

**South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
Full Council and Committee
SUMMARY MOTIONS
March 4-8, 2024**

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 THE FOR-HIRE REPORTING AP STRUCTURE AND MAKE APPOINTMENTS IN JUNE 2024.

****GUIDANCE TO INCLUDE HEADBOAT OPERATORS****

MOTION 2: DIRECT STAFF TO DO THE FOLLOWING:

- ADVERTISE FOR SEATS ON THE FOR-HIRE REPORTING AP FOR REVIEW IN JUNE 2024.
- PREPARE A DISCUSSION DOCUMENT WITH ITEMS TO BEGIN TO IMPROVE SEFHIER COMPLIANCE FOR REVIEW IN JUNE 2024.
- CONTINUE WORK ON FOR-HIRE LIMITED ACCESS AMENDMENT FOR DISCUSSION IN JUNE 2024.

Mackerel Cobia Committee

MOTION 3: APPROVE THE KING AND SPANISH MACKEREL PORT MEETINGS PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTATION.

MOTION 4: ADOPT THE FOLLOWING TIMING AND TASKS:

- Begin conducting port meetings for king and Spanish mackerel. Update the Council on North Carolina and New England port meetings at the June 2024 Council meeting.

SEDAR Committee

MOTION 5: CHANGE SEDAR 90 (RED SNAPPER) TO A BENCHMARK ASSESSMENT.

MOTION 6: APPROVE SEDAR 96 (YELLOWTAIL SNAPPER) TERMS OF REFERENCE.

MOTION 7: APPOINT JIM GARTLAND, KAI LORENZEN, STEVE TURNER, BEV SAULS AND TIFFANY CROSS TO THE TOPICAL WORKING GROUP FOR SEDAR 96.

MOTION 8: APPOINT GARLAND YOPP, JESS KELLER, AND RYAN YADEN TO THE SYSTEM MANAGEMENT PLAN WORKGROUP

Snapper Grouper Committee

Amendment 48 (Wreckfish)

MOTION 9: APPROVE THE REVISED LANGUAGE FOR ACTION 13, PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE 2

Action 13. Modify offloading site requirements and establish approved landing locations for wreckfish.

Preferred Alternative 2. Remove the offloading site requirements for wreckfish. Individual transferable quota wreckfish must be landed at an approved landing location. Landing locations must be approved by NMFS Office for Law Enforcement prior to a vessel landing individual transferable wreckfish at these sites. Landing locations must be publicly accessible via freely traversable roads and navigable waters and no other condition may impede free and immediate access to the site by an authorized law enforcement officer.

**Note: the NMFS Office of Law Enforcement may choose to revoke approval of a pre-landing location if it is determined that officers do not have free and immediate access to the site.

MOTION 10: APPROVE ALL MOTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE WRECKFISH SUB-COMMITTEE, AS PRESENTED IN THE FEBRUARY 2024 SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT (APPENDED TO SG COMMITTEE REPORT).

MOTION 11: APPROVE ALL ADDITIONAL WRECKFISH MOTIONS PASSED BY THE SNAPPER GROUPEER COMMITTEE AT THE MARCH 2024 COUNCIL MEETING. (MOTIONS 5, 8, 10, AND 11 OF THE WRECKFISH SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT).

Scamp/Yellowmouth Grouper (SG Amendment 55)

MOTION 12: APPROVE THE PURPOSE AND NEED STATEMENT.

Purpose: The purpose of this amendment is to modify the Other South Atlantic Shallow Water Grouper complex by removing yellowmouth grouper from the complex and establishing a new Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper complex. For the new complex, establish conservation and management measures, stock status determination criteria, a rebuilding plan, catch levels, sector allocations, and accountability measures based on the results of the SEDAR 68 operational assessment (2022) stock assessment. For the South Atlantic Other Shallow Water Grouper complex, modify catch levels.

Need: The need for this amendment is to rebuild the scamp and yellowmouth grouper stock, and achieve optimum yield while minimizing, to the extent practicable, adverse social and economic effect.

MOTION 13: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 2 AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE FOR ACTION 5.

Action 5. Establish sector allocations and sector annual catch limits for the Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper complex

Alternative 2. Commercial and recreational allocations would change each year from 2025-2029, where they would remain in place until modified, based on the total average commercial and recreational landings of scamp and yellowmouth grouper from 2018 through 2022. (Split Reduction Method – 5 yrs.)

MOTION 14: MOVE ALTERNATIVES 4 AND 5 FROM ACTION 5 TO CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED.

Action 5. Establish sector allocations and sector annual catch limits for the Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper complex

Alternative 4. Allocate 63.40% of the total annual catch limit of Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper complex to the commercial sector and 36.60% to the recreational sector.

Alternative 5. Allocate 64.90% of the total annual catch limit of Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper complex to the commercial sector and 35.10% to the recreational sector.

MOTION 15: MOVE ACTION 6 ALTERNATIVE 2, AS MODIFIED, TO CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED APPENDIX

Action 6. Reduce the recreational fishing season for scamp and yellowmouth grouper

Alternative 2. Reduce the recreational fishing season for scamp and yellowmouth grouper in the exclusive economic zone to be open May 1 through July 31. The season will be closed January 1 through April 30 (spawning season closure) and August 1 through December 31.

MOTION 16: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 3 AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE FOR ACTION 6.

Action 6. Reduce the recreational fishing season for scamp and yellowmouth grouper

Alternative 3. Reduce the recreational fishing season for scamp and yellowmouth grouper in the exclusive economic zone to be open May 1 through August 31. The season will be closed January 1 through April 30 (spawning season closure) and September 1 through December 31.

MOTION 17: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 3 (300 POUNDS GUTTED WEIGHT), AS MODIFIED, AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE FOR ACTION 8.

Action 8. Establish an aggregate commercial trip limit for scamp and yellowmouth grouper

Alternative 3. Establish an aggregate commercial trip limit for scamp and yellowmouth grouper of 300 pounds gutted weight.

MOTION 18: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 3 AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE FOR ACTION 9.

Action 9. Establish commercial accountability measures for the Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper complex

Alternative 3. If commercial landings for the Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper complex reach or are projected to reach the complex commercial annual catch limit,

commercial harvest of scamp and yellowmouth grouper is closed for the remainder of the fishing year.

If commercial landings for the Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper complex exceed the complex commercial annual catch limit, regardless of stock status or whether the total annual catch limit was exceeded the complex commercial annual catch limit for the following fishing year will be reduced by the amount of the complex commercial annual catch limit overage in the prior fishing year.

MOTION 19: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 5 AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE FOR ACTION 10.

Action 10. Establish recreational accountability measures for the Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper complex

Alternative 5. If recreational landings for the Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper complex exceed the recreational annual catch limit for the complex the length of the following year's recreational fishing season for the complex will be reduced by the amount necessary to prevent the recreational annual catch limit for the complex from being exceeded in the following year, regardless of stock status.

MOTION 20: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 2 AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE FOR ACTION 11.

Action 11. Revise the total annual catch limit and sector annual catch limits for the Other South Atlantic Shallow Water Grouper complex

Alternative 2. The acceptable biological catch for the updated Other South Atlantic Shallow Water Grouper complex is 104,190 pounds whole weight. The total annual catch limit is 100,151 and is inclusive of recreational estimates from the Marine Recreational Information Program's Coastal Household Telephone Survey. The commercial annual catch limit is 53,380 pounds whole weight and the recreational annual catch limit is 46,771 pounds whole weight.

MOTION 21: APPROVE AMENDMENT 46 (RECREATIONAL PERMIT) AND ALL ACTIONS, AS REVISED, FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

MOTION 22: DIRECT STAFF TO DO THE FOLLOWING:

- Continue to develop Snapper Grouper Amendment 48 (Wreckfish) as detailed in the timing and tasks motion from the Wreckfish Sub-Committee report (appended to SG Committee report).
- Continue development of Amendment 46 for review at the June 2024 Council meeting. Prepare the amendment for approval for public hearings for September 2024.
- Convene the Technical AP and Private Angler AP to review Amendment 46.
- Convene the Outreach and Communications AP to request feedback on the education component.
- Convene the Snapper Grouper AP.
- Update commercial permit information and present to the Committee in the latter half of 2024 or early 2025 (depending on availability of updated permit, logbook, and landings data).

- Continue development of Regulatory Amendment 36 for review in June 2024.
- Send letters to black sea bass pot endorsement holders to inform them of the upcoming management changes for black sea bass.
- Compile requested information for Amendment 56 and prepare for review in June 2024.
- Compile requested information on management strategies for red snapper and snapper grouper discard reduction and prepare for review in June 2024.