

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
Full Council and Committee
SUMMARY MOTIONS
June 9-13, 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.

Executive Committee

MOTION 1: Use the 2019-2022 levels for the state liaison grants for the 2025 budget.

Full Council Session 1 (CLOSED)

MOTION 1: reappoint Jay Kavanagh, Daniel Owsley, and Paul Pancake to the Dolphin Wahoo AP.

MOTION 2: Appoint Michael Schad and David Wamer, III to the Dolphin Wahoo AP.

MOTION 3: Appoint Cameron Luck to the Habitat and Ecosystem AP.

MOTION 4: Reappoint William Palmer to the Mackerel Cobia AP.

MOTION 5: Appoint Michael Hall to the Outreach and Communications AP.

MOTION 6: Reappoint Cameron Sebastian and appoint Darrin Willingham to the Snapper Grouper AP.

MOTION 7: Appoint Jake Harmon to the Wreckfish AP.

MOTION 8: Reappoint Genny Nesslage, Marcel Reichert, and Jeff Buckel to at-large SSC seats for 3-year terms beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2028.

MOTION 9: Reappoint Jared Flowers to the GA state-designated seat for a 3-year term beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2028.

MOTION 10: Appoint Luiz Barbieri to the FL state-designated seat for a 3-year term beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2028.

MOTION 11: Appoint Catherine “CJ” Schlick and Kelsey Roberts to at-large SSC seats for 3-year terms beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2028.

MOTION 12: Reappoint Adam Stemle to an at-large SEP seat for a 5-year term beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2030.

MOTION 13: Appoint Kathi Kitner to an at-large SEP seat for a 5-year term beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2030.

MOTION 14: Award the 2024 Law Enforcement of the Year award to the FWC SRA Offshore vessel team and SCDNR law enforcement officer PFC Andrew Alexander.

MOTION 15: Appoint Luiz Barbieri and Will Patterson to the SEDAR 90 assessment panel.

Full Council Session I

MOTION 1: Direct staff to do the following:

- Send a letter to the National Sea Grant office and South Atlantic state Sea Grant directors expressing how valuable the Reef Fish Fellowship collaboration has been for the Council.
- Prepare a summary of recent journal articles on dolphin for the September 2025 meeting.
- Prepare a draft response to Executive Order 14276 to be finalized at the September 2025 meeting including the initial list of items above, and:
 - Produce informational material (document and recorded presentation) to post on the Council’s website and solicit public input
 - Solicit feedback from advisory panels
- For the December 2025 agenda:
 - Add formation and charge of the Recreational State-Federal Data Subcommittee and plan to convene the sub-committee in conjunction with the March 2026 Council meeting (if in person) or sooner (if remote).
 - Add a half day agenda item (or longer if required) that will focus on recreational fishing data and initial list of topics above.
- Pause development of the for-hire reporting improvements amendment.

Mackerel Cobia Committee

MOTION 1: Adopt the following timing and tasks:

- Work with the SEFSC to see if the next Atlantic Spanish mackerel assessment can occur sooner than currently proposed in the SEDAR schedule.
- Look at the potential port meeting response actions to determine if they are regulatory vs. deregulatory. Bring this information to the Mackerel Committee once the FES pilot study is available.

Joint Habitat & Ecosystem and Shrimp Committees

MOTION 1: Approve modifications to the purpose and need statements.

Purpose: the purpose of this action is to reinstate access for vessels with a valid commercial vessel permit for rock shrimp South Atlantic EEZ (limited access) to a historically important fishing area where the commercial rock shrimp fishery operated by creating a shrimp fishery access area along the eastern edge of the northern boundary of the Oculina Bank Habitat Area of Particular Concern, while also minimizing impacts to deepwater coral.

Need for action: the need for this action is to achieve optimum yield in the rock shrimp fishery while minimizing negative impacts to deepwater coral.

MOTION 2: Approve the modifications to Alternative 2 and Alternative 3 under Action 1.

Action 1. Establish a Shrimp Fishery Access Area (SFAA) along the eastern edge of the northern Oculina HAPC boundary.

Alternative 2. establish a shrimp fishery access area along the eastern edge of the northern extension of the Oculina Bank Habitat Area of Particular Concern, that is 16.61 nm². Allow a shrimp vessel with a valid commercial vessel permit for rock shrimp South Atlantic EEZ (limited access) to bottom trawl for rock shrimp within the established area bounded by the following coordinates.

Alternative 3. Establish a shrimp fishery access area along the eastern edge of the northern extension of the Oculina Bank Habitat Area of Particular Concern that is 24.16 nm². Allow a shrimp vessel with a valid commercial vessel permit for rock shrimp South Atlantic EEZ (limited access) to bottom trawl for rock shrimp within the established area bounded by the following coordinates.

MOTION 3: Select Alternative 2 as the preferred alternative for Action 1.

Action 1. Establish a Shrimp Fishery Access Area (SFAA) along the eastern edge of the northern Oculina HAPC boundary.

Preferred Alternative 2. Establish a Shrimp Fishery Access Area along the eastern edge of the northern extension of the Oculina Bank Habitat Area of Particular Concern, that is 16.61 nm². Allow a shrimp vessel with a valid commercial vessel permit for rock shrimp South Atlantic EEZ (limited access) to bottom trawl for rock shrimp within the established area bounded by the following coordinates.

MOTION 4: Approve Coral Amendment 11/Shrimp Amendment 12 for public hearings

MOTION 5: Adopt the following timing and tasks:

- Continue the development of Coral Amendment 11/Shrimp Amendment 12.
- Host two public hearings between June – August 2025; one virtually and one in person.

snapper grouper committee

MOTION 1: Form a working group comprised of members of the Gulf and South Atlantic SSC's, Council staff, and a Council member from each council to collectively address the best practices for estimating steepness (and thus estimate MSY) for management advice, as well as a discussion of SPR proxy values given a range of life history values among fish species.

MOTION 2: Through Snapper Grouper Amendment 56, establish commercial and recreational annual catch targets (ACTs) that are equal to 50% of average landings from 2019-2023 for each sector. The recreational ACT would be calculated using landings in CHTS units. The Council will reconsider ACTs and associated management measures two years after implementation.

Direct the IPT to draft actions that would be expected to lead to landings that are below the respective sector ACTs. The actions could include:

- making recreational and commercial size limits the same length.
- reducing the recreational bag limit.
- reducing commercial trip limits.
- implementing a spawning season closure where harvest of black sea bass would be prohibited for both sectors including January through April each year. At a minimum the closure would cover the months of March and April.
 - o consider spawning season alternatives in 2-month waves.

Request that the SSC:

- re-evaluate the MSY estimate and reconsider the F40%SPR proxy recommended previously in light of the uncertainties identified with the MSY estimates and the SSC recommendation to investigate “the use of an SPR-based MSY proxy in a future assessment because of the uncertainties in the stock recruitment relationship and the potential for non-stationarity.”
- Reconsider use of the high terminal F estimate (2023) in the estimation of the assumed fishing mortality rate for the interim years in the projection analysis.
- Reconsider ABC advice for 2027 and beyond.

Direct Council staff to work with SSC leadership and the SEFSC to conduct additional peer review of the SEDAR 76 assessment update.

MOTION 3: Approve amendment 60 (commercial management measures) for scoping.

MOTION 4: Initiate an amendment to consider removal from the fishery management unit or designation as ecosystem component species/third category for misty grouper, margate, sailor’s choice, tomtate, white grunt, bar jack, jolthead porgy, knobbed porgy, saucereye porgy, scup, whitebone porgy, banded rudderfish, blackfin snapper, cubera snapper, queen snapper, atlantic spadefish, and sand tilefish.

MOTION 5: Direct staff to resume work on joint Snapper Grouper Amendment 44, Reef Fish Amendment 55 for yellowtail snapper with the addition of ABCs and jurisdictional allocation for mutton snapper.

MOTION 6: Decouple the action to implement a recreational aggregate bag limit from the management strategy evaluation amendment. Direct staff to report to the Council in September 2025 on ways to develop this amendment.

MOTION 7: direct staff to do the following:

- Form the MSY Estimation Best Practices Workgroup.
- Use work for Amendment 56 to develop a Framework Amendment for Council consideration for public hearing approval at the September 2025 meeting.
- Conduct scoping for amendment 60. Convene the commercial SG sub-committee at the beginning of the September Council meeting if time allows.
- Continue working with SEFSC, SERO, and data cooperators to investigate differences between commercial landings included in SEDAR 89 and ACL monitoring for golden tilefish.

- Request that state agency Council members compile information about how removal of federal snapper grouper regulations for the 17 species evaluated for ecosystem component designation would affect the states' abilities to manage these species. Provide to staff ahead of the September 2025 meeting for inclusion on the meeting agenda.
- Begin development of the FMU revision amendment.
- Resume work on Joint Snapper Grouper Amendment 44, Reef Fish Amendment 55 and add mutton snapper to this amendment.
- Work with Blue Matter Science to begin the second phase of the snapper grouper management strategy evaluation.
- Report to the Council in September 2025 on ways to consider an action implementing an aggregate bag limit for the snapper grouper fishery.
- Prepare material for continued discussion of an innovative approach to manage the snapper grouper fishery and bring to the September 2025 Council meeting.