

**South Atlantic Fishery Management Council**  
**Full Council and Committee**  
**SUMMARY MOTIONS**  
**September 11-15, 2023**

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: APPROVE EDITS TO OPTION 1 IN THE COMPREHENSIVE AMENDMENT ADDRESSING ELECTRONIC REPORTING FOR COMMERCIAL VESSELS.**

Option 1: Modify the reporting requirements to require the owner or operator of a vessel for which a commercial fishing permit for South Atlantic snapper grouper, Atlantic dolphin and wahoo, coastal migratory pelagic species or Gulf reef fish has been issued to maintain a fishing record for each trip on an electronic software approved by the National Marine Fisheries Service. Completed fishing records must be electronically transmitted to the Science and Research Director no later than 7 days after the end of each fishing trip. If no fishing occurred during a calendar month, a report must be submitted on one of the electronic forms no later than 7 days after the end of that month. Information to be reported is indicated on the form and its accompanying instructions.

**MOTION 2: APPROVE THE COMPREHENSIVE AMENDMENT ADDRESSING ELECTRONIC REPORTING FOR COMMERCIAL VESSELS 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.**

**MOTION 3: DURING THE SEPTEMBER COUNCIL MEETING AND PRIOR TO DISCUSSION ON EACH AMENDMENT THAT UTILIZES MRIP-FES DATA, THE COUNCIL WILL DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING:**

1. THE AMENDMENT'S DEPENDENCY ON MRIP-FES DATA,
2. ANY MSA OR FEDERAL DEADLINES REQUIRED TO COMPLETE THE AMENDMENT, AND
3. IF THE COUNCIL IS INTERESTED IN MOVING FORWARD WITH THE AMENDMENT AND SUBSEQUENT TIMELINE OR POSTPONING FURTHER DISCUSSION UNTIL THE MRIP FES BIAS EVALUATION STUDY IS COMPLETE.

**MOTION 4: DURING THE SEDAR COMMITTEE, THE COUNCIL WILL DISCUSS THE ONGOING AND UPCOMING PROJECTS REQUESTED BY THE SAFMC, CONSIDER THEIR DEPENDENCY ON MRIP-FES, AND PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE NEXT SEDAR STEERING COMMITTEE.**

**MOTION 5: DIRECT THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AT THEIR OCTOBER 2023 MEETING TO RE-EVALUATE AND PRIORITIZE THE WORKLOAD IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COUNCIL’S ACTIONS DURING THE SEPTEMBER 2023 MEETING TO ADJUST FMP AMENDMENT TIMELINES AND SAFMC SEDAR PRIORITIES IN LIGHT OF THE RECENT NOTIFICATION OF POSSIBLE BIAS IN ESTIMATES PROVIDED BY THE MRIP-FES PROGRAM.**

**MOTION 6: DIRECT STAFF TO DO THE FOLLOWING:**

- Prepare a presentation on management triggers to inform activities related to climate change response for the March 2024 Council meeting.
- Request a presentation from SEFSC on status and outcomes from the 2020 Atlantic Science Coordination Workshop for the December 2023 Council meeting.
- Request an update from the SEFSC on progress to address differences in fishery independent surveys across regions (Southeast and Northeast) that currently limit the use of survey information to evaluate climate impacts on fish stocks for the December 2023 meeting.
- Finalize comment letter on governance procedural directive.
- Submit a FOIA request to the USCG to obtain information on the number, frequency, and duration of closures in the EEZ as a result of space-related activities over the past 10 years.
- Prepare a letter to support the state’s positions regarding shrimp imports and the effect they are having on the domestic shrimp industry.

**Mackerel Cobia Committee**

**MOTION 7: APPROVE THE PURPOSE AND NEED STATEMENT AS PRESENTED.**

The purpose of this amendment is to revise the acceptable biological catch, annual catch limits, annual optimum yield and recreational annual catch target for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel, based on the results of the latest stock assessment.

The need for this amendment is to ensure catch limits are based on the best scientific information available and to ensure overfishing does not occur in the Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel fishery.

**MOTION 8: APPROVE CMP FRAMEWORK AMENDMENT 13 FOR SCOPING.**

**MOTION 9: ADOPT THE FOLLOWING TIMING AND TASKS:**

- Continue work on CMP Framework Amendment 13, bringing the amendment to the Mackerel Cobia AP for discussion and holding scoping hearings prior to the December 2023 meeting.
- Continue development of port meetings, discussing possible meeting structure and locations with the planning team and Mackerel Cobia AP. Planning team members have been requested from NC, SC, GA, and FL state agencies.
- Convene an in-person meeting of the Mackerel Cobia AP this fall to discuss the topics listed above and note the importance of attendance.

## **Habitat and Ecosystem Committee**

**MOTION 10:** APPROVE THE SAFMC HABITAT BLUEPRINT

**MOTION 11:** APPROVE THE HABITAT AND ECOSYSTEM ADVISORY PANEL JOB DESCRIPTION AS WRITTEN.

**MOTION 12:** APPROVE THE REVISED 2023 BEACH RENOURISHMENT AND LARGE-SCALE OCEAN ENGINEERING POLICY STATEMENT.

**MOTION 13:** APPROVE LIST OF AGENDA ITEMS FOR NOVEMBER 2023 HABITAT AND ECOSYSTEM AP MEETING

- NOAA Fisheries HCD EFH Consultation Update
- NOAA Fisheries EFH 5 Year Review (Subcommittees Reports)
- Update: SECAS and Conservation Blueprint
- US Navy Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing EIS
- Offshore Wind Activities in South Atlantic Region
  - Update on BOEM Research and Energy Development Activities
- EFH Policy Statement on Energy
- SAFMC Habitat Blueprint
  - Review the Habitat Blueprint and Input on the Blueprint Workplan
  - Develop a plan to prepare the initial Habitat Annual Report at the Spring 2024 meeting
  - Policy considerations and priorities (e.g., flow and artificial reef)
- Update on the South Atlantic Salt Marsh Initiative
- Space Operations off Florida

**MOTION 14:** ADOPT THE FOLLOWING TIMING AND TASKS:

- Habitat and Ecosystem AP fall meeting planning incorporating approved agenda items.
- Confirm and coordinate with presenters for the fall AP meeting.
- Prepare Habitat Blueprint Workplan for review in December 2023
- Add discussion of Lake Okeechobee discharges to workplan for HEAP
  - Intent is to focus the discussion on impacts to Oculina reef off Florida and impacts to the deepwater shrimp fishery.

## **SEDAR Committee**

**MOTION 15:** APPROVE STATEMENTS OF WORK FOR 2026 SEDAR PROJECTS, AS MODIFIED.

For Snowy Grouper and Spanish Mackerel:

- Develop sensitivities to explore potential impact of bias in recreational landings.

For Dolphin:

- Ensure the evaluation includes an exploration of the potential impact of biased recreational landings.

- Evaluate potential distributional shifts or impacts of climate on Dolphin.
- Incorporate fleet dynamics for the commercial sector.

**MOTION 16:** APPOINT KAI LORENZEN TO THE SEDAR 82 GRAY TRIGGERFISH RESEARCH TRACK REVIEW PANEL, APPOINT STEVE TURNER AND FRED SERCHUK TO THE SEDAR79 MUTTON SNAPPER BENCHMARK ASSESSMENT PANEL, AND APPOINT STEVE TURNER AND KAI LORENZEN TO THE SEDAR92 BLUELINE TILEFISH OPERATIONAL REVIEW PANEL.

**MOTION 17:** ADOPT THE REVISED SEDAR PROJECT SCHEDULE INCLUDED IN SEDAR PROJECT SCHEDULE RECOMMENDED CHANGES DOCUMENT (FIGURE 3 IN FINAL COMMITTEE REPORT) AS THE RECOMMENDED SCHEDULE FOR SOUTH ATLANTIC PROJECTS.

**Snapper Grouper Committee**

*Note: Motions 18-22 pertain to the Private Recreational Permitting Amendment (SG Amendment 46)*

**MOTION 18:** ACCEPT THE EDITS TO THE PURPOSE AND NEED STATEMENTS.

The purpose of the amendment is to develop a recreational permitting system that will identify the universe of private anglers or vessels targeting South Atlantic snapper grouper species and will enhance the ability to collect recreational effort and catch data. Also work to promote best recreational fishing practices through education.

The need for the amendment is to improve the quality of effort and catch data for the private component of the recreational sector that targets South Atlantic snapper grouper species, while minimizing, to the extent practicable, adverse social and economic effects. Also improve education on best fishing practices.

**MOTION 19:** REMOVE ALTERNATIVES 3 AND 6 IN ACTION 2 TO THE CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED SECTION.

**Action 2. Specify the species that would be covered by a private recreational snapper grouper permit**

**Alternative 3.** A federal private recreational snapper grouper permit would be required when fishing for, harvesting, or possessing any assessed species in the snapper grouper fishery management unit for which recreational harvest is allowed.

**Alternative 6.** A federal private recreational snapper grouper permit would be required when fishing for, harvesting, or possessing any species with a size or bag limit.

**MOTION 20:** REMOVE ACTION 3 TO THE CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED SECTION.

**Action 3. Specify the effective term of a private recreational snapper grouper permit**

**Alternative 1 (No Action).** A federal permit is not required for a private angler or private vessel when fishing for, harvesting, or possessing snapper grouper species in the South Atlantic exclusive economic zone.

**Alternative 2.** A federal private recreational snapper grouper permit would remain valid for the calendar year that it was issued.

**Alternative 3.** A federal private recreational snapper grouper permit would remain valid for one year from issuance.

**Alternative 4.** A federal private recreational snapper grouper permit would expire on the date of birth for the permit holder.

**MOTION 21:** REMOVE ACTION 6 TO THE CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED SECTION AND CLARIFY IN ACTION 5 THAT THE INTENT IS FOR THE EDUCATION COMPONENT TO BE MANDATORY.

**Action 6. Specify whether an education component in the private recreational portion of the snapper grouper fishery would be mandatory or voluntary**

**Alternative 1 (No Action).** There is not a required education component for private recreational anglers to fish for, harvest, or possess snapper grouper species in the South Atlantic exclusive economic zone.

**Alternative 2.** An education component would be mandatory for all private recreational permit holders to fish for, harvest, or possess snapper grouper species in the South Atlantic exclusive economic zone.

**Alternative 3.** An education component would be voluntary for all private recreational permit holders to fish for, harvest, or possess snapper grouper species in the South Atlantic exclusive economic zone.

**MOTION 22:** REMOVE ALTERNATIVE 2 IN ACTION 8 TO THE CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED SECTION.

**Action 8. Specify the timing of education component requirements for the private recreational portion of the snapper grouper fishery in the South Atlantic region**

**Alternative 2.** An education component would need to be completed each calendar year.

**MOTION 23:** INITIATE A FRAMEWORK ACTION TO MODIFY THE GAG AND BLACK GROUPER VESSEL LIMIT TO 2 FISH COMBINED PER VESSEL.

**MOTION 24:** INCLUDE BLACK SEA BASS ON-DEMAND POT GEAR IN THE BLACK GROUPER AND GAG FRAMEWORK AMENDMENT.

**MOTION 25:** APPROVE THE ‘WHAT IT MEANS TO ME’ PROJECT AND BEGIN FILMING AT FALL AP MEETINGS.

**MOTION 26:** ADD DISCUSSION OF REGULATORY AMENDMENT 35 TO THE DECEMBER 2023 AGENDA.

**MOTION 27:** DIRECT STAFF TO DO THE FOLLOWING:

- Continue to develop Amendment 48 including bringing together the WAG and WSC to discuss cost recovery, monitoring, participation and eligibility. Provide the Committee with an update on the WAG and WSC meetings at the December 2023 Council meeting.
- Prepare an Amendment 46 public hearing document for approval at the December 2023 Council meeting.
- Continue to develop the BFP MVP and ‘What It Means to Me’ program. Identify possible participants for ‘What it Means to Me’ during the Fall 2023 AP meetings.

- Begin development of a framework amendment that will address the Gag and Black Grouper vessel limit and Black Sea Bass commercial on-demand gear to approve for scoping in December 2023.
- Request the SSC withdraw the stock ABC for yellowtail snapper in light of the MRIP-FES data issue and the availability of SRFS data for the species.
- Request the FWC consider prioritizing the yellowtail snapper assessment to include SRFS data.