



## Amendments Under Development

Law Enforcement Advisory Panel  
January 2024

Note: this summary excludes amendments that will be discussed in depth during the meeting.

### Snapper Grouper

#### *Regulatory Amendment 35 (Discard Mortality Reduction and Red Snapper Catch Levels)*

**Staff Lead:** Mike Schmidtke

**Purpose of the Amendment:** Respond to the latest stock assessment for Red Snapper (SEDAR 73). Red Snapper are overfished and overfishing is occurring, mainly due to the large number of Red Snapper that die after catch and release. Dead discards are a major issue in the snapper grouper fishery as a whole and affect many species within the complex.

**Action Summary:** Modify the Red Snapper ABC and ACLs and reduce dead releases in the snapper grouper fishery through prohibiting use of multiple, separate hooks per line by the recreational sector, as well as expansion of best fishing practices outreach and education efforts. These actions are designed to implement Red Snapper catch levels based on the best scientific information available, reduce widespread discarding of snapper grouper species, and address overfishing of red snapper.

**Status:** In December 2023, the Council rescinded approval of the amendment with the intent to continue working on improving management of Red Snapper.

#### *Amendment 44 (Yellowtail Snapper)*

**Staff Lead:** Allie Iberle

**Purpose of Amendment:** Respond to the latest stock assessment (SEDAR 64). Yellowtail snapper are not overfished and overfishing is not occurring.

**Action Summary:** adopt recommended ABC, adjust jurisdictional allocation between the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Councils, adjust ACLs, and sector allocations (SA only).

**Status:** The Council paused development of the amendment pending a new assessment is completed that incorporates Florida's State Reef Fish Survey data.

#### *Amendment 55 (Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper)*

**Staff Lead:** Allie Iberle

**Purpose of Amendment:** Respond to the latest stock assessment (SEDAR 68).

**Action Summary:** Establish a scamp/yellowmouth grouper complex, remove yellowmouth grouper from the shallow water grouper (SWG) complex, establish catch levels and sector allocations for the new complex, adjust catch levels and sector allocations for the SWG complex.

**Status:** The Council reviewed feedback from the Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel in December 2023, selected preferred alternatives for some actions, and added management actions to the amendment. The amendment is tentatively scheduled for completion in September 2024.

## Dolphin Wahoo

### *Regulatory Amendment 3 (Minimum Size Limit and Recreational Retention Limits for Dolphin)*

**Staff Lead:** John Hadley

**Purpose of the Amendment:** This amendment will seek to extend the applicable range of the minimum size limit for dolphin and modify recreational retention limits for dolphin.

**Action Summary:** This amendment includes actions that would extend the applicable geographic range of the minimum size limit, modify recreational bag and vessel limits, and remove captain and crew bag limits for dolphin.

**Most recent document:** June 2023 decision document.

**Development Level:** Scoping has been conducted and work on the amendment is paused until December 2024.

**Status:** In December 2023, the Council received the Dolphin Wahoo AP report and an update on the progress of the Dolphin Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE), noting that the MSE report is now scheduled for the middle part of 2025. The Council reiterated their intent to review Regulatory Amendment 3 at the December 2024 Council meeting.

## Coral

### *Coral 10 (CHAPC Modifications)*

**Staff Lead:** Kathleen Howington

**Purpose of the Amendment:** To establish a Shrimp Fishery Access area along the western boundary of the northern extension of the Oculina Bank Habitat Area of Particular Concern (OHAPC) where fishing for rock shrimp would be allowed. The area under consideration was once utilized by the fishery but access to it was restricted with implementation of Coral Amendment 8 in 2014.

**Action Summary:** to establish an area within the existing OHAPC where rock shrimp fishing would be allowed to restore access to historic grounds to the fishery while maintaining protection for Oculina coral.

**Status:** The amendment was submitted in December 2021 and was not approved. In December 2023, the Council directed staff to begin the process of re-submitting the amendment.

## Mackerel Cobia

### *Framework Amendment 13 (Atlantic Spanish mackerel catch levels)*

**Staff Lead:** Christina Wiegand

**Purpose of Amendment:** Responds to the latest stock assessment (SEDAR 78). Atlantic Spanish Mackerel are neither overfished nor undergoing overfishing. This amendment will update catch levels based on the SSC recommendations.

**Action Summary:** adoption of new catch level recommendations.

**Status :** The Council paused work on the amendment until after port meetings are completed in 2024.

## Generic Amendments

### *Joint Commercial Logbook Amendment (South Atlantic and Gulf)*

**Staff lead:** Myra Brouwer

**Purpose of Amendment:** To provide the authority to allow submittal of electronic commercial logbooks.

**Action Summary:** This amendment is being developed jointly with the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. The amendment would modify the FMPs for South Atlantic Snapper Grouper, Atlantic Dolphin Wahoo, Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Coastal Migratory Pelagics, and Gulf Reef Fish to require commercial logbooks be submitted via electronic reporting forms instead of the currently used paper-based forms.

**Status:** Both Councils approved in Fall 2023 and the amendment is being prepared for submittal. Tentative implementation is early 2025.

### *Comprehensive Recreational For-Hire Limited Entry Amendment*

**Staff Leads:** John Hadley & Myra Brouwer

**Purpose of Amendment:** To establish limited entry for the for-hire components of the snapper grouper, coastal migratory pelagics, and dolphin wahoo fisheries.

**Action Summary:** TBD

**Most recent document:** NA

**Development Level:** Pre-scoping.

**Status:** In December 2023, the Council approved requesting a new control date of December 8, 2023, and stipulated that to be considered in a future limited access program, vessels had to have reported catches to the Southeast For-Hire Integrated Electronic Reporting (SEFHIER) program on or before December 5, 2023.

**Appendix A. Rulemaking progress for SAFMC amendments (updated 1/10/24)**

<b>Amendment</b>	<b>Council voted final action</b>	<b>Council submitted to NMFS</b>	<b>NOA published (comments due)</b>	<b>Proposed rule published (comments due)</b>	<b>Final rule published</b>	<b>Approval date</b>	<b>Implementation date</b>
SG 49 (greater amberjack)	9/16/22	4/5/23	6/21/23 (8/21/23)	7/12/23 (8/11/23)	9/26/23	9/15/23	10/26/23
SG 51 (snowy grouper)	12/9/22	3/2/23	5/22/23 (7/21/23)	5/30/23 (6/29/23)	12/1/23	8/17/23	1/2/24
SG 52 (tilefishes)	12/9/22	5/26/23	8/3/23 (10/2/23)	8/24/23 (9/25/23)	11/7/23	10/30/23	12/7/23
SG 53 (gag & black grouper)	3/10/23	5/1/23 Resubmit 5/2/23	6/12/23 (8/11/23)	7/13/23 (8/14/23)	9/21/23	9/8/23	10/23/23
ABC Control Rule	12/9/22	6/5/23 Resubmit 6/8/23	9/11/23 (11/13/23)	10/2/23 (11/1/23)	1/3/24	12/8/23	2/2/2024