

Overview

Protected Resources Committee

June 16, 2016

Hilton Cocoa Beach Oceanfront

1550 N. Atlantic Avenue

Cocoa Beach, Florida

The Protected Resources Committee will meet to discuss South Atlantic protected species and receive updates on associated regulatory/management actions that the Council should be knowledgeable of when managing South Atlantic fisheries. SERO Protected Resource Division (PRD) staff will report on (1) protected resources-related updates for the South Atlantic region, (2) review comments from public scoping of TED requirements for the skimmer trawl shrimp fishery, and (3) Nassau Grouper 12-Month Determination. Following, the Council will be briefed by US Fish and Wildlife Service staff on the status updates for (4) Atlantic Sturgeon and Red Knot. The Committee will discuss potential action for each item, provide guidance to staff, and address issues under Other Business as needed.

1. South Atlantic Protected Resource-Related Updates (Attachment 1)

Staff from the SERO Protected Resources Division (PRD) will provide the Committee with an update on protected resources issues in the South Atlantic region.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: Provide input on the updates, discuss, and take action as necessary.

2. Review of Public Comments for TED Requirements in the Skimmer Trawl Fishery (Attachment 2)

In April 2015, NMFS sought public comment on proposed regulations to reduce interactions of sea turtles in the Southeast Shrimp Fishery. In 2012, a large number of sea turtles were found dead and assumed to be taken from the skimmer trawl fishery. NMFS was seeking comments from the public regarding the use of turtle excluder devices (TEDs) in skimmer trawl fishery and potentially modify TED requirements for all trawl fisheries.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: Review the comments and provide input as necessary.

3. Nassau Grouper 12-Month Determination (Attachment 3)

On September 2, 2014, NMFS released a finding that Nassau Grouper warranted listing as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. SERO Protected Resources Division Staff will give an update on the determination and next steps in the process.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: Discuss and take action as necessary.

4. Updates on Atlantic Sturgeon and Red Knot Listing

Wilson Laney, US Fish and Wildlife Service, will give an update on Atlantic Sturgeon stock assessment and Red Knot listing conducted by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: Discuss and take action as necessary.

Protected Resources Committee

Wilson Laney, Chair

Jessica McCawley, Vice-Chair

Mark Brown

Zack Bowen

Jack Cox

Michelle Duval

LTJG Tara Pray

Robert Beal

Attachments

Attachment 1: Protected Resources Updates for the South Atlantic

Attachment 2: Comments from Public Scoping for TEDs in Skimmer Trawls

Attachment 3: Nassau Grouper 12-Month Determination