



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Charlie Phillips, Chair | Captain Mark Brown, Vice Chair
Gregg T. Waugh, Executive Director

AGENDA

Recreational Reporting Workshop

Double Tree by Hilton Atlantic Beach Oceanfront
Atlantic Beach, North Carolina

Tuesday, December 5, 2017 (YYYY) – 8:30 A.M. – Noon (Times subject to change)

Background on Recreational Reporting – Chip Collier

1. NC Electronic Big Game Reporting – tag based reporting (*Attachment 1*) – CarolAnne Feehan
2. iSnapper (Texas) - voluntary reporting program (*Attachment 2*) – Tara Topping
3. Tails’n Scales (Mississippi) – mandatory program (*Attachment 3*) – Carly Somerset
4. Reef Fish Sampling (Florida) – MRIP supplement (*Attachment 4*) – Bev Sauls
5. LA Creel (Louisiana) – redesigned recreational survey (*Attachment 5*) – Jason Froeba
6. MyFishCount (SAFMC) – pilot reporting project (*Attachment 6*) – Kelsey Dick

Discussion on Recreational Reporting – Charlie Phillips

Adjourn

Attachments

Attachment 1: Tagging_NCWRC

Attachment 2: iSnapper_SAFMC_Topping

Attachment 3: TailsNScales_presentation

Attachment 4: ReefFish_Program_FWC

Attachment 5: LA_Creel_SAFMC

Attachment 6: MyFishCount_Pilot

Staff: Chip Collier & Kelsey Dick

OVERVIEW

Recreational Reporting Workshop

The workshop is focused on recreational reporting methods in order to aid in the development of Snapper Grouper Amendment 46. Currently there are several different options under consideration for private recreational reporting to include in Amendment 46. The goal of the workshop is to provide Council members an opportunity to talk with program managers/biologists in order to discuss how different programs operate and how the different methods could improve catch and discard estimates in the private recreational fishery.

Since the requirement to manage fisheries under annual catch limits, recreational reporting has been increasingly emphasized to improve estimates. Exceeding the annual catch limit (and the acceptable biological catch) has resulted in the recreational harvest remaining closed for some species or seasonal restrictions. Improving the catch estimates for private recreational fishery may prevent the need for closures when catches are estimated with high variance. Currently, the private recreational fishermen are surveyed through the Marine Recreational Information Program. Many species in the snapper grouper fishery are considered rare events species, that are not commonly encountered or reported in the survey. Other recreational reporting methods may provide complementary results to help improve estimates from the Marine Recreational Information Program. Reporting requirements have already been established for headboat vessels and new requirements are under review for charter vessels. Headboat vessels are required to report their catch and discards weekly through the Southeast Region Headboat Survey. An amendment to require electronic reporting for charter vessels was recently approved by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and is under review by the National Marine Fisheries Service. If approved, charter vessels will be required to electronically report fishing effort on a weekly basis. Charter vessels are currently sampled through the Marine Recreational Information Program in Florida, Georgia, and North Carolina and monthly reports are required in South Carolina.

Included in the workshop are program managers/biologists from several different state agencies. The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission uses electronic tag reports to manage big game hunting and harvest. iSnapper is a voluntary method to report red snapper catches by Texas fishermen. Tails'n Scales is a mandatory program established by the state of Mississippi to estimate red snapper harvest. Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission developed a sampling sub-frame of the Marine Recreational Information Program to improve estimates for reef fish caught in the Gulf of Mexico. LA Creel, an independent statistical survey designed by Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, was established to improve catch estimates for recreational caught fish and provide better spatial and temporal resolution.