



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Carolyn N. Belcher, Ph.D., Chair | Trish Murphey, Vice Chair
John Carmichael, Executive Director

AGENDA

*****REVISED 6/12/23**

Snapper Grouper Committee

World Golf Village Renaissance

500 Legacy Trail

St. Augustine, FL

Tuesday, June 13, 2023, 1:30 PM – 5:00 PM

Wednesday, June 14, 2023, 8:30 AM – 3:45 PM

Thursday, June 15, 2023, 8:30 AM – 10:30 AM

Approval of Agenda

Approval of March 2023 Minutes

1. Wreckfish (SG Amendment 48) (***AP Report; Attachments 1a-1c***)
 - a. AP Recommendations – Bob Lorenz, AP Chair
 - b. Overview – Christina Wiegand
 - c. Monitoring Options Presentation – Jessica Stephen
 - d. Participation and Eligibility Presentation – Jessica Stephen
 - e. **Committee Action:** Review decision document and provide direction to staff on additional actions to include in Amendment 48.
2. SAFE Report – Chip Collier (***Attachment 2***)
3. Yellowtail Snapper (SG Amendment 44) (***AP Report; Attachments 3a and 3b***)
 - a. AP Recommendations – Bob Lorenz
 - b. [Fishery Overview](#) and [Allocation Decision Tool](#) (*will be updated prior to the Council Meeting*) – Council Staff
 - c. Overview – Allie Iberle
 - d. **Committee Action:** Review the decision document including Snapper Grouper AP feedback, draft amendment, and select a preferred alternative for Action 1.
4. Scamp/Yellowmouth Grouper (SG Amendment 55) (***AP and SSC Reports; Attachments 4a and 4b***)
 - a. AP Recommendations – Bob Lorenz
 - b. SSC Recommendations – Jeff Buckel, SSC Chair
 - c. **Committee Action:** Review the decision document including Snapper Grouper AP feedback, provide guidance for staff, and approve for scoping.

5. Black Sea Bass Stock Assessment (SEDAR 76) (**SSC Report; Attachment 5**)
 - a. Assessment Presentation – Shannon Cass-Calay, SEFSC
 - b. SSC Recommendations – Jeff Buckel
 - c. [Fishery Overview](#) – Chip Collier
 - d. **Committee Actions:** Review assessment results and provide guidance to initiate amendment.
6. SSC Recommendations (for Snapper Grouper topics not covered under agenda items) (**SSC Report**) – Jeff Buckel
7. AP Recommendations (for topics not covered under agenda items) (**AP Report**) – Bob Lorenz
8. Private Recreational Permitting (SG Amendment 46) (**AP Report; Attachments 8a and 8b**)
 - a. AP Recommendations – Luiz Barbieri and Bob Lorenz
 - b. Overview – John Hadley
 - c. **Committee Action:** Review scoping comments and provide guidance on development of the amendment.
9. Updates
 - a. Spawning SMZs Sunset – Chip Collier
 - b. Best Fishing Practices Outreach – Christina Wiegand
10. Other Business

Adjourn

Committee Members:

Jessica McCawley, Chair
Kerry Marhefka, Vice-chair
Robert Beal
Dr. Carolyn Belcher
Mel Bel
Chester Brewer
Gary Borland
LT Cameron Box
Tim Griner
Judy Helmey
Trish Murphey
Tom Roller
Andy Strelcheck
Laurilee Thompson
Spud Woodward

Mid-Atlantic Members: Sonny Gwin, Dewey Hemilright

Attachments:

SSC Report: SSC Meeting April 2023

AP Report: Snapper Grouper AP Meeting April 2023 (*will be posted with Recent Documents by 6/6/2023*)

Attachment 1a: Amendment 48 (Wreckfish) Decision Document (*will be posted with Recent Documents by 6/6/2023*)

Attachment 1b: Wreckfish ITQ Monitoring Options Presentation

Attachment 1c: Wreckfish ITQ Eligibility and Participation Presentation (*will be posted with Recent Documents by 6/6/2023*)

Attachment 2: [SAFE Report](#)

Attachment 3a: Amendment 44 (Yellowtail Snapper) Decision Document

Attachment 3b: Amendment 44 (Yellowtail Snapper) Draft Amendment

Attachment 4a: Amendment 55 (Scamp/Yellowmouth Grouper) Management Response Overview

Attachment 4b: Amendment 55 (Scamp/Yellowmouth Grouper) Decision Document

Attachment 5: SEDAR 76 (Black Sea Bass) Presentation

Attachment 8a: Amendment 46 (Recreational Permitting) Decision Document

Attachment 8b: Snapper Grouper Recreational Permitting and Reporting Technical AP Meeting Report May 2023

Staff Lead: Michael Schmidtke (mike.schmidtke@safmc.net)

OVERVIEW

Snapper Grouper Committee

The Committee will approve the minutes from the March 2023 meeting and the agenda for the June 2023 Committee meeting.

Status of Amendments

Amendment	Council voted final action	Council submitted to NMFS	NOA published (comments due)	Proposed rule published (comments due)	Final rule published	Implementation date
SG Reg 35 (Red Snapper)	3/10/23					
SG 49 (Greater Amberjack)	9/16/22	4/5/23				
SG 50 (Red Porgy)	3/11/22	5/3/22	9/9/22 (11/8/22)	9/26/22 (10/26/22)	12/20/22	1/19/23
SG 51 (Snowy Grouper)	12/9/22	3/2/23	5/22/23 (7/21/23)			
SG 52 (Tilefishes)	12/9/22	5/26/23				
SG 53 (Gag and Black Grouper)	3/10/23	5/1/23				
ABC Control Rule	12/9/22	6/8/23				

Note: Blank cells indicate that the action has not occurred.

Framework Amendments

- The approximate length of time from when Council submits a framework amendment to NMFS and the implementation date is 6-9 months.
- NMFS does not publish an NOA for a framework amendment.
- The public comment period for proposed rules is usually 30 days.

Plan Amendments

- The approximate length of time from when Council submits a plan amendment to NMFS and the implementation date is 9-11 months.
- NMFS publishes an NOA for a plan amendment, followed by the proposed rule.

- The public comment period for proposed rules and amendments (NOA) are usually 30 and 60 days, respectively.

1. Wreckfish (SG Amendment 48) (*AP Report; Attachments 1a-1c*)

Description: A review of the Wreckfish ITQ Program was completed in 2019 and included recommendations for improvement, including stakeholder concerns with offloading site and time requirements. At their March 2023 meeting the Council requested staff bring back options for maintaining monitoring without the offloading site and time requirements, including a possible hail-in/hail-out requirement. Staff will present a decision document for the Committee to discuss. Additionally, NMFS will provide a presentation on monitoring options for the fishery (*Attachment 1b*) and participation and eligibility decisions necessary to build an electronic ITQ system for the wreckfish fishery (*Attachment 1c*).

Required Committee Action: Review decision document and provide direction to staff.

2. SAFE Report (*Attachment 2*)

Description: Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) Reports are required through National Standard 2 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The report should contain the best scientific information available on the condition of the stock, essential fish habitat, marine ecosystems, and fishery. These reports can serve as regular updates to the SSC and Council to aid in discussing the condition of the stock and potential need for adjusting current management measures. Staff will describe information included in the [SAFE Report](#) and highlight some findings.

Required Committee Action: Review and provide guidance on additional information to include.

3. Yellowtail Snapper (SG Amendment 44) (*AP Report; Attachments 3a and 3b*)

Description: The Council reviewed the results of the SEDAR 68 Interim Analysis and instructed staff to resume work on this joint plan amendment in September 2022. This amendment will modify catch levels for South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico yellowtail snapper as well updating the jurisdictional allocation of the stock acceptable biological catch, total South Atlantic annual catch limit, Gulf of Mexico annual catch limit, and South Atlantic sector allocations. At their April 2023 meeting, the Snapper Grouper AP discussed this amendment, and the AP Chair will present their feedback to the Council. Staff will present data on the fishery using a [Fishery Overview](#) application and discuss how these data are used in the Council's [Allocation Decision Tool](#). Staff will also present a decision document with preliminary actions and options and the draft amendment. The Council can select preferred options.

Required Committee Action: Review Snapper Grouper AP feedback, decision document, and draft amendment, select a preferred option for Action 1 (at minimum).

4. Scamp/Yellowmouth Grouper (SG Amendment 55) (*AP and SSC Reports; Attachments 4a and 4b*)

Description: SEDAR 68 was a unique assessment that combined catch for Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper. The results of the assessment were reviewed by the Council in March 2023 and staff were directed to start a plan amendment. This amendment will reorganize the Other Shallow Water Grouper Complex, establish the new Scamp and

Yellowmouth Grouper Complex and then establish a rebuilding plan, catch levels, allocations and AMs for this new complex. Both the Snapper Grouper AP and SSC discussed the results of the assessment at their April Meetings. Snapper Grouper AP and SSC Chairs will give an overview of the discussions during their meetings. Staff will provide an overview of the organizational changes needed in this amendment and then review a decision document that will provide a preliminary suite of actions and options. The Council will have the opportunity to approve the amendment for scoping.

Required Committee Action: Review SSC and Snapper Grouper AP feedback, review decision document and provide any guidance to staff on the range of actions and options, approve the amendment for scoping.

5. Black Sea Bass Stock Assessment (SEDAR 76) (SSC Report; Attachment 5)

Description: SEDAR 76 included data through 2021 and indicated that the Black Sea Bass stock in the South Atlantic is overfished and experiencing overfishing. The current assessment has estimated lower than average recruitment since 2011 and declining every year, and despite declines in landings over the same period, spawning biomass has continued to decline while fishing mortality has increased. SEFSC staff will deliver a presentation on the assessment's results to the Committee. The South Atlantic SSC reviewed results of SEDAR 76 in April 2023. Jeff Buckel, Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) Chair, will deliver the SSC's recommendations. In addition, Council staff will provide a [Fishery Overview](#) of available Black Sea Bass landings and other pertinent data.

Required Committee Action: Review assessment results and provide guidance to initiate amendment.

6. SSC Recommendations (for Snapper Grouper topics not covered under agenda items) (SSC Report)

Description: The Scientific and Statistical Committee met on April 18-20, 2023, and discussed additional topics pertaining to the snapper grouper fishery. The SSC Chair will deliver the SSC's recommendations to the Committee on items not covered on the Committee's agenda.

Required Committee Action: None.

7. AP Recommendations (for topics not covered under agenda items) (AP Report)

Description: The Snapper Grouper AP met on April 25-27, 2023, and discussed additional topics pertaining to the snapper grouper fishery. The AP Chair will deliver the Snapper Grouper AP's recommendations to the Committee on items not covered on the Committee's agenda.

Required Committee Action: None.

8. Private Recreational Permitting Amendment (SG Amendment 46) (AP Report; Attachments 8a and 8b)

Description: Amendment 46 considers establishing a private recreational permit and education component for the South Atlantic snapper grouper fishery. In recent meetings, the Council has received input and technical guidance from the Private Recreational Reporting Working Group, Joint Council Workgroup on Section 102 of the Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act, and the Snapper Grouper Recreational Permitting and Reporting

Technical Advisory Panel (RPRT AP). After reviewing this input, the Council began work on the amendment and approved it for scoping at the December 2022 meeting. Of note at this meeting was also the removal of reporting component from further consideration in the amendment.

The Council has since further developed Amendment 46, with the amendment being reviewed by the Snapper Grouper AP in April 2023 and the RPRT AP in May 2023. The respective AP Chairs will provide summary AP feedback and then Council staff will review a decision document for Amendment 46.

Required Committee Action: Review AP comments and the decision document. Provide guidance on how to further develop the amendment.

9. Updates

Description: The Council will receive updates from staff on the 2027 sunset of South Atlantic Special Management Zones established through Snapper Grouper Amendment 36 and Best Fishing Practices outreach.

Required Committee Action: None.

10. Other Business