



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Carolyn N. Belcher, Ph.D., Chair | Trish Murphey, Vice Chair
John Carmichael, Executive Director

AGENDA

Snapper Grouper Committee

Town and Country Inn
2008 Savannah Highway
Charleston, SC 29407

October 10-12, 2023

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 in-person or on the webinar.

Photo scanning event for FISHstory project: Staff will be ready to scan historic photos contributed to the project throughout the AP meeting.

Tuesday, October 10, 2023, 1:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

Wednesday, October 11, 2023, 8:30 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

Thursday, October 12, 2023, 8:30 A.M. – Noon

Welcome and Introductions

Approval of Agenda – Bob Lorenz

Approval of April 2023 AP minutes – Bob Lorenz

Public Comment

1. Committee Chair Remarks – Jessica McCawley (*Attachments 1a and 1b*)
2. Updates
 - a. Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) Fishing Effort Survey (FES) Pilot Study Informative Resources and Upcoming Presentations
 - b. Recent Regulations and Status of Amendments (*Attachment 2a*)
 - i. Amendment 44 – Yellowtail Snapper
 - ii. Amendment 48 – Wreckfish
 - iii. Regulatory Amendment 36 – Gag, Black Grouper, and Black Sea Bass
 - iv. Amendment 56 – Black Sea Bass
 - v. Amendment 49 – Greater Amberjack
 - vi. Amendment 51 – Snowy Grouper

- vii. Amendment 52 – Golden Tilefish and Blueline Tilefish
 - viii. Amendment 53 – Gag and Black Grouper
 - ix. Regulatory Amendment 35 – Red Snapper and Release Mortality
 - x. Amendment 54 – Joint Comprehensive Commercial Electronic Logbook Amendment
 - c. Best Fishing Practices Outreach – Ashley Oliver (*Attachments 2b and 2c*)
- 3. Private Recreational Permitting and Education Requirement (SG Amendment 46) (*Attachment 3*)
 - a. Overview – John Hadley
 - b. AP Discussion – Bob Lorenz
- 4. Scamp/Yellowmouth Grouper (SG Amendment 55) (*Attachment 4*)
 - a. Overview – Allie Iberle
 - b. AP Discussion – Bob Lorenz
- 5. Snapper Grouper Management Strategy Evaluation Update and Input (*Attachment 5*)
 - a. Overview – Dr. Tom Carruthers
 - b. AP Discussion – Bob Lorenz
- 6. AP Updates to the Golden Tilefish and Blueline Tilefish Fishery Performance Reports (*Attachment 6*)
 - a. [Fishery Performance Report Application](#) (*will be updated ahead of the meeting*) – Mike Schmidtke
 - b. AP Discussion – Bob Lorenz
- 7. Offshore Wind Activities in the Southeast Region Presentation (*Attachment 7*)
 - a. Overview – TBD
 - b. AP Discussion – Bob Lorenz
- 8. Discussion of Limited Entry into the For-Hire Component of the Snapper Grouper Fishery (*Attachment 8*)
 - a. Overview – Mike Schmidtke
 - b. AP Discussion – Bob Lorenz
- 9. Other Updates:
 - a. SEDAR – Chip Collier
 - b. Citizen Science – Julia Byrd (*Attachment 9*)
- 10. Other Business

Public Comment

Adjourn

Staff Lead: Mike Schmidtke (mike.schmidtke@safmc.net)

Attachments:

Attachment 1a: Snapper Grouper Chair Presentation (*Will be available in Recent Documents by 10/3/2023*)

Attachment 1b: June 2023 and September 2023 Snapper Grouper Committee Final Reports

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

Attachment 2b: Best Fishing Practices Presentation

Attachment 2c: ‘What It Means to Me’ Project Proposal

Attachment 3: SG Amendment 46 (Private Recreational Permitting and Education Requirement) Discussion Document

Attachment 4: SG Amendment 55 Overview Presentation

Attachment 5: Management Strategy Evaluation Presentation (*Will be available in Recent Documents by 10/3/2023*)

Attachment 6: Golden Tilefish and Blueline Tilefish Fishery Performance Report Questions

Attachment 7: Offshore Wind Activities in the Southeast Region Presentation (*Will be available in Recent Documents by 10/3/2023*)

Attachment 8: For-Hire Limited Entry Discussion Document

Attachment 9: Citizen Science Program Update

OVERVIEW

Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel

The AP will approve minutes from the April 2023 meeting and the agenda for the October 2023 meeting.

1. Committee Chair Remarks (*Attachments 1a and 1b*)

2. Updates (*Attachments 2a-2c*)

MRIP FES: Council staff will update the AP on the recent pilot study of the MRIP FES, initial management discussions, and resources and upcoming events that can provide more information.

Recent Amendments: Council staff will provide updates on developing and recently submitted amendments.

Best Fishing Practices: Council staff will present recent updates on Best Fishing Practices outreach, including details on “What It Means to Me,” a recently approved outreach initiative.

AP Action: Discuss and provide input, as appropriate.

3. Amendment 46 (Recreational Permitting) (*Attachment 3*)

Amendment 46 to the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan considers the development of a permit for the private component of the recreational fishery that may be paired with an education requirement. Council staff will provide an overview of Amendment 46, currently under development by the Council. The amendment will be considered for approval of public hearings at the Council’s December 2023 meeting.

AP Action: Review the discussion document and provide feedback for the Council to consider on development of a private recreational permit and education requirement.

4. Amendment 55 Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper (*Attachment 4*)

The amendment proposes to establish a Scamp Yellowmouth Grouper Complex in response to SEDAR 68 and establish the following for the complex: stock determination criteria, rebuilding plan, acceptable biological catch, annual catch limits, sector allocations, and accountability measures. In addition, the amendment would reorganize and update the Other South Atlantic Shallow Water Grouper Complex. In September, the Council reviewed a decision document that included an overview of the scoping webinars held in early August, updated actions and alternatives, and gave staff guidance on the preferred approach to update the Other South Atlantic Shallow Water Grouper Complex ACL.

AP Action: Review the amendment and provide feedback on the management measures for the Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper Complex.

5. Snapper Grouper Management Strategy Evaluation Input (*Attachment 5*)

The Council is conducting a Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) to explore long-term management strategies for the South Atlantic snapper grouper fishery. Dr. Tom Carruthers of Blue Matter Science will discuss progress thus far and request AP input to further develop the MSE.

AP Action: Review progress made thus far on the MSE and provide input as appropriate.

6. Golden Tilefish and Blueline Tilefish Fishery Performance Report (*Attachment 6*)

With input from the AP, Fishery Performance Reports (FPRs) have been developed for several snapper grouper species, including golden tilefish in 2018 and blueline tilefish in 2019. 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. An operational assessment (SEDAR 89) for the South Atlantic golden tilefish stock is scheduled for completion by mid-2024, and an operational assessment (SEDAR 92) for the Atlantic blueline tilefish stock is scheduled for completion by the end of 2024.

Using an online application, Council staff will provide an overview of landings trends and other background information. Council staff will also present a summary of the current FPRs for golden tilefish and blueline tilefish, as well as questions to prompt discussion, including information requests from the SEDAR 89 and SEDAR 92 analytical teams. The AP will update the FPRs using the current versions (found in the [FPR Shiny Application](#)) and provided questions.

AP Action: Provide information to update the FPRs.

7. Offshore Wind Activities in the Southeast Region Presentation (*Attachment 7*)

At the request of the Council, the AP will receive a presentation intended to provide information about offshore wind development in the South Atlantic region.

AP Action: None.

8. Discussion of Limited Entry into the For-Hire Component of the Snapper Grouper Fishery (*Attachment 8*)

In June 2023, the Council requested that the AP discuss limited entry for the snapper grouper recreational for-hire component. The Council previously considered limited entry into the for-hire component through Snapper Grouper Amendment 47. This amendment was discontinued in 2018, following scoping. Council staff will summarize previous discussions from Amendment 47 and request AP input on whether the Council should re-consider limited entry for the recreational for-hire component of the snapper grouper fishery.

AP Action: Provide input on whether the Council should re-consider limited entry into the for-hire component of the snapper grouper fishery.

9. Other Updates

SEDAR: SEDAR staff will provide an update of recently finished, ongoing, and upcoming SEDAR projects and request volunteers to participate in upcoming stock assessments.

Citizen Science (*Attachment 9*): Council staff will provide information on Citizen Science Program activities. Updates will be given on the Citizen Science Program advisory groups, the Citizen Science Program's Project Idea Portal, Program evaluation and the SMILE project. Additionally, staff will share information on the efforts underway to collect additional historic fishing photos for the FISHstory project and provide an update on the SAFMC Release Project.

AP Action:

- **SEDAR:** None.
- **Citizen Science:** Identify an AP member(s) interested in serving on the Citizen Science Projects Advisory Committee. Provide feedback on other opportunities that could be pursued to gather historic photos for FISHstory and feedback on information to include in the SAFMC Release 2023 Annual Summary.

10. Other Business