



# SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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

## AGENDA

### Snapper Grouper Committee

The Shores Resort & Spa  
2637 South Atlantic Avenue  
Daytona Beach Shores, FL 32118

**Tuesday, June 11, 2024, 1:30 PM – 5:00 PM**

**Wednesday, June 12, 2024, 8:30 AM – 3:45 PM**

**Thursday, June 13, 2024, 8:30 AM – 12:00 noon**

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes (March 2024)

Update on Exempted Fishing Permits (EFP) – NMFS SERO

1. Red Snapper Management (***SSC Report; Attachments 1a-1c***)
  - a. Presentation on Red Snapper Recreational Landings in 2022 and 2023 and 2024 Recreational Season – NMFS SERO
  - b. Red Snapper Management Options Study (Shertzer et al. 2024) Presentation – NMFS SEFSC
  - c. Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) recommendations – Marcel Reichert, SSC Chair
  - d. Snapper Grouper Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) Workplan – Chip Collier
  - e. **Committee Action:** Provide guidance for development of the MSE.
2. Wreckfish (SG Amendment 48) (***Attachments 2a-2c***)
  - a. Overview and public hearing presentation – Christina Wiegand
  - b. **Committee Action:** Approve for formal review.
3. Gag and Black Grouper Vessel Limit and On-Demand Gear for Black Sea Bass (Regulatory Amendment 36) (***AP Report; Attachments 3a and 3b***)
  - a. Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel (AP) Recommendations – Bob Lorenz, AP Chair
  - b. Overview – Michael Schmidtke
  - c. **Committee Action:** Approve for public hearings.

4. Black Sea Bass (Amendment 56) (*AP Report; Attachment 4*)
  - a. AP Recommendations – Bob Lorenz, AP Chair
  - b. Overview – Michael Schmidtke
  - c. **Committee Action:** Approve for scoping.
  
5. Scamp/Yellowmouth Grouper (Amendment 55) (*Attachments 5a-5c*)
  - a. AP recommendations – Bob Lorenz, AP Chair
  - b. Overview – Allie Iberle
  - c. **Committee Action:** Approve for public hearings.
  
6. Private Recreational Permitting and Education Requirement (SG Amendment 46) (*Recreational Permit Technical AP, Private Angler AP, and Outreach and Communications AP Reports; Attachments 6a and 6b*)
  - a. Recreational Permitting and Reporting Technical AP Recommendations – Luiz Barbieri, AP Chair
  - b. Private Recreational Angler AP Recommendations – John Hadley
  - c. Outreach and Communications AP Recommendations – Scott Baker, AP Chair
  - d. Overview – John Hadley
  - e. **Committee Action:** Provide guidance on how to move forward with the amendment.
  
7. Commercial Fishery Discussion
  - a. Overview – Michael Schmidtke
  - b. **Committee Action:** Form a Sub-Committee to develop potential management actions for the commercial sector.
  
8. Update on Research in Spawning Special Management Zones – Chip Collier
  
9. AP Recommendations on Topics Not on Agenda – Bob Lorenz, Chair (*AP Report*)
  
10. Other Business

Adjourn

**Committee Members:**

Jessica McCawley, Chair  
 Kerry Marhefka, Vice-chair  
 Robert Beal  
 Dr. Carolyn Belcher  
 Gary Borland  
 LT Marisa Kraiss  
 Tim Griner  
 Judy Helmey  
 Trish Murphey  
 Tom Roller  
 Robert Spottswood, Jr.

Andy Strelcheck  
Laurilee Thompson  
Spud Woodward  
Mid-Atlantic Member: Sonny Gwin

**Attachments:**

**SSC Report:** SSC Meeting April 2024

**AP Report:** Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel Meeting March 2024

**AP Presentation:** Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel Meeting March 2024 Report Presentation  
*(will be posted with Recent Documents by 6/3/2024)*

**Recreational Permit Technical AP Report:** Snapper Grouper Recreational Permitting and  
Reporting Technical Advisory Panel Meeting April 2024

**Private Angler AP Report:** Snapper Grouper Private Recreational Angler Advisory Panel  
Meeting May 2024

**Outreach and Communications AP Report:** Outreach and Communications Advisory Panel  
Meeting May 2024

**Attachment 1a:** Red Snapper Recreational Landings and Season Presentation

**Attachment 1b:** Red Snapper Management Options Study (Shertzer et al. 2024) Presentation

**Attachment 1c:** Snapper Grouper Management Strategy Evaluation Workplan

**Attachment 2a:** Amendment 48 (Wreckfish) Decision Document

**Attachment 2b:** Amendment 48 (Wreckfish) Draft Amendment

**Attachment 2c:** Amendment 48 (Wreckfish) Codified Text *(will be posted with Recent  
Documents by 6/3/2024)*

**Attachment 3a:** Regulatory Amendment 36 (Gag, Black Grouper, and Black Sea Bass On-  
Demand Pots) Decision Document

**Attachment 3b:** Regulatory Amendment 36 (Gag, Black Grouper, and Black Sea Bass On-  
Demand Pots) Draft Amendment

**Attachment 4:** Amendment 56 (Black Sea Bass) Decision Document

**Attachment 5a:** Amendment 55 (Scamp/Yellowmouth Grouper) Decision Document *(will be  
posted with Recent Documents by 6/3/2024)*

**Attachment 5b:** Amendment 55 (Scamp/Yellowmouth Grouper) Draft Amendment *(will be  
posted with Recent Documents by 6/3/2024)*

**Attachment 5c:** Amendment 55 (Scamp/Yellowmouth Grouper) Decision Tool *(will be posted  
with Recent Documents by 6/3/2024)*

**Attachment 6a:** Amendment 46 (Private Recreational Permitting and Education Requirement)  
Decision Document

**Attachment 6b:** Amendment 46 (Private Recreational Permitting and Education Requirement)  
Draft Amendment

**Staff Lead:** Michael Schmidtke ([mike.schmidtke@safmc.net](mailto:mike.schmidtke@safmc.net))

# OVERVIEW

## Snapper Grouper Committee

The Committee will approve the minutes from the March 2024 meeting and the agenda for the June 2024 Committee meeting.

### 1. **Red Snapper Management (*Attachments 1a-1c*)**

**Description:** The NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office (SERO) estimates recreational catch rates for red snapper annually to determine the season length for the recreational sector. SERO will present the recreational catch estimates for the 2022 and 2023 red snapper seasons.

In March 2024, the Council requested information on management options to determine the best path forward for managing red snapper and snapper grouper discards. Staff at the Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC) recently published a study that evaluated potential management strategies for reducing discards of red snapper (Shertzer et al. 2024). SEFSC staff will present this study and its results to the Committee. The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) reviewed applicability of management strategies from this paper at their April 2024 meeting, and will present their recommendations to the Council. Council staff will present the current work plan for the Snapper Grouper Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE). Using the current workplan and information on the Shertzer et al. (2024) study, the Committee will develop guidance on management strategies that should be prioritized for evaluation in the MSE.

**Required Committee Action:** Provide guidance for development of the MSE.

### 2. **Wreckfish (SG Amendment 48) (*Attachments 2a-2c*)**

**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 2024 meeting the Council selected preferred alternatives for all actions and approved the amendment for public hearings. Public hearings will be held during the June 2024 Council meeting. Staff will present an updated decision document with draft Council rationale for review and a draft amendment document to consider for formal review.

**Required Committee Action:** Review draft Council rationale and consider for approval for formal review.

### 3. **Gag and Black Grouper Recreational Vessel Limits and On-Demand Gear for Black Sea Bass (Regulatory Amendment 36) (*AP Report; Attachments 3a and 3b*)**

**Description:** Regulatory Amendment 36 considers revising the gag and black grouper recreational vessel limits and revising commercial black sea bass pot transit requirements to accommodate the use of on-demand black sea bass pots. The Council initiated this amendment in September 2023 and conducted scoping in February 2024. Council staff will present the draft amendment using a decision document that outlines actions, alternatives, and preliminary effects analyses.

**Required Committee Action:** Consider selection of preferred alternatives for each action; provide direction to staff on further development of the framework amendment; and consider approval for public hearings.

**4. Black Sea Bass (SG Amendment 56) (*AP Report; Attachment 4*)**

**Description:** SEDAR 76 included data through 2021 and indicated that the Black Sea Bass stock in the South Atlantic is overfished. In June 2023, the Council reviewed the [Fishery Overview](#) and initiated Amendment 56 to respond to the SEDAR 76 assessment results. In March 2024, the SSC presented catch level recommendations for black sea bass, and the Council requested discussion by the Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel (AP) and information from staff to help evaluate management decisions that should be considered in this amendment. Bob Lorenz, AP Chair, will present the AP's recommendations. Council staff will provide the requested information or update on the progress of ongoing analyses.

**Required Committee Action:** Consider approval for scoping.

**5. Scamp/Yellowmouth Grouper (SG Amendment 55) (*Attachments 5a-5c*)**

**Description:** The results of SEDAR 68 were reviewed by the Council in March 2023 and staff were directed to start a plan amendment to 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. In December 2023, the Council reviewed the SG AP feedback, selected preferred alternatives for some actions and added additional management measure actions. During the March 2024 meeting, the Council reviews an updated analysis and selected additional preferred alternatives. The Council requested staff provide a decision tool to analyze recreational management measures in different combinations. At this meeting, staff will review a decision document that includes an effects summary for each action and AP feedback from the April 2024 Snapper Grouper AP meeting. A decision tool was created and will be used to help the Council select the remaining preferred alternatives.

**Required Committee Action:** Review the decision document including effects summaries and AP feedback as well as the decision tool and select any remaining preferred Alternatives. Consider approving for public hearings.

**6. Private Recreational Permitting and Education Requirement (SG Amendment 46) (*Permitting and Reporting AP Report; Private Angler AP Report, Outreach and Communications AP Report, Attachments 6a and 6b*)**

**Description:** Amendment 46 considers establishing a private recreational permit and education requirement for the South Atlantic snapper grouper fishery. Over multiple 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 several advisory panels (APs). 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 a reporting component from further consideration in the amendment.

The Council has since further developed Amendment 46, with the amendment being most recently reviewed by the Permitting and Reporting Technical AP, Private Angler AP, and

Outreach and Communications AP at their Spring 2024 meetings. The Committee will be provided with summary AP feedback and then Council staff will review a decision document for Amendment 46.

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

#### **7. Snapper Grouper Commercial Fishery Management**

**Description:** In March 2024, the Council directed staff to gather information on the commercial fishery and explore potential timelines that could fit in the Council’s work plan for developing an amendment that considers changes to the snapper grouper commercial fishery, including consideration of revising the “2 for 1” policy for SG 1 permits and regulations for 225-pound (SG 2) permits.

The Council discussed use of a sub-committee approach to allow progress on this project to continue while minimizing conflicts with other snapper grouper amendments being addressed during Council meetings. Similar sub-committee approaches have been used in the development of the Habitat Blueprint in 2021-2022, Snapper Grouper Amendment 48 (Wreckfish) in 2023-2024, and Snapper Grouper Amendment 46 (Private Recreational Permitting) in 2023-2024. In previous uses of this approach, the Council would define tasks for the sub-committee to address. The sub-committee would then meet outside of Council meetings and develop recommendations that were presented at Council meetings.

**Required Committee Action:** Form a snapper grouper commercial sub-committee by identifying Council members to participate in the sub-committee and define initial tasks to address.

#### **8. Update on Research in Spawning Special Management Zones**

**Description:** The Committee will receive an update from staff on work related to the Spawning Special Management Zones established through Snapper Grouper Amendment 36.

**Required Committee Action:** None.

#### **9. AP Recommendations on Topics Not on Agenda (*AP Report*)**

The Snapper Grouper AP met on March 26-28, 2024, 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.

#### **10. Other Business**