

SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

GOLDEN CRAB COMMITTEE

**Doubletree by Hilton New Bern/Riverfront
New Bern, North Carolina**

December 4, 2014

SUMMARY MINUTES

Golden Crab Committee:

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Chester Brewer
Mark Brown

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Chris Conklin
Charlie Phillips
Dr. Wilson Laney

Mel Bell
Zack Bowen
Jack Cox
Doug Haymans

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Dr. Kari MacLauchlin
Kim Iverson
Julie O'Dell
Myra Brouwer

Gregg Waugh
John Carmichael
Amber Von Harten
Dr. Mike Errigo
Dr. Brian Chevront
Chip Collier

Observers/Participants:

Monica Smit-Brunello
Bonnie Ponwith
Tracy Dunn

Kevin Anson
Dr. Jack McGovern
Pres Pate

Additional Observers Attached

The Golden Crab Committee of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council convened in the Grand Ballroom of the Doubletree by Hilton New Bern/Riverfront, New Bern, North Carolina, December 4, 2014, and was called to order at 3:00 o'clock p.m. by Chairman Ben Hartig.

MR. HARTIG: I would like to convene the Golden Crab Committee. The first order of business is the approval of the agenda. Are there any additions to the agenda? Seeing none; the agenda is approved.

The next order of business is approval of the September 2014 Golden Crab Minutes. Are there any changes, deletions or additions to the minutes? Seeing none; the minutes are approved. That is brings us to the status of commercial catches versus the ACL for golden crab.

DR. CHEUVRONT: The golden crab landings, right now there are at 576,698 pounds, which is roughly 29 percent of the 2 million pound ACL. You have to remember, though, lots of times we don't get the logbooks back from these guys until they're renewing their permits. It is really hard at this point to be able to project the future as to exactly what the final status of landings is going to be.

In talking with Jack about this is that they're hoping with the dealer requirement improvements; that they're going to see more timeliness I think in the reporting of these landings in the future. This is one fishery where it is really hard right now to be able to get an accurate in-season account of what is going on.

MR. HARTIG: Any questions of Brian about the landing levels for golden crab? Seeing none; that brings to discussion of Generic AM and Dolphin Allocation Amendment, Attachments 1, 2, 3; overview from Brian.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Okay, I think you all were involved in everything earlier today; so you've heard all the discussion on this amendment. I'm going to review a couple of things that are really rather pertinent for golden crab and give you opportunities to make motions as you see fit. We've got the purpose and need for actions here.

Like I said, this morning you all reviewed this at the September meeting and didn't make any changes; but I figured if there was any reason for you to make change, this is going to be it because hopefully we're voting on shipping this thing off for secretarial review fairly shortly. If anybody wants to take another whack at the purpose and need, now is the time to do it.

MR. HARTIG: There wasn't anything this morning –

DR. CHEUVRONT: No, there was nothing this morning.

MR. HARTIG: – that would make us change the purpose and need at this time; that is what I wanted to know.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Right; and I just figured I've got to let this committee have its turn, too. Now, remember, this amendment has two actions in it; one of them which is dolphin, and it is

not really particularly relevant to the golden crab folks; so we probably don't need to really discussion that action here.

The first action I need to talk to you a little bit about because we made a couple of motions this morning about it. One was some language changes that need to occur in the action. This morning the Joint Snapper Grouper and Dolphin Wahoo Committees made a recommendation to remove red snapper from the amendment.

I was just going to let you know you don't need to make that motion at all; that is taken care of there. There are some wording changes. One of the wording changes that we have is that in Alternative 2, where we discussed when the commercial ACL is set to be met, the regional administrator shall publish a notice to close the commercial sector; and we added in the wording this morning "or quota component". We talked about this.

This is in relation specifically to golden tilefish; and we need to be able to go back through the document later on and make that wording change there. If you look at Subalternative 2A, "If the commercial ACL is exceeded, the regional administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the commercial ACL in the following fishing year by the amount of the commercial overage only if the species is overfished"; and then the language was added this morning "or one or more species in the species complex is overfished".

That was something that was added this morning. Additionally, direction was given to staff to add the word "preferred" before Alternative 2 and Alternative 3. Preferred Alternative 4; there is actually a Preferred Subalternative 4B that really pertains to the recreational fisheries. Since there isn't a recreational fishery for golden crab, this is really not terribly relevant for discussions here in this committee.

That is a summary of the language changes. Now, since it has already been recommended by the Joint Dolphin Wahoo and Snapper Grouper Committee, it is going to happen unless you disagree with it. If there are any other language changes you would like to see or you would disagree with some of the ones that were done this morning, now would be the time to talk about that.

MR. HARTIG: Thank you, Brian, for that explanation. That at least gives us a way to more forward, for sure. Basically, if you don't have any additional changes, the changes have already been made in the joint committees. Any other additional changes? I'm not seeing any, Brian.

DR. CHEUVRONT: One thing that this committee does need to do is go ahead and decide whether you are recommending to the full council to send Golden Crab Amendment 9 to the secretary for review. I'm fixing up the motion from earlier this morning to reflect what you can do. Here is the recommended motion that have:

Approve Golden Crab Amendment 9 for secretarial review and deem the codified text as necessary and appropriate; give staff editorial license to make any necessary editorial changes to the document and codified text and give the council chair authority to approve the revisions and redeem the codified text. What you need at this point is to see if this is a motion that this committee would like to make.

MR. HARTIG: All right, would someone like to make that motion? Jessica.

MS. McCAWLEY: I make a motion to Approve Golden Crab Amendment 9 for secretarial review and deem the codified text as necessary and appropriate; give staff editorial license to make any necessary editorial changes to the document or codified text and give the council chair authority to approve the revisions and redeem the codified text.

MR. HARTIG: Seconded by Mark Brown. Is there any discussion on this motion? Is there any objection? Seeing none; that motion is approved.

DR. CHEUVRONT: The one thing that I want to make sure that I get out there is I don't recall that I stated first in the discussion of this amendment for golden crab is that the council's preferred alternative that affects the golden crab AM triggers actually the status quo that already exists for golden crab.

We have golden crab staying in here now because there were alternatives that could have potentially modified that. We have left it in; everything is fine. I just want to make sure that everybody understood that there really aren't changes that are occurring to golden crab as a result of this.

Mr. Chairman, if I may, there was one thing I wanted to mention. You all may have known that there was an AP meeting that had originally been scheduled for November. We had to postpone that meeting because of Roger's surgery. That meeting has been rescheduled for January 23rd in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

What the AP is going to be discussing at that time is their recommendations to the council that they would like the council to consider, if they have them at their time, to modify the allowable golden crab fishing areas. They want to go through that. We're going to take some maps and they're going to be able to draw on there.

What we'll in March is I will bring them to this committee for you to see what their recommendations were; and then the council can decide how they would like to proceed at that point, whether they want to start a golden crab amendment to address these issues or whatever you want to do.

There is one other action that the AP wanted the council to consider in another golden crab amendment; and that would be to change the beginning of the fishing year. If they get to a point where they start catching all the golden crab, they really wanted to make sure that they were going to have that fishery go through the fall and winter when they want to do. If there was going to be a closure, they'd sure like that to happen in the summertime.

By starting the fishing year in September or October, they would have the ideal fishing time for when they want it. It is not a pressing issue right now. They would just like that to get included in the next golden crab amendment. If the council decides to go ahead with another golden crab amendment at some point in the future; that would probably be an additional action that would go into that amendment. That's basically all I've got.

MR. HARTIG: Thank you, Brian. I appreciate the explanation on why the amendment is going forward with no changes. That is pretty important. I also appreciate you laying out the timeline on how we're going to deal with bringing the AP together and potential items that could be included in the next golden crab amendment. Is there any other business to come before the Golden Crab Committee? Seeing none; the Golden Crab Committee is adjourned.

(Whereupon, the meeting was adjourned at 3:12 o'clock p.m., December 4, 2014.)

Certified By: _____ Date: _____

Transcribed By:
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December 30, 2014

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(Continued)

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South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Golden Crab Committee Meeting Thursday, December 4, 2014

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