

**FINAL**  
**SUMMARY REPORT**  
**HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES COMMITTEE**  
**SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**  
**Ponte Vedra, FL**  
**June 12, 2017**

The Committee approved minutes from the December 2016 meeting and the agenda.

**White Paper on HMS General Category Permit Holders' Compliance with USCG Commercial Vessel Safety Exam Requirements**

Council staff provided a summary presentation on HMS general category permits and permit holders that have not received a commercial fishing vessel safety exam from the U.S. Coast Guard, which is required by federal law for all vessels fishing commercially outside of 3 miles from shore. The Committee discussed the presented material, with members noting that the dual commercial and recreational purpose of the HMS Charter/Headboat permit creates ambiguity when determining which vessels are non-compliant and that there is inequity between permit holders that are and are not complying with the requirement.

The Committee approved the following motion:

**MOTION #1.** DIRECT STAFF TO WRITE A LETTER TO HMS STATING COMMENTS IN SUPPORT OF SPLITTING HMS CHARTER/HEADBOAT PERMIT INTO RECREATIONAL ONLY AND A PERMIT THAT ALLOWS SALE.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

**Discussion on Shark Feeding in the South Atlantic**

The Committee discussed a letter received from the Southeastern Fisheries Association stating concerns over the practice of shark feeding by dive operations in federal waters of the South Atlantic.

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**Note:** Council staff drafts the timing and task motion based on Committee action. If points require clarification, they will be added to the draft motion. The Committee should review this wording carefully to be sure it accurately reflects their intent prior to making the motion.

**Timing and Task(s)**

**MOTION #2.** ADOPT THE FOLLOWING TIMING AND TASK:

- 1) Send a letter to HMS outlining the comments and concerns of the Committee in regards to the HMS Charter/Headboat Permit.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL