



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Melvin Bell, Chair | Carolyn N. Belcher, Ph.D., Vice Chair
John Carmichael, Executive Director

AGENDA

Snapper Grouper Committee

Town and Country Inn

Charleston, SC

Tuesday, September 13, 2022 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM

Wednesday, September 14, 2022 8:30 AM – 3:45 PM

Thursday, September 15, 2022 8:30 – 10:30 AM

Approval of Agenda

Approval of June 2022 transcript

1. Status of Amendments under formal review – Rick DeVictor, NMFS SERO
2. Exempted Fishing Permit Brief (*Attachments 1a and 1b*) – Rick DeVictor
3. Release Mortality Reduction & Red Snapper (SG Reg Amendment 35) (*Attachments 2a-2c*)
 - a. Overview – Mike Schmidtke
 - b. Data Report – Chip Collier
 - c. **Committee Action:** Provide guidance to staff and the IPT for further development of the options paper.
4. Recreational Permitting & Reporting (SG Amendment 46) (*Attachments 3a and 3b*)
 - a. Review Private Recreational Permitting and Reporting Technical Advisory Panel's input
 - b. Overview – John Hadley
 - c. **Committee Action:** Review AP comments and provide directive to the AP for the next meeting. Also discuss goals and desired outcomes of a potential private recreational permit and reporting requirement.
5. Yellowtail Snapper Interim Analysis (**SSC Report, Attachment 4**)
 - a. Presentation – Shanae Allen, FWC
 - b. SSC recommendations – Jeff Buckel, SSC Chair
 - c. Yellowtail Snapper Fishery Overview – Chip Collier
 - d. **Committee Action:** Provide guidance on whether to reinstate amendment development with update catch levels

6. Gag (SG Amendment 53) (*Attachments 5a-5d*)
 - a. Overview – Allie Iberle
 - b. **Committee Action:** Review actions and alternatives, select remaining preferred alternatives and approve amendment for public hearings

7. Wreckfish (SG Amendment 48) (*Attachments 6a and 6b*)
 - a. Overview – Christina Wiegand
 - b. **Committee Action:** Review wreckfish shareholder input, provide staff guidance to staff, and consider approval for public hearings.

8. Golden Tilefish and Blueline Tilefish (SG Amendment 52) (*Attachments 7a and 7b*)
 - a. Overview – Roger Pugliese & Myra Brouwer
 - b. **Committee Action:** Consider public hearing input, review updated analyses, make needed modifications to actions and alternatives, approve all actions

9. Snowy Grouper (SG Amendment 51) (*Attachments 8a and 8b*)
 - a. Overview – Allie Iberle
 - b. **Committee Action:** Consider public hearing input, review updated analyses, make needed modifications to actions and alternatives, approve all actions

10. Greater Amberjack (SG Amendment 49) (*Attachments 9a-9c*)
 - a. Overview – Mike Schmidtke
 - b. **Committee Action:** Review updates to amendment and rationale for each action, consider approval for final review.

11. Topics for fall Advisory Panel Meeting

12. Topics for golden tilefish longline endorsement holders meeting

13. Other Business

Adjourn

Committee Members:

Jessica McCawley, Chair
Kerry Marhefka, Vice-Chair
Robert Beal
Dr. Carolyn Belcher
Mel Bell
Chester Brewer
Lt. Cameron Box
Gary Borland
Tim Griner
Judy Helmey
Trish Murphey

Tom Roller
Andy Strelcheck
Laurilee Thompson
Spud Woodward
Mid-Atlantic Members: Sonny Gwin, Dewey Hemilright

Attachments:

SSC Report (August 4, 2022)

Attachment 1a: EFP letter to the Council

Attachment 1b: EFP Application

Attachment 2a: Regulatory Amendment 35 Options Paper

Attachment 2b: Regulatory Amendment 35 Data Report

Attachment 2c: SEFSC Report on Discard Reductions of Red Snapper

Attachment 3a: Private Recreational Permitting and Reporting Technical AP Summary Report
(August 2022) *(will be posted by 9/7)*

Attachment 3b: Discussion document for private recreational permitting and reporting

Attachment 4: Yellowtail Snapper Interim Analysis Presentation *(will be posted by 9/7)*

Attachment 5a: Amendment 53 (Gag) Decision Document

Attachment 5b: Amendment 53 (Gag) Draft Amendment

Attachment 5c: Amendment 53 (Gag) Commercial Decision Tool

Attachment 5d: Amendment 53 (Gag) Updated Recreational Decision Tool

Attachment 6a: Amendment 48 (Wreckfish) Decision Document

Attachment 6b: Amendment 48 (Wreckfish) Draft Amendment

Attachment 7a: Amendment 52 (Golden Tilefish and Blueline Tilefish) Decision Document

Attachment 7b: Amendment 52 (Golden Tilefish and Blueline Tilefish) Draft Amendment

Attachment 8a: Amendment 51 (Snowy Grouper) Decision Document

Attachment 8b: Amendment 51 (Snowy Grouper) Draft Amendment

Attachment 9a: Amendment 49 (Greater Amberjack) Decision Document

Attachment 9b: Amendment 49 (Greater Amberjack) Draft Amendment

Attachment 9c: Amendment 49 (Greater Amberjack) Draft Codified Text

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

OVERVIEW

Snapper Grouper Committee

The Committee will approve the transcript from the June 2022 meeting and the agenda for the September 2022 Committee meeting.

1. Status of Amendments under formal review – NMFS SERO

The Committee will receive an update on the status of rulemaking for Snapper Grouper Amendment 50 (Red Porgy Catch Levels and Rebuilding). The amendment was formally submitted to NMFS SERO on May 3, 2022.

Committee Action: None.

2. Exempted Fishing Permit Brief (*Attachments 1a and 1b*)

The Committee will receive an overview of the exempted fishing permit submitted by Dr. David Portnoy with Texas A&M University. The permit requests the take of up to 40 speckled hind per year (up to 80 total for the EFP). Samples taken will contribute data towards speckled hind population structure, connectivity, and life history.

Committee Action: Consider the EFP.

3. Release Mortality Reduction & Red Snapper (SG Reg Amendment 35) (*Attachments 2a-2c*)

In September 2021, the Council received results from SEDAR 73 indicating that the South Atlantic red snapper stock is overfished and experiencing overfishing. In June 2022, the Council directed staff to develop Regulatory Amendment 35 with actions addressing red snapper catch levels, prohibition of automatic reels for the recreational sector while fishing for snapper grouper species, and prohibition of more than one hook per line for the recreational sector while fishing for snapper grouper species. The Council also directed staff and the IPT to collect information on education and outreach contributions toward ending overfishing and requested data and analyses that would inform discussions of time or area closures at the September 2022 Council meeting. Council staff will present an Options Paper discussing considered actions. Council staff will also present the requested data and analyses.

Committee Action: Provide guidance to staff and the IPT for further development of the options paper.

4. Private Recreational Permitting and Reporting (SG Amendment 46)(*Attachments 3a and 3b*)

At the June 2022 meeting the Council established membership for the Snapper Grouper Private Recreational Permitting and Reporting Technical Advisory Panel (AP). In addition, the Council provided the following guidance for the AP at its first meeting:

"Convene a meeting of the Recreational Permitting and Reporting AP before the September 2022 SAFMC meeting. Direct the AP to review the Mid-Atlantic recreational tilefish reporting program with consideration of its applicability to the South Atlantic snapper grouper complex. Present AP recommendations at the September 2022 SAFMC meeting."

This request was made in relation to the Council's intent to continue development of a potential private recreational permit and reporting requirements for the Snapper Grouper fishery through Amendment 46. The Committee will receive a summary report of the AP's August 2022 meeting and will be asked for guidance on how the AP should proceed at its next meeting. Additionally, the Committee will be asked for feedback on the goals and intended outcomes of implementing a potential private recreational permit and reporting requirement.

Committee Action: Provide guidance to the AP for their next meeting and feedback on the intended outcomes of a private recreational permit and reporting requirement.

5. Yellowtail Snapper Interim Analysis (SSC Report, Attachment 4)

The Committee will receive an overview of the results of the interim analysis for yellowtail snapper and the SSC's recommendations. In addition, staff will review the [fishery overview](#).

Committee Action: Review assessment results and consider the continuation of work on Amendment 44.

6. Gag (SG Amendment 53) (Attachments 5a-5d)

The SEDAR 71 assessment of gag grouper in the South Atlantic was completed in 2021 and determined the stock to be overfished and experiencing overfishing. During the March 2022 meeting the Council reviewed the scoping comments, provided guidance on the range of actions and alternatives, and selected preferred alternatives where appropriate to facilitate analysis. In June 2022 the Council reviewed the Advisory Panel (AP)'s feedback and a decision document and directed the IPT to include commercial trip and recreational vessel limit increase alternatives. Council staff will review an updated decision document and review the draft amendment.

Committee Action: Review decision document, select preferred alternatives, approve amendment for public hearings.

7. Wreckfish (SG Amendment 48) (Attachments 6a and 6b)

A review of the Wreckfish ITQ Program was completed in 2019 and included recommendations for improvement, particularly with respect to confidentiality issues and related constraints; moving away from a paper coupon-based program to an electronic program; cost recovery; wreckfish permit requirement; allocation issues; offloading sites and times; and economic data collection. At their March 2022 meeting the Committee reviewed preliminary actions and alternatives and requested staff convene a meeting of the wreckfish shareholders and gather their input on the range of actions and alternatives. Staff will present a decision document, wreckfish shareholder recommendations, and a draft amendment for the Committee to discuss and consider approving for public hearings.

Committee Action: Review wreckfish shareholder input, provide staff guidance to staff, and consider approval for public hearings.

8. Golden Tilefish and Blueline Tilefish (SG Amendment 52) (Attachments 7a and 7b)

The SEDAR 66 assessment of golden tilefish in the South Atlantic completed in 2021 determined the stock to not be overfished and not experiencing overfishing. In June 2021, the Council initiated a plan amendment to adjust catch levels for golden tilefish and in December 2021, approved the amendment for scoping including actions on golden tilefish

and blueline tilefish. During the June 2022 meeting the Council approved the amendment for public hearings. Webinars were held on September 6 and 7 to obtain public input on proposed actions. Staff will summarize comments received during the webinars, and review progress on the amendment. Additional public comment on this amendment is being solicited during the public comment session on Wednesday, September 14 at 4 PM.

Committee Action: Consider public input, modify actions and alternatives if needed, approve all actions.

9. Snowy Grouper (SG Amendment 51) (*Attachments 8a and 8b*)

The Council received the results of SEDAR 36 Update at their March 2021 meeting and directed staff to begin work on a plan amendment to revise catch levels and sector allocations. During the March 2022 meeting, the Council reviewed the scoping comments, provided guidance on the range of actions and alternatives, selected preferred alternatives to facilitate analysis, and developed a list of questions for the AP to discuss. In June 2022 the Council reviewed the AP's feedback and approved the amendment for public hearings. Webinar public hearings were held on September 6 and 7. Staff will summarize comments received during the webinars, and review progress on the amendment. Additional public comment on this amendment is being solicited during the public comment session on Wednesday, September 14 at 4 PM.

Committee Action: Consider public input, modify actions and alternatives if needed, approve all actions.

10. Greater Amberjack (SG Amendment 49) (*Attachments 9a-9c*)

In June 2022, the Council held a public hearing, selected preferred alternatives, and approved all actions for Amendment 49. Staff will present the draft amendment, including draft rationale for each action. The Committee will review the draft amendment and draft codified text, revise rationale as needed, and consider the amendment for final approval.

Committee Action: Review updates to amendment and rationale for each action, consider approval for final review.

11. Approve Topics for Snapper Grouper AP Meeting

The Snapper Grouper AP is scheduled to convene via webinar on October 18-20, 2022.

Below is a list of proposed topics to develop the AP's agenda:

- Input for the Snapper Grouper Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE)
- Commercial electronic logbook amendment
- Reg Amendment 35 (Red Snapper and Release Mortality)
- Amendment 46 (Recreational Permitting/Reporting) – update?
- Amendment 51 (Snowy Grouper) – update?
- Amendment 52 (Golden Tilefish and Blueline Tilefish) – update?
- Amendment 53 (Gag Grouper)
- Amendment Updates: Amendment 49 (Greater Amberjack), Amendment 48 (Wreckfish), Amendment 44 (Yellowtail Snapper)
- FL Keys Sanctuary Restoration Blueprint
- NOAA Proposed Vessel Speed Regulations and Ropeless Gear Roadmap to Boost Protection of North Atlantic Right Whales

- Other Updates: Citizen Science, SEDAR, Climate Change Scenario Planning
Committee Action: Provide guidance on agenda items for the October AP meeting.

12. Approve Topics for Golden Tilefish Longline Endorsement Holders Meeting

During the June 2022 meeting, the Council directed staff to “convene a meeting of the golden tilefish longline endorsement holders by December 2022 to discuss alternative ways to manage that fishery.”

Committee Action: Provide guidance on items/questions to develop meeting agenda.

13. Other Business