



# SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Jessica McCawley, Chair | Mel Bell, Vice Chair  
Gregg T. Waugh, Executive Director

## AGENDA

### **Habitat Protection and Ecosystem Based Management**

Westin Jekyll Island  
110 Ocean Way Jekyll Island, Georgia

**Tuesday March 5, 2019 – 8:30 A.M – 12:00 Noon (Times subject to change)**

Approval of Agenda – Dr. Wilson Laney

Approval of December 2018 Committee minutes – Dr. Wilson Laney

1. Atlantic Coast-Wide Discussions: How to address species movement northwards?  
*(Attachments 1-8)*
  - a. Overview of CCC Discussions - Gregg Waugh & Jessica McCawley
  - b. NEFMC Views – Dr. John Quinn (Chair), Terry Stockwell (Vice-Chair) & Tom Nies (ED)
  - c. MAFMC Views – Mike Luisi (Chair), Warren Elliott (Vice-Chair) & Chris Moore (ED)
  - d. ASMFC Views – Bob Beal (ED)
  - e. SAFMC Views – Jessica McCawley (Chair), Gregg Waugh (ED) & Roger Pugliese (Sr. Fishery Scientist)
  - f. Committee Action: Guidance and action as needed – Dr. Wilson Laney – **ACTION**
  
2. Habitat and Ecosystem Tools and Regional Partner Coordination
  - a. Overview – Roger Pugliese
  - b. Committee Action: Guidance and action as needed – Dr. Wilson Laney – **ACTION**
  
3. Council Actions on Habitat and Ecosystem
  - a. Overview – Roger Pugliese
  - b. Committee Action: Guidance and action as needed – Dr. Wilson Laney – **ACTION**

Other Business – Dr. Wilson Laney

Adjourn – Dr. Wilson Laney

## **Habitat Protection and Ecosystem Based Management Committee**

Wilson Laney, Chair

Doug Haymans, Vice-Chair

Robert Beal

Mel Bell

Chris Conklin

Tim Griner

Jessica McCawley

Steve Poland

Art Sapp

## **New England and Mid-Atlantic Regional Council Participants**

Dr. John Quinn, Chair New England Fishery Management Council

Terry Stockwell, Vice-Chair, New England Fishery Management Council

Tom Nies, Executive Director New England Fishery Management Council

Mike Luisi, Chair Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

Warren Elliott, Vice-Chair, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

Chris Moore, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

## **Attachments**

**Attachment 1.** Fall 2017 Northeast Region Coordinating Council (NRCC) Meeting, November 15-16, 2017, Final Report.

**Attachment 2.** Fall 2017 Northeast Region Coordinating Council (NRCC) Meeting Summary November 15-16, 2017.

**Attachment 3.** March 2019 Habitat Ecosystem Committee Presentation on Species Moving North.

**Attachment 4.** Tables of Non-Federally Managed Recreational and Commercial species in the Snapper Grouper and Coastal Migratory Pelagic Management Units for MA/NE

**Attachment 5.** Table of management and coordination alternatives available to the Council to address species change in distribution and movement north.

**Attachment 6.** Pros and cons on permits.

**Attachment 7.** Table of ACLs for SAFMC Managed Species

**Attachment 8.** Accounting for Shifting Distributions and Changing Productivity in the Fishery Management Process: From Detection to Management Action – November 18

**Staff:** Roger Pugliese

# **OVERVIEW**

## **Habitat Protection and Ecosystem Based Management Committee**

The Committee will approve minutes from the December 2018 meeting and agenda.

### **1. Atlantic Coast-Wide Discussions: How to address species movement northwards? –** *(Attachments 1-8)*

**Description:** The South Atlantic Council Chair, Vice Chair, and Executive Director have been meeting with our counterparts on the NEFMC and MAFMC to formulate a plan on addressing this topic. This issue was discussed at the Fall 2017 Northeast Regional Coordination Council (NRCC) meeting. Based on discussions among the 3 Councils, it was agreed that a group comprised of each Council's Chair, Vice-Chair, and Executive Director would meet periodically to coordinate on an approach to address stocks as they move northwards. This group can meet via phone, webinar, and in conjunction with Council Coordination Committee (CCC) meetings. The first such meeting was held during the February 2018 CCC meeting. This Council group would also meet periodically with the Commission to coordinate State action where appropriate.

During the meeting of the 3 Councils in February, the group talked about true lead (one Council makes all the decisions), administrative lead/joint plans (one Council has lead to develop the plan/amendment and all Councils vote on provisions and all Councils approve the plan), and possible creative solutions where each Council would amend/develop their existing plans/amendments in a coordinated fashion. The South Atlantic Council was asked to research the procedure to extend management jurisdiction northwards as was done for king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, and cobia. The group was interested in exploring such an approach with the understanding that each Council would structure their committees to allow other Councils voting privileges at the committee level. This seemed to work to the group's satisfaction for recent efforts on cobia.

At the March 2018 meeting, Gregg Waugh reviewed results from the informal meeting of the Council group (Chair, Vice Chair, and Executive Director of the 3 East Coast Councils). The Group wants to explore how the Coastal Migratory Pelagic FMP was amended to extend jurisdiction through the Mid-Atlantic Council area. A list of priority species will be developed. The Mid-Atlantic Council and New England Council planned to attend the South Atlantic Council's September meeting to discuss this topic. However, due to the rescheduling of the meeting to October as the result of Hurricane Florence members were unable to attend. Council staff, as directed during the October meeting, provided an update to the landings data to be discussed along with South Atlantic considerations on the issue during the December Committee meeting. The joint session was rescheduled for March 2019.

Council staff will open the March 2019 joint session by providing an overview of the CCC discussions to date. The Committee will then discuss each Council’s views on coordination to address expansion of species to the north. NEFMC views will be expressed by Dr. John Quinn (Chair), Terry Stockwell (Vice-Chair) and Tom Nies (Executive Director); MAFMC views by Mike Luisi (Chair), Warren Elliott (Vice-Chair) and Chris Moore (ED); ASMFC views by Bob Beal (ED); and SAFMC views by Jessica McCawley (Chair), Gregg Waugh (Executive Director), and Roger Pugliese (Sr. Fishery Scientist).

Background on previous CCC deliberations is included for reference in **Attachments 1 and 2**. **Attachment 3** is an updated version of the presentation from the SAFMC December Committee meeting highlighting past regional coordination and a graphical presentation of SAFMC species in management units for the Snapper Grouper and Coastal Migratory Pelagic FMPs. The presentation was updated to include tables of landings for SAFMC managed species caught in MA/NE but unmanaged Federally. The presentation includes the complete December 2018 presentation with tables of Snapper Grouper and Coastal Migratory Pelagic species caught in MA/NE but unmanaged Federally added as slides 33-39 Graphics from the December presentation include Black Sea Bass and Scup so updated Federally unmanaged species tables were added as slides 33-39 The lists of snapper grouper species/species groups presented in slides 33-37 are the latest and were binned into groups to ensure confidentiality.

Recreational groups:

Species composition of groups (groups and speceis not listed do not have recorded landings north of NC)				
GROUPERS	PORGIES	JACKS	SPADEFISH	TRIGGERFISHES
GAG	LONGSPINE PORGY	ALMACO JACK	ATLANTIC SPADEFISH	GRAY TRIGGERFISH
SNOWY GROUPE	RED PORGY	BANDED RUDDERFISH		OCEAN TRIGGERFISH
WRECKFISH		BAR JACK		
		GREATER AMBERJACK		
		LESSER AMBERJACK		

Commercial groups:

Species composition of groups (groups and speceis not listed do not have recorded landings north of NC)							
AMBERJACK	GROUPERS	GRUNTS/PORGIES	HOGFISH	JACKS	SNAPPERS	SPADEFISH	TRIGGERFISHES
AMBERJACK	GROUPE, SNOWY	GRUNTS	HOGFISH	JACK, ALMACO	SNAPPER, RED	SPADEFISH	TRIGGERFISH, GRAY
	GROUPE, WARSAW	PORGY, RED		JACK, BAR	SNAPPER, VERMILION	SPADEFISH, ATLANTIC	TRIGGERFISHES
	GROUPE, YELLOWEDGE			JACK, CREVALLE	SNAPPERS		
	GROUPE			RUDDERFISH			
	WRECKFISH			RUDDERFISH, BANDED			

Species groups listed under the group headings are the source of the majority of landings in that group.

**Attachments 4-7** include information requested at the December 2018 meeting and are included for use during the meeting: tables of landings for SAFMC managed species caught in MA/NE but unmanaged Federally; potential alternatives for addressing species movement north; initial look at permit pros and cons; and ACLs for SAFMC managed species.

**Attachment 8** is a publication (not required reading for this meeting) which provides insight into accounting for shifting distribution and changing productivity of managed species.

**Status:** The three Councils initially discussed the issue of shifting species patterns associated with changing oceanographic and environmental conditions as part of an Atlantic coast workshop a number of years ago. The change in environmental conditions, prey, and

managed species distribution has been documented more significantly in the Mid-Atlantic and New England regions whereas much of the environmental change in the South Atlantic has been significant increases in episodic events including upwelling, extreme rainfall, and extreme temperature events. However, prey and managed species may eventually extend or shift their range to the north. The Councils already coordinate on several managed species including the Coastal Migratory Pelagics, Dolphin Wahoo, and Bluefish FMPs as well as adopting an MOU on Deep Sea Corals.

**Required Committee Action:** Discuss each group's views on coordination to address movement of species to the north and updated landings data, discuss and provide guidance to staff on priority species, discuss potential avenues to address the issue, and discuss timing for future discussions.

## **2. Habitat and Ecosystem Tools, Model Development and Regional Partner Coordination**

**Description:** Roger Pugliese will provide a brief presentation and update on Habitat and Ecosystem tools and model development and regional partner coordination.

**Status:** The Committee approved FEP II and the FEP II Dashboard, Implementation Plan, and Roadmap at the March 2018 meeting. Council staff continues to collaborate with regional partners to advance the FEP II Implementation Plan and Roadmap (including but not limited to SECOORA, SALCC, Habitat Conservation Partnerships, HBOI/FAU, NCSU, BOEM, and U.S. Navy). In addition, staff continues to coordinate with:

- SCDNR to integrate fishery independent data from SEAMAP and SERFS and NOAA Fisheries SEFSC; and
- ACCSP and NCSU; Tom Okey, University of Victoria; and Howard Townsend, NOAA Fisheries, to complete the newest generation of a South Atlantic Ecopath model in advance of the April 2019 SSC meeting.

Further, the SAFMC Ecospecies system continues to provide access to detailed species information through the Managed Species and Tools pages of the FEP II Dashboard.

Targeted Apps drawing on Webservices which have gone online include the South Atlantic Artificial Reefs Viewer and an ACCSP Data Viewer.

**Required Committee Action:** Provide guidance to staff as needed.

## **3. Council Actions on Habitat**

**Description:** Habitat issues may arise that require a timely response. This item serves as a place holder to provide flexibility to address such habitat issues.

**Required Committee Action:** Discuss and provide guidance to staff as needed.

## **Other Business**