



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Dr. Michelle Duval, Chair | Charlie Phillips, Vice Chair

Gregg T. Waugh, Executive Director

AGENDA

Highly Migratory Species Committee

Sawgrass Marriot

Ponte Vedra Beach, FL

Monday, June 12th, 2016 – 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm (Times subject to change)

Approval of Agenda – Anna Beckwith

Approval of December 2016 Highly Migratory Species Committee Minutes – Anna Beckwith

1. Review white paper on HMS general category permit holders' compliance with USCG commercial vessel safety requirements (*Attachments 1a-1e*) –
 - a. Review of white paper – John Hadley
 - b. Committee Action: Discuss and take action as necessary
2. Discussion on shark feeding in the South Atlantic (*Attachments 2a and 2b*)
 - a. Background on issue – John Hadley
 - b. Committee Action: Discuss and take action as necessary

Other Business – Anna Beckwith

Adjourn – Anna Beckwith

Committee Members

Anna Beckwith, Chair

Mark Brown, Vice-Chair

Ben Hartig

Charlie Phillips

Attachments

Attachment 1a: White paper on HMS general category permit holders' compliance with USCG commercial vessel safety exam requirements

Attachment 1b: Presentation slides on HMS general category permit holders' compliance with USCG commercial vessel safety exam requirements

Attachment 1c: Comparison of 2015 HMS general category permit holders to USCG MISLE database

Attachment 1d: Mid-Atlantic Council Joint HMS-Law Enforcement Committee recommendations regarding HMS permitting, reporting, and compliance concerns

Attachment 1e: National Association of Charterboat Operators recommendations regarding HMS permitting, reporting, and compliance concerns

Attachment 2a: Email from Southeastern Fisheries Association regarding shark feeding concerns

Attachment 2b: Draft bill S.3099 Access for Sportfishing Act of 2016

Staff: John Hadley

OVERVIEW

Highly Migratory Species Committee

The Committee will approve of minutes from the December 2016 meeting, and the agenda.

1. **Review white paper on HMS general category permit holders' compliance with USCG commercial vessel safety exam requirements – (*Attachments 1a-1e*)**

Description: At the December 2016 South Atlantic Council meeting, the Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Committee discussed a letter received from the Southeastern Fisheries Association (SFA) stating several concerns over perceived undocumented sales of HMS species landed by vessels with a HMS general category permit and lack of compliance regarding a rule specifying that a commercial fishing vessel must receive a Commercial Fishing Vessel (CFV) Dockside Safety Examination from the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) at least once every five years if fishing in the EEZ. One request from the SFA was for the HMS Committee to obtain information on the number of vessels possessing a commercial HMS general category permit but not certified as compliant by the USCG for the safety requirements of a commercial fishing vessel. After input from Council members and USCG representatives, the Council directed staff to provide further information on the potential issue.

Staff will review the white paper that was put together addressing the Council's request and findings from a comparison of HMS general category permit holders with the USCG's Marine Information for Safety and Law Enforcement (MISLE) database (*Attachment 1a-1c*), which houses information on vessels that have received a CFV Dockside Safety Examination. Additionally, the Committee will be briefed on recommendations to address HMS permitting, reporting, and compliance concerns from the Mid-Atlantic Council (*Attachment 1d*), the National Association of Charterboat Operators (*Attachment 1e*), and the HMS Advisory Panel.

Required Committee Action: Discuss and take action as necessary.

2. **Discussion on shark feeding in the South Atlantic – (*Attachments 2a and 2b*)**

Description: A letter was received from the Southeastern Fisheries Association (SFA) stating concerns over the practice of shark feeding during dive operations in federal waters (*Attachment 2a*). Staff will provide an overview of the issue and draft federal legislation, S.3099, that would prohibit shark feeding (*Attachment 2b*).

Required Committee Action: Discuss and take action as necessary.

Other Business