

# **SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

## **PROTECTED RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**Doubletree by Hilton Oceanfront Hotel  
Atlantic Beach, North Carolina**

**December 10, 2015**

### **SUMMARY MINUTES**

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

Dr. Wilson Laney, Chair  
Mark Brown  
Jack Cox

Jessica McCawley, Vice-Chair  
Zack Bowen  
Dr. Michelle Duval

#### **COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

Charlie Phillips  
Mel Bell  
Chris Conklin  
Ben Hartig

Anna Beckwith  
Chester Brewer  
Dr. Roy Crabtree  
Doug Haymans

#### **COUNCIL STAFF:**

Bob Mahood  
Kim Iverson  
Roger Pugliese  
Dr. Mike Errigo  
Chip Collier  
John Carmichael  
Julie O'Dell

Gregg Waugh  
Amber Von Harten  
Myra Brouwer  
Dr. Kari MacLauchlin  
Dr. Brian Chevront  
Mike Collins

#### **PARTICIPANTS/OBSERVERS:**

Monica Smit-Brunello  
Dr. Bonnie Ponwith  
Tracy Dunn  
Erika Burgess

Dr. Jack McGovern  
Jennifer Lee  
Scott Sandorf

Additional observers attached

The Protected Resources Committee of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council convened in the Doubletree by Hilton Oceanfront Hotel, Thursday afternoon, December 10, 2015, and was called to order at 4:00 o'clock a.m. by Chairman Wilson Laney.

DR. LANEY: Who is on the protected resources committee? That would be myself, Jessica McCawley, Mark Brown, Zack Bowen, Jack Cox, Michelle Duvall, and we have two absent members, Lieutenant Pray and Bob Beal. The first item of business is the approval of the agenda. Does anyone have any additions to the agenda?

Seeing none; the agenda will be as published. The second item is approval of the September, 2015 minutes. Does anyone have any adjustments, changes, alterations to the minutes? Seeing none; the minutes will stand approved as published. The next item is the update on protected resources, which I understand will be done by Jenny Lee; and we need to turn her microphone on here. We can't hear you on this end yet. Okay, now we can, you're there.

MS. LEE: Always a little confusing at first. Hi, everyone. I'm just going to take you through the briefing document on the protected resources issues that we provide you some information on. First up, the petition to list Nassau grouper under the ESA, the only thing here we have to report on is an update in timeline.

When we met with you in September, I think we anticipated this to be done in the fall, and we now expect to publish a final determination in early 2016. Similarly, the timeline for our Atlantic Sturgeon Critical Habitat Rules have moved back. Instead of November 30, 2016 like we reported in your last briefing, the Southeast Region and Greater Atlantic Region now must submit proposed rules designating critical habitat to the Federal Register by May 27, 2016 per an updated court order.

In September, I reported that we hope to have our North Atlantic Right Whale Critical Habitat final rule in early 2016. This timeline is generally the same except a little firmer. NMFS committed in a settlement agreement to publishing a final rule on or before February 16, 2016. As far as our Green Sea Turtle Distinct Population Segment Rule, nothing to report new other than the comment period did indeed close September 25.

We had extended a couple times and we still expect to publish the final rule by late spring. The next item in your briefing document is not an action, but just something I thought would be good to share for the good news. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission has updated its Florida Index Nesting Beach Survey website information to include final 2015 nesting numbers. If you're not familiar with Florida Index Nesting Beach Survey records sea turtle next counts on a standardized set of index beaches; and researchers use the annual survey to determine nesting trends. Loggerhead turtles have had a successful 2015 nesting season and green sea turtle set a new nesting record. In 2015 green sea turtle next counts reached the new high record with 27,975 nests laid on the 26 core INBS beaches during 109 day sea turtle nesting index season. I just wanted to point that out. Green sea turtles set three high records in 2011, 2013, 2015. Nest counts in 2015 were slightly higher than the 2013 counts; which were more than twice the counts from 2011, so I just wanted to share a little information there.

Moving on, actually skipping the next subject in your briefing document is the TED compliance policy and that is actually its own agenda item so I'll skip past that. Atlantic Large Whale Take

Reduction Plan, the webinar was held on the 19th, brought updates to the team. They were provided a brief on the status of the Regulatory Amendment 16.

They were a little concerned as far as the timing with the public comment period for regulatory amendment closing on December 7, and then you all taking action this week. I just put that in there just to point that out. On MMPA regulations, there is no change except for the comment period closed.

This is really a rule that is addressing foreign fishing, and basically its intent is just to support our fishermen and kind of even the playing field, if you're not familiar with the rule. A list of fisheries, the 2016 proposed list of fisheries published on September 29. There are no major changes for the southeastern United States, so nothing to report there.

Then the one that I skipped over by accident, the Pelagic Longline Take Reduction Team meeting did take place the first week of December in Norfolk, Virginia, and again the purpose of this meeting was to identify measures to reduce bycatch of short fin pilot whales in the Atlantic pelagic longline fishery.

I just will point out that they had a very successful meeting, they reached consensus on the five measures; some of them regulatory. As far as regulatory actions, I don't know if you want me to go into that level of detail, but yes, I think I will skip that. If you want more information, just let me know and I can share some. That completes the updates from the briefing documents.

DR. LANEY: All right, we have some questions.

MR. HAYMANS: Do you know off the top of your head how many pelagic longline permits there are?

MS. LEE: I do not. I can probably find out really quick.

MR. HAYMANS: Okay, and a second question as well and it really deals with Nassau, and that is, are you aware of what additional measures may be implemented by NMFS once Nassau is fully listed as threatened?

MS. LEE: No, at this point it is just we're working to make our final determination.

DR. LANEY: Other questions for Jenny?

MR. CONKLIN: I'm not on the committee, but I was just wondering is there any work being done with the Bahamas about the Nassau grouper? I know you're allowed to harvest them over there, I see pictures all the time. I'm just wondering if you all have had any dialogue with them.

MS. LEE: I do not work on this action so I'm afraid I don't know the answer to that one either, but I am happy to follow up. Of course, I think we went over before the listing is for the species, meaning throughout its range. It is not just a U.S. listing, in terms of it is not like sawfish when we listed the U.S. DPS. The rule considers the full range of the species.

DR. CRABTREE: There have been discussions at Caribbean meetings about Nassau grouper and the petition and the proposed rule that we put out, so the Caribbean nations are aware of what is going on. Over a period of years there have been steps taken by a number of the Caribbean nations to put more measures in place to protect Nassau, but there have been a lot of problems with compliance and enforcement for those types of things.

MS. LEE: I was just going to ask, with a threatened species listing, you have to do a special rule, a special 4D rule basically establishes the protections that you think are necessary to protect that species. I should point out that there wouldn't be any sort of new requirements within that final rule itself, other than the listing. But to take additional specific actions, we would have a 4D rule, if needed.

DR. LANEY: Okay thank you, Jenny. I had one question. I believe someone told me that we had a documented hawksbill nest here in North Carolina somewhere. Did you hear that as well?

MS. LEE: I didn't.

DR. LANEY: I can't remember who told me that at the moment.

DR. DUVAL: Hey Jenny, this is Michelle Duval. I think it was up on Cape Hatteras. I remember hearing that. It was on one of the Hatteras National Seashore beaches, I believe.

MS. LEE: Cool.

DR. LANEY: Thank you, Michelle; any other questions for Jenny? Seeing none; then I think Jenny is going to do the next item as well, which is the review of the Southeast Regional Office Compliance Policy for TEDs in the southeast shrimp fishery. Jenny.

MS. LEE: Yes, so the April 18, 2014 Biological Opinion, just to refresh your memory, requires NOAA Fisheries to maintain monitoring and shore compliance with TED regulations at a level that would keep sea turtle catch rates of shrimp trawls, so in other words sea turtles that do not escape via the TED and are captured, in the shrimp otter trawl fleet at or below 12 percent of all sea turtle interactions; or in other words maintain an 88 percent TED effectiveness.

The 88 percent TED effectiveness is the threshold that needs to be maintained to insure ESA compliance and allow shrimp fisheries status cooperation. Well, the current biological opinion requires us to develop a policy that outlines how we will determine compliance for TED requirements and when additional management actions are necessary, should compliance drop to levels that compromise ESA coverage offered by the opinion; in other words the effects of the fishery on the threatened endangered sea turtles changes significantly from those estimated in the opinion. The question the policy addresses is at what level and at what point should a fishery closure, for example, be implemented to improve TED compliance and to protect and conserve sea turtles should our TED effectiveness fall below that threshold.

A draft TED compliance policy was developed and distributed to our state law enforcement and resource agency staff for comment in May of 2015. The policy was also posted on SEROs website, and at the September meeting I pointed out where that was. We reviewed submitted comments on that policy and answered direct questions.

A lot of work I think was done actually in July of 2015. We do have a formal response to comments that is available upon request if you want to get into the details. A final draft of the TED Compliance Policy, we basically just developed. The primary aspects of the policy includes three sampling periods a year; March through June, July through October, and November through February. I think the original draft we had that done in quarters, so that is a little different.

Should the TED effectiveness rate drop below the 88 percent minimum TED effectiveness established in the current opinion but greater than or equal to 84 percent, NMFS will implement an enforcement post and gear monitoring team outreach to improve compliance. Then should the TED effectiveness rate drop below 84 percent for two consecutive sampling periods that is eight months of time, NMFS will implement a minimum 30 day fishery closure in the respective area, as well as continue the enforcement post and gear monitoring team outreach.

The purpose of the closure again will be to improve TED compliance, which has a direct impact on the sea turtle bycatch and mortality. I should note that we have been meeting the 88 percent compliance. I think at the last meeting I did point out that you can go to our website and see how we're doing. We do have the stats on our TED compliance available online.

The final TED Compliance Policy will be distributed to state law enforcement and resource agency staff, fishery commissions and councils and industry in mid December, so you should be getting that soon. Then our plan is to have the TED Compliance Policy take place effective March 1, which would fit in line with the sampling periods I referred to. That is, I guess, the brief on the TED policy, or draft TED policy.

DR. LANEY: Okay, thank you, Jenny. Mel.

MR. BELL: I have a question about, I know there is a standard form that is used and Coast Guard and NOAA OLE, GMT; state law enforcement can all use the same form. That form, if you totaled up all the forms you had, could be used to figure out how you're doing. But what I'm detecting from the Draft Policy was that we're not using all of those forms. I'm not sure who gets the forms finally, or how that is processed or what's acceptable, what is not acceptable.

But I noticed in the example in the document in the draft, for instance in 2014 for the entire year in the South Atlantic there were only 23 inspections or 23 forms. But I would be willing to say in South Carolina alone, we probably turned in more than 23 forms ourselves. Who decides which forms are used or from which sources? I guess what is the plan for determining how many of the inspections you use or what is acceptable or what is not acceptable; because that drives the computation of the grain.

DR. CRABTREE: Let me try to respond to that because we haven't really consistently used the form yet. This has been a problem. When we went down this path we made a big effort with our Gear Management Team and NOAA Law Enforcement to undergo training with all of the state law enforcement agencies on TED inspections.

We've done the same thing with the Coast Guard, because measuring a TED is a technically complicated thing to do and you have to do it consistently and all to get good data. We've

worked with all of the state enforcement agencies to develop the form. It is something that we're trying to do through the joint enforcement agreements.

This is in order to bring a consistent approach to reporting the outcomes of TED boardings to enable us to use more of the state data in our compliance reports, so that we can bring the sample up and make sure we have a more representative set of data that we can look at. We've been through a number of rounds with all of the state enforcement agencies.

Tracy and I both went to the Joint Atlantic States and Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission meeting that was a couple of months ago, and attended the Joint Law Enforcement meeting. All the states were there. We spent about 45 minutes working through this, and we've gone through a number of rounds of comments on the closure policy with the state enforcement agencies and made a number of changes to it.

I don't know if Tracy, oh there he is. I think we're close to implementing the form, Tracy. I don't know if you want to make some comments on that. Okay, well I guess we're going to have one more meeting with the enforcement folks to talk about some final tweaking of it, but that is our hope is to get to the form so that we bring consistency to how we're reporting these things.

MR. BELL: Yes, and from our perspective, we're totally onboard with doing this and doing this right. What we want to do is make sure we can help. Because you can see, if you only ended up doing four inspections and one of them went bad, now you're at 75 percent. The desire is to try to help with this to ensure that we get the numbers up to something acceptable.

DR. CRABTREE: Right, and that has been a concern that we heard with the closure policy, so one of the changes we've made to the policy right now is you have to have poor compliance in two reporting periods before you get to triggering action. In the past those reporting periods were quarters, the three months. We've shifted that now to four month periods in order to make sure we have a higher sample size before we make a determination about it.

MS. McCAWLEY: I look forward to this meeting that you're going to have about this. I understand from our law enforcement that we really like that form. I think that we still have some concerns that we would be taking this law enforcement data and using it to ultimately close a fishery on the biological side.

I think we still have a lot of concerns with this. Also, law enforcement feels like in these stops and when they board these boats that they are trying to develop relationships with fishermen. Fishermen knowing that they're looking for TED compliance, and once they fill out this form that could ultimately shut the fishery down. I think that is not leading to the best developed relationships between law enforcement and the fishermen. I think that we still have some concerns here. It is not about the form itself, it is about the use of the form and that data to ultimately close the fishery. It is my understanding we're already using that form, but maybe just not turning over the data yet.

DR. CRABTREE: If you look at the policy, the first sentence in the fishery closure part of it says, a fishery closure due to poor TED compliance is a last resort management action, and one that would occur only after outreach, education enforcement activities have failed to remedy the situation. A closure is the last thing that would happen, and only if all else failed to get us there.

Now since we put this in place and have been doing this we've had good compliance. What we're doing now is working. I understand there are all the concerns about relationships with the industry. But I've met with the industry, the Southern Shrimp Alliance; I've spent a lot of time talking with these guys.

I think what's happened over the last couple of years is there has been a whole new awareness of the importance of TED compliance and the importance to deal with this in the industry. I've been really pleased and impressed with the industries' efforts to essentially take ownership of their fishery and address this problem head on.

I mean TEDs are the reason we have a shrimp fishery, a trawl fishery right now. It would have been closed down years ago if we hadn't of found a solution. TEDs work, but they take some care and they take some attention to make them. What I'm seeing right now is the boat owners and folks are putting that time in, and we're getting good compliance with it. When we did this biological opinion, we had to have some sort of trigger in here as to what happens if TED compliance falls below it.

The fact is we don't have a really perfect way right now to measure compliance. Now I've talked to Bonnie and the Center about possibly using the observer programs, possibly doing random boardings with the Gear Management Team; some sort of more scientifically designed survey that we could do to do TED inspections and get a new database to do that.

I hope that we're going to be able to get to that. But right now the enforcement data is what we have, and it is what the concerns about TED compliance were based on. I recognize all the concerns, Jessica, and I've talked to all the enforcement folks about those concerns. We're trying as best we can to address them. But bear in mind that we have been challenged by Oceana on this biological opinion and we've filed the administrative record, and at some point we're going to come before a judge on all of this.

We did what we felt like we had to do to have a defensible opinion on this. We have to have some measure or metric we can look at for TED compliance. Right now the enforcement parts and all these are the best we can do. But I do recognize there is a need to get to more of a scientifically designed survey that can address some of these potential biases from the enforcement database.

DR. LANEY: Follow up, Jessica.

MS. McCAWLEY: Yes, I think that we would prefer to get to a place maybe where we're using observer data, but I know the difficulties with that. I appreciate the position that you're in, and this is the best solution so far. I just want to bring up another point from our law enforcement side is that normally we're targeting people that could be potential violators, so we just feel like this data could also bias towards these noncompliance numbers and ultimately shut the fishery down.

DR. CRABTREE: That is true, and I've had a lot of discussions about that. But the baseline we're using it against is the enforcement data. It is presumably biased in the same way. But I

agree with you completely that I would like to get to something more observer-based and a more stratified survey designed way of getting at this.

DR. DUVAL: Just a quick question. It was said NOAA is working with the states through the joint enforcement agreements. North Carolina obviously doesn't have one of those, but I am hopeful that you all have been reaching out to our law enforcement, anyway. I mean we have authority to enforce federal TED compliance requirements in North Carolina.

DR. CRABTREE: I'm sure that we are. Yes, so we are and we recognize the special issues with North Carolina. You are special.

DR. PONWITH: And I agree with that. On the issue of intentionally targeting vessels that may be out of compliance, really the best way of dealing with that, you can't discourage people from that because that is the agenda, right? But I think that that could easily be dealt with statistically by keeping two sets of tallies.

One for vessels that are approached randomly, and then a second tally for vessels that are approached specifically because you have reason to believe they are in violation. By doing that it would be informative and would get you out of that conundrum of having a higher than what may be average out of compliance rate when you're working randomly across the fleet.

MR. HARTIG: I guess I'll voice a philosophical problem. I don't have to go into it very far. But what I would like to know is, is there any other regulation like this where you punish the whole for the violations of a few in the United States?

DR. CRABTREE: Well, I don't regard the closure as being done to punish anyone. A closure, if it happens, would be done to protect sea turtles, because if TED compliance isn't there we're going to kill sea turtles and we're going to have dead turtles washing up on the beach, and we're going to be in violation of the law.

But the answer to your question is, I'm sure that has happened. We've had any number of fisheries that have been closed for periods of time because of excessive turtle takes. This happened in the northeast distant fishery, the pelagic longline fishery. It happened in the grouper longline fishery. Whether that is due to the behavior of the few or not, I don't know.

MR. BELL: To that. I've been asked that question over and over. Do you have the authority to pull somebody's permit? If you have somebody who is a flagrant violator or a violator, can you yank their permit? Do you have that authority or not?

DR. CRABTREE: I think in theory we could. That is decided by NOAA Office of General Counsel when they go through all of this. Monica can comment on it if she would. But I think in the case of a severe violator, repeated violator we could do that. But bear in mind that the plaintiff, the fisherman in this case has the option of going into court and going before a judge and deciding that way, and some of them have done that. We haven't always been pleased with what has come out of the courts on some of these.

DR. DUVAL: I am just curious if there have ever been any closures due to Right Whale interactions up in the northeast failing to comply with trap setting requirements.



DR. CRABTREE: I don't know. We've had closures in the southeast because of Right Whale catches of gillnet fisheries. We had that happen seven or eight years ago, and we eliminated some gillnet fisheries because of potential Right Whale interactions.

DR. LANEY: Okay, other questions for Jenny or for Roy on this particular issue?

MR. COLLIER: For the area-wide closures, how far are the area-wide closures? Is it the state or the southeast region?

DR. CRABTREE: That would be determined on a case-by-case basis, based on the facts that we have and where the problem seems to be. But it could apply in both state and federal waters. But we haven't tried to be too prescriptive on that because I feel like that is a decision you have to make based on the facts.

If we're done here, Wilson, one other thing I wanted to bring up with respect to TEDs is that you may recall a couple of years ago we went through a NEPA document looking at requiring TEDs in skimmer trawl vessels, and we even issued a proposed rule on that which we later withdrew. We withdrew that rule because in the course of developing it we got new observer information that indicated that the size turtles that were being caught in skimmer trawls, a high proportion of them were very small, saucer size turtles that would pass through the bars of the typical TED.

We didn't feel like we had a TED solution at that time that would work, given the size turtles we were seeing. We withdrew it and went into TED development to try and develop a TED with narrower bar spacing and different flaps that would work with smaller turtles. I think we're close to having something that could work in that fishery, and I anticipate in the spring of next year we will start the scoping process at looking at the possibility of requiring TEDs in skimmer trawls again. I think we'll be back at that next year.

DR. LANEY: Yes, I had heard about that. That sounds like a very positive gear development that would be a solution; any other questions or comments?

MR. COLLIER: There was another comment. The shrimpers sent out quite a few e-mails in regards to this policy. One of the statements that they had, you guys have covered a lot of them in your address, and thank you guys for covering those, one of the concerns they had was maybe developing a point system per violators. If it is the same person violating over and over that person has either their permit card revoked, points would go to the vessel and/or the captain of the vessel. That were some thoughts that they had that they would like the council.

DR. CRABTREE: I think that is a suggestion that Monica could pass on to Office of General Counsel, who prosecute the cases. Maybe they could think about that in terms of their penalty schedule and things.

DR. LANEY: Okay, thank you for that. I've kind of taken away two action items from this and the previous discussion. Jenny, you were going to track down the number of pelagic longline permits, I think, for Doug, and then Monica can carry forward that suggestion to the law enforcement folks, I think.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: Well, I'm not sure exactly what the point system is so I'll talk to Chip offline and I'll relay that to the enforcement folks. But there are categories, so if you have repeat offenders, right they can be assessed a higher amount, if you will, or they don't necessarily always get treated like a first time offender, so they do have those kinds of things. But I will be glad to talk with you and talk with our enforcement attorneys.

DR. LANEY: Okay, thank you, Monica; other comments on this particular issue? If not, thank you for that Jenny and Roy and Monica. I appreciate it. Okay, moving on to Agenda Item 5, which is our ESA and MSA Integration Agreement. I believe Chip is going to address that particular document.

MR. COLLIER: I had worked through comments from Protected Resources and we continued to develop the Draft Agreement. We are very close to a finalized document and we are still in some revisions. I've been talking with Monica and she wants to go over it just a little bit more. If we could hold off on a finalized agreement and give her a chance to go through it. But if you guys have any comments on this that you think there needs to be changes in that, please let us know right now. I think Monica is going to go over some of her issues, as well.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: I've got lots of issues, Chip.

MR. COLLIER: Just for this agreement.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: Oh, okay. I apologize to you. I thought I would have time to go over it sufficiently that I felt good about your involvement, the services involvement, the Endangered Species Act, the Magnuson Act and all that; and it has been a workload issue. I've got just a few more comments that I would like to work out, so if we could bring this back up in March, we'll have it packaged with a bow and maybe a gold star so you can look at it. That is the only thing I wanted to discuss right now.

DR. LANEY: Okay, thank you, Monica. How does the committee feel about that? Does anybody else have any additional comments for Chip and the team that are working on this document?

DR. DUVAL: Assuming, Monica that there might be some additional modifications based on any concerns that you might have to make sure it is sufficient. I mean, would we still be able to respond to that in March?

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: Oh sure.

DR. DUVAL: Okay, I just wanted to make sure.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: Yes, I think it ought to be brought back to you in draft so you can look at it. I just didn't want to have you take action and then I come back and say, hey you know what we should have done these things. Yes, absolutely, it will be draft, right for you.

DR. DUVAL: Great.

MR. COLLIER: Yes, this is just an agreement between these two agencies, so it is pretty much a draft all the time and can be changed any time you guys feel it needs to be changed.

DR. LANEY: Sort of a living document, as it were. Okay, is that good, the committee good with that proposal that we just defer further discussion of this until March, when Monica has had a chance to complete her review? Okay, I'm hearing lots of assents. Okay, then moving on to Item 6, a few things from the Fish and Wildlife Service here.

With regard to the American eel status review update, I think everybody has gotten a copy of the species biological report and the Federal Register notice from that completed status review. The Service elected not to list that species for various and sundry reasons, which you can read in detail in the Federal Register notice.

One little eel thing, I did want to mention is that we have a post doc at North Carolina State who is going to be looking at the phenology of American eels up and down the coast, sort of relative to the whole climate change issue. During the course of discussions with him I talked to the folks at the Beaufort Lab and the Beaufort Bridge Net Survey data, which include glass eels but also data on many other species of interest to the council are now complete up through 2013.

Those data, I think, will be on the website and accessible in the not too distant future, so I just wanted to let the council know that. I've talked to Roger and Chip about that as well, so we all know those data are available and we'll probably be finding them very useful for future documents.

With regard to Atlantic sturgeon stock assessment, I wish Bob Beal was still here to give us a more current update. But my understanding is that stock assessment is proceeding. The initial analysis of the mark recapture data is going to use the acoustic data. We're very excited about that.

Those data give us so much more information regarding the movements and migration and timing of individual fish, so stay tuned for that. I don't have anything new on red knots at this point in time; any questions for any Fish and Wildlife Service items? Seeing none; that gets us to other business, and no one advised me of any other business. Is there any other business?

DR. DUVAL: Chip has reminded me that I think we need to officially appoint a representative from the council to the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team. Jack was kind enough to attend the last Take Reduction Team meeting, I believe in January, late January. But David Cupka was previously our council representative. I just want to bring that up. Well, Jack isn't here so that gives us an opportunity to do something particularly nasty. But I just want to make folks aware that that is something that we need to do. Maybe we can just sort of clean that up at Full Council. Well look, speak of the devil and the devil appears. Sorry, Jack, I don't mean to put you on the spot. But I was just saying that – but I will put you on the spot – I was just saying that you had graciously filled in for us at the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team meeting in January.

We do need an official council representative or appointee to that team. I didn't know if you were interested and/or available to do so. I mean, you're certainly welcome to say yes or no or

give it some thought, but that is something that we need to do. If not you, then if anyone else is interested it would be great to know that.

MR. COX: Could you remind me of the dates on that?

DR. DUVAL: They just had a webinar meeting, I think a little while ago. But I don't actually know the dates of the next Take Reduction Team meeting. I think we would need to figure that out. Maybe between now and full council we can figure that out.

MR. COX: Okay, we'll discuss it. I know I'll be in Charleston for the science workshop, so let me check my schedule and let's get back on it.

DR. DUVAL: In the meantime if there is anyone else who might be interested in participating let me know, and you all can arm wrestle for it.

DR. LANEY: I would just note for the record that Jack and Dr. Nowacek seemed to hit it off pretty well there. It would be convenient since a lot of the whale guys are located at Duke there.

MR. BOWEN: I think Mr. Cox will make a fine, fine representative to the team.

MR. COX: There is a lot to cover there so I could possibly have a companion to go with me to help cover that stuff.

MR. BOWEN: Between you and Chris, you all would be great.

DR. LANEY: All right, so Jack will take that under consideration and he and Michelle will talk about that and we'll take that at up at Full Council; any other business to come before the Protected Resources Committee? Seeing none; Madam Chairman, I think we are adjourning here at 4:43, and I think that means we're turning 17 more minutes over to you.

(Whereupon, the meeting was adjourned at 4:43 o'clock p.m., December 10, 2015.)

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
**2015 - 2016 COMMITTEES (continued)**

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Zack Bowen  
Ben Hartig  
LTJG Tara Pray  
Staff contact: Myra Brouwer

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Michelle Duval, Vice Chair  
Mel Bell  
Ben Hartig  
Doug Haymans  
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✓Jessica McCawley, Vice-Chair  
✓Mark Brown  
✓Zack Bowen  
✓Jack Cox  
✓Michelle Duval  
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Wilson Laney, Vice-Chair  
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Mel Bell, Vice-Chair  
Jack Cox  
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*(Continued)*

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**South Atlantic Fishery Management Council -  
December 2015 Council Meeting  
Atlantic Beach, NC**

**Date:** Thursday December 10, 2015

**Committee:** Protected Resources

**PLEASE SIGN IN -**

*In order to have a record of your attendance at each meeting and your name included in the minutes, we ask that you sign this sheet for the meeting shown above.*

Name:	Mailing Address/E-mail: <i>(If your information is currently on file, please check the box.)</i>	How do you participate in South Atlantic fisheries? <i>(Check all that apply)</i>	
Leda Dunmore	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On File	Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	NGO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Recreational <input type="checkbox"/>	Govt. <input type="checkbox"/>
		Charter/For-hire <input type="checkbox"/>	Other _____ <i>Describe</i>
Andrew Rubin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On File	Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	NGO <input type="checkbox"/>
		Recreational <input type="checkbox"/>	Govt. <input type="checkbox"/>
		Charter/For-hire <input type="checkbox"/>	Other _____ <i>Describe</i>
Dean Foster	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On File	Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	NGO <input type="checkbox"/>
		Recreational <input type="checkbox"/>	Govt. <input type="checkbox"/>
		Charter/For-hire <input type="checkbox"/>	Other _____ <i>Describe</i>
Bob Lacey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On File	Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	NGO <input type="checkbox"/>
		Recreational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Govt. <input type="checkbox"/>
		Charter/For-hire <input type="checkbox"/>	Other _____ <i>Describe</i>
David Bush	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On File	Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	NGO <input type="checkbox"/>
		Recreational <input type="checkbox"/>	Govt. <input type="checkbox"/>
		Charter/For-hire <input type="checkbox"/>	Other _____ <i>Describe</i>
	<input type="checkbox"/> On File	Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	NGO <input type="checkbox"/>
		Recreational <input type="checkbox"/>	Govt. <input type="checkbox"/>
		Charter/For-hire <input type="checkbox"/>	Other _____ <i>Describe</i>

**South Atlantic Fishery Management Council  
4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201  
Charleston, SC 29405**



**South Atlantic Fishery Management Council –  
December 2015 Council Meeting  
Atlantic Beach, NC**

**Date:** Thursday December 10, 2015

**Committee:** Protected Resources

**PLEASE SIGN IN -**

*In order to have a record of your attendance at each meeting and your name included in the minutes, we ask that you sign this sheet for the meeting shown above.*

Name:	Mailing Address/E-mail: <i>(If your information is currently on file, please check the box.)</i>	How do you participate in South Atlantic fisheries? <i>(Check all that apply)</i>	
		Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	NGO <input type="checkbox"/>
Kellie Ralston	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On File	Recreational <input type="checkbox"/>	Govt. <input type="checkbox"/>
		Charter/ For-hire <input type="checkbox"/>	Other _____ <i>Describe</i>
		Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	NGO <input type="checkbox"/>
Bill Kelly	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On File	Recreational <input type="checkbox"/>	Govt. <input type="checkbox"/>
		Charter/ For-hire <input type="checkbox"/>	Other _____ <i>Describe</i>
		Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	NGO <input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/> On File	Recreational <input type="checkbox"/>	Govt. <input type="checkbox"/>
		Charter/ For-hire <input type="checkbox"/>	Other _____ <i>Describe</i>
		Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	NGO <input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/> On File	Recreational <input type="checkbox"/>	Govt. <input type="checkbox"/>
		Charter/ For-hire <input type="checkbox"/>	Other _____ <i>Describe</i>
		Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	NGO <input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/> On File	Recreational <input type="checkbox"/>	Govt. <input type="checkbox"/>
		Charter/ For-hire <input type="checkbox"/>	Other _____ <i>Describe</i>
		Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	NGO <input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/> On File	Recreational <input type="checkbox"/>	Govt. <input type="checkbox"/>
		Charter/ For-hire <input type="checkbox"/>	Other _____ <i>Describe</i>
		Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	NGO <input type="checkbox"/>

**South Atlantic Fishery Management Council  
4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201  
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# COUNCIL MTG DAY 4

10 Dec 15

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