



Update on Snapper Grouper Amendments and Projects

October 2025

Updates for the October 2025 Advisory Panel (AP) Meeting

SEDAR 89 Golden Tilefish Stock Assessment

Summary Update: In June 2025, Council staff informed the Council of discrepancies among commercial data sources using in the SEDAR 89 stock assessment of golden tilefish. Atlantic Coast Cooperative Statistics Program staff collaborated with the Southeast Fisheries Science Center and data providers to identify the source and resolve the issue. A revised stock assessment is expected to be completed and presented at the December 2025 Council Meeting.

Headboat Vessel Limit

Summary Update: The vehicle (whether a standalone amendment or included with other objectives) for this action is yet to be determined. The Council is gathering information to develop an action that considers revising recreational vessel limits as applied to headboats for the following species that have such limits: black grouper, gag, scamp and yellowmouth grouper, and snowy grouper. The Council most recently requested catch rates of these species per 6 passengers and information detailing headboat requirements to identify applicable vessels. The next discussion for development of this action is scheduled for March 2026.

Recreational Aggregate Bag Limit

Summary Update: The vehicle (whether a standalone amendment or included with other objectives) for this action is yet to be determined. The Council is gathering information to develop an action that considers establishment of an aggregate bag limit for the recreational sector of the snapper grouper fishery. The Council most recently received an analysis of recreational catch and discarding rates for snapper grouper species. The Council further requested this information be presented at a sub-regional level to identify differences in catch rates and species compositions in different areas of the region.

Amendment 60 (Commercial management measures)

Purpose of the Amendment: The amendment has two main objectives: 1) address issues related to the commercial Snapper Grouper Unlimited (SG 1) permit, and 2) increase commercial trip efficiency.

Action Summary: Revise the 2-for-1 snapper grouper commercial unlimited permit policy; establish dynamic (step-down) trip limits; establish an incidental or out-of-season allowance for harvest of deep water species; revise existing stowage requirements for gear on board.

Most recent document: September 2025 Decision Document

Development level: Post-scoping development

Amendment 62 (Joint State-Federal Management of Recreational Red Snapper)

Purpose of the Amendment: Establish a framework for state management of recreational red snapper.

Action Summary: TBD

Development level: Pre-scoping

Agenda Items for Discussion at the October 2025 AP Meeting

Snapper Grouper Amendment 44/ Reef Fish Amendment 55 (Yellowtail & Mutton Snapper)

Purpose of Amendment: Respond to the latest stock assessments for yellowtail snapper and mutton snapper (SEDAR 96 and SEDAR 79, respectively). Neither species is overfished nor undergoing overfishing.

Action Summary: Adopt recommended stock OFL and ABCs, adjust the jurisdictional apportionment between the South Atlantic and Gulf Councils, update regional ACLs, and update South Atlantic sector allocations.

Development Level: Pre-scoping

Amendment 61 (Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Unit Revision)

Purpose of the Amendment: Evaluate whether 17 species currently in the FMU should remain, be removed, or be designated as ecosystem component species. Note: this amendment supersedes an earlier proposed amendment to specify ABCs for unassessed snapper grouper species.

Action Summary: To determine the need for conservation and management of 17 snapper grouper species.

Development level: Scoping

Regulatory Amendment 37 (Black Sea Bass Management Measures)

Purpose of the Amendment: Address depleted status of black sea bass in the South Atlantic immediately with management measures aimed at reducing regulatory discards and protecting the spawning stock.

Action Summary: Establish recreational and commercial annual catch targets and revise accountability measures, change the recreational minimum size limit, reduce the recreational bag limit, and implementing a spawning season closure of at least two months for both commercial and recreational sectors.

Development level: Public hearings

Abbreviated Framework 5 (Blueline Tilefish)

Purpose of the Amendment: adjust catch levels of blueline tilefish in the South Atlantic based on the most recent stock assessment (SEDAR 92)

Action Summary: Revise ABC, total ACL, and sector ACLs (retaining the current sector allocation)

Development level: Public hearing and final approval

Appendix A. Rulemaking progress for submitted SAFMC amendments (updated 8/19/25)

Amendment	Council voted final action	Council submitted to NMFS	NOA published (comments due)	Proposed rule published (comments due)	Final rule published	Amendment Approval date	Implementation date
SG Reg 36 (transit and bag limits)	9/20/24	3/31/25	n/a			n/a	
SG 48 (wreckfish)	6/14/24	12/19/24					
SG 55 (scamp and yellowmouth)	9/20/24	12/9/24	3/17/25 (5/16/25)	8/25/25 (9/24/25)			
Joint Commercial Electronic Logbook	Sept 2023 SA) Oct 2023 (Gulf)	2/27/2024					

Note: Blank cells indicate that the action has not occurred.