Regulatory Amendment 35

Red Snapper Catch Levels and Snapper Grouper Release Mortality Reduction

Decision Document

March 2023

Background

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) is considering action to respond to the most recent stock assessment for South Atlantic red snapper (SEDAR 73 2021). The results of SEDAR 73 indicated that South Atlantic red snapper are overfished, overfishing is occurring, and the overfishing is being primarily driven by high numbers of dead discards[1] by the recreational sector. Stock assessment summary information, a history of management, and the most recent fishery performance report for red snapper can be found in its Fishery Overview. While the number of red snapper dead discards has an especially strong impact on allowable harvest levels for red snapper, dead discards also affect allowable harvests of other stocks managed under the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region (Snapper Grouper FMP). Therefore, actions to adjust red snapper catch levels based on the SEDAR 73 (2021) stock assessment and to reduce dead discards for all species in the snapper grouper fishery management unit by limiting the number of hooks per line are considered in this framework amendment.

In September 2021, the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) recommended new acceptable biological catch (ABC) levels for red snapper based on the results of SEDAR 73 (2021). Therefore, the Council must reduce ABC and the total ACL based on the SSC's most

[1] This document denotes fish caught and released alive by the recreational fishery as recreational "releases" or "discards". These terms are used interchangeably in this document, noting that "discards" is typically used in stock assessment and amendment documents, while "releases" is used in the Council's Best Fishing Practices materials or "Released Alive (Type B2)" used by the Marine Recreational Information Program.

recent recommendation, consistent with National Standard 1 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act). Implementation of the recommended ABCs would initially entail an approximate one-half reduction from the current ABC (50,000 fish). A reduction in the current OFL (53,000 fish) is also needed. The first action in Regulatory Amendment 35 would reduce the catch levels of red snapper based on the SSC's most recent recommendations following SEDAR 73 (2021).

The results of SEDAR 73 indicated that overfishing of red snapper is being primarily driven by high numbers of dead releases by the recreational sector. While dead releases comprise approximately 85% of the allowable removals (landings + dead releases) for red snapper (Table 1), dead discards also comprise notable portions of allowable removals for other stocks managed under the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region (Snapper Grouper FMP). Large numbers of dead releases limit the Council's ability to prevent overfishing and reduce the number of fish that can be landed by the fishery. Therefore, Action 2 considers prohibiting the use of more than one hook per line while recreationally fishing for snapper grouper species to reduce dead releases for all species managed under the Snapper Grouper FMP.

This framework amendment is the first of a multi-step approach by the Council to end overfishing of South Atlantic red snapper. While SEDAR 73 indicated red snapper continue to be overfished, the assessment also showed that the stock is increasing in abundance and is making progress toward rebuilding. In addition to this framework amendment, several other management actions and projects are scheduled or underway that are expected to contribute to improved managemend of red snapper and the snapper grouper fishery overall:

- Best Fishing Practices (BFP) Outreach and Education Expansion – The Council is expanding BFP outreach and education efforts (detailed in Appendix H of the draft amendment) and expects these efforts to reduce dead releases of snapper grouper species (including red snapper) through improved compliance with BFPs, which maximize survival of fish that are caught and released.
- Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) – An MSE of the snapper grouper fishery that will provide information to manage this multi-species fishery in a more holistic manner is in progress. The MSE will be followed by an amendment to implement changes to management of the snapper grouper fishery based on the MSE results.
- Snapper Grouper Amendment 46 (Recreational Permit) – The Council expects improvements to recreational data collection and catch estimates for the snapper grouper fishery through establishment of a federal recreational snapper grouper permit
- Scientific Projects – The Council also expects contributions to management specifically of red snapper through improved scientific information from the South Atlantic Red Snapper Research Program, upcoming SEDAR research track and operational stock assessments of red snapper, and ongoing research projects investigating aspects of the red snapper population and snapper grouper fishery being conducted by the Southeast Fisheries Science Center, state marine agencies, and Council staff.

The collective actions of Regulatory Amendment 35, expanded BFP outreach and education efforts, management actions that will follow the MSE, and improved scientific information are expected to end overfishing of red snapper.

Proposed management changes in this amendment

- Adjust catch levels for red snapper in the South Atlantic based on latest stock assessment (SEDAR 73, 2021).
- Prohibit the use of more than one hook per line for the recreational sector of the snapper grouper fishery

Objectives for this meeting

- Review and approve modifications to language of Purpose and Need, as well as alternatives in Action 1
- Review the draft Council Conclusions for all actions and modify as needed
- Consider approval for formal review

Potential amendment timing

September 2022	Review options paper and provide guidance to staff
December 2022	Review draft actions and alternatives and approve for public hearings
January 2023	Conduct public hearings
March 2023	**Review public comment and final draft amendment, approve all actions, consider approval for formal review**
Mid-2023	Regulations effective

Public Comment Summary

Scoping was conducted from January 18 through February 4, 2022. Four comments were received during the scoping period. Additional comments responded to scoping materials were submitted later. All comments responding to scoping materials can be viewed HERE.

Comments on red snapper management or Regulatory Amendment 35 were also received during public comment periods for the September 2021, March 2022, June 2022, September 2022, and December 2022 Council meetings. Links to online comments are included here and transcripts of verbal public comments are available upon request to Council staff.

The formal public coment period was conducted from January 3, 2023 through February 3, 2023. 2 written comments were received during this comment period, and those comments, as well as written comments submitted online after the formal comment period, can be viewed HERE. As of February 14, 2023, a total of 158 written comments were submitted in response to the scoping or public hearing materials.

In-person public hearings were held in Richmond Hill, GA (20 attendees); Charleston, SC (6 attendees); Morehead City, NC (10 attendees); Jacksonville, FL (29 attendees); Cocoa, FL (25 attendees); and Key Largo, FL (2 attendees). One additional public hearing was held via webinar (37 attendees).

Comments that directly addressed Regulatory Amendment 35 actions or alternatives are described below. Many of the submitted comments addressed management concerns outside of the actions and alternatives considered in Regulatory Amendment 35. Some of the more frequently submitted comments:

- Were in favor of increasing access to and retainment of red snapper. Some comments suggested an aggregate snapper or snapper grouper bag limit that would include red snapper. Some comments suggested increasing retainment under a slot limit to protect young fish and larger spawners.
- Were against the restriction of electric reels (previously considered in Regulatory Amendment 35 but removed before final consideration).
- Recommended improved scientific information and increased stakeholder involvement in scientific data collection and status determination.
- Recommended increased and more effective outreach and involvement of stakeholders in the management process.
- Were in favor of increased angler education opportunities, especially educating on proper venting and descending techniques, as well as appropriate bait, tackle, and fishing techniques to more directly target fish that can be legally kept.
- Discussed the timing of the red snapper seasons. Most comments on this topic were in favor of reconsideration of times of the year outside the red snapper spawning season. Other comments on this topic stated a preference for the current timing to increase accessibility to the fishery for smaller boats.
- Discussed the issue of shark depredation and recommending that management action be taken to reduce shark interactions.
- Were in favor of reducing commercial fishing for snapper grouper species.

- Were in favor of considering different red snapper regulations for different parts of the region.
- Discussed the composition of the snapper grouper fishery, specifically stating that the high abundance of red snapper is resulting in declines to other snapper grouper species (e.g. groupers, black sea bass, mangrove snapper).

Purpose and Need Statements

Purpose: The *purpose* of this framework amendment is to revise the acceptable biological catch and annual catch limits for red snapper in the South Atlantic based on the results of the latest stock assessment; and implement management measures to reduce dead discards for the South Atlantic snapper grouper fishery.

Need: The *need* for this framework amendment is to ensure red snapper catch limits are based on the best scientific information available and to address overfishing of the South Atlantic red snapper stock by reducing dead discards of snapper grouper species, while minimizing negative social and economic effects to the extent practicable, consistent with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and its National Standards.

Committee Action:

- REVIEW AND APPROVE EDITS TO PURPOSE AND NEED STATEMENTS.

Proposed Actions and Alternatives

Action 1. Reduce the acceptable biological catch, total annual catch limit, and sector annual catch limits, and establish an annual optimum yield for South Atlantic red snapper

Purpose of Action: The latest stock assessment (SEDAR 73 2021) indicated the stock is overfished and experiencing overfishing. Action is needed because the SSC recommended a new ABC based on results of SEDAR 73, The Council must establish an annual OY and reduce the ABC, total ACL, and sector ACLs. The Council cannot set the total ACL above the SSC's recommended ABC.

Alternative 1 (No Action). The current acceptable biological catch for South Atlantic red snapper is 53,000 fish. The total annual catch limit is 42,510 fish. The commercial sector annual catch limit is 124,815 pounds whole weight. The recreational sector annual catch limit is 29,656 fish. No annual optimum yield is currently specified. Red snapper may only be harvested or possessed in or from the South Atlantic Exclusive Economic Zone during the commercial and recreational fishing seasons.

Preferred Alternative 2. Reduce the red snapper acceptable biological catch and set it equal to the most recent recommendation from the Scientific and Statistical Committee. Reduce the total annual catch limit and establish an annual optimum yield for red snapper and set them **equal to** the recommended acceptable biological catch. Reduce the sector annual catch limits according to the revised total annual catch limit, current allocation method, and average weight estimates from the most recent stock assessment. Red snapper may only be harvested or possessed in or from the South Atlantic exclusive economic zone during the commercial and recreational fishing seasons. The 2027 total annual catch limit and annual optimum yield would remain in place until modified.

Fishing Year	ABC (numbers of fish)	Annual OY=Total ACL (numbers of fish)	Commercial ACL (lbs ww)	Recreational ACL (numbers of fish)
2023	28,000	28,000	77,016	19,119
2024	31,000	31,000	85,268	21,167
2025	33,000	33,000	90,769	22,533
2026	35,000	35,000	96,270	23,899
2027+	36,000	36,000	99,021	24,581

Alternative 3. Reduce the red snapper acceptable biological catch and set it equal to the most recent recommendation from the Scientific and Statistical Committee. Reduce the total annual catch limit, sector annual catch limits, and establish an annual optimum yield for red snapper and set them equal to **0 fish**. Red snapper may not be harvested or possessed in or from the South Atlantic exclusive economic zone. These restrictions also apply in the South Atlantic on board a

vessel for which a valid federal commercial or charter vessel/headboat permit for South Atlantic snapper grouper has been issued, regardless of where the fish has been harvested. The 2027 total annual catch limit and annual optimum yield would remain in place until modified.

Fishing Year	ABC (numbers of fish)	Annual OY=Total ACL (numbers of fish)	Commercial ACL (lbs ww)	Recreational ACL (numbers of fish)
2023	28,000	0	0	0
2024	31,000	0	0	0
2025	33,000	0	0	0
2026	35,000	0	0	0
2027+	36,000	0	0	0

Discussion

- The SSC reviewed the South Atlantic red snapper stock assessment (SEDAR 73 2021) at their April 2021 and July 2021 meetings.
- The SSC recommended the overfishing limit (OFL) be based on results of a projection that included recent (last 10 years) average recruitment, a discard mortality rate that accounts for descending device usage based on current and predicted levels of use, a fishing mortality rate of F30% (the fishing mortality rate when the spawning potential ratio equals 30%; a proxy for F_{MSY}), and no reallocation of fishing mortality from discards to landings. This projection was run out through 2044 to determine if the stock would rebuild within the rebuilding timeframe (see Appendix J of the draft amendment[2] for the projection of the entire rebuilding timeframe). The projections indicated the stock would rebuild within the rebuilding timeframe.
- Recommended landings and projected discard levels are provided for the next 5 years (**Table 1**). The current OFL for red snapper is 56,000 fish, and the current ABC is 53,000 fish, based on the SSC's recommendation following the SEDAR 41 stock assessment (2017). The total ACL is 42,510 fish (Amendment 43, SAFMC 2017).

Table 1. Proposed OFL and ABC levels (the SSC recommended ABC equal OFL) recommended for South Atlantic red snapper by the SSC, based on projections from SEDAR 73 (2021).

Year	ABC/OFL Landings (lbs ww)	ABC/OFL Dead Discards (lbs ww)	ABC/OFL Landings (numbers of fish)	ABC/OFL Dead Discards (numbers of fish)	Percent Reduction in ABC/OFL Landings (numbers of fish) from Current ACL
2023	327,000	1,036,000	28,000	202,000	34.13%
2024	368,000	1,076,000	31,000	207,000	27.08%
2025	408,000	1,104,000	33,000	210,000	22.37%

[2] The draft Regulatory Amendment 35 document is ***Attachment 3b*** in the March 2023 Council Meeting Briefing Book under Snapper Grouper Committee.

2026	446,000	1,122,000	35,000	211,000	17.67%
2027+	480,000	1,133,000	36,000	212,000	15.31%

- Because the newly-recommended ABCs (**Table 1**) are lower than the current level, the Council must reduce ABC and the total ACL based on the SSC's most recent recommendation, consistent with National Standard 1 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act).
- The Council discussed sector allocations for red snapper at their June 2022 meeting and noted that they do not feel the need to consider changes to allocations at this time because, unlike many other species, the primary recreational data source used in SEDAR 73 was the Florida State Reef Fish Survey, and that survey was not changed by the Marine Recreational Information Program's (MRIP) transition from the Coastal Household Telephone Survey to the mail-based Fishing Effort Survey in 2018.
    - Commercial allocation: 28.07% of the total ACL
    - Recreational allocation: 71.93% of the total ACL
    - The Council determined that this existing allocation remains fair and equitable and noted that sector allocations can be considered following the ongoing management strategy evaluation (MSE)
- To calculate sector ACLs, the allocation method from Amendment 43 (2017) was applied to the total ACLs considered in Action 1 under **Preferred Alternative 2** and **Alternative 3**, except the total average weight and commercial average weight were updated to reflect estimates from SEDAR 73 (2021).
    - To calculate the commercial ACL, the total ACL in numbers of fish is converted to weight using the projected average weight for 2017-2019 (9.80 lbs ww) from SEDAR 73 (2021). The commercial ACL is 28.07% of the total ACL in lbs ww.
    - To calculate the recreational ACL, the commercial ACL in lbs ww is converted to numbers of fish using the average weight of commercially caught red snapper from 2017 to 2019 (8.67 lbs ww) (SEDAR 73 2021). The recreational ACL is the difference between the total ACL in numbers of fish and the commercial ACL in numbers of fish.
- Based on recent catch rates, under **Preferred Alternative 2**, the recreational season is estimated to be 1 day (estimate is the same for all projected years), and the commercial season is estimated to range from 37 to 48 days (lasting from ~July 10 to mid to late August) (see Appendix F of the draft amendment).

Summary of Effects

- Descriptions of expected biological, economic, social, and administrative effects are described in Chapter 4 of the draft amendment. Select parts of those descriptions are included here.
- In general, biological effects are not expected to vary widely among Action 1 alternatives. Due to the current low limits and short seasons for red snapper, along with the high amount of fishing mortality from released fish, further limiting landings (**Preferred Alternative 2** and **Alternative 3**) is not expected to have strong impacts on overall fishing mortality.

- Biological effects of closing the recreational fishery (**Alternative 3**) are unclear, due to potential changes in recreational effort during the time when recreational red snapper season has recently occurred. If the "derby" effort of red snapper season is reduced to more typical Wave 4 effort, fishing mortality is expected to be reduced during that time. However, if effort levels are maintained and directed toward other snapper grouper species, fishing mortality may remain high due to discard mortality and an inability to retain red snapper on those days. These effects are likely weather-dependent, adding to the uncertainty.
    - Recreational red snapper season has recently ranged from 3 days to 9 days. Relative to fishing mortality for the full year, effects of changes to effort, landings, and dead discards resulting from shortening or closing this season are unlikely to have strong effects.
- Closing the commercial fishery (**Alternative 3**) is unlikely to have strong biological effects due to the relatively small trip limit and ACL. Fishing mortality from the commercial sector is expected to be reduced with lower ACLs due to most of the commercial fishing mortality coming from landings rather than dead discards.
- Generally, management that allows more red snapper landings (**Preferred Alternative 2**) is expected to have greater economic and social benefits. Management that has lower red snapper fishing mortality (from landings and dead discards) (**Alternative 3**) is expected to have greater biological benefits.

Summary of Public Comments

Most of the submitted comments did not directly address alternatives considered under Action 1. Those comments that did address Action 1 alternatives were in favor of **Alternative 1 (No Action)**. No support was expressed for **Preferred Alternative 2** or **Alternative 3**. Many of the comments expressed desire to increase retainment of red snapper due to the stock's increased abundance.

Draft Council Conclusion

- **Preferred Alternative 2** sets the total ACL and OY equal to the ABC values most recently recommended by the SSC.
- Sector ACLs would be updated using the current allocation method (28.07% to the commercial sector and 71.93% to the recreational sector) with average weights updated to those estimated in SEDAR 73 (2021).
    - Revision of the sector allocation percentages was discussed but eventually was determined to be unnecessary at this time due to the majority of red snapper landings occurring in Florida, where recreational landings estimates of red snapper are not impacted by the Marine Recreational Information Program's (MRIP) transition from the Coastal Household Telephone Survey to the mail-based Fishing Effort Survey. Florida landings are estimated in using Florida's State Reef Fish Survey, which was unaffected by the MRIP transition.
- The Council determined that the social and economic benefits of allowing a small amount of red snapper harvest under **Preferred Alternative 2** outweighed potential biological benefits from a full closure of all red snapper harvest (**Alternative 3**).

    - Continued allowance of some harvest maintains a limited commercial fishery for South Atlantic red snapper.
    - For the recreational sector, the shortness of the season is a source of frustration for the red snapper portion of the snapper grouper fishery. However, effort does increase even during the short recreational red snapper season, indicating some desire to target these fish when they can be kept.
- **Preferred Alternative 2** best meets the goals and objectives of the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region, specifically Goal 2 (Management) Objective 3 (maximize social and economic opportunity), while complying with the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act Section (h)(6).

Committee Action:

- REVIEW AND APPROVE MODIFIED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES LANGUAGE.
- REVIEW DRAFT CONCLUSION AND MODIFY AS NEEDED.

Action 2. Prohibit the use of more than one hook per line for the snapper grouper recreational sector

Purpose of Action: The latest stock assessment (SEDAR 73 2021) indicated the South Atlantic red snapper stock is experiencing overfishing due primarily to mortality associated with recreational discards. Other snapper grouper species also experience large numbers of dead discards, which limit the Council's ability to prevent overfishing and reduce the number of fish that can be landed by the fishery. Action is needed to reduce bycatch that leads to dead discards in the recreational portion of the snapper grouper fishery, consistent with National Standard 9 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), and to reduce indiscriminate fishing effort that contributes to the overfishing of several South Atlantic snapper grouper species (including red snapper), consistent with National Standard 1 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

Alternative 1 (No Action). There is no prohibition on the use of more than one hook per line by the recreational sector to fish for snapper grouper species in the South Atlantic Exclusive Economic Zone.

Alternative 2. Prohibit the use of more than one hook per line for the recreational sector to fish for snapper grouper species in the South Atlantic Exclusive Economic Zone.

Discussion

- Objectives:
  1. Reduce recreational dead discards for the snapper grouper fishery.
     a. More hooks per line increases the likelihood of catching a fish and potentially the number of fish caught per drop.
     b. Prohibiting the use of more than one hook per line is expected to reduce the number of fish caught per drop, resulting in fewer fish caught per trip and overall.
     c. Fewer fish caught results in fewer discards.
     d. Discard mortality rates applied to a smaller number of discards results in fewer dead discards.
  2. Contribute to ending overfishing of red snapper.
     a. Recreational dead discards are the primary result of fishing mortality for red snapper. In reducing dead discards throughout the snapper grouper fishery by limiting the number of hooks that may be used by the recreational fishery, dead discards of red snapper and the fishing mortality rate for red snapper will be reduced.
- Different levels of impact are expected among snapper grouper stocks based on differences in species spatial distributions, depth distributions, rates of recreational releasing (when a fish is caught, how often is it released rather than retained?), and discard mortality rates. The Council considered additional alternatives that would implement this measure in specific areas of the region based on latitude, depth, and species distribution. However, recreational discards cause fishing mortality of many snapper grouper species throughout the South Atlantic region and regulatory differences among areas would be confusing. Thus, the Council decided that, if implemented, this

regulation should be applied to the entire snapper grouper fishery throughout the South Atlantic region.

- Some data comparing catch rates between single hook and double hook rigs have been collected by Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI) in the Gulf of Mexico. These data are being supplemented with South Atlantic data being collected by Council staff to develop a more comprehensive analysis that describes differences in catch rates based on gear configurations such as number of hooks, size of hooks, type of rig, angler experience, etc. The Council's SSC reviewed preliminary results of these studies at their October 2022 meeting. A description of preliminary results is provided in Section 4.2.1 of the draft amendment[3], but the information available at this time indicates potentially lower catch rates for some snapper grouper species, including red snapper, from requiring single hook rigs.

Summary of Effects

- Descriptions of expected biological, economic, social, and administrative effects are described in Chapter 4 of the draft amendment. Select parts of those descriptions are included here.
- Requirement of one hook per line for the recreational sector would be expected to slow catch rates overall, including rates for individual species, such as red snapper. Other species, such as gag grouper or red grouper, may experience increased catch rates.
    - Slowed catch rates are expected to result in reduced fishing mortality, both in fewer landings and fewer dead releases, which is expected to have biological benefits.
- Effects of this action are difficult to quantify throughout the region due to how the use of more than one hook per line varies among areas, target species, or other components of the recreational fishery. The strongest effects would be expected for areas or components of the recreational fishery that currently have common use of more than one hook per line.

Summary of Public Comments

Several commenters expressed opposition to Action 2-**Alternative 2**, stating that this action will likely have little, if any, biological benefit to red snapper and would hinder fishing effort directed at other species that could be retained.

Commenters stated that **Alternative 2** would especially have negative impacts on the deep drop fishery, noting that bottom fishing for species like deepwater grouper and tilefish at 300 feet and deeper requires substantial effort to reel lines in. The potential for losing bait on the only hook being used to fish may discourage anglers from fishing in that way or booking charter or headboat trips that fish in that way.

One comment further noted that use of multiple hooks does not typically result in catches of multiple fish, but increases the chance of one fish being caught, especially in deeper water. This

[3] The draft Regulatory Amendment 35 document is ***Attachment 3b*** in the March 2023 Council Meeting Briefing Book under Snapper Grouper Committee.

comment stated that any limit on the number of hooks per line should be restricted to depths less than 300 feet and that up to 5 hooks should be allowed in those depths.

One comment stated support for **Alternative 2**.

Draft Council Conclusion

NOTE: The Council has not selected a preferred alternative for Action 2. If **Alternative 1 (No Action)** is selected, the Council will develop rationale within the March 2023 meeting. The following draft conclusion is written for Council selection of **Alternative 2**, based on Council discussions to this point. **Alternative 2** is expected to:

- Reduce fishing mortality for South Atlantic red snapper, as well as other species in the snapper grouper fishery management unit by slowing catch rates, reducing overall catch, reducing the number of fish that are caught and released, and reducing the number of fish that die after being caught and released.
- Reduce bycatch, consistent with National Standard 9 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and the goals and objectives of the Snapper Grouper FMP, specifically Goal 2 (Management) Objective 4 (reduce and mitigate discards).
- Contribute along with other ongoing Council projects to cumulatively end overfishing of South Atlantic red snapper, in accordance with National Standard 1 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act.
- Contribute to ending overfishing and quickening rebuilding for other South Atlantic species that are currently overfished or experiencing overfishing by reducing fishing mortality for those species, as well.

Committee Action:

- SELECT PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE
- REVIEW DRAFT CONCLUSION AND MODIFY AS NEEDED.

- CONSIDER APPROVAL OF REGULATORY AMENDMENT 35 FOR FORMAL REVIEW.

DRAFT MOTION: APPROVE REGULATORY AMENDMENT 35 TO THE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE SNAPPER GROUPER FISHERY OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC REGION FOR FORMAL SECRETARIAL REVIEW AND DEEM THE CODIFIED TEXT AS NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE. GIVE STAFF EDITORIAL LICENSE TO MAKE ANY NECESSARY EDITORIAL CHANGES TO THE DOCUMENT/CODIFIED TEXT AND GIVE THE COUNCIL CHAIR AUTHORITY TO APPROVE THE REVISIONS AND RE-DEEM THE CODIFIED TEXT.