

**PROTECTED RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
ATLANTIC BEACH, NC  
DECEMBER 7, 2009**

The Protected Resources Committee convened on Monday, December 7, 2009. The Committee received an update from Ms. Jennifer Lee of NOAA Fisheries Protected Resources Division on South Atlantic protected species, and associated regulatory/management actions that the Council should be knowledgeable of when managing its fisheries. Specific items included: 1) re-initiation of ESA Section 7 consultation for the shrimp fishery due to incidental take of smalltooth sawfish; 2) a petition by the Natural Resources Defense Council to list Atlantic sturgeon as an endangered species under the ESA; 3) a petition by the Center for Biological Diversity seeking to protect 83 coral species (8 of which are found in the South Atlantic region) under the ESA; and 4) proposed legal action regarding the incidental catch of sea turtles in gillnet fisheries in North Carolina. The committee also received a presentation from Mr. Robert Bahn of the University of Georgia on bycatch of shortnose sturgeon in the Altamaha river shad gillnet fishery.

The committee made the following motion:

**MOTION: REFER THE ISSUE OF SMALLTOOTH SAWFISH TAKES IN THE SHRIMP FISHERY TO THE SHRIMP COMMITTEE.**