dog snapper, mahogany snapper, and schoolmaster. We appreciate that the Council has initiated an amendment to remove these four species from the Snapper Grouper FMU, and we believe that extension of Florida regulations into adjacent federal waters will benefit both fishermen and the resource. Please contact me at [Jessica.McCawley@MyFWC.com](mailto:Jessica.McCawley@MyFWC.com) or (850) 487-0554 if you have questions or concerns about this proposal.

*Managing fish and wildlife resources for their long-term well-being and the benefit of people.*

Sincerely,

  
Jessica McCawley  
Division Director

620 South Meridian Street  
Tallahassee, Florida  
32399-1600  
Voice: (850) 488-4676

eb/mb

Hearing/speech-impaired:  
(800) 955-8771 (T)  
(800) 955-8770 (V)

cc: Roy Crabtree  
Nick Wiley

MyFWC.com



# FULL COUNCIL - ROLL CALL VOTE

Date: December 2014

Meeting Location: New Bern, NC

*AMEND*

Issue: DW AMENDMENT 8 / SG AMEND 33 / GC 19

|                          | YES | NO | ABSTAIN |
|--------------------------|-----|----|---------|
| HARTIG                   | X   |    |         |
| DUVAL                    | X   |    |         |
| BECKWITH                 | X   |    |         |
| BELL                     | X   |    |         |
| BOWEN                    | X   |    |         |
| BREWER                   | X   |    |         |
| BROWN                    | X   |    |         |
| CONKLIN                  | X   |    |         |
| COX                      | X   |    |         |
| <i>State</i><br>CRABTREE | X   |    |         |
| HAYMANS                  | X   |    |         |
| MCCAWLEY                 | X   |    |         |
| PHILLIPS                 | X   |    |         |

# FULL COUNCIL - ROLL CALL VOTE

Date: December 2014

Meeting Location: New Bern, NC

Issue: S/G REG AMEND 22

|          | YES | NO           | ABSTAIN |
|----------|-----|--------------|---------|
| HARTIG   | X   |              |         |
| DUVAL    | X   |              |         |
| BECKWITH |     | X            |         |
| BELL     | X   |              |         |
| BOWEN    | X   |              |         |
| BREWER   | \   | <del>X</del> |         |
| BROWN    | X   |              |         |
| CONKLIN  | X   |              |         |
| COX      | X   |              |         |
| CRABTREE | X   |              |         |
| HAYMANS  |     | X            |         |
| MCCAWLEY | X   |              |         |
| PHILLIPS | X   |              |         |

# FULL COUNCIL - ROLL CALL VOTE

Date: December 2014

Meeting Location: New Bern, NC

Issue: DW 7/SG 33

|                           | YES | NO | ABSTAIN |
|---------------------------|-----|----|---------|
| HARTIG                    | X   |    |         |
| DUVAL                     | X   |    |         |
| BECKWITH                  | X   |    |         |
| BELL                      |     | X  |         |
| BOWEN                     |     | X  |         |
| BREWER                    | X   |    |         |
| BROWN                     | X   |    |         |
| CONKLIN                   |     | X  |         |
| COX                       |     | X  |         |
| <i>Steele</i><br>CRABTREE |     | X  |         |
| HAYMANS                   | X   |    |         |
| MCCAWLEY                  | X   |    |         |
| PHILLIPS                  | X   |    |         |

Directions: For each amendment, indicate your priority (Hi, Med, Lo) with a check mark.

| 2014            | 2015            |                                                                                                      | HIGH (3) | MED (2) | LOW (1) | RANK | TOTAL |
|-----------------|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|---------|---------|------|-------|
| Priorities      | Priorities      | DRAFT SARMC CY 2015 SCHEDULE                                                                         |          |         |         |      |       |
| (December 2013) | (December 2014) | IPAS/AMENDMENTS/FRAMEWORKS                                                                           |          |         |         |      |       |
| 4               |                 | Snapper Group Amendment 36 (Spawning SIZES & Spawning Season Closures & Monitoring Appendix)         | 15       | 16      | 1       | 2    | 32    |
| 8               |                 | System Management Plan for SG Amendment 14 MPAs                                                      | 15       | 14      | 2       | 3    | 31    |
|                 |                 | Snapper Group Amendment 37 (Short-term Items from Visioning: Hogfish Assmt. results & Jacks Complex) | 21       | 12      | 1       | 1    | 34    |
|                 |                 | Snapper Group Amendment 38 (Allocations from Visioning)                                              | 15       | 12      | 3       | 4    | 30    |
| 5               |                 | Snapper Group Regulatory Amendment 16 (Remove BSB Pot Closure)                                       | 18       | 6       | 5       | 5    | 29    |
| 5               |                 | Snapper Group Charterboat Reporting Amendment - 2015                                                 | 12       | 16      | 2       | 2    | 30    |
| 9               |                 | Fishery Ecosystem Plan (Update #1)                                                                   | 9        | 14      | 5       | 6    | 28    |
| 10              |                 | Snapper Group Amendment 22 (Recreational Tag Program to Track Harvest)                               | 3        | 12      | 7       | 10   | 22    |
| 11              |                 | Joint SA/GM Amendment 24 (Atlantic Spanish Mackerel Allocations)                                     | 0        | 10      | 7       | 13   | 17    |
| 13              |                 | Joint SA/GM Amendment 26 (King Mackerel ACL/Boundary)                                                | 12       | 12      | 4       | 6    | 28    |
|                 |                 | Joint SA/GM Amendment 28 (Permit/MP Split)                                                           | 0        | 20      | 4       | 8    | 24    |
|                 |                 | Added in 2014 but not 2015                                                                           |          |         |         |      |       |
|                 |                 | Snapper Group Amendment 35 (Removing species & Golden tilefish endorsement)                          | 6        | 12      | 5       | 9    | 23    |
|                 |                 | Joint SA/GM Amendment for South Florida Issues                                                       | 6        | 16      | 3       | 7    | 25    |
|                 |                 | Not listed for 2015                                                                                  |          |         |         |      |       |
|                 |                 | BYCATCH AMENDMENT                                                                                    |          |         |         |      |       |
|                 |                 | Items below this row are to be addressed in 2016 based on workload (SARMC & NMFS & NOAA GC Staffs)   | 12       | 4       | 1       | 13   | 17    |
|                 |                 | Golden Crab Amendment to modify allowable fishing areas                                              | 3        | 10      | 7       | 11   | 20    |
|                 |                 | Snapper Group Amendment to update Wreckfish ITQ program                                              | 12       | 4       | 7       | 9    | 23    |
| 13              |                 | Joint SA/GM Generic Commercial Logbook Amendment (on hold pending pilot project)                     | 3        | 18      | 3       | 8    | 24    |
| 14              |                 | Shrimp Closure Work (status can request directly to NMFS)                                            | 6        | 4       | 9       | 12   | 19    |
| 15              |                 | Callion Scallop PMP                                                                                  | 3        | 4       | 10      | 13   | 17    |
|                 |                 | D = Plan development; AS = Approve for public scoping; Ps = Public Scoping                           |          |         |         |      |       |
|                 |                 | O = Develop options/review options paper; Ah = Approve for public hearing                            |          |         |         |      |       |
|                 |                 | P = Public hearing; IP = Informal public hearing; N = NMFS Internal review                           |          |         |         |      |       |
|                 |                 | A = Council approve; F = Final Review; NDC = NMFS determination of complete for DEIS filing          |          |         |         |      |       |
|                 |                 | S = Submit for Secretarial review                                                                    |          |         |         |      |       |

# PLEASE SIGN IN

In order to have a record of your attendance at each meeting and your name included in the minutes, we ask that you sign this sheet for the meeting shown below.

## South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

### Full Council Meeting

Friday, December 5, 2014

NAME & SECTOR/ORGANIZATION:

AREA CODE & PHONE NUMBER:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

MAILING ADDRESS:

~~FRANK HERZIGS~~

GSAAFE

DANBY, FL

EMILY HELMER

Pen

ehelmer@perthust.org

Gary Zuren

Big Rock Sports

LORA CLARKE PENN

631-379-6718

lclarked@perthust.org