

**South Atlantic Fishery Management Council**  
**Full Council and Committee**  
**SUMMARY MOTIONS**  
**December 4-8, 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 I Sessions**

**MOTION 1: APPOINT THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS TO THE DOLPHIN MANAGEMENT STRATEGY EVALUATION (MSE) WORKGROUP:**

OTHER VESTED STAKEHOLDERS

ALANA HARRISON, DAVID WAMER, GREGORY JACKOSI, AND SCOTT TRAVERS.

NORTHERN REGION

MARK DECABIA, CHRISTOPHER JOBES, AND ANTHONY DILERNIA.

NORTHERN NORTH CAROLINA

CHESTER CONKLIN, ROM WHITAKER, ERNEST DOSHIER, JAMES BYRD, AND DEWEY HEMILRIGHT.

SOUTHERN NORTH CAROLINA TO CENTRAL FLORIDA

CHIP BERRY, PETER LOY, ARNOLD BRUNELL, TAYLANA STERNS.

SOUTH FLORIDA AND THE FLORIDA KEYS

JONATHON REYNOLDS, JORDAN SCHLEIDER, AND TRIP AUKEMAN

**MOTION 2: APPOINT TRIP AUKEMAN, MARTHA GUYAS, DARRIN WILLINGHAM, CLEMENT CULLENS, AUSTIN DOHRN, LOGAN BARNES, DANIEL LESCHORN, BRENDAN RUNDE, BRADLEY SCHENK, AND JOHN COOPER TO THE PRIVATE ANGLER REPORTING AD-HOC AP.**

**MOTION 3: APPOINT SCOTT BAKER, WALTER BUBLEY, ROB CHESHIRE, RICK DEVICTOR STEPHEN DONALSON, MICHELLE DUVAL, BRYAN FLUECH, WILLIAM HEYMAN, RUSSELL HUDSON, JAMES HULL, KATHY KNOWLTON, SHELLY KRUEGER, NIKHIL MEHTA, SARA MIRABILIO, AND MATTHEW PERKINSON TO THE CITIZEN SCIENCE POOL.**

**MOTION 4: REAPPOINT WALTER BUBLEY, ROB CHESHIRE, SCOTT BAKER, AND MICHELLE DUVAL TO THE CITIZEN SCIENCE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE FOR 3 YEAR TERMS.**

**MOTION 5:** APPOINT NIKHIL MEHTA, JIMMY HULL, KATHY KNOWLTON, AND WILL HEYMAN TO THE **CITIZEN SCIENCE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE** FOR 5 YEAR TERMS.

**MOTION 6:** APPOINT RICHARD GOMEZ, ANDY PILAND, STEPHEN DONALSON, THOMAS NEWMAN, JON REYNOLDS, JUSTIN SMITH, MIMI STAFFORD, CASEY KNIGHT, BRYAN FLUECH, AND MATT PERKINSON TO THE **CITIZEN SCIENCE PROJECTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**.

**MOTION 7:** REAPPOINT JON REYNOLDS, CHIP BERRY, RICHARD DELIZZA, ROBERT FREVERT, RICHARD HARRIS, GLENN HOPKINS, TIM SCALISE, AND ROM WHITTAKER TO THE **DOLPHIN WAHOO AP**.

**MOTION 8:** APPOINT DAVID MOSS TO THE **DOLPHIN WAHOO AP**.

**MOTION 9:** REAPPOINT STEVE DOUGHERTY, BEBE DALTON HARRISON, GEORGE PATANE, MARK PHELPS, AND ROBERT TODD TO THE **OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS AP**.

**MOTION 10:** APPOINT CAMILLA WARREN (AT LARGE SEAT) AND JEANNA MERRIFIELD (COMMERCIAL SEAT) TO THE **OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS AP**.

**MOTION 11:** APPOINT GETTYS BRANNON (NGO SEAT) AND REAPPOINT RICHARD GOMEZ TO THE **SNAPPER GROUPE AP**.

**MOTION 12:** APPROVE THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS TO THE **HABITAT AND ECOSYSTEM AP**:

NC SUBPANEL

REAPPOINT BRENDAN RUNDE AND CASEY KNIGHT

SC SUBPANEL

REAPPOINT PAULA KEENER AND DAVID WHITAKER

GA SUBPANEL

REAPPOINT THOMAS JONES AND APPOINT STEPHEN MORRISON

FL SUBPANEL

REAPPOINT DAVID WEBB AND SAM YOUNG

NON-SUBPANEL MEMBERS

REAPPOINT WILSON LANEY AND KEVIN SPANIK AND APPOINT RUA MORDECAI

**MOTION 13:** APPOINT JAMES GARTLAND TO THE **SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE**.

**MOTION 14:** APPOINT CHRISTINA PACKAGE-WARD TO THE **SOCIO-ECONOMIC PANEL**. ADD ONE SEAT TO THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC PANEL AND APPOINT EUGENE FRIMPONG.

**MOTION 15:** INITIATE AN ACTION TO MODIFY SEFHIER TO IMPROVE COMPLIANCE, STRENGTHEN REPORTING REQUIREMENTS, AND EXPLORE VALIDATION

**Executive Committee (Met via webinar in November 2023)**

**MOTION 16:** APPROVE THE DRAFT 2024 OPERATIONAL BUDGET AS PRESENTED AND MODIFIED.

**Mackerel Cobia Committee**

**MOTION 17:** ADD AN ACTION TO FRAMEWORK AMENDMENT 13 TO CONSIDER MODIFICATION TO THE LONG-TERM OY FOR ATLANTIC SPANISH MACKEREL.

**MOTION 18:** ADD AN ACTION TO FRAMEWORK AMENDMENT 13 TO INCLUDE IN-SEASON AND POST-SEASON ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES FOR THE RECREATIONAL SECTOR.

**MOTION 19:** ADOPT THE FOLLOWING TIMING AND TASKS:

- ASK THE LAW ENFORCEMENT ADVISORY PANEL TO PROVIDE INPUT ON THE SALE OF TOURNAMENT CAUGHT ATLANTIC KING AND SPANISH MACKEREL.
- CONTINUE WORK ON CMP FRAMEWORK AMENDMENT 13, BRING AN UPDATED DECISION DOCUMENT TO THE MARCH 2024 COUNCIL MEETING.
- CONTINUE DEVELOPMENT OF MACKEREL PORT MEETINGS, BRINGING A FINAL PLAN FOR COUNCIL APPROVAL AND IMPLEMENTATION TO THE MARCH 2024 COUNCIL MEETING.

*Note: the Council instructed staff to pause development of Framework Amendment 13 until after the conclusion of Mackerel Port Meetings to be held throughout 2024.*

**Dolphin Wahoo**

**MOTION 20:** DIRECT STAFF TO DO THE FOLLOWING:

- CONTINUE WITH PLANNED UPDATES ON PROGRESS OF THE DOLPHIN MSE AT THE JUNE 2024 AND DECEMBER 2024 COUNCIL MEETINGS.
- MAINTAIN DISCUSSION OF REGULATORY AMENDMENT 3 ON THE AGENDA FOR THE DECEMBER 2024 COUNCIL MEETING.

## **Snapper Grouper Committee**

### ***Amendment 48 (Wreckfish)***

**MOTION 21:** APPROVE ALL MOTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE WRECKFISH SUB-COMMITTEE, AS PRESENTED IN THE SEPTEMBER 2023 SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT (SEE MOTIONS APPENDED TO SNAPPER GROUPE COMMITTEE REPORT)

### ***Amendment 46 (Recreational Permit)***

**MOTION 22:** SELECT ALTERNATIVE 3 AS PREFERRED IN ACTION 1.

*Action 1. Establish a private recreational snapper grouper permit to fish for, harvest, or possess snapper grouper species in the South Atlantic region*

**Alternative 3.** Require a federal permit for all private anglers to fish for, harvest, or possess snapper grouper species in the South Atlantic exclusive economic zone.

**MOTION 23:** SELECT ALTERNATIVE 2 AS PREFERRED IN ACTION 2.

*Action 2. Specify the species for which a private recreational snapper grouper permit would be required*

**Alternative 2.** A federal private recreational snapper grouper permit would be required when fishing for, harvesting, or possessing any species in the snapper grouper fishery management unit.

**MOTION 24:** APPROVE ALL ACTIONS IN AMENDMENT 46, AS REVISED.

### ***Regulatory Amendment 36 (Gag and Black Grouper Recreational Vessel Limits and On-Demand Gear for Black Sea Bass)***

**MOTION 25:** APPROVE REGULATORY AMENDMENT 36 FOR SCOPING.

### ***Amendment 55 (Scamp/Yellowmouth Complex and Other SA Shallow Water Groupers)***

**MOTION 26:** SELECT ALTERNATIVE 2 AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE FOR ACTION 1.

*Action 1. Reorganize the Other South Atlantic Shallow Water Grouper complex and establish a new Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper complex*

**Alternative 2.** Remove yellowmouth grouper from the Other South Atlantic Shallow Water Grouper complex and establish a new Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper complex. The reorganized Other South Atlantic Shallow Water Grouper complex would contain rock hind, red hind, coney, graysby, and yellowfin grouper.

**MOTION 27:** SELECT ALTERNATIVE 3 AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE FOR SUB-ACTION 2A.

*Sub-Action 2a. Establish the maximum sustainable yield for the Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper complex.*

**Alternative 3.** Establish the maximum sustainable yield proxy at the fishing mortality at 40% of the spawning potential ratio for the Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper complex.

**MOTION 28:** SELECT ALTERNATIVE 3 AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE FOR SUB-ACTION 2B.

*Sub-Action 2b. Establish the maximum fishing mortality threshold for the Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper complex.*

**Alternative 3.** Establish the maximum fishing mortality threshold equal to the maximum sustainable yield proxy of fishing mortality at 40% spawning potential ratio for the Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper complex.

**MOTION 29:** SELECT ALTERNATIVE 3 AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE FOR SUB-ACTION 2C.

*Sub-Action 2c. Establish the minimum stock size threshold for the Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper complex.*

**Alternative 3.** Establish the minimum stock size threshold equal to 75% of the spawning stock biomass at maximum sustainable yield.

**MOTION 30:** SELECT ALTERNATIVE 3 AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE FOR ACTION 3.

*Action 3. Establish a rebuilding timeframe for the Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper complex*

**Alternative 3.** Establish a rebuilding timeframe equal to T<sub>max</sub>. This would equal 10 years with the rebuilding period ending in 2035. 2025 would be Year 1.

**MOTION 31:** SELECT ALTERNATIVE 2 AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE FOR ACTION 4.

*Action 4. Establish the acceptable biological catch and total annual catch limit for the Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper complex*

**Alternative 2.** Establish the acceptable biological catch and set it equal to the recommendation from the Scientific and Statistical Committee. Establish the total annual catch limit for the Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper complex and set it equal to the recommended acceptable biological catch. The recommended acceptable biological catch is inclusive of recreational estimates from the Marine Recreational Information Program's Fishing Effort Survey.

**MOTION 32:** SELECT ALTERNATIVE 2 AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE FOR ACTION 6.

*Action 6. Establish commercial accountability measures for the Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper complex*

**Alternative 2.** If commercial landings for the Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper complex reach or are projected to reach the commercial annual catch limit, the commercial sector will close for the remainder of the fishing year.

If commercial landings for the Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper complex exceed the commercial annual catch limit, the total annual catch limit is exceeded, and the Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper complex is overfished, the commercial annual catch limit for the following fishing year will be reduced by the amount of the commercial annual catch limit overage in the prior fishing year.

***Amendment 44 (Yellowtail Snapper)***

**MOTION 33:** DEPRIORITIZE WORK ON SNAPPER GROUPE AMENDMENT 44/REEF FISH AMENDMENT 55 UNTIL AFTER THE COMPLETION OF THE UPDATED SEDAR 64 OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT THAT INCORPORATES CALIBRATED SRFS RECREATIONAL LANDINGS ESTIMATES.

***Regulatory Amendment 35 (Red Snapper & Discard Mortality Reduction)***

**MOTION 34:** RESCIND THE MARCH 2023 ACTION TO APPROVE SNAPPER GROUPE REGULATORY AMENDMENT 35 FOR SECRETARIAL REVIEW.

***Other Items***

**MOTION 35:** INITIATE AN AMENDMENT TO ESTABLISH LIMITED ENTRY FOR THE FOR-HIRE COMPONENTS OF THE SNAPPER GROUPE, COASTAL MIGRATORY PELAGICS, AND DOLPHIN WAHOO FISHERIES.

**MOTION 36:** TO PREVENT SPECULATIVE ENTRY, ESTABLISH AN ADDITIONAL CONTROL DATE OF DECEMBER 8, 2023, THAT THE SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (COUNCIL) MAY USE IF IT DECIDES TO CREATE RESTRICTIONS LIMITING PARTICIPATION IN THE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE FOR THE FEDERAL CHARTER VESSEL/HEADBOAT (FOR-HIRE) COMPONENT OF THE RECREATIONAL SECTORS OF THE COASTAL MIGRATORY PELAGICS FISHERY IN THE ATLANTIC, DOLPHIN AND WAHOO FISHERY IN THE ATLANTIC, AND SNAPPER-GROUPER FISHERY IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC. ANYONE OBTAINING A FEDERAL FOR-HIRE PERMIT FOR THESE RECREATIONAL SECTORS AFTER THE CONTROL DATE WILL NOT BE ASSURED OF FUTURE ACCESS SHOULD A MANAGEMENT REGIME THAT LIMITS PARTICIPATION IN THE SECTOR BE PREPARED AND IMPLEMENTED. ADDITIONALLY, FEDERAL PERMIT HOLDERS THAT HAVE NOT REPORTED SNAPPER-GROUPER, COASTAL MIGRATORY PELAGIC, AND/OR DOLPHIN AND WAHOO CATCH FROM THE SOUTH ATLANTIC TO THE SOUTHEAST FOR-HIRE INTEGRATED ELECTRONIC REPORTING PROGRAM ON OR PRIOR TO DECEMBER 5, 2023 WILL NOT BE ASSURED OF FUTURE ACCESS SHOULD A MANAGEMENT REGIME THAT LIMITS PARTICIPATION IN THE SECTOR BE PREPARED AND IMPLEMENTED.

**MOTION 37: DIRECT STAFF TO DO THE FOLLOWING:**

- CONTINUE TO DEVELOP SNAPPER GROUPE AMENDMENT 48 (WRECKFISH) AND CONVENE THE NEXT MEETING OF THE WRECKFISH SUB-COMMITTEE VIA WEBINAR PRIOR TO THE MARCH 2024 COUNCIL MEETING.
- CONTINUE DEVELOPMENT OF AMENDMENT 46 FOR REVIEW AT THE MARCH 2024 COUNCIL MEETING (SEE DIRECTION TO STAFF ABOVE).
- CONDUCT SCOPING FOR REGULATORY AMENDMENT 36, INCLUDING COMMUNICATION WITH BLACK SEA BASS POT ENDORSEMENT HOLDERS.
- DRAFT A LETTER ON BEHALF OF THE COUNCIL REGARDING WHAT THE COUNCIL WOULD LIKE INCLUDED IN FUTURE STOCK STATUS LETTERS.
- RED SNAPPER TASKS (SEE DIRECTION TO STAFF IN COMMITTEE REPORT).
- PREPARE AN UPDATED INFORMATION PAPER DESCRIBING THE SNAPPER GROUPE COMMERCIAL 2 FOR 1 PERMIT POLICY AND SG2 PERMITS.

**Citizen Science**

**MOTION 38:** ADOPT THE UPDATED CITIZEN SCIENCE RESEARCH PRIORITIES WITH MODIFICATIONS AS SUGGESTED.

**Habitat and Ecosystem Committee**

**MOTION 39:** APPROVE LIST OF AGENDA ITEMS FOR APRIL 2024 HABITAT AND ECOSYSTEM AP MEETING

**MOTION 40:** ADOPT THE FOLLOWING TIMING AND TASKS:

- ADD CORAL 10 AND DEEPWATER CHAPC MODIFICATIONS TO THE COUNCIL WORKPLAN.
- CONVENE THE HABITAT AND ECOSYSTEM AP IN SPRING 2024 INCORPORATING APPROVED AGENDA ITEMS.
- CONVENE THE IPT TO REVIEW CORAL 10 AND PRESENT THE MODIFICATIONS THAT ARE NEEDED AT A FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING.

**SEDAR Committee**

**MOTION 41:** APPROVE SEDAR 94 (HOGFISH) TERMS OF REFERENCE

**Full Council Session 2**

**MOTION 42:** APPROVE THE ALLOCATION REVIEW GUIDELINES AND UPDATED ALLOCATION REVIEW TRIGGER POLICY.