



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Trish Murphey, Chair | Jessica McCawley, Vice Chair
John Carmichael, Executive Director

AGENDA

Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel

Town and Country Inn
2008 Savannah Highway
Charleston, SC 29407

October 15-17, 2024

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.

Tuesday, October 15, 2024, 1:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

Wednesday, October 16, 2024, 8:30 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

Thursday, October 17, 2024, 8:30 A.M. – Noon

Welcome and Introductions

Approval of Agenda – James Paskiewicz

Approval of March 2024 AP minutes – James Paskiewicz

Public Comment

1. Committee Chair Remarks – Jessica McCawley (*Attachments 1a and 1b*)
 - a. Update on Florida Red Snapper Exempted Fishing Permit Research Projects
2. Stakeholder Engagement Meetings (*Attachment 2*)
 - a. Overview – Christina Wiegand
 - b. AP Discussion
3. Snapper Grouper Management Strategy Evaluation Presentation and Discussion (*Attachment 3*)
 - a. Overview – Adrian Hordyk
 - b. AP Discussion
4. Council Discussion Updates (*Attachment 4*)
 - a. Recent/Ongoing Amendments
 - i. Recently Approved by Council: Amendment 48 (Wreckfish), Amendment 55 Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper), Regulatory Amendment 36 (Gag

- and Black Grouper Recreational Vessel Limits and On-Demand Black Sea Bass Pot Stowage)
 - ii. Amendment 46 – Private Recreational Permit
 - iii. Improvements to Southeast For-Hire Integrated Reporting (SEFHIER) Program Amendment
5. Red Snapper Fishery Performance Report Update (**Attachment 5**)
 - a. [Fishery Performance Report Application](#) (will be updated ahead of the meeting) – Mike Schmidtke
 - b. AP Discussion
 6. Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) Control Rule Stock Risk Rating Recommendations for Blueline Tilefish, Golden Tilefish, and Mutton Snapper (**Attachment 6**)
 - a. ABC Control Rule Risk Rating Overview –Mike Schmidtke and Allie Iberle
 - b. AP Discussion
 7. Yellowtail Snapper Fishery Performance Report Update (**Attachment 7**)
 - a. [Fishery Performance Report Application](#) (will be updated ahead of the meeting) – Allie Iberle
 - b. AP Discussion
 8. Southeast Reef Fish Survey Presentation (**Attachment 8**)
 - a. Presentation – Wally Bublely
 - b. AP Discussion
 9. Black Sea Bass Assessment Response (SG Amendment 56) (**Attachment 9**)
 - a. Overview – Mike Schmidtke
 - b. AP Discussion
 10. Other Updates:
 - a. Best Fishing Practices Outreach – Ashley Oliver (**Attachment 10a**)
 - b. Citizen Science – Julia Byrd, Megan Withers (**Attachment 10b**)
 - c. SEDAR – Emily Ott
 11. Other Business

Public Comment

Adjourn

Committee Members:

James Paskiewicz, Chair
Chris Kimrey, Vice Chair
Vincent Bonura
Gettys Brannon III
Scott Buff
Chris Conklin
Tony Constant

Jack Cox, Jr.
Andrew Fish
Robert Freeman
Richard Gomez
Joe Mathews
Randy McKinley
Thomas Meeks
Chris Militello
David Moss
Paul Nelson
Andy Piland
John Polston
Stephen Ranney
Paul Rudershausen
Cameron Sebastian
Haley Stephens
Todd Kellison, Non-Voting Member

Attachments:

Attachment 1a: June 2024 and September 2024 Snapper Grouper Committee Final Reports

Attachment 1b: Snapper Grouper Chair Presentation (*will be uploaded to Recent Documents by 10/8/2024*)

Attachment 2: Stakeholder Engagement Meetings Presentation

Attachment 3: Management Strategy Evaluation Presentation

Attachment 4: Update on recent regulation changes and status of amendments (*will be uploaded to Recent Documents by 10/8/2024*)

Attachment 5: Red Snapper Fishery Performance Report Questions

Attachment 6: ABC Control Rule Risk Rating Worksheet (*will be uploaded to Recent Documents by 10/8/2024*)

Attachment 7: Yellowtail Snapper Fishery Performance Report Questions

Attachment 8: Southeast Reef Fish Survey Presentation

Attachment 9: Amendment 56 (Black Sea Bass Assessment Response) Discussion Document (*will be uploaded to Recent Documents by 10/8/2024*)

Attachment 10a: Best Fishing Practices Presentation

Attachment 10b: Citizen Science Program Update Presentation

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

OVERVIEW

Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel

The AP will approve minutes from the March 2024 meeting and the agenda for the October 2024 meeting.

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

The Snapper Grouper Committee Chair will present a summary of discussions from the June and September 2024 Council Meetings.

Update on Florida Red Snapper Exempted Fishing Permit Research Projects: A Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) representative will provide a verbal update on the research projects being conducted to investigate red snapper recreational catches, releases, and management strategies.

AP Action: None.

2. Stakeholder Engagement Meetings (*Attachment 2*)

The Council is developing a new type of stakeholder engagement meeting, with the first round scheduled to be held in Winter 2025. The meetings are designed to build relationships with fishery stakeholders by engaging them in an informal setting that allows for two-way conversations. Building relationships and momentum for participation in the management process requires consistent interaction with stakeholders over time, so staff intend for these types of meetings to become a regular part of the Council's engagement efforts. Council staff will provide details on the objectives of the meetings, how the information will be used, meeting structure, timeline and other details on this outreach effort.

AP Action: Discuss and provide input, as appropriate.

3. Snapper Grouper Management Strategy Evaluation Presentation and Discussion (*Attachment 3*)

The Council is conducting a Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) to explore long-term management strategies for the South Atlantic snapper grouper fishery. Staff from Blue Matter Science have taken input from the Snapper Grouper AP and Council to develop potential management strategies to rebuild Black Sea Bass, Gag, and Red Snapper. The findings from the MSE will be presented and describe which management strategies will help to rebuild these populations.

AP Action: Discuss and provide input on the findings. The AP is asked to consider providing guidance for future refinements of management strategies, as appropriate.

4. Council Discussion Updates (*Attachment 4*)

Council staff will provide updates on developing and recently-approved amendments.

AP Action: None.

5. Red Snapper Fishery Performance Report Update (*Attachment 5*)

With input from the APs, [Fishery Performance Reports](#) (FPRs) have been developed for several South Atlantic 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. A benchmark assessment (SEDAR 90) for the South Atlantic red snapper stock is scheduled for completion in 2026.

The red snapper FPR was most recently updated in 2020. Using an online application, Council staff will provide an overview of the current FPR, catch trends, and other background information. Council staff will also present questions to prompt discussion, including information requests from the SEDAR 90 analytical team. The AP will review the current FPR and make any necessary updates. The AP will also provide recommendations on the stock risk rating for red snapper.

AP Action: Provide information to update the red snapper FPR. Recommend stock risk scores and an overall risk rating for red snapper, to be used in application of the ABC Control Rule.

6. Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) Control Rule Stock Risk Rating Recommendations for Blueline Tilefish, Golden Tilefish, and Mutton Snapper (*Attachment 6*)

Under the ABC Control Rule, the Council incorporates an evaluation of how much risk of overfishing it should be willing to accept based on biological, fishery (human interaction), and environmental factors affecting each stock. Input on these factors will be provided ahead of each assessment by the appropriate advisory panel and Scientific and Statistical Committee, and the Council will consider this input in determining the appropriate risk level (conveyed as a Stock Risk Rating of High, Medium, or Low) to apply in the ABC Control Rule. With the recent implementation of the ABC Control Rule, several stocks with assessments underway or recently completed need to have risk ratings determined before the Council considers management actions to adjust ABC levels.

Council staff will provide preliminary risk scores and related information for blueline tilefish, golden tilefish, and mutton snapper. The AP will review this information and provide recommendations and rationale for any necessary updates to the risk scores.

AP Action: Recommend stock risk scores and overall risk ratings for blueline tilefish, golden tilefish, and mutton snapper, to be used in application of the ABC Control Rule.

7. Yellowtail Snapper Fishery Performance Report Update (*Attachment 7*)

An operational assessment (SEDAR 96) for yellowtail snapper is scheduled for completion in 2024. The yellowtail snapper FPR was most recently updated in 2017. Using an online application, Council staff will provide an overview of the current FPR, catch trends, and other background information. Council staff will also present questions to prompt discussion. The AP will review the current FPR and make any necessary updates. The AP will also provide recommendations on the stock risk rating for yellowtail snapper.

AP Action: Provide information to update the FPR. The AP will also provide recommendations on the stock risk rating for yellowtail snapper.

8. Southeast Reef Fish Survey (SERFS) Presentation (*Attachment 8*)

Staff from South Carolina Department of Natural Resources will present summarized trends in abundance and distribution for select species collected in the SERFS through 2023.

AP Action: None.

9. Black Sea Bass Assessment Response (SG Amendment 56) (*Attachment 9*)

Amendment 56 responds to the most recent stock assessment of black sea bass, included data through 2021 and indicated that the black sea bass stock in the South Atlantic is at very low levels in recent years. Information from the assessment and other recent data potentially useful in developing a management response are summarized in the [Fishery Overview](#). Council staff will update on recent amendment discussions, and the AP will provide input on potential fishery behavioral responses to management measures being considered.

AP Action: Provide input on potential behavioral responses of the fishery to management measures being considered for black sea bass.

10. Other Updates:

Best Fishing Practices (*Attachment 10a*): Council staff will provide an update on the Best Fishing Practices Master Volunteer Program, 2024 outreach efforts, and the Sea Grant Reef Fish Fellowship.

Citizen Science (*Attachment 10b*): Council staff will provide information on Citizen Science Program activities. Updates will be given on the FISHstory and SAFMC Release projects and the AP will be asked to provide advice regarding some of the projects' key challenges. AP members will also be asked to provide input on strategies to encourage fishermen to share their citizen science project ideas via the [CitSci Project Idea Portal](#) on the Council's website. Additionally, AP members will be asked to identify an additional member to serve on the [Citizen Science Projects Advisory Group](#).

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

AP Action:

Best Fishing Practices: None.

Citizen Science: Provide input, as appropriate, and individual members can volunteer to serve on the Citizen Science Projects Advisory Group.

SEDAR: Individual members can volunteer to participate in upcoming stock assessments.

11. Other Business