

November 29, 2012

Dear South Atlantic Council members,

I hope you are all looking forward to the Visioning Workshop that we have set up for Monday, December 3rd, from 9am to 12pm. I wanted to send everyone some information to prompt you to begin thinking about the workshop, so that we can be efficient and productive in the time that we have available to us.

First, I want to let everyone know that our facilitator for the workshop is John Henderschedt, the Executive Director of the Fisheries Forum (<http://www.fisheriesforum.org/john-henderschedt>). For those who are not aware, the Fisheries Forum provides continuing education, professional development, and information exchange for members of all eight regional fishery management councils. As such, they do not advocate for management approaches, but serve as a neutral party to convene and provide access to topical experts and information.

Second, I want to communicate my goals for this workshop. I see this as a stepping off point to a longer process; we will not define a vision for the snapper grouper fishery in the span of three hours, and certainly not without stakeholder input. This is meant to be an open brainstorming session, without motions or Robert's Rules, just respect for others comments. The three goals I would like us to focus on for the workshop are:

- 1) What are the overarching, thought-provoking questions that will elicit the stakeholder input and information needed to build/define a vision for the snapper grouper fishery?
- 2) What is the desired product/outcome? (i.e., a strategic plan, blueprint for the fishery, etc)
- 3) What kind of process do we want to follow to achieve the desired outcome, and within what timeframe? (A range of processes and tools exist to gather information)

In order to help us get to the "thought-provoking questions" I would ask everyone to consider the following:

- What do you believe are the current shortcomings in the fishery, and how would you categorize them?
Examples of categories could be:
 - Management
 - Science/Research/Data
 - Outreach/Education
 - Economic
 - Social
 - Statutory/Legal
 - Enforcement
- Conversely, what are the aspects of the fishery that you believe need to be preserved, and how would you categorize them?

Many thanks in advance for your willingness to participate in the workshop. I look forward to seeing everyone in the great port city of Wilmington next week. Safe travels!

Best regards,
Michelle Duval