



## **SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, North Charleston SC 29405  
Call: (843) 571-4366 | Toll-Free: (866) SAFMC-10 | Fax: (843) 769-4520 | Connect: [www.safmc.net](http://www.safmc.net)

---

Charlie Phillips, Chair | Captain Mark Brown, Vice Chair  
Gregg T. Waugh, Executive Director

### **AGENDA**

#### **Highly Migratory Species Committee**

Bahia Mar Doubletree by Hilton  
801 Seabreeze Boulevard  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316

**Thursday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018 – 11:00 am – 12:00 NOON (Times subject to change)**

Approval of Agenda – Anna Beckwith

Approval of June 2017 Highly Migratory Species Committee Minutes – Anna Beckwith

1. Incorporating spawning SMZs into HMS bottom longline regulations (*Attachment 1*)
  - a. Overview – John Hadley
  - b. **Committee action:** Discuss and take action as necessary – Anna Beckwith
2. Other Business – Anna Beckwith

Adjourn – Anna Beckwith

#### **Attachment:**

**Attachment 1.** White Paper on Incorporating Spawning Special Management Zones into Highly Migratory Species Bottom Longline Regulations

#### **Highly Migratory Species Committee**

Anna Beckwith, Chair  
Zach Bowen, Vice-Chair  
Chester Brewer  
Mark Brown  
LCDR Jeremy Montes

# **OVERVIEW**

## **Highly Migratory Species Committee**

The Committee will approve minutes from the June 2017 meeting and the agenda for the June 2018 Committee meeting.

### **1. Incorporating spawning Special Management Zones into Highly Migratory Species bottom longline regulations (*Attachment 1*)**

**Description:** In 2016, the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) approved Snapper Grouper Amendment 36 that implemented five spawning Special Management Zones (SMZs) in the South Atlantic Region to protect important areas used by snapper grouper species for reproducing. Spawning SMZs are designed to protect areas and habitat important for spawning, such as areas where spawning has been observed or is likely to occur. Within this amendment, the Council also changed the existing Charleston Deep Artificial Reef MPA coordinates to match the altered boundary of the permitted reef site.

Within the spawning SMZs, the possession of snapper grouper species is prohibited other than while in transit with fishing gear appropriately stowed. This is also the case for the eight Type 2 MPAs that the Council established in Snapper Grouper Amendment 14. In the circumstance of the eight Type 2 MPAs and per Snapper Grouper Amendment 14, regulations were also put in place by Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) that include the coordinates for the Type 2 MPAs and prohibit bottom longlines, mainly used for shark fishing, from being used in these areas. These HMS bottom longline regulations have not been extended to include the relatively new spawning SMZs.

During research for this document, it was also noted that the coordinates for the Charleston Deep Artificial Reef and MPA are not the same between the regulations for Atlantic HMS bottom longline restricted areas and South Atlantic marine protected areas. This is likely due to a change in the coordinates for the Charleston Deep Artificial Reef MPA that became effective July 31, 2017 via Snapper Grouper Amendment 36 which was made to match the altered permit boundaries issued from the Army Corps of Engineers. The coordinates within the HMS bottom longline regulations for the site have not yet been updated.

The Committee may want to consider providing comment to HMS on whether to add the spawning SMZs to the list of areas under HMS regulations where bottom longlines may not be fished or deployed. Additionally, the Committee may want to submit comment to HMS regarding the recently changed boundaries for the Charleston Deep Artificial Reef MPA so that the coordinates for the site align between the two sets of regulations.

**Required Committee Action:** Discuss and take action as appropriate.

### **Other Business**