



THE SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Snapper Grouper Committee Chair Advisory Panel Update

April 2025

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Snapper Grouper Committee
Chair



JUN 2025 & SEPT 2025 HIGHLIGHTS



Prioritization Changes

- June – Council changed the prioritization and timelines for several projects that were previously in progress due to:
 - Reductions in staffing and workload capacity at NOAA Fisheries and the Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC)
 - Direction from the new presidential administration (including EO 14276) to prioritize de-regulatory actions
- De-prioritized amendments include: SG Amendment 46 (Private Recreational Permitting and Education), For-Hire Reporting Improvement Amendment, For-Hire Limited Entry Amendment

JUN 2025 & SEPT 2025 HIGHLIGHTS



Red Snapper Management

- Snapper Grouper Amendment 59 (Secretarial Amendment) was implemented in July 2025
- Amendment revised the overfishing limit, acceptable biological catch, annual catch limits, and the proxy for determining red snapper overfishing
 - Based on the revised proxy and SEDAR 73 Update stock assessment, red snapper are no longer experiencing overfishing
 - Additionally, per the SEDAR 73 Update, red snapper are no longer overfished, but are not yet rebuilt
 - Did not include area closures

JUN 2025 & SEPT 2025 HIGHLIGHTS



Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) Proxies

- MSY is the main reference point of federal fisheries management, but can be difficult to reliably estimate, depending on available data
 - Therefore, a variety of proxies have been developed, based on more commonly available data and biological relationships
- Council continued discussions with scientists from the Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC) and Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission about MSY proxies and situations where different proxies are appropriate

JUN 2025 & SEPT 2025 HIGHLIGHTS



Black Sea Bass (Amendment 56 and Reg Amendment 37)

- Council received updated projections from the SEFSC and catch level recommendations from the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) for black sea bass
- Council decided to postpone Amendment 56 to address modeling concerns noted by the SSC, incorporate updated recreational data that will be available in 2026, and develop long-term management measures for black sea bass
- For the short-term, the Council initiated Regulatory Amendment 37 to more immediately reduce fishing mortality and increase recruitment
 - Council staff will describe some of the discussions that led to this decision later in the meeting

JUN 2025 & SEPT 2025 HIGHLIGHTS



Commercial Permits and Trip Efficiency (Amendment 60)

- Commercial Management Subcommittee met in June 2025 and September 2025 to develop Amendment 60
- Scoping was conducted ahead of the September meeting
- Staff will update the AP on progress thus far; Detailed comments from AP of Amendment 60 will occur at the April 2026 meeting
- Council will continue to develop the amendment through the Subcommittee, which meets during Council meetings

JUN 2025 & SEPT 2025 HIGHLIGHTS



Amendment for Joint State-Federal Management of the Recreational Sector for Red Snapper

- In September, the Council initiated an amendment to consider state management of recreational red snapper
- States will develop Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) proposals for Council review in December 2025
- EFP projects will inform the amendment
- The amendment will not necessarily follow the Gulf's model, given regional differences
- For a report on the September 2025 discussion, reference the [Full Council 1 Summary Report](#)

JUN 2025 & SEPT 2025 HIGHLIGHTS



Other Council Activities/Discussions

- Council is developing an SG Innovation Plan to adapt to changes in NOAA Fisheries and maximize fishery goals through innovative and comprehensive management
- Lines of Communication: Conversations with the Council – Meetings will be conducted in 2 states per year
 - GA: Nov 4-6, 2025
 - Nov 4th – Brunswick
 - Nov 5th – Darien
 - Nov 6th – Savannah
 - NC: Feb, 2026 – More information coming soon



TOPICS FOR THIS AP MEETING

Council staff will give updates from recent Council meetings and facilitate discussions for the following topics later in the meeting:

- Regulatory Amendment 37 (Black Sea Bass)
- Amendment 44 (Yellowtail Snapper and Mutton Snapper)
- Amendment 61 (Fishery Management Unit Revision)
- Abbreviated Framework 5 (Blueline Tilefish)
- Snapper Grouper Management Strategy Evaluation
- Commercial Trip Limits on Sale of Fish
- Updates: Florida Red Snapper Exempted Fishing Permit Research Projects, Golden Tilefish Assessment, Recreational Aggregate Bag Limit, Headboat Vessel Limit, Amendment 60 (Commercial Permit and Trip Efficiency)



QUESTIONS?