

Overview

Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel

Crowne Plaza Hotel
4381 Tanger Outlet Boulevard
North Charleston, SC

The Advisory Panel will: (A) receive an update on the status of various amendments to the Snapper Grouper FMP and other amendments affecting the snapper grouper fishery; (B) receive an overview on the October 2013 Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) Meeting, including results of the stock assessments for blueline tilefish and snowy grouper; (C) receive an overview and provide recommendations on Amendment 22 to establish a recreational harvest tag program for snapper grouper species with low ACLs; (D) receive an overview and provide recommendations on Amendment 29 to amend the ABC Control Rule and adjust ABCs for “Only Reliable Catch Stocks”; (E) receive an overview and provide recommendations on Regulatory Amendment 17 to establish MPAs to protect speckled hind and warsaw grouper; (F) receive an overview and provide recommendations on Regulatory Amendment 16 to address the annual closure of black sea bass pot gear; (G) participate in facilitated discussions and provide recommendations on the Council’s Visioning and Strategic Planning process; and (H) address other business as necessary.

A. Status of Snapper Grouper Amendments (*Attachment 1*)

The AP will receive an update on the status of amendments under review, those recently submitted, and those under development.

B. Update on October 2013 SSC Meeting (*Attachments 2a-2d*)

Outcomes of the October 2013 SSC meeting will be presented to the AP. However, because of delays caused by the shutdown of the U.S. government, some items on the SSC’s agenda may not be included.

C. Amendment 22 (Recreational Tag Program; *Attachment 3*)

Council staff will review the Options Paper, including changes made at the September 2013 meeting, and present the proposed timeline for development.

D. Amendment 29 (ORCS and ABC Control Rule; *Attachment 4*)

Council staff will present the draft document with alternatives for amending the ABC Control Rule as per the SSC’s recommendations and the resulting adjustments to ABCs for unassessed snapper grouper species. The amendment also includes actions for gray triggerfish management measures.

E. Regulatory Amendment 17 (MPAs for speckled hind and warsaw grouper; Attachment 5)

Council staff will review the Summary Document, including the proposed timeline for development. The AP's comments will be presented to the Council in December prior to the Council approving items to take to scoping.

F. Regulatory Amendment 16 (Black Sea Bass Pot Closure Removal; Attachment 6)

Council staff will review alternatives to address the proposed annual closure of black sea bass pots from November 1 to April 30. Regulatory Amendment 19 implemented this regulation as well as an increase to the black sea bass ACL.

G. Visioning and Strategic Planning for the Snapper Grouper Fishery (Attachments 7a-7e)

Council staff will lead the AP through facilitated discussions pertaining to 2 of the 4 broad themes in the Council's draft strategic plan (Science, Management, Governance, and Communication). The discussions will be framed around a series of questions aimed at collecting detailed thoughts and ideas about a topic in a structured manner. This exercise (facilitated discussions) will test using this proposed structure and format for the 2014 port meetings. Hence, this will be an opportunity for the AP to also provide their input on this proposed discussion format for the port meetings or suggest other ways to structure them. Council staff also needs input from the AP about suggested outreach approaches to promote participation in the port meetings. The AP will have an opportunity to provide input on a promotional flyer that will be mailed to all federal snapper grouper permit holders and provide additional suggestions for pre-port meeting outreach.

H. Other Business

Planning is underway for SEDAR 41, benchmark stock assessments for South Atlantic red snapper and gray triggerfish. The draft schedule indicates a data workshop August 4-8, 2014, a combination of webinars and an in-person assessment workshop (late Oct. 2014 – May 2015; in-person assessment workshop dates TBD), and a review workshop in June 2015. AP members typically participate in the data workshop and serve as observers during the assessment and review workshops (or webinars). The SAFMC will begin appointing participants to SEDAR 41 at their December 2013 meeting. Please let Myra know if you would like the Council to consider appointing you to participate in this assessment.