

**SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

**FULL COUNCIL SESSION**

**Jekyll Island Club Hotel  
Jekyll Island, GA**

**March 5, 2009**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

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Rob Darner  
Dennis O'Hern  
Daniel Parshley  
Rick Robins

Red Munden  
Ron Surrency  
Holly Binns  
Holly Reynolds  
Adam Van Brommer

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The Full Council of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council convened at the Jekyll Island Club Hotel, Jekyll Island, Georgia, Thursday afternoon, March 5, 2009, and was called to order at 1:15 o'clock p.m. by Chairman Duane Harris.

Mr. Harris: If everybody is ready, I'm going to call to order the March 2009 meeting of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. Welcome to everyone. First of all, just to let you all know who is here, the folks filming are from the Savannah College of Art and Design. They're doing a documentary film. Of course, I don't think Fox News is from the Savannah College of Art and Design, but these guys are from the college and so they'll be filming the council meeting today and the snapper grouper discussion. That's who they are.

Let me welcome Rick Robins, Chairman of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council. Rick, we're glad you're here and Red Munden, who is the liaison for the Mid-Atlantic Council, at our meeting. Welcome, guys. Our Gulf Council liaison was stuck in the weather and so could not join us today and so we'll miss that person. Let's go ahead and do a voice roll call and I'll start on that end, with Tony, and we'll just move around the room.

Mr. Iarocci: Tony Iarocci, council member, Florida.

Dr. Chevront: Brian Chevront, council member, North Carolina.

Ms. Merritt: Rita Merritt, council member, North Carolina.

Mr. Robins: Rick Robins, Mid-Atlantic chair.

Mr. Munden: Red Munden, Mid-Atlantic Council representative from North Carolina.

Mr. Geiger: George Geiger, council member, Florida.

Mr. Wallace: John Wallace, council member, Georgia.

Dr. Laney: Wilson Laney, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service representative.

Mr. Easley: Otha Easley, NOAA Office for Law Enforcement.

Mr. Robson: Mark Robson, council member, Florida.

Mr. Cupka: David Cupka, council member, South Carolina.

Mr. Mahood: Bob Mahood, council staff.

Mr. Harris: Duane Harris, council member, Georgia.

Mr. Currin: Mac Currin, council member, North Carolina.

Ms. Quigley: Kate Quigley, council staff.

Mr. Waugh: Gregg Waugh, council staff.

Mr. Boyles: Robert Boyles, council member, South Carolina.

Ms. Shipman: Susan Shipman, council member, Georgia.

Dr. Ponwith: Bonnie Ponwith, NOAA Fisheries Service, Southeast Fisheries Science Center.

Ms. Smit-Brunello: Monica Smit-Brunello, NOAA General Counsel.

Dr. Crabtree: Roy Crabtree, council member, NMFS.

Dr. McGovern: Jack McGovern, National Marine Fisheries Service.

Mr. Swatzel: Tom Swatzel, council member, South Carolina.

Mr. Harris: Thank you all very much. The next item is the Adoption of the Agenda. If I may have your permission to modify the agenda as necessary to help us get through this meeting today and tomorrow. The Executive Director is already signaling that I'm doing something wrong and so I'm going to call on him right now.

Mr. Mahood: Someone, I'm not sure who, left the SSC Committee Report off of the Full Council agenda and so we would like to fit that in the next-to-the-last item, right after the Shrimp Committee report.

Mr. Harris: Without objection, we will do that. With those modifications, is there any objection to adopting the agenda? Seeing none, the agenda is adopted. Now, we're going to entertain Approval of the December 2008 Meeting Minutes. Any changes, additions, or corrections to those minutes? Seeing none, the minutes of that meeting are adopted.

What we're going to do now is go into a committee of the whole and I'm going to turn it back over to Mac Currin to finish up our Snapper Grouper Committee agenda and at 1:45, we will go into a session where we hear from the public on the proposed interim rule for red snapper.

(Whereupon, the committee convened as a committee of the whole.)

Mr. Currin: Thank you, Duane. Our next agenda item is Amendment 18. It went out for scoping here in the last few months and Kate is going to walk us through the scoping comments that we received on Amendment 18 and then we're going to review the actions and the alternatives that are currently in that document as it moves along.

Ms. Quigley: You'll see in your briefing book that Attachment 15 is the scoping report for Amendment 18 and so I've got up on the screen there the Amendment 18 summary of scoping comments. The first action, limiting participation and effort in the golden tilefish fishery, possibly endorsements or limited access program, received a number of comments. Three people were in favor of an endorsement. One person saw the endorsement as a bridge to LAPs.

Two of those people -- All three were commercial fishermen.

Comment Number 2 was LAPs. Three people, two of them commercial fishermen, were in favor of LAPs for the golden tilefish fishery. They commented that new people were gearing up to fish and they needed something to stop new entry. One person was in favor of it if an appropriate TAC was implemented. There were eight people against LAPs and one person was against LAPs if you used years from the early 1990s.

Comment Number 3, one person wanted a lower trip limit, because currently the trip limit is 4,000 pounds, until 75 percent of the quota is met and then it goes down to 300 pounds. Instead of 4,000 pounds, they wanted it to be a 3,000, 2,500, or a 2,000-pound trip limit. The fourth comment was to allow only bandit gear during the 300-pound trip limit, assuming no change in the start date, which is another action below. Comment Number 5 was seven people wanted to ban longlines.

The second action, limiting participation and effort in the black sea bass pot fishery, possibly endorsements or a limited access program, the first comment regarded pots left in the water. Two people said do not allow for pots to be left in the water during trips and one person wanted to allow traps in the water no more than seventy-two hours. The second type of comment we received regarded LAPs. Two people were in favor and six people were against LAPs for the black sea bass pot fishery.

Regarding limits on the number of traps held per vessel, one person wanted 100 traps per vessel and they wanted that to be transferable. Another person wanted fifty traps per vessel and another person forty traps per vessel. Regarding opposing the use of pots, three people opposed the use of pots in general.

The third action was extending the range of the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan north through the Mid-Atlantic and New England Council areas. Three people were in favor of that action and two people against.

Separating the snowy grouper quota into regions or states, nine people supported the regionalization of the snowy grouper quota. One person suggested delaying regionalization until fishing for snowy grouper is economically viable again. That would be indicated by fishermen targeting snowy grouper again, as shown in the logbooks. One person wanted the snowy grouper fishery shut down until it is rebuilt. Five people wanted to expand regionalization to other species.

The next action was separating the gag recreational annual catch limit into region or state annual catch targets. Five people supported regionalization of gag recreational ACL and five people wanted to expand regionalization to other species. There were no people against that action.

Regarding changing the golden tilefish fishing year so that fishermen in South Carolina and hook and line fishermen in Florida could more easily fish, there were several comments regarding a new start date. Five people were in favor. One person remarked that fish spawn in April and May and they would not be opposed to closing the fishery during that time. Another person

remarked that the Gulf of Mexico opens their fishery January 1 and the market is flooded and therefore, it's a good thing for it to be closed during January and February, early in the year.

Specifically, one person in particular was in favor of a September 1 start date. They said that that would benefit historical bandit fishermen and the changes in the start date eliminates the need for the 300-pound trip limit.

The next action is improving data reporting. Regarding recreational data, five people commented that the recreational data is flawed and you need better data that is fair and unbiased. One person remarked that data is not surveyed well and surveyors have no experience with fisheries. The survey, therefore, won't give any good data. Data is poor, sketchy, and one person stated that they didn't think that MRIP would solve the problems.

Electronic real-time reporting, one person was in favor. One person remarked that they need faster turnaround on data. Another person remarked that you can speed up and improve data reporting if fishermen are given electronic forms, via Excel, so that they can fill them out and print them out and mail or email. Currently, they stated that they don't have access to these forms in an electronic format.

Regarding video monitoring, one person spoke in favor and is participating in a proposed pilot study. Electronic logbook reporting, one person is against, because he has no computer on his boat. Another person remarked that sampling is outdated. Another comment was that fishermen are not included in data collection and not involved in the process. Another comment was we need the logbook to ask for data on depth and current information. Eleven people commented the data is inaccurate. One person commented that recreational logbooks are needed and two people spoke in favor of onboard observers.

Regarding changing the wreckfish fishery ITQ program, four people spoke in favor of continuing the program. They specifically stated to not abolish the program. Three people said that they have a major investment in wreckfish shares. Another person remarked that although they haven't used their shares in the past, they may use their shares in the future, due to expected closures in the future. One person suggested abolishing the program.

Regarding recreational allocation of wreckfish, one person wanted to provide for a wreckfish allocation and one person was against that. Regarding redistribution of shares to current participants only, one person suggested that if the TAC is cut or the ACL is lower than the current TAC that they will not be able to maintain historical landings without economic difficulties. Another person suggested to do nothing until there's a new stock assessment. Another person suggested that federal buyout of shareholders is needed and another person suggested to get additional public comment on this action.

Then, I believe, this is the last action, designating essential fish habitat in new areas in the Mid-Atlantic and New England as part of a possible extension of the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan north. The comment we received was no new EFH designations wanted. That completes the scoping report for Amendment 18.

Mr. Currin: Thank you, Kate. Any questions for Kate on the scoping comments? Okay. I don't see any. Are you going to walk through the Amendment 18 document?

Ms. Quigley: If you take a look at Attachment 13, that is the Amendment 18 draft document and if you go to PDF page 40, which is also page 2-1 in the document, page 40 is the beginning of Section 2 and Description of Alternatives. It's Section 2.1 and the first action stated there is Extend Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Unit North.

The first alternative is the no action, do not change current management boundaries of the Snapper Grouper FMU. Alternative 2 is to extend the management boundaries for all species in the Snapper Grouper FMU northward to include the Mid-Atlantic Council's jurisdiction, except for black sea bass, golden tilefish, and scup. Alternative 3 is to extend the management boundaries for all species in the Snapper Grouper FMU northward to include the Mid-Atlantic and New England Councils' jurisdiction, except black sea bass, golden tilefish, and scup. The committee has the option to change those alternatives if they would like to.

Mr. Currin: Comments on those alternatives? Rick, I know you want to address those, as you are representing the Mid-Atlantic Council. You can start us off, if you would like.

Mr. Robins: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. It's good to be here this afternoon, but it was really great to be here last night and I will say if that's indicative of how you all eat as a council, that I would hope to have the opportunity to come back very soon. Again, I appreciate the opportunity to be here. I appreciate your chairman's invitation to attend and really perseverance in encouraging me to be here for this discussion.

It's been an eye-opening discussion for me. I was already well familiar with the vulnerability of this stock complex. That was the basis on which Virginia Marine Resources took action some years ago, as this fishery evolved, but I have to say that that awareness has really been increased as I hear the stories around the table about particularly grouper populations and other species that have been largely eliminated and as I watch you all at the council wrestle with the very difficult decisions of having to close or come very close to closing fisheries.

That's certainly not a situation that we want to see played out in the Mid-Atlantic region, but at the last council meeting we had, Red Munden gave us a quick briefing on Amendment 18. In response to that, we did express some concern about the prospect of taking a fishery that was essentially an evolving fishery in our jurisdiction and bringing that into a rebuilding plan, when it was already under a relatively strict management regime at the state level by one of our member states, namely Virginia.

I do have a copy of Virginia's regulations, courtesy of Jack Travelstead, that I'll just pass around real quickly while I'm speaking. The VMRC action that was taken several years ago by Virginia -- I will say that I've served on the commission for about five years, by way of background, but it may be the most precautionary action that the commission has ever taken at the state level.

It was based largely on your experience and advice. Joe Grist from our staff, I believe, came down and consulted with your staff and council and got input about the vulnerability of these



stocks. The action was based not on any sort of population estimate or assessment that we had of the stock, but, again, really on the vulnerability of the stock based on life history and based on management experience down in your jurisdiction.

The regulations, in a nutshell, precluded and preempted the development of any directed commercial fishery for these species in Virginia, namely the tilefish and -- The relevant species here are the blueline tilefish and also the grouper complex. It precluded the development of those fisheries and only allowed a very small bycatch retention of 175 pounds of grouper and 300 pounds of tilefish.

On the recreational side of the fishery, the limits that were put in place were for one grouper per person per day. That does include wreckfish in that complex, but one grouper per person per day and seven tilefish per person per day. That was a substantially lower recommendation than was made by the commission staff and so, again, it was quite precautionary at the time.

We are in a situation in the Mid-Atlantic and obviously at the state level where we're in a very data-poor environment. The population off the coast of Virginia, north of the Virginia/Carolina line, is not an assessed population. Furthermore, in terms of recreational catch data, MRFSS indicates that the fishery is non-existent. That is, there is no landing information in MRFSS at a fine enough scale level to indicate any harvest of the relevant species that are not already under the Mid-Atlantic Council FMPs.

Those that are under our management include black sea bass, golden tilefish, and scup. That's where the majority of the landings are, at least commercially and also recreationally. Those do show up in the MRFSS data, but the relevant species that are falling through the cracks here in terms of federal management are blueline tilefish and the groupers.

The MRFSS data, if you query those data, indicate no landings, essentially, of those species at the recreational level. Nevertheless, we know that we have a significant fishery at the state level in Virginia, because we issued 164 blueline tilefish citations in 2007. Part of the problem is the fishery is prosecuted, to a degree, in the first wave of the year. In January and February, when people aren't fishing for many other species, they're prosecuting this deepwater fishery and MRFSS, of course, is dormant during that wave and so there are no data.

As I heard Red brief us at the council level, I was concerned about this being extended into the Mid-Atlantic region. As I read Document 18 and hear the discussion around the table, my concerns certainly increased. The motion that was passed by the committee to have a prohibition on fishing deeper than thirty-five fathoms would essentially eliminate the entire fishery in Virginia, because we don't encounter the fish shallower than that.

Our blueline tilefish fishery is prosecuted mainly in fifty fathoms of water. The grouper fishery is prosecuted on the edge, in a hundred or ninety to 110 fathoms. The entire fishery would be eliminated. What we have is essentially a trophy-class fishery. We've been producing world records one after another on the grouper complexes and so the fishery at that level would be lost.

Also in the Mid-Atlantic, on the habitat side of the equation, I did notice that there was a

proposal to possibly identify EFH areas in the Mid-Atlantic if the plan is extended. I would point out that in Tilefish Amendment 1 to our Golden Tilefish FMP that we've recently recommended the adoption of four gear-restricted areas for four different canyons. One of those is the Norfolk Canyon, which is where most of this fishery is prosecuted. That would encompass water depths in excess of 125 fathoms and that would be gear-restricted area. That would already cover some of the relevant habitat for this complex.

What I would like to see us have an opportunity to do at the Mid-Atlantic Council level would be to have a briefing from your staff regarding Amendment 18 and exactly what measures might be entailed in it, now that you've developed a range of options, and then that we be afforded an opportunity to have some dialogue and consider if we might develop complementary management strategies for the Mid-Atlantic region.

I don't want to get ahead of our council in terms of what remedies we might propose, but, for example, we might be able to develop measures that would go into our Golden Tilefish FMP that would be complementary to your plan that would allow, perhaps, a more appropriate regional management strategy for the snapper grouper complex in deep water within our jurisdiction.

Again, that's just one idea and I think if we're afforded that opportunity and we could have a presentation at our April meeting, that would allow us to consider the impacts of this and develop some strategies and responses. Thank you.

Mr. Currin: Thank you, Rick. You mentioned that possibility of having someone from our staff come up and brief your council and I certainly think that's a good idea and if our Chairman and Executive Director think so, then we'll certainly try to make those arrangements. Anybody else that might be able to help with that would be considered as well. Thank you for coming.

Mr. Munden: Just to follow up on a couple of things that Chairman Robins pointed out, again, we're concerned about the landings data for snapper grouper species north of the current North Carolina/Virginia border for the northern range of the management unit, northern border of the management unit.

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council already has management measures in place for black sea bass and scup north of Cape Hatteras, through our existing fishery management plans. These species are managed jointly with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. We have a golden tilefish fisheries management plan for tilefish throughout the jurisdiction of the Mid-Atlantic area. All three of these species are managed through a limited access permit.

One concern that I have is that, being from North Carolina, I get a lot of comments from fishermen who would like to get into the snapper grouper fishery and about their concern about the requirement for procuring two snapper grouper permits in order to have one issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Very, very few fishermen north of the North Carolina/Virginia border have any snapper grouper permits and so this will be a tremendous burden on the people who have fished for snapper grouper species north of the North Carolina/Virginia border who would have to procure these

permits.

The last comment is that in my conversations with members of the otter trawl fishery, they have indicated that they have always picked up a few blueline tilefish, occasionally. It's not a fishery you could direct on, because the fish are not that abundant, but, as we all know, trawl gear is not allowed for the harvest of snapper grouper species and so these people who have traditionally caught a few snapper grouper species north of the current management unit would be disenfranchised and not allowed to keep those fish. Thank you for the opportunity to comment, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Currin: Other comments or reaction to the comments from the Mid-Atlantic folks?

Mr. Geiger: A reaction to their comments is thank you very much for being here. We enjoyed having you and thanks for the comments. It was very, very informative and good information for us to act on. My question is, do we have landings on this complex from New England?

Mr. Currin: Staff is looking for that now. You heard Rick's comment that there's almost -- They're rarely encountered, if ever, in the MRFSS survey in Virginia, where we know there's a fairly substantial fishery.

Mr. Mahood: While they're looking for that, I've been communicating with Dan Furlong up there and we will arrange for some of our staff to come up to your April meeting, at least a staff member. We then can start working with your folks up there relative to some of your concerns and how those can be mitigated in the amendment.

Mr. Harris: It seems to me that these three alternatives are all appropriate at this point in time, unless we learn that there are no landings of any of these species up in the New England Council's area of jurisdiction, in which case we would only have two alternatives. I just recommend we leave them all in place right now, unless Gregg has something else to add to that.

Mr. Waugh: We do have some data and Kate can project those. To the extent as we do and have done each of the -- It's page 83 in Amendment 18. To the extent that we have any data for these species, they have been incorporated into the SEDAR stock assessment. Of course, that varies by species. We are seeing a shift and an increase in landings north of North Carolina.

The reason that these alternatives exclude black sea bass, scup, and golden tilefish is because the break for those, there's a stock differentiation north and south of Hatteras. We recognize that the Mid-Atlantic manages those three species north of Hatteras. Our Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Unit for those three species is south of Hatteras. Extending the management unit north would not impact scup, black sea bass, and golden tilefish.

As we read the new requirements in the final ACL rule, we have to account for all sources of mortality and as you remember from our discussions this morning, the likely ACLs for these species is extremely low, so low, in fact, that we're not allowing any directed fishery there. If we were to not extend the management unit and the regulations into the Mid-Atlantic, we would still have to count that mortality towards our ACL and we would be exceeding our ACL and

continuing to allow overfishing.

I think we've got the landings and you have the page number to see what that level of landings are and Table 3-7 is for Maryland and Virginia and we may have some other tables in there. We'll continue to look.

Mr. Currin: You can see from those tables that the landings are relatively low. These are recorded landings and, again, Rick, you said you don't have any reported landings. They haven't been encountered in the MRFSS survey, which gives us our estimate of recreational effort and catch, yet your citation program, and it doesn't surprise me a bit, has issued a large number of citations, for blueline in particular, and I suspect if you offer them for snowy grouper that you would have some for snowy as well. That's kind of the box we're in right now at least.

Mr. Robins: Just on the point that's been raised about the assessment and ACLs and the final rule, this, to some degree, is reminiscent, to me, of the northern Gulf of Maine scallop situation, where you have a stock that's not actually assessed, but it is subject to fishing. The challenge to the New England Council and committee has been how to account for that mortality.

They are working up different strategies for how to account for that and one is to take it off the top. In other words, they do have ideas of what the mortality is there and so they're taking that off the top before they develop the ACLs for the rest of the federal fisheries. It's a little bit reminiscent of that, because right here, for recreational landings, the number is zero. I don't think we can say that the Norfolk Canyon population is assessed and in the assessment. It's a little bit reminiscent of that, but, again, this is something we can discuss down the road.

Mr. Currin: It's new ground and we will -- It does present some problems, but I think we can work through them. We'll certainly attempt to do so. Thank you very much. Everybody, just to end this first action in 18, everybody is okay with where we are as far as alternatives for right now? Okay. It is almost quarter to. We will open our public comment session now.

What I would ask from the audience is that you restrict your comments to the interim rule for red snapper and three minutes, please. Try to hold your comments to three minutes and if you would, come up and have a seat in this chair or stand, if you like. Make sure that microphone is on, the light is on, and state your name when you come up, please, and anybody that you might represent, if you do represent a group.

We don't have a light and a gong and a bell, but we're going to give you an idea. We do have a light. I think when the yellow warning light comes on, that gives you another minute. We would like for you to restrict it to three minutes and if you're almost at the end and on a roll as the red light comes on, I might give you another few seconds, but I'm going to ask you to wrap it up pretty quickly. Again, thank you for being here. Our first speaker is Dennis O'Hern and our next one will be Chris Rooney. If you would be kind of ready and on deck to go, that will help us get through this more quickly.

**Mr. O'Hern:** Good afternoon, council. My name is Dennis O'Hern and I'm the Executive Director of the Fishing Rights Alliance. My members are largely recreational, but also

commercial fishermen, mostly in the Gulf and South Atlantic. We have some grave concerns over the interim rule, the fact that you're about to inflict -- I know all of you know this, that you're about to inflict some economic destruction from which our industry and my people -- I'm a recreational angler. I don't have a charterboat and I don't make a living off of this at all. That's why I live in Florida. That's why I've been underpaid for years and stay here. It's because I love to fish and so does almost everybody else here.

We're the fishing capital of the world in Florida and I know that's just part of the South Atlantic, but fishing is a big part of our heritage. We're really concerned with some of the information that you all are having to base your decisions on. The disagreement over the stock assessment of the red snapper is huge.

I also would like to briefly comment on you're talking about in-season quota monitoring. I know more than a lot of people, because I've been deeply involved. MRFSS is -- It was called fatally flawed, but it was just stated by the NRC, the National Research Council, that MRFSS needs a lot of work. It's not reliable and it's not to be used as an in-season quota monitoring tool.

Mr. Currin: Dennis, if I could just remind you that this is on the interim rule. That's an action in 17 and so if we can, let's try to focus on that interim rule here.

Mr. O'Hern: I'm sorry. I thought that went to the interim rule. We're just concerned that the interim rule is going to shut down fishing altogether and it's not going to recover and we're also concerned that the effort estimates and the landings estimates are so overstated right now that you're feeling compelled to act, when in fact we're not landing the number of fish that MRFSS is saying we are.

There's so many inherent flaws with it right now that you can sit down and look at that I'm just scared to death that you're going to be forced to make this decision and you're going to kill the industry, absolutely kill the industry as we know it. If you're okay with that, that's fine, but in this time when we're trying to do \$750 billion in economic stimulus and you guys are about to pull the trigger on about a \$1 billion economic damage to the South Atlantic Council, I hope you really weigh your decision heavily. Thank you.

Mr. Currin: Thank you, Dennis. Captain Rooney and next is Joe Penovich.

**Mr. Rooney:** I represent the Jacksonville Offshore Sportfishing Club. We're a club that's been established since 1959 in northeast Florida. We are the primary driver of reef building and actually taking care of our fishing species in north Florida and have been for the last fifty years. We're concerned with the interim closure of the snapper fishery, because a question we have is that we've heard that you're not going to allow us to bottom fish or is it just the snapper fishery that's going to close during the interim period?

Mr. Currin: The interim rule that we considered and the committee voted on today was just to prohibit harvest and possession of red snapper.

Mr. Rooney: Just red snapper? We'll still be allowed to fish in the ocean?

Mr. Currin: Yes, sir. Depending on what happens with Amendment 17, that could change.

Mr. Rooney: I would like you to consider some of the economic impact that this will have. Florida is the number one ranked state in the country in boat sales. Florida makes up more than \$16 billion of the total economic impact of recreational fishing in the United States. If you look at that and compare it with agriculture in the United States, which is only \$5.9 billion, that's more than triple what we do for the entire central states and we're going to greatly impact that industry at an economic time when we can't afford it.

Our members have been fishing for red snapper since the 1950s and we've noticed a steady increase and not a decrease. We believe that your information is flawed and some of the data collection that's been done is just not working and as a captain in north Florida, it's very hard for me now to not catch thirty or forty red snapper when I go with four people. It's extremely difficult. I can't not catch the snapper.

Now, we do a complete release on my boat. I've had venting tools on my boat and I use circle hooks and I take every precaution that I can possibly take to maintain the fishery and a lot of the people in the club do the same thing and we very strongly influence our people to do that, but we have not seen a decrease in the fishery.

Just recently, we ran an inshore tournament where very few boats fished the local areas very close to the beach, within five miles. Even today, in the wintertime, when the red snapper should be in deeper water, we're consistently catching juvenile red snapper between fourteen and eighteen to twenty inches and also in both times that I've fished for that tournament, we've caught twenty-four-inch red snapper, within five miles of the beach in fifty-eight-degree water. That's not supposed to happen. It's happening because the species is strong here in north Florida and southern Georgia. All the way from Brunswick to Daytona it's very strong and I think we know that. Thank you.

Mr. Currin: Thank you very much. Next is Joe Penovich and next up will be Dave Heil.

**Mr. Penovich:** I have a couple of petitions to enter and some pictures to pass around, whether or not that's a good idea, I'm not sure, but -- Thank you for the opportunity to speak and my name is Joe Penovich. I came from central Florida today. I'm the owner of Obsession Fishing Charters, which is a party fishing boat, a restaurant, and a marina, also. These three businesses employ about 150 people.

I'm here just to plead with the council to really consider this interim rule and the closure of red snapper fishing. I know there's some scientists and some people that care about the fishery and feel that it's on the brink of collapse, but I know that all of you have heard over and over and over again from fishermen like myself to tell you that there are more red snapper out there than we have ever seen.

Now, I've heard that that's just a three-year uncertain stock that's been doing good and after that's gone the fishery is going to collapse, but I've also heard from the same people telling me that that they know their data is flawed. You're going to make decisions that are going to -- We

in business are on the edge financially and you're going to make decisions that are going to further the situation that this country is in. You will put people out of work by closing the red snapper fishery. It's that close for a lot of businesses out there.

That's real frustrating when I am hearing from the scientists and certain members of this council telling me that they know the data is flawed, but they're mandated to react to the information they have, even though that's flawed information. Again, I'm here to plead with you to consider what you're about to do, based on information that is not accurate.

The council, from what I can understand, and I feel that I should have been more involved early on, but the council is required to take action to end overfishing if that overfishing has been identified. Again, statistically speaking, or data assessment speaking, I don't think you can make that determination.

Maybe, again, by the strict letter of the law, you're required by the information you've been given, but when you know that information is flawed, personally and individually, I don't know how you can make that determination that there is overfishing in red snapper presently, when I will tell you and you can see the pictures that we are catching more fish than we've ever caught.

There is other action that can be taken that does not include an interim closure, especially given the fact that this data is flawed. Again, you're taking action and you're living up to what the Magnuson-Stevens Act says and you can make that rule. You can try a slot limit and you can tighten up the measures that are in place, because I believe as a fisherman, as a diver, as somebody who has been in these waters since I was fifteen years old, that this fishery is -- It's amazing what's going on out there.

The measures that exist right now, a twenty-inch size limit and a two fish bag limit, they are working. If you feel, again, to comply with the Magnuson-Stevens Act that you must do something, then tighten up a little bit. Give us a chance. Give our businesses a chance to survive.

Just one other thing and I don't know if this makes any sense or has any meaning or not, but I know there's some scientists here and some people that really care about the fishery and they talked about some of the fisheries that were collapsed and crashed and just done, one of which I read about was the striped bass fishery. Let's say that I'm wrong and let's say that all of these fishermen are wrong and that this red snapper fishery is truly in severe close to being collapsed mode.

Let's say you guys listen to me and you do not pass this rule and the scientists were right. The worst case scenario is that you're going to come back and close this thing and like what's happened with striped bass, like we're seeing if you're a diver with the goliath grouper, these fisheries will rebound and it will happen.

I'll stand up here and say I'm sorry, because your scientists were right, but give us a chance, give our businesses a chance, and realize that at the worst situation that would exist, you can come back and do this and we'll all just sign on the dotted line if in fact this information is correct, but

you do not have to do that now and be that drastic now with the flawed data that you have.

Mr. Currin: Thank you, sir. Mr. Heil, if you will come up and next is Holly Binns.

**Mr. Heil:** My name is David Heil and I am here on behalf of the Central Florida Offshore Anglers and also on behalf of the Florida Sport Fishing Association. These are two recreational fishing clubs. One is based in Orlando and one is based in Merritt Island, Florida. Both of these clubs have approximately 200 or 300 members each.

Both of the clubs have asked me to come here to express their objection to this, based upon the fact that the data is definitely flawed in regards to this. The data that you're basing this on has not passed peer review. MRFSS, every time it has gone up for peer review, has failed. You're dealing with failed data and it's shown. It's proven. This is not something somebody else has done. This is what their own peer reviews have shown you. Therefore, you have nothing to base it on.

One of the other things that we're talking about is mortality rates. Mortality rates are greatly overstated. From what the recreational people are doing and which also, you have no data on recreational off the east coast of Florida, zero. You use the basis that we're running off of headboats. Headboats and recreational fishermen don't fish in the same area.

These rules and this interim rule you're looking to do is going to put a lot of people out of business. You're playing with the lives of thousands of people across Florida and you're looking to put them out of business on data you know is not correct. You know that this data is flawed. You know that you cannot rely upon this data, but yet you're going to sit here as a council and put thousands of people out of work. Not in these economic times where there's not the ability to rebound.

People like Joe -- Joe's marina is right there in the Cape where we fish out of. You close this fishery and the fuel that I bought from Joe earlier this year, I don't buy, because there's nothing to go out and fish. The bait I bought from Joe earlier this year, I'm not buying, because I can't go out and fish. You're closing everything down and you're going to put a lot of people out of work.

On a personal level -- Let me change from talking about it from the situation with the clubs to a personal level. I also want you to consider other factors. One of the things is a statement from Ted Forsgren from the Coastal Conservation Association of Florida. He earlier said this year that, in a letter to the group, that you should first shut down the commercial fishery before you go after the recreational.

This is what he said earlier in the year. He also said that the fairness -- That any allocation must be fair and equitable. It's not. This council has never been fair to the recreational fishermen and this rule is not fair to the recreational fishermen. You're obligated also -- You're talking about we have to follow the law and we have to follow the rules. The rules also say in the National Standards that you have to be fair and equitable.



This council every time has continually disregarded the National Standards in setting these obligations. It must stop. This council must recognize its duties and its requirement in regards to allowing the recreational anglers a fair and equitable use of this resource.

A couple of other points is I'm hearing today a lot about we're going to go to headboats and we're going to do this and we're going to get data. I've not heard anything about recreational. When you're doing this data to pass these interim rules, you must include the recreational anglers in this data collection. This council has not done that before. I know they're not getting anything from MRFSS on it and it must stop.

Also, we're hearing that there are 3 percent. I keep hearing that the stock is at 3 percent. That is the most ridiculous number I've ever heard in my life. You've heard from people already today and you're going to hear it once again. I've spoken to hundreds of anglers in the beginning of this year, from the clubs in other areas. The fish we are catching now are more plentiful and bigger than ever before. This is a stock that has rebounded and it's there already. Your data is behind. Your data doesn't show what's actually out there in the Atlantic Ocean. Thank you.

Mr. Currin: Thanks, Mr. Heil. Holly Binns and next is Rob Darner.

**Ms. Binns:** Good morning, Chairman Harris and South Atlantic Council members. My name is Holly Binns and I'm the manager of the Pew Environment Group's Campaign to End Overfishing in the Southeast. The Pew Environment Group is the conservation arm of the Pew Charitable Trust and our aim is to strengthen environmental policies and practices in ways that produce significant and measureable protection for the natural environment and the rich array of life it supports.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input regarding the proposed red snapper interim rule. We recognize the important role that you play in managing for sustainable fisheries here in the South Atlantic region and offer our support for the interim rule. This is an important step towards ending overfishing and restoring healthy and robust fisheries in the South Atlantic.

We also strongly urge you to continue moving forward with measures to end overfishing for both red snapper and the other nine species undergoing overfishing by the congressionally-mandated 2010 deadline. What I would like to do, if I can, is take you back in time about fifty-five years to 1954, which is the year of Hurricane Hazel.

That's when red snapper landings were at their zenith, at more than a half-million pounds, and there were more than five-million red snapper off of our coast. Of these, almost a million were more than twenty years old. These fish would have been more than three feet in length and more than twenty pounds. The most common size was thirty-four inches.

If we come back to today, the most recent stock assessment found that the common size today is seventeen inches and two-and-a-half pounds and that the large fish are exceedingly rare. Of the approximately half-million snapper off of our coast, there are virtually no fish left that are more than ten years old. Landings have reached an all-time low of less than 80,000 pounds and red snapper are estimated to be at 3 percent of the population at maximum sustainable yield. That's

where the financial benefits from the fishery are at their greatest.

To rebuild a more sustainable fishery, many more of these large red snapper need to survive through time. Fortunately, red snapper have had some really strong recent year classes. You've heard today, I think a number of times, that fishermen are reporting seeing increased numbers of fish in the water and that is an observation that's supported by the science. These are strong year classes that can help to more quickly recover the red snapper fishery to a high level only if they're afforded some protection from future fishing pressure.

There are two reasons that we urge the council to take action today and the first is practical. By the end of June, about 63 percent of charter, 46 percent of private, and 58 percent of commercial landings will have already crossed the docks in north Florida, where most of the red snapper are landed. A delay of a few months might not mean a lot here in this room, but on the water, that's effectively the loss of another potentially recuperative year class.

I think the second reason that we would urge you to act today is the message that it sends. I think everyone here is relying on you to manage a healthy fishery that provides jobs and food and recreation and income for years to come.

Finally, I just urge you to ask all of yourselves a question. If red snapper doesn't deserve emergency protection, what does? For years, this council has declared its commitment to ending overfishing and right now, you're faced with an opportunity to make good on that commitment. You could kick the can down the road and hope for the best or we can make what is admittedly a very hard decision to conserve this important species so it's around for future generations.

I urge you to demonstrate the wisdom and the courage to take what is an admittedly painful, but I think a necessary, action to put this species on the road to recovery today. I think too much hangs in the balance right now to delay or to fail to follow the science. Thanks.

Mr. Currin: Thank you, Holly. Next is Rob Darner. The next is Ron Surrency.

**Mr. Darner:** Thank you, guys. Thank you for having me here and letting me speak in front of you. My name is Rob Darner. I live in St. Augustine, Florida, where I've been fishing out of that community since 1984. I'm here to tell you guys that we are a victim of our own success. I think one of the more brilliant points brought up during the Q&A session on Monday night was the number of regulations that we have had in place to help this stock rebound.

One of the more brilliant points brought up by Captain Dennis Young is the change in regulations from when it was twelve inches now to a twenty-inch snapper limit and a harvest of two for the recreational anglers. Now, we have seen a rebound of our snapper population, most of us agree. Even the council, at the Q&A session on Monday night, the scoping meetings in Jacksonville and other places, agree that the data is flawed.

Even the data from the 1950s is not totally reliable, to say that that is the magic number in which we have to return. I believe what we are seeing is an increasing number of fish. We might have had a peak zenith spawn of 1998 or 1999, but it does not mean that the following classes of

spawning fish have quit or those might be just 10 percent less. We're having more spawning fish out there and we're having greater success.

Now, as many more organizations become increased and concerned about the catch of red snapper, there are other alternative ways. I have suggested slot sizes and I know other people have said an increase in the total length of fish, but one of the things I do believe is that we're also looking at this butt-backwards, folks. Here in Georgia right now, they're going to create a new artificial reef right off their boat ramp and here, they promise more oysters, a bigger oyster bar, bringing in more fish.

You guys are looking at shutting down a fishing industry and you will start with the interim rule. I'm sure it will progress further and I'll be back here stating my opinions, but with the red snapper that I do not believe is in danger of being overfishing, you folks are looking to cause economic harm to the class of the fishing industry.

I will remind and I will paraphrase your website. Under the Socioeconomic tab, it says you must consider, by the Magnuson-Stevens Act and also by executive order and statute, the economic harm you will cause to this industry and you will cause it. We know boat manufacturers are going out. We have twenty-eight potential charterboat captains or headboat captains that will be displaced and out of business, with their mates.

If you don't believe in trickle-down economics, you will see it. If you don't believe in trickle-down economics, ask Detroit when GM goes under here in a little bit, if their bailout starts. This is what you will cause when you go ahead and start to eliminate the snapper fishery. You can join with us. I hope that environmental groups would join with us in creating more habitat, so that we can spread out the fishing pressure and give them a lot more places to go and spawn. Thank you, guys.

Mr. Currin: Thank you. Ron Surrency and next is Joshua Giordano-Silliman.

**Mr. Surrency:** Good afternoon. My name is Ron Surrency and I run a charter business and a commercial fishing boat out of Jacksonville, Florida. I'm just here to beg on anybody that's concerned about fishing that this interim rule will be devastating to our industry. Our economy right now has got the recreational sector and as far as the charter men -- It's got people where it's having a hard enough to come out here and fish as it is.

On that side of it, shutting us down snapper fishing is like one of the main arteries to our fishery on the east coast of northeast Florida and Georgia and South Carolina. This fishery right here, a lot of the people, a lot of the tourists come here, and they want to eat good, fresh fish. They live out in the Midwest and this is has built a big reputation in the State of Florida.

As a commercial sector, I strongly believe that, like you've heard over and over and over before, from every sector, from a recreational fisherman, a recreational diver, a commercial fisherman, a commercial diver, everybody is telling you all that they're seeing more fish, more red snapper, than they have in years. The old-timers that's been fishing for fifty years, they're saying that it's the best that they've seen since they've been doing it.

I know as a diver that it's like I see little juveniles all the way up to these big bites of snapper, where you're hearing these commercial boats coming in and catching 7,000 pounds on a trip. They're backing up with a 5,000-pound trip and these are not -- These are three and four guys that are catching these fish that are over the -- The first 4,000 or 5,000 pounds are fish that are over eighteen pounds, from eighteen to twenty-five pounds.

Then they dwindle down or the fish catch on and then they move on or the spawn goes off, moves on. I'm just begging for our livelihood that this is going to be critical, as you've heard over and over. This is going to be a critical decision that's going to hurt the industry. As a commercial industry, it's stable, in an economy that's really unstable, that we say it's in a recession and going into a depression.

This is going to take a stable industry and basically head it towards going out of business. As a recreational business, it's on the brink. Recreational is a fun money business and people -- A lot of my customers don't have fun money falling out of their pockets, unless they're some CEO of AIG or GM or Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac or something like that.

They're already having a hard time making ends-meet and so they want to come and they've got their customers coming in from the center of the country and they want to be able to catch the fish and be able to keep the fish that they catch and then eat it at the restaurant right there where we unload at and this right there -- It's just going to take away all that. I'm just asking you all to really think about how it's going to be an effect on our industry and go with the data.

You all haven't done -- I looked up on the internet and in 8/31/83, you all went from twelve inches to twenty inches. That's when we're supposedly saying that the fish was getting depleted. From January 1 of 1992 to the present day, you all went from twenty inches on the commercial, with no kind of limits, and twenty inches on the recreational, with a two fish per person, and you all haven't done a thing for seventeen years to this fishery. There's never been another issue about it.

Now, all of a sudden, over the last year, the fishery -- Oh my God, the fishery is in this horrible state and so why has it taken this long? Why couldn't we have done measures earlier to prevent us from making such a drastic decision to putting us out of business, because this is what this is going to do. I appreciate the time that you all have let me speak and that's my opinion. I ask you all not to implement this interim rule. Thank you.

Mr. Currin: Thank you and thanks for staying on time. Joshua Giordano-Silliman is next and then Becky Hogan.

**Mr. Giordano-Silliman:** Hello. My name is Joshua Giordano-Silliman and I'm from Mount Pleasant, South Carolina and my home port is Shem Creek. I'm here today to comment on the interim rule request. I'm opposed to the interim rule request, because any decision to do so would not be based on the best available science. The best available science would actually account for every participating angler, regardless of experience level or sector.

The current methodology of assessment also does not account for the years of data that haven't

been recorded by the recreational sector and leads to a skewed view and understanding of the fishery. Since red snapper sex is determined at birth and there is no transition with maturity, I cannot foresee a collapse of the stock or that the fishery is endangered at any time in the future.

I believe previous and current regulations have improved the fishery. Yet, it will take years to see those benefits. Dehooking and venting device regulations will further improve the fishery in the future as well. It is my belief that the current stock levels are sustaining to our fishery and nation. It is also my belief that the interim rule will have little positive biological effect on the fishery, due to its short-term nature.

The second reason why I'm opposed to the interim rule is because it would defeat the purpose of a sustainable fishery in the South Atlantic. There are no economical counterbalancing provisions for all sectors, commercial, recreational, and for-hire, to absorb. Without continued work within the South Atlantic, many members of all sectors will see demise in the current state of our economy.

This demise will have great effects not only today, but for many generations to come. Only proper social, ecological, and economical balance provisions could procure a victory for the sustainability of the fishery in the South Atlantic and begin to make a way to a responsible closure.

The third reason why I'm opposed to the interim rule is on the belief that it's taking away from society's ability to obtain healthy, fresh harvest from the sea. An interim rule would strip away a food source that many families depend on throughout the year. The interim rule would result in a nutritional loss within society, due to the lack of domestic fishing production, and an increasing cost that would occur for the individual consumer to procure inferior fish.

The interim rule would disrupt the domestic food supply chain and would lead to greater, more destructive fishing practices outside the reach of our laws and more importantly, outside of the reach of our conservation principles. The interim rule would only lead to further destructive exploitation outside of the United States and as a member of the South Atlantic, never would I want to weaken my fishery or create burdens in other fisheries. This is not within my conservation principles.

The fourth reason why I'm opposed to the interim rule is because it would lower the supply of domestic fish caught within the nation. Regardless of the size amount, it would force the South Atlantic to import more fish. The increased demand of non-domestic fish would be a known avenue for detrimental harm to the nation, either from foreign or domestic entities.

In conclusion and most importantly, I'm opposed to the interim rule request because of the destructive effects it will have on the families, either from not allowing them to practice the family tradition of fishing to receiving the health benefits and to the economy that it provides for so many individuals and their loved ones. Thank you.

Mr. Currin: Thank you. Becky Hogan is next and then Holly Reynolds.

**Ms. Hogan:** I'm Becky Hogan. This is about the interim rule. I've been here all week listening to the discussions in regards to Amendment 17. Personally, a lot of people are saying things about the flawed data. I think if you've been going to the meetings for the past couple of years, like I have, the data that you have, you're going to use and I think you're doing what you can do with the data.

The 3 percent spawning ratio that we need to bump up to 40 percent is going to take a lot of work. You've obviously done a huge amount of work since the Wilmington as far as the development of Amendment 17 to address overfishing for red snapper. When I was at the meeting back in Wilmington, and I saw the grids and I saw the map and saw the potential closed areas, I kind of started thinking that they're going to close red snapper and I have accepted that.

I think that since Wilmington, thanks to Duane and John Carmichael and some other people, they've been really trying to help us out as far as looking at maybe some smaller closed areas. Using those contours is going to be a lot more difficult for you guys than just closing a bunch of grids, because that's a lot easier way to handle that.

I'm trying to do a business plan for this year, meaning 2009 and 2010. In 2009, we're going to be faced with Amendment 16 most likely being approved by the Secretary of Commerce, which, of course, everybody knows will end the vermilion snapper fishing for us in November. I thought, well, we'll get through the summer with the snapper and we've got a year to end overfishing and now -- I know the issue came up today that -- Roy had actually written a letter to George, Mr. Geiger -- When you come to all the meetings, you get to be on a first-name basis and I'm not going to apologize for that.

He said we have to address overfishing and it's time. This letter was written on July 8, 2008, which would give us until July of 2009 to end overfishing of red snapper. Back on the 26<sup>th</sup> of September, this would have been in 2008, there was a letter written to Dr. Crabtree and this letter was from -- I think it was from Duane, if I'm not mistaken. Yes, Duane actually had written a letter to Dr. Crabtree and it said, pursuant to Magnuson-Stevens, we're going to request an interim rule for gag grouper, because we need to end overfishing. It had been identified as being overfished.

The council actually received notification on June 12, 2007 that gag grouper was being overfished. It took fifteen-and-a-half months -- This is not an insult to anybody on the council, but it took fifteen-and-a-half months to actually request that the interim rule be used for gag grouper, because there were just so many things -- I asked George about this and he thought maybe they were waiting on some more stock assessments and maybe that's why. You can comment on that if you want to. Maybe that's why it took fifteen-and-a-half months to get this letter written.

My point about that is they didn't do it in a year. The letter says if we use the interim rule for the gag grouper and then we go through the Amendment 16 process after trying to implement the interim rule, by October of 2008 everything is going to be in place and ready to go. Well, Amendment 16, we all know, is still in the Federal Register waiting on -- We've got until March 9 to comment on the proposed rule.

I think it's a great amendment. I've sent in my comments. It took a little longer than what everybody anticipated and does that surprise anybody? You've got ten species that are overfished and you've got until 2010 to resolve all of that and I think that -- Just based on everything that I had heard from Wilmington from when I was in Pooler, I thought we would maybe get the one more year to fish out for the red snapper. That's what I was hoping for.

Of course, I'm opposed to the interim rule. I did my quarterlies or my reports. I turned in my taxes for this year and I'm not paying anything. I lost 6.6 percent and I went into my reserves just because of fuel. I didn't miss one day because of any maintenance issues. I just had my bad weather days and I thought one more year of being able to fish my charters for my snapper, I can dig out of the hole. I've got a new plan based on some of the Amendment 17 recommendations that you guys are going to have and I'm not opposed to any of them.

I'm so excited about everything that you presented this week as far as Amendment 17 goes, but wow, I didn't think I would walk out of here today and not be able to make it through the summer. I would rather take my efforts over the next couple of months and keep working on my business plan for next year, what I'm going to do when those areas are adjusted maybe, possibly, for Amendment 17.

I feel like I've got to walk out of here and I've got to call and say guess what, they're going to try to use the interim rule and I'm going to use all my efforts to try to fight that. I just think that's such a waste of time. It's not a waste of your time to use the interim rule and I understand why you're going to use it and why you feel like you have to use it, but I don't think that year time constraint --

I think if you had a conversation with the congress people -- Nathan said it was actually not a problem for you to ask advice. You can't lobby, but you can ask advice, if they can get around that, that we just continue on with 17, because you're doing a lot of good work with that and maybe we could make it through the summer. If not, we probably won't.

Mr. Currin: Thank you, Becky. Holly Reynolds is next and then Libby Fetherston.

**Ms. Reynolds:** My name is Holly Reynolds and I have the Majesty out of Mayport, Florida, Jacksonville. I'm not much of a speaker and I don't have anything prepared, but I'm not going to sit here and say the data is flawed and everything. We are seeing more snapper and everybody knows that and you get kind of blocked of hearing it. I've heard everybody talk this afternoon and I'm kind of tired of hearing it myself a little bit.

It gets old, but my biggest thing is I'm going to plead for us not to use the interim rule, simply to give us time to figure out what we're going to do with our businesses. I just bought a brand-new boat and basically, if this comes into play, I have no way of making August bills. You have to forgive me. I get very emotional with this. This is just unbelievable, it really is.

I've been in the business for ten years and it's being taken away. My husband has been in it for over twenty-five and it's just -- You have to allow us that time to plan to be able to survive this for next year, for Amendment 17. We can't do that in two months, seriously. My house, I might

sell it and have to downgrade. I know that's not you all's problem, but, unfortunately, it somewhat is.

Being we could push this back a little bit and deal with more Amendment 17 next year, we may be able to not -- Some of us may be able to hang on and it would give us the opportunity to look for something else, to sell our boats if we have to. The people with the restaurants and stuff and just everything, to look for something else and a little bit more time, to be able to plan in advance, because we can't do that right now with two months.

Given four or five or six months, just the rest of this year, as Becky was saying at the end, just to plan. You've got to have time to plan. Certainly everyone can understand that. I would like to leave my rest of the time for silence, if you all would. Just think about it.

Mr. Currin: Our next speaker is Libby Fetherston and then next will be Sid Preskitt.

**Ms. Fetherston:** Good afternoon, council. My name is Libby Fetherston and I'm here on behalf of the Ocean Conservancy and I'm going to be as brief as possible. I sit here, like many of you, humbled by the task before us and I have the unfortunate job of following two sort of very eloquent and powerful speakers, but I have a comment letter here that's signed by a thousand of our members and friends in the South Atlantic that are asking you to move forward with the interim regulations and I support that, with a heavy heart, but my organization is looking towards the future of ocean health in the South Atlantic and I think this is the right thing to do.

I think we're following the science and the law and the discussions this morning were very heavy. Amendment 17 has a lot of information and it has a lot of difficult choices and I applaud you for doing your best to work through that, but I support the committee's decision and I would ask the support of the full council. We need to end overfishing of these species in the South Atlantic and build a healthy fishery, based on sustainable harvest. Thank you very much for your time.

Mr. Currin: Thank you, Libby. Sid Preskitt is next and then Clay Mobley.

**Mr. Preskitt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman and council members. My name is Sid Preskitt from Daytona Beach, Florida. I was here for the Q&A a few nights ago and briefly, I just want to go back and cover again something that I brought up there and that's the fact that over the past twenty or twenty-five years on the east coast, certainly in Florida, red snapper is one commercially viable species that by and large has been left alone.

There has been, in general, no directed commercial fishery for the red snapper off the east coast of Florida and probably up in Georgia and the Carolinas as well. There has been some small-scale activity, but, as you guys may remember, it was the council, National Marine Fisheries Service, that came to the commercial industry, back in the 1980s, I believe, and urged us to diversify into underutilized species.

We did that. We developed the shark fishery, deepwater golden tile fishery, and the swordfish industry. Everybody shifted to those industries and back ten or twenty years ago, fifteen years



ago in my experience, red snapper was something that was a treat to catch. There was not a large abundance of them ever, in my memory. Today, everything has totally changed.

When I heard recently that the council was proposing a closure on red snapper and a stock assessment that has classified them as overfished, it made my head spin. I can't believe it. Everybody in this room, I think, will agree that we have a problem with the data collection system that's being used, not only on this council, but in general across the country.

It doesn't apply just to red snapper. We've got problems with stock assessments in golden tilefish and other fisheries as well. I would like to focus a little bit here on something positive. I would like -- We have a Regional Director here in this council and I would like to ask you, at the conclusion of these council meetings, to leave here with a commitment to immediately convene a panel, use whatever mechanism that you people deem appropriate, to immediately start looking into the data collection system that we have that comes up with a stock assessment on red snapper that is frankly unacceptable.

You have to use this as a tool to manage these fisheries. We have something here right now in place that is totally unacceptable. I think everybody may agree with that. I'm just asking you to go forward from here and make some positive changes in the system. I'm not pointing my finger at any of the scientists or anybody involved in this process. I want to look at the methodology and the data collection systems that are in place and let's make changes to come up with valid data that we all have confidence in, that we can conduct our businesses in, and continue to go about our lives and maintain healthy fisheries. Thank you.

Mr. Currin: Thank you, Mr. Preskitt. Clay Mobley and then Margot Stiles.

**Mr. Mobley:** I'm Clay Mobley, Executive Director for Coastal Conservation Association, Georgia. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the interim rule closing the directed red snapper fishery. According to the science presented by the National Marine Fisheries Service, the Atlantic red snapper population appears to be in a serious state, with all signs indicating severe trouble.

Under the tenets of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, closing the red snapper directed harvest to both the commercial and recreational fishery is a required first step in beginning the ultimate recovery of an important population, but in and of itself, it will not end overfishing. We await the proposed management measures to be found in Amendment 17 to begin the full recovery of Atlantic red snapper to a healthy population level and their former geographic distribution.

We are very concerned that this fishery, like many others in the snapper grouper complex, has been allowed to sink to such low levels before management action is taken. If managers in the past had taken the necessary steps to recover this and other stocks, we would not be facing such difficult decisions now.

As this population recovers, we expect that the council and the National Marine Fisheries Service will reexamine the red snapper fishery to establish a fair and equitable distribution between the commercial and recreational sectors. We believe fisheries should be managed as a

public resource for the greatest economic benefit to the nation. Thank you.

Mr. Currin: Thank you, Mr. Mobley. Margot Stiles is next and then Ed Kalakauskis.

**Ms. Stiles:** Hello. This is Margot Stiles from Oceana and I think I know very little about red snapper. I'll just say that right up front and I think most of the people in this room know more than I do and so I'll be speaking more generally to your work on snapper grouper. As you all know, red snapper is just the latest difficult piece of your bigger snapper grouper problem.

On behalf of Oceana, I wanted to encourage you -- During the past it seems like a couple of days, but I think it's just today, I did not envy the discussions that you're having on several different amendments on snapper grouper, with the numbers going the same for a number of different species. I really appreciate the range of options that have been discussed, both on how to equally share the burden and the pain between the different sectors on trying to make area closures more surgical and most recently proposing an experimental fishery that might allow some people that are shut out by these rules to participate in the data collection that will help bring these fish back.

Unfortunately, I think your mission is clear from Magnuson-Stevens. It's you where the buck stops and it's you that has to take the reins to end overfishing and unfortunately, I don't think there's a lot of flexibility there. On red snapper, again, I don't know the specifics of this fish, but as time passes, I can see that on snapper grouper in general you're increasingly backed into a corner and the longer you wait, the fewer degrees of freedom you have and the less latitude you have to discuss the range of options that you're discussing.

I think as time passes that you just run out of options and you may be forced into more draconian things and I would hate to come to one of these meetings and see the entire fishery shut down or see other things that are really going to cause big problems in the local communities. I would just encourage you to persist and to hang in there on each of these species as they come up, because if you take no action, then you really may be faced with a lot fewer options in the future as to how to implement these changes. Thanks.

Mr. Currin: Thank you, Margot. Next is Ed Kalakauskis.

**Mr. Kalakauskis:** I'm Ed Kalakauskis and I'm really here on behalf of artificial reef building. I've been doing it for over thirty-something years and I wanted to first of all say that the Amendment 17 interim, we need to look at that, because of the economic impact it will have on our community in north Florida.

I would like to first of all thank everybody for the opportunity to speak before you. I'm what you may classify as a gee-whiz diver. I go down to the bottom and I look at things and I say, gee whiz, but I've been building reefs for our community. For thirty years, I've been active in that program and in saying that, the fishermen that you've got here before you are people that put their money where their mouth is.

They've been constructing these habitats with their own personal money and commitments for

over fifty years in the northern Florida area. These people do have a grasp on fishery management and conservation. These people also understand the law. They understand the gun that you guys are under and they also understand the law and the intent of the law and also the interpretation of the law. These people do understand that, but I want to tell you a little small story that happened to me this week.

I went to my dentist, who has been diving as long as I have, and the first thing he said to me, he said, man, them snapper are back. Then I went to my butcher on the same day and was picking up some products there and was telling him about how they may close down the snapper season and said, well, I'm just not going to fish anymore. He happened to use a headboat captain.

This is definitely going to have an impact on our fishing community and I will close it with saying, speaking on behalf of the snapper, is we're there and speaking on the gag grouper is, we're back. Thank you.

Mr. Currin: Thank you. That's all the sheets that I have from people who indicated that they wish to talk about the interim rule on red snapper. There were a number of other people and thank you for filling out public comment forms, but you indicated you did not wish to speak. Thank you all for being here and thanks for your sincere comments and we will close our public comment session.

Mr. Harris: Before we go back into the committee of the whole and finish the Snapper Grouper Committee actions, we had scheduled a public comment period beginning at 2:30, or immediately following the Snapper Grouper Committee meeting, for public comment on the Fishery Ecosystem Plan. Is there anybody that's here to speak about the Fishery Ecosystem Plan? Can you wait until after the Snapper Grouper Committee? Okay. Then we'll finish the Snapper Grouper Committee meeting.

Mr. Currin: We're back to Amendment 18 then. Everybody seems to be okay with the three alternatives we have for the first action, which is consideration of extending the Snapper Grouper FMU northward. Kate, we'll turn it back to you.

Ms. Quigley: I just have one comment. I've got additional information on where to find some of those tables for New England. PDF page 153 of Amendment 18 has commercial landings in New England. This is Table 4-4 and so as Chapter 3 includes state-by-state landings data, Chapter 4, Table 4-4, includes commercial landings for all of New England and then the Mid-Atlantic as well, split out commercial and recreational. That's where you can find those tables. PDF page 24 includes the regulations, Virginia regulations, just in case you're looking for that.

I'm going to go back now to the alternatives and we can move on to the second action. Was there any other comment on that first action? All right, I think we're good. The second action is Limit Participation in the Golden Tilefish Fishery. We have the no action alternative.

Mr. Currin: It begins on page 42.

Ms. Quigley: Sorry, it's PDF page 42, Limit Participation in the Golden Tilefish Fishery.

There's a no action alternative, do not limit participation and effort in the golden tilefish fishery. Alternative 2 is limit participation and effort in the golden tilefish fishery through the implementation of an LAP program. Alternative 3 is distribute golden tilefish gear-specific endorsements for snapper grouper permit holders that qualify under the eligibility requirements stated below.

There are some very detailed requirements. These were taken from what the Golden Tilefish LAP Workgroup came up with. Only snapper grouper permit holders with a golden tilefish longline endorsement or a golden tilefish hook and line endorsement associated with their snapper grouper permit will be allowed to target golden tilefish. The commercial quota will be allocated as 10 percent to those holding golden tilefish hook and line and 90 percent to those holding golden tilefish longline endorsements. This also includes the change in the start date, which is another action. This is the endorsement action, but it includes the start date to August 1.

There are a number of sub-alternatives. Sub-Alternative 3A, to receive a golden tilefish hook and line endorsement, the individual must have an average harvest of 1,000 pounds when the individual's best three of five years from 2001 to 2005 are estimated. To receive a golden tilefish hook and line endorsement, the individual must have an average harvest of 500 pounds when the individual's best three of five years from 2001 to 2005 are estimated and then there are eligibility requirements for the longline endorsement.

To receive a longline endorsement, the individual must have a total of 2,000 pounds between January of 2005 and November of 2007. There is a year difference for the longliners versus hook and line. Those are the numbers, the options, that the golden tilefish workgroup came up with.

Dr. Cheuvront: Between 3A and 3B, did the golden tilefish workgroup seem to have a preference?

Ms. Quigley: There was one representative, hook and line representative, and he came up with both of these alternatives, because he didn't have time to go back and check with the other people that were hook and line fishermen. We received no further information on if they preferred one over the other. They were just presenting two options. They weren't quite sure, until they saw the analysis. Data has been requested to look at that, but that analysis hasn't been done.

Dr. Cheuvront: Then I would just suggest let's just leave all three alternatives in.

Mr. Harris: I think you all have done a great job laying out the alternatives. I happen to prefer Alternative 2. I don't know that anybody else will, but I would like to see that be our preferred alternative here. **Analyze the other ones, but I would move that Alternative 2, establish a LAP program for golden tilefish, and if we happen to do one for the snapper grouper fishery as a whole, that would be folded into a snapper grouper LAP program.**

Mr. Currin: Motion by Duane to select Alternative 2 as our preferred in Amendment 18 at this point. Second by Robert.

Dr. Crabtree: Didn't we, I guess in the Controlled Access Committee, talk about that we were going to move the LAP out of Amendment 18 and into -- Does this committee need to make that same decision or does that just go to the full council or what do we do?

Mr. Currin: I don't know exactly the best way to handle it, but we certainly don't need to do it twice and be working on two amendments under two different committees.

Mr. Waugh: What I've done is projected from your Snapper Grouper Overview the items that are included in Amendment 18. If you remember our discussions, the LAP Committee works on some general items, but if we are working on a specific LAP program for a specific species, that committee is the one that will take the lead on it. Even if we split these LAP programs out into a comprehensive LAP amendment, thus far they're all snapper grouper species and so it would stay with the Snapper Grouper Committee.

Mr. Currin: I'm not out of a job yet then, huh?

Mr. Waugh: Not yet, but at some point, either when we get finished looking at the specific alternatives here or now -- Roy has brought it up. We need to talk about if we are indeed going to create a comprehensive LAP amendment that takes several items out of Amendment 18. At some point, we need to discuss that.

Mr. Currin: I agree totally, but I don't think right now is the appropriate time to do that. At least for now, I think everybody acknowledges that the LAP Committee has made that recommendation. It's done appropriately here and so far in 18 to consider that LAP -- It's been selected as our preferred, which would perhaps heighten interest in that, and at some point, if we start adding other species, I presume, we would carve that out into a separate LAP amendment. Is there discussion on the motion to select this as a preferred?

Ms. Merritt: I don't believe that our workgroup, golden tile, specifically wanted a LAP put in place as much as they wanted endorsements now and a LAP only if they had the amount of quota that would be -- I think we've all agreed that they're not going to get that. I would not be in favor of making that the preferred alternative at this point.

Mr. Currin: Keep in mind all the other alternatives, at least so far, will remain in this document and there are other larger decisions, perhaps, to be made in the context of LAPs.

Mr. Wallace: Rita said what I was going to say, but it was still -- The golden tilefish workgroup was not in favor of a LAP and I'm just questioning whether or not we were going to override their wishes.

Mr. Currin: So far, nobody is overriding anything, but we're kind of staking out a preferred alternative at this point. At least it's been proposed. We haven't even voted on it yet and so we'll see how that all shakes out.

Mr. Geiger: John just kind of spoke to my concern that we have received information back from that workgroup which indicated they were not in favor of a LAP and I would speak against this

as being our preferred alternative.

Mr. Currin: Kate has some clarification.

Ms. Quigley: I've got the direct quote up from the LAP workgroup on the screen and I'll just read that: The LAP workgroup does not endorse Option 2, LAP program, at this time, due to low quotas. They prefer Option 1, endorsement, and an August 1 start date. A low stock assessment does not leave an individual in an economically-viable position. Some workgroup members felt that in the future if the commercial quota is equal to or greater than 480,000 pounds, the LAP workgroup is in favor of LAPs. Others were in favor of a LAP if the commercial quota were equal to current levels or a little higher.

The LAP workgroup put together this report and this was the most significant quote in the document. They did prefer an endorsement. Now, since that time, the Amendment 18 has gone out to scoping and members from that workgroup have spoken differently. That's just something to take into consideration. Two of the fishermen that were on the workgroup have since said that they are in favor of LAPs for the golden tilefish fishery. It can be a little bit confusing.

I've just got some different information and I think over time that some people have changed their positions and then I've just -- If you need it, I've also got information on the informal survey that was done of the entire golden tilefish fishery, if we need that.

Mr. Currin: Thank you, Kate. Keep in mind everybody that the workgroup's former preferred approach to this is in here as an alternative along with the LAP.

Ms. Smit-Brunello: I guess I'll ask a question. The idea was to keep all these alternatives at this point and then move them all into a LAP or an effort limitation amendment or something of that nature or have we not got there yet?

Mr. Currin: We haven't gotten that far yet, but that's being discussed as a possibility, I think. Right now, we're just going to try to define the issues for 18 or wherever they might be important issues for the council to consider.

Mr. Wallace: I'm not opposed to leaving alternatives in there. I'm more opposed to it being our preferred.

Mr. Currin: The motion is to select Alternative 2 as our preferred. That alternative is to establish a LAP for the golden tilefish fishery. **All in favor of that motion raise your hand, five; all opposed, seven. The motion is defeated then.**

Back to the range of alternatives that we have here. Is everybody okay with those? The only thing that I would point out is that under Alternative 3, main Alternative 3, there was a suggestion to split the allocation or the quota 10 percent to the hook and line fishermen and 90 percent to the longline fishermen. This is a workgroup that had one hook and line fisherman on it.

We got some comments, I think, from some of the other hook and line fishermen that perhaps splitting that quota in that manner may not be particularly their benefit and they didn't like it, particularly. I don't know whether we want to at this point leave that as an alternative, but to form another alternative that does not divide the quota or how we want to deal with that, but I would certainly feel more comfortable with having an alternative that did not define the percentage quotas among those two sectors.

Dr. Cheuvront: I was just wondering, do we have an estimate of the percentage split between the actual fishing that is being done by these two sectors?

Mr. Currin: Kate said it's probably pretty close to 90/10, at least over the last handful of years. Everybody is okay with where we are? I'm sure we'll get comments and that might be tweaked and suggested to move it somewhere else. Any other discussion on these alternatives for golden tilefish participation limitation? All right, let's move.

Ms. Quigley: The next action is Limit Participation in the Black Sea Bass Pot Fishery. There are a number of alternatives here. It's PDF page 44. The first alternative is no action, do not annually limit the number of black sea bass pots deployed or pot tags issued to holders of federal snapper grouper vessel permits.

Alternative 2 is to require that each black sea bass pot in the water or at sea on a vessel in the South Atlantic EEZ have an attached valid identification tag issued by NMFS. Limit the black sea bass pot tags annually to 100 per holder of federal snapper grouper vessel permits. NMFS will issue new identification tags each fishing year that will replace the tags from the previous fishing year.

Alternative 3 brings that number down to fifty. Alternative 2 is 100 pot tags per holder and Alternative 3 is fifty tags per holder and Alternative 4 is twenty-five per holder. Alternative 5 states to require that each black sea bass pot in water or at sea on a vessel in the South Atlantic EEZ have an attached valid identification tag issued by NMFS where that number is limited to 100 in year one, fifty in year two, and twenty-five in year three and onwards until modified. Require that new identification tags be issued each fishing year. There's a ramping down of the number of tags that are allowed to be held.

Then Alternative 6 states that each person can have 100 pot tags per holder in year one and fifty in year two and onwards until modified. Alternative 7 states to limit the number of black sea bass pots fished annually to fifty per holder for any fisherman that is currently using an average of less than fifty-five pots, based on average number of pots fished on trips between January 1, 2005 and December 31, 2006 and fishermen entering the fishery after January 1, 2007. Limit it for those two eligibility categories.

For any fisherman currently using an average of fifty-five or more pots, limit the number of black sea bass pots annually to their average, less as reduced by 10 percent. Limit the maximum number of pots allowed per holder of federal snapper grouper vessel permits to 125, limit the number of black sea bass pot tags issued annually each holder of federal snapper grouper vessel permits to the number of pots allowed plus 10 percent for damage and loss. However, each

permit holder may only fish the number of pots allowed and the number of pots fished will be determined from snapper grouper logbooks that have been submitted to NMFS on or before March 8, 2007.

Alternative 8 is that black sea bass pots must be brought back to shore at the conclusion of each trip and then although there's no alternative here for LAPs, that was something scoped for and that was something that I believe a motion was made to take a look at in December of 2008.

Mr. Currin: Thank you, Kate. There's a lot of alternatives there. I would just make one suggestion that we rename Alternative 7 "The Cheuvront Alternative".

Dr. Crabtree: I just wanted to point out that I do think this is something we need to look at in a serious way. Since December of this year, we have had five right whales observed entangled in fishing gear, four of them considered to be life threatening. I am not implicating the black sea bass fishery here, because we don't know. We do know some of that gear came from Canada, but it does, I think, emphasize to us the dangers to right whales by having a lot of ropes in the water.

I know that the Atlantic Whale Take Reduction Team has looked at the black sea bass fishery and they are looking at gear requirements and potential weak links and seeking ground lines and things like that in the fishery. I know all of us are very familiar with the issues right whales are making and a lot of the material that we find on right whales, we can't really determine, necessarily, what fishery it comes from, but anything we can do to reduce the amount of ropes in the water and still have the fishery function I think is a positive thing. I just ask that you all keep that in your minds and I think in the document we probably need to talk a little bit about right whales and the potential impacts.

Mr. Currin: I think we've got a sufficient number of alternatives in there that do exactly that and step it down and it's a real broad range.

Dr. Cheuvront: To that point, Roy, I'm looking here at all the gear analysis from entangled large whales from the years 1997 through 2005. There are a lot of them and not a single one identifies black sea bass pots as the gear involved in that entanglement. Now, approximately one-third of the interactions show no gear, but out of two-thirds, if black sea bass pots were involved, you would think that out of two-thirds that there would be at least a black sea bass pot and frankly, if NMFS is really concerned about entanglement with vertical lines, get lobster traps out of the water and not black sea bass pots.

Mr. Currin: You know what the identified gears look like. He's right that some have been identified as lobster traps out of various places. Back to our business at hand here, we have a nice broad range of alternatives to both consider pot limits, leave it alone, and step them down, if that's what it takes to address the needs and concerns of the fishery. Are there other alternatives? In addition, Kate has suggested that perhaps we might want to add the one to consider a LAP in the black sea bass pot fishery as an alternative in here.

Mr. Cupka: Not in terms of alternatives, but I'm on the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction



Team and we've been working on a plan and one of the things that Kate needs to look at is the current regulations that are already in place, because there have been some regulations implemented already dealing with wet storage of traps and whatnot that do cover sea bass pots.

It has been classified as a Category 2 fishery and there are some regulations already in place, not under Magnuson, but under the MMPA and the ESA, that apply to this and it's marking of gear, as well as how long you can leave them out. You might want to include some of that discussion in there as well.

Mr. Harris: David, one of the things I wanted to get Kate to add to whatever alternatives we include here is some kind of weak link rule, but is that already covered under the Large Whale Take Reduction requirements, the weak link rule for traps?

Mr. Cupka: That is, I think, already in place and Tom Burgess said that their fishermen up there were already using them, although the weak link is really to deal with breaking the line and all. The sea bass pot is not the problem. They don't fish them in long trawls like they do lobster traps and lobster traps are a lot heavier. There's something to pull against to break those weak links, but the danger, I think, on the sea bass pots is more relative to the line than it is the actual pot itself.

Dr. Crabtree: I think that there are weak link provisions. I also think they're requiring sinking ground lines have to be used by April 5, 2009. We need to check on all that stuff and make sure that's all discussed in the document.

Mr. Currin: Tom, if you've got anything else to add to that, please do, since you're involved in that fishery and operate that gear.

Mr. Burgess: Yes, we are required to have weak links and they are being used. We have gear markings for the South Atlantic, for identification. Yes, sinking ground lines will be required and at the next meeting for the team, we will be discussing vertical lines and start to move ahead in that area. If I may make a few comments on the alternatives --

Mr. Currin: I would rather you didn't at this point, but thank you. You'll have plenty of opportunity and you can make those away from the table and they can be addressed again, but let's -- Thank you for your insight into the requirements regarding right whales, Tom.

Ms. Merritt: I agree with the right whale interaction being just a non-issue in this fishery and the presentation earlier regarding the research that Tom was involved in I think also gave us some really good information in considering some of these alternatives. However, I would like to say that I think Alternative 4 and 5 should be eliminated and Alternative 8 eliminated, specifically because we have already heard of the economic impact regarding bringing in these traps, due to people not having storage or the additional travel time and equipment involved with that, as well as no science at this point to back up the fact that that is a problem by having them not brought in after each trip.

Mr. Currin: As a response, Rita, I know that we have heard from some people that participate in

the fishery that twenty-five pots is enough pots and several people have indicated that they think it's important that those pots be brought back to the beach every night. I would be a little hesitant to remove those two particular ones at this point, just because there is some interest in that and we're just -- We'll get the full gamut of comments, I'm sure.

Mr. Cupka: Here again, that's what I was saying earlier. We need some of that in there, because there's already a requirement, I think under these other acts, that would not allow certain types of wet storage anyway. That's already -- Some of that, I think, is already in place, but we're not aware of it because it's been promulgated under another act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

We need to get some clarification, because I know there are some restrictions, in terms of wet storage, that requires traps to be brought back or they can only be left out so long. We need to get that clarified.

Dr. Cheuvront: I would like to draw your attention to Alternative 7, the Cheuvront Alternative. I believe at the time, when I proposed this, about two years ago, it was at a time when we didn't have very many alternatives on here. Looking at the other alternatives and based on what's there, I think we can capture the gist of what I'm looking for through a combination of perhaps some of these other alternatives.

The idea was that -- At the time, I believe we were looking at getting people quickly down to twenty-five pots. We have other alternatives now that allow us to look at other measures. If it would be easier -- I know it would be easier for staff not to have to deal with Alternative 7 if they haven't already done some analysis on it. Kate, have you guys done analysis on Alternative 7 yet?

Ms. Quigley: In a general manner we have. No, not 7 specifically.

Dr. Cheuvront: That's what I thought, because not long after this was made, I was contacted by Jim Waters at the Beaufort Lab and we talked about it and the difficulty that it would be to analyze this alternative. **I would like to go ahead and make a motion that we put Alternative 7 to the appendix, Considered but Rejected.** I think it's too complicated right now, considering the number of other alternatives that we have.

Mr. Currin: Motion by Brian to move Alternative 7 to the Considered but Rejected and seconded by Susan and Tony and me and everybody else. Thank you, Brian. Is there other discussion of this alternative?

Ms. Smit-Brunello: Not this alternative, but, Kate, I'll make sure I get you the information too that might pertain to these pots, traps, whatever, from the either MMPA or ESA regulations that are put into place.

Mr. Currin: I think you're right, Brian. I think they are captured. The gist, certainly, of Alternative 7 is captured in and among a number of the other alternatives. Any further discussion on this motion? **Any objection to this motion? I see none and the motion is approved.**

Ms. Merritt: I'm just rethinking through this returning of the pots alternative and to perhaps add in a sub-alternative regarding that the public input for bringing them back after seventy-two hours. Here again, I'm only looking at it from the standpoint of giving the fishermen time and not leaving them out for an extended period of time, because of the potential ghost fishing, but to allow the fishermen time to get back in in a safe manner.

Depending upon the size of their boat and the weather conditions or whatever, they can't always bring them back after every trip. They don't always have a place to store them when they bring them back in or they may not have the sufficient space on the vessel. I was just looking for some other alternative that might give us an additional allowance for them.

Mr. Currin: If you've got an idea, you can make a motion or if David or somebody else does. We did receive some input regarding seventy-two hours as a way to approach it. I've talked to a number of fishermen that say forty-eight hours -- If they make an overnight trip or leave them, it's usually no more than forty-eight hours that they're out. We could add a couple of alternatives along those lines or one alternative, whatever suits everybody.

Mr. Cupka: I was just going to tell Rita that I think that's the way it currently reads in the Atlantic Large Whale Plan. I think it is seventy-two hours and we did it specifically for that reason, realizing that there may be times when they couldn't get out there to recover those traps and not wanting them to go into a situation that wasn't safe. I think when we look at those regulations, I think there is some wording in there about the seventy-two-hour allowance on that. It would be consistent with that, I believe.

Mr. Currin: Rita, would you like to offer a motion to add that as an alternative?

Ms. Merritt: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. **I would like to make a motion that we add a sub-alternative under the Black Sea Bass Pot Alternative 8 to allow fishermen to leave the pots in the water for no more than seventy-two hours.**

Mr. Currin: Motion by Rita and second by David Cupka. Discussion?

Dr. Crabtree: How would we enforce something like this? Otha, do you -- How could you possibly enforce this without -- Would you have to have some sort of call-in that I'm going to put trap-number-such-and-such in the water or how would we do that?

Mr. Easley: I'm not on the committee, but maybe if the trap had a telephone associated with it, to give me a call, but other than that, there's no sure way. There's not a good way to tell. Even the definition of out of the water, as John was saying. They pull the trap out and empty the fish and drop it back in and so that's another seventy-two hours? It's tough to enforce, just short of unenforceable.

Mr. Currin: There's a precedent, apparently, according to David, in the right whale or the Large Whale Take Reduction regulations, or at least under consideration.

Mr. Geiger: As I recall, when we were taking testimony on this and having discussions about it,

one of the reasons that we were going to try to go to twenty-five pots, or were encouraged to go to twenty-five pots, was that it was a manageable number of pots for the vessels to operate on a daily basis and bring back to port.

During that discussion, the point was also made that it was the most effective way for enforcement, because the pots would be with the vessel and could be inspected when they were in port for the type of lines that needed to be on them, plus the marking. Certainly if somebody was offshore, at least I know in Florida offshore, and weather came up and somebody decided to leave their pots in the water because it was unsafe to retrieve them, I can't see anybody being cited for that. That's a safety at sea issue and the judgment of the officers on the scene would prevail.

Mr. Currin: There are alternatives in here currently that would do exactly what you said, if they were both selected, I think.

Ms. Merritt: It was actually to Otha's point about the telephone call. The earlier comment about a texting method, would that work, Otha, text your deployment and text message your retrieval?

Mr. Easley: That's an option that we can visit. Of course, that's up to the captain and up to the crew and their honesty to get the right information to us in a timely manner.

Mr. Currin: A motion is on the board. Let's deal with this motion. Any further discussion of the motion? **Is there objection to the motion? I see two opposed. The motion is approved to add this alternative for consideration.**

Dr. Chevront: This just has to do with the fact that the comments that have been raised. One thing about concerns about ghost pots is they already have biodegradable panels on those things and so while we could end up with yet more garbage on the bottom of the ocean if a pot gets lost, there is a biodegradable panel and so we're not going to be wasting fish on there.

The other thing is there are two experimental programs going on right now in North Carolina that are looking at hailing in and hailing out, as well as sending text messages to report catches and landings and to look at that as a method for -- Both of those as methods for fishermen to report their activity and I just wanted to make sure you're all aware of that, that there might be some data that will help us in the future to look at the validity of that kind of reporting.

Mr. Currin: That may offer some potential for law enforcement at some point, especially as self service increases. I know we're going to have this conversation again about all this stuff. I'm just trying to get these alternatives fleshed out so that we can move on. Is everybody good with the alternatives that we have now for sea bass pot limitations? Okay.

Ms. Quigley: The next action is on page 46 of the PDF document, Separate Snowy Grouper Commercial Quota into Regions or States. Alternative 1 is the no action alternative, do not separate snowy grouper commercial quota into regions or states. Alternative 2 is to separate snowy grouper commercial quota into regions. Alternative 3 is to separate snowy grouper commercial quota by state.

Then we had a rejected alternative from 13C and it was Alternative 6, to institute two separate commercial quotas for snowy grouper, one for fish landed in North Carolina and one for fish landed in the remaining three South Atlantic states. At the time, that alternative was rejected because the council deemed it unreasonable, due to administrative and legal concerns. Their administrative concerns were the institution of a quota set at low landing levels. The approximate North Carolina allocation of an 84,000 gutted pound commercial quota would be 19,320 gutted pounds, as it takes at least two weeks to close a fishery.

The council was concerned this alternative would violate National Standard 4 of the MSA by allocating 23 percent of the snowy grouper catch to only a few fish houses. National Standard 4 dictates that management measures must not discriminate between residents of different states.

Mr. Currin: This is one that may or may not end up in this amendment, but I think it's important to North Carolina, at least, for consideration and perhaps to other states as well. We've got three alternatives separated into regions. They're undefined regions, but they're regions, states, and then Kate and the staff pulled up that rejected alternative from 13C.

I guess the question is whether you want to reconsider that again. I remember some of the discussions and Mike McLemore was here, in fact, when we had that discussion in 13C about the strictly a North Carolina quota. It's primarily where that fishery occurs. I don't think it's totally just two fish houses, because there are fish houses down south that did handle or do handle snowy grouper as well, but he reacted pretty forcefully when he understood that there were only perhaps a couple of fish houses, primary fish houses, that were dealing in snowy on the northern Outer Banks. That's why that was considered but rejected. Is there any desire by anyone to resurrect that and argue that again, to see if it moves on? Are we okay with the three alternatives for snowy there now?

Mr. Wallace: George and I have been talking about this and trying to get an answer, but in 17, didn't we put the ACL at zero, the ACL equal to zero? If that's the case, why are we doing this?

Mr. Currin: No.

Mr. Wallace: That's what we're trying to get settled here.

Mr. Currin: So far it's not and keep in mind that 17 is still just a work in progress. We've got things going on parallel tracks and it may be that the first thing through the gate makes other things disappear or I don't know how it's going to work. I hate having the staff work on two different things, but this is relatively clear cut here and at some point, we may be able to cut it off before we're through the gate.

Mr. Wallace: That's why I wanted clarification.

Mr. Currin: Staff, is that the best approach, Kate and Gregg, to try to deal or keep alive this issue of the snowy grouper or any other state-by-state quotas or quotas for other species?

Mr. Waugh: As you pointed out, right now in 17, you've got a preferred alternative to close the

deepwater fishery deeper than forty fathoms, but there is some bycatch shallower in the mid-shelf fishery and certainly down the road, once snowy are rebuilt, we'll have to deal with this issue. If your intent is to keep this in for now in case that doesn't remain your alternative to close the fishery or you want to have that allocation in place for when snowy grouper rebuilds and we can have a directed fishery again, then we can keep it in.

Mr. Currin: Brian, would that be your pleasure?

Dr. Cheuvront: I don't want to remove this right now, but clearly whatever happens in 17 is going to affect this and it could become a moot point. We all know what my preferred alternative would be, but I'm just saying I don't want to see it go away at this point. It may be very useful later on, I hope.

Mr. Currin: Is everybody okay with that then? We're not going to put in the one resurrected from 13C and so that will be three alternatives under snowy grouper commercial quota. Okay, let's move.

Ms. Quigley: The next action is separate gag recreational allocation into regions or states. This is on page 47 of the PDF document. Alternative 1 is no action, do not separate gag recreational allocation into regions or states. Alternative 2 is to separate gag recreational allocation into regions. Alternative 3 is separate gag recreational allocation into states.

Mr. Currin: Is everybody okay with this? The three alternatives seems to kind of cover it. All right, let's move on.

Ms. Quigley: The next action is Adjust Golden Tilefish Fishing Year. Alternative 1 is to retain the existing January 1 start date for the golden tilefish fishing year. Alternative 2 is to change the start of the golden tilefish fishing year from January 1 to September 1. Alternative 3 is to change the start to August 1. Alternative 4 is to change the start date to May 1 and then Alternative 5 is to remove the 300-pound trip limit when 75 percent of the quota is taken.

Mr. Currin: I guess the last one gives me a little pause and I do remember a comment by somebody that said that if the start date was moved or there was some caveat that the 300-pound trip limit would no longer be necessary. Is staff confident that in fact if that occurs that the 300-pound trip limit will not be taken or will not be needed?

Dr. Cheuvront: I believe September 1 was the comment that said they wouldn't need the 300-pound trip limit.

Mr. Currin: We got a lot of comments. We got some that said we don't need to change the start date, but if we change the start date and if you do this, then you don't need to do that. I want to make sure we capture not only those comments, but that we satisfy ourselves -- From my perspective, the bandit fishermen are still going to be able to fish, because they haven't been the last few years. We didn't think the longliners would fish on 300 pounds, but apparently they have or somebody has and caught the quota up very, very quickly. That concerns me and I would like to be able to --

Dr. Chevront: I didn't want you to think I'm necessarily supporting that, but I was just making a clarification, I think, from what you had asked.

Mr. Currin: I understand. I just want to be assured that if we do step the quota down that the longline fishermen are not participating by fishing on 300 pounds with longlines.

Dr. Crabtree: If that's your concern -- Right now, that's not prohibited. You could prohibit the use of longline gear in the fishery when 75 percent of the quota is caught, I guess, and that would help that.

Mr. Currin: That would be very acceptable to me if someone would make that motion.

Mr. Harris: **I'll make it as a motion. I would move that we add Alternative 6 that would close the longline fishery when 75 percent of the quota is taken, golden tilefish longline fishery.**

Mr. Currin: Motion by Duane to add an alternative that would close the longline fishery for golden tiles after 75 percent of the quota was taken. Is there a second? Second by Susan. Discussion of the alternative or the motion?

Mr. Waugh: Just to clarify, it's when it's taken or projected to be taken, is that right?

Mr. Harris: I would say when it's projected to be taken, unless Roy has a better idea.

Dr. Crabtree: **I would just write it when the 300-pound trip limit goes into effect longline gear is prohibited.**

Mr. Harris: **I'll accept that friendly amendment to my motion.**

Dr. Crabtree: That's the cleanest way, I think, to write it. That way, when we put out the notice that the trip limit is going in place, we would say in the notice and effective that day use of longline gear in the fishery is prohibited.

Mr. Currin: Further discussion of the motion? **The motion is to add an Alternative 6 that would close the longline fishery when the 300-pound trip limit goes into effect. Is there any objection to that motion? I see none and that motion is approved.** Is everybody okay with those six alternatives?

Ms. Quigley: **I think it would simplify it for staff if perhaps Alternative 5 could be changed to a sub-alternative to go under Alternative 2, Alternative 3, and perhaps Alternative 4. That would make more sense for the analysis.**

Mr. Currin: I don't think that's a problem at all. Do you need a motion to enable you guys to do that?

Mr. Robson: **So moved.**

Mr. Currin: Motion by Mark.

Mr. Harris: Second.

Mr. Currin: Second by Duane to move Alternative 5 under each of Alternatives 2, 3, and 4 as a sub-alternative. Any discussion? **Any objection to that motion? I see none.**

A question for the staff. We're talking about changing the opening date to September 1 and then to August 1. How much is the analysis going to differ based on those two start dates? They seem awful close to me and I'm just trying to get at whether we can pick one that might be the most acceptable.

Ms. Quigley: Alternative 4 was preferred by South Carolina fishermen, longliners. September 1 was most preferred by the Florida hook and line guys and so August 1 was seen as a compromise. I think there should be something that's a compromise between May 1 and September 1. Now, that could be June 1, July 1, or August 1, but the LAP workgroup did say that they preferred August 1 as a group. They agreed to that.

Mr. Currin: All right. We'll get comments about that as we go along. I was just looking for ways to save space and trees, if we could. Is everybody okay with these alternatives? Okay.

Ms. Quigley: The next action is on page 50 of the PDF document, Improvements to Data Reporting. Alternative 1 is no action, retain existing data reporting systems for the commercial sector. There is a table in this document that shows the current data reporting programs. We'll find that in just a moment.

Then Alternative 2 is to require federally permitted snapper grouper dealers, if selected, to report electronically, computer or fax, through the SAFIS system. NMFS is authorized to require weekly or daily reporting as required. Alternative 3 is to require all permitted snapper grouper dealers to report electronically, computer or fax, through the SAFIS system. NMFS is authorized to require weekly or daily reporting, as required.

Alternative 4 is to require all vessels with a federal snapper grouper commercial permit to have an electronic logbook tied to the vessel's GPS onboard the vessel. Alternative 5 is to require vessels with a federal snapper grouper commercial permit, if selected, to have a NMFS-approved observer onboard while fishing for snapper grouper in the South Atlantic EEZ. I just want to make the committee aware that there is an electronic logbook pilot program that may be funded for next year involving seven to eight vessels.

Dr. Crabtree: The only thing that comes to my mind with this is if our goal is to move to electronic reporting, do we really consider faxing in a piece of paper -- I question that that's electronic reporting. It avoids using the U.S. mail, I guess, but it's still a piece of paper, in the end. I don't know if that really -- Maybe if was something that the Center could put into a reader and it would read it and automatically populate a database, maybe that works, but I don't know that they have the capabilities to do that or not. It seems to me if we're going to go down this path that we ought to go all the way and say you've got to enter it in a database on a computer



and send it in so that it goes into something.

Mr. Currin: I appreciate your point. Unfortunately, I'm also aware of the fact that there are dealers, in North Carolina at least, that still don't have computers and all of that and I don't know whether they're snapper grouper dealers or not. I agree that if we could get away from it and not disenfranchise someone, I think it would be great.

Mr. Waugh: This alternative tracks what's currently in place for the states of North Carolina north. If we want to look at something else, we can add another alternative, but the intent here is to track what's currently in place through the SAFIS system for the states of North Carolina north. Mike Cahall of the ACCSP program has offered to provide the software to the states south of there at no cost to the states, to help them with that reporting.

If we could also at some point consider adding another alternative here to address our data reporting by area. We spent a lot of time talking about the grid system. Every time we go to use the grid system, we come to the conclusion that the grids are too large. Yet, we've never gone back and required reporting to a finer scale and I think we need to do that, because in each instance that we've tried to make use of the logbook reporting to the grid system, it's never to the detail that we need.

Mr. Currin: It's a very good point. I don't know if we can pull it off and there's probably all kinds of problems, but it's certainly worth looking at. If we can do that, it would help in the future. Monica, did you have something?

Ms. Smit-Brunello: I thought Amendment 15B also had a requirement that you would carry a NMFS-approved observer onboard if you were selected. I could be wrong, but we should double check that and see if that carries over, as well as electronic logbooks. I thought that was one of the requirements in 15B, but not through the SAFIS system. I guess I'll get with staff and we'll just double check what's already in 15B, because they may be the same.

Mr. Currin: Gregg has suggested that we add an alternative to report data by smaller grids than currently exist in the logbook program. Is that a doable thing on you guy's part, Bonnie or Roy or whoever? It certainly has appeal.

Mr. Waugh: The headboat program is providing data to a smaller, more refined area. Apparently there's a data system already in place that can collect the data to a more refined scale. What it would do -- I think that's voluntary now. This would make that mandatory and then refine the commercial logbook reporting from those large grids that just have not proved useful down to the same fine grid scale that's currently being collected, at least in part, from the headboat program.

Mr. Currin: I think if you remember, John Carmichael said there were thirty-six of those headboat smaller blocks within each one of those commercial logbook blocks. It's still not like you're going to find out where somebody's favorite rock is, but you're going to get closer than you would in one of those big blocks. Does that seem doable, from NMFS's perspective? You don't have to answer now. Just we'll get a motion to add that and you'll have time to think about

it, add that as an alternative, if it's the pleasure of the committee.

**Dr. Chevront: I'll jump in and make the motion. I make a motion that we consider recommending a finer measurement in the logbook squares to match what is currently used in the headboat logbook.**

Mr. Currin: Is there a second to the motion? Second by Mark. Is there discussion? Any further discussion? **Any objection to that motion? I see none and the motion is approved.** Is everybody okay with the rest of the alternatives under data reporting? All right, let's move on.

Ms. Quigley: I just want to let people know that the current data reporting requirements table that I referred to is on page 27 of the PDF document. Moving on, the next action concerns For-Hire Data Requirements. Alternative 1 is to retain existing data reporting systems for the for-hire sector.

Alternative 2 is to require all vessels with a federal for-hire permit to report electronically, computer or fax, to the SAFIS system. Alternative 3 is to require selected vessels with a federal for-hire permit to report electronically through the SAFIS system and Alternative 4 is to require vessels operating with a federal for-hire permit to maintain a logbook for discard characteristics, for example, size and reason for discarding, if selected.

Mr. Currin: Everybody okay with these alternatives for now?

Dr. Crabtree: What are we requiring them to report? Is that in here somewhere? Do we have specifics about that?

Ms. Quigley: I can't remember exactly. I need to go ahead and check in the rest of the document.

Mr. Waugh: We'll make sure that's in there, but it would be catch by species, location. We'll make sure that information is detailed in the document if it isn't in there now.

Dr. Crabtree: The only comment I would offer up to you is that -- Everyone understands the MRIP program is proceeding and recently, the for-hire working group has reported out and addressed a lot of these things. There are some pilot studies looking at using electronic logbooks in the for-hire industry and later this month, the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission is hosting a half-day workshop in New Orleans to discuss data collection methods in the for-hire fishery.

There are a lot of things going on at this time and the real issue with logbooks in the for-hire fishery is being able to verify or validate that the reporting is accurate. I don't know that it does us any good to have charterboats fax us a piece of paper at the end of the trips and I'm not sure what we would do with it if we had it. If you had come up with some way to verify and enforce that the reporting is accurate, then it could be valuable, but I think the key thing right now is we need to stay engaged with the MRIP program and what's going on there, because I think we need to all stay on the same page with them.

If we go further down this path, it might be worth having someone come in and report to us on what is happening with MRIP and what they've determined in studies going on and all those kinds of things.

Ms. Quigley: We have some of that information and I'll make sure that we've got that information in the document at least, that we've got an update from what's included in MRIP.

Mr. Currin: In fact, Roy, I don't know how much of it MRIP will try to capture or attempt to capture. I guess all of it, ultimately, but the MRIP survey may actually serve as a check for some of these electronic logbooks, which may give you more fine-scaled or detailed information than you currently would gather at MRIP and so I don't know. For now, it would make sense, to me, to leave it in and track that closely.

Dr. Ponwith: To that end, that workshop is going to happen within this month and that's to take a look at the progress that the MRIP For-Hire Working Group has made. One of the things that they as a working group have put forward to the MRIP Operations Team is a proposal for developing protocols on how you would go about establishing validation programs of self-reported data in the for-hire industry, which is going to be just absolutely crucial to the success of that type of a data collection process.

Mr. Currin: At least I'm comfortable with kind of, at this point, moving along on parallel tracks. If they end up solving our problem for us, then we can bag it. Is everybody okay? Let's move on.

Ms. Quigley: The next action is on page 52 of the PDF document regarding Private Recreational Data Reporting. Alternative 1 is to retain existing data reporting systems for the private recreational sector. Alternative 2 is to require vessels with a state recreational fishing license to have an electronic logbook tied to the vessel's GPS onboard the vessel if selected. Alternative 3 is to require vessels with a state recreational fishing license to carry a NMFS-approved observer when on a trip in the South Atlantic. Alternative 4 is to implement a voluntary logbook for discard characteristics, for example size and reason for discarding, for vessels with a state recreational fishing license.

Mr. Currin: This is another one where it may move along parallel with MRIP at this point. Several of these don't make a whole lot of sense to me. It doesn't seem very feasible, I guess.

Dr. Crabtree: I honestly don't think any of this is feasible or makes any sense, because I don't think we have really any authority to tie a requirement to the state fishing license, necessarily. I just don't see any of these as workable. Everything I've seen indicates to me that MRIP will remain a survey-based program to estimate private boat catches. I just can't imagine us requiring private boats to carry electronic logbooks or things like that. It just doesn't seem practical to me to carry forward with most of these things.

Mr. Currin: The thing that probably to me would give me the most hope would be Alternative 4, would be a voluntary logbook, but that in itself has some problems, verification problems, that Bonnie has brought up before. It makes me feel good to think that anglers might be willing to

participate and participate honestly and they should be able to provide some useful information for management and I think many of them are willing to do so, as we've heard from people in the public. They're crying to help out, if they can, but we don't have a mechanism for them to do it.

Dr. Ponwith: I agree with you. I am really encouraged by the enthusiastic endorsement that I'm hearing of the recreational participants in making sure that we're making decisions based on good, solid science and offering whatever they can do to push that forward. If people are willing to volunteer to carry logbooks, as long as we can meet PRA requirements to make sure that we have designed that process in a way that the results have utility and we can meet PRA, I think that there's value.

To actually make a shift from the current sample-based methodology to a census-based methodology for an industry that's as vast as the private boat sector would require a mandatory, electronic-validated system, which would be a huge undertaking.

Mr. Currin: Just from the sheer numbers, an electronic logbook for recreational anglers would not seem to be a cost-effective nor doable sort of thing. If everyone else agrees, we could offer a motion to remove that one, at least, and perhaps some others. What's your pleasure here, folks?

Mr. Boyles: **I would like to make a motion that we move Alternative 2 and 3 to the appendix as considered but rejected.**

Mr. Currin: Motion by Robert to move Alternatives 2 and 3 to the Considered but Rejected. Second by John Wallace. Is there further discussion? **Is there objection to that motion? I see none and that motion is approved.** All right, Kate.

Ms. Quigley: The next action is to Update the Wreckfish ITQ Program. Alternative 1 is do not review and make updates as needed to the current Wreckfish ITQ program. Alternative 2 is eliminate the current Wreckfish ITQ program and replace with alternate effort-limiting criteria for participation.

Alternative 3 is to eliminate the current Wreckfish ITQ program and do not replace it with any effort or participation-limiting criteria. Alternative 4 is to keep the Wreckfish ITQ program and implement a cost-recovery program and establish a cap to limit the number of shares or coupons an individual shareholder may obtain.

Mr. Currin: From the scoping comments and all that, have we got alternatives covered that address most of the concerns that people in that industry have had?

Ms. Shipman: This is another one where I think we've got to see how this overlays or overlaps with what was coming out of the LAPP Committee the other day. We clearly said a wreckfish LAP would be our priority to take a look at. We need to figure out how these two intertwine.

Mr. Currin: Clearly it's in the same boat as golden tile and the black sea bass pot effort limitation or LAP consideration and all that, in some ways. It's related somehow. We're not sure how yet, but so far, this is the only place that it exists for consideration, in an amendment

form, and until we figure out a better way to transfer it or move it, does it make sense to keep it here?

Ms. Quigley: I've got a possible suggestion that might make analysis a little bit easier. Perhaps Alternative 4 could be reworded to say to keep the Wreckfish ITQ program and bring it into compliance with the new requirements under the Magnuson-Stevens Act and that would encompass things that we have not yet thought about and it would include a review, a formal review, of the program.

Mr. Currin: That's an excellent suggestion.

Ms. Smit-Brunello: I was going to suggest something along those lines. I think that's a great idea.

Ms. Merritt: **I would like to so move.**

Mr. Waugh: That would include the concern -- One concern we did hear during the scoping comments had to do with modifying the ACL and the impact that would have on existing fishermen that are active versus inactive permits. That would include the ability of staff to work up alternatives looking at ways to allow the current fishermen that have been active to continue in that fishery without having to purchase additional shares.

Mr. Currin: I would assume that to be the case, yes. It's implied. Rita, do you want to read that motion into the record and then we'll try to get a second?

Ms. Merritt: **I move that we modify the Wreckfish ITQ program to keep the Wreckfish ITQ program and to update it to meet the new requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act.**

Mr. Harris: Second.

Mr. Currin: Second by Duane. Is there further discussion or any discussion on this motion? **Is there any objection to the motion? I see none and that motion is approved.** Does that handle everything there okay, Kate?

Ms. Quigley: There were a couple other comments made in scoping that you may or may not want to address. One of them was for recreational allocation. We had a couple of people come in and they wanted -- One person came in and asked that some portion of the wreckfish TAC is provided for recreational take. Then we had a suggestion for federal buyout of shareholders needed. I don't think the council can do much about that, but just to say that those were the other scoping comments.

Mr. Currin: I know the recreational anglers are encountering a few wreckfish in the deepwater fishery. As long as that remains open, the deepwater fishery, not the deepwater species that occur up on the shelf, it makes sense to me to carve out or at least allow them to fish within the whole ACL, but I don't know how important that is at this point, in view of where we seem to be headed in 17. At some point, when that fishery opens up -- I would hate to think that we would

have to go back in to amend a whole plan or get into the whole wreckfish management just to allow that. I don't know. Would this be the best place to try to do something like that, whether it's moot or not at this point, or put it off? What are your thoughts?

Mr. Geiger: Couldn't that be addressed under the previous motion, when we reevaluate the Wreckfish ITQ program, in terms of a recreational allocation?

Mr. Currin: I guess so. We're going to get back into the whole program, I guess. It would give us the latitude to do that under that alternative. Would it not, Gregg?

Mr. Waugh: You all are providing that guidance, yes. One question we add too was under Alternative 4. This motion, Number 29, that we just approved replaces Alternative 4. What you're asking us to do is do a complete reevaluation of the Wreckfish ITQ program, including allowing some retention by the recreational fishery, if indeed that deepwater fishery is left open. I think that's clear enough for us at this stage.

Mr. Currin: That would make me happy. Is everybody okay with that? We can do that under the new Alternative 4 or whatever alternative that's going to be. I think that was the suggestion and is that clear, that Alternative 4 be replaced by this new one? Okay.

Ms. Merritt: I wanted to back up to the motion that I made earlier and I think it was Number 4 or 5, keeping the program and meeting MSA. **I would like to suggest that we make that the preferred.**

Mr. Currin: Motion by Rita to select that as our preferred alternative. Second by Susan. This is the one to bring the Wreckfish ITQ up to date and meet the requirements under Magnuson, the new wreckfish alternative. Is there any further discussion? **Is there any objection to that motion? I seen none and it's approved.** Are we done with wreckfish?

Ms. Quigley: I think this is the last action, Designate EFH and EFH C-HAPCs for Snapper Grouper and Extended Jurisdictional Areas Under Action 1. Alternative 1 is no action, do not designate snapper grouper EFH in new jurisdictional areas encompassed in Action 1. Alternative 2 is designate EFH and EFH HAPCs for snapper grouper in the northern areas encompassed in Action 1.

Mr. Currin: We've already had some discussion of this and linked it to our discussion of the fishery management unit and Rick has made some comments on that as well and this will be an item for discussion at the Mid-Atlantic Council meeting.

Mr. Robins: Just to follow up on that, certainly we already have EFH designations in our FMPs that would relate to three of the primary species in play, black sea bass, scup, and golden tilefish. As I did point out, we already have a GRA that covers most of the Norfolk Canyon in depths from 125 fathoms seaward. If there were proposals to extend that north of the Norfolk Canyon, my expectation is that that would be an issue of significant concern to the Mid-Atlantic, but we will look forward to that discussion and presentation at the April meeting and we'll report back after that. I just look forward to the opportunity to discuss it with you further.

Mr. Currin: Thank you very much and you've mentioned those gear-restricted areas a couple of times and can you tell me what the regulations in there entail? What gear is restricted and how so?

Mr. Robins: Mr. Chairman, I believe the restrictions are relevant to bottom tending gear. It would prohibit bottom trawling, but they're not final yet. In other words, that's been our recommendation in Amendment 1. We would expect those to be in place later this year and I can get a copy of the actual GRA proposed regulations and get that out to you before the next meeting.

Mr. Waugh: Just to clarify, the wording of that action says "EFH C-HAPC", but it shouldn't be coral. It should just be "HAPC", to track the wording of the actual alternatives. In addition, we may want to consider adding another alternative that would be simply to track the EFH and EFH HAPC designations of the Mid-Atlantic Council as another alternative, because that may turn out that that would cover the EFH that we need.

Mr. Harris: **I would so move that we do whatever Gregg puts on the board there will be my motion.**

Mr. Currin: The motion is to add a new EFH alternative to track the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's EFH and EFH HAPC designations. It's seconded by David Cupka. Is there discussion? **Is there any objection to that motion? I see none and that motion is approved.** Anything else in 18? Didn't you say that's the end of it for now? Thank you, all.

Mr. Waugh: We had one question and I think Roy raised this earlier, the question of -- It's going to come up with the motion from the LAPP Committee as well. Do we want to establish a comprehensive LAP amendment? I don't know that you want to discuss it now, but the question did come up earlier.

These are the actions that are currently in Amendment 18 and if we pull out the three LAP programs out of this Amendment 18 -- There were questions about staff workload and we're prepared to discuss that at this stage or later, if you prefer. Just some question, if we do pull a significant portion of the actions out of Amendment 18, is what's left in Amendment 18 sufficient to keep it as a separate amendment or should we fold those actions into 17?

Mr. Currin: It's an important question, Gregg, and we're going to have to answer it. I'm not sure that we can answer it at this point without some -- I certainly can't at this point, but if it's necessary, we'll try to do that at this meeting, but it's going to require some discussions away from the table, I think, or more time than Snapper Grouper has already run over.

Mr. Harris: We don't have discussions away from the table. That's not what you meant.

Mr. Currin: That's not what I meant, thank you. One last item, I believe. Well, two additional items, the Comprehensive ACL.

Mr. Waugh: Mr. Chairman, while Rick is getting ready, I can orient you to the items that are in

the Comprehensive ACL Amendment right now. This is Snapper Grouper Attachment 16. It's a draft list of the ACL Comprehensive Amendment items. What we are currently addressing there are the species that are in our FMPs.

We have recommendations to do mackerel and spiny lobster as joint amendments with the Gulf Council, but the items we're addressing for our remaining species that are not currently in an overfishing status are: annual catch limits; accountability measures; annual catch targets, if you choose to; allocations between the commercial, for hire, and recreational sectors; and then regulations to limit total mortality landings and discards to the annual catch target or annual catch limit, if we don't specify a target.

Mr. DeVactor: There is an attachment in this document called "Summary of Comments on the Comprehensive Annual Catch Limit Amendment from Scoping" and I was just going to just read through that. It should just take a second. This is Attachment 18. I separated the comments that we received from scoping. Again, we took this amendment out to scoping and I separated the comments into general comments, comments on the annual catch limits, comments on the allocations, comments on the ecosystem component species, accountability measures, and management measures.

The first couple of comments were just general in nature. This person supported the ACL Comprehensive Amendment and supports work with the council's SSC to determine ACLs. The second comment liked the Amendment 17 draft that was before you in December. They liked that version of it and they thought it was a well thought out system implementing the ACL requirement.

Then going to annual catch limits, one person thought that the ACLs and ACTs should be done by state. A second comment, they also believed that the ACLs should be divided by the states according to the historical harvest and they should also be managed by the states. There's two people in support of that.

The third comment on annual catch limits said that the amendment should include control rules for ABCs, ACLs, and ACTs and the control rules should account for management and scientific uncertainty. The amendment should also describe the process of how ACLs would be updated and certainly that pertains to the discussion you had on framework procedures earlier today.

Then the next category of comments were on the allocations. Allocations should be done on a long-term, historical basis. People were in support and not in support of coupling the for-hire sector with the private recreational. That second comment was it should be included with the recreational and then there was a comment where a for-hire operator was in favor in separating the for-hire and private recreational sector.

The fourth comment said it also should be separate, as there's no way to keep track of the recreational sector, referring to the private recreational sector, and that there's better accountability currently of the headboat sector. The last comment on allocations stated that charter captains should be given their own allocations.



Moving on, there was a lengthy comment on ecosystem component species and this person was in support of having ecosystem component species in the amendment. However, this person thought that there was a risk if you did attach ecosystem component to a bunch of species that they would be ignored in the future. This person thought that species should not be removed from the FMU.

Accountability measures, just a couple of comments on that. Recreational fishermen have overproduced by 300 percent each year. If you put in a quota on the recreational fishermen, there's no way to track it and shut them down. Also, another said you should include accountability measures when fisheries are expected to meet the targets and it should be accountability for failed rebuilding timelines.

The last series of comments deal with the management alternatives. Again, this document will have management regulations to ensure that you do not exceed the ACL. The first comment was to change the trip limit of greater amberjack from 1,000 to 2,000 pounds a trip. Another comment objects to the restrictions to the recreational sector while there is a commercial fishery. This was in the form letter that you all received and so was the next comment. It objects to any commercial landings while there is a reduction of the recreational landings.

The next comment objects to limits and targets put into place until a data collection system is put into place, a reliable data collection system. Stick with daily trip limits and closed seasons and areas in order to discourage hi-grading and discards. The last three comments were the best thing that could be done are area closures. One person commented that we should develop a lottery system for goliath grouper that would allow catch and finally, there was a comment to prohibit all commercial spearfishing. That's my report, the summary report. The comments are included in the briefing material.

Mr. Currin: Any questions for Rick on the scoping comments on the Comprehensive ACL? All right. What else do we need to do on the ACL, guys?

Mr. Waugh: I touched on the items that are included and what we would just like to make sure is that those are the items that you all want us to continue to analyze, in particular the issue of allocating to three sectors.

Mr. Currin: Everybody comfortable with that, with those approaches, those items to be included in this amendment?

Mr. Swatzel: I had earlier emailed out a document that the Allocation Committee had developed quite a while back, I guess with the intention of discussing it in Amendment 17, but it's probably more appropriate here, going back to the issue of yes, allocating to three sectors. Any idea of -- Are we going to eventually use what the Allocation Committee came up with, in terms of approach to allocations? This would certainly seem to be the amendment to apply those formulas to, if we're ever going to do so. I'm just raising that issue, do we want to revisit allocation using a more progressive formula than just a basic long-term history? If so, now is probably the time, in the ACL Amendment.

Mr. Currin: Reaction to Tom's suggestion or comments?

Mr. Geiger: It's more of a reaction, I think and it's a reaction because I don't remember exactly what we did, but I know we discussed the 50/50 -- Robert Boyle's formula that we came up with in the Allocation Committee. I thought we adopted that as our standard that we were going to use as we moved forward. I guess it was up to each committee to use it. I'm not exactly sure what it is we said. It's been two meetings ago, at least, that we talked about that, I think.

I think it was that we were supposed to use that, but it was accepted as the de facto proforma formula for determining allocation and we were going to use it and continuing working on what that -- There was some unidentified factor that went in there and that was future requirements, I think. Robert, correct me or help me.

Mr. Boyles: That's right. I recall the discussion and Susan and I had the sidebar and I believe it was September that we discussed this. Just to remind everyone where we were, we looked at allocating among the sectors on the basis of kind of a long-term time horizon. I don't remember the date. Staff, I guess, could get that, in order to serve as kind of the proxy for the long time historical trends in the fishery, but also to acknowledge more recent changes in the fishery.

That would be given an equal weight, simply because none of us are soothsayers and have a crystal ball, but that that could, in fact, serve as a proxy for the desired future condition of the fishery, but to give both the long-term and recent short term kind of equal weight in making these allocation decisions. It looks a lot better when you project a nice mathematical equation than it is for me to try to explain it.

Mr. Geiger: I understand and I appreciate, Tom, the desire to move to three sectors. However, if you look at some of the stocks, when you look in poundages and you start dividing by three sectors, you might want to be very careful what you ask for. If you get it, you might not have much to fish for. Maybe we should do it species by species. I just don't know how to attack that, but it's a slippery slope. Be careful what you ask for.

Ms. Shipman: I think that was the reason we were recommending it forward to the individual committees to look at and potentially use, because we knew it might not be a good fit for certain species.

Mr. Waugh: What we're really looking for here is just guidance that yes, you all still want us to work up all the data so that you can look at it for three sectors. It's not to lock you into that, but if your intent is just to go back to recreational and commercial, we don't want to expend all the time and effort to develop three separate sector databases for you to look at. It will also be collapsible into just recreational and commercial.

Mr. Currin: That suits me just fine. I think that's the intent and the desire, from the majority of the committee, to at least consider a three sector approach. Tom, were you suggesting that within the Comprehensive ACL that we also address the allocations or take a more comprehensive look at allocations within that Comprehensive ACL Amendment?

Mr. Swatzel: Yes, I was talking about a more comprehensive look and not just those that were not undergoing overfishing, but those that are. In terms of if we were serious, again, about applying the allocation formula, that might be the time to do that, even if you didn't break it out into three sectors.

Mr. Currin: To be honest, I guess my first reaction is that at least for the species that are -- If you're interested in looking at species that are undergoing overfishing, Amendment 17 probably would be the best place to do that. Does that make sense?

Dr. Crabtree: As I recall, at the last meeting or the meeting before that, we took the allocations out of Amendment 17, didn't we? I would also remind you that you have allocations under review by the Secretary right now for vermilion snapper that haven't even been approved or not yet, but didn't we have allocations in 17 and we took them out of 17? I hope we're not going to revisit that discussion.

Mr. Currin: I know we took a lot of them and probably all of them, but I don't remember the wholesale get rid of allocations discussion. Maybe that's what we did, but I know that most of them, we ended up not considering the allocations, probably all of them.

Dr. Crabtree: It's up to you what you want to do with allocations, but you know it's going to turn into a contentious issue and I would suggest not putting those in Amendment 17, just because of the timeline we're under. Put them somewhere else.

Mr. Currin: All right. Other thoughts about Tom's suggestion? We're going to have to give direction to staff if we want to include that as an issue in the Comprehensive ACL Amendment. What's the committee's desire? Would you like to make a motion to include those or look at those, Tom?

Mr. Swatzel: If I could, yes. **I would like to move to have the staff look at allocations of not only the fish that are not undergoing overfishing, but those that also are and consider that in the ACL Amendment.**

Mr. Currin: Motion by Tom to ask staff or direct staff to look at allocations for all species in the Comprehensive ACL Amendment. Is there a second? Second by Tony. Discussion?

Mr. Harris: I just ask staff, what's involved in doing that? Do you need additional guidance from the council or can you just go ahead and do it? How much more time is it going to take? Is it going to delay this amendment or what's involved?

Mr. Waugh: Again, we're talking about the Comprehensive ACL Amendment and I take it by allocations that you mean allocations to either two or three sectors. We have been compiling the data to be able to do that and we have the motions that were just up there from the September meeting, giving us the direction for the specific alternatives. We were just sort of doing a reality check here to make sure you were still interested in considering the three different sectors. We have the data, and I think it's almost complete, to look at doing that.

Mr. Harris: Mr. Chairman, then I would speak in favor of the motion. If we've already got most of the work done, let's go ahead and look at it and see where it takes us.

Ms. Shipman: Just for clarification though, I think, as I'm reading this document, this was to be for the species not undergoing overfishing and I think what Tom is suggesting is we roll the ones also in there that are -- To that end, how much more work is it going to be?

Mr. Waugh: It will, but I don't think that we just compiled the tables for -- I think we were compiling the tables for all the species.

Mr. Currin: Further discussion of this motion? **Is there any objection to this motion? I see none and the motion is approved.** Okay, Rick, have you gotten all the limited help that we can give you on this at this point? You're okay and you guys are fine? All right. Is there any other business to come before the Snapper Grouper Committee?

Mr. Geiger: I hear discussions going on there about a tasking motion and it's probably going to be difficult to convene. I just wanted to make sure that one thing was captured in your tasking and we talked about earlier using 30 percent versus 40 percent SPR and there was an action to get the SSC to develop their intent, or words to that effect, tell us what the rationale was for moving from the 30 to 40 percent. I didn't know if anybody captured that when we talked about it, but that was something that was discussed as an action.

Ms. Shipman: Relative to George's comment on that task, is that species specific?

Mr. Geiger: Yes, it was species specific to red snapper. When we were talking about red snapper, the discussion came from Dr. Crabtree's direction, where he thought we needed additional intent from the SSC as to why we were going from 30 to 40 percent.

Ms. Shipman: I recall that discussion and then I thought we had some discussion from John, but I also thought we had some discussion in December. I thought the SSC somewhat reported that back to us of why the review group had suggested that. We may have already had it, but since none of us remember it, it's probably a good thing to get it again.

Dr. Crabtree: My question that I raised earlier was more about whether this was a one-time specific to red snapper or were we making a shift in -- I'm not asking the SSC to just -- I don't want to just hear that SEDAR said and we said, but I want to hear the bigger picture on it kind of thing.

Ms. Shipman: I would think the Science Center does need to weigh in on that and that was really what my question was of George, is was this red snapper specific or the bigger picture? I think it is a bigger picture.

Mr. Geiger: Roy explained it exactly.

Ms. Shipman: I'm assuming the Science Center will be participating in that SSC meeting to bring the wisdom of the Science Center to bear on that discussion, too.

Mr. Harris: What I want to do is go ahead and take a ten-minute break and then we're going to come back in -- He's in recess, because we've got to come back and do the rest of his report, but I don't want these people that are here for public comment to have to wait any longer than they've already waited. We're going to take a ten-minute break and then we're going to come back and, Brian, I'm going to let you go ahead and take public comment on the Fishery Ecosystem Plan.

Mr. Harris: There's been a lot of suggestion that we press on and finish tonight. There's been a lot of pressure to do that and so at the appropriate time, we will take a vote, but right now -- Once we get through Snapper Grouper, after we do Ecosystem, it's going to move very, very quickly. Brian, we're still in the committee of the whole, but we're asking you to do your Ecosystem Committee Report, Joint Habitat/Ecosystem Committee Report, and have the public comments on the FEP.

Dr. Cheuvront: You would like the comments on the FEP first, I'm assuming, correct?

Mr. Harris: Yes, sir.

Dr. Cheuvront: What I've got here is I've got two folks who have signed the sheet saying that they would like to speak. The first that I would like to call up is Scott Zimmerman.

**Mr. Zimmerman:** My name is Scott Zimmerman and I'm the Executive Director of the Florida Keys Commercial Fishermen's Association. Thank you, council members and Mr. Chairman, for giving me the time to speak to you today and address the council's Fishery Ecosystem Plan for the South Atlantic Region.

The first paragraph of the council's reports threats to the South Atlantic ecosystem and recommendations. It starts out by explaining the what's and why's about traps as a fishing gear. The author goes on to point out that all types of trapping gear -- The author puts all types of trapping gear in the same context and then by saying that all traps allow the economic exploitation of low-density fish stocks.

This statement is false, obviously, and that all traps kill fish and that trap fishermen are seeking to exploit low-density fish stocks is just not a true statement. It's a well-known fact that most crustacean trappers don't target finfish, nor do they fish directly on top of the reef. Let me be clear that fishing directly on top of coral reefs destroys lobster fishing gear and catches untargeted species and that's a fact supported yesterday by Ken Nedimyer during his presentation.

To comfort those who trust a more scientific opinion, research from the FWC confirms that spiny lobster fishermen only fish 2 percent of their gear on top of the reef. Some of the other concerns the council has included in this report include the bulkiness of gear, bycatch of non-traditional food fish, user group conflicts and existing regulations that are, quote, impossible to enforce. I would like to address each of these concerns.

Bulkiness of the gear, the public should know that there are many differences between today's

average crustacean pot and the big old fish traps that were banned seventeen years ago. This is not clear in your report. Lobster and crab traps are small and built to selectively capture crabs and lobster.

Yes, if you add them all up, it might seem a lot of real estate, but the lobster fishing industry has reduced their gear by 50 percent, from 1.2 million traps in the early 90s to only 485,000 traps today. As far as lost traps go, managers began requiring degradable escape panels on that gear since 1982 and most of the gear is recovered by fishermen who use grapple hooks to retrieve it. The cost of each trap is about \$35 and so these traps are not dispensable.

Bycatch, crustacean trap fishermen that catch finfish may sell the recreational bag limit of fish. Many trappers also carry marine life permits, which allow them to sell ornamental species. These folks do not target fish. Actually, they try to avoid them, because fish scare the crustaceans they're seeking to capture.

FWC biologists have evidence that the majority of finfish that enter crustacean traps also exit at their own will. A percentage of lobsters that enter the trap also have the ability to leave the trap, which is a fact, because we've got it on video.

User group conflicts, user group conflicts are wide-ranging. They occur everywhere and they're found in all fisheries. This statement is confusing because there are no references, which Jack McGovern pointed out earlier in the meeting, in this report and there's no supporting evidence to back it up.

Law enforcement, while enforcing laws from the shore outward to 200 nautical miles is a difficult task, the author's position that enforcing laws is impossible is an illogical position that lends little credibility to the argument that traps pose a threat to the marine environment. Basically, the lack of science-based evidence in arguing all of these positions against trap fisheries is ironic, considering the dependence the council is placing on science-based evidence in the fishery management process.

At the end of the day, the public should know that fishermen in the Keys are concentrating on sustainable and realistic solutions. Fishermen agree that healthy fisheries depend on healthy marine habitats. Fortunately, our actions are speaking louder than our words, because one good example would be the cooperative research project we're doing with Fish and Wildlife right now, which focuses on modifying lobster fishing gear to reduce movement in bad weather.

We also understand that lost trap rope is a great concern, which is why we've submitted three proposals to FEMA, NOAA, and the DEP to prevent marine debris in the marine environment. We might even be able to get that rope recycled, as they've done in the New England lobster fishery. Thank you for giving me the time to address the council's concern and to give you an update on how fisheries in the Florida Keys are taking a proactive approach to deal with the council's concerns.

Dr. Chevront: Thank you, Scott. Next up we have Margot Stiles.

**Ms. Stiles:** Hello. This is Margot Stiles from Oceana and here we go again on the coral. I still think coral is good and that you should protect it. Specifically, on the Fishery Ecosystem Plan, I feel like the document, as Scott pointed out, is pretty general in a lot of sections, but I do feel like it's useful and it's time to release it to begin its life as a living document and resource for council staff when they're preparing future documents and for everyone to use as a starting point, if not as a final authority on all the resources in the South Atlantic.

It represents the work of many scientists in the agency and also in academia and the region in general and there are a lot of contacts sort of buried in there, in the references. If one wants to go there and find out who to call on a particular thing, it gives you some place to start.

On the Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment, as Oceana testified in the public hearings, we had hoped to see the final vote on that here today or at least this week and I definitely want to thank the agency and council staff for the progress that has been made since our last meeting. The document has definitely matured and I feel like we're 90 percent there and I would just encourage Roy's staff and the council's staff to make that final push for the June meeting, because I think this is a really important first step.

The Fishery Ecosystem Plan is a good plan, but it's a reference document and without this Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment, you really haven't fulfilled that leadership promise that the South Atlantic Council has been known for. Until that amendment is printed in the Federal Register, it's not going to have that impact on the water that we would like to see.

I feel like this is, in many ways, an ideal amendment, if you wish you could go back in time on snapper grouper and set things right and set up more conservative management so nobody had to go out of business. If you wish that you could go back in time on Oculina and set up enforcement and protection before it got destroyed, this is your chance. This is an amendment that protects deep-sea areas and deepwater habitats that are not hotly contested.

There aren't a line of people about to go out of business with this action yet. The deep sea is an area that receives pressure when other fisheries get shut down. People look deeper over time. Worldwide, there's a map produced by Daniel Pawley at the University of British Columbia that tracks the progression of fisheries from near-shore outward, into deeper waters, over time, starting in the 1950s and before, although obviously the really old data is kind of fuzzy, but you can clearly see that people move offshore over time.

I feel like there is an urgency here, even though it may seem sort of quiet right now. I think in the course of human civilization we've looked to the deep sea more and more over time and that the time to act on this and to protect it is now.

I also feel like this is an ideal amendment because it's shown really strong industry leadership. The golden crabbers showed up at every meeting and they did, I think, more homework than I did for the meetings. They came in with hand-drawn maps to show where they needed to be allowed to fish. Marilyn Solorzano and a lot of the different royal red shrimpers came into the advisory panels multiple times and I think we have something that really works politically as well. It's time to set that in stone and to get it out there. Of course, nothing is set in stone, but at

least it would be great to see it in black and white and have it come for a final vote in June.

There are just two more points that I wanted to make. One was a reminder that I think Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment is a really abstract term and I just wanted to remind everyone that what we're talking about is a living ecosystem. These are deep-sea corals and there are mounds that are 500 feet tall. We've all seen the movies that John Reed and others have captured and put together and that the council staff have distributed.

There are fish that live out there. We don't get to see them very often, but this is a reservoir for populations of snapper and grouper and other things that we may look to in the future. I think just keep in mind that this is a real, living ecosystem. This is an opportunity for leadership. It's time for the agency to follow through where the scientists and then the industry have led.

If we fail to act, there are other agencies that will step in. As we've already seen, there has been pressure on this area for offshore energy development and at that time when we get these LNG proposals, we say we have this idea for an HAPC out there and we really would prefer that you not build a platform right on top of this habitat for fish, but we're really stuck in that "we would prefer" kind of mode and it would help a lot in those kinds of conversations to have this finalized.

Finally, there's also the pressure of climate change and acidification. I think Myra touched on that in her summary of the International Deep-Sea Coral Symposium that we were both very lucky to attend in New Zealand. There were a lot of South Atlantic scientists presenting there. Their work was recognized as leading in the field, worldwide.

The science on this is bulletproof. These are leaders in their field that are backing this up and the acidification pressures are only going to make things worse. Obviously regulating climate change is beyond the scope, thank goodness. I think the meeting would last way longer than five days if we had to handle that, but the fact is if we can protect these areas from irresponsible forms of fishing and we can manage them in a way that allows us to continue fishing and to preserve the ecosystem, then they'll be in much better shape to be resilient to things like climate change in the future.

Thank you for this time and for persisting in your work to protect deep-sea corals. I hope that the next time that we meet that we can put this issue forward to the public for all the world to know that this region is going to protect the unique treasures that it has under the sea.

Dr. Cheuvront: Thank you, Margot. I only received two sheets of people who wanted to speak. Is there anybody else that had filled out a form that wanted to speak? Not seeing any, this ends the public comment period. Mr. Chairman, do you want me to go right into the Joint Habitat Committee Report?

Mr. Harris: Yes, sir.

Dr. Cheuvront: The Joint Habitat and Ecosystem-Based Management Committees met on the afternoon of Tuesday, March 3 and the morning of Wednesday, March 4, 2009. The committees



received reports from staff on public comments received from the Fishery Ecosystem Plan and the Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 1. The committees also received a summary of scoping comments from the Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 2 and a presentation on the 4<sup>th</sup> International Deep-Sea Coral Symposium.

The committees reconvened and received a presentation from Ken Nedimyer on live rock aquaculture octocoral harvest and the staghorn coral nursery. We made several motions, but one of the motions that we made was later -- After consultation and guidance with NOAA General Counsel, the committees voted to remove it from the final direction to staff and you'll see that that's Motion Number 2. I'm not going to bother to read it, because I don't think it's appropriate at this point, since the committee withdrew it.

**We're going to go first with Motion Number 1, which is to approve the FEP for submission to the Secretary with editorial license given to staff to address the NMFS comments. On behalf of the committee, I so move.** Is there any discussion? It's a roll call vote.

Ms. Smit-Brunello: You're not actually submitting an amendment to the Secretary at this point. You're approving at this point a document that will accompany an amendment that you attend, hopefully, to approve in June.

Mr. Harris: Never mind.

Dr. Cheuvront: I was under the impression that this is a source document.

Ms. Smit-Brunello: I think it would just be better if you waited until June and then put them together and approved one, with one vote.

Mr. Waugh: They're two separate documents and we would really like to have the FEP approved at this meeting so that we can then just address the editorial comments that NMFS had and not have to bring that back to you again in June and again take more public comments. We would like to be able to focus on the amendment document, which is a regulatory document, at the June meeting. We will have to schedule another opportunity for public comment at the June meeting and just focus on the regulatory document.

Dr. Crabtree: That's fine and you can approve the document, but you don't need to submit it to the Secretary, because it's not a management plan that is subject to secretarial approval.

Mr. Waugh: It doesn't matter how you word the motion, but after June, it will accompany the regulatory document when it goes to the Secretary.

Dr. Crabtree: That's fine, but all we're going to approve is the fishery management plan amendments and the coral amendment and not the Fishery Ecosystem Plan.

Ms. Smit-Brunello: Let's do this. If you want to take a roll call vote on this today, that's fine. I just want to make it very clear, so the record is clear and the public is clear, that you're not then turning around and submitting this document to the Secretary for approval after this meeting,

correct?

Mr. Mahood: Correct. It's not that I want to take a roll call vote, although I would really like to do that. We just want to keep it legal. I was thinking back to the Habitat Plan and the Habitat Comprehensive Amendment. We did take a roll call vote, but we may have done those both together at the same time. Whatever the wish of the council is --

Mr. Harris: Let's take a roll call vote. Bob, call the roll.

Mr. Mahood: Mr. Cupka.

Mr. Cupka: Yes.

Mr. Mahood: Mr. Boyles.

Mr. Boyles: Yes.

Mr. Mahood: Dr. Crabtree.

Dr. Crabtree: Yes.

Mr. Mahood: Mr. Currin.

Mr. Currin: Yes.

Mr. Mahood: Mr. Geiger.

Mr. Geiger: Yes.

Mr. Mahood: Mr. Iarocci.

Mr. Iarocci: Yes.

Mr. Mahood: Ms. Merritt.

Ms. Merritt: Yes.

Mr. Mahood: Mr. Robson.

Mr. Robson: Yes.

Mr. Mahood: Ms. Shipman.

Ms. Shipman: Yes.

Mr. Mahood: Mr. Swatzel.

Mr. Swatzel: Yes.

Mr. Mahood: Mr. Wallace.

Mr. Wallace: Yes.

Mr. Mahood: Mr. Harris.

Mr. Harris: Yes.

Mr. Mahood: Dr. Cheuvront.

Dr. Cheuvront: Yes.

Mr. Mahood: **The motion passes unanimously.**

Dr. Cheuvront: **The next motion we had is the committees recommend to the council that sargassum be addressed in the Comprehensive ACL Amendment. On behalf of the committees, I so move. Any discussion on the motion? Any objection to the motion? Seeing none, the motion carries.**

**The fourth motion we add was the committees request the council to task the staff to address the following items in Ecosystem-Based Amendment 2: a)potentially modify the limited take of octocorals and/or octocoral reporting; b)examine the potential for a lease program for octocoral culture; c)potentially allow the take of the erect forms of the *briareum* species (deadman's fingers) and *erythropodium* species (encrusting corals); and d)potentially establish a permit system to harvest the invasive scleractinian coral species *tubestrea coccinea* (orange cup coral). On behalf of the committee, I so move. Is there any discussion on the motion? Is there any objection to the motion? Seeing none, the motion carries.**

**I think our last motion is to direct the staff to: 1)address the NMFS comments on the FEP and finalize the FEP for submitting to the Secretary of Commerce after the June 2009 meeting; 2)the CEBA 1, Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 1, the committees did not make any changes to the actions and directed the staff to continue editing the document for DEIS filing. The intent is to have the comment period end prior to the June 2009 meeting so that the council can finalize it at the June meeting; 3)regarding the Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 2, direct the staff to evaluate the alternatives related to corals and octocorals. On behalf of the committee, I so move. Is there any discussion on the motion? Seeing none, the motion carries. Mr. Chairman, that ends the report of the Joint Habitat and Ecosystem Committees.**

Mr. Harris: Thank you, Brian and Mark. Myra, did you --

Dr. Cheuvront: Myra came back to me and reminded me that we had to correct a motion. On Number 3 of the last motion, we are going to not direct staff to evaluate the alternatives, but it

was to direct staff to draft alternatives, because we don't have alternatives yet. The motion that we passed in committee said to evaluate, but in actuality, with no alternatives available, we needed them to draft the alternatives for us.

Mr. Harris: Then you need to move it and it needs to be seconded.

Dr. Chevront: **I'm going to make yet another motion that we direct the staff, in regard to Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 2, that the staff draft alternatives related to corals and octocorals based on scoping items and include it in the Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 2 options paper.**

Mr. Boyles: Second.

Dr. Chevront: It's seconded by Robert Boyles. Is there any discussion on the motion? **Is there any objection to the motion? The motion carries.** That, Mr. Chairman, actually ends my report.

Mr. Harris: Thank you, Brian and Mark.

Dr. Laney: Mr. Chairman, Brian, I believe you had a tiger shrimp report response to Ms. Shipman, if you recall. You charged us with -- Yes, we've got a report already for you.

Dr. Chevront: Actually, in the interim, after the committee met, I contacted folks in North Carolina who are shrimp people and asked them what we had occurring with tiger shrimp and it wasn't something that I had really heard about, but actually it turns out to be fairly interesting. Between September and November of 2008, there were seven tiger shrimp that were given to the Division of Marine Fisheries in North Carolina.

A flyer had been sent out in the spring of 2008 asking fishermen to report any information that they had on tiger shrimp landings and in fact, that generated these reports and folks turning in these shrimp.

Just to give you an idea of where they came from, two of them were from New River and one off of Hammocks Beach, which is not far from New River, in the ocean, and one was caught in a creek near Swansboro, which is also not terribly far from New River. There was one that was caught off of Bogue Banks in the ocean and that's just north of the area that I described and there was one that was caught off of Oak Island, which is south of Cape Fear, in the ocean.

Basically, what happened is we had three were caught -- There was also one caught in Pamlico Sound just off of Rodanthe, which is in the Outer Banks. Three of the shrimp were caught in the ocean and four were caught inshore. One was north of Cape Lookout and six were south of Cape Lookout. That's just in a three-month period. That's all I have to report on tiger shrimp from North Carolina.

Mr. Wallace: Are those areas close to shipping ports? Would that explain it, maybe they're coming in through ballast?

Dr. Cheuvront: None of those. The Bogue Banks one might have been. That's close to the entrance to Beaufort Inlet and the port at Morehead City and Oak Island isn't terribly far from Wilmington, but those are the only two real ports we have in North Carolina. The rest of them are just -- They got there somehow.

Ms. Shipman: There is some proximity to the marine base.

Dr. Cheuvront: There is. The marine base uses the port at Morehead City. They don't load and offload troops themselves at Cape Lejeune.

Ms. Shipman: We were thinking more of a stealth operation.

Mr. Robson: I see somebody in the audience that's --

Mr. Harris: You need to come to the microphone. Keep it short, please. We've got a lot more to do.

Ms. Thomas: Janie Thomas, Fernandina Beach Shrimp Producers Association. Mark, you're familiar with the research center at Jacksonville University. Our shrimpers have turned in quite a collection of tiger shrimp, both caught in the St. Johns River and outside in the ocean.

Mr. Robson: Thank you.

Mr. Harris: Brian, does that complete your report?

Dr. Cheuvront: The last part was just an addendum, but yes, we're completed.

Mr. Harris: Is there anybody else that wants to bring Brian another piece of paper so that we can prolong this a little bit longer? Thank you, Brian, and thank you, Mark. Back to the Snapper Grouper Committee and Mac.

Mr. Currin: The Snapper Grouper Committee received several presentations. We got an update on the Oculina both outreach and monitoring activities from Kim and Myra, respectively. Paul Rudershausen from NC State University provided some information on a couple of research projects that he is doing up off the coast of North Carolina. In one, he's trying to correlate a fancy Simrad sonar device with some fishing effort there, to try to correlate it with CPUE to enable a quick and dirty survey -- Try to establish or create a quick and dirty survey method for surveying deepwater species.

George Sedberry brought the Gray's Reef Research Area proposal to us and the committee decided to defer the Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary -- Defer to them for the rulemaking in terms of establishment of their research area.

We discussed and went through Amendment 17. Rick led us through there and the committee provided directions to the staff in terms of that amendment and directed the staff to have a draft ready for public hearings at the June 2009 meeting. All the details will be addressed in the

following motions on Amendment 17, or the motions that will follow.

We discussed the red snapper interim rule and the committee requested that the council request an interim rule be implemented for no harvest of red snapper in the EEZ off of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida, with the intent to request an extension for a total of a one-year closure and to request that the states also adopt compatible regulations. That will also be addressed in a motion.

The committee would like the staff and the states and National Marine Fisheries Service scientists to evaluate a red snapper monitoring program based on a research set-aside to include an experimental headboat fishery, complete with observers, so that we can do the best we can to maintain the continuity of the headboat index, which is a valuable assessment tool.

Kate led us through Amendment 18. I think most of that was -- It did provide us a summary of scoping comments submitted by the public concerning snapper grouper issues in that amendment and those motions were addressed and have been considered by the committee of the whole, Mr. Chairman, and I will not consider those motions with the ones that occurred previously, as is the case with the Comprehensive ACL Amendment, which Rick led us through.

He provided us a summary of scoping comments submitted by the public regarding actions proposed to be included in the Comprehensive ACL Amendment for snapper grouper species. The committee reviewed the list of actions in the Comprehensive ACL Amendment as well. The following motions occurred before we began meeting as a committee of the whole and I will offer these on behalf of the Snapper Grouper Committee.

**On behalf of the committee, I move to defer to Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary for rulemaking in terms of the establishment of the research area. Is there discussion of the motion? Is there objection to the motion? I see none and that motion is approved.**

**The second motion was to establish an ACL equal to zero for speckled hind and warsaw grouper and prohibit all fishing for and possession of retention of all deepwater snapper grouper species seaward of forty fathoms. Allow harvest of golden tilefish in a specified area and to select that as a preferred alternative to be contained in Amendment 17. On behalf of the committee, I so move. Is there discussion of that motion? Is there objection to that motion? The motion is approved with three objections.**

**Another motion from Snapper Grouper, again regarding items in Amendment 17, to add Alternative 5 to the golden tilefish measures. On behalf of the committee, I so move. Is there discussion of that motion? Is there objection to that motion? I see none and that motion will stand approved.**

**Another motion from the committee is to adopt Golden Tilefish Alternative 5 as the preferred alternative in Amendment 17. Is there discussion of that motion? Is there objection to that motion? I see none and that motion will stand approved.**

**Another motion from the committee is to establish a recreational daily bag limit of one**

**snowy grouper per vessel limit. The intent here is to prohibit hi-grading and recreational targeting. On behalf of the committee, I so move. Is there discussion of that motion? Is there objection to that motion? Seeing none, that motion is approved.**

**Another motion from the committee regarding Amendment 17 is to move Snowy Grouper Alternatives 2 and 5 to the Considered but Rejected Appendix. On behalf of the committee, I so move. Is there discussion of that motion? Is there objection to that motion? I see none and that motion is approved.**

**Another motion from the committee is to add a recreational accountability measure to use the three-year running average of recreational snowy grouper catches and allow the Regional Administrator to shorten the following season to ensure the catches do not exceed the recreational ACL, with the intent being to track wording for Alternative 2C under Section 4.4. On behalf of the committee, I so move. Is there discussion of that motion? Is there objection to that motion? I see none and that motion is approved.**

**Another motion is to select new Snowy Grouper Alternative 2 as the preferred alternative and that is to establish the recreational bag limit of one snowy grouper per vessel and add a recreational accountability measure to use the three-year running average of recreational snowy grouper catches and allow the RA to shorten the following season to ensure the catches do not exceed the recreational ACL. Is there discussion of that motion? Is there objection to the motion? I see none and the motion is approved.**

**Another motion from the committee is to exclude wreckfish from the deepwater closed area alternative. Is there discussion of that motion? Is there objection to the motion? I see none and that motion is approved.**

**Another motion from the committee is to move closure Alternatives 3 and 4 to the Considered but Rejected Appendix. Is there discussion of that motion?**

Dr. Crabtree: I raised some concerns that perhaps we were removing some reasonable alternatives out that we ought to keep in and we asked Rick and Monica and company to get together and take a look at that. Of course, we haven't stopped going since then and so I don't know that they have. Rick, are you comfortable with this or do you feel like we're going too far on taking these out?

Mr. DeVactor: I have language highlighted here and perhaps if you give direction to the team to have license to look at alternatives and include them for the council's consideration in June, alternatives that will achieve the reductions. If you allow the team that license --

Dr. Crabtree: That would be fine. I would prefer that and so how do we proceed on that one?

Mr. Currin: Probably a motion. If you wanted to offer that as a motion, Roy, that would be the cleanest way to do it. Let's deal with this motion that I just presented to you and then we'll --

Dr. Crabtree: Let me just ask -- If we're going to follow Rick's advice, we would approve this

motion, but then give them license to add these others? Okay.

Mr. Currin: Is there discussion of the motion? **Any objection to the motion? I see none and that motion is approved.**

Dr. Crabtree: **I move that we provide license to the amendment team to analyze and include for the council's consideration in June any other closure alternatives that achieve the necessary reductions.**

Mr. Currin: Motion by Dr. Crabtree and a second by Mr. Harris. Is there discussion of this motion? **Is there any objection to that motion? I see none and that motion will stand approved.** Thank you, Roy.

**Another motion from our Snapper Grouper Committee is to modify Alternative 5 in order to close the Logbook Grid Squares 2880, 2980, 3080, and 3180 between thirty meters and some greater depth, to be determined at a later date. Staff will provide analysis for that. Any discussion of that motion?**

Mr. Geiger: **Would it be clearer to say close all bottom fishing or all snapper grouper complex or spell out what it is?**

Mr. Currin: I think everyone understands the intent, but if you want to clarify it, we can perhaps offer a substitute of closed to harvest or -- The amendment specifies the particular species under consideration.

Mr. Harris: I thought that was related to red snapper. Was it related only to red snapper? No, it was not? It's closing it to all bottom fishing? Thank you for the clarification.

Mr. Currin: It was done on behalf of red snapper, Duane, but it was to close those for bottom fishing.

Mr. Geiger: That's why these things need to be spelled out, because when we read them on Sunday, you're not going to know -- I'm not going to know what the heck we did.

Mr. Currin: We appreciate you spelling that out for us and taking note of it. This is offered as a substitute motion and so we will need a second for that. Is there a second to that motion? It's seconded by Roy. **The substitute motion is to modify Alternative 5 to read: In order to close the harvest of snapper grouper species in the Logbook Grid Squares 2880, 2980, 3080, and 3180 between a depth of thirty meters and a greater depth, to be determined at a later date. The staff is to provide analysis.**

Ms. Shipman: On Alternative 5, I think what you're doing is modifying that language and if you look back in the document, it does say prohibiting commercial and recreational harvest, possession, retention of species in the Snapper Grouper FMU, yada, yada. Then it goes on to say to allow commercial and recreational harvest, possession, and retention of black sea bass and golden tilefish. I think what our intent was is to modify this language with those grids.



Mr. Currin: That's exactly what the intent was.

Mr. Cupka: I made the motion, Mr. Chairman, and that was my intent. That's why we needed to go back and look at the wording in Alternative 5.

Mr. Currin: Perhaps it's clearest if we withdraw the substitute motion.

Mr. Geiger: **I will withdraw the substitute motion.**

Mr. Currin: Now the main motion is still on the table. Is there further discussion of that motion? **Is there objection to that motion? I see none and the motion is approved.** Thank you, Robert and Susan, for having the ability and foresight to look into that quickly.

**On behalf of the committee, I move to direct staff to analyze the impacts of a closure for red snapper on other species from previous regulations.** Is there discussion of that motion? **Is there objection to that motion? I see none and that motion is approved.**

**Also, a motion from the committee to evaluate a red snapper monitoring program based on research set-aside to include an experimental headboat fishery with observers. The intent is for scientists to develop recommendations on numbers of trips, areas to fish, et cetera.** Any discussion on the motion? **Any objection to the motion? I see none and that motion is approved.**

**Another motion from our committee was to select Alternative 2B as the preferred alternative for black and red grouper.** Is there discussion of this motion? **Is there any objection to the motion? The motion is approved with one objection.**

**Another motion from the committee is to move the ACT Alternative 3A to the Considered but Rejected Appendix.** Is there discussion of this motion? **Is there objection to the motion? I see none and that motion is approved.**

**Another motion from the Snapper Grouper Committee is to make Alternative 2C the preferred alternative for the recreational accountability measures.** Is there discussion of this motion? **Is there objection to the motion? The motion is approved with one objection.**

**Another motion from the committee is to remove Accountability Measure Alternative 4B to the Considered but Rejected Appendix.** Is there discussion of this motion? **Is there objection to the motion? I see none and that motion is approved.**

**Another motion from the committee is to not only include SEDAR for adjustments, but also include other avenues for adjustments. Staff is to develop alternatives for adjustments to the framework procedure.** Is there discussion of this motion? **Any objection to this motion? That motion is approved.**

The next motion is the one regarding the interim rule and I believe that Bob is going to conduct a roll call vote for that motion. **The motion from the committee is to request an interim rule to**

**implement no harvest of red snapper in the EEZ off of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. The intent is to request an extension for a total of a one-year closure and to request the states to adopt compatible regulations.**

Mr. Mahood: Mr. Harris.

Mr. Harris: Yes.

Mr. Mahood: Mr. Cupka.

Mr. Cupka: Yes.

Mr. Mahood: Mr. Boyles.

Mr. Boyles: Yes.

Mr. Mahood: Dr. Cheuvront.

Dr. Cheuvront: No.

Mr. Mahood: Mr. Geiger.

Mr. Geiger: Yes.

Mr. Mahood: Mr. Iarocci.

Mr. Iarocci: No.

Mr. Mahood: Ms. Merritt.

Ms. Merritt: No.

Mr. Mahood: Mr. Robson.

Mr. Robson: No.

Mr. Mahood: Ms. Shipman.

Ms. Shipman: Yes.

Mr. Mahood: Mr. Swatzel.

Mr. Swatzel: No.

Mr. Mahood: Mr. Wallace.

Mr. Wallace: No.

Mr. Mahood: Dr. Crabtree.

Dr. Crabtree: Yes.

Mr. Mahood: It's 6 to 6. Chairman Currin, you need to break the tie.

Mr. Currin: I vote yes.

Mr. Mahood: **The motion passes seven to six.**

Mr. Currin: **Also from the committee, a motion to request the RA not to publish the final rule prior to the June 2009 council meeting.** Is there discussion of that motion? **Is there objection to that motion? I see none and that motion is approved.**

**The last motion from the Snapper Grouper Committee for this meeting, Number 21, is to recommend the council to request NMFS to draft a red snapper monitoring program for review at the June 2009 meeting.** Is there discussion of that motion? **Is there objection to that motion? I see none and that motion is approved.** Mr. Chairman, those are, in addition to the -- Rick, what else?

Mr. DeVictor: We have a timing and task motion on the screen here that you may want to take a look at.

Mr. Currin: This is the timing and tasks that we've implemented at every committee now and these are all of the motions that we hope we've captured. We've gone through most of them for the Snapper Grouper Committee. If you would, take a look at those and we need a motion to approve the timing and tasks. They've done a good job of condensing these, but I haven't looked at them closely enough to make sure they've captured everything.

Ms. Shipman: **I would move the following motion, that we direct staff to: send a letter to Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary notifying them that the council has decided to defer to Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary for rulemaking in terms of the establishment of the research area; that we request that they incorporate the council's changes to Amendment 17 and have a draft ready for the council's review and approval for taking to public hearings and that this occur at the June 2009 meeting; that we modify Red Snapper Management Measure Alternative 5 in order to close the Logbook Grid Squares 2880, 2980, 3080, and 3180 between thirty meters and a greater depth to be determined at a later date, staff to provide the analysis; provide license to the amendment team to analyze and include for the council's consideration in June any other closure alternatives that achieve the necessary reductions. The council would like staff and state/National Marine Fisheries Service scientists to evaluate a red snapper monitoring program based on a research set-aside to include an experimental headboat fishery with observers. We would hope also in developing that scientific design they would, if they need to, fill in data gaps to consider other sectors of the fishery and that we task the Scientific and Statistical**

**Committee to investigate the 30 percent versus 40 percent SPR on a broad, overarching level.**

Mr. Currin: Motion by Ms. Shipman. Is there a second?

Mr. Harris: Second.

Mr. Currin: Second by Duane Harris. Any discussion of this motion? **Is there any objection to this motion? I see none and that motion is approved.** Unless Rick tells me differently, Mr. Chairman, that will conclude my report of the Snapper Grouper Committee.

Mr. Harris: Thank you, Mac. Excellent job. I hope you go out and have a great meal tonight. You deserve it. Thank you all very much. The next item on the agenda -- I'm going to go into that. While Carolyn is coming up, so that she can get ready to give us the SSC Report, I'm going to give you the SOPPs Committee Report. Hold on to your chairs.

The SOPPs Committee met the afternoon of March 2, 2009 in Jekyll Island, Georgia. The minutes from the December 2008 committee meeting were approved. Bob Mahood informed the committee that the proposed rule addressing the regional council SOPPs has not been finalized and consequently, there were no actions for the council to take during this meeting and therefore, no action was taken. We have no timing and tasks to deal with and Bob owes Susan Shipman a steak dinner and that completes my report. The next item we'll take up is Dr. Carolyn Belcher will give us the SSC Report.

Dr. Belcher: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Basically, I was going to give everybody an update relative to our task this past week, which was to work on an ABC control rule. The group, which was actually half of the SSC, was able to make some pretty good progress in fleshing something out. The majority of us are very, very happy with what we have and we still need some further information to fill it in relative to Amendment 17 species.

What I have for you here is basically some of our recommendations and requests. First off, this is relative to our data for unassessed stocks. What we're requesting is as an emergency interim action, the SSC recommends that the SEDAR schedule be adjusted to accommodate development of basic assessment analyses, such as surplus production models, and this is also catch curve analyses, that will generate estimates of MSY for South Atlantic data-poor unassessed stocks.

The SSC has developed a process for determining ABC values, as required under the MSRA, and these basic analyses are essentially for applying this process and developing more reliable, scientifically defensible ABC values for data-poor stocks. The SSC requests that these analyses be completed by December of 2010.

The SSC recognizes that this request will necessitate that currently scheduled SEDARs, such as black sea bass and cobia benchmarks and update for spiny lobster, golden tilefish, snowy grouper, and gag be delayed until after 2011. To facilitate completing this work within the available time, we recommend a modified SEDAR process as follows: 1)two data workshops

addressing multiple stocks; 2) two assessment workshops, one to develop methods and a second for refining preliminary models; and 3) review provided by the SSC.

Where this is coming from is as we were looking at data, those stocks where we only had catch streams of data, we were really -- After what happened in June, we really tried to sit back and try to figure how we would best assess these relative to what we had in front of us, which was the catch landings. Knowing how the SEDAR process has accounted for catch in the past, there's been standardization techniques that have been applied, which was further than we could do during the meeting.

There was a lot of other discussion about methodologies that we may be able to use to look at F values and MSY values. Originally, we were thinking about requesting the Southeast Fisheries Science Center to run these numbers, but recognizing the amount of manpower it would take to run this for the fifty species that are left in the fishery management unit for snapper grouper, it would take one person quite a bit of time to do it and felt that if we could do this over two workshops and kind of split the species up amongst those two workshops, we would be able to do that with the personnel that would be available during that time period. That's where this request is coming from.

We wanted to do something that pretty much got away from trying to find an average time period at which we assume the fishery was fishing around MSY and just get ourselves in a better situation that the data we're giving is better information than what the catch itself was giving us.

Our second request is relative to gag and vermilion, again, under 17. The SSC is requesting the Southeast Fisheries Science Center provide the following analyses: quantile tables of MSY values for gag and vermilion, total removal estimates for speckled hind and warsaw grouper under species-specific moratorium and under deepwater species prohibition. This was to get at the issue of our setting the ABC at zero.

With conversations with Mark Nelson with NMFS, we were kind of understanding the issue that the council was butting up against. In the past when we've given you a zero, that's been the total allowable catch. You have always adjusted after the fact for some of the bycatch relative to management actions and we've not done that. In this particular sense, we were giving you a number we've given you in the past, but under the new Magnuson, it doesn't give you any wiggle room.

That request for those particular removal estimates was so that we could actually try to give you some sort of buffer to work on, where, again, you might be able to set it at zero or some limit within, but understanding from us that the uncertainty that normally we would be able to account for in a scientific model, it's kind of an ancillary bubble to that. It's not embedded within the SEDAR process the way it had been in the past, but, again, recognizing the quandary that the council was in, butting up against this zero with no adjustment space, we were trying to come up with an alternate solution at that point.

We're also requesting that a list serve and an FTP site be made available. A lot of this is because of the data that we keep requesting from John. It would be easier if it was available from an

FTP, because there's a lot of these that are repeat requests and rather than keep getting them over to CDs and we have to keep transferring back and forth, if we had a central storage area, that would always be available to us through an FTP link. The list serve is just to keep everybody together, because we've had some issues with emails kind of hit or missing a few folks.

Lastly, the NS-1 Guidelines mention that ecosystem component species will be determined by the council. However, the SSC feels that these decisions should be made with scientific input. The SSC recommends that the council consider consulting with the SSC as species are being added or removed from the ecosystem component species grouping.

This was another thing we were hoping to get at with the original request at the top. As we're looking at those fifty species that we haven't done any assessments for, this may give us that ability to sit down and actually see species that we can actually push over to that ecosystem grouping or ecosystem component grouping. With that, I'll open the floor to questions.

Mr. Harris: Questions for Carolyn? She's given you a lot to chew on.

Mr. Currin: Carolyn, it's not a question as much as a grateful acknowledgement of your last point regarding the ecosystem components. Personally, I would very much welcome the SSC weighing on those, to provide us with the scientific advice and expertise that is going to be necessary to determine whether those species qualify, in fact. From my perspective, that's a very good move.

Mr. Harris: Bonnie, did you have any questions about the SEDAR schedule or Roy?

Dr. Crabtree: I had talked to Duane about under Other Business talking about the SEDAR schedule, because I feel like we need to move some assessments up in the schedule, one of which is black sea bass that was last assessed in 2005. The next assessment is a benchmark scheduled in 2011. I think we need to move it up to 2010 as an update.

Red porgy was last assessed in 2006 and an update is scheduled for 2012. That's going to put us six years between assessments and so I mean I'm supportive of the analysis that the SSC is asking for. I think that's great, but it's going to put us in a position where we're going six or more years between stock assessments on our major fisheries and I think that's too long, frankly.

I have a lot of concerns about black sea bass. The quotas aren't being caught and I'm not seeing much evidence that we're seeing improvements in that stock and at least some fishermen are telling me it's in terrible shape. I don't know what it is, but if we don't move it up, we're going to be six years between the assessments and so I don't know how to reconcile all of that, but I think it puts us in a difficult to defend position when we're going six and seven years and if we move some of these assessments back until after 2011, then I think we would be going seven years between stock assessments and we're going to be putting in place ACLs in critical fisheries that are based on very old assessments. That's my concern about it.

Dr. Belcher: The one thing that the SSC was focused on relative to that -- Again, we understand that plight, but we do still have these fifty stocks that are considered part of the fishery and under

the wording under the most recent NS-1 Guideline version that we have, it says that any of the stocks that are in the fishery still need to have status determinations made. Until we can either put them in an EC situation, where they're part of the ecosystem component, they still are going to have to be considered.

There's still a push on those species and our thought was the data that we have -- If we're waiting for more data to be able to go through with a full-fledged SEDAR, it's going to be, again, waiting for that. They're going to be an unknown status until we somehow manage to get more data to push up their elevation and run them through a SEDAR and right now, that's not going to happen.

Our hope is that by pushing this through the way it is, we get them through and we get the determinations, the ones that we need to be concerned with, on an elementary level, still knowing there's a degree of uncertainty with what we're doing, but it's still putting a good faith step forward relative to these fifty species and it should help with that separation for those EC species that we really don't have a determination for right now.

Dr. Crabtree: I don't disagree with anything you just said. It's just if the tradeoff is for our major fisheries we're going to go seven, potentially longer, years between assessments -- Particularly for things that are in rebuilding plans that have finite lengths, that's a recipe for disaster. I think you're going to have a very difficult time defending ACLs when they're based on assessments that are that old.

There's a real cost to doing what you're suggesting, in my view, and I'm not sure whether refining what we know about these, in many cases, very, very minor stocks is worth that tradeoff, but that's something, I think, you as a council are going to have to grapple with.

Mr. Geiger: Earlier, Roy, you intimated that we were going to have a discussion about modifying the SEDAR or potentially talking about modifying the SEDAR process or talking about the process in some way that we could eliminate the boutique stock assessments and get it down a standardized stock assessment.

Dr. Crabtree: What I have done and what I wanted to talk about when we get there, is that I've asked the Science Center to look at possible ways to streamline SEDAR. I haven't suggested anything about how we might do that and I've asked them to come up with some proposals as to how that might be done and to talk to the council staffs about those proposals, with the idea that when the SEDAR Steering Committee meets in May that we would have some pretty well fleshed out things we could look at and ways to speed up the SEDAR process.

It's apparent, when you look at where we are right now, that we're not producing sufficient numbers of assessments and at least some of that is because it's so time demanding and labor intensive.

Now, one way to do that would be to go to a more structured assessment rather than customizing it as much for every one, but I'm not prepared to offer any notions as to exactly how we do it. I think if we don't find some way to produce more assessments that we're going to have a lot of

problems. That's what that was about, George.

Dr. Ponwith: We at the Center are looking at the current SEDAR process and looking at ways that we might be able to expedite that SEDAR process to get us out of the jam that we're in, in having a higher number of assessments, both benchmark and updates, that are due than really can fit, according to the schedule that we've got right now.

We're going to go ahead and put together some alternatives that can be considered. We'll get those put together early enough that we'll be able to distribute that to the SEDAR Steering Committee, so they can review them prior to the meeting in May and then have a good dialogue on that. The likely cost of an expedited review process or assessment process will be -- It will be fewer number of participants or doing multiple assessments in one sitting.

If you have ideas that you think have utility, if you've been through either data workshops or assessment workshops and have ideas that you're interested in sharing with me as we go through this evaluation, I urge you to be in contact with me.

Mr. Waugh: We've got two crushing deadlines to meet, as you all are well aware, 2010 for our overfishing species and 2011 for all the others. The SSC is telling us in order for them to deliver what we need to go in the Comprehensive ACL Amendment that they need these analyses. If we don't back this request, then we're not going to meet our 2011 deadline and maybe I missed it, but I didn't hear a reply from the Center that they can't meet these requirements and what Roy is asking for.

Dr. Ponwith: That is indeed the case. To be able to do this -- We're in an either/or situation.

Mr. Mahood: The only point I was going to make, Bonnie, is I assume you will be talking to John and Julie and the folks involved. They may have some ideas also of how to streamline the process.

Ms. Shipman: It seems to me this recommendation needs to go to the Steering Committee. Obviously you are going to have to weigh out not only this council's needs, but the needs of the Gulf and the Caribbean and short of bringing some independent resources to bear to do some of this, I just don't see how internally within the system -- I don't see how it can be done.

Mr. Harris: Susan is right. The Steering Committee meets in May and so we need guidance from the council at this meeting to take to the Steering Committee and I happen to agree with what Gregg said. We're kind of between a rock and a hard place. I also agree with what Roy said. It puts us in a terrible situation, waiting as long as we're having to wait between assessments for some of these very important species. What are the wishes of the council on this issue?

Dr. Crabtree: Carolyn, there are alternative ways to come up with ACLs for these species. You could take recent landings and reduce them by some amount. I know that's not as satisfactory to you guys, but we've got to deal with harsh realities here.



Dr. Belcher: Our biggest concern with that is, again, we tried doing that in June and people were not happy with the way that we had assessed the penalties to them, that 10 and 5 percent reduction values, what were we basing that on and the concern that they might not have been the most scientifically-based choices. The only other thing we can really pull from is what has been done in the North Pacific with the 25 percent. That's the only basic premise that we have out there to kind of base or go on.

Even then, the time series, how that time series that they're applying that to, it's not very clear to us what the criteria is, because it's a truncated time series through like 1995. We have to find the method by which we can be comfortable with a time series where the fishery was believed to be at MSY. That could stagger across different species, which may not be acceptable for folks, and that was where a lot of our discussion and debates went around the table relative to using those catch streams and that's why we backed away and said we felt that this method was probably one of the more sound methodologies that we would be able to apply.

Dr. Crabtree: Can you assure us that this method will be successful in generating these values or is there a reasonable chance that the method will be done and they'll conclude that they couldn't figure it out and so we still don't have them?

Dr. Belcher: Until we have a chance to apply it, we can't say one way or the other. All we know is that this gives us estimates. I say it will, but the comfort was that we would be able to, at least for some of those species, be able to come up with an estimate of an MSY value that we could use, at which we could start basing ABC levels on. It may not be for every species, but, again, it would give us the dialogue to start looking at these ones that may be actually part of that ecosystem component grouping. That would be a time for us to reflect on that.

Some species, everybody felt comfortable that there would be a chance that this would yield some results. Again, without being able to see the data firsthand, no one can give you that certainty on what the outcome will be.

Dr. Crabtree: No, I agree with you. I know for quite a few of the stocks in this plan that there are virtually no landings in the time series to begin with and I don't believe you're going to come to any sort of resolution on those and I think it's not going to just be a few stocks. It's going to be quite a few and we're still going to be in a position where we're going to have to come in and have very little basis and have to deal with what's the ACL for these.

The other approach that I think could be applied to some of these are species groupings and I know the SSC has had problems with doing some of those kinds of things, but we're simply getting ourselves into a position now where we have to do something and we don't have the ability to come up with the things folks want.

The timeline that's in the request, if these analyses are not finished until December of 2010, we need to be very close to voting to submit to the Secretary at that point and I think if that's when we get these analyses to the SSC that we're going to be well into 2011 before we even can complete the document. There are just an awful lot of problems here.

Dr. Belcher: I don't think there's any one perfect solution to it. It's just, again, when we're trying to really flesh out a methodology that is going to address all of those questions, the only way we can really see that is to have the ability to put them to the test and separate them out.

Mr. Harris: The Steering Committee needs some guidance from the council. What is your desire? It's a tough one, isn't it? This one is almost as tough as snapper grouper.

Ms. Shipman: I'm not sure that we want to say that the schedule be adjusted. I think we want to say that this needs to be accommodated somehow. I think I feel like some of the others, especially black sea bass -- I totally agree with Roy. I think we've got to stay on track with that. I think we've got some risks with that if we do not, litigation risk or whatever they are. I think the SEDAR schedule needs to be thoroughly evaluated to accommodate development of that. It may be by adjustment and adding this on. I'm just not willing to put this other stuff off. This has got to be fit in, I feel like, somehow. Short of outside resources, I don't know how to do it.

Mr. Harris: If you remember what Roy said, he didn't say not put it off. He said move it up. That's a little bit different.

Dr. Chevront: I don't want to sound flippant or anything, but is this shovel ready? Is this proposal by the SSC, is there some way that we can find the additional funds and resources that's needed to do this? Obviously this is a very seriously thing and does not NMFS have money for helping to develop these ACLs or something that is an additional burden that's put on the councils or is this just considered part of what you're expecting us to do?

Mr. Harris: There is some additional ACL money. We don't know how it's going to be parceled out to the councils and Bonnie funds the SEDAR program out of her Center budget. We can't tell you right now, until the budget is passed and we hear from the folks in Washington, how much, if any, additional ACL money we might receive.

Mr. Currin: To that point, Duane, money is one thing, but personnel and capable people to do it is another. You can't hire me to do it, because I'm incapable. There may be people around that could fill in, but I wouldn't expect it.

Mr. Carmichael: The SSC is looking for, as they said, as basic as there can be, rapid assessment methods applied to these to fill in all these unknowns. They understand some there aren't going to be enough landings even or regular enough to do anything, but I think the sense of the people that were in the room was that once you go through this and at least look, in a structured fashion, at every stock and decide which ones you can do a production model and which ones maybe you can do a length analysis and which ones maybe you do something else and which ones you just have landings, then they'll have them broken up.

They realize that there will probably be some species for which they do have to pick a year of landings and one of their thoughts is that after they go through this and they get a lot of observations that they may be able to look at groupings of fish and find groupings for which there is a period of time when the stock was not overexploited. Then they would feel more comfortable in using only landings for those stocks for which there's partial landings.

Another part of this exercise is finding ways to get longer landings series, because our landings series in a lot of our fisheries are very short, but we know the exploitation is much longer. Scaling it back to the 1970s or something are all options that need to be considered, but no person can sit there -- The SSC is not able to sit there and do this.

It would be bringing a lot of things up to some basic level and trying to go through it and it may not answer everything, but it would answer a lot. I think if the council believes this is worthwhile -- The SSC certainly does. We've given them landings at three meetings and every time, they've said no, we can't do that. They finally came out at this meeting and said we will not set ABCs looking at average landings. We may have to, but before, we need to look at a lot of stocks where we think some type of assessment can be done. That's how they came up with this.

If the council believes that there's a stock, like black sea bass, where there's this dire need and considerable concern, perhaps there's a compromise, do this and do an update of black sea bass or do this and do an update of black sea bass and another fish, if there's another species for which there's a concern.

You can try to get this done by September of 2010 or perhaps by June, but we do know that the SEDAR-19, which is dealing with black and red grouper, which are two overfished and overfishing species that are in the Amendment 17, aren't going to be wrapped up until like March or April, I believe, of 2010. We would be starting after that is done, right about the time of the review workshop occurring for that, because of the overlapping on that. That's a South Atlantic assessment as well.

The SSC was thinking if we could get this by December of 2010, perhaps that would get us time to get it in there. Maybe it needs to be done a little bit sooner and then maybe you can do black sea bass immediately thereafter.

Dr. Ponwith: I have, in anticipation of problems just like this, broached the notion with headquarters and the leadership of poaching highly skilled, very seasoned stock assessment scientists from other science centers that have fewer species that are in the overfishing category. That gives them a little bit more leeway to get their ducks on order on the all other species by 2011.

I've put forward the notion of recruiting them to come down here as sort of a stock assessment SWAT team to help us get through the kind of back log of species we need to work on. I'm not sure if they believed me the first time I asked. After having a discussion like this on the record at the council meeting, I think they're more apt to understand the predicament and it's a little more quantifiable at this point.

That, coupled with the fact that at least I'm hearing an openness to try and create some sort of an expedited process, both for the benchmark and the update, and as long as we can be attentive to the necessary inclusivity that we all desire and the transparency we desire -- As long as there is an openness to try and modify those two processes, that if we're doing all we can and are still, when we do the math, not able to meet these deadlines, it makes a stronger business case for an

infusion of existing stock assessment scientists.

I say that because if you handed me a brand-new, wet-behind-the-ears rookie, I don't think I could get them up to speed. If you handed me half-a-dozen of them, I still don't know if that would help solve the problem. We need the Rick Methot's of the world to be able to come and help us out on this.

Mr. Harris: Thanks, Bonnie. We'll certainly support your swat team approach.

Dr. Crabtree: Here's some things to think about. To be honest with you, I don't see how we're going to resolve this at this point. It's late in the meeting and I just don't know how we're going to -- Black sea bass, right now we're 2009 and we're in year four of a ten-year plan. The assessment right now is scheduled for 2011, which is year six of a ten-year plan. If we got bad news at that point and it took us a year to do something, we're close to the end of that.

Red porgy, we're in year eleven of an eighteen-year rebuilding plan and the update is not scheduled until 2012 and so that puts us, I think, at year fourteen of an eighteen-year rebuilding plan. With the case of black sea bass, we're going to have put things in place and then we're going to wait until we're almost at the end of the ten-year rebuilding plan before we assess to see if it's working.

I just think that's just not something we can live with, but I don't know how to sort this out. I can promise you that when I get back to my office on Monday that I will personally put a call in to Jim Balsiger and explain to him the bind that we are in and what the problem is and that we've got to come up with some alternatives and I'm sure Bonnie will be happy to reinforce me on that.

Right now, all of the regions and all of the centers are pressed for these things and so having just gotten this today, I have a hard time weighing whether this justifies putting them off. I agree with John that maybe there's some compromise that we can reach out of this, but I don't know how we'll sort through all of that right now.

I can also tell you that the issue of moving assessments up is not just a South Atlantic. I've got a number of Gulf assessments which we feel like need to be moved up and then we're also pushing the Center for more information and analyses in the Caribbean and we've got a Caribbean Council meeting the week after next. I'm not sure how to resolve all these kinds of things.

This is an excellent instance of why we need to stop having concurrent meetings like this, because we needed to -- If we would have known about this weeks ago, we could have tried to deal with it and come in with some plan to deal with it, but when you find out at the tail-end of a meeting, it's really difficult. That's no criticism of the SSC at all. It's just a problem with how we're scheduling these things.

Mr. Harris: We thought we were doing the right thing when we did it and we've learned something different.

Ms. Shipman: I am going to make a motion and my intent in doing it is to hopefully give Bonnie

and Roy more ammunition as they talk to Dr. Balsiger, et cetera. **My motion is that the South Atlantic Council endorses the SSC's recommendation and it's that first paragraph, that language, and then I do not want to include the first sentence of the second paragraph, but I do want to then pick up and say the South Atlantic Council recommends the consideration of a modified SEDAR process as follows and then Number 1 and Number 2 as stated there and that that be forwarded to the SEDAR Steering Committee.**

Mr. Harris: You've heard the motion. Is there a second? Second by Brian. Is there discussion on the motion?

Dr. Crabtree: The motion says we would like to have this done, but we're not willing to accept moving assessments back? Is that --

Ms. Shipman: That's what my motion is saying, yes.

Dr. Crabtree: If the Center tells us you can't have it both ways, then we're going to say give us the assessments and don't do this?

Ms. Shipman: What we're saying is we're endorsing their recommendation that this needs to be done for those fifty species we don't know. We do not want to sacrifice the schedule that we're already on. We want you all to take that into consideration, the Steering Committee, along with Bonnie's plan that she can bring to the table, but if nothing else, to hopefully give you all some ammunition to go to headquarters and say here is the pickle we're in and in order to meet the mandates of the law, we need all of this done.

I still believe, just speaking for myself and my intent in the motion, I still believe those SEDARs that we have scheduled need to remain on track and potentially that black sea bass needs to be moved up. That can be a separate motion.

Mr. Harris: Further discussion on the motion? Susan, would you read the motion?

Ms. Shipman: **The motion is that the South Atlantic Council endorses the SSC's recommendation that the SEDAR schedule be adjusted to accommodate development of basic assessment analyses (e.g., surplus production models, et cetera) that will generate estimates of MSY for South Atlantic data-poor unassessed stocks. The SSC has developed a process for determining ABC values as required under MSRA and these basic analyses are essential for applying this process and developing more reliable and scientifically-defensible ABC values for data-poor stocks. The SSC requests these analyses be completed by December of 2010. My motion is that we endorse that recommendation to the SEDAR Steering Committee. Further, that we endorse the SSC's recommendation that to facilitate completing this work within the available time that a modified SEDAR process as follows: two data workshops addressing multiple stocks; two assessment workshops, one to develop methods and a second for refining preliminary models; and a review provided by the SSC.**

Mr. Harris: **Is there any objection to the motion? Seeing none, that motion is approved.** Any other questions of Carolyn? Roy, anything else? Do you want to offer another motion?

Dr. Crabtree: No. I continue to believe that in fact we need to move some of these assessments up and I'm going to continue to raise that. If I had to make the tradeoff now, I would go with move the assessments up or at least keep the assessments where they are and we just have to forge ahead without this.

I don't agree with Gregg's assessment that if we don't do this we won't get it done. We have to put annual catch limits in place. If the SSC won't give us fishing level recommendations, then we'll have to do it by other methods, but we have to do it. It's required by the law. I don't know. Hopefully we can work this out and find something that we can live with and we can get all these things done.

Mr. Harris: If you want to make a motion that we move the assessment up if we can get the approval of the -- What we're up against is two other councils that are in the same box.

Dr. Crabtree: I know and I don't see that we need a motion here. I think all of us would like to see the assessments moved up and do that. I think we're just going to have to work with the Center and work with the Steering Committee and see what we can work out and do the best we can.

Mr. Harris: I think you're right.

Mr. Carmichael: For the benefit of those that will be at the SEDAR Steering Committee, would you consider accepting a black sea bass update that occurs sooner, as opposed to doing that as a benchmark? There may be a possibility to run this as a SEDAR benchmark cycle, if you did that in lieu of the benchmarks of sea bass and cobia and try to get it done sooner. Then perhaps we can do updates faster. It may be feasible to do an update of black sea bass in 2009 as SEDAR-19 is underway, perhaps. That's something Bonnie could ask with the workforce there in Beaufort. That might get the black sea bass out of the hole right away.

Dr. Crabtree: We'll look at that and that's part of what I sent to Bonnie. I want to move sea bass up, but let's just do it as an update, because there's no way we're going to get those things done. I would be fine with doing a number of these as updates.

Mr. Harris: Any other questions of Carolyn?

Mr. Currin: Just a comment, Duane. I don't think I'm wrong, but I think today in Snapper Grouper we actually addressed ACLs for black and red grouper, based on those landings. There's methodology there to do that. It wasn't all that painful. In fact, it was what the SSC had recommended earlier and then withdrawn.

I appreciate the work that you guys have done to come up with a potential approach for this and I know it's got value, but we're going to have to weigh the whole thing out and our needs for other important species. If we've got a methodology, another methodology, however inferior, but useable to meet the mandates of the Act at this point, then we'll just have to see. We may have to do that here and then move into this new analysis in the future.

Dr. Crabtree: What we did on red and black grouper was not what the SSC recommended and withdrew. It was based on what we did in Amendment 16. What they recommended and then withdrew was a 90 percent reduction and a 95 and that's not what we --

Mr. Currin: Thank you. Those landings will be different, but they weren't much different. It was like a 90 percent reduction was their recommendation and a --

Dr. Crabtree: They're about 20 percent different, 20 to 30.

Mr. Waugh: Just to clarify, the SSC never recommended those values as ABCs for ACLs. What they did was they endorsed the actions in Amendment 16 and what we're doing is concluding that that's their recommendation for an ACL. That information will go to them at their June meeting and they'll have a chance to review it and we'll get their comments on it at that stage.

Mr. Currin: In response, I'm not trying to put words in their mouth. I'm just saying that there's another methodology that we used to establish an ACL with nothing but some landings for some species that we're going to assess very quickly in the future.

Mr. Harris: Any other questions of Carolyn? Carolyn, thank you and your committee very much. You did a great job this week and sorry it's so difficult, but we didn't do it to you. Thank you all very much. The next item on the agenda is -- Let me just say this. I don't think we've got a whole lot longer to go. We can push on through or I can be democratic and let you vote on it. A vote? Everybody that wants to push on through, raise your hand; everybody that wants to wait until tomorrow, raise your hand. We are moving on. The next item on the agenda is a Joint Executive Finance Committee Report and David Cupka.

Mr. Cupka: The Executive Finance Committee met in joint session on the afternoon of March 2, 2009 at Jekyll Island, Georgia. The minutes from the December 2008 Joint Executive Finance Committee were approved. The committee received presentations on the following agenda items. Number 1, Status of the Calendar Year 2009 Council Budget.

Bob reminded the committee that a budget has not been approved, pending determination of the council's actual funding level. He referred the committee to Attachment 1, which shows the placeholder council budget, based on level funding. Bob reminded everyone how we had to develop our initial placeholder budget for FY2009 prior to knowing exactly what our funding level would be and what has transpired subsequent to establishing the budget.

He indicated the council is on track with expenditures to date. Chairman Cupka asked why the health insurance line seemed high at this point in the year and Mr. Collins indicated that was due to the staff HSA insurance plan already being funded for the entire year. Bob reported on the budget discussions that occurred at the CCC meeting February 25 through 26 in Silver Spring.

Preliminary indications, based on the recently passed House Appropriations Bill, are that additional funds will be available to the council for Calendar Year 2009. When the council's funding for Calendar Year 2009 has been determined, Bob will work with the staff and Chairman Harris and Cupka to develop a proposed budget for the council's consideration at our June 2009

meeting. Brian Cheuvront requested that an increase in the state liaison contract be considered if additional funding becomes available. Chairman Cupka noted that that will be considered.

Number 2, Congressional FY2009 Budget for the Department of Commerce. The House of Representatives has passed the Department of Commerce budget that is expected to move forward for the President's signature. The third item was Approval of the 2009 Budget. The council's Calendar Year 2009 budget will be considered and approved at the June council meeting. Mr. Chairman, there were no motions made and so that concludes my report.

Mr. Harris: Thank you, David. Are there questions for David? Rita, are you ready with the LAPP Committee Report?

Ms. Merritt: The LAPP Committee met on Monday, March 2, in Jekyll Island, Georgia. The committee received a brief summary from Kate Quigley, council staff, regarding recent implementation of new LAP programs in the Gulf of Mexico, Pacific, and New England. Kate Quigley provided a summary of a letter written by golden crab fishermen and sent to the council chairman and included in the briefing book.

Kate Quigley provided a summary of scoping comments submitted by the public regarding actions proposed to be included in Amendment 18. Matt Ruby of Little River Fish House in South Carolina provided a summary of a meeting he attended with other fishermen last week in Washington, D.C. The committee made the following motions.

**Motion 1, the committee recommended the council provide staff time to work on development of a golden crab LAP with the provision that the snapper grouper economic work is not compromised. On behalf of the committee, I so move. Is there any discussion on the motion? Is there any objection to the motion? Seeing none, that motion is approved.**

**Motion 2 was to prioritize work on LAPs initially as separate amendments, with the possibility of becoming a comprehensive LAPP amendment, with the priority first for the wreckfish fishery and secondly, golden crab and golden tilefish, which would be worked on in conjunction with wreckfish, where possible. On behalf of the committee, I so move. Is there any discussion? Is there any objection? That motion is approved by the council.**

**Motion Number 3 is the committee recommends to the council that staff work on the following items: 1)prioritize work on LAPPs initially as separate amendments with the possibility of becoming a comprehensive LAPP amendment with a)wreckfish first and b)golden crab and golden tilefish worked on in conjunction with wreckfish, where possible; 2)Golden Crab AP to meet during the June 2009 council meeting; 3)staff may meet with the golden crab industry prior to the June 2009 meeting; 4)staff to present a revised timeline and staffing analysis at full council; 5)staff prepare an analysis of work required to prepare an LAPP for the entire snapper grouper fishery and present the results at the June 2009 meeting. On behalf of the committee, I so move. Is there any discussion? Are there any objections? Seeing none, that motion is approved. That concludes our report from the LAP Program Committee.**



Mr. Harris: Thank you, Rita. Gregg, did you have anything on that staff workload that you want to present at this time or should we wait? Should we look at it now? Let's go ahead and look at it, because that was something that the committee had requested that we receive at the council meeting and so here we go.

Mr. Waugh: This was updated. It shows that we are finished with Snapper Grouper Amendment 14. That's been implemented. The mackerel framework is done and 15A is done. 15B was sent to NMFS on July 30, 2008. That's still in the review process. Snapper Grouper Amendment 16 was sent to NMFS on October 21, 2008. That's in the review process. Shrimp Amendment 7 was sent to NMFS on November 26, 2008 and is still in the review process.

As far as staff workload, we've finished all of those items. What we are currently working on -- Again, this is our analysis of the staff workload for 2009. Amendment 17 is our major item and this is a rough percentage of each staff person's time. The concern was looking at Kate's time as our economist.

We've got 30 percent of her time with Amendment 17. She's done a lot of the analyses that are necessary for that and she's already completed those. Snapper Grouper Amendment 18 includes three LAP type programs and we've got 20 percent of her time delegated to that. If we split out and create a comprehensive LAP amendment, she would spend 20 percent of her time on that. Really, she's going to be spending approximately 40 percent of her time working on all these LAP programs and the other items in Amendment 18.

The Comprehensive ACL Amendment, we don't have a lot of work on that this year. There's some prep work, but the major work on that will occur after we get Snapper Grouper Amendment 17 completed. We decided to pursue joint amendments for spiny lobster and mackerel with the Gulf and so the Gulf is the administrative lead on those two and so that doesn't involve a lot of our time. I will work on coordinating that.

The snapper grouper interim rule, that doesn't require much of our time. The EA is done and we've provided some review comments on that. Ecosystem-related work is primarily Roger's time. The Fishery Ecosystem Plan and finishing that up and the FEP Comprehensive Amendment 1, basically we're finished with 1, some more editing. Once the FEIS is filed, we will address those comments and finish that after the June meeting.

FEP Comprehensive Amendment 2, again, will involve some of our staff time. Coral grants and issues is Myra's time there. Shrimp closure work, that's not required this year and so that will free up a little bit more of Myra's time. SSC, we've got a little bit of our time blocked out and some for SEDAR. I've covered our staff. The SEDAR staff are shown here and our scientist position that's open now. These are basically the same percentages that you have seen before.

Mr. Harris: Questions for Gregg? Seeing none, we'll move along. Golden Crab Committee and John Wallace.

Mr. Wallace: The Golden Crab Committee met on March 2. The committee reviewed the letter from the golden crab fishermen concerning a LAP program. The committee agreed to

recommend that council staff time be provided, as long as it does not negatively impact the snapper grouper economic work.

The committee discussed a number of items to meet the new Reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act. One was the timing. The most recent guidance is that for the species not experiencing overfishing, the new requirements must be implemented before 2011. The golden crab fishing year is the calendar year. Species included in the fishery management unit are golden crab and those in the fishery management plan are the red and Jonah crab.

Monica provided guidance that only species in the fishery management unit will be considered in the fishery, quote, and those are the species that would need to have the ACLs and the AMs specified.

The committee also discussed the New England Council's red crab FMP and how the plan extends through the South Atlantic Council's area. The committee directed staff to contact the New England Council and NMFS and NOAA GC and report back to the committee in June. How to implement, the committee discussed this and recommendations including golden crab in the Comprehensive ACL Amendment. The committee approved the following motions.

**The committee recommended the council provide staff time to work on development of the golden crab LAPP with the provision that the snapper grouper economic work is not compromised. On behalf of the committee, I so move. Any discussion on the motion? Any objection? The motion is approved.**

**Motion 2 is to include golden crab in the Comprehensive ACL Amendment to address new requirements for ACLs and AMs. On behalf of the committee, I so move. Is there any discussion on the motion? Any objection to the motion? So moved.**

**Motion 3 was direct staff to contact the New England Fishery Management Council and NOAA GC to address the red crab fishery management unit. On behalf of the committee, I so move. Any discussion? Any objection? So moved.**

**Motion 4 was the committee recommended to the council that staff work on the following items: 1)work on the development of a golden crab LAPP with the provision that the snapper grouper economic work is not compromised; 2)Golden Crab AP to meet during the June 2009 council meeting; 3)staff may meet with the golden crab industry prior to the 2009 meeting; and 4)direct staff to contact the New England Council and NOAA GC to address the red crab fishery management unit. On behalf of the committee, I so move. Any discussion on the motion? Any objection to the motion? The motion is approved. That concludes my report.**

Mr. Harris: Thank you, John. Did everyone receive the letter that was passed out from the golden crab fishermen? It's different than the letter that's in your package. It's a letter subsequent to that one.

Mr. Wallace: Yes and there was a letter that was passed out about the ACLs. I think this letter

was addressed to Duane and it addresses their concern with the SSC's -- They would like to meet with the SSC, because this is a stock with no assessment.

Mr. Harris: We talked about that earlier and that's something that we are going to make happen. Thank you, John. We appreciate your report.

Mr. Geiger: The Mackerel Committee met on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March and we were given a decision document and the Mackerel Committee -- The report contains basically, because have to coordinate with the Gulf Council diplomatically, it contains basically the decision document that we used to walk through our action items.

In the interest of time saving for everybody here, I'm not going to read the four pages of the decision document, but there were a number of motions that were made resultant from that and you do have that decision document in your briefing book and I would encourage you to look at it, because that's what we'll be using at our June meeting, when we meet jointly with the Gulf.

As a result of that decision document, the committee made some motions. **Motion Number 1 on Option 1, no action, do not develop separate FMPs, which was approved by the committee and on behalf of the committee, I so move.** Is there any discussion? **Is there any objection to that motion? Two objections to that motion. The motion carried.**

**Motion Number 2 was to direct staff to evaluate moving cero and little tunny and Atlantic bonito into the fishery management unit or removing them from the fishery management plan. It was approved by the committee and on behalf of the committee, I so move.** Is there any discussion? **Is there any objection to the motion? Seeing none, that motion is approved.**

**Motion Number 3 is concerning Option 2 and it was to develop a joint amendment to address new requirements for ACLs and AMs. It was approved by the committee and on behalf of the committee, I so move.** Is there any discussion of that motion? **Is there any objection? Seeing none, that motion is approved.**

**Motion 4, which was to hold a joint Mackerel Committee meeting during the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council in June of 2009 meeting, was approved by the committee and on behalf of the committee, I so move.** Is there any discussion of that motion? **Any objection? Seeing none, that motion is approved.**

**Finally, Motion Number 5 directs staff to work on the following items in preparation for the June 2009 meeting: 1)the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council staff to contact the Gulf Council staff to inform them about the South Atlantic Council's decisions and offer to hold a joint Mackerel Committee meeting during the SAFMC's June 2009 meeting; 2)request staff, working with Gulf and National Marine Fisheries Service staff, prepare a decision document to use at the joint meeting outlining the decisions for the joint amendment; 3)request clarification on the cobia assessment. That was approved by the committee and on behalf of the committee, I so move.** Is there any discussion? Of course, the decision document that is the prelude to these motions is basically the decision document that we're going to use to the go to the Gulf with in terms of getting ready for that joint meeting. **Is**

**there any objection to that motion? Seeing none, that motion is approved.**

In addition to that, on your electronic copy, as an attachment to that electronic copy, is basically the motions that were passed at the joint South Atlantic/Gulf Mackerel Committee meetings last, which was on September 18, 2006. I encourage everyone to look at those and that completes my report, Mr. Chairman.

Ms. Shipman: I would like to record my vote as a vote in opposition on Motion Number 1, please. I'm voting with my colleagues from North Carolina.

Mr. Harris: Thank you, George. Next is the Dolphin/Wahoo Committee Report and Tom.

Mr. Swatzel: I think we met on Tuesday, but it seems like a very long time ago. The committee reviewed measures currently in the Dolphin/Wahoo Fishery Management Plan. Dolphin has not been managed with an ABC TAC quota management program.

Regulations include a commercial soft cap of 1.5 million pounds or 13 percent of total landings, whichever is greater, a recreational bag limit of ten dolphin per person per day in or from the EEZ and not to exceed sixty dolphin per boat per day, whichever is less. Headboats with a valid certificate of inspection are allowed a bag limit of ten dolphin per paying passenger. A prohibition on sale of recreationally-caught dolphin, except for-hire vessels that possess necessary state and federal commercial permits may sell dolphin, and a minimum size limit for dolphin of twenty-inches fork length off of Florida and Georgia and no minimum size limit north of Georgia.

Therefore, an amendment will need to be prepared to set annual catch limits and accountability measures for dolphin. Wahoo have not been managed with an ABC TAC quota management program. Regulations include a commercial trip limit, landed head and tail intact, of 500 pounds, with no transfer at sea allowed and a recreational bag limit of two wahoo per person per day in the Atlantic EEZ. Allowable gear and a prohibition on the sale of recreationally-caught wahoo in or from the Atlantic EEZ. Therefore, an amendment will need to be prepared to set annual catch limit and accountability measures for wahoo.

The committee talked in some detail about the minimum size limit and a prohibition on bag limit sales of dolphin in the for-hire sector. Council staff then presented an overview of the scoping comments.

The committee reviewed the species in the fishery management unit, which consists of dolphin and wahoo, and these two species will need to have ACLs and AMs specified. In terms of timing, guidance has been provided to National Marine Fisheries Service and NOAA GC that the amendment containing these values should be implemented during the fishing year 2011, which is the calendar year for dolphin and wahoo, to meet the deadline specified in the Reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act. The committee had three motions.

**The first motion is to recommend the council pursue including dolphin and wahoo in the Comprehensive ACL Amendment to address new requirements for ACLs and AMs and**

**evaluate prohibiting bag limit sales of dolphin from for-hire vessels and establishing minimum size limits for dolphin off North Carolina and South Carolina. On behalf of the committee, I would so move. Is there any discussion? Is there any objection? The motion is approved.**

**Motion Number 2 is to evaluate the prohibition on bag limit sales of dolphin from for-hire vessels and establishing a minimum size limit for dolphin in the Mid-Atlantic and New England areas. I would so offer the motion, on behalf of the committee. Is there any discussion? With no discussion, it's approved.**

**Motion Number 3 is to direct staff to develop a detailed decision document evaluating the ACLs and AMs and bag limit sale prohibition and size limit for use at the June 2009 meeting. On behalf of the committee, I would so move. Is there any discussion? Hearing none, that motion is approved. That ends the committee report.**

Mr. Harris: Thank you, Tom. Next is the Shrimp Committee Report and Susan.

Ms. Shipman: The Shrimp Committee met on March 2. The committee discussed whether a closure of the EEZ to white shrimp harvest to protect overwintering stocks was necessary and each of the state representatives from North Carolina through Florida indicated that their state did not intend to request a closure and the committee concluded that a closure was not needed this spring.

There were no scoping comments and I just want to affirm that with Myra. She has said in the affirmative, that yes, that is correct, there were no scoping comments. Council staff outlined the exclusion of the ACL/AM requirements for species that have a life cycle of approximately one year, unless the Secretary has determined the fishery is subject to overfishing of that species and we cite the Magnuson Act there.

Pink shrimp are listed as overfished due to environmental conditions and none of the shrimp species are listed as undergoing overfishing. The committee discussed this and concluded that all the species listed in the fishery management unit in the shrimp plan have life cycles of approximately one year and are thus excluded from the ACL/AM requirement. I have a motion that I'll come to in a moment on that.

The committee discussed the pre-draft of the Comprehensive Amendment 3 to the Highly Migratory Species FMP. Interestingly, the amendment addresses primarily sharks and the blacknose shark species has recently been assessed and determined to be overfished and undergoing overfishing. Mortality must be reduced by 78 percent in fishing year 2010. The measures under consideration would prohibit all directed harvest, but this is not sufficient.

Therefore, bycatch mortality in the shrimp fishery, since it's a large component of total mortality, will need to be addressed. About 50 percent of the shrimp bycatch mortality is from the Southeast shrimp fishery and 45 percent from the Gulf shrimp fishery. Efforts are being evaluated to modify the TED/BRD designs to reduce the level of bycatch. Ultimately, this council and presumably the Gulf will be asked to amend our Shrimp FMP to implement

modifications to the TED/BRD requirements.

The committee also discussed the recent capture of tiger shrimp. We discussed that earlier and so I'm not going to belabor that, but I want to commend the North Carolina delegation, led by Dr. Laney, on your most expeditious completion of your homework assignment. With that, I have two motions.

**The first motion is on behalf of the committee, I would move that we consider all the penaeid shrimp and rock shrimp as annual crops and therefore, we do not need to develop ACLs and AMs. That was approved by the committee and is there discussion on that?**

Mr. Currin: I remember some discussion of deepwater shrimp in a general sort of sense and questioning whether those were annual crops. I didn't recall that rock shrimp was included in that motion. I thought it was penaeid and that may just be me, that I missed it. My question is, is there any concern that rock shrimp is in fact not a one-year or approximately one-year life cycle?

Dr. Chevront: Mac, I believe the discussion was about royal reds and we included rock shrimp because they were considered, but we excluded royal reds because it wasn't clear, at least in my memory, that they were. I remember we had a discussion and we left out royal reds, for that reason.

Ms. Shipman: Brian is correct. The royal reds are not in the plan.

Mr. Currin: I understand that fully. My question would be then do we have biological evidence that rock shrimp are in fact have approximately a one-year life cycle?

Ms. Shipman: I believe the reports we looked at early on, developing the first amendment dealing with rock shrimp, they can be a twenty to twenty-two-month species. However, they rarely get beyond an annual crop, because of the high fishing mortality. Is there any other discussion on the motion? **Is there objection to the motion? Seeing none, that motion carries unanimously.**

**Our second motion is on behalf of the committee, we request the council direct staff to send a letter to National Marine Fisheries Service indicating that the shrimp species in the Shrimp FMP are annual crops and therefore do not require the council to develop an amendment to specify the ACLs and AMs. That was approved by the committee and is there discussion on that motion? It's a companion to the previous one we just acted on. Seeing no discussion, is there objection to the motion? Seeing none, the motion carries unanimously.** That concludes my report.

Mr. Harris: Thank you, Susan. It's not on the agenda, but the next item we're going to take up is the SSC Selection Committee Report.

Dr. Crabtree: The SSC Selection Committee met on March 3. The committee entered closed session to discuss SSC membership, including the resignation of one member and two applications. The committee recommended that council staff advertise for applications to fill an

available SSC seat and that SSC applications be considered at the June 2009 meeting.

The committee also discussed a letter from the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries about possible conflict of interest on the SSC with respect to stock assessments. The committee also discussed recent events concerning SSC stipends and will address this when guidance is available from NMFS.

The committee received a report from SSC Chair Carolyn Belcher regarding the National SSC Meeting held in November and then we discussed SSC procedures. On the conduct of business, the committee encourages the SSC to move toward consensus building, with less reliance on motions and voting. The committee agreed that the SSC may be better served by meeting outside of council meetings. This will provide additional scheduling flexibility, additional meeting time, and increased time available for the SSC to prepare a written report. Staff was directed to consider scheduling that accommodates meeting preparation and other council activities.

The committee recommended that SSC membership terms be set at three years, with one-third of the membership reviewed each year. Staff was directed to develop a schedule of membership review based on time served, with the longest serving third of the membership reviewed in 2009. The committee recommended establishment of a socioeconomic technical advisory panel as a subpanel of the SSC to address social and economic issues. This will allow the council to establish a larger panel of social and economic experts without incurring excessive additional costs, while providing social and economic scientists a dedicated forum to address social and economic issues.

The committee considered whether SSC members should play a role in reviewing applicants and filling SSC seats. Selection Committee members expressed satisfaction with the current approach and noted that the SSC Chair and other members could be brought in as needed during membership review. No changes to the policy were recommended.

The committee considered whether a formal public comment period should be established for SSC meetings. Members did not note any problems with the current system, which allows the chair discretion to call on observers as necessary. The committee was advised that the Magnuson-Stevens Act specifies that oral or written comment must be allowed on agenda items and encouraged greater use of written comment regarding SSC agenda items. I have four motions to go through.

**Motion Number 1 is recommend that the SSC meet prior to full council meetings and I so move. Is there any discussion? Is there any objection to the motion? Seeing none, the motion is approved.**

**Motion Number 2 is the council establish three-year terms of service on the SSC and use staggered terms beginning on years of service. The intent is to have one-third rotate at any one time and further, that there is no limit to the length of service. Is there any discussion? Is there any objection to the motion? Seeing none, the motion carries.**

**Motion 3 is the committee recommends establishment of a socioeconomic technical advisory panel appointed by the council to the SSC to be chaired by an SSC member and to convene in the most cost-effective method as needed and I so move. Is there any discussion? Is there any objection? Seeing none, the motion carries.**

**Motion 4 is to direct staff to: 1)advertise for the open seat on the SSC, with the intent to fill the seat at the June 2009 meeting; 2)work towards having the SSC meet prior to council meetings; 3)advertise for the socioeconomic advisory panel, with the intent to appoint members at the June 2009 meeting; 4)SSC AP workshop, work to schedule workshops to help the SSC. This was to work on annual catch limits. I so move. Is there any discussion? Is there any objection? Seeing none, the motion carries. That concludes my report, Mr. Chairman.**

Mr. Harris: Thank you, Roy. Next is Spiny Lobster.

Mr. Iarocci: The Spiny Lobster Committee met on Wednesday. The committee received the status report on the import amendment. The amendment was approved in December of 2008 and the final rule became effective on 2/11/09. Mark Robson gave a report on the State of Florida's activity to renew the trap certificate program.

The committee received guidance from NMFS and NOAA GC to address the new MSA requirements that should be implemented during the 2011 fishing year to meet the deadline specified by Congress and that the ACL/AM requirements will apply to all species in the fishery management unit. The committee approved development of a joint amendment with the Gulf Council to address the necessary changes.

The committee then gave staff the guidance on times to include in the amendment and requested a draft list of potential items that could be delegated to the State of Florida to be developed for consideration at full council. The committee also discussed potential impacts from the trap fishery on staghorn and elkhorn corals, closed areas where these corals occur, and a potential buffer area to the south and southeast could help reduce potential impacts.

We'll be coordinating a meeting with industry, some NGO groups, and NMFS. Hopefully Andy Herndon will be able to come down representing NMFS at this time. The committee approved the following motions.

**Motion 1 is to develop a separate amendment with the Gulf Council to bring the spiny lobster plan into compliance with the new requirements for ACLs and AMs. On behalf of the committee, I so move. Any discussion on this motion? Any objection to this motion? The motion is approved.**

I'm going to move to Motion 3 and go back to Motion 2 at a later time. **Motion 3 is to develop the following tailing options in the amendment: a)continue to allow the possession aboard a fishing vessel of a separated spiny lobster tail in or from the EEZ is authorized when the possession is incidental to fishing exclusively in the EEZ on a trip of forty-eight hours or more and a federal tail separation permit specified in Section 640.4(A)(2) has been issued**



and is onboard the vessel; b)do not allow tailing and this would require all lobster to be landed whole and this would help prevent the use of hooks and spears to harvest lobsters; c)allow tailing on commercial trap vessels and shrimp vessels making multi-day over forty-eight-hour trips. The motion was approved by the committee. Any discussion on this motion?

Mr. Easley: I just want to put on the record that enforcement is in favor of Option (b) on this item.

Mr. Iarocci: Thank you for that. Any more discussion on this motion? **Any objection to this motion? The motion is approved.**

**Motion 4 is the federal fifty short rule. Develop the following short options in the amendment: a)continue to allow a live spiny lobster under the minimum size limit specified in Paragraph (B)(1) of this section that is harvested in the EEZ by a trap may be retained aboard the harvesting vessel for future use as an attractant in a trap, provided if it is held in a live well aboard the vessel. No more than fifty undersized spiny lobsters or one per trap aboard the vessel, whichever is greater, may be retained aboard for use as attractants. The live well must provide a minimum of three-quarter gallons, 1.7 liters, of seawater per spiny lobster. An undersized spiny lobster so retained must be released to the water alive and unharmed immediately upon leaving the trap line and prior to one hour after official sunset each day. b)prohibit possession and use of shorts as attractants. That was approved by the committee and I so move. Any discussion on this motion? Any objection to this motion? The motion is approved.**

**Motion 5 is do not address changes to the northern fishery and that is approved by the committee. Any discussion on this motion? Any objection to this motion? The motion is approved.**

**Motion Number 6 is updating the council/State of Florida process, to update the process, which is approved by the committee and I so move. Any discussion on this motion? Any objection to this motion? So moved.**

**Now we're going to go back to Motion 2. This includes an action to delegate certain operational aspects of the fishery off of Florida to the State of Florida with the agreement of the two councils and the State of Florida. This is approved by the committee. On behalf of the committee, I so move. Any discussion on this motion? Any objection to this motion? The motion is approved.**

Now we have to do a separate motion and if you look into this, there's a list and it's up on the board. It's an example and we would need a motion that would give us a list that would be included to be considered for this.

Mr. Robson: **I would make that motion to include these ten items for consideration.**

Mr. Iarocci: Is there a second? Second by George Geiger. Mark, would you read that into the

record, please?

Mr. Robson: **The motion would include discussion of the following items for potential delegation: 1)numerical specification of ACL and a breakdown into sector-specific ACLs based on the definitions included in the amendment to the Spiny Lobster FMP; 2)commercial quotas and recreational allocations based on the allocations specified in the amendment to the Spiny Lobster FMP; 3)size limit modifications; 4)bag limit modifications; 5)trip limits; 6)modifications to the length of the season; 7)application of the accountability measures, including closing the fishery when a sector reaches its quota and/or allocation; 8)rules and regulations for the possession of traps, including gear marking, tagging, et cetera; 9)data collection and reporting requirements; 10)closed areas and this may be difficult and Florida might need to have National Marine Fisheries Service prepare an EA. These would be items for discussion in terms of delegation.**

Mr. Iarocci: Thank you, Mark. Is there any more discussion on this or are there any additional items that members of the council would like to add? Seeing none, any discussion? **Any objection? The motion is approved.**

We have a draft motion that will be needed to be made into a motion concerning timing and tasks for staff to work on between now and the June 2009 meeting and we'll need a motion to direct staff to do the three items on the board.

Mr. Robson: **I would make that motion, Mr. Chairman, to direct staff to provide the South Atlantic Council actions to the Gulf Council and discuss the Gulf Council's timing for work on this amendment and then to report back to the committee in June of 2009 and further staff direction to contact the State of Florida representatives concerning the schedule for a stock assessment update and report back to the committee in June of 2009 and to develop a detailed decision document for use at the June 2009 committee meeting that begins to evaluate the alternatives to be included.**

Mr. Cupka: Second.

Mr. Iarocci: Second by David Cupka. Any more discussion? **Any objection? The motion is approved.** That, Mr. Chairman, concludes the Spiny Lobster Report.

Mr. Harris: Thank you, Tony. Just a matter of information, the Law Enforcement Advisory Panel will be meeting at the June meeting to go over some of these items that we have been discussing. The next item on the agenda is to Review and Develop Recommendations on Experimental Fishing Permits, as necessary. I believe we have two. Jack, are you going to handle those?

Dr. McGovern: The first exempted fishing permit request is from the North Carolina Aquarium. They have requested for an EFP that's almost identical to the one issued in 2005 and this is to collect native North Carolina species for educational aquarium exhibits. They request the collection of over thirty snapper grouper species, ranging from two warsaw grouper to 200 tomtate. They also request authorization to collect 300 pounds of live rock.

The gear that they would use to collect the species include hook and line, trap, and scuba off of North Carolina. The application includes all the required information, except vessel registration documentation. They request the EFP be effective for two years.

Mr. Harris: Does that council have a recommendation on that EFP request?

Ms. Shipman: **I move we support that.**

Mr. Currin: Second.

Mr. Harris: It's been moved and seconded. Is there discussion on the motion?

Mr. Geiger: It was interesting. We were just in Atlanta, at the catchability workshop, and I was talking to somebody about the Atlanta Aquarium, an aquarium for which we have in the past had some approvals for -- They said that primarily the fish in that aquarium were Pacific species and is that correct?

Mr. Harris: No.

Ms. Shipman: They've got a lot of species in that aquarium and they have some Pacific species, but certainly they have South Atlantic as well.

Mr. Harris: The whale sharks are right off the coast of Georgia here. Are there other comments or questions? Are you ready to vote? **Is there any objection to the motion? Without objection, that motion is approved.** Jack, do you have another one?

Dr. McGovern: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The second one is from Tom Burgess and Paul Rudershausen and this is a continuation of the work that Paul talked about yesterday to do the sonar work in the vicinity of the Snowy Wreck MPA. It's pretty much identical to a previous EFP request that they made and they intend to compare the sonar data to data that they collect with hook and line and Chevron trap gear and try to develop a predictive mode to estimate biomass of deepwater fish from the area. This is pending funding from a CRP proposal that they submitted. They'll probably find out next week if it gets funded or not and the request is for May through December of 2009.

Mr. Currin: **I move we recommend approval, pending funding through the CRP program.**

Mr. Harris: Second by several people. Rita, we'll give her the second on this one. Is there discussion on the motion? **Is there objection to the motion? That motion is approved.** Thank you, Jack. Anything else? The next item is Status Reports and Dr. Crabtree.

Dr. Crabtree: The status of all of our quotas was emailed out to you and so you should all have that and I would be happy to answer any questions if anyone has any. Seeing none, that concludes my report.

Mr. Harris: There are several other items on your list.

Mr. Mahood: I put Amendment 14 on there so you could say it's all done. We haven't had a meeting, I don't think, that you were able to say that.

Dr. Crabtree: Yes, it's all done.

Mr. Harris: Thank you, Roy. Any questions of Dr. Crabtree? Seeing none, NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center Status and Bonnie.

Dr. Ponwith: I just have one thing to report, Mr. Chairman. Since we met last, we have made a selection for a permanent Deputy Director at the Southeast Fisheries Science Center and I'm happy to announce that we've selected Dr. Theo Brainard, who is no stranger to the area. He's a welcome addition to the staff. He's a current member of the staff, but very welcome in this new role and he's doing just a great job already.

Mr. Mahood: He was trained at the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council.

Mr. Harris: Please extend him our congratulations and send him an email if you have not already done so. That's all you have, Bonnie? Thank you very much. Agency and Liaison Reports, we'll start with the Coast Guard and Brian.

Lt. Sullivan: First, I would like to say thank you for your hospitality last night and the great food. Just a couple of things I have. First of all, as most of you know, Lieutenant Chad Brick took ownership of his own cutter down in Miami and so he's now a CO. It still hasn't gone underway yet. It's been in the yard since he took command. I don't know if that's a sign that they just trust him to go underway or not.

Just a couple of things that I have is I would like to report that all three of the Coast Guard sectors on the east coast, Charleston, Jacksonville, and Miami, have all done joint fisheries operations in the past two months with their state and local partners and basically, there have been no major fisheries violations, but a lot of safety violations that we've been seeing out there with the commercial fishing fleet. That's something to just take note of.

Also, there's been a couple of Oculina Bank operations which there's been four sightings in the couple that we had of boats actually out there. There's not many boats that have been out there lately and the two that they did board out there, the two commercial fishing vessels, had safety violations and were terminated and were told to come back in, but they didn't have any gear in the water or anything like that and so that's a positive sign. We're also continuing to do over flights of Gray's Reef, which have been pretty productive for the Gray's Reef people and for the Coast Guard. I think that's about all I have, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Harris: Thank you, Brian. Are there questions for Brian?

Mr. Wallace: You haven't found me a cheap boarding ladder, yet?

Lt. Sullivan: No, but I would hope that nobody tells the Coast Guard not to come onboard because they don't have the proper ladder. That's going to give them a worse fine than not

having the proper ladder. Also, one thing that I would like say, just on a side note for search and rescue, is I was informed that -- Everybody obviously knows about the football players that were lost at sea the other day, but a couple of days before, the guy who owns the boat was told by one of his friends that he might want to get an EPIRB and explained what an EPIRB was to him and he didn't -- He has the money. He obviously would have the money to go and get one, but if they would have had an EPIRB, they would have probably been found in less than an hour and they probably would have been all safe. That's just a note that when you see people out there on the water, let them know, if they can afford it, to get it. It's a very good tool for the Coast Guard.

Mr. Harris: Thank you, Brian. Great advice. Monica?

Ms. Smit-Brunello: I pass, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Harris: Thank you, Monica. I just wanted to give you the chance. Otha and Law Enforcement?

Mr. Easley: The Oculina Report was submitted to the Snapper Grouper Committee and it should be available. Our quarterly activity report has been submitted to the council as well. CD copies have been made by Mike and hard copies are around also. It's time for the JEA applications. They have come in from the coastal states and we're reviewing those proposals and I received a call today from North Carolina that Captain -- I can't remember his name, but a captain with North Carolina's Marine Patrol. It was Steve Anthony. He called to let me know that there's a couple of legislators that want to see a draft JEA application agreement and so there's a little bit of hope there to grasp onto.

Otherwise, we do not have a budget yet, just pretty much like the rest of Fisheries, but we hope to get one new agent when that budget does come around. Otherwise, that pretty much concludes my report.

Mr. Harris: Thank you, Otha. Questions for Otha? U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Wilson.

Dr. Laney: I'll keep it short, in deference to my colleague, Mr. Geiger.

Mr. Geiger: Don't keep it short for me. I want to hear everything you've got to say. We're here now for the duration.

Dr. Laney: Those of you who did not get a copy of the summary report for the Cooperative Winter Tagging Cruise, shoot me an email and I'll be happy to send it to you. In brief, we could not find the striped bass in their traditional wintering grounds this year. We finally did find them twenty miles off of Virginia Beach. Why they were out in deep water, there's a lot of speculation, but I have no real idea. We only tagged 146 striped bass this year, which is way, way, way below the annual average, which was hovering up around 2,000 or 2,100, about 2,100, until this year.

On the positive side, we had a very good year, again, for Atlantic sturgeon. We caught thirty-one Atlantic sturgeon this year and we put sonic transmitters in thirteen of those fish. We're

collaborating on that work with Dr. Duane Fox at Delaware State University and his graduate students. We also caught quite a few spiny dogfish, although the numbers were way down in comparison to past years, and we put fifty sonic transmitters out in spiny dogfish, in collaboration with graduate students at East Carolina University, and we're working closely with the Northeast Fisheries Science Center to provide the entire time series of data for spiny dogfish for use in the upcoming track on that species.

We measured and counted and gendered a whole bunch of other species and if you're interested, again, I'll be happy to send you the summary report. The only other thing I'll mention is that last week in Callaway Gardens, Georgia, on the other side of the state, we held the first ever U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Southeast Region Biologist Conference, focusing on landscape level conservation and climate change and I think it was an unqualified success. Our Regional Director, Sam Hamilton, has promised that that won't be the last such meeting that we have. I think it was very beneficial to have all those biologists together for the first time ever. Mr. Chairman, that will conclude my report.

Mr. Harris: Thank you, Wilson. Are there questions for Wilson? Seeing none, state agencies, starting south and Mark.

Mr. Robson: Just one item. We've rescheduled a planned state/federal coordination workshop with our agency commission and invited guests from National Marine Fisheries Service and the councils. That's now scheduled for June, either the day before or the day after our commission meeting. That will be about a four or five-hour workshop with our commissioners.

Mr. Harris: Thank you. Any questions for Florida? Georgia and Susan.

Ms. Shipman: We're broke. That's about the report. Budget seems like it dominates our every waking thought and the Senate, I think they just passed the 2009 adjusted budget and now they're starting to work on the 2010 budget. For 2009, our agency took a twenty-four-and-a-half million dollar cut, eighteen-and-a-half percent. We don't know what 2010 is going to look like.

Mr. Harris: It sounds like South Carolina.

Ms. Shipman: I said that for Robert's benefit, to make him feel better.

Mr. Harris: Any questions for Susan? Robert and South Carolina.

Mr. Boyles: Mr. Chairman, I would like to request a small recess, so I can get my speech ready. I would like to read into the record Senate Bill 470, which is our effort to improve MRIP in South Carolina. I think it would probably take about twenty minutes. I'm just kidding. We are broke as well. We took a 31 percent budget cut here in 2009 and so we're broke, just like our colleagues in Georgia.

However, all is not lost. We are committed to improving our mechanisms for getting good information and data to help us manage our resources and to that end, we did get a favorable read at a Senate subcommittee hearing just yesterday on our bill to make some changes to our

saltwater recreational fishing license and that bill now goes to our Senate full committee. Just this morning, we had a similar action to deal with some coastal shark issues that were required of us to be in compliance with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Coastal Sharks Management Plan. That also received a favorable hearing in subcommittee and we'll await further action in the House. Those are the two things that we're really working on and I can read it into the record if you want, but maybe I'll get offline with George later and do that.

Mr. Harris: Questions for Robert? Thank you, Robert. North Carolina and Brian.

Dr. Cheuvront: Not to sound like a broken record, but we're broke, too. We actually --

Mr. Robson: I would request a reconsideration of my report.

Dr. Cheuvront: Our commission has cut down the number of meetings this year. We've canceled our fisheries forum. We gave back 5 percent of our budget and then we had to give back 9 percent permanently and we're told that it's going to be higher than that, between now even and the end of the year, probably, and who knows what's going to happen in Fiscal Year 2010.

Our goal is to try to hold on to programs and people, but I wouldn't be surprised if I don't come back in September, or June even, and announce that we've had to lay off folks. We're definitely headed in that direction if cuts are going to be any worse.

I did want to point out that our commission voted unanimously to recommend state-by-state quotas for the snapper grouper management by the South Atlantic Council, just to support where some of this is coming from. Also, the commission requested our General Assembly to consider allowing a LAP in our ocean commercial striped bass fishery. I've heard rumors that it's not a slam dunk and there may even be some troubles with it, but at least the commission is really considering this and for people who are in fisheries management in the state, it really makes sense to do it in this fishery, if nowhere else in North Carolina.

We also just funded, this January -- I guess it was the January meeting of the commission. They recommended funding for eleven projects based out of our recreational license receipts. We use that money specifically to earmark for improvements for research and access and things that will benefit recreational fishing and all sorts of fishing activities and coastal access and things as well. This is pretty good that we've gotten this out. It's about \$1.3 million.

We actually have more money in the fund, but we just chose not to fund everything and actually, it's a joint committee through the Marine Fisheries Commission and the Wildlife Resources Commission that determines what projects get funded. Mac is a member of that committee and it was our first year to do this and I think it went off really pretty well. Mr. Chairman, that concludes my report.

Mr. Geiger: I have two questions. The 5 and 9 percent, was the 9 percent after the 5 percent off the top or in addition to it?

Dr. Cheuvront: That was after the 5 percent.

Mr. Geiger: What is the Florida budget? What did you do?

Mr. Robson: We took a permanent 4 percent cut last year. They're looking at potentially another 4 percent this year and additional cuts up to 10 percent.

Mr. Harris: It's a sad time for the states and hopefully the federal government is going to fare a little bit better. Anyway, that concludes the agency and liaison reports. Is there other business to come before the council?

Dr. McGovern: I would just like to let everybody know that the South Atlantic team has a new member and it's Mr. Nick Metta back there and he's helping out with developing all the amendments with Kate and Carla and the South Atlantic staff and in addition to working on the amendments, he's been doing work on SAFE reports, too. He's been a big help in the short time he's been with us.

Mr. Harris: Thank you, Jack, and thank you, Nick. Good luck to you. We'll look forward to the SAFE reports.

Mr. Currin: I have three very quick things. One, I was remiss this morning when we came to order not to thank you and your wife for your great hospitality and wonderful food and the great time last night. Thank you very much.

The second item I would just pose for your consideration. This is the first time we've done it and approached things with the timing and task approach. I think that, in my opinion, it works great for the committees. Sitting here in the council, it seemed a little redundant at this level. I just maybe urge the staff and the chairman to think about that and the utility and necessity of repeating that during the council session. If you want to do it, that's fine, but it just seems like there's probably not going to be much that's going to be picked up at this level, especially with our timing, to warrant that, but it's not a big deal.

The third and probably second most important thing, after thanking you, is that I would like to request that the South Atlantic Council draft a letter to the Governor of North Carolina outlining the importance and utility of North Carolina's Fishery Resource Grant Program to the efforts of the council.

There have been a number of projects that both Jeff Buckel and Paul Rudershausen have presented the results of and preliminary results to the council. That program is threatened now. I wouldn't suggest that we mention that, necessarily, but just point out that we had attendance from participants in that program here and that the information is useful to the management of species important to the South Atlantic Council. If I need to move that, I will.

Mr. Harris: I don't think you do. I think that could be just direction to the staff, unless Susan wants to move it.



Ms. Shipman: **I was just going to move that.** To me, it's more than important. It's essential to our ability to develop these amendments.

Mr. Harris: There's a motion on the table. Is there a second?

Mr. Robson: I'll second.

Mr. Harris: Second by Mark. Is there discussion on the motion?

Mr. Currin: I'll be happy to help work, and I'm sure Brian will as well, with the staff to put that together and if you'll just send me a reminder, I'll take a first shot at it and we can get something that's acceptable.

Dr. Chevront: I'm going to need to abstain from the vote on this, because it involves funding through my agency.

Mr. Harris: I understand. Is there any further discussion on the motion? **Is there any objection to the motion? Are there any abstentions to the motion? One abstention and the motion carries.** Any other business to come before the council?

Let me just say this. We enjoyed having you all last night and thank you very much. You were very well behaved and you parked well and thank you all for being there. Thank you to everyone in the audience, the fishermen that were here today. The comments that were made were very good comments and very respectful to the NGOs that are here it seems like always now. We appreciate you all being here and we appreciate your help and your input.

Mr. Iarocci: One last thing. Susan, last night we did have a few alternatives and I just wanted to finish up with that, if we could close that right now to maybe take a vote on it.

Ms. Shipman: We're naming the rooster that is actually the mascot of the Coast Guard station and our building and we had several alternatives, but our preferred alternative is Rooster Roy and I would like to move that we name the mascot Rooster Roy.

Mr. Iarocci: So moved.

Mr. Harris: There's a motion and a second. Is there any objection to the motion? Without objection, the rooster will be named Rooster Roy. I've got some other people to thank. Thanks to all of our friends at the National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA Fisheries, for all the work they did in preparation for this meeting and as always, thanks to the staff of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, without whom we certainly wouldn't be here today and couldn't do what we've done. With that, we are adjourned and I will see you in Stuart.

(Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 7:15 o'clock p.m., March 5, 2009.)

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

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**SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

**FULL COUNCIL SESSION**

**Jekyll Island Club Hotel  
Jekyll Island, GA**

**March 5, 2009**

**TABLE OF MOTIONS**

PAGE 28: Motion to select Alternative 2 as the preferred alternative, to establish a LAP for the golden tilefish fishery. The motion failed on page 30.

PAGE 34: Motion to move Alternative 7 to the Considered but Rejected appendix. The motion carried on page 34.

PAGE 35: Motion to add a sub-alternative under the Black Sea Bass Pot Alternative 8 to allow fishermen to leave the pots in the water for no more than seventy-two hours. The motion carried on page 36.

PAGE 39: Motion to add an Alternative 6 that would close the longline fishery when the 300-pound trip limit goes into effect. The motion carried on page 39.

PAGE 39: Motion to move Alternative 5 under each of Alternatives 2, 3, and 4 as a sub-alternative. The motion carried on page 40.

PAGE 42: Motion to consider recommending a finer measurement in the logbook squares to match what is currently used in the headboat logbook. The motion carried on page 42.

PAGE 44: Motion to move Alternatives 2 and 3 to the Considered but Rejected appendix. The motion carried on page 44.

PAGE 45: Motion to modify the Wreckfish ITQ program to keep the Wreckfish ITQ program and to update it to meet the new requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The motion carried on page 45.

PAGE 46: Motion to make the new wreckfish alternative the preferred alternative. The motion carried on page 46.

PAGE 47: Motion to add a new EFH alternative to track the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's EFH and EFH HAPC designations. The motion carried on page 47.

PAGE 51: Motion to have the staff look at allocations of not only the fish that are not undergoing overfishing, but those that also are and consider that in the ACL Amendment. The motion carried on page 52.

PAGE 57: Motion to approve the FEP for submission to the Secretary with editorial license given to staff to address the NMFS comments. The motion carried on page 59.

PAGE 59: Motion to recommend to the council that sargassum be addressed in the Comprehensive ACL Amendment. The motion carried on page 59.

PAGE 59: Motion to task the staff to address the following items in Ecosystem-Based Amendment 2: a)potentially modify the limited take of octocorals and/or octocoral reporting; b)examine the potential for a lease program for octocoral culture; c)potentially allow the take of the erect forms of the *briareum* species (deadman's fingers) and *erythropodium* species (encrusting corals); and d)potentially establish a permit system to harvest the invasive scleractinian coral species *tubestrea coccinea* (orange cup coral). The motion carried on page 59.

PAGE 59: Motion to direct the staff to: 1)address the NMFS comments on the FEP and finalize the FEP for submitting to the Secretary of Commerce after the June 2009 meeting; 2)the CEBA 1, Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 1, the committees did not make any changes to the actions and directed the staff to continue editing the document for DEIS filing. The intent is to have the comment period end prior to the June 2009 meeting so that the council can finalize it at the June meeting; 3)regarding the Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 2, direct the staff to evaluate the alternatives related to corals and octocorals. The motion carried on page 59.

PAGE 60: Motion to direct the staff, in regard to Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 2, that the staff draft alternatives related to corals and octocorals based on scoping items and include it in the Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 2 options paper. The motion carried on page 60.

PAGE 62: Motion to defer to Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary for rulemaking in terms of the establishment of the research area. The motion carried on page 62.

PAGE 62: Motion to establish an ACL equal to zero for speckled hind and warsaw grouper and prohibit all fishing for and possession of retention of all deepwater snapper grouper species seaward of forty fathoms. Allow harvest of golden tilefish in a specified area and to select that as a preferred alternative to be contained in Amendment 17. The motion carried on page 62.

PAGE 62: Motion to add Alternative 5 to the golden tilefish measures. The motion carried on page 62.

PAGE 62: Motion to adopt Golden Tilefish Alternative 5 as the preferred alternative in Amendment 17. The motion carried on page 62.

PAGE 62: Motion to establish a recreational daily bag limit of one snowy grouper per vessel limit. The intent here is to prohibit hi-grading and recreational targeting. The motion carried on page 63.

PAGE 63: Motion to move Snowy Grouper Alternatives 2 and 5 to the Considered but Rejected

Appendix. The motion carried on page 63.

PAGE 63: Motion to add a recreational accountability measure to use the three-year running average of recreational snowy grouper catches and allow the Regional Administrator to shorten the following season to ensure the catches do not exceed the recreational ACL, with the intent being to track wording for Alternative 2C under Section 4.4. The motion carried on page 63.

PAGE 63: Motion to select new Snowy Grouper Alternative 2 as the preferred alternative and that is to establish the recreational bag limit of one snowy grouper per vessel and add a recreational accountability measure to use the three-year running average of recreational snowy grouper catches and allow the RA to shorten the following season to ensure the catches do not exceed the recreational ACL. The motion carried on page 63.

PAGE 63: Motion to exclude wreckfish from the deepwater closed area alternative. The motion carried on page 63.

PAGE 63: Motion to move closure Alternatives 3 and 4 to the Considered but Rejected Appendix. The motion carried on page 64.

PAGE 64: Motion to provide license to the amendment team to analyze and include for the council's consideration in June any other closure alternatives that achieve the necessary reductions. The motion carried on page 64.

PAGE 64: Motion to modify Alternative 5 in order to close the Logbook Grid Squares 2880, 2980, 3080, and 3180 between thirty meters and some greater depth, to be determined at a later date. Staff will provide analysis for that. The motion carried on page 65.

PAGE 65: Motion to direct staff to analyze the impacts of a closure for red snapper on other species from previous regulations. The motion carried on page 65.

PAGE 65: Motion to evaluate a red snapper monitoring program based on research set-aside to include an experimental headboat fishery with observers. The intent is for scientists to develop recommendations on numbers of trips, areas to fish, et cetera. The motion carried on page 65.

PAGE 65: Motion to select Alternative 2B as the preferred alternative for black and red grouper. The motion carried on page 65.

PAGE 65: Motion to move the ACT Alternative 3A to the Considered but Rejected Appendix. The motion carried on page 65.

PAGE 65: Motion to make Alternative 2C the preferred alternative for the recreational accountability measures. The motion carried on page 65.

PAGE 65: Motion to remove Accountability Measure Alternative 4B to the Considered but Rejected Appendix. The motion carried on page 65.

PAGE 65: Motion to not only include SEDAR for adjustments, but also include other avenues for adjustments. Staff is to develop alternatives for adjustments to the framework procedure. The motion carried on page 65.

PAGE 65: Motion to request an interim rule to implement no harvest of red snapper in the EEZ off of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. The intent is to request an extension for a total of a one-year closure and to request the states to adopt compatible regulations. The motion carried on page 67.

PAGE 67: Motion to request the RA not to publish the final rule prior to the June 2009 council meeting. The motion carried on page 67.

PAGE 67: Motion to request NMFS to draft a red snapper monitoring program for review at the June 2009 meeting. The motion carried on page 67.

PAGE 67: Motion to direct staff to send a letter to Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary notifying them that the council has decided to defer to Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary for rulemaking in terms of the establishment of the research area; that we request that they incorporate the council's changes to Amendment 17 and have a draft ready for the council's review and approval for taking to public hearings and that this occur at the June 2009 meeting; that we modify Red Snapper Management Measure Alternative 5 in order to close the Logbook Grid Squares 2880, 2980, 3080, and 3180 between thirty meters and a greater depth to be determined at a later date, staff to provide the analysis; provide license to the amendment team to analyze and include for the council's consideration in June any other closure alternatives that achieve the necessary reductions. The council would like staff and state/National Marine Fisheries Service scientists to evaluate a red snapper monitoring program based on a research set-aside to include an experimental headboat fishery with observers. We would hope also in developing that scientific design they would, if they need to, fill in data gaps to consider other sectors of the fishery and that we task the Scientific and Statistical Committee to investigate the 30 percent versus 40 percent SPR on a broad, overarching level. The motion carried on page 68.

PAGE 77: Motion that the South Atlantic Council endorses the SSC's recommendation that the SEDAR schedule be adjusted to accommodate development of basic assessment analyses (e.g., surplus production models, et cetera) that will generate estimates of MSY for South Atlantic data-poor unassessed stocks. The SSC has developed a process for determining ABC values as required under MSRA and these basic analyses are essential for applying this process and developing more reliable and scientifically-defensible ABC values for data-poor stocks. The SSC requests these analyses be completed by December of 2010. The motion is to endorse the recommendation to the SEDAR Steering Committee. Further, to endorse the SSC's recommendation that to facilitate completing this work within the available time that a modified SEDAR process as follows: two data workshops addressing multiple stocks; two assessment workshops, one to develop methods and a second for refining preliminary models; and a review provided by the SSC. The motion carried on page 77.

PAGE 80: Motion that the council provide staff time to work on development of a golden crab LAP with the provision that the snapper grouper economic work is not compromised. The

motion carried on page 80.

PAGE 80: Motion to prioritize work on LAPPs initially as separate amendments, with the possibility of becoming a comprehensive LAPP amendment, with the priority first for the wreckfish fishery and secondly, golden crab and golden tilefish, which would be worked on in conjunction with wreckfish, where possible. The motion carried on page 80.

PAGE 80: Motion that staff work on the following items: 1)prioritize work on LAPPs initially as separate amendments with the possibility of becoming a comprehensive LAPP amendment with a)wreckfish first and b)golden crab and golden tilefish worked on in conjunction with wreckfish, where possible; 2)Golden Crab AP to meet during the June 2009 council meeting; 3)staff may meet with the golden crab industry prior to the June 2009 meeting; 4)staff to present a revised timeline and staffing analysis at full council; 5)staff prepare an analysis of work required to prepare an LAPP for the entire snapper grouper fishery and present the results at the June 2009 meeting. The motion carried on page 80.

PAGE 82: Motion that the council provide staff time to work on development of the golden crab LAPP with the provision that the snapper grouper economic work is not compromised. The motion carried on page 82.

PAGE 82: Motion to include golden crab in the Comprehensive ACL Amendment to address new requirements for ACLs and AMs. The motion carried on page 82.

PAGE 82: Motion to direct staff to contact the New England Fishery Management Council and NOAA GC to address the red crab fishery management unit. The motion carried on page 82.

PAGE 82: Motion that staff work on the following items: 1)work on the development of a golden crab LAPP with the provision that the snapper grouper economic work is not compromised; 2)Golden Crab AP to meet during the June 2009 council meeting; 3)staff may meet with the golden crab industry prior to the 2009 meeting; and 4)direct staff to contact the New England Council and NOAA GC to address the red crab fishery management unit. The motion carried on page 82.

PAGE 83: Motion to not develop separate FMPs on mackerel. The motion carried on page 83.

PAGE 83: Motion to direct staff to evaluate moving cero and little tunny and Atlantic bonito into the fishery management unit or removing them from the fishery management plan. The motion carried on page 83.

PAGE 83: Motion to develop a joint amendment to address new requirements for ACLs and AMs. The motion carried on page 83.

PAGE 83: Motion to hold a joint Mackerel Committee meeting during the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council in June of 2009. The motion carried on page 83.

PAGE 83: Motion to direct staff to work on the following items in preparation for the June 2009

meeting: 1)the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council staff to contact the Gulf Council staff to inform them about the South Atlantic Council's decisions and offer to hold a joint Mackerel Committee meeting during the SAFMC's June 2009 meeting; 2)request staff, working with Gulf and National Marine Fisheries Service staff, prepare a decision document to use at the joint meeting outlining the decisions for the joint amendment; 3)request clarification on the cobia assessment. The motion carried on page 84.

PAGE 84: Motion to recommend the council pursue including dolphin and wahoo in the Comprehensive ACL Amendment to address new requirements for ACLs and AMs and evaluate prohibiting bag limit sales of dolphin from for-hire vessels and establishing minimum size limits for dolphin off North Carolina and South Carolina. The motion carried on page 85.

PAGE 85: Motion to evaluate the prohibition on bag limit sales of dolphin from for-hire vessels and establishing a minimum size limit for dolphin in the Mid-Atlantic and New England areas. The motion carried on page 85.

PAGE 85: Motion to direct staff to develop a detailed decision document evaluating the ACLs and AMs and bag limit sale prohibition and size limit for use at the June 2009 meeting. The motion carried on page 85.

PAGE 86: Motion to consider all the penaeid shrimp and rock shrimp as annual crops and therefore, do develop ACLs and AMs. The motion carried on page 86.

PAGE 86: Motion to direct staff to send a letter to National Marine Fisheries Service indicating that the shrimp species in the Shrimp FMP are annual crops and therefore do not require the council to develop an amendment to specify the ACLs and AMs. The motion carried on page 86.

PAGE 87: Motion to recommend that the SSC meet prior to full council meetings. The motion carried on page 87.

PAGE 87: Motion that the council establish three-year terms of service on the SSC and use staggered terms beginning on years of service. The intent is to have one-third rotate at any one time and further, that there is no limit to the length of service. The motion carried on page 87.

PAGE 88: Motion to recommend establishment of a socioeconomic technical advisory panel appointed by the council to the SSC to be chaired by an SSC member and to convene in the most cost-effective method as needed. The motion carried on page 88.

PAGE 88: Motion to direct staff to: 1)advertise for the open seat on the SSC, with the intent to fill the seat at the June 2009 meeting; 2)work towards having the SSC meet prior to council meetings; 3)advertise for the socioeconomic advisory panel, with the intent to appoint members at the June 2009 meeting; 4)SSC AP workshop, work to schedule workshops to help the SSC. This was to work on annual catch limits. The motion carried on page 88.

PAGE 88: Motion to develop a separate amendment with the Gulf Council to bring the spiny



lobster plan into compliance with the new requirements for ACLs and AMs. The motion carried on page 88.

PAGE 88: Motion to develop the following tailing options in the amendment: a)continue to allow the possession aboard a fishing vessel of a separated spiny lobster tail in or from the EEZ is authorized when the possession is incidental to fishing exclusively in the EEZ on a trip of forty-eight hours or more and a federal tail separation permit specified in Section 640.4(A)(2) has been issued and is onboard the vessel; b)do not allow tailing and this would require all lobster to be landed whole and this would help prevent the use of hooks and spears to harvest lobsters; c)allow tailing on commercial trap vessels and shrimp vessels making multi-day over forty-eight-hour trips. The motion carried on page 89.

PAGE 89: Motion to develop the following short options in the amendment: a)continue to allow a live spiny lobster under the minimum size limit specified in Paragraph (B)(1) of this section that is harvested in the EEZ by a trap may be retained aboard the harvesting vessel for future use as an attractant in a trap, provided if it is held in a live well aboard the vessel. No more than fifty undersized spiny lobsters or one per trap aboard the vessel, whichever is greater, may be retained aboard for use as attractants. The live well must provide a minimum of three-quarter gallons, 1.7 liters, of seawater per spiny lobster. An undersized spiny lobster so retained must be released to the water alive and unharmed immediately upon leaving the trap line and prior to one hour after official sunset each day. b)prohibit possession and use of shorts as attractants. The motion carried on page 89.

PAGE 89: Motion to not address changes to the northern fishery. The motion carried on page 89.

PAGE 89: Motion to update the council/State of Florida process. The motion carried on page 89.

PAGE 89: Motion to delegate certain operational aspects of the fishery off of Florida to the State of Florida with the agreement of the two councils and the State of Florida. The motion carried on page 89.

PAGE 90: Motion to include discussion of the following items for potential delegation: 1)numerical specification of ACL and a breakdown into sector-specific ACLs based on the definitions included in the amendment to the Spiny Lobster FMP; 2)commercial quotas and recreational allocations based on the allocations specified in the amendment to the Spiny Lobster FMP; 3)size limit modifications; 4)bag limit modifications; 5)trip limits; 6)modifications to the length of the season; 7)application of the accountability measures, including closing the fishery when a sector reaches its quota and/or allocation; 8)rules and regulations for the possession of traps, including gear marking, tagging, et cetera; 9)data collection and reporting requirements; 10)closed areas and this may be difficult and Florida might need to have National Marine Fisheries Service prepare an EA. These would be items for discussion in terms of delegation. The motion carried on page 90.

PAGE 90: Motion to direct staff to provide the South Atlantic Council actions to the Gulf Council

# South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

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GREGG SWANSON

## FULL COUNCIL - ROLL CALL VOTE

Date: March 2008

Meeting Location

Jekyll Island, GA

Issue: FEP

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
HARRIS	✓		
CUPKA	✓		
BOYLES	✓		
CRABTREE	✓		
CURRIN	✓		
CHEUVRONT	✓		
GEIGER	✓		
IAROCCI	✓		
MERRITT	✓		
ROBSON	✓		
SHIPMAN	✓		
SWATZEL	✓		
WALLACE	✓		

# FULL COUNCIL - ROLL CALL VOTE

Date: March 2008

Meeting Location Jekyll Island, GA

Issue: RED SNAPPER INTERIM RULE REQUEST

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
HARRIS	✓		
CUPKA	✓		
BOYLES	✓		
CRABTREE	✓		
CURRIN	✓		
CHEUVRONT		✓	
GEIGER	✓		
IAROCCHI		✓	
MERRITT		✓	
ROBSON		✓	
SHIPMAN	✓		
SWATZEL		✓	
WALLACE		✓	

# PLEASE SIGN IN

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

Council Session  
Jekyll Island, GA  
Thursday, March 5, 2009

NAME &  
ORGANIZATION

AREA CODE &  
PHONE NUMBER

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# PLEASE SIGN IN

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Council Session  
Jekyll Island, GA  
Thursday, March 5, 2009

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ORGANIZATION

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Duane Harris, Chair  
South Atlantic Fishery Management Council  
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North Charleston, SC 29405

March 3, 2009

Dear Mr. Harris,

The golden crab fishery is now poised to fulfill its potential for delivering high quality live crab anywhere in the world. Accordingly, we are writing this letter to provide fishermen's perspective on the process of setting an Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) and Annual Catch Limit (ACL) for the golden crab fishery and to request that factors outlined in this letter be considered when these levels are set.

At our request, Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) held a meeting on Monday, February 2, 2009 in Key Largo, FL with Tony Iarocci, Kate Quigley, Eileen Dougherty, and Sarah Hagedorn present. At this meeting we provided background information and history of the golden crab fishery to all attending. EDF and Council staff also provided handouts on historical and recent landings in the golden crab fishery, as well as a history of the status of the golden crab stock.

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) is faced with a difficult task whenever assigning a Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) and an ABC to fisheries that are lacking in biological data. Direct fishermen input, especially when there is a severe lack of data, will benefit the SSC and other decision makers when deciding upon fishing levels and limits such as an ACL. Information from fishermen will help to explain trends in the fishery and to provide clarity on points not reflected in the data.

For fisheries where there is a lack of data, historical landings and harvest levels could be a significant factor in determining an MSY. We believe our average annual landings since 1997 of around 550,000 pounds does not represent an appropriate MSY or ACL for our fishery.

*Reasons why landings are not a good indicator of stock size:*

- **The fishery is technically difficult and dangerous.** For example, distance (up to 120 miles) and fishing depths (up to 2300 feet) are great. The Gulf Stream is universally present and precludes the use of surface buoys. These and other complicating factors discourage all but the persistent and skilled from participating in the fishery. As a result, landings do not reflect population size. The present golden crab fishery is now down to 11 permits, with full time golden crab fishermen using four permits harvesting the majority of the crab. Our resource is currently underutilized and can sustain much higher landings.
- When the original golden crab FMP was put in place in 1995, fishermen rushed to meet the criteria to be a part of the new limited access fishery (34 permit holders in 1996). On average, landings in the golden crab fishery have dropped over the past 9 years (average of 665,000 lbs from 1998 – 2002 and 417,000 pounds from 2003 – 2006), with a high of 1,034,000 lbs in 1997. This is because of a drop in fishermen conducting the fishery, not because of a decrease in the resource. In the late 1990s, many golden crabbers were part



time, and realized that they didn't have the capabilities to seriously and safely fish for golden crab (for example, large boat size or equipment) or to make a profit.

- **The primary reason the resource is underutilized and landings are below fishing capacity is because fishermen have been unable to sell more crabs.** Traditional methods of maintaining the life, quality, and strength of crabs effectively eliminate all markets except local ones in which prime condition is not required and the crabs can be processed or sold very quickly. We are well along in implementing new procedures and infrastructure to eradicate these limitations.

*Reasons why the crab market has been underutilized:*

- The golden crab fishery is now poised to fulfill its potential for delivering high quality live crab anywhere in the world. Since inception of the fishery, crabbers have been handicapped by temperature problems. Regulations require that crabs be landed alive. Golden crabs live in 42-degree ambient surroundings. In the 10 minute trap-bound journey to the surface, they are traumatized by exposure to 75- to 85-degree waters of the Gulf Stream. Immediately they are placed in ice which provides a temporary recovery. However, carefully conducted studies demonstrate that after 72 hours on ice, nearly 30% of deepwater crabs will die. In six days, less than 20% will be alive.
- These facts place severe limitations on the quality and marketability of golden crab. The mortality taking place in the days following capture of the crabs forces quick landings and local sales. Delivering healthy live crabs beyond the local landing area of the catcher vessel is a near impossibility. The use of refrigerated sea water on the vessel at sea and ashore results in a mere 3% dead loss over ten days. Three of the four most active golden crab boats either now have or will soon install such holding systems.
- Sales of healthy live golden crabs can now be made in New York, Boston, San Diego, and Hong Kong or virtually anywhere else. Demand is intense, prices are high. **Current participants are prepared to increase production using this technology to transform the fishery into a model of an efficient, sustained, high value operation.**

*Reasons why this is an underutilized resource:*

- **Minimal buffer is needed because there is possible parent stock located in protected or un-fished areas.** We worked with the Council and staff in creating golden crab allowable gear zones in the coral Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPCs). These HAPCs were set up to protect unique deepwater corals, prime habitat for the deepwater golden crabs. This is especially true in the northern zone where we believe most fishable grounds are now protected by the HAPCs, and it may not be economically feasible to fish in the northern zone. Restrictions created by the HAPCs will provide significant protection for the resource.
- A large portion of the golden crab stock we are fishing is inaccessible to us because it is located in Bahamian waters. These waters are not being fished, and we do not anticipate that they will be fished for golden crab in the foreseeable future.

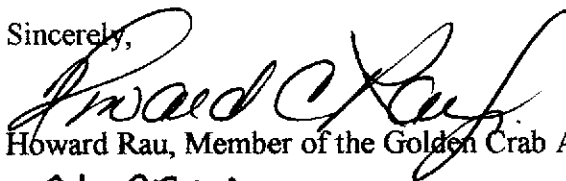
*Other factors to consider:*

- **Stock assessments are old and based on a small geographical area.** Past recommended MSY levels have ranged from 1.5 million lbs to 18 million lbs (in Amendment 3, NMFS suggested that a reasonable MSY should be from 1.5 to 2.5 million lbs). These wide-ranging estimates are almost a decade old and were based on the small geographical area being fished in the 1990s.
- NMFS, nor fishermen, have witnessed a decrease in crab size over the years. Our landings have been consistent, and we haven't seen a decrease in our catch per unit effort (CPUE).
- It appears that the deepwater golden crab (*Chaceon fenneri*) is extremely similar to the deepwater red crab found off New England (*Chaceon quinque-dens*). Both are members of the *Geryonidae* family and are comparable in their life history, the small scale of the fishery, and how it is conducted. In 2006 and 2007, the TAC for red crab was set at 5.928 million lbs. We would like to request that the SSC closely examine similarities between the two fisheries when considering an ACL for golden crab.

For these reasons, we believe an appropriate and sustainable ACL for this underdeveloped fishery must be higher than recent landings. We suggest an ACL of 5 million lbs. We also think it is very important for golden crab to have a new stock assessment. In addition, we are willing to explore ways such as cooperative research that can improve data and data collection methods. **We are committed to developing a thriving model fishery and being good stewards of the resource.**

We thank the Council for giving us the chance to provide input into the process and appreciate our voices being heard. We are looking forward to providing similar information to the SSC when they begin exploring appropriate fishing levels for our fishery. We would like to maintain our proactive and successful working relationship with the Council and see this as yet another opportunity to do so.

Sincerely,



Howard Rau, Member of the Golden Crab Advisory Panel



Bill Whipple, Chair of the Golden Crab Advisory Panel



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

## PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

### Interim Rule - Red Snapper

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE) Jekyll Island, GA		DATE OF MEETING March 5, 2009
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT) Joe Penovich		TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE) 321-543-0435
MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE) 39 YAWL DR, COCOA BEACH, FL 32931		
BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE) Sunrise Marina/Grills Restaurant/OBSESSION		
DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT? (PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY IF AVAILABLE)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		

## Petition

### Petition from Concerned Citizens and Fisherman of the South Atlantic Region

This is a petition from concerned citizens who will be negatively affected by the emergency interim ruling on the closure of American Red Snapper, which will result in a economic disaster. We have heard and testified on numerous occasions at public hearings that the numbers and sizes of Red Snapper catches have improved and does not co-inside with the NMFS stock assessments, ruling will affect all aspects of the fishing charter boats, head boats, commercial people in this region. In this difficult cause many more losses in jobs and this ruling is put into effect it will take away the benefits of fishing.

From Joe  
Penovich -  
(file w/ comment  
card)

February 2008. This recreational fishermen, related businesses and States is facing this will fishing communities. If of the citizens who rely

Name	Boat/ Business/ Individual
1. John H. Potts	BUSINESS BROKERAGE COMM.
2. William Fazio	Commercial Fishing
3. Chris Lacey	Recreational Fisherman
4. Vito Drant	Recreational Fisherman
5. Matt Vesposito	Rec. Fisherman
6. Chris Bucalo	Rec Fisherman
7. Marc Richards	Fish Retail
8. Wes Meadlock	Restaurant owner
9. Kevin Bragdon	Pro. Captain
10. Robin Roark	SUNRISE MARINA, INC.
11. Rodney Senatore	Com. Fish
12. Jeff Riggs	- Sunrise Marina
13. Bob Patterson	Rec Fisherman

14. Bob O'Hattman Jr. Party Boat Rider
15. Bonnie Frost Marina Manager Port Canaveral <sup>74</sup>
16. Bruce Wicks Grill's Seafood
17. Long Hille Comm. Fisherman
18. Eric M. Hopp Comm. Fisherman
19. Russell Sinclair Com/Rec Fisherman
20. Frank Booth G.M. Seafood ATL Com Fisherman
21. John McFarley Seafood Emp. Employee
22. A. H. H. SFA Truck Driver
23. Roberto Alvarez SFA
24. Ron O'Ferman BROWN'S TAXIDERMAY
25. Gene Edmonds ADE machine
26. Jackie Headlock Smokehouse Foods
27. John Hill Smokehouse Foods
28. Bob Brown Browns Taxidermy
29. Le Esres MARY ROSE (MATE)
30. Jimmy Walker Comm. Fishing
31. Mac Loring Can. Fish
32. Arthur R. Bell CHARTER BOAT OWNER
33. Marilyn C. Smith Canaveral Custom Boats
34. Alan [Signature]
35. Jim Mable C.A.F., Inc.
36. Jim Turley TOW BOAT U.S.

37. Chuck LeClerc
38. Shane Curran Charter Capt.
39. Brenda C. Lagarias (RECREATION) OBSESSION FISHING CHARTERS
40. Debra David DeBuccia Seafood  
manger Grills Restaurant  
Cape Canaveral FL
41. Chris H.
42. Bob O'Donnell BIRD BIASSE COMMERCIAL FISHERMAN FL.
43. Dustin Rapp Captain Right Work
44. Wm. Rapp Recreational Fishing
45. Jim Rapp Recreational
46. Ken Gray Employed ~~at~~ MARINA
47. Kurt Albrecht Employed Cape Marina
48. AS Charter Boat Captain
49. Don Rapp Recreational Fisherman
50. Steve Miller Charter / commercial Fisherman
- Chris Charter / Head Boat Fishing

## Petition

### Petition from Concerned Citizens and Fisherman of the South Atlantic Region

This is a petition from concerned citizens who will be negatively affected by the emergency interim ruling on the closure of American Red Snapper. We have heard and testified on numerous occasions at scoping meetings that the numbers and sizes of Red Snapper catches have improved and does not co-inside with your scientific research or NMFS stock assessments, specifically SEDAR report 15, dated February 2008. This ruling will affect all aspects of the fishing industry. This includes recreational fishermen, charter boats, head boats, commercial fisherman, and all the affiliated businesses and people in this region. In this difficult economic crisis the United States is facing this will cause many more job loses and dollars these communities desperately need. If this ruling is put into affect it will be an economic disaster for all of the citizens who rely on the benefits of fishing.

- | Name                                          | Boat/Business/ Individual       |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. <u>David [Signature]</u>                   | <u>- Individual</u>             |
| 2. <u>John Adams</u>                          | <u>- GOIN ORR SPORT FISHING</u> |
| 3. <u>ADRIAN MARTINEZ</u>                     | <u>- HANDLE CUSTOM RODS</u>     |
| 4. <u>RON MISCA - CHRYSLER</u>                |                                 |
| 5. <u>STEVE HARTLEY - DOLPHIN COFFEE</u>      |                                 |
| 6. <u>CHARLES LEVI JR "FISHERMAN'S WORLD"</u> |                                 |
| 7. <u>Norman Andrews</u>                      | " "                             |
| 8. <u>BARRY DIXON BUCKLEY</u>                 |                                 |
| 9. <u>BEN McANISH</u>                         |                                 |
| 10. <u>Vernis DeSouza</u>                     |                                 |
| 11. <u>DAVID DeSouza</u>                      |                                 |
| 12. <u>Miss Cape Office Manager</u>           |                                 |
| 13. <u>Patrick Sebastian</u>                  | <u>Miss Cape Chen</u>           |

14. Zachary Middlehurst MISS CAPE CAN
15. TONY ADAMS OWNER MISS CAPE CANAVERAL
16. DAVID HESTON Deck HAND M.C. CANAVERAL.
17. ~~James J. James~~
18. ~~Jim Jones~~
19. James Protenberg
20. ~~Don Lind~~
21. ~~John~~
22. ~~Mike~~
23. ~~John Campbell~~
24. ~~John~~
25. ~~Andrea Kelly~~ (Obsession Charters Mtg. Port Canaveral, 7/)
26. ~~Robert Schaffer~~
27. ~~Mike~~ Obsession Charters
28. ~~James~~ Obsession Charters
29. ~~Michael~~ Obsession Charters
30. ~~Scott~~ (SG-AP)
31. Capt Bill Reynolds Obsession Charters
32. ~~Elliot~~ " "
33. ~~Pat~~ Sport Fisherman
34. ~~Michael~~ STAR PARTY Boat
35. Capt. Sid Proskitt Daphnia Bch. St
36. \_\_\_\_\_



37. \_\_\_\_\_

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50. \_\_\_\_\_



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

## PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

### Interim Rule - Red Snapper

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)

Jekyll Island, GA

DATE OF MEETING

March 5, 2009

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

Dennis O'Hern

TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)

727 692 6802

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

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

FRA

DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT?  
(PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY  
IF AVAILABLE)



YES



NO



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

## PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

### Interim Rule - Red Snapper

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE) Jekyll Island, GA		DATE OF MEETING March 5, 2009
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT) Capt Chris Rooney		TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE) (904) 683-4234
MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE) 1762 BRANCH VINE DR W, JAX FL 32246		
BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE) IOSFC JAX OFFSHORE SPORT FISHING CLUB		
DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT? (PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY IF AVAILABLE)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		



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

## PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

### Interim Rule - Red Snapper

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)

Jekyll Island, GA

DATE OF MEETING

March 5, 2009

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

DAVE HEIL

TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)

407-492-1991

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

1653 Joceline Ct Winter Park, FL 32789

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

CEOA

FSFA

DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT?  
(PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY  
IF AVAILABLE)

☒

YES

☐

NO



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

## PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

### Interim Rule - Red Snapper

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)

Jekyll Island, GA

DATE OF MEETING

March 5, 2009

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

Holly Binns

TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)

850-322-7845

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

2107 Mulberry Blvd. Tallahassee, FL 32303

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

hbinnis@pewtrusts.org

DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT?  
(PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY  
IF AVAILABLE)



YES



NO



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

## PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

### Interim Rule - Red Snapper

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)

Jekyll Island, GA

DATE OF MEETING

March 5, 2009

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

Rob Daenor

TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)

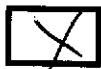
904-827-1181

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

334 Van Gogh Cr, Pompano Beach, FL 32081

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT?  
(PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY  
IF AVAILABLE)



YES



NO



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

## PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

### Interim Rule - Red Snapper

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)

Jekyll Island, GA

DATE OF MEETING

March 5, 2009

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

Ron Surrency

TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)

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

6652 Shady Oak DR Jax FL 322

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

WATL Coast Charters

DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT?  
(PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY  
IF AVAILABLE)



YES



NO



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

## PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

### Interim Rule - Red Snapper

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)

Jekyll Island, GA

DATE OF MEETING

March 5, 2009

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

Joshua Giordano-Silliman

TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)

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

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT?  
(PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY  
IF AVAILABLE)



YES



NO





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

390 32.40  
SPR  
**PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD**

**Interim Rule - Red Snapper**

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)

Jekyll Island, GA

DATE OF MEETING

March 5, 2009

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

Becky Hogan

TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)

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

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Mayport Princess

DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT?  
(PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY  
IF AVAILABLE)

☒ YES

☐ NO



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

## PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

### Interim Rule - Red Snapper

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE) Jekyll Island, GA	DATE OF MEETING March 5, 2009
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT) Holly Reynolds	TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)
MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)	
BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE) Majesty	
DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT? (PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY IF AVAILABLE)	
<input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO



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

## PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

### Interim Rule - Red Snapper

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE) Jekyll Island, GA	DATE OF MEETING March 5, 2009
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT) SID PRESKITT	TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)
MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE) PO Box 22 EDGEWATER, FL	
BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)	
DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT? (PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY IF AVAILABLE)	
<input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO



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

## PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

### Interim Rule - Red Snapper

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)

Jekyll Island, GA

DATE OF MEETING

March 5, 2009

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

CLAY MOBLEY

TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)

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

42 W. MONTGOMERY CROSS ROADS, STE. 1K SAVANNAH, GA 31406

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

COASTAL CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION GEORGIA

DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT?  
(PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY  
IF AVAILABLE)



YES



NO



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

## PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

### Interim Rule - Red Snapper

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)

Jekyll Island, GA

DATE OF MEETING

March 5, 2009

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

Margot Stiles

TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)

202 833 3900

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

1350 Connecticut Ave NW 5th floor Washington DC

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Oceana

DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT?  
(PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY  
IF AVAILABLE)



YES



NO



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

## PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

### Interim Rule - Red Snapper

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)

Jekyll Island, GA

DATE OF MEETING

March 5, 2009

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

ED KALAKAUSKIS

TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)

904 923-5994

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

1207 Aruba CT Jax FL 32226

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Artificial Reef

DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT?  
(PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY  
IF AVAILABLE)

☒

YES

☐

NO



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

## PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

### Interim Rule - Red Snapper

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)

Jekyll Island, GA

DATE OF MEETING

March 5, 2009

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

BRANDON DEAN

TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)

912-223-4021

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

1199 HOUSESHOE Cove Rd. Waverly GA 31565

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Blue Water Dredge

DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT?  
(PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY  
IF AVAILABLE)

☐

YES

☒

NO



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

## PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

### Interim Rule - Red Snapper

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)

Jekyll Island, GA

DATE OF MEETING

March 5, 2009

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

Ashley Parmelee

TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)

(912) 617-3474

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

111 Peachtree ST. ST. SIMONS ISL, GA 31522

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

CHARTER CAPTAIN

DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT?  
(PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY  
IF AVAILABLE)

☐

YES

☒

NO





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

## PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

### Interim Rule - Red Snapper

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE) Jekyll Island, GA	DATE OF MEETING March 5, 2009
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT) FRANK THUM	TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)
MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE) 815 SAVANNAH HWY Ste 204 CHARLESTON, SC 29407	
BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE) South Carolina Seafood Alliance	
DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT? (PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY IF AVAILABLE)	
<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO



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

## PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

### Interim Rule - Red Snapper

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)

Jekyll Island, GA

DATE OF MEETING

March 5, 2009

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

CAPT ANDY HICKS

TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)

912-634-0940

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

#4 GEORGE T. MORRIS CIRCLE ST. SIMONS IS. GA. 31522

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

CONCERNED CHARTER CAPTAIN

DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT?  
(PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY  
IF AVAILABLE)

☐

YES

☒

NO



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

## PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

### Interim Rule - Red Snapper

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)

Jekyll Island, GA

DATE OF MEETING

March 5, 2009

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

Bob Black

TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)

912 223 2986

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

409 Whitfield AVE SSI. GA.

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT?  
(PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY  
IF AVAILABLE)

☐

YES

☒

NO

409 Whitfield AVE



FSFA  
PO Box 1216  
Cape Canaveral, FL 32920  
[www.fsfaclub.org](http://www.fsfaclub.org)

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To Whom It May Concern, SAFMC

The purpose of this note is to provide the position of the Florida Sport Fishing Association (FSFA), a 41 year old organization with over 170 family memberships headquartered in Cape Canaveral, Florida. This position is in regard to the subject of the SAFMC meeting to be held March 2-6, 2009 in Jekyll Island, GA.

The proposal for a period shut down of the recreational season on shallow water Grouper and American Red Snapper in the south Atlantic is not only unnecessary (based on member per trip catch experience) but unfairly penalizes the recreational fisherman and the entire related economy at a time when the stocks are steady, even increasing, and when the east Florida coast economy does not need a further negative hit enacted by an agency for the same government that is distributing billions of dollars in an attempt to do just the opposite.

Our organization is certainly not against responsible management of the marine resources where reasonably current science shows action is needed to protect it. However, with the economy already responsible for a significant reduction in recreational pressure in the last year, and with the local catches remaining strong on a per trip basis indicating a healthy population of Grouper and especially ARS, we are of the opinion the proposed closure action is definitely unnecessary, unfounded and constitutes a substantial, negative economic impact to the region.

The FSFA would ask the Council to look at daily recreational limit reductions alternatives in conjunction with other actions such as commercial bag limits and at reducing the shrimping activity in the critical 70' to 200' depth ranges.

Sincerely,

David C. Werner  
FSFA Secretary  
[davewerner1@bellsouth.net](mailto:davewerner1@bellsouth.net)  
321-752-9955  
<[www.fsfaclub.org](http://www.fsfaclub.org)>



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

## PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

### Interim Rule - Red Snapper

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)

Jekyll Island, GA

DATE OF MEETING

March 5, 2009

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

Libby Felherston

TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)

727 895 2188

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

449 Central Ave Ste 200 St Petersburg FL 33701

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Ocean Conservancy

DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT?  
(PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY  
IF AVAILABLE)



YES



NO

(RS IR)

## Help red snapper survive

Chairman Duane Harris  
 South Atlantic Fishery Management Council  
 105 Demere Retreat Lane  
 St. Simons Island, GA 31522

Dear Chairman Harris,

I am writing to ask you and the Council to take immediate action to help restore a healthy red snapper population. Red snapper has been undergoing overfishing at 10 times the sustainable level for over 20 years. By requesting that the National Marine Fisheries Service implement an interim rule to close the red snapper fishery, the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council can take a critical step towards a long-term, science-based plan to end overfishing of red snapper.

Our region is shaped by its wealth of natural resources, including its fisheries. Healthy reef fish support a healthy economy through dive tourism and commercial and recreational fishing. The health of our coastal communities depends on ending overfishing and creating sustainable and profitable fisheries.

You and the Council have acted before to enact science-based fishery rules and I applaud your foresight. I hope you will continue on this track so we will reap the benefits of your decisions for years to come.

### Signed

	First Name	Last Name	City	State
1	Richard	Bergmann	Orlando	FL
2	Heather	Williams	Washington	DC
3	lydia	aletraris	athens	GA
4	Terry	Barham	Savannah	GA
5	Sharyn	Shubert	Naples	FL
6	Patricia	Wicks	Lake Worth	FL
7	Beverly	Nelmes	St. Petersburg	FL
8	David	Brodt	Plantation	FL
9	Kerri	Annis	St. Petersburg	FL
10	Edgar	Martinez	miami springs	FL
11	CATHY	NIEMAN	Weaverville	NC
12	Cristine	Saunders	Holly Hill	FL

13	Shannon	Ratterree	Chester	SC
14	Kevin	Bickers	Atlantic Beach	FL
15	robert	wolf	naples	FL
16	Janet	Moore	Gainesville	FL
17	Leda	Dunmire	Key Largo	FL
18	Jerome	Axelrod	Ormond Beach	FL
19	Chris	Gawle	Charlotte	NC
20	David	Wilkes	Smyrna	GA
21	sharon	collette	Athens	GA
22	Robert D.	Wilhoit	Palmrtto	FL
23	Donna	Newman	Raleigh	NC
24	peter	taylor	Salisbury	NC
25	I	Furgang	Coral Springs	FL
26	Jennifer	Weaver	Durham	NC
27	Doris	Murphy	Myrtle Beach	SC
28	Jack	Grup	Flat Rock	NC
29	john	lee	Inverness	FL
30	jesse	mullins	sarasota	FL
31	Karen	Turnbull	Punta Gorda	FL
32	Jason	Waldrop	Marietta	GA
33	Michael	Spino	Wesley Chapel	FL
34	martha	milne	Ft. Myers	FL
35	cara	schmidt	tucker	GA
36	Ann	Mcmartin	Asheville	NC
37	H.Marie	Ostrander	Fairview	NC
38	Ray	Cunningham	Grand Island	FL
39	Cassie	Gurganus	Big Pine Key	FL
40	candace	butler	quincy	FL
41	Howard	Petlack	Boyn ton	FL
42	Matthew	Forrister	Kennesaw	GA
43	Joanne	Bunch	Wake Forest	NC
44	DENA	GARCIA	Saint Cloud	FL
45	Ryan	Iacovacci	Tarpon Springs	FL
46	J	Alessi	Fort Pierce	FL

47	Sam	Herron, III	Venice	FL
48	Charles	Gray	Cary	NC
49	John	Michaels	Oviedo	FL
50	Gloria Ann	Callahan	Aiken	SC
51	Jami	Hatchell	Murrells Inlet	SC
52	shirley	copperman	tarpon springs	FL
53	Joan	Walker	Bell	FL
54	Ron	Lambe	Asheville	NC
55	Megan	Crotty	Pleasant Garden	NC
56	Diana	Donovan	Sarasota	FL
57	Gary	Scruggs	Newport	NC
58	CLAUDIA	SCHLEFSTEIN	PALM CITY	FL
59	liliana	lettieri	Atlanta	GA
60	Wanda	Webster	Largo	FL
61	David	Fowler	atlanta	GA
62	Ross	Kelsonpetit	Miami Beach	FL
63	Michael	Smith	Suwanee	GA
64	Douglas	Shumate	Warner Robins	GA
65	Tracy	Hannon	Melbourne Beach	FL
66	Rashima	Gordon	St Petersburg	FL
67	Tammy	Parks	Raleigh	NC
68	Josh	Eckerle	Lawrenceville	GA
69	sharman	colosetti	decatur	GA
70	Alexandra	Gordon	Miami	FL
71	debra	barry	jefferson	GA
72	Stephenie	Shepherd	St. Petersburg	FL
73	Audrey	Whitman	Atlanta	GA
		Castaneda-		
74	Kicab	Mendez	Chapel Hill	NC
75	Richard	Strowd	Chapel Hill	NC
76	KT	Rice	Tampa	FL
77	Jack	Lhasa	Wildwood	GA
78	Ben	Margolis	Carrboro	NC
79	Penny	Magnin	Savannah	GA



80	Gary	Grove	Goose Creek	SC
81	Donette	Erdmann	Austell	GA
82	Jane	Cone	Ruskin	FL
83	Danna	Williams	Athens	GA
84	Chad	Cooke	Jupiter	FL
85	Rebecca	Ryan	Orlando	FL
86	Gabriela	Borda de Hasty	Dudley	NC
87	mike	finocchiaro	savannah	GA
88	Justin	Dellinger	Shelby	NC
89	Ange	Martinez	Orlando	FL
90	Sandra	Beryle	Tamarac	FL
91	Michael	Wilson	Jacksonville	FL
92	Keith	Cutler	Wake Forest	NC
93	Elaine	Howes	Tampa	FL
94	Luiz	Rodrigues	Miami Beach	FL
95	Carol	Burke	Washington	NC
96	Victoria	Taylor	La Fayette	GA
97	karem	osores	orlando	FL
98	jamie	harrison	west palm beach	FL
99	Nelson J.	Mendoza	Raleigh	NC
100	todd	guerdat	raleigh	NC
101	Carol	Esco	McAlpin	FL
102	Ilana	Cohen	Maitland	FL
103	Theresa	Fazzari	Jupiter	FL
104	Kirsten	Acosta	Denver	CO
105	brianna	frachtman	Coral Springs	FL
106	Lara	Marshall	Boone	NC
107	John	Barfield	Atlanta	GA
108	Gloria	Shen	Asheville	NC
109	lyn	nelson	surfside	FL
110	Michael	Vecchio	Bradenton	FL
		Ogburn-		
111	Ginger	Matthews	Georgetown	SC
112	Richard	Pendarvis	Dahlonega	GA

113	Paul	Naylor, Ph.D.	Durham	NC
114	Dena	Mullen	West Palm Beach	FL
115	Barbara	Franklin	Miami	FL
116	Laura	McKee	Micco	FL
117	Harold	Sims, Ph.D.	Gulfport	FL
118	Ronald	Hammersley	Palm Bay	FL
119	Michelle	Fernandez	Windermere	FL
120	Andrea	Chisari	Titusville	FL
121	Meyer	Jordan	Pensacola	FL
122	chris	safos	hernando	FL
123	Basma	Mohammad	Durham	NC
124	Kenneth	Johnson	Boone	NC
125	Miriam	Espinoza	Miami	FL
126	Bonnie	Milam	Columbus	GA
127	Paul	Kent	Lakeland	FL
128	Sandra	Ericson	Davie	FL
129	Mario	Rivera	Winter Haven	FL
130	James	Cook	Athens	GA
131	Liz	Wildermann	Durham	NC
132	Cindy	Adkins	Port Orange	FL
133	Alessandro	Abate	Miami Springs	FL
134	John	Lambert	Spring Hill	FL
135	Diana	Prats	Miami	FL
136	Karin	Carlson	Apopka	FL
137	Sonia	Hernandez	North Redington Beach	FL
138	Sheena	Shumate	Warner Robins	GA
139	Michele	Jenkins	Palm Bay	FL
140	Amy	Bielawski	Tucker	GA
141	laurie	von dollen	naples	FL
142	Mary	Morales	NewPortRichey	FL
143	Bret	OConnor	Marietta	GA
144	Melissa	Bishop	Vero Beach	FL
145	Lisa	D'Antonio	Fort Lauderdale	FL

146	Karin	Braunsberger	Saint Petersburg	FL
147	sarah	robinson	Safety Harbor	FL
148	Gordon	Gerbitz	St Petersburg	FL
149	Ada	Vidal Beuno	Bradenton	FL
150	Jenny	Hamilton	Lithonia	GA
151	Patricia	Erwin	Duluth	GA
152	Anthony	D'Avanza Jr.	Tampa	FL
153	Kathy	Smith	Suwanee	GA
154	Barbara	Adler	Boynton Beach	FL
155	Keith	Wade	Indian Trail	NC
156	Paula	Stober	Greensboro	NC
157	Marybeth	Dugan	Durham	NC
158	Emily	Cowart	Savannah	GA
159	Lauren	Crosby	Irmo	SC
160	carolyn	applegate	palmetto	GA
161	Jennifer	Greeley	Norfolk	VA
162	Jon	Michael Riley	Fletcher	NC
163	Ed	Tichenor	Boynton Beach	FL
164	Vandy	Parker	Pompano Beach	FL
165	Jason	Hollington	Gainesville	FL
166	Sandy	Kicinski	Merritt Island	FL
167	Judy	Retzbach	Port Richey	FL
168	Greg	McMenamy	Atlanta	GA
169	Susan L D	Shamblin	Morganton	NC
170	Junius	Davis	Chapel Hill	NC
171	Rita	Malone	Sandy Springs	GA
172	Christina	Williams	Arnoldsville	GA
173	Ronald H.	Silver, C.E.P.	Atlantic Beach	FL
174	Michael	Molder	Newberry	SC
175	Margaret	Silver	Atlantic Beach	FL
176	Keith	Berger	Boca Raton	FL
177	Alisa	Battaglia	Hollywood	FL
178	Lyle	Page	Panama City Beach	FL
179	James	Sorells	Groveland	FL

180	theresa	finkbeiner	pensacola	FL
181	Megan	Mason	Clearwater	FL
182	Robert	Bixby	Greensboro	NC
183	Tymothy	Diaz	kissimmee	FL
184	Val	Marjoricastle	Inverness	FL
185	Helen	Drwinga	Apopka	FL
186	Deja	Lizer	Asheville	NC
187	Leonora	Xhrouet	davie	FL
188	parrish	Cooke	Orlando	FL
189	Nina	Fahnestock	Todd	NC
190	Warner	Smith	Charlotte	NC
191	John	Schumacher	Clearwater	FL
192	John	bailey	Tampa	FL
193	Susan	Knauer	Jacksonville	NC
194	Charlene	Inglis	Nokomis	FL
195	Deborah	Hollingsworth	Fort White	FL
196	Brigid	Spratt	Eastpoint	FL
197	Maureen	Burke	PBG	FL
198	Jerry	Banks	Decatur	GA
199	Alan	Kardoff	Palm Bay	FL
200	Mick	Whiting	Tampa	FL
201	David	Jenkins	Sarasota	FL
202	James	R. Haviland	Concord	NC
203	Debbie	Gill	Suwanee	GA
204	Jeannine	Cordak	Woodstock	GA
205	Patti	Thompson	Orlando	FL
206	Judith	Thompson	DeLand	FL
207	Nathan	Tyson	Cordele	GA
208	Ulana	Stuart	Chapel Hill	NC
209	Michael	Neary	Venice	FL
210	Kevin	McVan	Clearwater	FL
211	Michael J	Levas	FT LAUDERDALE	FL
212	Ken	Burleson	Hickory	NC
213	ruth	levow	west Palm Beach	FL

214	Barbara	Cade	Ranger	GA
215	Scott	Fontenot	Stone Mountain	GA
216	gillian	merlyn	roswell	GA
217	Susan	Edelstein	Cary	NC
218	nigel	saylor	kitty hawk	NC
219	Sharon	Campbell	DUNWOODY	GA
220	Fred	Ingle	Shelby	NC
221	Roxanne	Ganley	miami	FL
222	Karen	Willis	Durham	NC
223	Frank	McKinney	Boone	NC
224	Chris	McCarty	Highland Beach	FL
225	Marilyn	Meyer	Woodstock	GA
226	Ann	Sanchez	Mims	FL
227	ian	Corcoran	newnan	GA
228	Kim	Larsen	Rockledge	FL
229	Amanda	Larkin	Atlanta	GA
230	Judy	Cupp	Hope Mills	NC
231	mix	b	.	FL
232	George	Hagans	Durham	NC
233	Carol	Dodson	Columbia	SC
234	Gloria	Diggle	Fort White	FL
235	Rick	Smith	Shalimar	FL
236	Betty	Shipley	Crystal River	FL
237	alina	szostak	miami	FL
238	Carla	Shuford	Chapel Hill	NC
239	Peggy	Murray	Lake Worth	FL
240	Bonita	Gustafson	Sarasota	FL
241	Richard	Moore	Asheville	NC
242	Susan	Blunt	Miami	FL
243	Barbara	Pizzini	Fort Myers,	FL
244	Andres	Mejides	Homestead	FL
245	Ann	Fonfa	Delray Beach	FL
246	Thomas	Lewis	Brandon	FL
247	Michael	Duffey	Ft. Walton Beach	FL

248	Claudia	Miranda	Lake Mary	FL
249	David	Leithauser	Deland	FL
250	Bob	Dellinger	High Point	NC
251	David H and Betty	Batty	Avon Park	FL
252	Sherry	Hemphill	Jacksonville	FL
253	Dennis	Amaya	Davie	FL
254	kevin	murray	jensen beach	FL
255	Crystal	Von Kruger	Loxahatchee	FL
256	Lisa	Licolli	hollywood	FL
257	Alfred	Stokes	New Bern	NC
258	Gabriella	Otero	Orlando	FL
259	Rick	Siegert	Canton	GA
260	Kay	Sanders	Greensboro	NC
261	Michael	Wichman	Naples	FL
262	debbie	bullard	dawsonville	GA
263	Sharon	Barry	Palm Bay	FL
264	Emmett J.	Murphy	Bradenton	FL
265	mary	lewis	pensacola	FL
266	robert	taylor	brevard	NC
267	Joe	Moye	Tallahassee	FL
268	David	Miner	Bradenton	FL
		Elizabeth		
269	Meghan	Harding	Pacolet	SC
270	William	McVay	Hendersonville	NC
271	norma	fleischer	naples	FL
272	James	Stone	Santa Rosa Beach	FL
273	Guillermo	Martinez	Winter Springs	FL
274	Robert	Martineau	Melbourne	FL
275	Dr.Dorothy	Cinquemani	Largo	FL
276	Jean	Gilbert	Bonita Springs	FL
277	Janet	Robinson	Boca Raton	FL
278	Nancy	Wood	Vero Beach	FL
279	Clara Elsa	Perez	Hollywood	FL
280	Shannan	Johnson	Saint Cloud	FL

281	c	huber	Clearwater	FL
282	Anthony	Austin	Hubert	NC
283	Joe	Serpico	Clearwater	FL
284	Tina	Roberge	Islamorada	FL
285	Rita	Cassady	Fort Lauderdale	FL
286	phyl	dupret	Delray Beach	FL
287	Duane	Sebesta	Weston	FL
288	James	Sullivan	Asheville	NC
289	Joan	Dulberg	Raleigh	NC
290	karla	garcia	Miami	FL
291	suzanne	mccoll	wilmington	NC
292	babs	marchand	Naples	FL
293	Judi	Trecartin	Holiday	FL
294	terie	noah	carnesville	GA
295	Kathy	lucy	Decatur	GA
296	Stephanie	MORY	Seabrook	SC
297	Myriah	Shewchuk	Winterville	NC
298	cynthia	odierna	fl	FL
299	Heather	Hamlin	Gainesville	FL
300	Abby	Helfand	Marietta	GA
301	Debora	Stoll	Miami	FL
302	John	Chrystal	Belhaven	NC
303	Susan	Lander	Florence	SC
304	Karen	Fulmer-Scales	Asheville	NC
305	Diane	Tremblay	Holmes Beach	FL
306	ron	foster	easley	SC
307	Jordan	Veatch-Goffi	Dunedin	FL
308	Gail	Marsh	Durham	NC
309	robert w	svetlik	Palatka	FL
310	Ct	Tharp	Athens	GA
311	Linda	McGrail	Gainesville	FL
312	Tracey	Childers	Asheville	NC
313	Donald	Crosby	Tallahassee	FL
314	Brian	Naess	Snow Camp	NC

315	Karin	Hyer	Gainesville	FL
316	H	Hollon	Orl	FL
317	Chere	Force	Maitland	FL
318	rhea	moss	lake worth	FL
319	William	Stone	Carrboro	NC
320	Jacqueline	Waldrop	Jacksonville	NC
321	Tina	Theodore	Miami	FL
322	mike	wygant	tampa	FL
323	Susi	Haisty	Raleigh	NC
324	Mark	Jacim	Tampa	FL
325	Gerri	Reaves	Fort Myers	FL
326	Frank	hartig	Durham	NC
327	Arthur	French	Plantation	FL
328	francis	orozco	MIAMI	FL
329	Christina	Ospina	Charlotte	NC
330	walter	hamilton	tavernier	FL
331	Silvia	Hall	Boca Raton	FL
332	Nancy	O'Byrne	St. Augustine	FL
333	Randi	Rivenbark	Penrose	NC
334	R	Banks	Casselberry	FL
335	susan	raza	macon	GA
336	christa	fairbrother	Gulfport	FL
337	Rochelle	Abrams	Lantana	FL
338	Raymond	Collins	Miami	FL
339	Kathryn	Turk	Fuquay-Varina	NC
340	Colleen	Welch	Mooreville	NC
341	Francis	Horton	Statesville	NC
342	Joan	Hutton	Vero Beach	FL
343	Natalie	Mades	Lake Mary	FL
344	Ruth	Stambaugh	Black Mountain	NC
345	Stacey	Baker	Dallas	GA
346	Paxton	Robinson	Orlando	FL
347	Prentice	Outlaw	Seminole	FL
348	Sara	Woodruff	Savannah	GA



349	Lynne	Koenigsberg	Boca Raton	FL
350	Thomas	Poulson	Jupiter	FL
351	c	berry lee	Durham	NC
352	Craig	Kaitin	Fort Lauderdale	FL
353	Michael	Collier	Oakwood	GA
354	Siobhan	McLaughlin	Hollywood	FL
355	James	Rizzolo	Stuart	FL
356	Roberta	Richardson	Melbourne	FL
357	Susan	Thurairatnam	Rincon	GA
358	Gillian	Adam	Fort Lauderdale	FL
359	Gloria	Morotti	Bradenton	FL
360	Evelyn	Peoples Jordan	Panama City	FL
361	Sheri	Varner-Munt	Clayton	NC
362	John	Witmer	Clemson	SC
363	Connie	Skidmore	Waynesville	NC
364	Howard	Lee	Cedar Grove	NC
365	Neil	Kaplan	Hollywood	FL
366	Ed	Speir	Banner Elk	NC
367	Lauren	McGlynn, JD	Hillsborough	NC
368	Carlos	Schomaker	Fort Myers	FL
369	Sarah	Reynierson	Gainesville	FL
370	Steve	Levine	Tallahassee	FL
371	D.Dirk	Davenport	Port Charlotte	FL
372	Nancy	Moreland	South Miami	FL
373	Marilyn	Fishman	Hobe Sound	FL
374	Leo	Olson	Clearwater	FL
375	Roland	Neal	Sophia	NC
376	Richard	Rothstein	Miami	FL
377	catalina	rosas	ft. lauderdale	FL
378	Matthew	Tripp	Moore	SC
379	Sherry	Gumberg	Hollywood	FL
380	B.	Dawson	Key West	FL
381	Christine	Abdelmonem	Charlotte	NC
382	Sarah	Rickerby	Tampa	FL

383	Ruth	Miller	Chapel Hill	NC
384	Christopher	Galton	Myrtle Beach	SC
385	Susanne & Doug	Hesse & Dyer	Alachua	FL
386	Lee	Webber	Jupiter	FL
387	Karen	Meyer	Fleming Island	FL
388	Tom	Schoenherr	Douglasville	GA
389	Rick	Ulrich	Thomasville	GA
390	Claude	Morris	Efland	NC
391	Dale	Shero	Peachtree City	GA
392	Howard	Barrey	Kiawah Island	SC
393	Jennifer	Augstums	Floral City	FL
394	Daniel	Wagner	Melbourne	FL
395	Becky	Davis	Vilas	NC
396	sarah	Czaporowski	Myrtle Beach	SC
397	Jocelyn	Hyers	Statesboro	GA
398	David	Ho	West Palm Beach	FL
399	Shannon	Kanner	villa rica	GA
400	Jeaneane	Williams	Greensboro	NC
401	Danel	Dorsey	Rossville	GA
402	William	Hannah	Demorest	GA
403	Nellie	Lee	Miami	FL
404	Anne	Ake	Lynn haven	FL
405	robert	chamberlain	tobaccoville	NC
406	Drew	Martin	Lake Worth	FL
407	William	White	Fort Walton Beach	FL
408	Kani	Nicolls	Black Mountain	NC
409	david	poole	Alpharetta	GA
410	Alexandra	Wright	North Palm Beach	FL
411	Eddy	Hogan	Boone	NC
412	Lindsay	Addison	Naples	FL
413	Julian	Bubsey	Ft. Lauderdale	FL
414	laurence	skirvin	Villa Rica	GA
415	danny	rosen	atlanta	GA
416	celeste	henderson	jupiyer	FL

417	Bobby	Driggers	Warrenville	SC
418	caroline	cunningham	atlanta	GA
419	Teresa	Jaeger	Melbourne	FL
420	Joseph	Bail	clearwater	FL
421	bmclendon@tds.net	McLendon	Blairsville	GA
422	Leah	Honarbakhsh	Royal Palm Beach	FL
423	Robert	Wagner	Lawrenceville	GA
424	Rob	Temple	Atlanta	GA
425	Julie	Noel	Lake Worth	FL
426	kathleen	brinkman	greensboro	NC
427	Helen	Goldenberg	Tamarac	FL
428	David	Bernstein	Tallahassee	FL
429	Mary	Hostrup	Hollywood	FL
430	Debra	Raymond	Kannapolis	NC
431	Terrence	Logue	Pittsboro	NC
432	Linda	Baron	Atlanta	GA
433	Andrew	Schneider	Arroyo Grande	CA
434	Jennifer	Larkins	Wilmington	NC
435	Nancy	Feraldi	Fort Myers	FL
436	Lillian	Deslandes	Miami	FL
437	Firelei	Perla	Kissimmee	FL
438	Bert	Corley	Hanahan	SC
439	BRENDA	ROSECRANS	RIVERDALE	GA
440	Cheri	Riznyk	St. Petersburg	FL
441	John	Crisman	Jacksonville	FL
442	Tracy	Gang	Tamarac	FL
443	Amy	Sinyard	Hampton	GA
444	Francee	Levin	Columbia	SC
445	Richard	Kramer	Miami	FL
446	Sacha	Bastiaan	nijmegen	GA
447	Joanne	Kowal	Tallahassee	FL
448	Charles	Humphreys	Cape Coral	FL
449	Hal	Trufan	Charlotte	NC
450	Louise	Farm	Aventura	FL

451	Michael	Ott	Big Pine Key	FL
452	Shilpa	Shah	Chapel Hill	NC
453	R Chris	LaReau	Savannah	GA
454	Sharon	Schultz	Stone Mountain	GA
455	Wilson	McMullan	Ponte Vedra Beach	FL
456	Thomas	Hefner	Greensboro	NC
457	James	McCarthy	East Fort Myers	FL
458	M. Diane	Ryan	Orlando	FL
459	Robert	Apperson	Raleigh	NC
460	Sylvia	Worley	Loganville	GA
461	James	Miles	West Palm Beach,	FL
462	Krista	Lohr	Sarasota	FL
463	John	Franklin	Raleigh	NC
464	Dori	Cifelli	New Port Richey	FL
465	Harvey	Gilbert	Savannah	GA
466	Moon	Dance	Daytona Beach	FL
467	Theresa	Pedrotti	East Point	GA
468	David	Doub	East Bend	NC
469	miriam	figueroa	Jacksonville	NC
470	Peter	Lanzillotta	Charleston	SC
471	robert	stern	ft. Lauderdale	FL
472	mary	rorke	fayetteville	NC
473	David	Mikell	Johns Is.	SC
474	Ryan	Rohrbaugh	Fort Lauderdale	FL
475	Martha	Mills	Pittsboro	NC
476	Charlotte	Thomas	Lake Butler	FL
477	Claude	Higgins	Pompano beach	FL
478	Esther	Garvett	Miami	FL
479	Tyler	Yeargain	Oviedo	FL
480	Terry	Kight	Atlanta	GA
481	Marion	Hilliard	Orange Park	FL
482	Fred W,	Sorard	Orlando	FL
483	Bill	Carlson	Otto	NC
484	Rebecca	Mazzarella	Miami	FL

485	Ronnie	Presley	Asheville	NC
486	Rachel	Parnell	New Bern	NC
487	Tamah	Lettieri	Deerfield Beach	FL
488	kevin	kinnebrew	tequesta	FL
489	Julie	Oster	Tallahassee	FL
490	kelly	simpson	wilmington	NC
491	Laura	Guttridge	Vero Beach	FL
492	Beth	Schramm	St Petersburg	FL
493	Donna	Sasso	Atlanta	GA
494	Gary	Gladhill	Pinecraft	FL
495	Suzanne	Valencia	West Melbourne	FL
496	Myra	Hefner	Vero Beach	FL
497	Ira	Goldman	Athens	GA
498	john	cielukowski	cocoa beach	FL
499	debbie	meerbott	miami	FL
500	carol	peterson	lakeland	FL
501	lucy	venable	Clarkesville	GA
502	Robert	Keiser	S. Miami	FL
503	Kathy	Kent	Titusville	FL
504	Lora	Smith	Bunnell	FL
505	Gesa	Adrianace	Cary	NC
506	marilyn & tom	finelli	APOPKA	FL
507	Ruben	Giral	Hillsborough	NC
508	Marlene	Pendergast	miami beach	FL
509	Shawn	Lyon	Orlando	FL
510	david	robertson	atl	GA
511	Martha	Morales	North Bay Villagen	FL
512	James	Sullivan	Homestead	FL
513	ronnie	apfel	Delray Beach	FL
514	Tina	Bowman	Ponte Vedra Beach	FL
515	Judith	Ford	Hollywood	FL
516	Christina	BAiley	Smyrna	GA
517	John	Dainotto	Charlotte	NC
518	rita	Whalen	Largo	FL

519	Susan	McDavit	Sarasota	FL
		Nadelman,		
520	Fred	LMSW	Savannah	GA
521	Grace	Wong	Miramar	FL
522	Alexandra	Burt	Pembroke Pines	FL
523	Jennifer	Morgan	Saint Cloud	FL
524	Greg	Smith	Bluffton	SC
525	Bonnie	Barfield	Smyrna	GA
526	Marguerite	Loddengaard	Hillsborough	NC
527	Jan	Cioci	Naples	FL
528	Suzan	Bekiroglu	Spring Hill	FL
529	Meredith	Green	Charlotte	NC
530	Dave	Anderson	Palm Harbor	FL
531	wendy	greer	fort lauderdale	FL
	Gerald and Louise			
532	Rose	Blume	Clermont	GA
533	kenneth	knoppik	Boca Raton	FL
534	Kathleen	Spinks	Gainesville	FL
535	Susan	Hough	Canton	GA
536	Guy	Johnson	Gainesville	FL
537	Harriet	Mathis	Fort Lauderdale	FL
538	EDITH	ROSE CHAMBERS	ETOWAH	NC
539	Carol	Rosas	Forest Hills	FL
540	Sherry	Sprinkles	High Point	NC
541	Mr. & Mrs	Brown	Summerland	FL
542	carla	cowgill	haines city	FL
543	Mary	Wigerman	Gray Court	SC
544	Kathleen	Shopa	Pt. Charlotte	FL
545	Daryl	Johnson	Pompano Beach	FL
546	Jane	Gilbert	Miami	FL
547	Zobeda	fernandez-cook	Jacksonville	FL
548	Stephenie	Owen	Miami	FL
549	Chuck	Danielian	Naples	FL
550	Anne	Curran	Sarasota	FL
551	Deborah	Cruze	Alpharetta	GA

552	Carlene	Edwards	Big Pine Key	FL
553	Lori	Ottlein	Flagler Beach	FL
554	James	Klich II	Charlotte	NC
555	mary	dickensheets	savannah	GA
556	Toni	Garmon	Dawsonville	GA
557	Gregory	Austin	Charlotte	NC
558	J.W.F.	Holliday	Myrtle Beach	SC
559	Constance	Mainwaring	Stuart	FL
560	Joy	Henriques	Selma	NC
561	Jayne	Dellera	Marietta	GA
562	Georgia	Tasker	Miami	FL
563	Gilbert	Williams	Spring Hill	FL
564	Michael	Adler	Gainesville	FL
565	melissa	warrenburg	atlanta	GA
566	D.	Doran	St. Augustine	FL
567	Kathy	Crosby	Raleigh	NC
568	Todd	Dripps	Palm City	FL
569	Sandra	Schultz	Miami	FL
570	Tommy	Robinson	Jacksonville	FL
571	Carol	Brizzi	Newnan	GA
572	S.	Cole	Woodstock	GA
573	Rita	Lawrence	Gainesville	FL
574	Russ	Seekatz	Atlanta	GA
575	Darleen	Hogg	Zephyrhills	FL
576	Cynthia	Grossman	Durham	NC
			Daytona Beach	
577	Alexa	Ross	Shores	FL
578	Sarah	Larsen	Estero	FL
579	Julie	Nelson	Asheville	NC
580	Jill	Sheridan	Jupiter	FL
581	Wendy	Watson	Deltona	FL
582	Bob	Mazza	Saint Johns	FL
583	Jane	MacCutcheon	Raleigh, NC	NC
584	GERHARD	FORSTER	PLANTATION	FL

585	Alisandra	Edwards	Davie	FL
586	Ray	Collins	The Villages	FL
587	Karen	Munro	Greer	SC
588	Robert	Howland	Weaverville	NC
589	janet	collins	rome	GA
590	Grover	Mims	Winston Salem	NC
591	Stephen	Killian	Lincolnton	NC
592	Barbara	Rystrom	Aiken	SC
593	Joan	Keto	New Bern	NC
594	Judy	Nickerson	Roswell	GA
595	Charlie	Day	Tampa	FL
596	Alice	Chan	Cooper City	FL
597	Marie	Choiniere	Graham	NC
598	Naomi	Greenfield	Sunrise	FL
599	Elizabeth	Turner	Hanahan	SC
600	eric	rohrig	gainesville	FL
601	Carolyn	Buckner	Chapel Hill	NC
602	Matthew	Brady	Lafayette	CO
603	Peter	Bromer	Miami	FL
604	katherine	moore	Blue Ridge	GA
605	Laurel	Stanley	Middleburg	FL
606	Kim	Lines	Ft. Lauderdale	FL
607	Janet	Berry	Apopka	FL
608	brandi	honeycutt	Denver	CO
609	Gloria	Figueredo	Coconut grove	FL
610	Weldon	Lockerman	Rougemont	NC
611	Karen	Martin	Homestead	FL
		Smallwood-		
612	Sandra	Beltran	Miami	FL
613	Andrew	Foertsch	Saint Petersburg	FL
614	Lynn	Harding	Sarasota	FL
615	Brian	Mealey	Palmetto Bay	FL
616	Ana	Bikic	miami	FL
617	Jeanne	LaStella	Charlotte	NC



618	Lee	Patrizzi	Chuluota	FL
619	Kelly	McCarthy	tampa	FL
620	Karen	Bryant	Wilmington	NC
621	ann	houston	chapel hill	NC
622	Ivey	Emanuel	Columbia	SC
623	ronald	stayton	miami springs	FL
624	Ellen	Meyer	Shoreline	WA
625	Emily	Coleman	Orlando	FL
626	Ronald	Bowen III	St. Pete Beach	FL
627	Leanne	Walker	Clearwater	FL
628	Melinda	Henderson	naples	FL
629	Stephanie	Jackson	Summerville	SC
630	gabrielle	smith	bunnell	FL
631	Christy	Hackman	Riverview	FL
632	Terry	Vogt	Brooks	GA
633	Samantha	Sayer	Atlanta	GA
634	Jennifer	Otting	Panama City	FL
635	Tara	Hottenstein	Gulfport	FL
636	Donna	Selquist	Port St Lucie	FL
637	Beverly	Hollingsworth	Savannah	GA
638	ROBERT	HASTY	DUDLEY	NC
639	Andrea	Wildner	Miami	FL
640	Lee	Kronick	Tamarac	FL
641	Alek	Williams	new smyrna beach	FL
642	Arthur	Krauser	Miami	FL
643	Nancy	Draper	Pompano Beach	FL
644	Kenneth	Kazmerski	Cocoa Beach	FL
645	Laura	Carpenter	Charlotte	NC
646	alan	strowd	tallahassee	FL
647	Sandra	Hays	Pelham	NC
648	Richard	Moore	Hollywood	FL
649	Colleen	McGlone	New Port Richey	FL
650	Jane	Lareau	Mount Pleasant	SC
651	Carson	Rhodes	Tarboro	NC

652	Christi	Dillon	Mooreville	NC
653	Mark	Yelton	Charlotte	NC
654	Diane	Jalbert	Atlanta	GA
655	Mark	Brown	North Charleston	SC
656	Wick	Workman	Lakeland	FL
657	Art	Meeder	Bluffton	SC
658	Whitney	Hawks	Titusville	FL
659	Jean	Wheelock	Marietta	GA
660	Claudia	Van Bumble	Garner	NC
661	Summer	Mitchell	Jacksonville Beach	FL
662	Dorotha	Wolfe	Boca Raton	FL
663	nick	motluck	bluffton	SC
664	Krisallen	Bean	Marietta	GA
665	Alex	Netherton	Asheville	NC
666	Jenell	Holden	Scottdale	GA
667	Kathy	McGRogan	Georgetown	SC
668	Lilian	Norris	Palm Harbor	FL
669	Karen	Clarke	North Charleston	SC
670	Anya	Martin	Decatur	GA
671	Laina	Valentine	Norcross	GA
672	alexandra	price	douglasville	GA
673	Jeff	thomas	Fairburn	GA
674	Linda	Johnson	Asheville	NC
675	Terry	Prather	Morrison	FL
676	Shayne	Giacoboni	vero	FL
677	Michael	DeLoye	Boynton Beach	FL
678	Katherine	Walsh	Tampa	FL
679	Jacqueline	Eckert	Jacksonville	FL
680	Patricia	Reber	Milton	GA
681	Christina	Begley	Deerfield Beach	FL
682	martin	slater	tamarac	FL
683	Leslie	Whaylen	Key Largo	FL
684	janis	epton	raleigh	NC
685	Bob	Steele	Orlando	FL

686	joyce	britcher	miramar	FL
687	Robert	Caine	Atlanta	GA
688	matthew	schwab	kissimmee	FL
689	Harry	S. Marcus	Venice	FL
690	Nancy	Rodlun	Apopka	FL
691	Donna	Reynolds	Lake Helen	FL
692	Suzy	Siegmann	Temple Terrace	FL
693	Sharon	Rich	South Daytona	FL
694	Alan	Somers	Newberry	FL
695	Donna	Gray	Brooksville	FL
696	Judith	Sockloff	Pinecrest	FL
697	john	whitehead	Camp Hill	PA
698	Nancy	Witham	Fort Myers Beach	FL
699	Kim	Shiver	Columbia	SC
700	James	Kotlaba	Casselberry	FL
701	Kathy	Kirkland	Key West	FL
702	Janine	Gedmin	Key West	FL
703	Stephen	Gerwer	Port St. Lucie	FL
704	Gloria	Donn	Tamarac	FL
705	Jean	Arnold	Deltona	FL
706	Michael	Schaper	Conyers	GA
707	Linda	Exum	Watkinsville	GA
708	DAVID	MAZURE	mars Hill	NC
709	Christopher	Sego	Ocoee	FL
710	Shirley	Foster	Bradenton	FL
711	Sara Jane	Bush	Nokomis	FL
712	Walter	Holdsworth	Clearwater	FL
713	Bill	Russell	Isle of Palms	SC
714	Gladys	Cattanach	Kernersville	NC
715	Laura	McLeod	Irmo	SC
716	Michael	Heaney	Raleigh	NC
717	Doug	Landau	St. Petersburg	FL
718	Paul	Hawkins	Brevard	NC
719	Adria	Siraco	Port ST Lucie	FL

720	Michelle	Inere	Pensacola	FL
721	Rachel	Neff	Franklin	NC
722	Caroline	Luley	Cocoa Beach	FL
723	christopher	kording	hollywood	FL
724	Phyllis	Hasty	Snellville	GA
725	Diane	Campion	Miami Beach	FL
726	Steve	Nelson	Atlanta	GA
727	John	Harold	Chapel Hill	NC
728	Alberto	Rivera	Clermont	FL
729	Jacqueline	Robinson	Powder Springs	GA
730	Vince	L	oviedo	FL
731	Harriet	Mills	Sandy Springs	GA
732	David Reid	Wiseman	Isle Of Palms	SC
733	gabriela	monge	miami	FL
734	Bob	Peoples	Hillsborough	NC
735	Lanette	Rapp	Leesburg	FL
736	DANA	MOLINA	West Palm Beach	FL
737	George	Michaux	Vero Beach	FL
738	Dena	Bullard	Wilmington	NC
739	Taylor	Gillespie	Mount Pleasant	SC
740	Alfred	Montgomery	Doraville	GA
741	Kimberly	Hurt	Clayton	NC
742	Lara	Warman	Washington	DC
743	Patty	Kusmierski	Summerland Key	Georgia
744	Claudia	von Grunebaum	Winston-Salem	NC
745	Chadwick	Hagan		
746	sharon	collette	Athens	GA
747	Hilary	Macenas	Raleigh	NC
748	Michael	Watts	Greensboro	NC
749	j	trent	landrum	SC
750	Ioannis	Batsios Jr.	Winston-Salem	NC
751	Donna	Davenport	Decatur	GA
752	William	Rogers	Rock Hill	SC
753	Robert	Bradley	Sumter	SC

754	Mark	Erskine	Spring Lake	NC
755	Carol	Gilligan	Covington	GA
756	Ben	Margolis	Carrboro	NC
757	Shireen	Nelson	St Stephen	SC
758	Danna	Williams	Athens	GA
759	melanie	vazquez	shallotte	NC
760	Penny	Farrow		
761	linda	ricks	Beaufort	NC
762	Deborah	Burnett	Goldsboro	NC
763	Melba	Ridgway	Atlanta	GA
764	Chip	Berning	Hendersonville	NC
765	Gloria	Shen	Asheville	NC
766	Cathy	Brunick	Charlotte	NC
767	Patty	Taylor	Elkin	NC
768	Stephen	Van Vuuren	Greensboro	NC
769	Naomi	Harel	Clayton	NC
770	Willie	Hinze	Winston Salem	NC
771	Roger	Pruitt	McDonough	GA
772	Kelly	Malloy	Kill Devil Hills	NC
773	Amy	Samonds	Edisto Island	SC
774	Patrick Anthony	Drake	Lithonia	GA
775	Denise	Garrett	Clover	SC
776	Robert	Bell III	Chapel Hill	NC
777	Ron	Thigpen	Raleigh	NC
778	Laurie	Brown	Powder Springs	GA
779	Ricky	Howard	Wilmington	NC
780	Susan	Hough	Canton	GA
781	Bonnie	Scrudato	Myrtle Beach	SC
782	Elaine	McCall	Decatur	Georgia
783	Peter	Coyle	Delray Beach	FL
784	Mary	Lash	Piedmont	SC
785	deb	bialeschki	Durham	NC
786	Debra	Raymond	Kannapolis	NC
787	Tom	Schoenherr	Douglasville	GA

788	Holly	Clark	Concord	NC
789	Angela	McWilliams	Barnardsville	NC
790	Alicia	Barnes	Pawleys Island	SC
791	William	Mcvay	Hendersonville	NC
792	cynthia	geiger		
793	Larry	Williamson	Greenville	SC
794	Tonya	Graney	Atlanta	GA
795	Michael	Molder	Newberry	SC
				South
796	Louis	Rhodes	Bluffton	Carolina
797	Lucy	Roache	Roswell	GA
798	melissa	paven	marietta	GA
799	anne	yates	Raleigh	NC
800	Stephen	Thomason	Atlanta,	GA
801	Mikasa	Moss	Temple	GA
802	Hyman	Freilich	Boca Raton	FL
803	Dana	Beach		SC
804	Layla	Holguin-Messner	Stone Mountain	GA
805	Margaret	Van Dyk	Sugar Grove	NC
806	Tim	Leighton	Charlotte	NC
807	Adele	Kushner	Alto	GA
808	Di	Inscoe	Wilmington	NC
809	Amie	Mccook	ATHENS	GA
810	Robert	Wagner	Lawrenceville	GA
811	Chris	Shaw	Jackson	GA
812	Meghan	Prior	Winston Salem	NC
813	JR	Stratton	Greensboro	NC
814	Susan	Yarnell	Chapel Hill	NC
815	Maya	Ahuja	Atlanta	GA
816	Jessie	Furman	ATLANTA	GA
817	Timothy	Strong	Hickory	NC
818	Stewart	Wilber	Alpharetta	GA
819	Mark	Miles	Mebane	NC
820	Ronald H.	Silver, C.E.P.	Atlantic Beach	FL

821	Margaret	Silver	Atlantic Beach	FL
822	Andy	Lynn	douglasville	GA
823	Steven	Handwerker	Boca Raton	FL
824	Megan	Crotty	Pleasant Garden	NC
825	Malia	Mccaffrey	Myrtle Beach	SC
826	Matt	Wiles	Wilmington	NC
827	Sue	Elsasser	Tega Cay	SC
828	Donette	Erdmann	Austell	GA
829	Wendy	Bobadilla	Columbia	SC
830	Michael	Trescott	Matthews	NC
831	Betty	Abadia	New Bern	NC
832	Emily	Dale	Franklin	NC
833	Kori	mulholland	Boca Raton	FL
834	Marvin	Soroos	Raleigh	NC
835	Penny	Atkins	Pawleys Isl	SC
836	Melanie	Smith	Raleigh	NC
837	Howard	Bakken	Hendersonville	NC
838	Mary	Pope	Surfside	SC
839	Tam	Mossman	Marietta	GA
840	Tina M.	Brown	Roswell	GA
841	Margo	Raprager	Franklinton	NC
842	Diane	Jalbert	Atlanta	GA
843	Robert	McGee	Kinston	NC
844	Sandra	Stimpson	Peachtree City	GA
845	Michael	Johnson		
846	Scott	Myers	Powder Springs	GA
847	Natalie	Taylor	Raleigh	NC
848	Carolyn	Buckner	Chapel Hill	NC
849	Lisa	Freeman	Atlanta	GA
850	Lindsey	As	Boca Raton	FL
851	Letitia	Yarborough	Wilmington	NC
852	Barbara	Pringle	Efland	NC
853	Linda	Bowerman	Chapel Hill	NC
854	Stephanie	Mory	Seabrook	SC

855	Walter	Hewett	Wilmington	NC
856	Lynn	Sajdak	Smyrna	GA
857	Robert	McGahey	Burnsville	NC
858	Nadine	Blancato	Huntersville	NC
859	Cynthia	Nolen	Charleston	SC
860	Dana	Burger	Alpharetta	GA
861	Constance	Merwin	Charleston	SC
862	Marilyn	Meyer	Woodstock	GA
863	Don	Richardson	Brevard	NC
864	Patti	Eberhart	Fayetteville	GA
865	Joyce	Pusel	Durham	NC
866	Michael	Ebner	Cornelius	NC
867	Nancy	Newberry	Burnsville	NC
868	Laura	Schild		
869	Stephanie	Jackson	Summerville	SC
870	Gordon	Feighner	Durham	NC
871	Michael	Parker	Lake Park	GA
872	Lisa	Goodman	Savannah	GA
873	David	Fairall	Clemmons	NC
874	Alexandra	Lovinger	Atlanta	GA
875	Ann	Fonfa	Delray Beach	FL
876	Brittany	Brien	Hilton Head	SC
877	Sheri	Varner-Munt	Clayton	NC
878	Adam	Shay	Wilmington	NC
879	Kathleen	Brinkman	Greensboro	NC
880	Amelia	Fusaro	Altanta	GA
881	Ruth	Miller	Chapel Hill	NC
882	Jeanette	Jackson	Raleigh	NC
883	Jambrina	Sakellaropoulo	Charlotte	NC
884	Elisha	Passafero	Mc Cormick	SC
885	Lauren	Weisman	Duluth	GA
886	Charlotte	Steele	Irmo	SC
887	Christopher	Galton	Myrtle Beach	SC
888	Gayle	Stalker	Hubert	NC



		Brenner	Chapel Hill	NC
889	Rebekah	McLendon	Blairsville	GA
890	Barbara	McCullough	Chapin	SC
891	William	Grainey	Savannah	GA
892	Philip	Tolbert	Acworth	GA
893	T.	Mossman	Marietta	GA
894	Tam	Barrett	Garner	NC
895	Carolyn	Darr	High Point	NC
896	Dorothy	Williams	Arnoldsville	GA
897	Christina	stauffer	winston	GA
898	linda	Amerson	Savannah	GA
899	Angie	Thompson	Boca Raton	FL
900	Marie	Ferrell	cornelius	NC
901	Teresa	Charles	Fort Mill	SC
902	Stanley	Rhodes	Tarboro	NC
903	Carson	Crosby	Irmo	SC
904	Lauren	Hall	Albany	GA
905	Dinorah	Barfield	Atlanta	GA
906	John	Darby Jr	Savannah	GA
907	James	Sechi	Dallas	GA
908	Laura	Cousineau		
909	Karin	Lizer	Asheville	NC
910	Deja	Johnson	Kill Devil Hills	NC
911	Martha	Barbeau	Boca Raton	FL
912	Alexis	Allen	Raleigh	NC
913	Tracey	Greenberg		
		Freilich	Roswell	GA
914	Daphne and Steven	Hawkins	Brevard	NC
915	Paul	Raczynski	Saint Simons Island	GA
916	Dave	Tucker	Smyrna	GA
917	Theo	Washowich	Woodstock	GA
918	Todd	Bryant	Wilmington	NC
919	Karen	Whetstone	Greenville	NC
920	Tony	Naylor	Hilton Head Island	SC
921	William			

922	Gerald	Blume	Clermont	GA
923	Mary	Wigrman	gray Court	SC
924	Gerald	Blume	Clermont	GA
925	Brian	Kirsch	Elgin	SC
926	Mary	Owens	Warner Robins	GA
927	Karen	Boesch	Forsyth	GA
928	Sharon	Russick	Boca Raton	FL
929	Leslie	Lord	Athens	GA
930	Andrea	Fowler	Avondale Estates	GA
931	Kathryn	Buttles	Franklin	NC
932	Theresa	Perenich	Athens	GA
933	June	Cattell	West Columbia	SC
934	De	Bush	Moscow	ID
935	Lorraine	MacArtor	Fayetteville	NC
936	Audra	Guecia	Charlotte	NC
937	carol	strom	winston-salem	NC
938	Kathy	Crosby	Raleigh	NC
939	Erica	Luckstead	Greensboro	NC
940	Carolyn	Turner	Bailey	NC
941	Eamon	Holmes	Huntersville	NC
942	JAN	TURNER	savannah	GA
943	Toni	Garmon	Dawsonville	GA
944	Deborah	Burroughs	Edenton	NC
945	Kiara	Jackson	Winston-Salem	NC
946	C	Tharp	Athens	GA
947	berry	lee	Durham	NC
948	Kyle	Embler	Atlanta	GA
949	Michael	Collier	Oakwood	GA
950	Becky	Davis	Vilas	NC
951	Bonnie	Barfield	Smyrna	GA
952	Carolyn	Greer	Broxton	GA
953	Deanka	Grisham	Jonesboro	GA
954	Phyllis	Hasty	Snellville	GA
955	Kassandra	Tuten		

956	Donald	Adair	Charlotte	NC
957	Dawn	Cason	Powder Springs	GA
958	Suzanne	Cox	Myrtle Beach	SC
959	Marie	Dervartanian	Athens	GA
960	Maureen	Nichols	Durham	NC
961	Cindy	Danan	Boca Raton	FL
962	Lynn	Elliott	Durham	NC
963	Connie	Raper	Durham	NC
964	Libby	Cook-Carlton	Boomer	NC
965	Laksh	Thadani	Atlanta	GA
966	Julianne	Berckman	Lexington	NC
967	Frances	Cone	Pawleys Island	SC
968	Jennifer	Cavarra	Mableton	GA
969	Allyn	Schneider	Hilton Head	SC
970	Gerald	Blume	Clermont	GA
971	Adele	Kushner	Alto	GA
972	David	Mazure	Mars Hill	NC
973	John	Helms		
974	James	Farley	Raeford	NC
975	Kimberly	Harper	Sneads Ferry	NC
976	Deborah	Haithcox	Statesville	NC
977	Steven	Nelson	Atlanta	GA
978	Kelly	Thorvalson		



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To Whom It May Concern, SAFMC

The purpose of this note is to provide the position of the Florida Sport Fishing Association (FSFA), a 41 year old organization with over 170 family memberships headquartered in Cape Canaveral, Florida. This position is in regard to the subject of the SAFMC meeting to be held March 2-6, 2009 in Jekyll Island, GA.

The proposal for a period shut down of the recreational season on shallow water Grouper and American Red Snapper in the south Atlantic is not only unnecessary (based on member per trip catch experience) but unfairly penalizes the recreational fisherman and the entire related economy at a time when the stocks are steady, even increasing, and when the east Florida coast economy does not need a further negative hit enacted by an agency for the same government that is distributing billions of dollars in an attempt to do just the opposite.

Our organization is certainly not against responsible management of the marine resources where reasonably current science shows action is needed to protect it. However, with the economy already responsible for a significant reduction in recreational pressure in the last year, and with the local catches remaining strong on a per trip basis indicating a healthy population of Grouper and especially ARS, we are of the opinion the proposed closure action is definitely unnecessary, unfounded and constitutes a substantial, negative economic impact to the region.

The FSFA would ask the Council to look at daily recreational limit reductions alternatives in conjunction with other actions such as commercial bag limits and at reducing the shrimping activity in the critical 70' to 200' depth ranges.

Sincerely,

David C. Werner  
FSFA Secretary  
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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201  
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

## PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

### Fishery Ecosystem Plan

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)

Jekyll Island, GA

DATE OF MEETING

March 5, 2009

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

Margot Stiles

TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)

202 833 3900

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

1350 Connecticut AVE NW <sup>5th floor</sup> Washington DC 20036

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Oceana

DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT?  
(PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY  
IF AVAILABLE)



YES



NO



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NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

## PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

### Fishery Ecosystem Plan

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)

Jekyll Island, GA

DATE OF MEETING

March 5, 2009

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

Scott Emmerson (Exec. Director)

TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)

305 619 0039

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

PO Box 501404 Meridian, FL 33050

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

FL Keys Commercial Fishermen's Assoc.

DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT?  
(PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY  
IF AVAILABLE)



YES



NO

and discuss the Gulf Council's timing for work on this amendment and then to report back to the committee in June of 2009 and further staff direction to contact the State of Florida representatives concerning the schedule for a stock assessment update and report back to the committee in June of 2009 and to develop a detailed decision document for use at the June 2009 committee meeting that begins to evaluate the alternatives to be included. The motion carried on page 90.

PAGE 91: Motion to support the EFP request from the North Carolina Aquarium. The motion carried on page 91.

PAGE 91: Motion to recommend approval of the Tom Burgess/Paul Rudershausen EFP request. The motion carried on page 91.

PAGE 97: Motion that the South Atlantic Council draft a letter to the Governor of North Carolina outlining the importance and utility of North Carolina's Fishery Resource Grant Program to the efforts of the council. The motion carried on page 97.