



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Melvin Bell, Chair | Carolyn N. Belcher, Ph. D., Vice Chair
John Carmichael, Executive Director

AGENDA Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel Meeting October 19-21, 2021 (via webinar)

Webinar Link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6978405006346005260>

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.

Tuesday October 19, 2021, 1:30 P.M. – Thursday, April 23, 2021, Noon

Approval of Agenda – Jimmy Hull

Approval of September 2020 and April 2021 AP minutes – Jimmy Hull

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

1. Update on recent regulations and status of amendments (*Attachment 2*)
 - a. Amendment 50 – Red Porgy
 - b. Amendment 49 – Greater Amberjack and Recreational Annual Catch Targets
 - c. Amendment 48 – Wreckfish ITQ Modernization
2. Fishery Performance Report for Gray Triggerfish (<https://safmc-shinyapps.shinyapps.io/FPRAll/>) (*Attachment 3*)
3. Amendment 51 – Snowy Grouper (*Attachments 4a and 4b*)
4. Amendment 44 – Yellowtail Snapper (*Attachment 5a and 5b*)
5. Amendment 52 – Fishery Overview and Discussion of Management Changes for Golden Tilefish ([Golden Tilefish Fishery Overview](#)) (*Attachments 6a and 6b*)
6. Amendment 53 – Fishery Overview and Discussion of Management Changes for Gag Grouper ([Gag Grouper Fishery Overview](#)) (*Attachments 7a and 7b*)
7. Fishery Overview for Red Snapper ([Red Snapper Fishery Overview](#)) (*Attachment 8*)
8. Snapper Grouper Fishery Management
 - a. Discussion of the Commercial Snapper Grouper Permit (*Attachments 9a and 9b*)

- b. Discussion of Management Strategies and Priorities for Snapper Grouper Framework Amendment (*Attachment 10*)
- 9. Vermilion Snapper Commercial Trip Limit (*Attachment 11*)
- 10. Other Updates:
 - a. SEDAR
 - b. Citizen Science (*Attachment 12*)
 - c. Climate Change Scenario Planning (*Attachment 13*)
- 11. Other Business – Jimmy Hull

Adjourn

Advisory Panel Members:

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

Attachments

- Attachment 1:** Snapper Grouper June 2021 and September 2021 Committee Reports
- Attachment 2:** Update on recent regulation changes and status of amendments
- Attachment 3:** Discussion questions for Gray Triggerfish Fishery Performance Report
- Attachment 4:** Amendment 51 (Snowy Grouper) Discussion Document
- Attachment 4b:** Amendment 51 (Snowy Grouper) Presentation
- Attachment 5a:** Amendment 44 (Yellowtail Snapper) AP Overview Document
- Attachment 5b:** Amendment 44 (Yellowtail Snapper) AP Overview Presentation
- Attachment 6a:** Amendment 52 (Golden Tilefish) Discussion Document
- Attachment 6b:** Amendment 52 (Golden Tilefish) Presentation
- Attachment 7a:** Amendment 53 (Gag Grouper) Discussion Document
- Attachment 7b:** Amendment 53 (Gag Grouper) Presentation
- Attachment 8:** Red Snapper AP Overview Document
- Attachment 9a:** Commercial Snapper Grouper Permit Discussion Paper
- Attachment 9b:** Commercial Snapper Grouper Permit Discussion Presentation
- Attachment 10:** Discard Reduction for the Snapper Grouper Fishery Discussion Document
- Attachment 11:** Vermilion Snapper Commercial Trip Limit Discussion Document
- Attachment 12:** Citizen Science Update Presentation

Attachment 13: East Coast Climate Change Scenario Planning Brochure

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

OVERVIEW

Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel

The AP will approve minutes from the September 2020 and April 2021 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.

- a. Amendment 50 – Red Porgy
- b. Amendment 49 – Greater Amberjack and Recreational Annual Catch Targets
- c. Amendment 48 – Wreckfish ITQ Modernization

2. Fishery Performance Report for Gray Triggerfish (<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, Council staff will provide an overview of landings trends and other background information and request the AP's input to develop the FPR for gray triggerfish. A research track assessment (SEDAR 82) for the gray triggerfish stock in the South Atlantic is scheduled for completion by the end of 2023.

Requested AP Action: Provide input as appropriate.

3. Amendment 51 – Snowy Grouper (*Attachment 4*)

The Council received the results of SEDAR 36 Update at their March 2021 meeting and directed staff to begin work on a plan amendment. During the September meeting the Council reviewed AP recommendations from their April AP meeting and an options paper. The Council provided direction to staff to present the options paper to the AP to gather further input on modifications to commercial and recreational management measures and recreational accountability measures. The Council will review this input at their December meeting where they will have the opportunity to approve the amendment for scoping.

Requested AP Action: Provide feedback on commercial and recreational management measures as well as recreational accountability measures

4. Amendment 44 – Yellowtail Snapper (*Attachments 5a and 5b*)

In June 2021, the Council reviewed the APs input on the fishery's performance, a fishery overview, and a draft options paper including actions previously considered (in 2018). At the September 2021 meeting, the Council reviewed preliminary analyses on commercial and recreational season length under proposed catch levels and approved the amendment for scoping. In addition, the Council requested input from stakeholders on commercial management measures (commercial trip limits). This amendment is being developed jointly with the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. The Gulf

Council and Reef Fish Advisory Panel will be providing feedback on proposed actions affecting their region this fall.

Requested AP Action: Discuss and recommend potential commercial management measure modifications.

5. Amendment 52 – Fishery Overview and Discussion of Management Changes for Golden Tilefish (*Attachments 6a and 6b*)

To assist in the consideration and development of management actions and alternatives following completed stock assessments, Council staff have developed fishery overview applications for recently assessed species. These overviews compile the history of management and information from the most recent stock assessment. The SEDAR 66 assessment of golden tilefish in the South Atlantic was completed in 2021 determined the stock to not be overfished and not experiencing overfishing. In June 2021, the Council initiated a plan amendment to adjust catch levels for golden tilefish. Council staff will provide a description of the assessment and fishery using the overview application for golden tilefish. Click [HERE](#) to access the data online. Council staff will also describe current management measures and changes that will be considered through Amendment 52.

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

6. Amendment 53 – Fishery Overview and Discussion of Management Changes for Gag Grouper (*Attachments 7a and 7b*)

The SEDAR 71 assessment of gag grouper in the South Atlantic was completed in 2021 and determined the stock to be overfished and experiencing overfishing. In June 2021, the Council initiated a plan amendment to rebuild and adjust catch levels for gag grouper. Council staff will provide a description of the assessment and fishery using the overview application for gag grouper. Click [HERE](#) to access the data online. Council staff will also describe current management measures and changes that will be considered through Amendment 53.

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

7. Fishery Overview for Red Snapper (*Attachment 8*)

The SEDAR 73 assessment of red snapper in the South Atlantic was completed in 2021 and determined the stock to be overfished and experiencing overfishing. Council staff will provide a description of the assessment and fishery using the overview application for red snapper and describe the SSC's catch level recommendations. Click [HERE](#) to access the data online.

Requested AP Action: None

8. Snapper Grouper Fishery Management

a. Discussion of the Commercial Snapper Grouper Permit (*Attachments 9a and 9b*)

In 1998, Amendment 8 instituted the snapper grouper limited access permit requirement. This requirement set initial eligibility for commercial snapper grouper permits based on landings and created two commercial permits: a

transferable unlimited permit (SG 1 permit) and a non-transferable permit limited to 225 pounds of snapper grouper species (SG 2 permit). In 2020, the Council responded to Executive Order (EO) 13921: Promoting American Seafood Competitiveness and Economic Growth, identifying the “2 for 1 provision” of the SG 1 permit as an item to be evaluated and to consider if changes would provide social or economic benefits to the fishery.

At their September 2021 meeting, the Council reviewed initial information describing background of the provision, an evaluation of trends in the commercial snapper grouper fishery, and recent input from the Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel (AP). The Council was interested in further discussing potential changes to commercial snapper grouper permit provisions and requested additional feedback from the AP on the topic.

Requested AP Action: Provide recommendations and feedback on the potential effects of changing provisions for the commercial snapper grouper permits. Discussion questions are provided in the attachments.

b. Discussion of Management Strategies and Priorities (*Attachment 10*)

In September 2021, the Council received results from SEDAR 73 indicating that the South Atlantic red snapper stock is overfished and experiencing overfishing. The assessment indicated that the majority of red snapper fishing mortality occurs as discard mortality rather than through landings. Due to the multi-species nature of the snapper grouper fishery, the Council recognized that addressing the issue of discard mortality requires holistic changes to management for the entire fishery. The Council developed a plan to address snapper grouper discards through short-term and long-term amendments and directed staff to begin work on both immediately. Discussion questions have been developed based on previous AP recommendations to inform actions to be considered in the short-term amendment, which is aimed at reducing discards through currently available information and actions that can be taken relatively quickly through a framework amendment.

Requested AP Action: Provide feedback that will further define previous AP recommendations concerning discard reduction and inform actions to be considered in the framework amendment.

9. Vermilion Snapper Commercial Trip Limit (*Attachment 11*)

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. In April 2021, the AP provided input on whether more permanent action should be taken to change the commercial trip limit through an amendment. In September 2021, the Council reviewed this input, but also received assessment and management information for other snapper grouper species that may have implications for the rest of the fishery. The Council requested that the AP review their previous recommendations and determine if they want to maintain or change these in light of the most recent information.

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.

10. Other Updates:

a. **SEDAR**

Staff will update the AP on the status of ongoing and upcoming SEDAR stock assessments.

b. **Citizen Science (*Attachment 12*)**

Staff will provide an update on the Council's Citizen Science Program, highlighting activities that have occurred since the Spring 2021 Snapper Grouper AP meeting. The presentation will include the latest information on the SAFMC Release project's transition to the new SciFish mobile app and expansion to all shallow water grouper species, as well as share information on ways AP members can get involved in the project.

c. **Climate Change Scenario Planning (*Attachment 13*)**

Staff will update the AP on the East Coast Climate Change Scenario Planning initiative.

11. Other Business

Adjourn