

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
Full Council and Committee Reports
SUMMARY MOTIONS
June 13-17, 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, THE RECREATIONAL PERMITTING AND REPORTING TECHNICAL ADVISORY PANEL, THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC PANEL, AND THE SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE

Dolphin Wahoo AP

REAPPOINT BRICE BARR, DANIEL OWSLEY, EARL HARRIS, JR. AND JAY KAVANAGH TO THE DOLPHIN WAHOO AP.

APPOINT PAUL PANCAKE TO THE DOLPHIN WAHOO AP.

Golden Crab AP

APPOINT ALL GOLDEN CRAB PERMIT HOLDERS TO THE GOLDEN CRAB AP EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2022. THE GOLDEN CRAB AP WILL FUNCTION SIMILAR TO THE WRECKFISH AP.

Habitat AP

REAPPOINT THOMAS JONES FOR 1 YEAR TO THE HABITAT AP.

APPOINT CASEY KNIGHT, REAPPOINT PAULA KEENER, JEFF HARTZLER AND WILSON LANEY TO THE HABITAT AP.

Law Enforcement AP

REAPPOINT MICHAEL FREEMAN TO THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AP.

Mackerel Cobia AP

APPOINT WILLIAM PALMER TO THE MACKEREL COBIA AP.

Snapper Grouper AP

REAPPOINT CAMERON SEBASTIAN TO THE SNAPPER GROUPE AP.

APPOINT SCOTT AMICK TO THE SNAPPER GROUPE AP.

Recreational Permitting and Reporting Technical AP

APPOINT LUIZ BARBIERI, ANDREW CATHEY, AMY DUKES, JOHN FOSTER, KAI LORENZEN, BEV SAULS, AND GEOFF WHITE TO THE RECREATIONAL PERMITTING AND REPORTING AP

Socio-Economic Panel

APPOINT CHELSEY CRANDALL, BRIAN CHEUVRONT, AND KEVIN HUNT TO THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC PANEL.

REMOVE KURT SCHNIER FROM THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC PANEL.

Scientific and Statistical Committee

REAPPOINT DUSTIN ADDIS AND DR. JARED FLOWERS TO STATE DESIGNATED SSC SEATS FOR FLORIDA AND GEORGIA, RESPECTIVELY, FOR THREE-YEAR TERMS.

REAPPOINT JEFF BUCKEL, GENNY NESSLAGE, AND GEORGE SEDBERRY TO THE SSC FOR THREE-YEAR TERMS.

APPOINT MARCEL REICHERT TO THE SSC FOR A THREE-YEAR TERM.

MOTION 2: PERFORM BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR FUTURE SSC AND SEP APPLICANTS CONSISTENT WITH THOSE CONDUCTED FOR AP APPLICANTS.

MOTION 3: DIRECT STAFF TO DO THE FOLLOWING:

- Send notification letters to appointees, and letters of thanks to those not selected, by July 1.
- Conduct an orientation of new AP members by the September 2022 SAFMC meeting.
- Conduct an orientation of new SSC members prior to the August 2022 SSC meeting.
- Conduct an orientation of new SEP members prior to December 2022.
- Convene a meeting of the Recreational Permitting and Reporting AP before the September 2022 SAFMC meeting. Direct the AP to review the Mid-Atlantic recreational tilefish reporting program with consideration of its applicability to the South Atlantic snapper grouper complex. Present AP recommendations at the September 2022 SAFMC meeting.

MOTION 4: APPROVE PUBLIC INPUT GATHERING TOOL, AS MODIFIED.

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

Action 1. Modify the Acceptable Biological Catch Control Rule

Preferred Alternative 2. Specify an acceptable biological catch control rule for the Dolphin Wahoo, Golden Crab, and Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plans that

categorizes stocks based on the available information and scientific uncertainty evaluation and incorporates the Council’s risk tolerance policy through an accepted probability of overfishing (P*). The Council will specify the P* based on relative stock biomass and a stock risk rating.

When possible, the Scientific and Statistical Committee will determine the overfishing limit and characterize its uncertainty based on, primarily, the stock assessment or, secondarily, the Scientific and Statistical Committee’s expert opinion. The overfishing limit and its uncertainty would then be used to derive and recommend the acceptable biological catch, based on the risk tolerance specified by the Council.

Acceptable biological catch for unassessed stocks will be recommended by the Scientific and Statistical Committee based on applicable data-limited methods. Unassessed stocks will be assigned the moderate biomass level, unless there is a recommendation from the Scientific and Statistical Committee for a different level, in which case the SSC recommendation regarding the appropriate level will be used.

For overfished stocks, the Council will specify a stock rebuilding plan (usually Trebuild), considering recommendations from the Scientific and Statistical Committee and fishery management plan advisory panel, which will determine the acceptable biological catch while the rebuilding plan is in effect. Per requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the probability of success for rebuilding plans (1-P*) must be at least 50%.

Snapper Grouper Committee

Release Mortality Reduction and Red Snapper Catch Levels Framework Amendment (Regulatory Amendment 35) – No motions were made. Refer to the committee report for detailed guidance.

Gag Grouper (Amendment 53)

MOTION 6: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 4B AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE FOR ACTION 3.

Action 3. Revise the gag sector allocations and sector annual catch limits

Preferred Alternative 4. To determine allocations throughout the rebuilding plan, use the following method: Use the total commercial and Marine Recreational Information Program Fishery Effort Survey recreational landings (Sub-alternatives 4a and 4b) as a baseline for initial reductions; apply the percent reduction from the total landings scenarios to the 2023 total annual catch limit evenly between sectors; apply each subsequent annual increase in the total ACL evenly to each sector ACL for Year 2 and each year thereafter throughout the rebuilding plan. Sector annual catch limits in the terminal year of the rebuilding plan (2032) would remain in place until modified.

Preferred Sub-Alternative 4b. To determine allocations throughout the rebuilding plan, use the average commercial and recreational MRIP FES landings from 2015-2019 as the baseline (5-year average).

MOTION 7: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 3 AS THE PREFERRED FOR ACTION 4A.

Action 4a. Reduce the commercial trip limit

Alternative 3. Reduce the commercial trip limit to 300 lbs gutted weight.

MOTION 8: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 1 (NO ACTION) AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE FOR ACTION 4B, AND SELECT ALTERNATIVE 1 (NO ACTION) AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE FOR ACTION 5B.

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

Alternative 1 (No Action). The annual commercial gag spawning season closure is from January 1 through April 30.

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

Alternative 1 (No Action). The annual recreational gag spawning season closure is from January 1 through April 30.

MOTION 9: REMOVE ACTION 6 FROM AMENDMENT 53.

Action 6. Revise the gag commercial accountability measures

MOTION 10: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 4 AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE FOR ACTION 7.

Action 7. Revise the gag recreational accountability measures

Alternative 4. Retain the current recreational in-season accountability measures. If recreational landings exceed the recreational annual catch limit, reduce the length of the following year's recreational fishing season by the amount necessary to prevent the recreational annual catch limit from being exceeded in the following year. However, the length of the recreational season will not be reduced if the Regional Administrator determines, using the best scientific information available, that it is not necessary.

Golden Tilefish and Blueline Tilefish (Amendment 52)

MOTION 11: APPROVE PURPOSE AND NEED AS MODIFIED.

Purpose: The purpose is to revise the acceptable biological catch, overfishing limit, annual optimum yield, total annual catch limit and sector allocations for golden tilefish based on the most recent stock assessment. Additionally, the purpose is to consider modifications to management measures and accountability measures for golden tilefish and blueline tilefish.

Need: The need is to base conservation and management measures on the best scientific information available and achieve optimum yield, consistent with the Magnuson-Stevens Act and its National Standards.

MOTION 12: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 3, SUB-ALTERNATIVE 3A AS PREFERRED FOR ACTION 3.

Action 3. Modify the fishing year for the commercial golden tilefish hook and line and longline sectors

Alternative 3. Modify the fishing year for the commercial longline component.

Sub-Alternative 3a. Modify the fishing year to start January 15.

MOTION 13: REMOVE ACTION 4 FROM AMENDMENT 52 TO CONSIDER AT A LATER TIME.

Action 4. Establish an incidental trip limit allowance for the golden tilefish longline sector once the longline quota is caught

MOTION 14: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 3 AS PREFERRED FOR ACTION 5.

Action 5. Modify postseason recreational accountability measures for golden tilefish

Alternative 3. NMFS would annually announce the recreational fishing season start and end. The fishing season will start on (date) and end on the date National Marine Fisheries Service projects the recreational annual catch limit will be met.

MOTION 15: SELECT ALTERNATIVES 2 AND 4 AS PREFERRED FOR ACTION 6.

Action 6. Modify blueline tilefish recreational bag limit

Alternative 2. Reduce recreational blueline tilefish bag limit to 2 fish per person per day.

Alternative 4. Do not allow retention of blueline tilefish by captain and crew.

MOTION 16: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 4 AS PREFERRED FOR ACTION 7.

Action 7. Modify blueline tilefish recreational season.

Alternative 4. Modify blueline tilefish recreational season to May 1 through June 30.

MOTION 17: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 3 AS PREFERRED FOR ACTION 8.

Action 8. Modify postseason recreational accountability measures for blueline tilefish

Alternative 3. NMFS will annually announce the recreational fishing season start and end. The fishing season will start on (date) and end on the date National Marine Fisheries Service projects the recreational annual catch limit will be met.

MOTION 18: APPROVE SNAPPER GROUPER AMENDMENT 52 (GOLDEN TILEFISH AND BLUELINE TILEFISH) FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS.

Snowy Grouper (Amendment 51)

MOTION 19: MOVE ACTION 3 TO CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED.

Action 3. Reduce the snowy grouper commercial trip limit

MOTION 20: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 2 AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE FOR ACTION 4.

Action 4. Modify the snowy grouper recreational season

Alternative 2. The recreational snowy grouper season is May 1 to June 30.

MOTION 21: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 3 AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE FOR ACTION 5.

Action 5. Modify the snowy grouper recreational accountability measures

Alternative 3. If recreational landings exceed the recreational annual catch limit, reduce the length of the following year's recreational fishing season by the amount necessary to prevent the recreational annual catch limit from being exceeded in the following year. However, the length of the recreational season will not be reduced if the Regional Administrator determines, using the best scientific information available, that it is not necessary.

MOTION 22: APPROVE AMENDMENT 51 FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS.

Greater Amberjack (Amendment 49)

MOTION 23: MOVE ACTION 3 TO CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED.

Action 3. Increase the recreational minimum size limit for greater amberjack

MOTION 24: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 2 (32-INCH MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT) AS PREFERRED FOR ACTION 4.

Action 4. Reduce the commercial minimum size limit for greater amberjack

Alternative 2. Reduce the commercial minimum size limit to 32 inches fork length.

MOTION 25: ADD AN ALTERNATIVE THAT CONSIDERS A 34-INCH MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT FOR ACTION 4.

Action 4. Reduce the commercial minimum size limit for greater amberjack

MOTION 26: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 3, SUB-ALTERNATIVE 3A AS PREFERRED FOR ACTION 5.

Action 5. Increase the seasonal commercial trip limits for greater amberjack

Alternative 3. Increase the September 1 through the end of February (Season 2) commercial trip limit for greater amberjack to be:

Sub-alternative 3a. 1,200 pounds gutted or whole weight.

MOTION 27: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 2 AS PREFERRED FOR ACTION 6.

Action 6. Revise the April spawning closure for greater amberjack

Alternative 2. Specify during April each year, no person may sell or purchase, harvest or possess a greater amberjack from the South Atlantic exclusive economic zone and the harvest and possession limit is zero. This closure would apply to both the recreational and commercial sectors.

MOTION 28: APPROVE ALL ACTIONS IN SNAPPER GROUPER AMENDMENT 49.

MOTION 29: DIRECT STAFF TO DO THE FOLLOWING:

- Develop actions and analyses for Regulatory Amendment 35 (Snapper Grouper Release Mortality Reduction and Red Snapper Catch Levels) for the Committee’s consideration at the September 2022 meeting.
- Convene a meeting of the golden tilefish longline endorsement holders BY DECEMBER 2022 to discuss alternative ways to manage that fishery.
- Conduct public comment for Amendment 51 (Snowy Grouper) and Amendment 52 (Golden Tilefish and Blueline Tilefish) via webinar before the September 2022 Council meeting and during the public comment session at the September meeting.
- Prepare Amendment 49 (Greater Amberjack) for consideration of final approval at the September 2022 Council meeting.
- Prepare Amendment 53 (Gag) for consideration of approval for public hearings at the September 2022 Council meeting.

Dolphin Wahoo Committee

MOTION 30: DIRECT STAFF TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE MSE FOR DOLPHIN AS A PRIORITY OVER REGULATORY AMENDMENT 3. MOVE FORWARD WITH THE MSE STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS IN THE FALL AND COME BACK WITH SUMMARY INFORMATION FROM THE MEETINGS IF AVAILABLE AND REGULATORY AMENDMENT 3 AT THE DECEMBER 2022 MEETING.

MOTION 31: ADOPT THE FOLLOWING TIMING AND TASKS:

- Conduct scoping for Regulatory Amendment 3 with the intent of having comments ready for review at the December 2022 meeting.
- Continue developing Regulatory Amendment 3 for review at the December 2022 meeting.

Citizen Science Committee

No motions were made. Refer to the committee report for detailed guidance.