



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Melvin Bell, Chair | Stephen J. Poland, Vice Chair
John Carmichael, Executive Director

AGENDA **Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel Meeting** **April 21-23, 2021** **(via webinar)**

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3061642218438763788>

Public comment will be solicited at the beginning and at the end of the meeting. Those wishing to comment should indicate such in the manner requested by the Chair, who will recognize individuals to provide comment on the webinar.

Wednesday April 21, 2021, 1:30 P.M. – Friday, April 23, 2021, Noon

Approval of Agenda – Jimmy Hull

Approval of November 2020 AP minutes – Jimmy Hull

Committee Chair Remarks – Jessica McCawley (*Attachment 1*)

1. Update on recent regulations and status of amendments (*Attachment 2*)
2. Fishery Performance Report for Mutton Snapper (<https://safmc-shinyapps.shinyapps.io/FPRAll/>) (*Attachment 3*)
3. Fishery Overview for Snowy Grouper – Recommendations on potential management measures ([Snowy Grouper Fishery Overview](#))
4. Fishery Overview for Yellowtail Snapper – Recommendations on potential management measures ([Yellow Snapper Fishery Overview](#)) (*Attachment 4*)
5. Fishery Overview for Greater Amberjack and Amendment 49 – Greater Amberjack and recreational annual catch targets ([Greater Amberjack Fishery Overview](#)) (*Attachment 5*)
6. Amendment 50 – Red Porgy (*Attachment 6*)
7. Discussion on possible approaches to reduce recreational discards (*Attachment 7; Late Materials*)
8. Vermilion Snapper Commercial Trip Limit (*Attachment 8*)

9. Council Research Plan (*Attachment 9*)

10. Updates:

- a. SEDAR (Red Snapper, Golden Tilefish, Gag)
- b. Amendment 48 – Wreckfish ITQ Modernization
- c. Citizen Science (*Attachment 10*)
- d. Climate Change

11. Chair and Vice Chair Election

12. Other Business – Jimmy Hull

Adjourn

Advisory Panel Members:

James Hull Jr., Chair

Robert Lorenz, Vice Chair

Vincent Bonura

Richen “Dick” Brame

Randall Beardsley

Tony Constant

Jack Cox Jr.

Andrew Fish

Robert Freeman

Richard Gomez

Lawton Howard

Rusty Hudson

Deidra Jeffcoat

Chris Kimrey

Andrew Mahoney

Randy McKinley

Chris Militello

Harry Morales

David Moss

Fentress "Red" Munden

James Paskiewicz

Andy Piland

Cameron Sebastian

David Snyder

Todd Kellison (non-voting)

Attachments

Attachment 1: Snapper Grouper December 2020 and March 2021 Committee Reports

Attachment 2: Update on recent regulation changes and status of amendments

Attachment 3: Discussion questions for Mutton Snapper Fishery Performance Report

Attachment 4: Yellowtail Snapper Discussion Document

Attachment 5: Amendment 49 (Greater Amberjack and Recreational ACTs) Discussion Document

Attachment 6: Amendment 50 (Red Porgy) Update Presentation

Attachment 7 (Late Materials): Red Snapper Recreational Landings and Discards Report

Attachment 8: Vermilion Snapper Commercial Trip Limit Report

Attachment 9: Council Research Recommendations

Attachment 10: Citizen Science Update Presentation

Staff Lead: Michael Schmidtke (Mike.Schmidtke@safmc.net)

OVERVIEW

Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel

The AP will approve minutes from the November 2020 meeting and the agenda for the current meeting.

1. Update on recent regulations and status of amendments (*Attachment 2*)

Council staff will update the AP on the status of recently approved and developing amendments.

Required AP action: None

2. Fishery Performance Report for Mutton Snapper (<https://safmc-shinyapps.shinyapps.io/FPRAll/>) (*Attachment 3*)

With input from the AP, Fishery Performance Reports (FPRs) have been developed for several snapper grouper species. The intent of the FPRs is to assemble information from AP members' experience and observations on the water and in the marketplace to complement scientific and landings data. The FPRs will be provided to the SSC, the Socio-Economic Panel (SEP), and the Council to assist in their discussions. Using an online application, Michael Schmidtke will provide an overview of landings trends and other background information and request the AP's input to develop the FPR for Mutton Snapper. A benchmark assessment (SEDAR 79) will be underway for the Mutton Snapper stock in the South Atlantic. The assessment is scheduled for completion in Spring 2023.

Requested AP Action: Provide input as appropriate.

3. Fishery Overview for Snowy Grouper – Recommendations on potential management measures ([Snowy Grouper Fishery Overview](#))

To assist in the consideration and development of management actions and alternatives following completed stock assessments, Council staff have begun developing fishery overview applications for recently assessed species. These overviews compile the history of management and information from the most recent stock assessment. An update of the SEDAR 36 assessment of Snowy Grouper was completed in 2020, which determined the stock to be overfished and experiencing overfishing. In March 2021, the Council initiated a plan amendment for Snowy Grouper. Council staff will provide an introductory description of the overview application for Snowy Grouper.

Requested AP Action: Provide initial feedback on potential actions or considerations for the development of the Snowy Grouper amendment.

4. Fishery Overview for Yellowtail Snapper – Recommendations on potential management measures ([Yellow Snapper Fishery Overview](#)) (*Attachment 4*)

The Council previously delayed action on Amendment 44 for Yellowtail Snapper for completion of the SEDAR 64 assessment, which was finished in 2018 and determined the stock to be not overfished and not experiencing overfishing. In December 2020, the Council directed staff to initiate an amendment to set a new ACL for Yellowtail Snapper. Council staff will present the fishery overview for Yellowtail Snapper, recommended catch levels, and a summary of actions that the Council considered in Amendment 44 and comments received on that amendment.

Requested AP Action: Provide feedback on the current state of the Yellowtail Snapper fishery and potential management actions for the Council’s consideration.

5. Fishery Overview for Greater Amberjack and Amendment 49 – Greater Amberjack and Recreational ACTs ([Greater Amberjack Fishery Overview](#)) (*Attachment 5*)

Amendment 49 considers adjustments to the Greater Amberjack total annual catch limit and sector allocations and removal of recreational annual catch targets (ACT) from the Snapper Grouper FMP. Consideration of catch level adjustments for Greater Amberjack was initiated in response to SEDAR 59 (2020), the most recent stock assessment for the species, which determined the stock to be not overfished and not experiencing overfishing. More recently, the Council directed staff to include consideration for the removal of recreational ACTs throughout the FMP, as these numbers are not used to set management measures. Council staff will present the fishery overview application for Greater Amberjack, currently considered actions and alternatives for Amendment 49, preliminary analyses based on acceptable biological catch (ABC) levels recommended by the Council’s Scientific and Statistical Committee, and a summary of current management measures.

Requested AP Action: Provide feedback on currently considered actions and alternatives for Amendment 49 and potential changes to management measures for Greater Amberjack.

6. Amendment 50 – Red Porgy (*Attachment 6*)

Amendment 50 to the Snapper Grouper FMP will adjust catch levels of Reg Porgy in response to SEDAR 60 (2020), the most recent stock assessment for the species. The assessment found the South Atlantic stock of Red Porgy is overfished and undergoing overfishing. To end overfishing and rebuild the stock, the Council must put in place a rebuilding plan, adjust the annual catch limits, and modify management measures (trip limits, bag limits, etc.). Council staff will present current actions and alternatives as modified by the Council in March 2021 and updated analyses.

Requested AP action: Provide feedback on potential changes to management measures for Red Porgy.

7. Discussion on possible approaches to reduce recreational discards (*Attachment 7; Late Materials*)

The Snapper Grouper Committee requested that the AP discuss possible approaches to reduce recreational discards, addressing a concern raised by the AP and the public. Recreational discards of Red Snapper have been of particular concern recently, so Council staff will present recent data for this species to initiate discussions of specific or general approaches that the AP may recommend the Council consider.

Requested AP Action: Provide feedback and recommend potential approaches to reduce recreational discards.

8. Vermilion Snapper Commercial Trip Limit (*Attachment 8*)

On September 16, 2020, NOAA Fisheries announced an emergency rule to increase the commercial trip limit for vermilion snapper from 1,000 pounds gutted weight (lbs gw) to 1,500 lbs gw in federal waters of the South Atlantic Region. This emergency rule expired, reverting the trip limit back to 1,000 lbs gw, on March 16, 2021. The Council has requested AP input on whether more permanent action should be taken to change the

commercial trip limit through an amendment. Council staff will present analyses from the Council's previous request for the temporary emergency rule to indicate potential impacts on the fishery.

Requested AP Action: Provide feedback on whether the Council should consider action to permanently change the vermilion snapper commercial trip limit. If such action is recommended, provide feedback on how this should be prioritized relative to other issues being addressed in the Snapper Grouper fishery.

9. Council Research Plan (*Attachment 9*)

SEDAR stock assessments include research recommendations that can improve future assessments. Council staff has compiled short-term and long-term research needs derived from recently completed assessments, upcoming assessments, and management and monitoring programs. Staff will present the Draft South Atlantic Research and Monitoring Prioritization Plan for 2022-2027. This draft plan will be reviewed by the Council at their June 2020 meeting.

Requested AP Action: Provide feedback on research recommendations and how they should be prioritized.

10. Updates

SEDAR (Red Snapper, Golden Tilefish, Gag) – Staff will update the AP on the status of SEDAR stock assessments that are near completion and next steps in consideration for management use.

Amendment 48 – Wreckfish ITQ Modernization – 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 2021 meeting the Council reviewed preliminary actions and alternatives and comments from the Law Enforcement AP and Wreckfish shareholders. Actions and alternatives are being further developed by staff from review and approval by the Council at their September 2021 meeting.

Citizen Science (*Attachment 10*) – Staff will present an update on the Council's Citizen Science Program and pilot projects, highlighting activities that have occurred since the fall 2020 Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel meeting. The presentation will also provide updates on the SciFish mobile app, followed by a brief demo.

Climate Change – At their September 2020 meeting, the Council requested that the AP be provided regular updates on efforts to address management challenges related to climate change. Council staff will brief the AP on potential and upcoming initiatives.

11. Chair and Vice Chair Election

12. Other Business

Adjourn