

SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

SOCIO-ECONOMIC PANEL OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE



SEP Meeting Overview

April 8-9, 2020

Webinar

PURPOSE

This meeting is convened to discuss and provide input to the SSC and Council on:

- Recent and developing Council actions
- Citizen Science and FISHstory
- SEFSC technical memorandum on the economics of the commercial king and Spanish mackerel fishery
- Best fishing practices outreach and persuasion
- Allocations

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Attachment 1b. Minutes from the April 2019 meeting

Attachment 2. Recent and Developing SAFMC Amendments

Attachment 3. Citizen Science update presentation

Attachment 4a. NOAA Technical Memorandum: Economics of the U.S. South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico King Mackerel and Spanish Mackerel Fisheries - 2016

Attachment 4b. Presentation slides for SEP discussion of technical memorandum on the economics of the commercial King and Spanish Mackerel fisheries

Attachment 5. Best fishing practices outreach presentation

Attachment 6a. StoryMap focusing on allocations (link only, <https://arcg.is/19ybGG>)

Attachment 6b. Allocations discussion presentation slides

Attachment 6c. NMFS Recommended Practices and Factors to Consider When Reviewing and Making Allocations Decisions

1. Introduction

1.1. Documents

Attachment 1a. Socio-Economic Panel Agenda

Attachment 1b. Minutes from the April 2019 meeting

1.2. ACTIONS

- Review and approve the agenda
- Approve the April 2019 Minutes
- Introductions
- Opportunity for public comment

2. Recent and Developing Council Actions

2.1. Document

Attachment 2. Recent and Developing SAFMC Amendments

2.2. Overview

Council staff will provide a briefing on recent and upcoming amendments and actions (*Attachment 2*). The briefing will go into details on Snapper Grouper Vision Blueprint Amendment 26 (Recreational), Snapper Grouper Vision Blueprint Amendment 27 (Commercial), Snapper Grouper Amendment 29 (Best Fishing Practices and Powerhead Regulations), Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10 (Revise Dolphin and Wahoo Management Measures), and CMP Framework Amendment 8 (King mackerel trip limits, Season 2).

Vision Blueprint Commercial Regulatory Amendment 26 (Recreational)

The Council initiated development of this amendment in June 2016 to address short-term recreational management measures identified in the Vision Blueprint. Actions in the amendment include modification to the composition and limits of the recreational aggregates and measures to reduce discards. The final rule published on February 27, 2020 and regulations will become effective on March 30, 2020.

Vision Blueprint Commercial Regulatory Amendment 27 (Commercial)

In June 2016, the Council directed staff to begin development of an amendment to address items identified in the Vision Blueprint addressing commercial management measures. Actions include commercial split seasons and/or trip limit adjustments for several species/complexes and size limit changes. The final rule published on January 27, 2020 and regulations became effective on February 26, 2020.

Regulatory Amendment 29 (Best Fishing Practices and Powerhead Regulations)

At their March 2018 meeting, the Council removed actions pertaining to best fishing practices and powerhead regulations from Amendment 46 and requested that staff begin development of a

framework amendment. The Council was concerned that other actions in Amendment 46 (recreational permitting and reporting) would take significant time to be developed and did not want to delay action on other issues. The Council reviewed an options paper at their June 2018 meeting and approved the amendment for scoping with actions addressing venting and descending devices, circle hooks, allowable rigs, and powerheads. The Council reviewed scoping comments at their September 2018 meeting. Actions and alternatives addressing venting and descending devices, circle hooks, and powerheads were approved for analysis. The action pertaining to allowable rigs was removed. The Council reviewed a draft public hearing document at their March 2019 meeting. Preferred alternatives were selected that would require a descending device be on board vessels fishing for or possessing snapper grouper species, require vessels fishing for or possessing snapper grouper species to use non-offset circles north of 28 degrees north latitude, and would allow the use of powerheads to harvest snapper grouper species in federal waters off South Carolina. The amendment was submitted to NMFS on January 13, 2020.

Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10 (Dolphin and Wahoo Management Measures)

In March 2016, the Council directed staff to begin development of a joint dolphin wahoo and snapper grouper amendment to examine different ways to allocate or share quota between the commercial and recreational sectors for dolphin and yellowtail snapper. Options included a common pool allocation, a reserve category, temporary or permanent shifts in allocation, combined annual catch limits, and creating gear allocations in the commercial dolphin fishery. Over multiple meetings, the Council has considerably revised the amendment to now include actions that would:

- Revise ACLs for dolphin and wahoo
- Revise section allocations for dolphin and wahoo
- Revise the definition of optimum yield in the dolphin fishery
- Revise accountability measures for dolphin and wahoo
- Allow the possession of dolphin and wahoo when unauthorized gears for use in the Dolphin Wahoo fishery are onboard properly permitted vessels
- Remove the operator card requirement in the Dolphin Wahoo fishery
- Modify the recreational limit of dolphin
- Modify gear, bait, and training requirements in the longline fishery for dolphin and wahoo to align with Highly Migratory Species requirements
- Allow filleting of dolphin at sea onboard for-hire vessels in the waters north of the Virginia/North Carolina border

The Council will review revised ABC recommendations from the SSC for dolphin and wahoo at the June 2020 meeting and provide guidance on further development of Amendment 10.

Framework Amendment 8 (King mackerel trip limits, Season 2)

At the March 2019 meeting the Council reviewed Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel concerns regarding low commercial trip limits in the Atlantic southern zone during season two (October to the end of February). During the winter months, fishermen are only able to fish a small number of days due to the weather. Additionally, due to changes in the fishery, more fish are on the market during this time of the year, resulting in lower prices. When the weather is decent, AP members felt it would be helpful if fishermen had access to a higher trip limit to make trips

worthwhile. The Council directed staff to begin work on a framework amendment to address season two trip limits for Atlantic king mackerel. At the June 2019 meeting the Council approved actions and alternatives to be included in Framework Amendment 8. The Council also requested emergency action to raise the season two trip limit south of the Flagler/Volusia County line from 50-fish to 75-fish for the 2019/2020 season. This amendment is intended to make a permanent change to the season two trip limit. At the September 2019 meeting the Council reviewed the analysis and added an additional alternative which they subsequently selected as their preferred (100-fish during season 2 with no step up in February). The amendment was submitted to NMFS on February 19, 2020. A proposed rule is currently under development.

2.3. Presentation and Discussion

John Hadley, SAFMC staff

2.4. ACTIONS

Discuss and make recommendations as appropriate. In general, this agenda item is meant to brief the SEP on Council actions that were largely driven by social or economic concerns or may be presented to the group for review later in the meeting.

3. Citizen Science update and FISHstory Walkthrough

3.1. Documents

Attachment 3. Citizen Science update presentation

3.2. Overview

Staff will present a brief update on the Council's Citizen Science Program, highlighting activities that have occurred since the Spring 2019 SEP meeting. Additionally, staff will provide an overview and demonstration of the FISHstory pilot project that will be launched in early 2020. The FISHstory project will document historic catch and length estimates from the 1940s-1970s from a headboat fleet in Daytona Beach, FL. The project uses an online crowdsourcing platform, Zooniverse, to build an interface that will allow members of the public (e.g. citizens) to be trained to identify and count species in the photos. A team of species ID experts, comprised of fishermen and scientists, will help validate the species identified by citizens. Once species are verified, one key species will be selected for length analysis. A project design team - comprised of scientists, fishermen, and outreach experts – have been developing the FISHstory project interface and training materials in Zooniverse. Staff will provide a demonstration of the FISHstory test project.

3.3. Presentation and Discussion

Julia Byrd and Allie Iberle, SAFMC staff

3.4. ACTIONS

The SEP will have an opportunity to discuss and make recommendations as appropriate.

Discussion Questions:

1. Are there any additional data fields that could be collected from the historic photos that would be helpful for management?
2. Are the training materials in the project adequate for non-fish experts to contribute to data collection?
3. Are there any supporting materials that would be helpful to develop to assist in bringing this project into classrooms?
4. If additional funding is obtained for the project to expand geographically, are you aware of other individuals or organizations with archives of similar historic photos we should potentially contact?

4. SEFSC technical memorandum on the economics of the King Mackerel and Spanish Mackerel fisheries.

4.1. Document

Attachment 4a. NOAA Technical Memorandum: Economics of the U.S. South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico King Mackerel and Spanish Mackerel Fisheries - 2016

Attachment 4b. Presentation slides for SEP discussion of technical memorandum on the economics of the commercial King and Spanish mackerel fisheries

4.2. Overview

In the spring of 2019, the Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC) released the technical memorandum *Economics of the U.S. South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico King Mackerel and Spanish Mackerel Fisheries – 2016* (**Attachment 4a**). The tech memo provides summary information and economic estimates for the King and Spanish mackerel fishery as a whole and for specific Segments of Interest (SOI) that consist of areas or groups of gear types used within the king and Spanish mackerel fisheries. The Committee will receive a summary presentation from the SEFSC on the methods and major findings from the tech memo (**Attachment 4b**).

4.3. Presentation and Discussion

Dr. Christopher Liese, SEFSC staff

4.4. ACTIONS

Review the analysis, discuss the uncertainties, and determine if it is the best scientific information available.

Discussion Questions:

1. Among the findings in the tech memo are estimates of net revenue and net cash flow that are potentially useful for better analyzing the economic effects of fishery management actions on the commercial sector. These results are intended to be incorporated into amendments to the Coastal Migratory Pelagics Fishery Management Plan either by reference or direct application to estimate net economic effects to commercial participants and net costs or benefits. In doing so, it is assumed that this tech memo represents best scientific information available.

- a. Does the SEP agree that the tech memo should be considered best scientific information available?
2. Does the SEP have any additional recommendations?

5. Discussion on best fishing practices and persuasion

5.1. Document

Attachment 5. Best fishing practices outreach presentation

5.2. Overview

Recently the Council approved Snapper Grouper Regulatory Amendment 29 which includes actions related to best fishing practices (i.e. descending devices and circle hooks) intended to improve the survivorship of released snapper grouper species. The Council has expressed an interest in implementing an outreach campaign to support the amendment and educate stakeholders on the new requirements related to descending devices including device options and proper use. Staff will update the SEP on current and future outreach efforts and give a brief overview of relevant literature on persuasion.

5.3. Presentation and Discussion

Cameron Rhodes, Christina Wiegand, and Dr. Brian Chevront, SAFMC staff

5.4. ACTIONS

Provide direction on the most effective ways to move forward with a best fishing practices outreach campaign and language to be used in outreach materials.

Discussion Questions:

1. What methods/tools should be used to communicate information on Regulatory Amendment 29 and proper descending device use? Social media, website, infographics, brochures, press releases?
2. What strategies should be used to make the material engaging for fishermen who might utilize these devices?
3. Which attitudes are most important to target during creation of outreach materials?
4. What language should be used when conducting outreach to ensure both cognitive and peripheral routes of persuasion are being addressed?
5. How can the Council encourage leaders in the fishing industry to participate in outreach and work with other fishermen to use descending devices as part of being experienced and successful anglers?
6. How can staff evaluate whether outreach efforts are achieving all six steps necessary for effective influence?
7. Some research shows that the link between attitudes and behavior is not as strong as originally predicted. Should Council outreach efforts move from attitudes to behavior change?

6. Discussion on allocations

6.1. Document

Attachment 6a. StoryMap focusing on allocations (link only, see below)

Attachment 6b. Allocations discussion presentation slides

Additional background material:

Attachment 6c. NMFS Recommended Practices and Factors to Consider When Reviewing and Making Allocations Decisions

6.2. Overview

Due to revisions based on revised MRIP estimates (i.e. recreational data) and new ABCs expected from the SSC, the Council will be continuing to discuss sector allocation revisions for many fish species that the Council manages. Prior to the March 2020 meeting, the Council last discussed how to make sector allocations for most fish species ahead of the development of the Comprehensive ACL Amendment that went into effect in 2012. At the March 2020 meeting, Council staff presented information on sector allocation policy history and led a discussion on ways the Council can look at future sector allocations. The staff-led portion of the discussion included review of a StoryMap broadly covering the topic of allocations (<https://arcg.is/19ybGG>), and a presentation reviewing current allocation methods used in the Council's fishery management plans and potential alternative methods. The Council discussed methods they would like to consider for determining sector allocations in the future. Staff will review past actions on sector allocations and recent Council discussions from their March 2020 meeting with the SEP (**Attachment 6b**).

6.3. Presentation and Discussion

John Hadley and Christina Wiegand, SAFMC staff

6.4. ACTIONS

Review past actions on allocations and recent Council discussions, consider available data and approaches, including "out of the box" options, and recommend ways to incorporate social and economic considerations in future allocation discussions.

Discussion Questions:

1. Does the SEP recommend an approach or approaches that should be used when conducting economic analyses of allocations?
2. Does the SEP recommend an approach or approaches that should be used when conducting social analyses of allocations?
3. What social and economic data sources are available for conducting analyses related to allocations?
4. What factors should the Council take into account when considering whether to reallocate?
5. How should social and economic information related to allocations be best presented to the Council for consideration?

7. Other Business

8. Opportunity for Public Comment

9. Report and Recommendations Review

10. Next SEP Meeting

- Spring 2020, Charleston SC