

# Overview

## Law Enforcement Advisory Panel

March 7, 2011  
Sea Palms Resort and Conference Center  
5445 Frederica Road  
Simons Island, GA

The Law Enforcement AP will: (A) receive an overview from Council staff on the Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 2 and provide recommendations as necessary; (B) receive an overview from SERO staff of the black sea bass bag limit analysis and provide recommendations as needed; (D) receive an overview from Council staff on Regulatory Amendment 9 and provide recommendations as necessary; (E) receive an overview from Council staff of the Comprehensive ACL Amendment and provide recommendations as necessary; and (F) receive an overview of Regulatory Amendment 11 from SERO staff and provide recommendations as necessary.

### **A. Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 2 (Attachment 1)**

Anna Martin, SAFMC Staff, will review actions in the Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 2. Actions in this amendment address limits and possible changes in management of the octocoral fishery, possible changes to regulations in Special Management Zones off South Carolina and modification of sea turtle release gear. The amendment will be approved for submission to the Secretary of Commerce in June 2011. The LEAP should provide recommendations as necessary.

### **B. Black Sea Bass Bag Limit Analysis (Attachment 2)**

Amendment 17B specified a recreational annual catch limit of 409,000 pounds gutted weight for black sea bass. In January 2010, NOAA Fisheries Service determined that the recreational ACL had been met, and issued a black sea bass fishery closure effective February 12, 2011, through the remainder of the fishing year (June 1, 2011). The Council is considering an alternative to reduce the bag limit as a means to extend the recreational fishing season and prevent a prolonged recreational closure for black sea bass. Jack McGovern, SERO Staff, will provide an overview of the analyses. The LEAP should provide recommendations as necessary.

**C. Regulatory Amendment 9 (Attachment 3)**

Regulatory Amendment 9 contains management actions affecting black sea bass, vermilion snapper, gag and greater amberjack. Actions in this amendment pertain mainly to establishment or modification of commercial trip limits for the affected species. The Council approved this amendment for public hearings at their December 2010 meeting and public hearings were held January 31 – February 3. The comment period started January 12 and ended February 14. Myra Brouwer, Council Staff, will provide an overview of the changes to the amendment since the December meeting. The Council intends to approve Regulatory Amendment 9 for formal review by the Secretary of Commerce at this meeting. The LEAP should provide recommendations as necessary.

**D. Comprehensive ACL Amendment (Attachment 4)**

At the December 2010 meeting the Council approved the Comprehensive ACL Amendment for public hearings. Public hearings were held January 31 – February 3. The comment period started January 12 and ended February 14. Myra Brouwer, Council Staff, will provide an overview of the changes to the amendment since the December meeting. The Council will review DEIS comments and approve for formal Secretarial review during the June meeting. The LEAP should provide recommendations as necessary.

**E. Regulatory Amendment 11 (Attachment 5)**

Regulations implemented through Amendment 17B established a closure seaward of 240 ft (40 fathoms) for deepwater snapper grouper species (snowy grouper, blueline tilefish, yellowedge grouper, misty grouper, queen snapper, and silk snapper). This closure was implemented to protect warsaw grouper and speckled hind for which the current ACL is zero. The Council will reconsider whether management of deepwater snapper grouper species can be accomplished without such a closure. Hence, at the December 2010 Council meeting the Committee indicated that staff should initiate development of a Regulatory Amendment in order to analyze possible changes to the deepwater closure implemented through Amendment 17B. Rick DeVactor, SERO staff, will provide an overview of the Issues Paper. The LEAP should provide recommendations as necessary.