

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
Full Council and Committee
SUMMARY MOTIONS
March 3-7, 2025

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 (CLOSED)

MOTION 1: Appoint the following individuals:

- **Shrimp Advisory Panel Liaisons**
Appoint Sonny Gwin (MD) and Pat Geer (VA) as liaisons to the Shrimp Advisory Panel.
- **Snapper Grouper Recreational Permitting and Reporting Technical Advisory Panel**
Appoint Sean Wilms with FWC's Florida Wildlife Research Institute to the advisory panel.
- **SEDAR 90 (South Atlantic Red Snapper) Appointments**
Appoint the following persons to the SEDAR 90 Data Workshop: Anna-Mai Christmas-Svajdlenka, Julie Simpson, Julie Dingle, and Paul McLaughlin.

MOTION 2: Remove representatives from other fishery management councils from SAFMC committees and create a liaison position for the Dolphin Wahoo Committee for the New England Fishery Management Council (non-voting), effective with the June 2025 Council meeting.

Full Council Session I

MOTION 3: Approve the For-Hire Reporting Improvement Amendment for scoping.

MOTION 4: Direct staff to do the following:

- Prepare a letter to support restoring the Beaufort, North Carolina, facility.
- Conduct scoping for the For-Hire Reporting Improvement Amendment prior to the June 2025 meeting.
- Provide comments on the draft MOA with the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary to Sanctuary staff.

Habitat and Shrimp Committees

Coral Amendment 11/Shrimp Amendment 12

MOTION 5: Move forward with Alternatives 1, 2, and 3.

- Alternative 1: No Action
- Alternative 2: Establish a SFAA with the area of 22 sq miles along the eastern edge of the northern OHAPC boundary
- Alternative 3: Establish a SFAA with the area of 32 sq miles along the eastern edge of the northern OHAPC boundary

MOTION 6: Adopt the following timing and tasks:

- Continue the development of Coral Amendment 11/Shrimp Amendment 12 and prepare a draft to consider approval for public hearings at the June 2025 meeting.

Habitat and Ecosystem

MOTION 7: Approve the EFH 5-year review letter as written for submission.

MOTION 8: Move that the Habitat and Ecosystem Advisory Panel recommended definition of living shorelines be adopted for use by the SAFMC:

A living shoreline is a coastal management approach that stabilizes and protects the shoreline using a suite of options that promote the use of natural materials, such as native plants, sand, rocks, and oyster shells. The details of material usage and percentage of material type are determined by state management bodies.

Unlike traditional hard structures such as seawalls, living shorelines should maintain the natural connections between upland, intertidal, and aquatic environments.

This approach not only minimizes erosion and aims to reduce wave energy but also provides valuable wildlife habitat, maintains or improves water quality, and supports ecological resilience.

Living shorelines should be designed to spontaneously grow and adapt over time, making them a dynamic, nature-based solution for coastal protection and management.

MOTION 9: Approve the Habitat and Ecosystem Advisory Panel agenda items listed for the July 2025 meeting:

- Review progress on the habitat website.
- Review progress on the habitat program communication strategy
- Essential Fish Habitat Consultations.
- Review of beneficial use projects and discussion on future impacts
- Revision of Alterations to Riverine, Estuarine and Nearshore Flows policy to address impacts from freshwater discharges and impediments to river flow.
- Space program impacts on habitat (if the information is available).
- Projects with Potential Habitat Impacts:
 - Central Virginia Offshore Wind (CVOW) update from Dominion Energy on habitat created by wind farms and fish mortality during construction.
 - Sea Optic fiber cables.
- Climate readiness projects overview and EFH project update.
- Climate and Ecosystem Fisheries Initiative (CEFI) Overview?
- Identify higher abundance locations and additional life stage information for EFH clarification in each fishery management plan (improving EFH tier structure).
- Integrate food web information from food web policy into EFH definitions.
- Work plan update.

MOTION 10: Direct staff to do the following:

- Request that the Habitat and Ecosystem Advisory Panel discuss the goals and objectives for an Integrated Ecosystem Assessment for the South Atlantic region and bring those

- back to the Council for consideration at the September Council meeting.
- Submit the EFH letter to the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Mackerel Cobia Committee

MOTION 11: Adopt the following timing and tasks:

- Request Gulf Council staff provide a presentation to the Council on their coastal migratory pelagic stakeholder engagement efforts at the June 2025 meeting.
- Provide a summary of information provided during port meetings on each identified management topic at the June 2025 meeting.
- Provide a refresher on Atlantic Spanish mackerel catch level recommendations from the SSC based on SEDAR 78 at the June 2025 meeting.
- Convene a meeting of the mackerel cobia advisory panel in spring 2025.

Snapper Grouper Committee

MOTION 12: Initiate an amendment that will address commercial permit and trip efficiency issues.

MOTION 13: Initiate an amendment to consider options for snapper grouper aggregate recreational bag limits and other management actions to reduce recreational dead discards. (this could be included in another amendment already on the workplan).

MOTION 14: Direct staff to do the following:

- Update the Shiny tool to evaluate the need for conservation and management of snapper grouper species.
- Prepare golden tilefish amendment as an abbreviated framework to adjust golden tilefish catch levels only that would be approved at the June or September Council meeting.
- Request additional information on MSY proxies from Florida FWRI and the SEFSC.
- Draft and submit the Council's comment letter on Amendment 59 (secretarial amendment) and submit by the March 17 deadline.
- Develop draft actions and alternatives for Amendment 56, including the action to consider aligning the start date of the golden tilefish recreational season with that of other deepwater species.
- Conduct the Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel meeting with approved agenda items.
- Plan and conduct the Snapper Grouper Commercial Sub-Committee's June 2025 meeting.
- Continue work on Amendment 46. Prepare the amendment for approval for public hearings in June 2025.
- Begin development of the commercial amendment as soon as the abbreviated golden tilefish amendment is complete.