



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Melvin Bell, Chair | Stephen J. Poland, Vice Chair
John Carmichael, Executive Director

AGENDA Snapper Grouper Committee Via Webinar

Tuesday March 2, 2021, 1:30 P.M. to 5:30 P.M.

Wednesday March 3, 8:30 A.M. to 10:00 A.M. (Times subject to change)

Approval of Agenda – Jessica McCawley

Approval of December 2020 Minutes – Jessica McCawley

1. Status of Amendments under Formal Review – NMFS SERO
 - a. Regulatory Amendment 34 (SMZs in NC and SC) – sent to NMFS on 8/11/2020
2. Snowy Grouper Assessment (*Attachments 1a and 1b*)
 - a. Presentation (Attachment 1a)– Rob Cheshire /Katie Siegfried, SEFSC
 - b. SSC Recommendation (Attachment 1b) – Genny Nesslage, SSC Chair
[Snowy Grouper Fishery Overview](#) – Mike Errigo
 - c. **Committee Action:** Determine Acceptable Biological Catch and management response – Jessica McCawley
3. Wreckfish ITQ Modernization (Amendment 48; *Attachment 2*)
 - a. Overview of Decision Document – Christina Wiegand
 - b. **Committee Action:** Discuss and provide guidance to staff – Jessica McCawley
4. Red Porgy (Amendment 50; *Attachment 3*)
 - a. Overview of Decision Document & Scoping Comments – Myra Brouwer
 - b. **Committee Action:** Consider scoping comments, review actions and alternatives and preliminary analyses, and select preferred alternatives as appropriate – Jessica McCawley
5. Greater Amberjack (Amendment 49; *Attachment 4*)
 - a. [Greater Amberjack Fishery Overview](#) – Mike Schmidtke
 - b. Overview of Decision Document – Mike Schmidtke
 - c. **Committee Action:** Provide direction to staff and consider approving for scoping – Jessica McCawley
6. Updates
 - a. Greater Amberjack and Red Snapper Research Projects – Mike Errigo and Myra Brouwer

- b. Preliminary Red Snapper Recreational Landings and 2021 Season (*Attachment 5*)
– NMFS SERO
- 7. Approve topics for Spring 2021 Advisory Panel Meeting – Jessica McCawley
- 8. Other Business – Jessica McCawley

Adjourn

Committee Members

Jessica McCawley, Chair
Kerry Marhefka, Vice-chair
Mel Bell
Anna Beckwith
Chester Brewer
Kyle Christiansen
Chris Conklin
Andy Strelcheck
Tim Griner
Carolyn Belcher
LT Robert Copeland
Steve Poland
Art Sapp
Spud Woodward
Mid-Atlantic Liaisons: Tony DiLernia, Dewey Hemilright

Attachments:

Attachment 1a: Snowy Grouper Assessment Presentation
Attachment 1b. SSC Report – January 2021
Attachment 2: Amendment 48 Decision Document
Attachment 3: Amendment 50 Decision Document & scoping comments
Attachment 4: Amendment 49 Decision Document
Attachment 5: Red Snapper Preliminary Recreational Landings Presentation

Staff Lead: Myra Brouwer (myra.brouwer@safmc.net)

OVERVIEW

Snapper Grouper Committee

The Committee will approve the minutes from the December 2020 meeting and the agenda for the March 2021 Committee meeting.

1. Status of Amendments under Formal Review

NMFS SERO staff will update the Committee on the status of amendments under review or recently submitted.

Required Committee Action: None.

2. Snowy Grouper Stock Assessment (*Attachments 1a and 1b*)

SEDAR 36 included data through 2012 and indicated that the Snowy Grouper stock in the South Atlantic had not recovered to its biomass target but was not experiencing overfishing. The update conducted in 2020, using data through 2018, showed the stock remains overfished and is experiencing overfishing. A lower natural mortality at age was likely the primary driver of any differences between SEDAR 36 and the 2020 update. SEFSC staff will deliver a presentation on the assessment's results to the Committee. The South Atlantic SSC reviewed results of the SEDAR 36 update in January 2021. Genny Nesslage, SSC Chair, will deliver the SSC's recommendations. In addition, Council staff will provide an overview of available Snowy Grouper landings and other pertinent data. Click [HERE](#) to access the data online.

Required Committee Action: Provide direction to staff on amendment development and timing.

3. Wreckfish ITQ Modernization (Amendment 48; *Attachment 2*)

During the December 2020 meeting, the Committee received a presentation on the Southeast Regional System for electronic reporting of catch share programs and feedback from a fall meeting of ITQ shareholders and wholesale dealers. The Council provided detailed guidance to staff on actions and alternatives and requested feedback from the Law Enforcement Advisory Panel on certain proposed modifications (e.g., offloading requirement). Christina Wiegand will review modifications to actions and alternatives and IPT and LE AP recommendations. Scoping for this amendment is being held during the Public Comment session on March 3.

Required Committee Action: Consider scoping comments and recommendations and provide guidance to staff.

4. Red Porgy (Amendment 50; *Attachment 3*)

During the December meeting, the Council reviewed preliminary analyses and recommendations from the Snapper Grouper AP, requested specific analyses for review at this meeting, and approved the amendment for scoping. Scoping hearings were held on February 3 and 4, 2021 via webinar. Staff will provide an overview of scoping comments (included in Attachment 3) and IPT recommended modifications and updated analyses.

Required Committee Action: Consider scoping comments and updated analyses, provide guidance to staff, and select preferred alternatives as appropriate.

5. Greater Amberjack (Amendment 49; Attachment 4)

The Council reviewed an options paper at the December 2020 meeting and provided guidance to the IPT for further document development. Staff will provide an overview of the decision document with modifications since the December meeting and any IPT recommendations. In addition, staff will present available data on Greater Amberjack landings and other relevant information. Click [HERE](#) to access the data online.

Required Committee Action: Discuss, provide guidance to staff and consider recommending for scoping.

6. Updates

Red Snapper and Greater Amberjack Research Projects: Council staff will update the Committee on the status of research projects to obtain abundance estimates for Red Snapper and Greater Amberjack.

In 2020, the NMFS Sea Grant Consortium received funding to administer programs to solicit research on Red Snapper (South Atlantic) and Greater Amberjack (South Atlantic and Gulf). The goal is to support research that would generate absolute estimates of abundance, with accompanying measures of uncertainty, for these stocks. The intent is for this information to be used as an “anchor point” for future stock assessments. These are sister projects to the much larger “Great Red Snapper Count” that was conducted in the Gulf of Mexico. Council staffs serve on the Steering Committees for each project and will be providing updates on progress to date for each project.

South Atlantic Preliminary Recreational Landings and 2021 Red Snapper Season (Attachment 5)

SERO staff will present preliminary 2020 recreational landings for Red Snapper and other information that will be used to determine the duration of the 2021 recreational season.

7. Agenda topics for Spring 2021 Snapper Grouper AP Meeting

The Snapper Grouper AP is scheduled to convene via webinar on April 21-23, 2021. Below is a list of proposed topics to develop the AP’s agenda:

- Fishery overviews for Greater Amberjack, Yellowtail Snapper, and Snowy Grouper – recommendations on potential management measures
- Mutton Snapper FPR
- Amendment 49 (Greater Amberjack) – overview of proposed actions/alternatives and available analyses
- Amendment 50 (Red Porgy) – overview of proposed actions/alternatives and available analyses
- Amendment 48 (Wreckfish ITQ Modernization) – brief update and schedule shareholders meeting separately?
- SEDAR updates (Red Snapper, golden Tilefish, Gag, others)?
- CitSci – the new ACCSP CitSci app (SciFish) combining Release and CatchULater. Demo of the app and short update on the general program?
- Discussion on possible approaches to reduce recreational discards?
- Feedback on Council’s research recommendations?

Required Committee Action: Review, modify, and approve a list of topics to develop the AP's agenda for the spring 2021 meeting.