



Content and Status Summary of Amendments

December 2025

a. Amendments Undergoing Rulemaking:

Joint Commercial Logbook Amendment

Staff lead: Myra Brouwer

Purpose of Amendment: 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 modifies 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.

Development level: Under review. Amendment submitted on February 27, 2024.

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.

Development Level: Under review. Amendment submitted on December 9, 2024.

Amendment 48 (Wreckfish ITQ Program Modernization)

Staff Lead: Christina Wiegand

Purpose of Amendment: The Council finished its second review of the Wreckfish ITQ program in September of 2019. As part of the review there were several recommendations made to modernize the program, which will be addressed in this amendment.

Action Summary: moving away from a paper coupon-based program to an electronic program; fishing season; cost recovery; wreckfish permit requirement; allocation issues; offloading sites and times; and monitoring requirements.

Development Level: Under review. Amendment submitted to NMFS on December 19, 2024.

Snapper Grouper Regulatory Amendment 36 (Gag and Black Grouper; On-Demand Gear)

Staff Lead: Mike Schmidtke

Purpose of Amendment: Revise recreational vessel limits for gag and black grouper and specify requirements for on-demand black sea bass pots while transiting through closed areas

Action Summary: Revise the recreational vessel limits for gag and black grouper to be an aggregate bag limit including both species. Revise transit requirements for on-demand black sea bass pots.

Development Level: Under Review. Amendment submitted to NMFS on March 31, 2025.

b. Snapper Grouper Regulatory Amendment 37 (Black Sea Bass Management Measures)

Staff Lead: Mike Schmidtke

Purpose of the Amendment: Address depleted status of black sea bass in the South Atlantic immediately with management measures aimed at reducing regulatory discards and protecting the spawning stock.

Action Summary:

- Establish a commercial annual catch target of 48,557 pounds whole weight and a recreational annual catch target of 63,143 pounds whole weight. The annual catch limits for each sector would remain unchanged.
- Modify accountability measures to tie to the ACTs.
- Establish a spawning season closure for both sectors from February 1 through March 31
- Reduce the recreational bag limit to 3 black sea bass per person per day

Development level: Approved for submission to NMFS (December 2025)

Key Events:

- March 2025: Council initiates work on the amendment
- September 2025: Council approves for public hearings.
- December 2025: hearings held during Council meeting and amendment approved.

c. Coral Amendment 11/Shrimp Amendment 12 (CHAPC Modifications and Shrimp Fishery Access Area)

Staff Lead: Kathleen Howington & Allie Iberle

Purpose of the Amendment: To establish a Shrimp Fishery Access Area (SFAA) 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.

Key Events:

- September 2024: Council directed staff to begin preparing Coral Amendment 11/Shrimp Amendment 12 to establish a SFAA.
- June 2025: Council approved the Purpose & Need, selected a preferred alternative, and approved the amendment for public hearings.
- July 22 to August 12: public comment period. Webinar hearing held on August 5, 2025, and in-person hearing held on August 7, 2025, in St. Augustine, FL.
- September 2025: Reviewed public hearings comments and approved to prepare for consideration for final approval in December 2025.
- December 2025: consideration for approval delayed until January 2026.

d. Snapper Grouper Abbreviated Framework 5 (Blueline Tilefish)

Staff Lead: Christina Wiegand

Purpose of the Amendment: adjust catch levels of blueline tilefish in the South Atlantic based on the most recent stock assessment (SEDAR 92).

Action Summary: Revise ABC, total ACL, and sector ACLs (retaining the current sector allocation).

From 2026 until modified:

Year	Total South Atlantic ACL (Landings)	Commercial Sector ACL (50.07%)	Recreational Sector ACL (49.93%)
2026 until modified	314,058 lbs ww	157,249 lbs ww	156,809 lbs ww

Development level: approved for submission to NMFS

Key Events:

- September 2025: Council initiates development
- December 2025: public hearing held during meeting and amendment approved for submission.

e. Snapper Grouper Amendment 44/ Reef Fish Amendment 55 (Yellowtail & Mutton Snapper)

Staff Lead: Allie Iberle

Purpose of Amendment: Respond to the latest stock assessments for yellowtail snapper and mutton snapper (SEDAR 96 and SEDAR 79, respectively). Neither species is overfished nor undergoing overfishing.

Action Summary: Adopt recommended stock OFL and ABCs, adjust the jurisdictional apportionment between the South Atlantic and Gulf Councils, update regional ACLs, and update South Atlantic sector allocations.

Development Level: Preparing for public hearings in spring or summer 2026

Key Events:

- December 2020: Amendment development initiated (jointly with the Gulf Council).
- September 2025: Council opts to develop one amendment including actions to adjust catch levels, revise jurisdictional apportionment between the SA and Gulf, and set SA sector allocations for each species. The Gulf is administrative lead.
- December 2025: SA Council provides range of sector allocation alternatives to analyze.

f. Planned or postponed amendments:

Snapper Grouper Amendment 46 (Private Recreational Permit and Education Requirement)

Staff Lead: John Hadley

Purpose of the Amendment: Address deficiencies in recreational data through the creation of a permit requirement for private recreational vessels or anglers. Additionally, it considers establishing a required education component to encourage best fishing practices that help reduce discard mortality in the snapper grouper fishery.

Action Summary: This amendment considers establishing a permit and education requirement for anglers or vessels to participate in the private recreational component of the snapper grouper fishery.

Development Level: Scoping completed. Council paused work on this amendment in June 2025 to focus on de-regulatory actions.

Comprehensive For-Hire Reporting Improvement Amendment

Staff Leads: John Hadley & Myra Brouwer

Purpose of Amendment: To improve compliance with for-hire reporting requirements

Action Summary: TBD

Development Level: Scoping completed. Council paused work on this amendment in June 2025 to focus on de-regulatory actions.

Snapper Grouper Regulatory Amendment 56 (Black Sea Bass)

Staff Lead: Mike Schmidtke

Purpose of Amendment: Respond to most recent stock assessment (SEDAR 76).

Action Summary: Revise catch levels and status determination criteria, consider revision of sector allocations, other black sea bass management measures.

Development Level: Scoping

Key Events: The Council paused work on adjusting catch levels for black sea bass in June 2025 pending further review of the stock assessment and SSC recommendations. The Council initiated work through Regulatory Amendment 37 to modify management measures.

Snapper Grouper Abbreviated Framework 4 (Golden Tilefish)

Staff Lead: Mike Schmidtke

Purpose of Amendment: Respond to the latest stock assessment (SEDAR 89) by updating catch levels.

Action Summary: Revise ABC and ACLs.

Most recent document: None

Development Level: Pre-scoping

Key Events:

- December 2024: Amendment development initiated.
- March 2025: amendment development paused pending resolution of commercial landings discrepancy between the assessment and ACL monitoring.
- September 2025: Council notified that an update to the assessment with corrected landings is underway and will be presented to the SSC in October 2025 and to the Council in December 2025.
- December 2025: Because catch levels are already set to increase in 2026 and will be higher than the recommended ABC, the Council did not take immediate action to adopt the new recommendations but intends to do so in 2026 by including an action in another snapper grouper amendment.

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.

Development Level: Scoping has been conducted and work on the amendment is underway.

Key Events:

- June 2021: Amendment initiated to examine extending the geographic coverage of the minimum size limit for dolphin, reducing or removing captain and crew bag limits onboard for-hire vessels, and specifying different retention limits for dolphin and wahoo onboard private vessels and charter vessels.
- September 2021: Information paper and direction to staff to continue developing options that would extend the applicable range of the minimum size limit for dolphin, establish separate retention limits for dolphin onboard for-hire and private vessels, and reduce or remove for-hire captain and crew bag limits for dolphin.
- March 2022: Approved the amendment for scoping.
- December 2022: Paused work on amendment to allow for completion of Dolphin MSE (led by the SEFSC).
- September 2025: Reviewed progress on the MSE. The SEFSC will present update to the Council in March 2026. The MSE is expected to be completed by the middle part of 2026.

Pelagic Longlines in the Dolphin Wahoo Fishery

Staff Lead: John Hadley

Purpose of the Amendment: This amendment would consider implementing changes to the commercial longline fishery for dolphin and wahoo to better align with HMS requirements and potentially respond to recommendations from the forthcoming updated Biological Opinion for the dolphin wahoo fishery.

Action Summary: TBD

Most recent document: None

Key Events:

- September 2020: The Council moved, from Amendment 10, actions that would modify gear, bait, and training requirements in the commercial longline fishery for dolphin and wahoo to better align with HMS requirements to a new amendment. The Council also added an alternative that would prohibit the use of pelagic longline gear in the dolphin wahoo fishery unless a vessel has the limited entry HMS permits that allows the use of this gear.
- June 2021: Guidance to examine this potential amendment once the updated biological opinion for the Dolphin Wahoo fishery is available.
- December 2022: paused consideration to allow for completion of the Dolphin MSE (led by the SEFSC).

Coastal Migratory Pelagics 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.

Development Level: Scoping

Key Events:

- June 2023: amendment development initiated.
- September 2023: approved for scoping
- November 2023: Mackerel Cobia AP discussion
- December 2023: work on amendment paused until after port meetings are completed.
- June 2025: work on amendment paused until results of MRIP FES pilot study are completed and assessment is updated.