



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, North Charleston SC 29405
Call: (843) 571-4366 | Toll-Free: (866) SAFMC-10 | Fax: (843) 769-4520 | Connect: www.safmc.net

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

AGENDA Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel Meeting November 4-6, 2020

[Webinar Link](#)

Public comment will be solicited at the beginning (Wednesday) and at the end (Friday) of the meeting and on Thursday at the conclusion of the AP's business for that day. 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 November 4, 2020 – 1:30 P.M. to Friday, November 6, 2020, Noon.

Approval of Agenda – Jimmy Hull

Approval of September 2020 AP meeting transcript – Jimmy Hull

Snapper Grouper Committee Chair remarks – Jessica McCawley

1. Update on recent regulations and status of amendments (*Attachment 1*)
2. Fishery Performance Report for Red Snapper (<http://data.safmc.net/FPRAII/>, *Attachment 2*)
3. Recommendations on the need for conservation and management of Blackfin Snapper, Coney, Cubera Snapper, Margate, Misty Grouper, Sailor's Choice, Saucereye Porgy, Yellowedge Grouper, and Yellowfin Grouper (*Attachment 3*; data.safmc.net/MgmtNeedEval2020) *NOTE: Slow to load!*
4. Management measures for Red Porgy (*Attachments 4a-4c*)
5. Best Fishing Practices Discussion (*Attachment 5*)
6. Input for Recreational Management Topics Webinar (*Attachment 6*)
7. Updates:
 - a. MyFishCount (*Attachment 7*)
 - b. Citizen Science (*Attachment 8*)
 - c. Climate Change (*Attachment 9*)
 - d. Shark Depredation (*Attachment 10*)

8. Other Business – Jimmy Hull

Adjourn

Advisory Panel Members:

James Hull Jr., Chair	Fentress “Red” Munden
Robert Lorenz, Vice Chair	James Paskiewicz
Vincent Bonura	Andy Piland
Richen “Dick” Brame	Cameron Sebastian
Randall Beardsley	David Snyder
Jack Cox Jr.	Andrew Fish
Robert Freeman	Chris Militello
Richard Gomez	Andrew Mahoney
Lawton Howard	Tony Constant
Rusty Hudson	Harry Morales
Deidra Jeffcoat	Chris Kimrey
Randy McKinley	Dr. Todd Kellison (non-voting)
David Moss	

Attachments

Attachment 1: Update on recent regulation changes and status of amendments

Attachment 2: Discussion questions for Red Snapper FPR

Attachment 3: Presentation on need for conservation and management

Attachment 4a: Amendment 50 (Red Porgy) discussion document

Attachment 4b: Amendment 50 (Red Porgy) presentation

Attachment 4c: Red Porgy Fishery Performance Report

Attachment 5: Best Fishing Practices Campaign Update

Attachment 6: Recreational topics webinar presentation

Attachment 7: MyFishCount presentation

Attachment 8: Citizen Science Program Update

Attachment 9: Update on management response to climate change issues

Attachment 10: Shark depredation presentation

Staff Lead: Myra Brouwer (Myra.Brouwer@safmc.net)

OVERVIEW

Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel

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

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

Myra Brouwer will update the AP on the status of the following:

- Red Snapper Seasons (Regulatory Amendment 33)
- Special Management Zones in NC & SC (Regulatory Amendment 34)
- Wreckfish ITQ Modernization (Amendment 48)
- For-hire Electronic Reporting Amendment
- Upcoming amendments for Greater Amberjack, Yellowtail Snapper, and Snowy Grouper

Required AP action: None

2. Fishery Performance Report for Red Snapper (*Attachment 2*;

<http://data.safmc.net/FPRAll/>)

Description: 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, Myra Brouwer will provide an overview of landings trends and other background information and request the AP's input to develop the FPR for Red Snapper. An operational assessment (SEDAR 73) will be underway for the Red Snapper stock in the South Atlantic. The assessment is scheduled for completion in Spring 2021.

Requested AP Action: Provide input as appropriate.

3. Recommendations on the need for conservation and management of Blackfin Snapper, Coney, Cubera Snapper, Margate, Misty Grouper, Sailor's Choice, Saucereye Porgy, Yellowedge Grouper, and Yellowfin Grouper (*Attachment 3*;

data.safmc.net/MgmtNeedEval2020)

Description: The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) requires that a Council prepare a fishery management plan (FMP) for each fishery under its authority that requires conservation and management. Not every fishery requires federal management. Any stocks that are predominately caught in federal waters and are or are likely to become overfished or be subject to overfishing, are considered to require conservation and management. Beyond such stocks, Councils may determine that additional stocks require "conservation and management" by considering a list of 10 factors. If it is determined that a species does not require conservation and management, Councils can designate species as Ecosystem Component (EC). EC species are defined as "stocks that a Council or the Secretary has determined do not require conservation and management, but desire to list in an FMP in order to achieve ecosystem management objectives." Such species are not required to have annual catch limits or accountability measures. Currently, 5 species in the Snapper Grouper Complex are considered EC

species: Cottonwick, Longspine Porgy, Bank Sea Bass, Rock Sea Bass, and Ocean Triggerfish. In December 2020, the Council will discuss whether Blackfin Snapper, Coney, Cubera Snapper, Margate, Misty Grouper, Sailor's Choice, Saucereye Porgy, Yellowedge Grouper, and Yellowfin Grouper need conservation and management or merit designation as EC species. Myra Brouwer will provide an overview of the factors used to evaluate whether a species needs conservation and management at the federal level. Mike Schmidtke will present landings and other information on the nine species to assist the AP in developing a recommendation.

Requested AP Action: Review information provided on these species to develop a recommendation for the Council to consider.

4. Management measures for Red Porgy (*Attachments 4a-4c*)

Amendment 50 to the Snapper Grouper FMP will adjust catch levels of Red 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 adjust the annual catch limit downward and modify management measures (trip limits, bag limits, seasons, size limits, etc.). Myra Brouwer will provide an overview of the status of the stock, landings, current regulations, life history information, and a suite of discussion questions to assist the AP to formulate recommendations on possible changes to management measures.

Discussion questions:

- Comment on reduced trip limit or shorter commercial season, or a combination of both for the commercial sector.
- Is there some trip limit or season length minimum the AP would prefer? If a seasonal closure is added, when should it occur?
- Comment on reduced bag limit or shorter recreational season and the pros and cons of different seasonal closure timing.

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

5. Best Fishing Practices Discussion (*Attachment 5*)

Cameron Rhodes will provide an update on the Council's ongoing Best Fishing Practices campaign to promote the use of best fishing practices among fishermen following the implementation of new gear requirements in federal waters of the South Atlantic. AP members are asked to provide their perspective on the Council's efforts to inform and educate fishermen on Best Fishing Practices, particularly on the use of descending devices.

Discussion questions:

- Are the Council's Best Fishing Practices efforts, as well as efforts underway by other agencies, reaching fishermen?
- Are you seeing an increase in the use of descending devices in your area?
- Are you seeing a difference in the availability of descending devices at tackle shops in your area?
- Is there any confusion among fishermen regarding the new descending device requirements?

Requested AP action: Provide input as appropriate.

6. Input for Recreational Management Topics Webinar (*Attachment 6*)

The Council will hold a meeting on November 9, 2020 to address recreational management issues including changes to accountability measures (Regulatory Amendment 31), reporting requirements and/or a permit for the private sector (Amendment 46), and the MyFishCount pilot project. The Council requests that the AP provide any input for them to consider at their meeting. Myra Brouwer will give a brief refresher on the status of the amendments and other topics to initiate discussion and recap the AP's past recommendations.

What recommendations or comments does the AP have for the Council on:

- Private recreational reporting in general
- MyFishCount – did you use it? Did it affect your attitudes toward reporting? Do you feel such a program can help fill in data gaps (e.g., use of descending devices? Discard lengths? Fishing locations?)
- Recreational accountability measures – in particular, managing the trade-off between consistent but necessarily more conservative measures (lower catches) and less conservative measures (higher catches) that result in less consistent management (possible in-season closures, year to year changes in bags or seasons, payback for overages)
- Alternative recreational management approaches – share any experiences with alternative approaches in other fisheries that would still keep the fishery within catch limits?

Requested AP action: Provide feedback as appropriate.

7. Updates (*Attachments 7-9*)

MyFishCount (*Attachment 7*) – MyFishCount is a pilot project launched in partnership with the NMFS and the Angler Action Foundation (AAF) to develop a mobile application to allow private recreational anglers to report their trips and catches. The project is in its final year and will be transferred to AAF at the end of 2020. During its third and final year, the pilot has focused on user recruitment and retention and promoting the use of the app among recreational anglers. BeBe Harrison will give an overview of the project focusing on outreach efforts and results of a survey completed this year.

Citizen Science (*Attachment 8*) – Staff will present a brief update on the Council's Citizen Science Program and pilot projects highlighting activities that have occurred since the Fall 2019 Snapper Grouper AP meeting. One of the pilot projects, SAFMC Release, will be expanding to collect data on all shallow water grouper in 2021. The Advisory Panel will be asked to provide feedback and guidance on strategies to promote and recruit new users once the SAFMC Release project expands. Additionally, as part of the new grant for this project, we are planning for the development of a customizable citizen science mobile app. The long-term goal is to develop a menu-driven tool that you could use to create a customizable app by selecting specific data fields, without the need to develop stand-alone apps for each new project or data need. A series of scoping meetings will be held between January and March 2021 to identify data needs and objectives for this app and we are looking for interested fishermen to participate in this process.

Management response to climate change (*Attachment 9*) – 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. Myra Brouwer will brief the AP on potential upcoming initiatives.

Shark Depredation (*Attachment 10*)

Karyl Brewster-Geisz, of NOAA’s Office of Sustainable Fisheries, will deliver a presentation touching on the issue of shark depredation, status of shark populations, and management. The AP will have the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback.

8. Other Business

Adjourn