

Overview

Snapper Grouper Committee

Holiday Inn Brownstone Hotel
1707 Hillsborough Street
Raleigh, NC

The Committee will: (A) receive reports from SERO and the SEFSC on the status of commercial and recreational catches versus the respective quotas for snapper grouper species under quota management; (B) receive an update on recent *Oculina* research activities, if any; (C) receive a status report from SERO staff on the Comprehensive ACL Amendment and Regulatory Amendment 11; (D) receive an overview of the recommendations resulting from the Snapper Grouper AP meeting in October 2011; (E) review public hearing comments on Amendment 18A/EIS (Black Sea Bass), review the decision document, pick preferred alternatives for those actions that do not have them, provide guidance on necessary modifications to the amendment, approve for formal review, and deem the codified text as necessary and appropriate; (F) review public hearing comments on Amendment 24/EA (Red Grouper), review the decision document, provide guidance on necessary modifications to the amendment, approve for formal review, and deem the codified text as necessary and appropriate; (G) review public hearing comments on Amendment 20A/EA (Wreckfish), review the decision document, provide guidance on necessary modifications to the amendment, approve for formal review, and deem the codified text as necessary and appropriate; (H) receive an overview of actions and alternatives in Amendment 18B (Golden Tilefish), make modifications as needed, and approve for public hearings; and (I) address issues under Other Business as needed.

A. Status of landings for quota-managed snapper grouper species (*Attachments 1a & 1b*)

The Council will receive an update on the status of landings (commercial and recreational) for quota-managed snapper grouper species.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: Discuss and take action as necessary.

B. Update on *Oculina* research activities

There are no recent activities to report.

C. Status of Regulatory Amendment 11 & Comprehensive ACL Amendment

The Committee will receive a status report from SERO staff.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: Discuss and take action as necessary.

D. Snapper Grouper AP Report (Attachment 1c)

Robert Cardin, Snapper Grouper AP member, will present an overview of the AP's recommendations on developing amendments and other items the AP discussed at their October 2011 meeting.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: Discuss and take action as necessary.

E. Amendment 18A/EIS (Black Sea Bass; Attachments 2a-2f)

Council staff will provide an overview of the comments received during public hearings held in November 2011 (*Attachment 2b*). Council staff will then guide the Committee through the Decision Document (*Attachment 2e*) and pertinent recommendations from the Snapper Grouper AP and the SSC on the actions being considered. The Committee should select preferred alternatives for those actions that do not yet have them, provide guidance on needed changes to the document (*Attachment 2d*) and approve it for submission to the Secretary of Commerce. *Attachment 2c* contains the analysis on black sea bass bag limit alternatives that was included in a previous draft of the Amendment (September 2011). Guidance from the Council at the September meeting was to move this action to Appendix A. However, based on results of SEDAR 25, SSC discussions, and current accountability measures, the Council may want to reconsider the bag limit. Staff contacted the Committee Chair who agreed that it was appropriate to provide this analysis again in case the Committee wanted to entertain bringing the action back into the Amendment. The Committee should deem the codified text (*Attachment 2f*) for Amendment 18A as necessary and appropriate and give staff and the Council Chair editorial license to make changes prior to submission. The Committee should be aware, however, that since not all actions in the amendment have a preferred alternative, the codified text will not be complete.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: Review the decision document, pick preferred alternatives for those actions that do not have them, provide guidance on necessary modifications to the amendment, approve for formal review, and deem the codified text as necessary and appropriate.

F. Amendment 24 (Red Grouper; Attachments 3a-3e)

Public hearings for Amendment 24 were held on August 22 & 23, 2011. Hearings had been scheduled in Florida but were postponed until November due to the threat of Hurricane Irene. Council staff will give a summary of the comments received during public hearings (*Attachment 3b*) and guide the Committee through the Decision Document (*Attachment 3d*) and pertinent recommendations from the Snapper Grouper AP and the SSC on the actions being considered. The Committee should provide guidance on needed changes to the document (*Attachment 3c*) and approve it for submission to the Secretary of Commerce. The Committee should deem the codified text (*Attachment 3d*) for Amendment 24 as necessary and appropriate and give staff and the Council Chair editorial license to make changes prior to submission.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: Review the decision document, provide guidance on necessary modifications to the amendment, approve for formal review, and deem the codified text as necessary and appropriate.

F. Amendment 20A/EA (Wreckfish; Attachments 4a-4e)

Council staff will provide an overview of the comments received during public hearings held in November 2011 (*Attachment 4b*). Council staff will then guide the Committee through the Decision Document (*Attachment 4d*) and pertinent recommendations from the Snapper Grouper AP and the SSC on the actions being considered. The Committee should select preferred alternatives for those actions that do not yet have them, provide guidance on needed changes to the document (*Attachment 4c*) and approve it for submission to the Secretary of Commerce. The Committee should deem the codified text (*Attachment 4e*) for Amendment 20A as necessary and appropriate and give staff and the Council Chair editorial license to make changes prior to submission.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: Review the decision document, provide guidance on necessary modifications to the amendment, approve for formal review, and deem the codified text as necessary and appropriate.

G. Amendment 18B/EA (Golden Tilefish; Attachments 5a & 5b)

Council staff will go through the Decision Document (*Attachment 5b*) to review the actions and alternatives in the amendment and pertinent recommendations from the Snapper Grouper AP and the SSC on the actions being considered. The Committee should review current preferreds and select preferred alternatives where there are none. The Committee should discuss adding, removing, or amending alternatives, and approving for public hearings.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: Take action as necessary and approve for public hearings. Public hearings are scheduled for January/February 2012.