



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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June 10, 2010

Dr. Robert Shipp, Chair
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
2203 N Lois Avenue, Suite 1100
Tampa, Florida 33607

Dear Bob,

During the June 7-11th meeting, the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (South Atlantic Council) discussed the black grouper stock assessment and the recommendations from the respective Councils' SSCs. The South Atlantic Council decided to include the ABC control rule and ABC recommendation developed by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council's (Gulf of Mexico Council) SSC as an alternative for black grouper in their Comprehensive ACL Amendment.

The assessment treated the Gulf and South Atlantic management units as a single stock rather than provide separate assessments for each of the two management units. Therefore, the ABC applies across jurisdictions. The South Atlantic Council believes both Councils must agree to a jurisdictional allocation for the Gulf and South Atlantic. The South Atlantic Council respectfully requests that the Gulf of Mexico Council consider the following formula when discussing the percentage split between the two Councils:

Allocation by jurisdiction = $(0.5 * \text{catch history}) + (0.5 * \text{current trend})$ whereby, catch history = 1986 onward, current trend = 2006-2008 for this amendment, and 3 years rolling forward for future amendments addressing black grouper.

Sincerely,

Duane Harris
Chairman

cc: Council Members and Staff
Monica Smit-Brunello
Dr. Bonnie Ponwith
Dr. Steve Bortone