

Snapper Grouper FMP Objectives:

*Edits to original objectives based on
June 2013 Workshop Discussions of Themes and Goals*

Major themes addressed in the current Snapper Grouper FMP Objectives include:

- Sound Science (Data Collection)
- Minimal Waste
- Healthy Ecosystem & Habitat
- Adaptive Management
- Public Involvement & Cooperation
- Stable & Resilient Fishing Communities
- Economic Efficiency
- Stakeholder Diversity

Note: Fishery is defined as the fish, habitat, fishermen and fishing communities.

Current Snapper Grouper FMP Objectives (in bold) and proposed edits:

1. **Prevent overfishing.**

Proposed edit: REMOVE (Mandated by MSA)

- #### 2. **Collect necessary data (Theme – Sound Science/Data Collection)** to develop, monitor, and assess biological, economic, and social impacts of management measures designed to prevent overfishing, obtain desired SPR levels, and address the other stated problems.

Proposed edit:

GOAL – Obtain the best quality data to monitor and assess biological, economic, and social impacts of management measures.

Objective 1: Expand and enhance current methods of data collection in the South Atlantic region.

Strategies:

- Work with agency partners to improve and expand data collection tools.
- Encourage cooperative research between the region's fishermen and scientists.
- Conduct outreach to increase awareness of data collection programs.

3. **Promote orderly utilization of the resource. (Theme – Minimal Waste/Healthy Ecosystem and Habitat)**

Proposed edit:

GOAL – Promote efficient utilization of the resource.

Objective 1: Utilize management strategies that result in predictable fishing seasons.

Objective 2: Utilize management strategies that minimize discards and waste in the fishery.

Objective 3: Utilize management strategies that result in habitat protection.

- #### 4. **Provide for a flexible management system (Theme - Adaptive Management)** that minimizes regulatory delays while retaining substantial Council and public involvement in management decisions, and rapidly adapts to changes in resource abundance, new scientific information, and changes in fishing patterns among user groups.

Proposed edit:

GOAL – Provide for a flexible management system.

Objective 1: Develop a management system that minimizes regulatory delays while retaining substantial Council and public involvement in management decisions.

Objective 2: Develop a management system that adapts quickly to changes in resource abundance, new scientific information, and changes in fishing patterns among user groups.

Objective 3: Consider alternate management strategies for the recreational sector that allow for flexibility.

5. **Minimize habitat damage (Theme – Healthy Ecosystems and Habitat)** due to direct and indirect effects of recreational and commercial fishing activities as well as other non-fishery impacts.

Proposed edit:

GOAL – Minimize habitat damage due to recreational and commercial fishing activities.

Objective 1: Consider strategies that reduce gear interactions with snapper grouper habitat.

6. **Promote public compliance and enforcement. (Theme – Public Involvement & Cooperation)**

Proposed edit:

GOAL - Promote public comprehension and compliance with enforcement of fishery regulations.

Objective 1: Increase public awareness and comprehension of regulations.

Objective 2: Increase compliance of management measures

Objective 3: Promote effective enforcement.

7. **Mechanism to vest participants. (Theme – Stable & Resilient Fishing Communities/ Public Involvement & Cooperation)**A controlled access system provides a means whereby participants have a stake in conserving the resource. This ensures that participants consider the long-run benefits of conserving the resource because they know it is in their best interest. Unlike open access, controlled access would ensure that those who conserve the resource share in the long-run benefits. This gives fishermen incentive to protect the resource and expose those who are violating regulations. As a result, voluntary compliance would increase and enforcement costs would likely decrease.

Proposed edits:

GOAL - Utilize mechanisms to vest fishermen in the snapper grouper fishery.

Objective 1: Create incentives for conservation and regulatory compliance that allow for long-term benefits to fishermen based on their efforts to conserve and manage the Snapper Grouper resource.

8. **Promote stability and facilitate long-run planning. (Theme – Adaptive Management/Stable & Resilient Fishing Communities)** Participants in the fishery will have access to the resource based on certain criteria to be determined by the Council after reviewing public comments. This would give participants the flexibility to

employ the most profitable way to fish and also fish when it is most profitable in terms of market conditions. Such a system will promote stability in the fishery by providing a regular supply of fish throughout the fishing year, and maintain stable prices. Both fishermen and fish dealers will have the incentive to engage in long-run planning and investment activities.

Proposed edits:

GOAL - Provide a management regime which promotes sustainability and long-range planning,.

Objective 1: Utilize management strategies that allow for a consistent supply of fish throughout the fishing year.

Objective 2: Expand management strategies that address the social and economic needs of fishing businesses for the long-term.

- 9. Create market-driven harvest pace and increase product continuity. (Theme – Economic Efficiency)** A system that ensures participants can harvest their allocations (whether in terms of individual quotas, effort units, trip limits, etc.) anytime during the fishing year would ensure that fishermen conduct their fishing activities to supply the market according to its structure and demand situation. There would be no incentive on the part of fishermen to flood the market with fish. This could result in product continuity, improved product quality, and better prices.

Proposed edit:

GOAL - Create opportunity for market-driven harvest and continuity in the availability of product.

Objective 1: - Adopt management strategies that reflect market needs and promote product continuity for commercial and for-hire businesses.

- 10. Minimize gear and area conflicts among fishermen. (Theme – Stakeholder Diversity)**

Proposed edit:

GOAL – Manage the fishery to reduce conflict among stakeholders.

Objective 1: Identify regional differences in the fishery that result in user conflict.

Objective 2: Adopt management strategies that address differences in temporal and areal distribution of the resource.

- 11. Decrease incentives for overcapitalization.** If some form of vested interest is provided to fishermen, their objective would be to maximize profits subject to certain conditions. In order to maximize profits they would explore the least cost method for harvesting in the fishery. This means they would employ fishing effort only to the point where the difference between the anticipated total revenue and total cost is greatest. This practice would reduce incentives for overcapitalization.

Proposed edit:

Move this as an objective under Goal 3 dealing with orderly utilization of the resource and profitable trips.

- 12. Prevent continual dissipation of returns from fishing through open access.**

Proposed edit: REMOVE

13. Evaluate and minimize localized depletion.

Proposed edit: The Snapper Grouper AP suggested this was something that could be addressed by the States or through consideration of regional quotas.

14. End overfishing of snapper grouper stocks undergoing overfishing.

Proposed edit: REMOVE (Mandated by MSA)

15. Rebuild stocks declared overfished.

Proposed edit: REMOVE (Mandated by MSA)