



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Trish Murphey, Chair | Jessica McCawley, Vice Chair
John Carmichael, Executive Director

Agenda

Drury Plaza Hotel North Charleston
2934 West Montague
North Charleston, SC 29418

September 14-18, 2026

Except for advertised (scheduled) public hearings and public comment sessions, the times indicated on the agenda may be adjusted as necessary to accommodate the completion of agenda items. Interested parties should be aware that meetings may start earlier or later than indicated.

Hybrid Public Comment Session:

The public comment session for the meeting (September 16, 2026, at 4 PM), will allow for both in-person and remote (via webinar) verbal public comment. Individuals intending to provide verbal public comment remotely are asked to sign-up at the following link: [Virtual Comment Sign-in](#). Members of the public intending to provide comments in-person will be asked to sign in at the meeting.

Written Comments:

To submit written comments on items on this agenda, visit the online public comment form: [Submit written comment](#). Written comments will be accepted from August 28 to September 18, 2026. These comments are accessible to the public, part of the Administrative Record of the meeting, and immediately available for Council consideration. View submitted written comments at: [Read written comments](#)

Written comments submitted by mail/fax received by close of business the Monday before the meeting (September 7, 2026) will be compiled, posted to the website as part of the meeting materials, and included in the administrative record.

From September 8 to 5 PM on September 18, written comments must be submitted electronically through the online public comment form at the link above.

Monday, September 14, 2026

COUNCIL SESSION I

COUNCIL SESSION I (CLOSED) /Murphey 8:30 am – 12:00 noon

- Approve agenda
- Litigation brief (if needed)
- 1. Review proposed changes to advisory panel policy (AP) to clarify term limits
- 2. Consider establishing chair and vice chair positions for the Citizen Science Operations AP.
- 3. Executive Committee membership discussion
- 4. Executive Committee report (June 2026 meeting)
- 5. Appointments

-- Lunch --

COUNCIL SESSION I /Murphey 1:30 pm – 5:00 pm

- Welcome and Introductions
- Oath for new members
- 2025 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award

- Approve agenda
- Approve minutes (June 2026)
- Litigation brief (if needed)

Reports and Updates

- State agencies

- 1. Council liaisons
 - a. Mid-Atlantic
 - b. Gulf
- 2. Staff
- 3. Executive Order 14276 Update
- 4. Shrimp Workgroup
- 5. NMFS (SERO & SEFSC)
 - a. Use of Discards in Management presentation
 - b. Protected resources update
- 6. Unmanaged species landings presentation – SEFSC and Council Staff
- 7. Resilient Fisheries Initiative projects – Lara Klibansky, SAFMC Contractor
- 8. Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan (ALWTRP) Scoping Presentation – Kara Shervanick, Southeast Right Whale Coordinator
- 9. Species Outside SAFMC Jurisdiction
 - a. International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (if any)
 - b. Highly Migratory Species
 - c. Take Reduction Teams (if any)

Tuesday, September 15, 2026

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Habitat & Ecosystem /Murphey 8:30 am – 10:30 am

- Approve agenda

- 1. Habitat & Ecosystem AP (HEAP) report – Stacie Crowe, outgoing HEAP Chair
 - Consider approval of revised policies
 - Review topics for the Habitat and Ecosystem AP

- 2. Ecosystem Information Review – Sarah Gaichas, Hydra Scientific, LLC

SEDAR Catch Advice and Data/Murphey 10:45 am – 12:00 noon

- Approve agenda
- Approve minutes (March 2026)
- 1. SEDAR Steering Committee July 2026 Meeting Report
- 2. Assessment Updates and upcoming SEDAR schedule
- 3. Stock risk ratings: FLK/EFL Hogfish, Black Grouper, Gag

-- Lunch --

SEDAR Catch Advice and Data/Murphey 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

- 4. Terms of Reference: Red Grouper, Snowy Grouper, Vermilion Snapper
- 5. Standardized Bycatch Reduction Methodology (SBRM) – approve SBRM plan outline/timeline
- 6. Southeast Reef Fish Survey and Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program Update – Tracey Smart, SCDNR

Snapper Grouper/McCawley 3:45 pm – 5:00 pm

- Approve agenda
- Approve minutes (June 2026)
- Update on submitted amendments
- Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) applications update
- 1. Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Unit Revision (Amendment 61)
 - a. Overview

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Snapper Grouper/McCawley 8:30 am – 12:00 noon

- 2. Yellowtail Snapper & Mutton Snapper Catch levels and Allocation (Amendment 44)
 - a. Overview and approve for public hearings
- 3. Sunsetting of Spawning Special Management Zones (Regulatory Amendment 39)
 - a. Overview and approve for public hearings

-- Lunch --

Snapper Grouper/McCawley 1:30 pm – 3:45 pm

- 4. Commercial Management Measures (Amendment 60)

- a. Review public hearing comments
- b. Presentation on VMS and any additional notification requirements – Jessica Stephen and Kelly Spalding, NOAA Fisheries
- c. Approve all actions

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

PUBLIC COMMENT

4:00 pm

Public comment will be accepted from individuals attending the meeting (in-person and remotely) regarding any of the items on the Council agenda. The Council Chair, based on the number of individuals wishing to comment, will determine the amount of time provided to each commenter. Those intending to provide verbal public comment via webinar can sign-up here:

[Virtual Comment Sign-in](#)

Public hearings:

Commercial Management Measures (Amendment 60)

Approval for public hearings:

- Yellowtail Snapper & Mutton Snapper Catch Levels and Allocation (Amendment 44)
- Sunsetting of Spawning Special Management Zones (Regulatory Amendment 39)

Thursday, September 17, 2026

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Snapper Grouper/McCawley 8:30 am – 12:00 noon

- 5. Headboat Vessel Limits for Snapper Grouper Species (Regulatory Amendment 38)
 - a. Overview and preliminary analyses
- Management Strategy Evaluation Updates
 - a. Snapper Grouper
 - b. Wreckfish
- 6. Wreckfish Individual Transferable Quota Program Review - provide comments and draft conclusions and recommendations for AP review

-- Lunch --

Snapper Grouper/McCawley 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

- 7. Blueline Tilefish Joint Subcommittee Report
 - a. Review recommendation for process to allocate the ABC between the SAFMC and MAFMC jurisdictions
- 8. Topics for Fall 2026 Snapper Grouper AP meeting

Thursday, September 17, 2026

COUNCIL SESSION

COUNCIL SESSION II/Murphey 2:45 pm – 5:00 pm

- Election of Chair and Vice Chair
- 1. Comprehensive Amendment to Address Commercial Trip Limit Sale and Revise the Abbreviated Framework Process – background and initial discussion
- 2. Modification of Sea Turtle Release Gear
- 3. Management of Cownose Rays
- 4. Topics for Fall 2026 Mackerel Cobia AP meeting

Friday, September 18, 2026

COUNCIL SESSION

COUNCIL SESSION II/Murphey 8:30 am – 12:00 noon

- 5. SAFMC Workplan
- Committee Reports
 - Full Council 1 (Closed)
 - Full Council 1 (Open)
 - Habitat & Ecosystem
 - SECAD
 - Snapper Grouper
 - Executive (June 2026)
- 7. Upcoming SAFMC Meetings

Other business

Adjourn