

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
Full Council and Committee Reports
SUMMARY MOTIONS
December 5-9, 2022

This is a summary of the motions approved by the Council. Motions addressing actions and alternatives for FMP amendments are followed by text showing the result of the approved motion. Complete details on motions and other committee recommendations are provided in the Committee Reports available on the SAFMC website.

Full Council Session I

MOTION 1: APPOINT THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS TO COUNCIL ADVISORY PANELS AND THE SEDAR POOL

Coral AP

- REAPPOINT DR. SANDRA BROOKE AND DR. STEVE ROSS TO A ONE-YEAR TERM TO THE CORAL AP.
- APPOINT KRISTEN AYERS TO THE CORAL AP.
- REAPPOINT JOHN CRAMER AND DR. NICHOLE FOGERTY TO THE CORAL AP

Mackerel Cobia AP

REAPPOINT STEPHEN DONALSON, CHARLES LOCKE, AND THOMAS NEWMAN TO THE MACKEREL COBIA AP.

Deepwater Shrimp AP

- REAPPOINT MIKE MERRIFIELD AND MARILYN SOLORZANO TO A ONE-YEAR TERM TO THE DW SHRIMP AP.
- REAPPOINT JASON VOGELSONG, LEE VOGELSONG, NANCY JONES, AND DAMIEN SOLORZANO TO THE DW SHRIMP AP.

Shrimp AP

- REAPPOINT GARY EXLEY, JOHN WOODS AND JANIE THOMAS, AND MARILYN SOLORZANO TO THE SHRIMP AP.
- APPOINT BRYAN FLUECH AND JEFFREY MILLIKEN TO THE SHRIMP AP.

Spiny Lobster AP

- REAPPOINT GARY NICHOLS, MIMI STAFFORD, SEAN ESPENSHIP, BRUCE IRWIN, AND JUSTIN SMITH TO THE SPINY LOBSTER AP.
- REAPPOINT MICKEY WHITTINGTON FOR A ONE-YEAR TERM TO THE SPINY LOBSTER AP.
- APPOINT ERICA ROSS TO THE SPINY LOBSTER AP.

SEDAR Pool

APPOINT GREG MERCURIO TO THE SEDAR POOL.

MOTION 2: ACCEPT TIMING AND TASKS:

- Send notification letters to appointees and email notifications to those not selected by December 20, 2022.
- Conduct an orientation of new AP members by the March 2023 SAFMC meeting.

- Staff to provide options for membership of the Golden Crab AP and Wreckfish AP at the Council's March 2023 meeting.
- Advertise for open seats on advisory panels, SSC, and SEP following the March 2023 Council meeting.

MOTION 3: APPROVE THE COMPREHENSIVE ACCEPTABLE BIOLOGICAL CATCH CONTROL RULE AMENDMENT TO THE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR THE SNAPPER GROUPER FISHERY OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC REGION, DOLPHIN AND WAHOO FISHERY OF THE ATLANTIC, AND GOLDEN CRAB FISHERY OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC REGION FOR FORMAL SECRETARIAL REVIEW AND DEEM THE CODIFIED TEXT AS NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE. GIVE STAFF EDITORIAL LICENSE TO MAKE ANY NECESSARY EDITORIAL CHANGES TO THE DOCUMENT/CODIFIED TEXT AND GIVE THE COUNCIL CHAIR AUTHORITY TO APPROVE THE REVISIONS AND RE-DEEM THE CODIFIED TEXT.

Snapper Grouper Committee

Release Mortality Reduction & Red Snapper Catch Levels (Regulatory Amendment 35)

MOTION 4: APPROVE THE EDITS TO THE PURPOSE AND NEED STATEMENTS.

Purpose: The *purpose* of this framework amendment is to revise the acceptable biological catch and annual catch limits for red snapper in the South Atlantic based on the results of the latest stock assessment; and implement management measures to reduce dead discards for the South Atlantic snapper grouper fishery.

Need: The *need* for this framework amendment is to ensure red snapper catch limits are based on the best scientific information available and to address overfishing of the South Atlantic red snapper stock by reducing dead discards of snapper grouper species, while minimizing negative social and economic effects to the extent practicable, consistent with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and its National Standards.

MOTION 5: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 2 AS PREFERRED UNDER ACTION 1.

Action 1. Reduce the acceptable biological catch, total annual catch limit, and sector annual catch limits, and establish an annual optimum yield for South Atlantic red snapper

Alternative 2. Reduce the red snapper acceptable biological catch and set it equal to the most recent recommendation from the Scientific and Statistical Committee. Revise the total annual catch limit and establish an annual optimum yield for red snapper and set them **equal to** the recommended acceptable biological catch. Red snapper may only be harvested or possessed in or from the South Atlantic exclusive economic zone during the commercial and recreational fishing seasons. The 2027 total annual catch limit and annual optimum yield would remain in place until modified.

Fishing Year	ABC (numbers of fish)	Annual OY=Total ACL (numbers of fish)	Commercial ACL (lbs ww)	Recreational ACL (numbers of fish)
2023	28,000	28,000	77,016	19,119
2024	31,000	31,000	85,268	22,119
2025	33,000	33,000	90,769	24,119
2026	35,000	35,000	96,270	26,119
2027+	36,000	36,000	99,021	27,119

MOTION 6: MOVE ALTERNATIVES 3 AND 4 UNDER ACTION 1 TO THE CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED APPENDIX.

Alternative 3. Reduce the red snapper acceptable biological catch and set it equal to the most recent recommendation from the Scientific and Statistical Committee. Revise the total annual catch limit and establish an annual optimum yield for red snapper and set them equal to **95%** of the recommended acceptable biological catch. Red snapper may only be harvested or possessed in or from the South Atlantic exclusive economic zone during the commercial and recreational fishing seasons. The 2027 total annual catch limit and annual optimum yield would remain in place until modified.

Alternative 4. Reduce the red snapper acceptable biological catch and set it equal to the most recent recommendation from the Scientific and Statistical Committee. Revise the total annual catch limit and establish an annual optimum yield for red snapper and set them equal to **90%** of the recommended acceptable biological catch. Red snapper may only be harvested or possessed in or from the South Atlantic exclusive economic zone during the commercial and recreational fishing seasons. The 2027 total annual catch limit and annual optimum yield would remain in place until modified.

MOTION 7: MOVE ACTION 2 TO THE CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED APPENDIX.

Action 2. Prohibit the use of electrically or hydraulically-powered reels to fish recreationally for snapper grouper species

MOTION 8: MOVE DRAFT ALTERNATIVE 3 AND DRAFT ALTERNATIVE 4 UNDER ACTION 3 TO THE CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED APPENDIX.

Action 3. Prohibit the use of more than one hook per line for the snapper grouper recreational sector

DRAFT Alternative 3. Prohibit the use of more than one hook per line for the recreational sector to fish for snapper grouper species in the South Atlantic Exclusive Economic Zone off:

Sub-Alternative 3a. North Carolina

Sub-Alternative 3b. South Carolina

Sub-Alternative 3c. Georgia

Sub-Alternative 3d. North Florida (counties include Nassau, Duval, Saint Johns, Flagler, Volusia)

Sub-Alternative 3e. Central Florida (counties include Brevard, Indian River, St Lucie)

Sub-Alternative 3f. South Florida (counties include Martin, Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade, Monroe)

DRAFT Alternative 4. Prohibit the use of more than one hook per line for the recreational sector to fish for snapper grouper species in the South Atlantic Exclusive Economic Zone in an **area associated with depth:**

Sub-Alternative 4a. Less than 100 feet

Sub-Alternative 4b. 100 feet to 200 feet

Sub-Alternative 4c. 200 feet to 300 feet

Sub-Alternative 4d. Greater than 300 feet

ADDITIONAL SUB-ALTERNATIVE DERIVED FROM AP RECOMMENDATION:

Sub-Alternative 4e. Greater than 150 feet

MOTION 9: APPROVE REGULATORY AMENDMENT 35 FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS.

Management Strategy Evaluation

MOTION 10: SCHEDULE THE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY EVALUATION CONTRACTORS TO PRESENT IN-PERSON AT THE MARCH 2023 COUNCIL MEETING.

Private Recreational Permitting and Reporting (Amendment 46)

MOTION 11: APPROVE AMENDMENT 46 AS MODIFIED (PRIVATE RECREATIONAL PERMITTING AND REPORTING) FOR SCOPING.

Gag and Black Grouper (Amendment 53)

MOTION 12: MOVE SUB-ACTION 4B TO THE CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED APPENDIX.

Action 4b. Modify the commercial spawning season closure for gag

MOTION 13: SELECT SUB-ALTERNATIVE 2A AND SUB-ALTERNATIVE 3A AS PREFERRED FOR SUB-ACTION 5A.

Action 5a. Establish a recreational vessel limit for gag

Alternative 2. Establish a private recreational vessel limit for gag of:

Sub-Alternative 2a. 2 fish per vessel per day

Alternative 3. Establish a for-hire recreational vessel limit for gag of:

Sub-Alternative 3a. 2 fish per vessel per trip

MOTION 14: MOVE SUB-ACTION 5B TO THE CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED APPENDIX.

Action 5b. Modify the recreational spawning season closure for gag

MOTION 15: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 2 AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE FOR SUB-ACTION 5C.

Action 5c. Prohibit the retention of gag by captain and crew

Alternative 2. The gag bag limit for captain and crew on a for-hire vessel with a Federal for-hire snapper-grouper permit is zero.

MOTION 16: SELECT THE SAME PREFERRED ALTERNATIVES FOR THE BLACK GROUPE SUB-ACTIONS (ACTION 7A-C) AS THE GAG SUB-ACTIONS (SUB-ACTIONS 5A-C).

Action 7a. Establish a recreational vessel limit for black grouper

Alternative 2. Establish a private recreational vessel limit for black grouper of:

Sub-Alternative 2a. 2 fish per vessel per day

Alternative 3. Establish a for-hire recreational vessel limit for black grouper of:

Sub-Alternative 3a. 2 fish per vessel per trip

Action 7b. Modify the recreational spawning season closure for black grouper

Alternative 1 (No Action). During January through April, no person may fish for, harvest, or possess in or from the South Atlantic exclusive economic zone any shallow-water grouper (gag, black grouper, scamp, red grouper, yellowfin grouper, yellowmouth grouper, red hind, rock hind, graysby, or coney).

Note: Action is moved to the Considered but Rejected Appendix

Action 7c. Prohibit the retention of black grouper by captain and crew

Alternative 2. The black grouper bag limit for captain and crew on a for-hire vessel with a Federal for-hire snapper-grouper permit is zero.

MOTION 17: DIRECT STAFF TO CONDUCT TWO WEBINAR PUBLIC HEARINGS IN JANUARY 2023 FOR AMENDMENT 53.

Snowy Grouper (Amendment 51)

MOTION 18: APPROVE THE MODIFICATIONS TO ACTION 4, ALTERNATIVE 2

Action 4. Modify the snowy grouper recreational accountability measures

Alternative 2. Remove the current recreational in-season accountability measures. For the snowy grouper recreational sector, National Marine Fisheries Service will annually announce the recreational fishing season start and end dates in the Federal Register and by other methods, as deemed appropriate. The fishing season will start on May 1 and end on the date National Marine Fisheries Service projects the recreational annual catch limit will be met.

MOTION 19: APPROVE AMENDMENT 51 TO THE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE SNAPPER GROUPE FISHERY OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC REGION FOR FORMAL SECRETARIAL REVIEW AND DEEM THE CODIFIED TEXT AS NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE. GIVE STAFF EDITORIAL LICENSE TO MAKE ANY NECESSARY EDITORIAL CHANGES TO THE DOCUMENT/CODIFIED TEXT AND GIVE THE

COUNCIL CHAIR AUTHORITY TO APPROVE THE REVISIONS AND RE-DEEM THE CODIFIED TEXT.

Golden Tilefish and Blueline Tilefish (Amendment 52)

MOTION 20: MOVE ACTION 6 TO THE CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED APPENDIX.

Action 6. Modify blueline tilefish recreational season.

MOTION 21: APPROVE AMENDMENT 52 TO THE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE SNAPPER GROUPER FISHERY OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC REGION FOR FORMAL SECRETARIAL REVIEW AND DEEM THE CODIFIED TEXT AS NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE. GIVE STAFF EDITORIAL LICENSE TO MAKE ANY NECESSARY EDITORIAL CHANGES TO THE DOCUMENT/CODIFIED TEXT AND GIVE THE COUNCIL CHAIR AUTHORITY TO APPROVE THE REVISIONS AND RE-DEEM THE CODIFIED TEXT.

Timing and Tasks:

MOTION 22: DIRECT STAFF TO DO THE FOLLOWING:

- Continue to develop Regulatory Amendment 35 (Release Mortality Reduction and Red Snapper) and Amendment 53 (Gag and Black Grouper) for the Committee's consideration of approval for formal secretarial review at the March 2023 meeting.
- Conduct public hearings for Regulatory Amendment 35 (Release Mortality Reduction and Red Snapper) and Amendment 53 (Gag and Black Grouper) prior to the March 2023 Council meeting. Conduct public hearings for Amendment 53 via webinar. Conduct in-person and webinar public hearings for Regulatory Amendment 35.
- Prepare Amendment 51 (Snowy Grouper) and Amendment 52 (Golden Tilefish Blueline Tilefish) for submission for secretarial review.
- Conduct two scoping sessions for Amendment 46 via webinar ahead of the March 2023 meeting.
- Continue developing Amendment 46 (Private Recreational Permitting and Reporting) for review at the March 2023 meeting.
- Develop a guidance document for the management strategy evaluation (MSE).
- Request Blue Matter Science provide an overview presentation of the MSE at the March 2023 meeting.

Mackerel Cobia Committee

MOTION 23: DIRECT THE SSC TO PROVIDE CATCH LEVEL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ATLANTIC SPANISH MACKEREL AT THEIR APRIL 2023 MEETING, EITHER FROM THE UPDATED ASSESSMENT OR USING A DATA-LIMITED APPROACH.

MOTION 24: ADOPT THE FOLLOWING TIMING AND TASKS:

1. Provide updated landings information and conduct a fishery performance report for little tunny once every three years for review.
2. Begin developing a plan for conducting port meetings along with Atlantic coast, seeking input from the Gulf Council and Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.

3. Provide a brief summary of federal regulations as they relate to king and Spanish mackerel fishing tournaments and work with NMFS to gather the weight/number of tournament fish over the last ten years.
4. Work with the SSC and SEFSC to provide the information necessary to develop catch level recommendations at the April 2023 SSC meeting.