

**SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
SNAPPER GROUPER COMMITTEE**

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Charleston, South Carolina**

SEPTEMBER 11-12, 2012

TUESDAY MORNING SESSION

SEPTEMBER 11, 2012

SUMMARY MINUTES

Snapper Grouper Committee:

Dr. Michelle Duval, Chairperson
Steve Amick
Mel Bell
Dr. Roy Crabtree
Ben Hartig
John Jolley
Tom Swatzel

Martha Bademan, Vice, Chairperson
Anna Beckwith
Tom Burgess
David Cupka
Doug Haymans
Charlie Phillips

Council Members:

Lt. Mario Gil
Robert Beal

Dr. Wilson Laney

Council Staff:

Bob Mahood
Kim Iverson
Myra Brouwer
Dr. Mike Errigo
Dr. Brian Cheuvront
Julie Byrd
Julie O'Dell

Gregg Waugh
Roger Pugliese
Anna Martin
Dr. Kari MacLauchlin
John Carmichael
Mike Collins
Amber Von Harten

Observers/Participants:

Frank Heiles
Dr. Bonnie Ponwith
Dr. Jack McGovern
Dr. Pam Dana
Anne Marie Eich
Dr. Luiz Barbieri

Otha Easley
Monica Smit-Brunello
Joey Ballenger
Vince O'Shea
Dr. Scott Raborn

Additional Observers Attached

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The Snapper Grouper Committee of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council convened in the Topaz Room of the Charleston Marriott Hotel, Charleston, South Carolina, Tuesday morning, September 11, 2012, and was called to order at 8:30 o'clock a.m. by Chairman Michelle Duval.

DR. DUVAL: Welcome to the Snapper Grouper Committee Meeting. Our former chairman leaves some big shoes to fill and I will do my best to do that, but I ask for your indulgence. The first order of business is approval of the agenda. Are there any modifications or additions to the agenda?

I know that I have a couple of things I might bring up under other business; but seeing none, the agenda is approved. The next item is approval of our June 2012 committee minutes. Does anybody have any changes to the minutes? Seeing none, the minutes are approved. The next item on our agenda is an update on Oculina Research Activities.

MS. BROUWER: Actually, there are no Oculina Research Activities to report. One thing we talked about perhaps suggesting to the committee is this item is on the agenda and has been on the agenda for a number of years. Oculina research has not been taking place in the last few years. If the committee would like to remove that item from the Snapper Grouper Committee Agenda and perhaps the Oculina Research Activities could be covered under ecosystem. That is the suggestion that the staff had for that.

DR. DUVAL: So at this point if nobody has any objection, I would entertain a motion to remove discussion of future Oculina Research Activities to perhaps the Ecosystem Committee.

DR. CRABTREE: So move.

DR. DUVAL: Motion by Roy; second by Ben. Roy.

DR. CRABTREE: Before we completely get away from other business, I would like to have some discussion of yellowtail snapper and the new stock assessment.

DR. DUVAL: Okay, we have added a discussion of yellowtail to items under other business. The motion is remove the item on Oculina Research Activities from the Snapper Grouper Committee Agenda and cover under the Ecosystem Committee. Roy was the maker of that motion and I believe Ben was the seconder. Is there any objection to that motion? Ben.

MR. HARTIG: Just a little bit of discussion. Just because we're removing it, it is a little alarming that in our longest-standing MPA that we don't have any research activities going on. That is kind of tough. The public has continued to ask us through this speckled hind and Warsaw MPA debate about what has Oculina done; have we seen any benefits from Oculina.

Certainly, there are some papers that have been done in the past that do show some increases in at least the grouper part of the population in the Oculina Reserve. One of the things I think we need to do is we need to bring those papers within the document. Maybe I'm getting ahead of myself but I'll leave that for the debate on Warsaw and speckled hind.

I'm disappointed that we're not seeing some continued research in Oculina and I think that needs to be a priority of someone in the research. I know Chris Koenig had done a lot of the work before. They put down a lot of artificial habitat. They have got Oculina growing on a number of different disks and on top of some of those concrete habitats they put down, and it would be nice to know how all that is progressing. Certainly, we need to have some more research done in that area.

DR. DUVAL: That's a great, Ben. Wilson.

DR. LANEY: Madam Chairman, I certainly agree with Ben on that point. I'm not on your committee but relative to the motion could we also maybe just add the same agenda item to the Habitat and Environmental Protection Committee as well. I know most of us sit in on all the committees, so I guess we'll hear it regardless of which one it goes. It certainly could be covered under the Habitat and Environmental Protection Committee, also.

Relative to Ben's comments, I think it is going to be harder and harder. Most of us are totally aware of what the economic and budget climate is as far as funding research goes; and just a note is that the National Science Foundation Budget has been cut back so much that they're planning to retire their research vessel, the RV Cape Hatteras, after the Cooperative Winter Tagging Cruise next January. There goes another vessel platform at a time when I think we're already short of research vessels as it is, and yet we're having to retire existing ones because of the budget issues.

DR. DUVAL: Yes, that is a somewhat depressing fact. If the maker and seconder of the motion don't mind, perhaps we could as a friendly amendment add "or under the Habitat and Environment Protection Committee". Is that okay with Roy and Ben? I'm not seeing any dissent. **The motion now reads remove item on Oculina Research Activities from the Snapper Grouper Committee Agenda and cover under Ecosystem Committee or the Habitat and Environmental Protection Committee.** Is there anymore discussion on this motion? Ben.

MR. HARTIG: Let me add one more thing. Just to Wilson's point, yes, there are platforms that are being retired and that is not good, but we've got to think outside the box. There are still a lot of platforms on the ocean that are continuing to go to sea everyday. Somehow we're going to have to deal with the loss of these platforms and a better way to possibly get a better bang for our buck.

DR. DUVAL: Okay, anymore discussion? Is there any objection to this motion? Seeing none, that **motion stands approved**. The next item on our agenda is a presentation on Catch and Discard Characterization for Red Snapper, Warsaw Grouper and Speckled Hind. This is from the Gulf and South Atlantic Fisheries Foundation.

MR. HELIES: My name is Frank Helies. I'm the program director for the Gulf and South Atlantic Fisheries Foundation for those who I haven't met yet. This is Scott Raborn. He is a

subcontractor. He is my data analyst. This is actually a pretty good segue from what Wilson was just talking about.

With our budget issues, cooperative research is a perfect outcome for utilizing industry vessels to collect the kind of data that we're missing. The presentation today will talk about three different projects we got. Each one was a continuation of a previous collecting bycatch data in the snapper grouper fishery on the bandit boats.

Briefly, we have been around for a long time doing cooperative research with industry. We have representatives from Virginia to Texas so we do a lot of work in the Gulf of Mexico as well. The goal of this project was to characterize the catch and discards from the bandit reel fishery. Bob wanted us to focus on red snapper, Warsaw grouper and speckled hind today, so that is what we're going to touch on.

Some of the personnel from this project; the study was designed with a lot of help from industry, particularly Captain Mark Marhefka, whom everyone knows. He is on the Snapper Grouper AP. I was actually an observer prior to getting this position so I got to get a hands-on data collection for this project.

Basically we went out and tried to elicit as much participation from the fishery as possible. We got probably about forty boats to sign on to begin with, and those are the highliners, the guys that are out there everyday catching the most fish. The participation was voluntary but it was non-random because of that, but placing the observer on the vessels was randomized.

The observers had detailed training. They were supposed to fish under normal circumstances. Back in 2007 it was a pilot. We had 200 sea days. It was subsequently refunded for an additional hundred days, and then we got an additional hundred days. The last data collection trips were made December 2011.

Unfortunately, we are out of sea days so we haven't been able to collect any data in 2012. In total we have made 59 trips comprising about 357 sea days. These are the stat zones that we collected data in. As everyone knows, the fishery is quite regionalized. Out of North Carolina they tend to make some shorter trips, so we would make some day trips or two- or three-day trips out of North Carolina.

You would go out on a boat from Georgetown, South Carolina, you might stay out for 15 days. The coverage; we ended up sampling 27 boats, and those are just the latest permit information there. I'm going to let Scott talk about the nuts and bolts and of the data analysis.

DR. RABORN: This time when we looked at the dataset, we wanted to focus on how we come up with effort for this fishery. That always seems to be the million dollar question for these things, either natural mortality or effort is always the sticking points. Certainly, this fishery is no different. It is difficult to quantify effort.

I think we have a way to do it and I'm going to run through that with you. Then there was some interest in how much this effort varied across the depth range that is covered by this fishery.

Once you have that effort, you can convert your actual catches and discards into catch-per-unit effort to standardize for that.

Hopefully, at the end of the day we can use these catch-per-unit effort estimates to expand our observed discards to the entire fishery, and I'll close with that. But, to start off with for Objective 1, when I talk about effort, I use the term "hook hours"; and to define a hook hour that is basically just if you were to fish one hook for ten hours or ten hooks for one hour and so forth, that is what I mean when I say "hook hours", so that gives you an idea.

The way we estimate hook hours, at each station, at each site there are a total number of reels being fished. Usually it is about three. They stay for a certain length of time, usually about 0.6 hours. They reset each of those reels a number of times. An average number of sets made at a station is 21. Then there is a total number of hooks set; an average of 46.

That is figuring about two hooks per reel. This gives you an average of about four hook hours for every time they stop at a station. You may wonder why are you focusing on hook hours and not just total fishing time at a station. That is the simplest thing to do, and it is because of this relationship.

On the X-axis you have total fishing time at each site, at each station, and then you can see how much hook hours vary once you control for fishing time. The reason the effort is varying so much given equal amounts of fishing time is because at each station there is a varying number of reels that are being fished and there is a varying number of hooks on each reel, and so it causes this noise in the relationship.

If you try to estimate catch-per-unit effort based on fishing time, there is just going to be all this noise added into your data and it is going to swamp any patterns you're trying to look at. The more accurately we can estimate effort by controlling for this variation, then the better off we are. That is why we went to hook hours.

Once we estimated hook hours, then we can apportion effort for the observed trips over the depth range that is covered. There was some interest in that, and I did this by statistical zone. You can see the mean depths for each stat zone. There seems to be some evidence that the distribution of effort is a little bit bimodal. You see an increase in effort at a deeper depth for Stat Zone 32.

There is a little bit of that in 33, and it seems to occur in all of them. Statistical Zone 34; that is the most tenuous of all these distributions. There weren't as many trips observed there so there is more uncertainty in this distribution than, say, 32. Feel free to provide some feedback. If this is the type of thing you are interested in and you find this useful, then that is what we need to know. If you like it in a different format or if you like me to summarize things differently, just please let us know.

Okay, so now we've come up with a way to accurately estimate effort and we want to characterize catch and standardize for this effort. For each site we totaled catch by species and totaled the hook hours by species. This allows us to report catch-per-unit effort. Then for the

three species Frank mentioned, I ran those through a generalized linear model to come up with predicted CPUEs, and I'll explain the reasons for that in just a moment.

Across the five years there were 143 species caught. Here I didn't report catch-per-unit effort. This is the total number of individuals that were collected and sorted by discards. Obviously, this isn't all 143. I just listed the most common. For red snapper, speckled hind and Warsaw grouper, I developed a generalized linear model to predict their catch-per-unit efforts.

The dependent variables here were kept catch, which included fish kept for bait and discarded catch. The independent variables were categorical and they describe the time and space strata. We separated things by year, by trimester and statistical zone. I tried to use month instead of trimester, but there were too many parameters and the models wouldn't converge or the confidence intervals are too wide. Anyway, trimester seemed to be the better choice.

I won't get into the technical details of how I modeled this, but basically you're trying to model the raw catch and you're adjusting what the model is outputting for effort. You're adjusting that with hook hours as an offset, but the model spits out a predicted catch-per-unit effort. Each station is a data point in the model; and those three categorical variables, year, trimester and statistical zone, make this data matrix.

For instance, there were 78 observations in Statistical Zone 30 for Trimester 1 in 2007, and there were a total of 3,498 data points that went into each model. Most were zeros. The negative binomial model handles those quite well. One thing you will notice with this data matrix is how many missing cells there are. There are just no observations in some of these combinations of variables.

The nice thing about a GLM is that if you have no interaction between these main factors, you can fill in these missing spaces with estimates. That is one nice thing about it. Another thing you'll notice about this data matrix is that aside from just having missing data it is not balanced at all, and so what the GLM will do is it will control for trimester and year, hold everything constant and lets you look at the pure effect of statistical zone; or, it will control for year and statistical zone and let you look at the pure effect of trimester and so forth.

When you do that, you control for the other variables and isolate one and you call those marginal means, and that is what I've done for red snapper here. The dark bars represent discards and the light bars represent kept catch. The error bars are the 95 percent confidence intervals. These are the marginal means; so for this first graph here, year on the X-axis, you're controlling for trimester statistical zone and this is the pattern in catches across years, holding those other two variables constant.

On the Y-axis you have the number of individuals per ten hook hours. Something you'll notice for red snapper here, you see discarded catch going down from 2007-2009 and kept catch going up from 2007-2009, and it is consistent with the length frequency histogram for red snapper. The majority of the fish caught were below the minimum length limit in 2007 and then cohort or cohorts grew into the fishery about 2009, so it changed this ratio of discarded to kept catch.

Then there was a moratorium I guess in 2010 and 2011. Something else on this slide, for Statistical Zones 30 through 33 you catch for red snapper declining so it is declining the further you move north. At 34 it jumps up here, but you notice how wide these confidence intervals are and I really don't put much stock in the fact that is higher than these others because there is just too much uncertainty.

There wasn't enough effort in Statistical Zone 34 to really estimate catch-per-unit effort reliably. For the other two species, when I tried to separate things by kept and discarded catch, the models wouldn't converge. I had to sum them together and so this is just all catch, discarded catch, kept catch, everything together.

For Warsaw grouper you see how wide the confidence intervals are. The model converged but the confidence intervals are too wide to really make any useful patterns out of it, and it is probably not a good species to use in this model. Speckled hind was a little better. We see a decrease from 2007. This is again all catch combined. I couldn't separate discard from kept catch.

There seems to be an increase in Statistical Zone 32, sort of a modal shape; again, 34, too much uncertainty to really find it useful. So now we have a statistical model that we can use to estimate catch-per-unit effort and we have come up with as accurate an estimate of effort as we can, but we need to find a way to expand those estimates to the entire fishery.

Of course, we don't have an observer on every boat so whatever information we have are going to come from trip tickets. That's all we have and so there has to be some sort of information on that trip ticket that we can use and relate to hook hours. We just have to have this estimate of hook hours for each of those temporal/spatial strata that I showed.

And then if we do, we can take the model CPUE estimates of discards and apply them and estimate discards for the entire fishery. We have some missing cells. We can fill in these missing cells with the GLM, so for red snapper I have done that. Those are the data points and these are the predicted discards per ten hook hours for red snapper.

Of course, this is the point estimate and there are confidence intervals that go along with this. Each one of these values has an uncertainty estimate with it. So now if we can estimate hook hours for the entire fishery in each of these cells, we can just multiply the matrices and you wind up with the total number of discards for the fishery for this matrix.

Well, I'm optimistic about finding this index of effort. On the X-axis you have trip length, which is the total number of days that the vessel – you just subtract the day it returned from the day it left and you get the total trip days. Then if you plot the total amount of hook hours exerted by that vessel during that trip, this is the relationship you get and it is rather tight.

I was surprised. It's a lot better for Statistical Zones 30 and 31 than 32 and 34. There may be some reason for that that I'm not accounting for, and I'll talk about that in just a second. But you may wonder – you remember if we plot hook hours versus fishing time at each station, it is kind

of noisy. And then you plot hook hours versus total trip days, and it is a better relationship. You may say, well, trip days has less resolution; what is that, what is going on?

I think we're taking advantage of just a mathematical artifact. You have some data points that are above the regression line and below so there are some errors there. But when you sum these across an entire trip, they tend to cancel one another out, and it provides for a better relationship. If we can estimate hook hours for each trip based on this model, then you go back and apply it to this matrix and you can estimate discards for the entire fishery in each year.

Now, this, of course, assumes that you can model the catch-per-unit effort, and that would work for red snapper. It wouldn't work for Warsaw grouper, but for species you can model it would work quite well. There is something funky going on with these graphs. If you look at trip lengths of Day 7, these points drop down here, and you see it in the upper statistical zones, too.

This is just a handful of data points so it could be in that random noise, but it is causing me to be suspicious. I'm not sure why that is. I went back and I looked at how many reels were being set on each of these trips, how many hooks per reel, the total fishing time. All that is about the same. The only difference is trips of this length are making fewer sets than trips of greater length or shorter length.

Frank and I haven't quite figured that out yet, but it is something we need to explore some more. There is some variability going on and there are some patterns down here in this graph that we're just not accounting for, which is all fodder for future work. What we need to do is acquire the trip ticket information for the entire fishery and try and use our catch-per-unit effort estimates to get discards for the entire fishery.

As I said, we need to refine those effort index models and try to figure out or explain as much of this variability as we possibly can. Then when we do that, there is still going to be some noise around this regression line, and then there is some noise from these CPUE estimates. It should be rather straightforward to combine those uncertainties and propagate them and wind up with an estimate of discards with a standard error that you could use to stick into your stock-recruitment models – I'm assuming you all use some sort of Bayesian Model – and that would define your prior distribution.

You could use actual direct estimates of discards as opposed to some multiplier that you're applying to landed catch or basing it on logbooks, which frequently fall into suspicion. Then, finally, what we need to do is increase our sample size for some of those statistical zones to get a better idea of the relationship between hook hours and trip length. That's about all I wanted to present today, so I'll be happy to take any questions.

DR. DUVAL: Thank you very much to both these folks for the presentation. Are there questions? Ben.

MR. HARTIG: If you'd go back to the effort by water depth – I thank both of you for putting this together. This information is going to be vital when we go through these data workshops for a number of these species. But one of the things that really jumped out at me in this presentation

was 120 feet is where you really start getting some changes in discard mortalities, and a lot of that effort in this study is 120 feet and deeper.

That was kind of alarming to me and that was a big point that I got out of this that we're probably getting some significantly higher discard rates based on the water depths fished to this fleet. That was one of the things that jumped out at me. The other thing is when you go back and you start using either the trip tickets – and you didn't mention the logbook data – I would suggest that you use the logbook data because I know effort from my snapper grouper trips is much better on my logbooks than it is for the trip tickets.

Many times the fish house fills out the trip tickets for the fisherman without even asking him how much time he was on the water at least in my area. When I get home and I fill out my logbook, those hours fished is as accurate as I can get to the time that I put in. I make that suggestion.

DR. RABORN: That's good to know. On the trip tickets they have the date you left and the date you returned, but on your logbooks you probably have the time and –

MR. HARTIG: Yes, we have hours fished.

DR. RABORN: Yes, you actually write it down; okay, good deal.

MR. WAUGH: Thanks for the presentation. We're obviously very interested in speckled hind and Warsaw, and could you just discuss that. I couldn't get a clear understanding of if you think we can generate estimates of what the total number of discards are for those two species; and if not, why not?

DR. RABORN: I don't think you can. They just didn't catch enough, for instance, Warsaw grouper. We caught ten or fifteen out of over 3,000 attempts, and so your dataset is 99 percent zeros. Negative binomial will handle zeros but it won't handle that many zeros, and so you see how wide these confidence intervals are.

This is 0.25, Warsaw grouper, for ten hook hours with this amount of confidence intervals; well, if you turn that into actual fishing time, what that says is – I just did the calculation on the back of an envelope before I came here – it takes about 60 hours of actual fishing time to catch a Warsaw grouper, and that estimate is highly uncertain. I'm not really going to be able to speak to patterns in discard rates for Warsaw grouper, unfortunately.

MR. WAUGH: Okay, so with this effort of observer, which is a considerable effort particularly in our area, the catches of Warsaw and speckled hind are so rare that we can't even estimate what is being caught?

DR. RABORN: More of less, yes. One thing I could try, I can try a logistical model and look at the probability of catching a Warsaw grouper, but in my experience that is probably not going to salvage this either.

DR. DUVAL: Other questions for Scott and Frank? If not, thank you, gentlemen, very much. As Ben indicated, this is incredibly valuable information and has great utility for use in our future stock assessments. Do you have any other comments?

MR. HELIES: I want to thank Jack McGovern who was our technical monitor on this project and the Science Center for the three years worth of funding. We really appreciate it.

DR. DUVAL: The next item on our agenda is a review of commercial catches versus quotas, and I think Jack is going to take us through that.

DR. McGOVERN: This is from our website. I just copied it into a Word Document, and this is very similar to the spreadsheet that we get from the Science Center for the landings and where we are with the various ACLs. These are data that we got from the Science Center two weeks ago, and we were expecting an update probably today or tomorrow. We get an update from them about every two weeks.

These represent data through August 23rd. To let you know, we closed the deepwater complex which does not include snowy grouper, and the porgy complex which does not include red porgy. They both close on September 8th. The gray triggerfish closed I think it was yesterday, right – no, today, gray triggerfish closes today.

Yellowtail snapper is not closing. We have gotten new information from the Science Center that indicates that does not need to be closed. Based on this spreadsheet, we see gray triggerfish is at 87 percent; yellowtail snapper is at 87 percent as well, but we're going to get new information and that may change.

Other things to notice on this spreadsheet, gag is at 73 percent. We have requested projections for gag. Vermilion snapper, that is at 53 percent; and black sea bass is at about 41 percent. We have requested projections from the Science Center on all those. Last year vermilion snapper closed at the end of September. We don't know if we're going to see something similar this year or not, so we'll find out soon. That is pretty much it on that.

The other thing I wanted to point out in this spreadsheet is golden tilefish. You see golden tilefish, 434,000 pounds have been landed. That is about 80 percent of the new ACL, which will be specified in Regulatory 12 at 441,295 pounds. If everything goes well, we'll open up golden tilefish later, maybe in October, and the trip limit will be 300 pounds; because if 75 percent of the quota is met before September 1st, the trip limit is 300 pounds.

DR. DUVAL: Are there any questions for Jack? Ben.

MR. HARTIG: Jack, on that deepwater grouping we have, is it the gray tile or the blueline tilefish that is driving that closure? When we discussed all this, I don't know that we knew that we had that big fishery that was occurring in the Carolinas at that time. Of course, the SSC came up with a 500,000 pound ABC. That changes the dynamics of that quite a bit. I think probably we'll have to revisit that and look at some of these groupings we have. I have certainly got some ideas and I'm looking at some of them; the jack complex as well.

DR. McGOVERN: I don't have the breakdown of all the species in there, but blueline tilefish certainly dominates the landings in that complex. If you look back in time, you see that blueline tilefish kind of took off after the snowy grouper trip limit was put into place a few years ago. I think there was a shift in effort to that species.

DR. DUVAL: Yes, and I think also with the upcoming assessment we have for blueline tilefish next year in 2013, that is probably an opportunity to reconsider that particular species grouping and perhaps remove it. I know I've received some comments about it is probably unfair to folks who are fishing on the rest of the other species in that complex, that this one is certainly driving everything and driving when we close that particular complex. Gregg.

MR. WAUGH: Jack, thanks for this table and keeping it updated. That's very helpful. We send a lot of people there. The through date on there; is that landings as of that date or is that the date that the spreadsheet is updated?

DR. McGOVERN: That's the date that the landings are through from the Science Center.

MS. BADEMAN: If we can, I'd like to talk a little bit about yellowtail; you know, the closure that didn't actually happen, which will probably happen in a couple of weeks, a month, whenever the ACL is met. I think that was a big surprise to the people in the Keys. I know there is an assessment waiting in the wings, that is finished and that needs some review. I would like to talk about what we can do to get that assessment reviewed in a timely fashion and get the ACL increased if there is room to do that.

DR. DUVAL: I might ask John if he can perhaps comment on this. I think there might be some plan in the wings for both the Gulf and the South Atlantic SSCs to review the yellowtail assessment and provide some advice on that. John.

MR. CARMICHAEL: There is a plan in the works for a contingent or our SSC basically to go down and meet with the Gulf SSC. It is like October 8th or something – 10th, yes. During their review, which was already planned, of the yellowtail snapper, we're going to send our SSC down there for that portion of their meeting.

For one thing it will get it done about two weeks sooner than waiting for our SSC to look at it, which is later in the month. But even more importantly than that, by having both SSCs look at it together will avoid a possible scenario where one SSC comes up with a slightly different P-star, overall ABC/ACL/OFL recommendations than the other SSC, which likely could have led to a much greater delay than even if we had just waited for our SSC to look at it as scheduled. We're expecting that they'll be able to come out with an overall recommendation there in early October.

DR. DUVAL: Which means that we would see something to review in December, correct, or no?

MR. CARMICHAEL: Well, yes, you would get something in December but I suppose that Roy had ways of dealing with it perhaps before then if necessary to change potential closures.

DR. CRABTREE: Yes, if you want to implement an increase in the ACL effective this year, you're going to have to ask for an emergency rule at this meeting. I guess there are a couple of questions. One would be to Bonnie and the Science Center as to whether we have an estimate of how much of the quota has been caught now, because it has been revised since the table Jack put up, so we can get some sense of how many pounds are left.

Then I guess the other question would be to Luiz as to whether he can give us some indication as to how much the catch levels might be expected to go up under the new assessment. Then I think the council could ask for an emergency rule now to implement our ABC Control Rule when we get the new ABC from the SSC on or about October 10th, and do that. If we wait until December, obviously it will be too late to get anything done.

DR. DUVAL: Yes, so I think we'll probably have a more in-depth discussion about this when we come to Regulatory Amendment 13 because we're going to be talking about updating of additional ACLs based on potentially updated MRIP information. I think if we can hold off on discussing this further until that time, I think that would be the best course of action at this point.

MR. WAUGH: One thing that might be helpful, if you remember back at December when we had an issue with vermilion quota monitoring, Mike Cahall gave a detailed explanation of what happened and explained how they were putting in mechanisms to ensure that didn't happen again. I think it would be helpful to hear at this time just what happened and what changes have been put in place to ensure this doesn't happen in the future.

If it is a problem getting the landings data from the state of Florida, that is one issue; if it is a problem in how the data are manipulated after the Center gets it and just to ensure that this doesn't happen and to know that there is not a bleed over into other species, if it is just specific to yellowtail.

DR. PONWITH: As you know, we implemented the new commercial landings system starting in June. As we discussed at the last meeting, we had a couple of months of tuning that we were doing on that as we were actually using it. One of the things that needed the tuning was the way we managed for empty cells, basically missing information.

Whenever a dealer does not submit either a landings report or a no landings report, that represents an empty cell, and we need to mathematically fill that cell. As in the past, what we would do is look at the landings rates from the year before and then compare the landings rates from the year before with the year to date this year, do some adjustments on that and use that to fill that empty cell.

The reason we are so anxious to get timely reporting from the dealers is the fewer cells that need to be filled the more concrete those landings data are. In other words, it minimizes the true landings data versus estimated landings for missing data. Point number one; timely, timely reporting is just absolutely critical for reducing the amount of uncertainty in this process.

Now, what happened was we have dealers who have multiple permit numbers. There is a federal permit number and there are a number of state identification numbers. What we discovered in the correction factors, the estimation factors is that the cross-walk table that we have that link all of those identification numbers to one unique dealer was not as complete as we thought it was.

There were cases where a dealer didn't report at all that was accounted for. There were also cases where a dealer reported but they reported under one identification number that wasn't able to be linked to a master identification. That created some changes in the estimation process. The corrections for that went into effect a week ago; and when they reran those numbers that is when we got the second estimate of those estimated numbers added to the true landings.

Those numbers were considerably lower. In other words, the way it was set up before created an overestimate of the estimated part of the landings. What we're doing to correct this is, first of all, we'll get the Science Center people together with SERO and hold a meeting between the two shops to come up with a sketch of a plan for how to end once and for all this identification problem by creating a complete and thorough cross-walk table that links these.

Once that is done, we'll get together with the commissions and the states through the commissions to agree on how we're going to be working to identify these individual dealers so it solves that problem. The answer is we know what caused the problem. Very specifically it was dealer identification and we're working to resolve that now.

DR. DUVAL: I know Gregg has a followup and I saw Ben as well. I guess I'm just curious how this issue that you found out in terms of the unique dealer identification numbers has impacted some of the past projections. We have had some other species that closed earlier.

DR. PONWITH: Right; when we reran, we reran all of them and the yellowtail was the one with the biggest problem. The rest of them, there were not as many changes. I don't know why specifically whether it was those dealers who had multiple permits, but yellowtail was the one that had the biggest changes.

MR. WAUGH: That was part of it; the other is the timing issue. Right now I guess they're required to report monthly. Are we doing any law enforcement efforts to ensure that we get those reports and then backfill to see what that does to the projections once you get the data? I assume if they're reporting to you, they're not reporting to the state of Florida either.

DR. PONWITH: Correct; and as we had discussed before, the approach that we wanted to take was to look for the most egregious cases of late reporting for the dealers and work with them as a first step and then work beyond that. Ultimately what is going to really dramatically improve this is when the actual regulation requiring the weekly reporting comes into effect.

But you're exactly right; that has the same issue of it's only as effective as the compliance with that requirement is; so again the fewer data we have to estimate the lower the uncertainty of the data. If we have true landings from everybody, if a hundred percent of the people are reporting their landings, the projections based on those burn rates through the quota will be more precise.

DR. CRABTREE: I was going to ask what the current estimate of yellowtail landings is.

DR. PONWITH: I will have that by noon today. They're still rerunning those numbers and I'll have it later on today.

MR. HARTIG: Well, that was exactly what I was going to ask. Jack mentioned we were right on the cusp. The two weeks when you give your next report to Jack, if we're going to have that by full council for everything, I would like to see it for everything if we possibly could, but yellowtail is certainly critical. If we can get an update during full council of the next two weeks' wave of data, that would be helpful.

DR. DUVAL: I agree; that would be helpful. Are there any other questions with regard to the status of commercial catches? If not, I think we will move on to our next item, which is the status of recreational catches.

DR. PONWITH: I'm going to walk through these presentations and then what I'd like you to do is look at these in the way that the graphs and the tables are set up. We've talked about this a couple of years ago and we made some revisions to the way these graphs and tables were set up. I want to make sure that these are addressing the questions that you have rather than being presented in this way from the standpoint of just pure legacy.

For example, Jack just put up a simple table that had all of the species listed with what the present landings were, what the ACL was and what percentage toward those landings we are. My question to you is would it be a cleaner presentation to be able to do something like that for you rather than showing the historic catch, the historic effort updated to the most recent wave estimates? Keep that in mind as you look through these.

This is a revised version of the presentation from what was in the briefing book. I found a couple of the graphics were mislabeled as mixing up the gutted weight versus the whole weight so those are corrected in this version. Just the caveat; the MRFSS landings have been converted into MRIP landings, as you're all very aware, but the catches that the ACL and the quotas – you know, the ACLs haven't been converted yet because we're going through that process of calibrating those.

So to make sure we're not looking at apples to cumquats, we are presenting these as the MRFSS recreational landings so that the ACL is relevant to those landings; so just keep that in mind. The first slide is black sea bass, and what you will see here is for 2012/2013 we have 248,000 pounds. These data are from the SERO Website, which include landings south of Cape Hatteras only. The 2012/2013 are preliminary data and basically include through Wave 3, which will be the case for all of these slides.

What we did was you will recall we had effort on one chart and landings on another, and what we have done is created a stacked bar chart for the landings and then put the effort units off to the side in angler days so that it is all in one slide. Again, the question I'll ask you at the end of

this is, is the time series of value to see relative to the contemporary landings or would you rather see the landings by all species against the ACL in one chart or one table.

All right, for gag grouper, the gutted weight is just under 40,000; and here is where we are relative to the ACL. For the next slide we have greater amberjack, 148,000 pounds; and here we are relative to the ACL. And the next slide we have mutton snapper coming in around 111 or 112,000 pounds. The next slide, for red porgy we're just under 30,000 pounds.

The next slide; for red snapper we still have some; snowy grouper, these are in numbers of fish. We've got about a thousand. Golden tilefish, about 3,500 in numbers; and then vermilion snapper, about 15,000; and then the yellowtail snapper, about 71,000. Do you have a question?

MR. HAYMANS: I like seeing the historical but what is the problem with going ahead and dropping a singular table up front that has what you were talking about with everything in one place?

DR. PONWITH: So what I'm hearing from that is that the historic is still of value, the stacked bar graphs are all right you – I mean, I personally think they're a lot clearer to be able to show what the totals are, but what you're saying then is to have one table that shows all the species, just the contemporary landings and the ACL and the percentage on one sheet and then go through the historic?

DR. DUVAL: I think that would be helpful in terms of having of a summary up front, but I do still like seeing the landings broken down by mode as well as historically because I think that gives us a better sense of how effort may have changed over the years, which can be pinpointed to changes in the economy, significant weather events, things like that.

I just have a couple of questions, Bonnie. I noticed that we still don't have any headboat landings that are included in any of the graphs for the species. How is the Science Center taking into account potential headboat landings for these species? We're at September and there is no information in the graphs with regard to headboat landings. Are you projecting those based on previous years' landings at this point? Could you elaborate on that?

DR. PONWITH: Yes, what we're doing is taking preliminary headboat information and using those to generate projections that are going to SERO, and those are used the quota management. When the data are finalized, we generate the final estimates which come out some time shortly after the close of the year. In fact, I think this year they were ready by February after the close of the year.

DR. DUVAL: Help me to understand why we just don't see any of the headboat landings when we go through this information at each council meeting and you're showing all the other modes; why we can't see any preliminary headboat landings?

DR. PONWITH: I think we can include those, but they would be caveated along with the rest of them that they are preliminary.

DR. DUVAL: I don't know how other members of the committee feel, but I feel like it would be very helpful to be able to see that information. If we are looking at recreational landings broken down by mode, personally I find it a little bit frustrating that it is September and we don't have a clear sense of exactly what the contribution might be from that particular sector. Are there other folks that might have questions? Gregg.

MR. WAUGH: Thanks, Bonnie, for that presentation. The historical with time series is great. One thing that would be helpful I think is only show the line for ACL going back in time when it was in place and not running it back through the whole time series, because that gives the impression then when people are looking at it that we may have exceeded an ACL when there wasn't an ACL in place.

DR. PONWITH: I think on those slides the ACL was actually shown as the dot on the top of the chart, and so it is only for the current year. The lines are actually the effort and the effort scale is on the right side.

MR. WAUGH: Okay, one other question that we run into sometimes is if someone goes to the MRFSS or MRIP website they get one estimate of the private catch, and then you do some sort of manipulation to generate an estimate that is then used. Has that methodology been reviewed? If that is a better way of estimating the private recreational catch, then why isn't that methodology used nationally? We run into the position of if someone were to go to the MRFSS/MRIP website they get one number and yet we're using a different number to track the recreational ACL.

DR. PONWITH: You're right and it comes down to some post stratification based on the way the data are collected, estimated and then broken down for quota management. I don't have a list of the post stratification work that we have to do to generate the information that we need for the quota management, but what I can do is come up with that list; and when we talk about this at the next meeting walk you through that post stratification and how these data differ from what is up on the website.

DR. DUVAL: I think that would be very helpful actually. Gregg, did you have a follow-up question?

MR. WAUGH: Yes, and whether or not it has been reviewed, that methodology has been reviewed and then is it being used in other regions or is there something special about us in the southeast that we have a different methodology that national MRFSS/MRIP doesn't feel should be used nationally.

DR. DUVAL: Bonnie, do you think you can address that at the next meeting? I think that would be great, certainly, and would probably help the public to understand why there might be two different sets of numbers that are being used. Are there any other questions? Jack.

DR. McGOVERN: I just wanted to point out that Doug indicated he would like to see a table that shows the landings and we are with the ACL and the percentage. We have that on our

website. There is a page that shows the landings from the Science Center we have and the percentage of the ACL that has been met.

MR. HARTIG: Bonnie, can you walk me through the numbers of black sea bass from the – first, 2012 and 2013 we have a grand total of 95,769; okay, and then we go to your black sea bass recreational landings. Now, in mine you have got the ACL number on the far right and then you've got a 313,231 on mind, but then you've got a different number on yours.

What is that number; is that the actual harvest limit for the recreational fishery that year due to an overage or how is that working? I'm not sure what all these numbers mean. Okay, I'm just trying to look at the two different tables and figure out what is what. Okay, what is that number between the 409,000 – well, it's 165,134; what is that number? That is what is left; okay. And we have closed the fishery and based on the projections from the next wave; is that why we have closed the fishery?

DR. PONWITH: That is correct.

DR. DUVAL: And I remember at the last meeting I think Dr. Strelcheck gave us a presentation on estimating black sea bass recreational landings and when the season might close, and there were three different methodologies. I don't recall off the top of my head if we had significant input on which methodology, but it seems to me that in going back and looking at things from the last meeting that this matches up – at least the projected date of closure for the recreational fishery matches up fairly well with what was projected from the SARIMA Model that Andy went through. Roy.

DR. CRABTREE: They always bring me a range, high catch rate, low catch rate, and we usually go with something in the middle, but there is an awful lot of projection involved in things like sea bass. If the season gets even shorter next year, we're going to be in a position similar to red snapper in the Gulf where we will project the closure date before the fishery even opens because we won't get any data in season. We have been doing that for years now with red snapper in the Gulf.

DR. DUVAL: Any other questions or comments about the recreational catches? Okay, if not, we're going to move on to our next agenda item, which is the status of amendments that are under formal review, and I think Jack usually takes us through this.

MR. HARTIG: Can I ask one question? Bonnie, can you send us the new ones; have you already done that? I haven't looked at my e-mail.

MR. AMICK: Roy, if I understand correctly, then you're saying there that the projections for the closure next year, before even the sea bass will start you will be able to tell us that right off the bat, then?

DR. CRABTREE: Well, it is possible. It just depends what the total catch is this year, but we get June landings in August usually; and if we think the fishery is going to close before August,

then we would have to project the closure date essentially based on historical patterns. It possible, but it really depends on what it finally looks like this year and what they project.

MR. HAYMANS: So, Roy, if that winds up being the case; can you put the projected closure date in the opening announcements and let the fishermen know, well, it is going to be a two-month or three-month season and that is going to be it; you know, up front?

DR. CRABTREE: That is what we have been doing in the Gulf is putting the closure date out before the fishery opens so everybody knows; and so if that is how it works out next year, yes, we could put it out in advance.

DR. LANEY: Madam Chairman, I'm not on your committee but a question for Bonnie. Bonnie, in the shore column I noticed there is amberjack landings listed for 2011 and 2012. Are there that many amberjack caught from shore?

DR. PONWITH: Yes, that is a lot of shore. I can look into those landings but what happens is when you have a rare event; and if one person catches an amberjack from shore and it is a rare event because of the estimation procedures, those rare events sometimes have very, very high CVs. My expectation is that what has happened here. That is such an odd duck in the data that it has extremely high CVs.

MR. BURGESS: I got a call from a fisherman and a charterboat captain about the closure of black sea bass and he was quite upset, but he did speak to the fact that he wasn't expecting this and didn't know about it. As far as projecting the season at the beginning, that could be possibly a benefit to this individual to address his specific concerns about a business decision. In that situation I could see it would be helpful.

MR. JOLLEY: Just to Bonnie; is that likely a pier-caught fish; do you consider pier shore?

DR. PONWITH: Yes.

MR. PHILLIPS: Yes, and I think it would help everybody if we could get some projections or tentative projections because I'm hearing a lot of people and reading a lot of this stuff that people are really unhappy. They plan a trip and then it gets closed; and if you can at least give them a heads-up on we think it is going to close X date, I think it would really help the public out a lot.

DR. DUVAL: I would tend to agree. I'm sure I've received as many upset phone calls and e-mails as probably anyone else around this table, and part of it is that folks can't plan for their business and that is very difficult. Gregg.

MR. WAUGH: One thing particularly with black sea bass that I think would be helpful for people to think about is you have a recreational ACT, annual catch target. The way that annual catch target is supposed to work is you should then set your management measures to try to keep your harvest at that annual catch target.

Remember back when we were talking about looking at bag limits, we had some significantly lower bag limits that were suggested that would reduce the catch and perhaps keep the target around your annual catch target, but the feeling was at that time that a low bag limit was not acceptable.

There should not be a surprise that when you start a season where you have got a quota and you have got management measures that you know have no chance of limiting your catch anywhere near to your annual catch target; no one should be surprised if there is a closure. There are two ways to look at this; either you just – once we tally up what the average is, if there is no increase in the ACL for black sea bass next year, then I think the numbers 409,000 pounds, whatever the overage is comes off of that and that is what you're left with.

You just tell people at the start that it is going to be very short and it is going to get shorter; or, you step back and look at your management and if people want a slightly longer season, then you're going to have to dramatically lower some of these bag limits. There are two ways to approach it; you know, is tell people when under a high black sea bass bag limit like we have now, that you're going to reach closure. If you want a longer season, then you need a lower bag limit. It is the arithmetic to quote someone.

MR. HARTIG: Well, what is the bag limit now? We lowered it significantly already. It's five?

DR. DUVAL: Five.

MR. HARTIG: Okay, well, yes, there is room there.

DR. DUVAL: Thanks, Gregg, for that reminder about how our accountability measures and our annual catch target is set up for recreational black sea bass. I will just remind folks that on the agenda later on we'll have a discussion of Regulatory Amendment 14, I believe, which contains a number of measures that the council is going to considering and the committee will be considering with regard to bag limits and fishing years for a number of species, so that might be something folks want to think about. Roy.

DR. CRABTREE: Well, just to point out that if you do want to do something with the bag limit for sea bass and get it done before the season opens in June, we need to get moving and start making decisions now because that is not that far off.

DR. DUVAL: Okay, have we worn out this topic for now? If so, I will ask Jack to go ahead and update us on the status of amendments.

DR. McGOVERN: The first item is the Red Snapper Emergency Rule. This was requested by the council in a letter dated June 19th. We announced the opening of the 2012 commercial and recreational red snapper fishing seasons on August 27th. The recreational fishing will open for two consecutive weekends made up of Friday, Saturdays and Sundays beginning this Friday, September 14th, and then the following weekend it will be open September 21st.

The bag limit will be one fish per person and there will be no minimum size limit. The commercial season will open up on September 17th and will be open for a week. The daily trip limit will be 50 pounds and there will be no minimum size limit. We will be sending out a Fishery Bulletin probably later today or tomorrow that discusses the data collection and links to the various state websites and indicates where they will have freezers and what they will be doing and that sort of thing.

Regulatory Amendment 12; this deals with golden tilefish and would increase the commercial quota to 541,295 pounds and it will increase the recreational ACL from 1,578 fish to 3,091 fish. The proposed rule for this published on July 20th with the comment period ending on August 20th. The final rule package is under review in the region.

We think that possibly it could open up maybe in October. Based on information from the Science Center, there will be 107,215 pounds available for harvest in the fall. As I discussed before, the trip limit would be 300 pounds. The recreational sector won't open up because the recreational data we have indicates that the recreational ACL – we closed the golden tilefish recreationally earlier this year and we're slightly over the ACL this year.

The Amendment 18 transferability amendment established the black sea bass pot endorsement and also had an action in it to allow the endorsements to be transferred. This action was disapproved because the incorrect preferred alternative was identified in the amendment. We have a separate transferability amendment for this and the notice of availability for the endorsement action published in the Federal Register on August 22nd.

The comment period ends on October 22nd. The proposed rule for the transferability amendment published on September 7th and the comment period ends September 25th. Amendment 20A; this considers alternatives that would define and revoke inactive wreckfish shares and redistribute revoked shares to active shareholders. The final rule for this is under review in headquarters.

And then the last item, Amendment 18B; this would establish an endorsement program for golden tilefish. The amendment was submitted by the council on August 28th. The NOA and proposed rule packages are under review in the region.

DR. DUVAL: Are there any questions for Jack regarding any of the amendments? Mel.

MR. BELL: Just real quick; as you can imagine we have been getting a lot of “what if” questions related to the red snapper fishery; so, what if I stay out overnight, what if I – you know, these things about multiple – it is a daily limit for the recreational and what we have been telling people is that is kind of between you and law enforcement in terms of what you can prove or not prove. Also, we have gotten questions about commercial and I have a recreational license and those sorts of things, but we've been just of giving them the best answers we can, but I don't know if you guys are getting those sorts of questions as well.

DR. McGOVERN: Well, a commercial fisherman, when the commercial season is not open, they can retain the recreational bag limit. That is one question. There are specific regulations with regard to for-hire headboat and charter where they have to demonstrate that they have been out

on multiple day trips, and they have to have a receipt to prove that they were, and they can keep more than one bag limit. I think Monica has looked at this. I think it is three bag limits for the headboat sector?

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: Right.

DR. McGOVERN: And two for for-hire. With regard to private keeping multiple day bag limits, that is not very well described in the regulations. I think they still would have to somehow demonstrate that they were out for multiple days. Monica may be able to speak to that.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: Well, Jack is right, I think they would have to. Maybe what would be helpful is if we can think about putting up a frequently asked questions kind of thing in response to those kinds of questions and that might help people a lot; and then you could direct them potentially to the website which could have those questions or at least you would have the answers to those questions in front of you, too, so you could respond to everyone. I know that people in the region have been getting those phone calls, too, because we have been kicking around those kinds of scenarios.

DR. McGOVERN: And we do have a frequently asked questions thing on our website for red snapper.

MS. BROUWER: One thing I wanted to mention before I forget is we did get some inquiries as to whether captain and crew for for-hire vessels were allowed to keep their bag limit. The answer is yes for red snapper. This is something that is not consistent for all snapper grouper species and something that will come up for discussion later in the committee meeting to see if the committee would like to extend that restriction for other snapper grouper species besides the existing ones that I believe are golden tilefish; the species in 17B; is that correct, Jack?

DR. McGOVERN: It's actually the species addressed in Amendment 16, and it is gag and the whole shallow water – well, the grouper aggregate and vermilion snapper. That includes the tilefish species.

DR. DUVAL: I did just want to give a good shout-out to the states. I think they have put forth a tremendous effort in terms of trying to get ready for this red snapper reopening. There has been a lot coordination and a lot of calls, and I think the states have really stepped up the plate, so I will just shout-out to everybody there. We're going to take a ten-minute break before we get into the rest of the agenda items.

(Whereupon, a recess was taken.)

DR. DUVAL: All right, everybody, let's start gathering around again. The next item on our agenda is consideration of an emergency rule to delay the start of the golden tilefish season. I think, Ben, you might have had a question about tilefish before we get into that debate.

MR. HARTIG: Yes, I guess it is a pretty lead-in. At the last meeting we talked about the fishery possibly opening up in the last week of August and here we are into October. There are a

number of Octobers where I only get to fish five days because of weather constraints. It is going to be tough. Some way we have to find a vehicle that is quicker to reopen these fisheries.

Somehow we have to open more quickly than we did at this time for golden tilefish, for sure, and how we do that, if there is a special way to do that, I don't know how other councils deal with that. I can remember in the past when I was a council member before that there was some stuff in the Pacific thing. There was some vehicle in management they used to move things along more quickly than the other amendments and things that we have. Emergency action, maybe, would that have been any quicker this time. However we can do it more quickly, we need to do that. I look to you, Roy.

DR. CRABTREE: And it is not the reopening of the fishery part that is the problem. We can reopen a fishery very quickly. With yellowtail snapper it actually did close this morning for one minute and reopened at – I think it closed at 12:01 and reopened at 12:02. We can reopen very quickly. The problem is raising the TAC and we did that through a framework amendment and then it went out for public comment and all that.

I agree with you completely that it is too slow and cumbersome to meet our needs anymore, and we need probably to see what Monica would comment. I think it would be very good if we could find a way to speed up our framework amendments. The problem gets into notice and comment.

With Regulatory Amendment 12, after the council submitted it to us, we had to put out a proposed rule and then there was a comment period and then we have to respond to the final rule comments and all that, and that is what takes the time.

The only way I know to speed that up is to waive notice and comment and go straight to a final rule, but I don't know, Monica, if there is a way to build into our framework a series of things, for example, increasing ACLs, that we would routinely waive notice and comment and go straight to final rule.

Then the other part of it is there is what they call the cooling-off period, which normally final rule publishes, it is effective 30 days later. Now, in this case with golden tile I think we're waiving that cooling-off period so where we are now, Jack, is we need the final rule to publish and then fishery will reopen. I hope that is going to happen very quickly.

On our end of things the only way I see to speed up this would be if there was some way to have a series of things that we wanted to move quickly and that we would routinely waive notice and comment and go straight to final rule. I guess, Monica, is there a way you think we could get to that?

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: Bob and I have talked a little bit about this in terms of adjustments to ACLs and those sorts of things, if there was a quicker way to do it. There may be. I think that I would be happy to get with folks in my office to see if there was a way to shorten up that process.

I think that we're pretty religious about allowing the public their opportunity to comment and the Administrative Procedure Act requires that. You have to allow public comment. Whether you could do that at one council meeting, that is a good question. I think the New England Council has gotten into a little trouble in the past by trying to shorten it up so much that it was determined there wasn't adequate public comment.

I would be glad to work with Gregg with anybody at council staff to see if there was some sort of framework procedure that you all could look at and maybe put in via a plan amendment so that in these kinds of situations things could happen in a much quicker fashion. I'll start looking into that.

DR. CRABTREE: Now, in the case of an emergency rule it is often not that difficult to waive notice and comment because you have said it is an emergency. The problem is – and I think we're going to get into some of that here with golden tilefish; is it really an emergency, is it a new and unforeseen situation?

I think in the case of golden tile, if we had gotten new and unforeseen information that shows we could raise the quota, we might could have done it through an emergency action at that time, but that wasn't the decision that was made for whatever reason, and I don't really recall why. I agree completely with you, Ben, the system is too cumbersome right now and we're having a great deal of trouble with it, particularly with increasing ACLs.

Typically when we're increasing ACLs, we don't get all that much public comment and what you do get is generally, good, do it. Now, if you're cutting ACTs and things, I think you would get a lot of flack from the public if you didn't allow notice and comment. I don't know if there is a solution, but I agree with you about the problem.

MR. HARTIG: One thing I have thought about as you talked and Monica talked is maybe we get together with Bob and maybe we put together the bottlenecks in the process and maybe we go to the next CCC meeting in Washington and we bring this up for discussion then and trying to get NOAA to buy into the problems we're having and maybe we can get a solution at that end.

DR. CRABTREE: Well, one of the problems that we have talked about over the years; you know, the Act allows you to do interim rules, but you can only do interim rules to reduce overfishing, so you can only do them for a stock that you have declared to be undergoing overfishing.

What we really need is some sort of interim rule process that allows you to waive notice and comment and move quickly but has more flexibility. If we were cutting a TAC or reducing an ACL, we could do an interim rule and do it quickly, but if you're raising it you don't have that same vehicle available.

DR. DUVAL: Yes, this kind of leads into a little bit of the discussion that we're probably going to have once we get to Regulatory Amendment 13, but for now let's keep the discussion going on golden tilefish. Our next agenda item is consideration of an emergency rule to delay the start of the golden tilefish season, and, Ben, if you wouldn't mind just outlining some of the concerns

that have been raised about when Amendment 18B is going to be in place and sort of the implications that has for the fishery.

MR. HARTIG: I have been contact with Roy and Jack both as we've gone through this process trying to figure out when Amendment 18B was going to be implemented. When we did this with black sea bass, it was a month delay and that seemed reasonable to allow a month. Now we're going to be into February and maybe not even by then by the time we get 18B done, so you're looking at two months now, which changes the whole dynamics of asking for an emergency rule to delay the season because actually the tile fishermen – and I've talked to all the big players and they have said that they do not want to delay the season for more than a month.

That was the critical time. As you know, they have said that January is an excellent month to get a good price for tilefish in Florida when the grouper is closed, and that is a good substitute for grouper in that area. Some of the dealers don't even ship any of their fish to the north. They all utilize the markets in Florida to distribute that catch, and that is great for Florida consumers because they can have access to a white meat fish during that time.

They want the season to start on the 1st. They don't want the delay, but there is an overarching thing and this is when we will get in to talk about is this an emergency – you know, what constitutes the emergency is could we do something to slow down the season at the beginning such as two weeks on and two weeks off through an emergency action that would slow the fishery down enough to allow the rule to be in place to preserve that 25 percent of the fishery for the hook-and-line fishery.

That is one of the reasons why I have talked to Roy and Jack about this, talking about trying to put something in place that would slow the fishery down enough to keep that hook-and-line part of the quota when the amendment is implemented hopefully in February and that we would be able to have that.

The emergency action to extend the season kind of goes away but the emergency action to deal with something that would slow the fishery down does become important if we're going to try to preserve that portion of the hook-and-line fishery, that 25 percent that we agreed to in this amendment. That's where we are. Now from here back to Roy about what is the emergency and can we do it that way?

DR. CRABTREE: Well, it is tricky and I guess Monica can speak to that. The fact that we have a derby fishery on our hands, I have a hard time saying that is unforeseen. That was the whole purpose of Amendment 18B was to address a derby fishery. We do in theory have a solution on the books right now which is the trip limit reduction. When 75 percent of the quota is caught, it goes to 300 pounds to keep that from happening.

Now, last year and I think maybe the year before that we blew past that trigger so fast that it never kicked in. I have heard the same thing as you about delaying the start date of the season. Nobody supports that and most of them have just said just let it open. I guess the alternative is if we let this go is to do projections and make sure that when we think 75 percent of the quota may

have been caught, that we kick the 300-pound trip limit in. Of course, the tricky part of that is it will be a lot of projection and we could be off a fair amount.

We could potentially kick the trip limit in earlier than we should or later than we should, and how well we can do that really will depend in large part on how timely the dealers are in reporting their landings. This fishery has not had a very good track record with dealers being very conscientious about getting those in.

That is one alternative that avoids an emergency rule would be to try and make sure that we kick that trip limit in, and that might happen before 18B goes in place or it might not. If it did, I think that would maybe keep the whole quota from being caught up. We can see what Monica thinks about this, but I think it is – maybe there is a rationale for an emergency rule, but it is not that straightforward.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: The biggest problem that I see initially with the record for an emergency rule with golden tilefish has to do with the first emergency criterion, which is results from recent unforeseen events or recently discovered circumstances. This all presumes, of course, that Amendment 18B would be approved.

To take you back as kind of in a comparison is when you requested an emergency rule to delay the start of the commercial black sea bass fishing season. Amendment 18A was under review and so the council said assuming Amendment 18A is approved, we would request a delay of the fishing season, but the unforeseen circumstance in that situation was that NMFS did not foresee the 2011 stock assessment report would indicate overfishing was occurring in 2009 and 2010 and that the magnitude of the landings during the 2011 to 2012 fishing year would be so high.

That compounded with a bit of a delay in getting Amendment 18A into the public comment and all that, there was a bit of a delay. Anyway, those coupled together resulted in I think a good rationale that showed there was an unforeseen circumstance or recently discovered circumstance. The problem here is that what we have is just a delay in getting Amendment 18B out for public comment, and the secretary hasn't made a decision on that.

The emergency rule guidance that the Fisheries Service has says that administrative inaction is not a justification for an emergency rule. To me that is a bit of a mountain for the council to climb over to justify an emergency rule, but my ears are open and I would love to hear some discussion on that, if we could hear some perhaps other council members talk about recently discovered circumstances or unforeseen circumstances or something like that to use as a rationale so that we could use the emergency rule procedures set up in the Magnuson Act.

MR. CUPKA: To the point earlier about shooting past the quota and all, maybe Ben can answer this, is this a situation where there is a fairly limited number of dealers handling this product that there might be a little closer checking with them as we get into the year on what the landings are? I know for some species that there is a lot closer monitoring so that we try and avoid some of that, but I don't know how many dealers would be involved in handling this product or whether that is something the Science Center could check with on a more frequent basis once it looks like we getting close to that so that we just don't go shooting by it before they don't report.

MR. HARTIG: Most of the fish go through a limited number of dealers. However, there are some fishermen who are dealers. I know in the past they had not been included in that census of the dealers for any one year. I'm not sure how much fish that adds up to. I only know of one that is a dealer, so I don't know how much that goes – and I can only speak to Florida now.

Once you get into the Carolinas, of course, there are only two or three boats up there that actually longline for tilefish, so I wouldn't think it would be that many dealers to deal with in that area either. It seems like a limited number of dealers, but Roy knows who was late and how many people it was. I don't need to know the names. I would just like to know how many dealers were late and how late were they. Well, we're actually seeing in the last month here that the landings are still going up so that's a real concern that we have got to deal with.

DR. CRABTREE: Well, there are quite a few dealers who are late and some of them were late many times and were quite a bit late. I have shared the list and all of this with law enforcement, and I'm hoping that will prompt a better job next year. Now, given where we are and given the importance of not allowing this quota to all be caught up, given that we do have a 75 percent trigger on the books that drops down a 300-pound trip limit, and given the problems you've had for the last couple of years at blowing by that trigger and not doing it, I think we could make a case to come in and just project when we think that trigger would be hit.

We could go back, I think, and look at last year's catch rate and say if they fish at about the rate of last year and they catch 75 percent of the quota up on this date and we could just right off the bat announce the trip limit is going to kick in there and make some adjustments. Now that might cause them to speed up even more, so nothing is perfect, but we could make a real effort this year to make sure that trip limit kicks in.

But anytime you do projections, they're subject to a lot of uncertainty; so like I said earlier, it could result in that we project that it is going to be caught here and so we kick the trip limit in but we might find out after the fact that it kicked in too early or too late, and then we'd have to figure out what to do about that.

MR. HARTIG: Well, it gets pretty tough here because you've got a fishery that wants to slow the fishery down now. They've said they want to slow down; and now if you're going to give a projection of when it is going to close, that is just going to accentuate the derby even more, which creates even more of a problem.

If we could make the case to get the two weeks on and two weeks off, I think we could accomplish two things. We could slow the season down, which the fishermen want desperately. They want to try and slow the season down and be able to deal with this fishery on a better economical situation where you get more money for your fish by slowing it down.

Then I think we could preserve that 75 percent there with that extension, I'm hoping. I don't want to accentuate the derby; that's probably number one. Then probably number two is I don't want to go over the 75 percent; you know, some way to figure that out. The two weeks on and two weeks off is a chance; but if we can't do that through emergency, then that's not an option.

DR. DUVAL: Bonnie, do you have anything you want to add in terms of being able to super project?

DR. PONWITH: One of the challenges with a projection is if you project out and say the projection results in this being a date and then putting that information out, the very act of putting that information out changes the behavior that the projection is based on, so you end up with kind of a do-loop there.

I absolutely agree having the information to be able to make those management decisions early on is really critical. I think that moving to the weekly reporting is going to be beneficial. I believe that the language that the council has worked on also includes fishermen who are also dealers will be included in that requirement for the weekly electronic reporting.

So there again, instead of subsetting the people that we use to generate the projections from based on the previous year, it is a much more full universe and it will give us stronger projections from the onset. To me the best thing is the requirement for weekly reporting hitting the books and actually going live, but in the meantime there is nothing precluding in anticipation of that happening dealers starting to do that right now.

DR. DUVAL: I guess I have a couple things to say in regard to that. Maybe Gregg can help out here, but in terms of final approval of the dealer amendment we are scheduled to take final action on that Wednesday, but I guess the effective date of when the changes to the regulations would kick in and would actually require the weekly reporting may or may not be January 1st of 2013. Gregg, I don't know if you can clarify that for us.

MR. WAUGH: Right, we will get into some more of the details, but we need to talk about when that final rule is going to be published, what happens in terms of when those permits then become effective. Renewal date, right now they renew on the permit the dealer's birth date. I think the way it is envisioned to be implemented is those new requirements – new permits will be required when they renew, so we could be well into 2014 before everybody has the new permit, which our understanding was we were shooting for as close to January 2013 as we could get. Those are some things that we need to talk about tomorrow.

DR. DUVAL: And I guess the other concern I would have is in Amendment 18B – I mean, if we go ahead and open the fishery January 1st and we're not able to try to limit harvest in some way, it seems like all the safeguards that we tried to set up in 18B become moot. We set aside 25 percent of the ACL for the bandit guys; and even if we closely monitor the landings and are vigilant about doing the projections, but we're still getting to that trigger for the 300-pound trip limit of hitting 75 percent of ACL – I mean, it just seems that we're shortchanging the fishermen and actually the intent of 18B. That's just a concern that I have.

It sounds like we're going to have a little bit more – some of this is contingent upon the discussion that we're going to have tomorrow during the Ad Hoc Data Collection Committee with regard to how quickly the new reporting requirements will get into place, but it is something of a twisted situation here. Ben.

MR. HARTIG: Well, one of the key things that is going to happen this year is that everyone who didn't get an endorsement that fished in the last year or so will still be able to fish, and that is not insignificant. I think, Bonnie, you could probably look at what happened last year to inform your projections for this year. I think that certainly would be the case based on the effort.

Most of the guys, when I talked to them, they said that they didn't think anybody else was going to get in based on the amount it would cost you to put a reel on your boat, knowing the endorsement system was going to be in place, but there are people who were displaced who wouldn't have got an endorsement that certainly could fish this year, which would add about the same effort as we had last year. I think if you informed your projection on how the fishery was prosecuted last year, you'd be probably pretty accurate.

DR. CRABTREE: We will make every effort to ensure that the trip limit reduction occurs at 75 percent. Now, I guess another possibility, although I don't know if this could be worked out, if you wanted to go, for example, to the two weeks on and two weeks off, maybe there is a possible way to squeeze a framework amendment in very quickly, but I believe it would require us to have an additional council meeting.

But if, for example, we could have a one-day, half-day or possibly even a conference call council meeting along about October 15th, if we could get the analyses done on a framework all come together, hold a public hearing, vote it up, we could then publish a proposed rule by the end of October with a 15-day comment period that ends the middle of November, respond to the comments, send it to the Federal Register, final rule in December. That might be possible. If you want to go down that path, we could ask staff to time it out and see if there is any way to make that work, but that is a lot of activity to squeeze in.

MR. HARTIG: Yes, and certainly the next question would be to staff; is that even possible given the workload that you have now? We have got a lot of stuff in the pipeline.

MR. WAUGH: Right, we do and one of the things that we are doing a little differently at this meeting is each committee – when the staff person is preparing the committee report, we will do a timing and task motion that will then be reviewed by the committee chair. That will go out in the draft committee report. That will then be discussed and voted on by full council. Before we adjourn full council, we will take all of those timing and tasks and put them together in that overall timeline and get another motion approving that activity.

Once we have the full picture of what you all would like to see done, we can look at the interaction of those and then it will be up to you all to set your priorities and make absolutely clear everybody is on board with what our priorities are from meeting to meeting. I guess that is a long way of answering that it depends. This is the first item we're talking about. When we get finished in the full council, we will lay it out in a spreadsheet and then that will be a time when we can decide what is feasible over what period of time. That will be up to you all.

MR. HARTIG: Yes, and I think when you mentioned the full council, that just set a light off that we have got fishermen that are going to give testimony. We will hear it in the informal and in

the formal testimony from fishermen. Maybe we ought to just table this for now, put everything together that we need.

We've got an idea from Roy how we may move forward. If there are any other ideas, I would certainly like to hear them. I think it would be worth the effort to try and get that season. That was so critical that the fishermen talked about. They put this up about the two weeks on and two weeks off, trying to extend that season and to clear the market between when they got the fish for each of those two-week periods. I think that is well worth doing for the economics that it is going to increase for the fishermen. I'd move that we move this discussion to full council.

DR. DUVAL: We have a motion by Ben to move the discussion of – I want to say emergency rule, but move the discussion of golden tilefish season options, perhaps, to full council. Is there a second; John Jolley. Discussion. Roy.

DR. CRABTREE: I think that's fine. It really seems to me where we are right now is probably an emergency rule is not the best option. It seems to me it is either come back to this idea of moving a framework as quick as we can; or, we just open under the current regulations but we try to do – we make every effort to ensure that the 75 percent trip limit reduction is adhered to. I'm fine with the motion.

DR. DUVAL: Is there any other discussion or comment on that motion? Is there any objection to that motion? Seeing none, **that motion stands approved.** Monica.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: Since the motion is approved, I would urge you all to think about what you would want in that kind of framework if you were going to vote on submitting one or having this additional council meeting, which I agree with Roy you would need an additional council meeting unless you're going to look at it in December and then that poses problems in terms of timing and the lateness in which you would get an amendment moved through.

Think about what you would want in an amendment. I wouldn't load it up very much if you want to go forward with it because it is going to need to be developed, analyzed and everything come back before you all very quickly. If you could refine it, think about it and maybe just develop as much rationale right now that you could think of so that could be maybe put into an amendment that you would then look at probably in a telephone meeting or something like that, but just kind of let that percolate a little bit before you talk about this again.

DR. DUVAL: I think that is a good approach; and like Ben said, we'll probably get some public testimony on this, so I think everyone has their homework assignment in regards to this. Moving on, the next item on our agenda is MPAs for speckled hind and Warsaw grouper. I think it is clear there has been a little bit of confusion regarding the vehicle and the timing for consideration of MPAs for these two species.

I'm sure everyone probably received a letter from the Ocean Conservancy expressing some concerns about the timing and the vehicle for consideration of MPAs. I just wanted to note at the top of Page 3 in that letter there is a small error where there are some remarks from me that are quoted and attributed to the June Snapper Grouper Council Meeting, and in fact those remarks

were made during the March Snapper Grouper Council Meeting and in the context of asking what the council's options were should Regulatory Amendment 11 not be approved.

I've gone back through the minutes of the meeting and looked at that discussion that we had with regard to speckled hind and Warsaw grouper. I think there are a number of statements that were made on the record that made it clear that we were not on the same timeline. I would refer folks to Pages 69 and 70 where we discussed a motion that was made to move forward with consideration of MPAs for speckled hind and Warsaw grouper.

There was a comment by Dr. Crabtree that we would clearly not have an amendment ready for the public comment meetings that were taking place in August. There was an additional comment by the vice-chair noting that his intent with the motion was that we were no longer on the same timeline, which would have been the CE-BA 3 timeline, which was set to finish at our December council meeting this year.

Again, near the end of that discussion when the motion was made to direct staff to look at a tiered approach for consideration of MPAs for speckled hind and Warsaw grouper, there was a question by Jessica McCawley asking to clarify what we had elected to do, if these options would be taken out to public hearing in August, and the committee chairman then stated that, no, we would not have a document going out to public hearing in August, but that there would be additional public workshops in August to gather additional information, and that information would be brought back to the committee, it might allow us to consider modifying some of the potential areas that might be under consideration.

That was the discussion and those remarks on the record. I think I bring that up as way of introduction to make sure that everyone is clear that although there were no motions – there was no motion made with regard to a vehicle for moving forward with consideration of MPAs for speckled hind and Warsaw grouper – and that is a question we need to answer today; whether it is done through CE-BA 4 or whether it is done through a stand-alone amendment or some other vehicle.

There was not a clear motion with regard to timing. There was also one more thing. I think during the Executive-Finance Committee there was comment by staff noting that the only actions that remained in CE-BA 3 were the data collection actions. I just lay that out there and just clarify what had been said on the record before. Mr. Chairman, I don't know if you have anything to add to that before I turn it over to Myra to go over the public comments that we received from the workshops.

MR. CUPKA: I think you covered it very well. I will point out that there was some confusion, but I don't think that it was on the part of the council members. I talked to several council members and it was clear to them what was going to be in CE-BA 3 and what wasn't going to be in CE-BA 3 when we went out to public hearing.

It's too bad there was some confusion but again I don't think it was among the council members. Everyone I've talked to had I think a clear understanding of what had been done even though there wasn't any specific motion. As you point out, we do have to decide how we want to move

ahead with that action, so we'll see where it goes. I appreciate those remarks you made and I think it does spell out where we were and we need to move on from there.

DR. DUVAL: Thank you, David, and I agree I think it was clear to everyone sitting around the table that this would not be pursued through CE-BA 3. I'm going to ask Myra to continue and go through the public that we received. Then I think we'll also get an update on the SSC discussions from John and then we can with our discussion on this particular topic.

MS. BROUWER: You will find Attachment 3 in your briefing book contains both a summary of the types of comments we received, written comments – we had a comment period for this topic – and also the comments that I received when I was out conducting these workshops. You will recall that we conducted a public workshop in Pooler, Georgia, the same day that we had the expert workgroup. We had a workshop in Charleston as well. For the August public hearing round, we covered three areas in Florida and we had a workshop in New Bern, North Carolina.

I'm not going to read over the entire summary that I've prepared for you, but I will highlight some of the most frequently heard comments and suggestions from the public. The workshops were conducted in the same manner that the first two were conducted. We had charts available for the public to perhaps if they had an indication of an area they would like to propose they could indicate on those charts the location of that area.

I had a small presentation giving the public some background and why this information was being requested from them. Most of the people that came wanted to talk about the merits of MPAs as a tool for management. There weren't very many people that brought specific information on areas that the council should consider for MPA designation.

One thing that kept coming up was that MPAs, if implemented, they include a sunset clause. Other things that were mentioned is that the council should have a clear goal stated; are there any studies also out there on the effectiveness of current MPAs; have the results of current management regulations been considered. These were questions that came up frequently.

There was a suggestion for an area between Ponce Inlet and Port Canaveral called "21 Fathom Ridge" where Warsaw grouper are commonly caught. "Push Button Hill" was another area that was suggested, and this is also one that the expert workgroup talked about and is included in their report.

Other comments that we heard very often is that the council needed to devote more time to thinking about establishing MPAs for these two species. There was a suggestion that the council convene another expert workgroup similar to what was done in Pooler. There was a lot of really good information that came out of that workshop, but the participants felt that they did not have enough time to flesh out the recommendations as they would have liked.

Then, finally, of course, the thing that always kept coming up is that the council should possibly focus on a stock assessment for these two species before they consider MPAs. If you have any questions specific to the comments, I'd be happy to answer those.

DR. DUVAL: Are there any questions for Myra? Okay, if not, John, can you give us just a quick update on the SSC's discussions with regard to speckled hind and Warsaw grouper. I know at the last meeting I think we asked them to consider applying the ORCS approach to these two fish.

MR. CARMICHAEL: The SSC has talked about these stocks quite a bit. As you recall, they talked about it in April relative to the MPAs and could not come up with a recommendation of, say, percentage area and increases in MPAs, and a lot of that because they really did not have any information about what the status of the stocks are and how much more reductions may be necessary and how much reduction in potential exploitation comes out of the existing MPAs.

They talked about these stocks again when having the discussion, which Luiz detailed yesterday, on the ORCS approach and applying this to the ORCS approach. The stocks were included when each individual workgroup did their initial scoring and then in dealing with all of those stocks and deciding to apply the second step, which was the more informed judgment exercise to get some more separation between those stocks.

They pulled out, as he showed, a number of stocks which the group felt the ORCS was not appropriate, and speckled hind and Warsaw grouper were included in that because of concerns over whether or not the landings are likely at all to be representative of the population that is out there. Between the regulations that are in place now, obviously with no harvest they're not going to be, but there was also concern about going back in time with the very restrictive regulations that have been on the species for a number of years, that it was probably not likely that you could discern much about the population from landings.

They're in that other category of things where the group doesn't think ORCS is appropriate and as far as what that means for an ABC recommendation, we don't know at this time. They'll about those more in detail in April and consider how to handle this.

DR. DUVAL: Thanks, John, and I'll just note that during those discussions the ORCS approach suggests that reliance on a relatively stable period of landings and so there are several species for which we didn't have stable periods of landings. Ben and David and Charlie were all there and they speak up to this, but we don't have a stable period of landings for speckled hind and Warsaw grouper that could be used for this particular approach.

I think the other thing – and this gets in what Dr. Barbieri was talking about yesterday, the slightly modified approach that the SSC took with regard to ORCS and looking at the risk of exploitation being low, medium or high. I think when we had our discussions and when the workgroups all came back together and we had our discussions, we noted that speckled hind and Warsaw grouper I think both fell out as low risk of exploitation.

There is a difference between risk of exploitation and the actual level of exploitation that the stock has experienced at this time; so according to risk of exploitation, things looked kind of rosy for those two species. I don't know if John or anyone who was at the workshop or any of the council members want to comment on that. John.

MR. CARMICHAEL: And that is good point and that was a point that was discussed quite often during the workshop is the difference between is the exploitation versus what is the risk of it; and they felt that the regulations that are in place for quite a number of species, when you evaluated where they stand now, that the risk of excessive exploitation was quite low.

That doesn't tell us anything about the stocks may be severely overfished and at extremely low abundance, which is an entirely different question and we really have no way of getting at that without the appropriate data. That was the point of these two stocks coming out as low risk of exploitation, as Michelle mentioned, led to a lot of that discussion and that reflects the current conditions that are going on now. We're kind of at a loss for what the past was like.

DR. CRABTREE: But it would indicate that the risk that they're continuing to undergo overfishing is relatively low; that is what they're getting at?

MR. CARMICHAEL: I would say yes; that is that is what the consensus of the group was.

MR. HARTIG: Yes, John, this is going to be speculative. Say you had an assessment on speckled hind that came back pretty back. Things looked pretty tough. The SSC reviewed it. Could they go back if we had a series of MPAs and use those as a means of ameliorating some of the assessment? Basically you're not going to use MPAs in the assessment as far as I know.

The only thing we have been told that MPAs will do you over time, the stocks get better and you get some increases in population due to MPAs, possibly, and then that is where you're going to see the benefit, but could you quantitatively go back and look at the area that was in those MPAs that we have currently. If we go ahead and tweak the ones we have, if we add more, can you quantitatively have anything to say about what we have already done for speckled hind in the rebuilding of that stock?

MR. CARMICHAEL: Based on what I understand of what we know and what we know now both back before those were put in place, that would be really tough because you just don't know what the population was before and you don't know what it is now. You don't know how it has responded to that.

To try and do that kind of stuff, you really need to know how far the species range, how much real protection is given to an individual based on these different areas. They have had some good luck doing that type of exercise which you described in the northeast on things like surf clams or quahogs or scallop or something up there that they have done quite well with, but they don't move quite as much as a finfish.

The concept is there but you have really got to match the area that you're protecting to the biology of the species and actually literally protect it through its lifespan. Under that kind of scenario, yes, if you protected a large group of the population fully, then in other areas you could fish on those and have pretty good confidence that you were providing protection to the population. But as long as things have an opportunity to move out of those protected areas and encounter the effort, then you have a great big unknown as to what they're really doing.

DR. DUVAL: Are there any other questions for John regarding the SSC's deliberations or their discussion? Anna.

MS. BECKWITH: The SSC had suggested wanting to do an analysis for all the co-occurring species and considering all the regulations for the snapper grouper species that were in place. What would it take for us to actually see that?

MR. CARMICHAEL: Probably someone with an awful lot of time to dig into it and probably someone with a lot of access to the data and the information on the species, perhaps with the regional office or science center. It doesn't seem that people have had the resources and the time to get into that – or maybe a graduate student somewhere who was interested in trying to really dig into it.

MS. BECKWITH: It just seemed like that would be beneficial with everything that is going on and this questioning on how we move forward and the timing for the potential three-tiered approach. It is certainly would be something that we should encourage somehow.

DR. DUVAL: Yes, I think we had a lot of discussion at our last committee meeting with regard to additional analyses. That would certainly be helpful and questions that we would want to see answered as we go down this path. Charlie.

MR. PHILLIPS: John, if I remember right, the speckled hind is supposedly one stock between the Gulf and the east coast. I'm not sure about Warsaw. Is there any kind of information of what kind of recruitment that we might be getting from over there that would help our stocks? Is there any of that available?

MR. CARMICHAEL: I'm not aware of having seen any. We don't have a lot of recruitment age surveys within the regions. It would be difficult to find those. You have SEAMAP which dragged some trawls and encountered some stuff, but they are just never really encountered much in the way of snapper grouper type species.

At this point I don't think that we really know, but the certainly the stock identification question is a big one that is going to affect what we do down the road. It would be nice to know our source of recruits, but we simply don't. People ask that question about a lot stocks. If we see a good year class coming out at similar timing of the same species in the Gulf, then you have to wonder what sort of connectivity there is and how larvae are being transported around the different areas. At this point we just don't have the larval surveys and the tracking of larva through the currents and across time that lets us dig into that type of stuff.

MR. HARTIG: John, to the stock identification, basically the region has got one explanation and it is one stock; but when you do the assessment of those species, that is when that would actually be decided upon; is that not correct? That is when those decisions would be made about that stock.

MR. CARMICHAEL: Yes, certainly it should be and that is the goal of assessment is to describe the stock unit, which as you saw in cobia and Spanish where they spent a lot of

discussion on that. So, yes, if we commissioned an assessment of speckled hind and Warsaw grouper, I think given what has been said about the stock structure it would be wise to do it for Gulf and South Atlantic together to try and answer that question.

DR. DUVAL: I think we had a little bit of discussion about this the committee meeting the last time on whether or not there was sufficient information to move forward with some kind of assessment of those two species, and I think Dr. Ponwith had indicated that there might be enough information for speckled hind but not for Warsaw grouper. Was that correct, Bonnie?

DR. PONWITH: I'm going to have to go back and double check. I know I've got that information, but I just want to make sure on that before I say.

DR. DUVAL: Absolutely. Well, I do think that is something that we would want to continue to pursue. It has certainly come up in the public comments with regard to having some kind of assessment of these two animals as we consider moving down this path. With regard to next steps, at the last meeting we directed staff to go back and begin developing a suite of tiered alternatives where the first tier looked at potentially reconfiguration of our existing Deepwater MPAs to try to capture more areas that were appropriate for protection of speckled hind and Warsaw grouper; the second tier being addition or consideration of new marine protected areas and then the third tier being a combination of those two.

Now, we did not give much guidance in terms of a purpose and a need, and I would think that the committee would want to have some discussion on purpose and need and have motions to that effect. Myra just reviewed some of the public comment, which asked for the council to state what the goal of these marine protected areas would be.

I think when we took this out to scoping it was very broad in terms of reducing discard mortality of these two species. Is there a specific number of fish that we're looking to try to get down to or something like that with looking at implementation of reconfigured or new MPAs? I would just say to the committee that I think we need to make sure that whatever analysis we would like done, that is done in the form of a motion. I'll open it up for discussion.

MR. HARTIG: Well, I just start it in a general sense. There are so many competing interactions between what we're trying to do and what we have been able to get out of the science. The question I just asked John, if we do anymore MPAs are we going to be able to get a credit in a stock assessment, and the answer was no.

But coming back to that, the reason we're here at least for speckled hind and Warsaw in my mind is that these things are continually being asked to be listed by the region. The region has been able to defend them so far, but this isn't going to stop. In my opinion the stocks are significantly overfished.

Like Luiz had said, I don't believe overfishing is occurring because of John's paper effort that I saw. I don't know if the rest of you have had access to that or not, but that's a really good paper showing the decline in effort in both commercial and recreational fisheries in the South Atlantic over time. The effort on both of those had declined significantly.

I'm more of an insurance type guy. I think we need to have enough MPA insurance that these species never get listed. That is my goal is that we never have these species listed. That is critical because if they ever do get listed we're looking at probably significant closures in that habitat where they exist. That is my basic moving forward.

DR. DUVAL: Yes, and I think everyone would prefer to manage under the Magnuson Act than under Endangered Species Act. David.

MR. CUPKA: I don't mind having insurance, Ben. The question I have is how much insurance do we need and what is that insurance going to cost. There are big costs associated with closing these areas down. Part of the problem I have is nobody has been able to tell us exactly how much insurance we need.

We've have asked for some indication from the National Marine Fisheries Service. We have asked for some information from our SSC. I just haven't seen any hard data on how much insurance we need, but I do know that there is a cost associated with that insurance. I'm very hesitant to impose that cost without somebody being able to show me that there is going to some benefit from it. That is kind of where I am at the moment on this whole issue.

DR. CRABTREE: But then you see the GEICO commercials telling you in 30 minutes call in and see if your rate is lower. Well, when I look at our insurance we have now, it looks like some of it is not placed very effectively, and it seems to me we could up our coverage by realigning and repositioning and maybe not have our premiums go up very much.

I think that is worth looking at, so that would be my thing. We have got MPAs we already in place to protect deepwater fish; but as I review them and look at them now, we've got a lot more information on habitat and occurrence than we had at that time. It seems at minimum to me we ought to relook at repositioning and realigning to make sure we're getting the most out of the areas we have now.

That does seem worth doing and we would find out from the public if that is going to have economic impacts and how that affects people, but certainly we could do minimally that and not really increase at all the amount of actual area that we have closed but get a lot more benefit. Back to John, this notion about not getting credit, I mean to the extent what we do works and results in improvements in the stock, we would get credit because that would presumably reflect it in an assessment.

MR. CUPKA: I guess one of the reasons why I made the motion at the last meeting about this three-tiered approach, which to me the first tier was realigning what we currently have, and I don't think that is going to impose a lot of cost and it may well get us something. Again, I don't think anybody is going to be able to tell us exactly what it is going to get us or what the benefit is but certainly that is something we could look at.

The other thing we need to keep in mind is that some of those areas that were created weren't created specifically for speckled hind and Warsaw. I don't think we ought to look at all of them

as being beneficial to those species because we were trying to do something with other species as well. Some of them it may be appropriate to tweak; some of them it may not be.

DR. CRABTREE: You're right about that. I think there was one that was set for golden tilefish, but I think we could reasonably say do we need that anymore given what we know about golden tilefish now. I just think we've had these in place long enough now that reviewing them all and maybe we can get rid of some, maybe we put another one or two news in, so I think the approach we had with the tiers and all made some sense.

MR. PHILLIPS: I agree. First of all, there is not a lot of public buy-in for these things; and if we run into the problem like they did at the Stetson MPA in the Gulf where it was closed to the everybody but the poachers, it didn't do a lot. We've got to really listen to the public and we've got to have their buy-in.

The one off of Georgia, it was specifically for golden tile and snowies. I used to fish out there and never saw a speckled hind and never saw a Warsaw. It was golden tile and snowies and maybe a blueline tile. Some of these things could be tweaked or maybe moved, but I'd be really skeptical about closing some big chunks of bottom because we just don't know. I'm not much on shooting in the dark; tweaking yes; shooting in the dark, no.

DR. DUVAL: Well, I think one thing that might be useful – and I was talking to staff about this previously – is Myra sent me copies of the previous reports we have on our existing Deepwater MPAs in terms of the monitoring. It is not a comprehensive monitoring program as far as I know. I think it is more of a once a year kind of snapshot sort of thing, but it might be helpful to have either Andy David or Stacy Harter maybe come before the committee at our meeting in December and let us know what is the information that we have gleaned thus far from our existing MPAs.

I would say don't forget that I think they have been place four or five years now, our existing MPAs, and sometimes I think for some of these longer-live species it is going to take a little bit longer before you realize some benefits. Tom Burgess.

MR. BURGESS: One thing about changing the MPAs or tweaking them and shifting them a little bit, as far as the impact to industry they could be significant. That is important to consider and who is going to pay the price. Another thing, as we consider tweaking these MPAs to take in a little bit more of the shelf break, possibly about what we're actually going to get out of that, and I don't think there has been the information to the council that if we shift this MPA here, through monitoring that we know what is down there, we know this is where the species we want to protect are, what time of year they're there and how long they're there and things like that.

I don't think we have the data to really support it completely. Of course, everybody wants to try to do everything they can, but I don't think there is a lot of data to say this should be moved here because this is where the fish are. Then another thing is if this ever gets listed, any of these species, who is going to pay the price of more restrictions or anything like that? I think the South Atlantic has done some things already. Maybe some other areas should be looked at to try to contribute to protecting these species.

DR. DUVAL: Other thoughts right now? I think there have been a number of different questions and analyses that have been asked for by the public, and I'm wondering if we don't need a few motions to get some of that information to try to inform some of this. I did mention I think it is going to be critical for us to have a clear purpose and need.

We have a purpose and need in all of our documents for moving forward. With consideration of marine protected areas for these two species, I think we would want some motions on analyses that we would want to see. The impact of existing regulations has been mentioned several times. To the extent that we can it might be wise to ask for an analysis of that.

The chairman has mentioned the cost of reconfiguring or new MPAs, and I think that was one of the original questions that was asked in the chairman's letter to the Service was if we do shift the existing configuration of some of our Deepwater MPAs, what is lost in terms of existing harvest and revenue. I think Roger might be able to help us with that particular question.

I was talking to him last week and I think some of the updates to the framework that he is using for portraying the existing MPAs and that he went through with us at the last meeting is moving towards being able to consider that.

That was one of the things I talked to him about last week was I said, you know, if we put lines on a map I want to be able to see what the loss of harvest is and can we equate that to some loss of income so we can get at that particular cost as the chairman was taking about. Anna.

MS. BECKWITH: Certainly, our stated goals are to reduce discards potentially via additional MPAs, but I will go ahead and put a motion forth to consider an analysis of the regulations for co-occurring species and the reductions in bycatch for speckled hind and Warsaw grouper that have already been achieved.

DR. DUVAL: Could you repeat that a little more slowly?

MS. BECKWITH: Analysis of the regulations for co-occurring species of speckled hind and Warsaw grouper and the reduction in bycatch that has potentially been achieved.

DR. DUVAL: We have a motion the table; seconded by Tom Burgess. Discussion? Doug.

MR. HAYMANS: I guess it is potentially linked to this but in 14 – I pulled 14 – there is good purpose and need already developed in 14. It talks about basically minimizing directed fishing pressure to achieve a more natural sex ratio, age, size structure while minimizing adverse social and economic effects.

The problem is this was July of 2007 and a lot has occurred specifically with management since that time period, so much so that I don't know that we can measure the effects that MPAs have had on those fisheries. I don't really have a problem right now readjusting or moving them around because I don't think we're going to be able to say anything about MPAs in the last four years.

DR. DUVAL: And that's a good point and that is similar to what I was alluding to earlier. I think it really depends on the life history of the species that you're setting up those MPAs to protect and some of deepwater species, long-lived, slower-growing and more difficult to obtain independent information on. Is there anymore discussion? Roy.

DR. CRABTREE: Well, I think part of what you're getting at here has probably been done in Regulatory Amendment 11 when we took off the table the 240 depth closure. I think I recall that there was a lot of discussion in that rulemaking about the impacts of the existing regulations and things. Some of that I think is there. There may be more that could be done.

MR. HARTIG: Well, just to follow up on Roy's point, certainly the petitions that were defended by NMFS has a lot of information about how regulations impacted both of those stocks. It doesn't so much get at the bycatch of other species, but certainly it is specific to Warsaw and speckled hind.

DR. DUVAL: So it sounds like perhaps there is existing information out there that could be pulled into one place. Is there anymore discussion on this motion? Myra.

MS. BROUWER: I would suggest clarification on the language of the motion; "consider", perhaps substitute that with "request that an analysis be conducted", something a little bit more specific.

DR. DUVAL: So to the maker and seconder of the motion; would you consider a friendly amendment to replace the word "consider" with "request"? Anna and Tom, is that okay with you? I'm seeing heads nod, okay. Roy.

DR. CRABTREE: We seem like we're kind of dancing around this whole thing. If we're going to go forward with an amendment to look at this, this would basically be the analysis of the status quo. And then some of the other things I heard is you wanted to know what would be the benefits and the costs of reconfiguring or new MPAs.

You can't do that until you have got specific alternatives laid out. Then we can say, okay, here is an analysis of this alternative; but if it is just theoretical about what would be the benefits of a new MPA, well, it depends on what new MPA, how big and where and what would be the impact of reconfiguring.

Well, it depends on what you reconfigure and how you reconfigure it. A lot of the things we're asking for now really are the things that would go into developing the alternatives and starting the amendment process.

If that is what we want to do, then that is what we ought to do, but we seem to be skirting around it somehow. I know I've had a lot discussions with my staff and a lot of the things are asking for just can't be done until we have concrete alternatives about specific MPAs so that they can go in and analyze it.

DR. DUVAL: I think there have been some suggestions made by the expert workgroup with regard to looking at that Tier 1 approach of reconfiguring some of our existing Deepwater MPAs that the committee could incorporate into a draft amendment or a draft document of some sort and that would be one first step to get at that so that we can get some specific analyses on what the costs and benefits of this would be.

DR. CRABTREE: Right, and I think that is kind of what we were trying to get to at the last meeting when we made the motion and the tiers and we wanted to see some alternatives, and then I guess there was confusion about when. But if that is what we want to do, then we probably just need to come back to that motion and let's look at some alternatives along these tiers at the December council meeting. Then we can start getting into these kinds of analyses.

DR. DUVAL: I think we are going to need some specific motions, though, with regard to when we want to see the analyses – you have indicated December – as well as some specific alternatives that have suggested either through the expert workgroup or from the public input to consider. Gregg.

MR. WAUGH: And I assume you want to do this as either an amendment to the snapper grouper plan or a framework; so a motion telling us whether it is going to be a regulatory amendment or a plan amendment and then within that I think what is critical that you just alluded to is what do you want to see in December, an analysis of Tier 1 or Tier 1, 2 and 3? If you're talking Tier 1, 2 and 3, keep in Ben's suggestion about workload and whatever else goes in this. There is no sense asking for Tiers 1, 2 and 3 if you don't have any intention of going beyond 1.

DR. DUVAL: All right, in terms of moving forward and a vehicle for moving forward, we can do this as Gregg mentioned through either a framework amendment, a full amendment. CE-BA 4 is another alternative. Now just remember that we have already scoped the use of marine protected areas for speckled hind and Warsaw grouper in CE-BA 3 January and February of this year. Gregg.

MR. WAUGH: Just to clarify, what I got from the discussion yesterday and there certainly wasn't a motion and I guess we should have it at some point that until further notice there won't be any CE-BAs past CE-BA 3. I mean that is what I got from Roy's discussion and David and I think someone else as well yesterday. At some point we need to have clarification on that as well, but my understanding was there would be no CE-BAs beyond CE-BA 3 and so then that leaves MPAs hanging out. You've got to tell us where to stick it.

MR. HAYMANS: Gregg, I didn't necessarily get that. What I understood was we are going to certainly discuss it at full council whether or not we're going to continue down that CE-BA pathway or not. I understand the concern with having such a wide variety of items stuck into one amendment that it is confusing to the public, but I'm not set on there is no more CE-BAs. I think that is for a full discussion.

DR. CRABTREE: And that is fine. For right now we have got a motion on the board that we need to dispense with. To me we ought to move forward with Tier 1 and Tier 2, whatever, and I

would move it through a framework amendment. If we need a motion to that, then we need to dispense with this motion and come back to it.

DR. DUVAL: Roy is correct; let's go ahead and dispense with the motion that we have on the floor right now. Is there anymore discussion on this motion? **The motion is request that an analysis of the impact of regulations on co-occurring species of speckled hind and Warsaw grouper be conducted and the reduction in bycatch that has potentially been achieved.** Is there any objection to this motion? Seeing none, that **motion stands approved.**

Now I think we can move forward with discussion on what is the vehicle that we want to move forward with and any analysis that we are asking staff for; a regulatory amendment, a full amendment. We can do this via a regulatory amendment, that is my understanding. Roy.

DR. CRABTREE: That's my understanding as well, and I would move that we move forward with consideration of Deepwater Marine Protected Areas through a regulatory amendment.

DR. DUVAL: We have a motion to move forward with consider of Deepwater MPAs through a regulatory amendment –

DR. CRABTREE: And that we review the alternatives at the December council meeting.

DR. DUVAL: And that we review the alternatives at the December council meeting. We already have Deepwater MPAs. Would you want to maybe clarify that these would be specifically for speckled hind and Warsaw grouper?

DR. CRABTREE: Sure, Deepwater MPAs to protect speckled hind and Warsaw grouper.

DR. DUVAL: We have a motion on the floor; we need a second. David, are you seconding that motion?

MR. CUPKA: Well, I will go ahead and second, but I wanted to ask Roy if those alternatives; did you want those based on a Tier 1 situation based on public input?

DR. CRABTREE: Yes, I think that's fine.

DR. DUVAL: I think we want to be very clear on our motions, so I would ask that the maker and seconder of the motion if you're okay with clarifying that these are Tier 1 within the motion.

DR. CRABTREE: I'm fine with that. We can look at that; and then if we decide we want to go beyond that, we can make that decision in December.

DR. DUVAL: The motion on the floor **reads to move forward with consideration of Deepwater MPAs, Tier 1, reconfiguration of existing MPAs, to protect to speckled hind and Warsaw grouper through a regulatory amendment and that alternatives be presented at the December council meeting.** Do we have more discussion on this motion? Roy.

DR. CRABTREE: Yes, and I'm fine with that, but we did have these working group meetings, and I would like at December to look at some of the suggestions they had, just this part of the discussion, because I think they recommended areas that go beyond just reconfiguring them. I don't know that we've been through that, have we yet, at a council meeting?

MS. BROUWER: That was presented to you in June, but there were several areas that were recommended. There was a configuration that the expert workgroup brought forward and then a configuration for that same area that was brought forward by the fishermen. We would have to go through all of those and get the committee to specifically tell us which ones they would like to see in the analysis.

DR. CRABTREE: I would like to review that presentation also in December when we do this. This is where we're looking at for now but I still would think it would be worth our while to refresh our memories with the working group recommendations.

DR. DUVAL: Basically because Roger presented that to us I think in two different – well, two slightly different presentations of the suggestions from the expert workgroup as well as the areas that were suggested by fishermen through the public workshops, and he had those all on the screen for us with what the percentages of occurrence of speckled hind and Warsaw grouper were in those areas, so you're saying that you would like to see pretty much everything that has been suggested thus far shown to us and mapped out for us?

DR. CRABTREE: Well, I'm not sure I'm ready to just walk away from all that work that was done and say, well, fine, but we're not going to consider it at this point. I wish there was some way to filter through that so we look at some of the better ones, but I'm not quite sure how to do that. If other folks just want to focus in on reconfiguring for now, I'm okay with that.

MR. PHILLIPS: Roy, when you talk about reconfiguring like the Deepwater MPA off of Georgia that is exclusively snowy and golden tile, if we're going to look at all the MPAs and we're going to look at them through the lens of speckled hind and Warsaw; are we potentially going to maybe just give those areas back to the fishermen if we don't need them anymore; i.e. we don't need to – the golden tiles are in a lot better shape than they used to be.

DR. CRABTREE: Well, that would be I think fair game as part of all this is that we might decide that one or two of these MPAs – I mean, I think we had one off of South Carolina where they were going to put an artificial reef in it, but I don't know that anyone ever did put an artificial reef in there, so we've got that one that I don't know is doing anything. I think we're giving staff a lot of latitude on what exactly reconfiguring means because I don't know exactly how much that means. I think we have got to give you some latitude on that.

MS. BROUWER: I was going to ask for that guidance, and what I would suggest is perhaps focusing on areas that indicate a high occurrence of these two species or a high occurrence of hard bottom habitat, and that would narrow it down to only those areas that would potentially affect these two species and not others.

MR. HARTIG: I think we ought to tell staff that we're going to use the percent occurrences as a metric of protection for these stocks. I think that is the only thing we have. It is the only metric we have are the occurrences and it is going to be important to protect areas that have the most occurrences. If you want to come down to specific number of occurrences you want to protect, we could do that. We can say we want to protect 20, 30 or 40 percent of the occurrences. That is a metric we could actually use.

MR. BELL: Just a question; after the last meeting I had some questions about what have we done in terms of evaluation of the existing areas, and Myra sent me a couple of reports; one from February 2011, which was out of the Panama City Lab. But, before we're able to make decisions about moving things around or adding or whatever, I would assume we know something about the ones we have constructed, so there are additional reports and work that is out there and there is enough right now to make some assessment as to what degree we've got these two species in the existing areas? That is a question out of ignorance.

DR. DUVAL: We do and I think that was included in what Roger presented to us in June, was it not, was the percent occurrences of these two species that we have in our existing Deepwater MPAs right now. As far as the reports go from the existing MPAs, the work that has been done by Andy David and Stacy Harter, that was one of the things I was going to suggest was perhaps have a presentation on that work at the next council meeting.

I think it would be very informative. There are a lot of new council members who were not around the table when MPAs were being debated the last time, so I think that would be very helpful. Tom Burgess.

MR. BURGESS: One of the things we've heard from the public is they thought that if MPAs or any adjustments to MPAs, if they were done right that there would be a lot more buy-in to that. There has been a request to convene this working group for another meeting because they felt they didn't have enough time. There have been comments made that they think there is just some more work to be done to do this right. Are we still going to go down that road and will those people get a chance to discuss things further?

DR. DUVAL: I think that is a valuable suggestion. I know that the SSC had indicated that they wanted to also review MPAs at their next meeting in October. I think it is up to the council if they want to reconfigure the expert workgroup to have a second chance to review anything that is being proposed. It probably also depends on the budget and workload that we have outlined for us. I think personally that is a great suggestion to have the workgroup review any suggestions, but I will also defer to other committee members on that. Ben, to that point.

MR. HARTIG: I think it is valuable if we go farther than reconfiguration. I don't think we ought to have anything off the table. As Roy had mentioned, he would like to see – how I see this going; we're going to look at the reconfiguration and see how much percent occurrences we get and then we will have to decide if that is enough – have we protected the right areas, and is that enough percent occurrences that we have protected.

Okay, if this is, then we're done. If it is not, then we're probably going to have to put the workgroup back together, look at these other areas that we had, and we may horse trade. That one MPA protects golden tilefish is a very good example that Charlie mentioned and Roy mentioned it earlier as well. Maybe that one is not going to give us the bang for the buck that we once thought it would with golden tilefish being fully recovered now, and we could probably maybe get rid of that one and add one more to help Warsaw and speckled hind. I think we have got a way forward here.

DR. DUVAL: And that is a good suggestion, Ben, is there are new areas that we could potentially reconvene that workgroup to take a look at those. Steve.

MR. AMICK: That was going to be my point. I talked to some of the experts and they thought that would get much more – they got to a certain point and they would like to reconvene and work some more to get the locations and where the occurrences occur. It strikes me with the presentation of the discard of red snapper, speckled hind and Warsaw grouper, that the observers on the commercial boats, the hook and line, the bandit boats were working from 30 to 34 degrees over a period of 2007 to 2011, and I think the Warsaw discarded was like 15.

When you look at those numbers over I think it was something like 4,000 stations, I question the effectiveness of marine protected areas over small areas to protect any kind of amount of Warsaw when you have that little occurrence over such a wide spectrum.

DR. DUVAL: That's a great point, Steve. Wilson.

DR. LANEY: Madam Chairman, I'm not on your committee. This partially addresses Steve's point, too, but I was going to ask Frank and Scott, since they're still here, if those localities for those relatively recent captures of Warsaw and speckled hind could be shared with Roger and with Nick, I guess, who were putting that information together in those databases.

And to Steve's point, you're right, 15 of 3,000 or 4,000 trips, whatever it was, isn't very large. However, if those were those concentrated in a particular area, which presumably we can find out, then if the captures if are being concentrated in certain areas, it might enable the council to more specifically delineate an area that would have a proportionally greater impact. I don't know whether that is the case or not. Frank and Scott may be able to tell us that.

MR. HELIES: Pulling out those lat/longs is easy enough to do. We enter all of our data into a database that is housed at the lab in Galveston. Any of the Science Center data analysts can access that information as well. I think they need to ask our permission to use it, but we would have no problems with sharing that information.

DR. DUVAL: Thanks for that, Frank, I think that's great. This was a point that was made at our last meeting in June was that there may be other sources of occurrence data for these two species that we haven't been able to mine yet. Wilson, I think it was you who suggested going to perhaps some of the museums. They might information like that, so I think it is certainly important to collect and mine from as many of those data sources as possible. Wilson, to that point.

DR. LANEY: To that point, I'm still working on that. I've provided the ones I was able to readily pull off the web from collections that are online and have provided that information to Roger and Nick already. There are more that I still need to contact the individual museums because they don't put the lat/longs online so I will have to request that, but I'm sure they'll provide for the council.

Also, just to the point that Steve and Ben both made; you know, I think reconvening the experts is a great idea. Those guys know where the things are; and if they didn't have enough time to provide all that information at the first workshop, I think it is certainly worthwhile to provide additional time and try and gather that information.

MR. WAUGH: Just to be clear, what you all are asking for December is an options paper to look at and that would evaluate Tier 1 alternatives. It would also include an analysis of the no action alternative, which gets to the previous motion. You would have an analysis of no action, an analysis of the options under Tier 1, and then you also want another presentation on MPA work and on the suggestions you got from the workgroup as it stands now. Then at December you'll tell us whether you want to reconvene the workgroup and whether you want any additional options added to the no action and Tier 1. Is that correct?

DR. DUVAL: Is everybody clear about that; does that sound like –

MR. HARTIG: Yes, that sounds exactly what we need.

MR. HAYMANS: So just to make sure, Tier 1's are no take, right, so that explicitly –

DR. DUVAL: Tier 1's are Type 2 MPAs, which means that pelagic trolling is allowed to them.

MR. HAYMANS: Okay, so what about Type 4, then, which is what a lot of the public asked as a sunset; can we look at doing it that way? That is a timed closure.

DR. CRABTREE: I think as we get into this, if we decide we want to put a sunset on them, we can talk about that, but I don't know that we need to decide that now. Really, that is a type; the sunset is a Type 4?

MR. HAYMANS: Yes, one and two are permanent closures with no take or take, and then three and four is temporary.

MR. CUPKA: I think what you're doing is confusing the motion we made the last time, which really a Tier 1, the intent was just to reconfigure it. It has nothing to do with the type of MPA that it is.

MR. HAYMANS: Well, what I did was go back to 14 and looked, because I was trying to make sure I understood what the tiers were, and I guess maybe I still don't. But in 14 there are four types; 1 and two are permanent; three and four are temporary; and it is either no take or limited take.

DR. DUVAL: We actually clarified at the last meeting that what we were looking at was Type 2 protected areas in this particular effort right here, and I think what the chairman is trying to clarify is that his motion from the last meeting referred to three different tiers of analysis or tiers of MPAs to be considered Tier 1 being reconfiguring our existing MPAs; Tier 2, new MPAs; Tier 3, a combination of the two. Does that help, Doug?

Okay, is there anymore discussion on this motion, and I'm going to read it again because we have done a little bit of tweaking of the language to it, but the motion is move forward with consideration of Deepwater MPAs, Tier 1, reconfiguration of existing MPAs, using percent occurrence as a criterion to protect speckled hind and Warsaw grouper through a regulatory amendment and that alternatives be presented at the December council meeting. Are there anymore comments on this? I'm just going to ask staff if there are any concerns with this motion in terms of giving you direction that you need in terms of analysis and timing?

MS. BROUWER: I think we're fine. Just to make sure to reiterate what Gregg said; alternatives will be presented through an options paper that will have a certain level of analysis.

DR. DUVAL: And I guess the only thing that I would ask folks to think about – and we may not be able to come to any kind of resolution on this until we see the options paper at the December meeting, but using percent occurrence as a criterion, what is your goal in terms of the percent occurrence protection? I think that is something that folks need to be thinking about. Is there anymore discussion or conversation on this motion? Is there any objection to this motion? Seeing none, this **motion stands approved**. Ben.

MR. HARTIG: Gregg, when we did Oculina initially, did we have an enforcement plan and a monitoring and research plan in place for that?

MR. WAUGH: No, not initially.

MR. HARTIG: But we did get some research down the line and we get reports on enforcement from those. I'm going to be wary about going ahead with any new MPAs without some kind of an enforcement or research plan; I'm telling you right now. Chris Koenig was so emphatic about that in that presentation he made to the AP about enforcement and research.

Really, if you don't do those things, you're never going to know what you accomplished; and you're just setting up these things if you don't have an effective enforcement plan as a poachers' paradise. For Warsaw and speckled hind, speckled hind in particular it is critical that we keep people out of these things because speckled hind is one of those animals that readily bites a hook when you put it in front of them.

MR. WAUGH: And remember that tomorrow when we're going through our CE-BA document and considering the option that would require VMS on snapper grouper boats. But, yes, the first time we did Oculina we tried doing the sunset as a way to force some research and data collection. That didn't work; and then when we did the reauthorization that is when prior

Councilman George Geiger was very stringent on getting the enforcement plan and research plan, and that is when that got put in place when we reauthorized, but not originally.

MR. HARTIG: So we did have a plan and when we reauthorized the Oculina to continue to be closed?

MR. WAUGH: Yes, and certainly that could be pulled and use that for utility purposes.

MR. HARTIG: Certainly I'd like to see that, for sure.

DR. DUVAL: Yes, I agree with Ben; I think it is going to be critical to have some clear enforcement piece in whatever document gets put together. One of the things that I would like to see is – and I think I mentioned this at the last committee meeting is consideration of some pretty stiff fines.

If we're going to continue to maintain a no possession rule for these two species is to have some stiff fines in place. Monica, I don't know if you can look at that and come back to us with some information on the ability of NOAA GC to recommend something like that. I think I used Nassau and Goliath as examples. There is a \$1,500 fine per fish if you possess those things. I made the statement previously I think we need to avail ourselves of all tools available if we're serious about protecting these animals.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: Well, sure, and the council can certainly recommend to NOAA GC what they would prefer, and I think that goes a long ways when they decide on these penalties.

DR. DUVAL: Is there anymore discussion that we need to have right now with regard to marine protected areas for speckled hind and Warsaw grouper? Tom Burgess.

MR. BURGESS: Just briefly to Ben's point about new MPAs and enforcement; I just was thinking that even if we readjust the existing MPAs and we displace fishermen that actively fish these areas, we could still face that same possibility.

DR. DUVAL: Very true. Is there any other discussion on MPAs? Everyone is clear right now with how we're moving forward and the timing on that? Okay, I have that it is quarter of twelve right now, and the next item on our agenda is Regulatory Amendment 13. I don't know if folks are interested in getting into this right now or we would prefer to hold that after lunch. It seems like it might be a little more in-depth discussion than the last fifteen minutes might allow for because I think we're going to talk a little bit about possibly the yellowtail issue under this topic, so it seems to me like now might be a good breaking point for lunch. We'll break for lunch and we will reconvene at 1:15.

(Whereupon, the meeting was recessed at 11:45 o'clock a.m., September 11, 2012.)

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TUESDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

SEPTEMBER 11, 2012

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The Snapper Grouper Committee of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council reconvened in the Topaz Room of the Charleston Marriott Hotel, Charleston, South Carolina, Tuesday afternoon, September 11, 2012, and was called to order at 1:15 o'clock p.m. by Chairman Michelle Duval.

DR. DUVAL: All right, everybody, let's get going again. One thing before we move on to our agenda item, which is Regulatory Amendment 13, that staff has brought is that we may want to consider one more motion with regards to MPAs for speckled hind and Warsaw grouper that has to do with habitat. The motion that we all voted on and approved uses percent occurrence as a criterion, but I'm wondering if we also want to consider another motion that would add habitat as another criterion. I don't think we need to substitute but perhaps just another separate motion.

DR. CRABTREE: Yes, I think we do need to do that because there are a lot of areas that have what appears to be very good habitat but not have been sampled. **I move that we also include habitat as a criteria for locating MPAs.**

DR. DUVAL: Motion by Roy; seconded by Charlie. Clarification, Gregg?

MR. WAUGH: Yes, just for clarification, then you would have alternatives that are based on occurrence and then other alternatives based on habitat or looking at an alternative and saying this gets you X percent occurrence and Y percent habitat?

DR. CRABTREE: Yes, I think when you are looking at reconfiguring, you would take into account both percent occurrence of where they have been but also the habitat in trying to do that. Then among the things we want to look at is how much of the percent occurrence do we cover but also how much of the habitat do we cover.

MR. HAYMANS: And this does go back to the June meeting where we had a speckled hind and Warsaw grouper presentation evaluating impacts of spatial protection; that is the presentation that we're talking about, right, that we can go back to? If council members want more information while they're here, they can go back and access it either from that thumb drive or from the website?

DR. DUVAL: Yes, that's true and we did receive two presentations. Roger gave a presentation and there was no PowerPoint for that presentation. I think he was going over the potential expansions that came out of the expert workgroup as well as the public workshops. Then we received a presentation from Nick Farmer looking at various methodologies for how siting of different marine protected areas. It might be Nick's presentation that you might be thinking of because I think the council did have a PowerPoint for that.

MR. HAYMANS: Yes, this is definitely a NOAA presentation so it's probably Nick's.

DR. DUVAL: The motion is to add habitat as an additional criterion to analyze Tier 1 MPAs. Is there any other discussion on this motion? Charlie.

MR. PHILLIPS: If there is something else that comes up that needs to be considered when they're doing these analyses, I don't know that I want it to be so hard and fast that we don't have any leeway at all in doing these analyses. Of course, when we go out to public hearing, then we're going to talk about the tradeoffs off between are these areas heavily fished or are they not, so the tradeoffs on what you're going to get and what we hope to get by what we will be giving up. I just don't want it to be real hard and fast. I'd like a little bit of leeway when we're doing these analyses.

DR. DUVAL: I think Gregg would like some clarification on that.

MR. WAUGH: Yes, to me, Charlie, at least what we're looking to do is have a clear idea of what options you want presented to you. What you then do with them in December, you have lots of flexibility. We just want to be clear on what we bring to you in December, and that would be these Tier 1 analyses, looking at occurrence and habitat.

DR. DUVAL: Okay, is there anymore discussion on this motion? Is there any opposition to this motion? Okay, seeing none, that **motion is approved**. Our next agenda item is Regulatory Amendment 13, which examines adjustment of ACLs based on the new MRIP calibrations. You have a review of this; it is Attachment 4 in the briefing book. I think Myra is going to take us through that initially.

MS. BROUWER: I actually haven't planned on taking you through that attachment because it has a lot of details on the methodology. Basically it was included in the briefing book so that you would have some background information of why it is that we're discussing this amendment and what it is the council needs to do, and that is to adjust the existing ACLs based on the recalibrated recreational landings based on the MRIP methodology.

That is what the topic is and I guess the guidance that we're looking for is do we continue developing Regulatory Amendment 13 as it is now? Right now it is basically just the skeleton of a document. We don't have anything in there. One of the things that we discussed in house and with the regional office staff is the type of analysis that needs to go into this.

Apparently there needs to be a NEPA analysis which would require preparation of a regulatory amendment. Essentially each action would have two alternatives; a no action and then adjusting the ACL. I don't know if Monica or Roy could perhaps explain why the region is suggesting that this be the vehicle for adjusting the ACLs as opposed to some kind of a categorical exclusion or rulemaking, which is what we had discussed previously that this could be done.

DR. CRABTREE: Well, my initial thought would be since we were just replacing the MRFSS numbers with the MRIP numbers that it would be completely neutral in terms of impacts. I argued that if that is the case we could do a categorical exclusion, that it has no impacts. But

when you go back through and look some of the allocations in the Boyles' Law application, it does actually have some small changes on what the commercial allocations are in some cases, and so it does have some impacts that need to be analyzed in terms of the economic impacts.

I was convinced that is in fact true, that happens, and so the advice then was that it needs to be done with an environmental assessment. There is a little bit more analytical work that staff will have to do on this, but in terms of the action we're taking and the adjustments we're making there is no change to that.

DR. DUVAL: It is my understanding that MRIP recalibrations for at 2004 to 2011, they're not yet available. Do you know when those will be available? I'm just thinking about the future timeline of work. I think John Carmichael can correct me if I'm wrong, but I think the SSC is not slated to look at any MRIP recalibrated numbers until its April 2013 meeting, is that correct, and offer up any potential changes to ABCs based on those numbers?

MR. CARMICHAEL: I guess that depends on what we receive. Right now that may be when we see them if they had numbers, and obviously we'd want to look at them in October as we were planning, but we're also anticipating possible updated ABCs from the whole ORCS revision.

The original plan was to look at that as well as the recalibration type things and to handle it all at once. Now it has all gotten dragged out and it may end up being handled twice, I guess, if we look at calibration numbers in April and then new ORCS type approach – I mean calibration in October and new ORCS type in April. We may have new SSC recommendations at both places.

DR. CRABTREE: But those are really separate issues. ORCS is a whole different approach to setting the thing up. Now, I believe our staff has talked with Center staff and I'm guardedly optimistic we can get the scalars we need for the pre-2004 years early enough to take a look at it at the October meeting.

I don't think it should take a lot of time with the SSC because all they're really going to look at is the general methodology and that is about it. Of course, the problem is if we don't get this done, remember that MRFSS will not exist effective January 1. All we're going to have is MRIP; and so if we don't get these numbers calibrated as quickly as we can next year, we're going to be stuck in a kind of an apples and oranges situation.

Then our only alternative would be to adjust the landings that we're getting by some scalar. I think that will very difficult to explain to fishermen. I think it is much cleaner to go ahead and make the adjustments to these ACLs. My hope is that we can pull this off and get it done and voted up at the December meeting.

I'm not totally convinced that we will be able to make that happen, but I think we ought to do the best we can to get that done. There really aren't many decisions you will have to make. This is all just going to be here are the new numbers, plug them into the formulas, here are the new ACLs that come out, and then we put them in place. It should be easy but we've got to go through these steps to pull it all together.

DR. DUVAL: Just from a process standpoint, I'm having multiple balls in the air. Just to clarify, Roy, you said you expect that you may have the pre-2004 number of recalibrations?

DR. CRABTREE: No, what they're working on, we have new numbers for 2004 to 2011. They're working on a scalar that is based on the difference between the MRFSS and MRIP for 2004 to 2011 and then a scalar that can be applied to the years prior to that to make some adjustment to them. Now, down the road we're going to I think get yet another set of new MRIP numbers that I believe will go from 2004 back to like 1995, and then we may yet one more time after that get something that goes even further back, but it is not clear to me how far back in the time series they're actually able to do this.

We very likely could end up doing this exercise another time or two before we're done with it. I think the biggest difference and the biggest change will be in this initial set. We have some species I think that don't even use data much prior to 2004, but I believe most of our ACLs do go a little bit further back than 2004.

I think most of our allocations use Boyles' Law and has a longer time series in there. You know, improving the recreation catch estimates is an iterative process; and every time they come in and make some sort of improvement to them that results in a difference, we're going to have to factor that into these ACLs, which are based on average landings.

Just as an example, the fisheries it makes the biggest difference in seem to be these South Florida fisheries; but the difference with yellowtail snapper is that the MRIP numbers are much higher than the MRFSS numbers are; and if we don't make some sort of adjustment, we would end up shutting that fishery down prematurely just because the survey has changed. Other species, there is less of a trend to it, but sea bass and some others there were some differences there. We have to deal with it and this is the best way we've been able to come with right now. I don't know if that got to your attention.

MR. WAUGH: John, we had a workshop, right, a SEDAR Workshop that came up with a methodology for doing the calibration, and so that was done. Then it is a matter of getting the estimates using that calibration, and that is what we're waiting on from the Southeast Fisheries Science Center?

MR. CARMICHAEL: There was a workshop put on jointly between SEDAR and the Mid-Atlantic Council and MRIP to come up with ways of calibrating between the two programs.

MR. WAUGH: When was that?

MR. CARMICHAEL: That was in early spring or late winter and they came up with calibration methods. Then each science center and working with the MRIP Program was coming up with the species-specific ratio values that would be used for the calibration. The southeast has been working on it and they broke it out a little bit finer scale like looking at it by mode because some of the differences seem to be mode-specific, so they went to a little bit finer detail.

As I understand it, they're working on those and I really don't know much more than that as to where it stands and sort of what progress is being made. Now, this is just unassessed stocks, though, that are receiving this calibration so yellowtail wouldn't actually be one that would have its ABC changed because its ABC comes out of a stock assessment.

DR. CRABTREE: Yes, and I don't know if the new yellowtail assessment used MRIP numbers or MRFSS numbers. Luiz, do you know; did they use MRIP or MRFSS in the yellowtail –

DR. BARBIERI: MRFSS.

DR. CRABTREE: MRFSS; so in those cases it is not so straightforward how you adjust the ACLs and we could in those cases have to apply some sort of adjustment factor to the landings for some period of time until we're able to go back in and revise the assessments. I think that is something that we're going to consult with the SSC about.

MR. CARMICHAEL: That was the workgroup recommendation is that for stocks that have been assessed you'd do the conversion back to the native units, which in most cases is going to be MRFSS, so you would apply the conversion to the current estimates of MRIP to take them back to the same level as what that MRFSS would have estimated at until such time as you do the assessment and get the MRIP type numbers into your assessments.

There will be stocks where you do the conversion the other way where you say, well, this is what is reported landing this year, but apply this ratio – you know, if it is 90 percent, then you're down 90 percent in terms of what we use as the standard for evaluating your fishery.

DR. CRABTREE: And so this is the problem with that, and it is easy to envision it. If you have a stock where the MRFSS numbers were much higher than the MRIP numbers, the fishermen are going to go on the MRIP page and see their landings, but then we're going to have to tell them, yes, but we're scaling your landings upwards by some percent to make them comparable, and that is going to have I think some public relations problems, to say the least.

That is why I think it is much more preferable to scale the ACLs, but in the case of assessed stocks I think that is the path that has been laid out and we're going to just have to do that for a while, but it creates a need to go back and update all of our assessments just to factor in the new numbers. That is going to be a multi-year process, and so far I don't believe we have rescheduled any assessment solely because we want to have the MRIP numbers incorporated into it.

MR. CARMICHAEL: But I was just thinking as you said that our discussion at SEDAR about dropping some potential first-time benchmarks versus bring in some stock through an update. This is certainly a good reason to try and bring all of our stocks through the update process and now that the MRIP data are available, to get them with the MRIP calibrated type landings in there so that we don't face that problem. That is pretty good justification in my mind.

DR. CRABTREE: I know there are some folks who want to revisit some of the allocations and things. I think that needs to be a separate process. I think we need to keep this focused on just

plugging the new numbers in and not changing anything. Then if you want to come in and make adjustments to allocations and all that, that is fine, but let's do that in a separate document.

MR. WAUGH: And so coming back to the SEDAR Workshop, we had an agreed-upon methodology and the Mid-Atlantic – is NMFS Northeast applying one methodology and then the southeast we're going to have a different methodology in developing these estimates?

DR. PONWITH: No, the original workshop looking at how to do those adjustments sort of set the standard. My understanding is that the first step was the most recent timeframe, now to 2004. Then there was a second tier of decision-making about how to deal with 2004 back. If my memory serves me correctly, I think the cut-off date is 1985 where the MRFSS protocols changed in 1985, so they were going to use as the timeframe that we were going back to making those adjustments.

Right now our folks have the MRIP data and the MRFSS data set up. They are working on the code to do the calibrations. They've hit some questions in the data that they need to go back to the MRIP people on. We're hoping to get some feedback from them this week. Depending upon the answer to those questions, it will influence the timing of when they actually finish the code and are ready to do the runs for the calibration.

MR. WAUGH: But the methodology being applied for the Mid-Atlantic species is going to be the same methodology that is applied in the southeast?

DR. PONWITH: I would say more or less the methodology is exactly the same. There are some features that will have to be customized based on specific, as John was talking about, issues with individual species, the methodology that was arrived at in this workshop is going to be the base methodology that we will be using.

DR. CRABTREE: And bear in mind for most of the species we manage, there wasn't that much difference between the MRFSS and the MRIP numbers. Some years were higher and some years were lower, so for most of these species I don't think we're looking at much change in anything. It's just there are a few species where the differences are consistent and are substantial; but most of them, I don't it is going to make much difference.

DR. DUVAL: I guess the question is just going through this multiple times within the next year or so, and I'm just thinking about the different balls in the air. We would have to do one regulatory amendment for the 2004 to now recalibration and then another regulatory amendment for the pre-2004 recalibrations.

The reason for going through a regulatory amendment is that some of the recalibrations may be changing some of the commercial and recreational ACL allocations, and then we're going to re-examine the allocation process. That is on the schedule for the Socio-Economic Subpanel of the SSC in October. Then we've also got this yellowtail issue hanging out in regards to potentially an emergency adjustment of that ACL. I guess I'm just trying to figure out how all these pieces fit together; that's all.

MR. CARMICHAEL: The next MRIP/MRFSS adjustment could be down the road. The timing of that is kind of uncertain. There were a lot of questions about how far back they could go; and once they do back to 2004, can they get back to 1999. At the time of the workshop there were quite a few technical questions about doing that.

They were trying to work on the process for doing those years, but it was more challenging than the more recent years. I think from experience in dealing with the more recent years, it probably took twice as long to get that worked to where people were actually satisfied with the numbers than was anticipated.

I don't know that you need to worry too much about that leading you to another change pretty quickly. That is at least one uncertainty to take off the table probably in terms of whether or not you need to do that. This is kind of different than actually recommending ABCs. The SSC handles this. It's about the methodology and the action and those are the outcomes. They're not having to review all the stocks and recommend new ABCs. New ABCs may come out of ORCS, but that is different than an adjustment based on a change in the data. They don't have to change their basis for ABCs, which they wouldn't be doing.

DR. DUVAL: And I guess, Roy, your concern is that there is probably enough of a change in what the allocations are for a couple of the species that you feel that an EA is needed to allow for that public comment process, but the actual methodology that we're using to set those sector allocations is unlikely to change until after the SSC has had an opportunity to review it; am I correct in that?

DR. CRABTREE: Well, the underlying formulas will only change if you as a council decide to change them. Now, if the SSC goes with the ORCS, then we could get a whole new string of ABCs out on these stocks; but when they do that they will use the corrected catch time series and we won't have to go through this. I don't know how many iterations of this we will need to do. It partly depends on what happens and how far back they're going.

MS. BROUWER: I'm just curious if we could get an idea of how many of the species in the Comprehensive ACL because this would only affect the Comprehensive ACL species, correct? How many of those would be the ones where the allocations are more likely to change. If it's only a couple, could we potentially only do an EA for those couple of species and the rest of them get taken care of by rulemaking?

DR. CRABTREE: Well, I don't know and I wouldn't get too hung up on the NEPA document. I don't think that is something we need to worry much about. To me whether it is a CE, it would have been somewhat easier to do it that way, I haven't gotten into that. Nick Alameda in our office has a list of all the species that are involved with it, and it does include I think some in the coastal migratory pelagics as well, as I recall, but maybe not.

Maybe it is just snapper grouper species. We could probably get that list by full council if you wanted to look at it. I don't know that splitting this up into two documents and so one is a CE and one is not. I don't know if we could pull off the CE that way, anyway, but I don't think it would really save us much to do it that way.

MR. WAUGH: But as far as talking about it as Regulatory Amendment 13, it would only include snapper grouper species; so if there are coastal migratory pelagics, then that would have to be looked at separately – just snapper grouper; then we're okay.

DR. CRABTREE: And when we talked about dolphin and wahoo, we do have the same problem with dolphin and wahoo, but we're going to have to do that through this plan amendment because we don't have a framework there. I'm not sure what we're doing with cobia. I think with cobia we're waiting on the assessment, which will take care of it.

DR. DUVAL: So it sounds like right now we're looking at one regulatory amendment to update our ACLs with the 2004 to present recalibration and then possibly down the road later next year another regulatory amendment after the SSC has finished their application of the ORCS methodology to some other stocks. Then if we change the method by which we determine commercial and recreational allocations, that would require a full plan amendment; would it not? Myra is nodding her head yes. Okay, I just want everybody to be aware of the workload and everything that could potentially go on. Roy.

DR. CRABTREE: And because my staff is back in the office listening to us all, I just got an e-mail pointing me to the table. There are 37 species in this amendment, all in the snapper grouper fishery.

MS. BROUWER: But my question was how many of those are likely to – where the allocations are likely to change. The MRIP calibration would only apply to four years of data because the landings time series that were used for the ACLs that were put in place through the Comprehensive ACL only went through 2008, so we're looking at only replacing four years of data?

DR. CRABTREE: No, because we're going to calibrate back with this scalar prior to 2004 all the way back; so all the years used in Boyles' Law, all of those landings will change. I could be wrong but I think the majority of these species that we're talking about we set the allocation using Boyles' Law.

MS. BROUWER: Yes, that is correct; I was just curious how many of those is the change significant enough that the allocations are likely to shift?

DR. CRABTREE: Well, that I couldn't tell you and until we get the actual numbers and plug them in and then we can have a discussion about what is significant and what is not. They all potentially could change some.

MR. HARTIG: Two questions; one, based on the timing of when we get the numbers that we used for the computation of Boyles' Law; when do you think we would be able to look at allocation decisions?

DR. CRABTREE: Do you mean to changing the formula itself?

MR. HARTIG: Well, either changing the formula – I mean when we get the numbers we're going to relook at allocation and when do you think that should be done; at the end of this process when we're all the way through? You're talking about incremental changes in the recreational fishery based on each iteration when we go back in time?

DR. CRABTREE: Well, we'll see what this does in December when we get all of the numbers. Now, I suspect all of the iterations of this will have progressively less impact on anything; because there are fewer years and you have already scaled them so it may get to where nothing is really changing. But if you want to come through and revisit the underlying formula that was used and the basis for the allocations, that is up to you guys. You can do that when you choose to. You will have a workload issues to fit in with it, but I think you can do that anytime you want to.

MR. HARTIG: And the second question I had to anybody that wants to try and answer it; in the MRFSS numbers, when you go back and look at the – you have very high and very low landings. I have been reading something about do we deal with – do we have some kind of smoothing technique to deal with these very high and low numbers? Bonnie, do you know if that decision has been made about how they do the smoothing for those very high or very low estimates in the recreational surveys?

DR. CRABTREE: I'm unaware of any smoothing so I'm not sure where you're going with that. The MRIP change, there was just a change in the statistical calculations of how the number is put together; but to my knowledge there wasn't any smoothing. Now, if the question is do those high fluctuation with MRIP; are they less severe or not? That I don't know because I didn't look at them closely and I don't –

MR. HARTIG: Well, okay, I'll look back and find where I read that, but I know in assessments that smoothing techniques are used for some of those high and low values. In mind if those are used in the assessment, I think that should go into this process as well. If you're smoothing the data based on an assessment, you should smooth it based on MRIP – no, okay.

DR. PONWITH: We have talked about smoothing in a couple of different context. We talked about using a three-year running average for setting ACLs to try and mitigate for spikes and troughs in the landings and kind of stabilize that. The calibration isn't talking about doing any of the smoothing. It's not changing any of the original estimates.

It is basically just calibrating the results from the new methodologies to the older data so that you're not reporting landings in MRIP terms and setting that against a quota that was based on the MRFSS methodology. In terms of smoothing I think that would be – if I'm understanding your question correctly, I think that is beyond the scope of what they're going to be doing on this.

DR. DUVAL: Well, Ben, I'm wondering if maybe where you read that wasn't in the Attachment 4 document which states that calibrations will be based on methods described in the Calibration Ad Hoc Working Group Final Report, and that report recommends trimming high and low values

of one to two years have noticeable impact upon the resulting calibration factor. Might that have been it?

MR. HARTIG: That was it; that was where I read that.

DR. CRABTREE: That is in determining the calibration factor, which the Center is going to do, and they will do however they do that and that is what we will apply. I'm anticipating the Center is just going to say here are the calibration factors to correct those pre-2004 years; and then it is just going to be some fraction you multiply times the landings for each year, and those are going to be the numbers we pop in. It is not something we're going to sit here and make decisions about.

MR. HARTIG: Okay, so if you get new calibration and we get new numbers, those will go into the assessment and then the assessment could smooth them based on what they had done before if they deem worth it.

MR. WAUGH: What would be helpful to us here is to have in the form of a motion what this is going to entail. As I understand from the discussions, it is just to make a technical correction to the recreational catch numbers; and then the Boyles' Law that is in place will apply, your ABC/ACL determinations will apply, and then that will give you what your new recreational and commercial ACLs are. Then timing, as I understand it, you want us and the IPT to bring you a draft regulatory amendment document for the December meeting. We will take public comment at the December meeting. You will take final action at the December meeting and we will submit it in December.

DR. CRABTREE: That's my hope. If it doesn't work that way, then I guess we'll take final action at the March meeting, but I'm hoping we can do it in December.

MR. WAUGH: All right, and as we go through each of these amendments, if we could have that guidance in the form of a motion, then it will be clear. When in this case Myra sits down and does that timing and task motion for full council, we will have a short description of what is going to be in each of these documents and the rough timing so we can look at it.

DR. DUVAL: Does everybody understand? Ben.

MR. HARTIG: So I understand this completely, Roy, run me through yellowtail because it is one species that has significantly higher MRIP recreational numbers. Run me through yellowtail and how you envision this when it goes through Boyles' Law. The way I see it working if the recreational – well, I guess it would have to go through the assessment first.

DR. CRABTREE: Well, that's it, yellowtail won't be part of this amendment. This amendment is only the unassessed stocks where the ACL is based on average landings. Now, we have issues with yellowtail, but at least in the short term we will be scaling the landings to make them comparable to the ACL. What we need to do with yellowtail essentially is get FWRI at some point to update the assessment and use the new MRIP numbers.

DR. DUVAL: Myra is getting a draft motion for someone to make up on the board here and we will give her a chance to finish that. In the meantime are there any other questions regarding what would be contained in Regulatory Amendment 13? Can everybody see that up on the screen? Gregg.

MR. WAUGH: If I could for Ben, Ben, if you envision this as just – what we did in the Comprehensive ACL Amendment was set up formulas and it was our understanding once you got new information, those formulas would apply. So here we've got Boyles' Law says you are going to use a certain time series to calculation the recreational/commercial allocation, so we're making technical corrections to the recreational input data.

Then the existing Boyles' Law formula would apply. That would give you new values for your recreational and commercial allocations, but using the same set of years in Boyles' Law that you approved in the Comprehensive ACL Amendment. Then however we calculated the ABC/ACL, that would be applied as well. The only input – it is like you set up a spreadsheet. The only numbers you're changing is at the top of the spreadsheet is changing your estimates of the recreational catch. The rest of it is set by formula based on your actions in the Comprehensive ACL Amendment.

DR. DUVAL: Okay, Ben is indicating that he is clear. **At this point I would entertain a motion to continue development of Regulatory Amendment 13 to make technical adjustment to the recreational catches for unassessed snapper grouper species. The existing Boyles' Law and the ABC/ACL/ACT determinations would be used. At the December meeting the amendment would be reviewed, public comment would be taken and it would be approved for submission to the Secretary of Commerce.** Anybody willing to make that motion? Doug makes the motion; second by Ben. Is there anymore discussion on this motion? Anna.

MS. BECKWITH: Just for my own education, how many of these species are going to overlap with the new ABCs that are going to be dealt with in June?

DR. DUVAL: It would be all of them.

MS. BECKWITH: So I guess just outside looking in I don't understand what the downside of waiting until June to do both of these together would be. I think I'm missing some connection.

MR. WAUGH: Making this change in Regulatory Amendment 13 would have a chance of having this apply for the 2013 fishing year to where you would be tracking – we won't have MRFSS estimates for 2013 so it would give you a better way of tracking the recreational – of adjusting the ACL to using MRIP numbers for 2013.

If we wait until June, by the time we implement any of those changes, those won't come online until probably 2014. So you're doing the same thing twice basically but Regulatory Amendment 13 could affect next year's catches; whereas what you do in June, it will be 2014 before those regulations would come online.

MS. BECKWITH: But I guess what I'm hearing also is that it is only really going to impact potentially a few species in any kind of significant fashion in terms of the changes. I don't know; it just seems like it would be more efficient to do them both in June. What would we use in 2013? If we didn't go ahead with this motion, what would we use, last year's landings for 2013 or how would we do that?

MR. WAUGH: We would use the MRIP numbers but the argument they made is that comparing apples to oranges because using an MRIP generated number to an ACL that was derived using MRFSS numbers.

DR. CRABTREE: And bear in mind if we switch to the ORCS methodology, that is a change in the control rule and all sorts of things, so that is going to require a lot of analysis and alternatives and all of those things, so that is a much more timely process. What we're doing in this amendment is a relatively simple thing.

We're just recalculating the numbers and we're not going to get into any difficult decision-making or any of that. We're just going to fix these numbers so that they're all based on the same scalar, and so we need to do it. The ORCS situation is a whole bigger change.

MR. WAUGH: And to follow up on what Roy is saying, as we put this document together it should be relatively short, relatively simple and should only have two alternatives; no action and what we're proposing to do. There is no need to look at additional alternatives.

DR. DUVAL: And Myra just noted that while the motion says that it is for unassessed snapper grouper species, that we might want to clarify that yellowtail, mutton and black, which were included in the Comprehensive ACL are not going to be addressed here because they are assessed. I'm just wondering if we need to modify the language of the motion. No?

DR. CRABTREE: I can read a list of the species into the record if you'd like.

DR. DUVAL: Okay, we just wanted to clarify that those three species were being left out. Is there anymore discussion? Is there any objection to this motion? Seeing none, **that motion stands approved.**

One of the things that we put off discussing was the yellowtail snapper issue and the assessment review by both SSCs, which is going to take place October 10th, and some mechanism – Martha was asking about earlier for potentially updating that ACL and there was some talk of an emergency rule. Roy, I don't know if you would like to address that issue or what.

DR. CRABTREE: Well, I think, Bonnie, you've got projections from the Center now on yellowtail?

DR. PONWITH: Yes.

DR. CRABTREE: And based on the e-mail I saw it looks like there are enough fish left in the quota to get them to the end of September, maybe early in October. Now, I don't know if Luiz

wants to comment, but my understanding is the expectation with the new assessment is going to be a higher ABC but we really don't know at this point how much higher; is that correct, Luiz?

DR. BARBIERI: Yes, that is correct. It's difficult for us to predict how that P-star analysis is going to come into play here and impact the ABC. We are doing projections over different levels of P-star, and those are the results we're going to be looking at and they're not ready yet. We are almost done but not completely there.

Now, the productivity of the stock actually seems to be higher now than way back then, so the expectation is that the ABC will be higher. Two things here; one is the P-star is expected to be a little bit lower because we are accounting better for the uncertainty in estimation of OFL, so we should a penalty by P-star would be lower. And, two, with the productivity of the stock being higher, the expectation is, yes, that the ABC is going to be higher. Now, it is impossible for me without guessing at this to tell you how much higher that would be.

DR. CRABTREE: Can you tell us, Luiz, how much higher is the estimate of MSY out of this assessment as opposed to the last one?

DR. BARBIERI: Well, I was trying to get to that right it. It is not that much higher. The figures have been reported for females only and we are doing the conversion. It's just the way that the model was structured, it spit out your figures for female biomass instead of total biomass; so when you look at that for the total biomass, assuming a 50/50 sex ratio, it is higher. This MSY is higher but not that much higher.

DR. CRABTREE: So right now we're looking at a quota of 1.1 million pounds commercial, so we're not looking at a situation where the ABC is going to be double what it is today?

DR. BARBIERI: Most likely not.

DR. CRABTREE: But we could looking at a situation where the ABC goes up by 20 to 25 percent or something like that?

DR. BARBIERI: Right.

DR. CRABTREE: So that is kind of the range we're looking at would be somewhere from, say, a 10 percent to maybe 30 percent, something like that as reasonable?

DR. BARBIERI: Right, yes.

DR. CRABTREE: So with a 1.1 million quota; if it was 10 percent higher, that would be a hundred thousand pounds. That is about a month's fishing at the rate they're catching fish. If it was 20 percent higher, then you've potentially got enough there to fish the remainder of the year.

MR. CUPKA: Yes, but once we get that figure, Roy, don't we have to divide it between the Gulf and the South Atlantic and then between the commercial and the recreational?

DR. CRABTREE: Yes.

MR. CUPKA: So it could be considerably less?

DR. CRABTREE: Well, in terms of poundage, but I think the percent increase would carry over into all of the allocation; so if the ABC goes up by 10 percent and then you divvy it all up, everybody is going to get 10 percent more fish, I think.

MR. CUPKA: Right, but the actual numbers, the value itself won't be that number.

DR. CRABTREE: Procedurally if you want to make this happen, I think what we need to do at this meeting is something on the order of requesting an emergency rule to adjust the yellowtail snapper commercial ACL using the ACL Control Rule that we have established and the ABC that comes from the SSC in October.

I would ask Monica to help me with this, but something along those lines. We don't really know exactly how much it is going to go up, but our current control rule is ACL equals ABC, so what you would be asking is the SSC gives you the ABC and the Fisheries Service then will calculate the allocations in the jurisdictional and then come up with the appropriate adjustment to the commercial ACL and put that in place.

DR. DUVAL: Myra has a draft motion up here on the board based on what Roy just said, which is request emergency rule to adjust the commercial ACL for yellowtail snapper based on the current stock assessment and the current ABC Control Rule.

DR. CRABTREE: And somewhere in there we need to refer to the SSC ABC recommendation because that is what we're going to base it on.

MR. WAUGH: While Myra is getting that up, this is exactly what we thought we had put in place with the Comprehensive ACL Amendment where we have laid the ABC Control Rule. You worked with your SSC, you set that ABC Control Rule. You have the allocation set based on Boyles' Law. Yellowtail has the split allocation between Gulf and South Atlantic; that is set.

So, again, all you're doing is you're incorporating the new ABC value that goes into the top of the spreadsheet and it just runs through the portions of the spreadsheet that you all have set out and spits out your new commercial ACL. You're not changing anything. We thought we had done this to where this could be done by – well, in the old mackerel days it used to be notice of action, but that is not available anymore, apparently, but we didn't have to do this by amendment, amendment, amendment.

I guess by way of saying that, you should be comfortable doing this. All that is happening here is you're incorporating a new ABC from the latest stock assessment. Your approved control rule and all your approved decisions are being applied, so there is no smoke and mirrors or anything here.

MR. CUPKA: I agree with what Gregg just said and I would like to go ahead and make the motion, Madam Chairman.

DR. DUVAL: Motion by David Cupka; second by Martha Bademan. The motion is to request emergency rule to adjust the commercial ACL for yellowtail snapper based on the current stock assessment, the SSC's ABC recommendation based on the current ABC Control Rule and commercial and recreational allocations. Roy.

DR. CRABTREE: And so just to kind of through our rationale a little bit on it, but we do have recent and unforeseen information. Two type; one, we have the new stock assessment which was completed since the last council meeting and the review process completed. Then we also have new information that the fishery is likely to close unless some change is made.

Obviously, closure of this fishery will pose a significant management problem and will have significant economic impacts on some of the fishermen down in the Florida Keys, many of whom basically yellowtail fish year round. That is what they do. Obviously, to get this done in order to keep this fishery open as long as we can this year, we don't have time to go through the normal notice and comment process because that would take too long. I think we meet the requirements for emergency rulemaking here.

MR. CUPKA: I think we need to amend the motion a little bit to also include saying the existing interjurisdictional allocations.

DR. DUVAL: That is just a friendly amendment there and I see Martha is okay with that. Roy.

DR. CRABTREE: And one more comment; so this rule will adjust the commercial yellowtail ACL. The reason we're not adjusting the recreational ACL is because we don't in-season closure on yellowtail snapper for the recreational fishery, so there is no emergency there. Now, obviously if you pass this motion, then we're going to have to proceed with a regulatory amendment to implement the ACL on a permanent basis because the emergency rule will only be in place for six months and then we'll be right back where we were. We're going to have to somewhere in this go through the framework procedure to adjust these things permanently.

MR. WAUGH: And that will need to be a joint amendment with the Gulf, and I assume they have a framework also because they'll have to adjust their –

DR. CRABTREE: Yes, but it is not a joint amendment because it is not a joint plan, so we will be working off the same ABC, which is divvied up, and then the Gulf will have to adjust their ACLs and we do ours. The Gulf is not approaching closure now so I don't think they will do any emergency action.

MR. CUPKA: And I think another thing is we did get a letter from the Gulf Council one time asking us to take management responsibility for yellowtail completely, but I guess that is a separate issue that somewhere along the line we'll maybe want to readdress.

DR. CRABTREE: I agree we do because I think the interjurisdictional split on this is questionable because I don't think we have a good grasp of where the fish are actually caught very well. It would be much cleaner if we managed this fishery with a single ABC and a single ACL commercial and a single ACL recreational.

MR. CUPKA: Yes, Roy, and I think there has been discussions between our staff and the Gulf staff indicating that it was set very conservatively and in fact the allocation to the Gulf probably should be considerably lower than what it is now.

DR. CRABTREE: Gregg, didn't we get a letter from the Gulf Council at one point asking us to take over management?

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: Yes, we have that.

MR. CUPKA: That is what I was referring to earlier.

DR. CRABTREE: Right, and the issue there was the permitting thing; so I think if we can come up with a way to deal with the permitting, then we could get the Gulf to remove it from the Reef Fish FMP and let us manage the whole fishery.

MR. WAUGH: Another approach would be similar to how we do mackerel. If the objective is to have one ACL without having to tinker with all the permitting, we could just set an ACL and allocate a portion of it to the Gulf and it come under their existing permitting. It is just another way. To address that, wouldn't we have to do a plan amendment; and maybe rather than looking at a regulatory amendment to make this permanent, look at a plan amendment to make the change in the ACL permanent and deal with this Gulf split.

DR. CRABTREE: I think provided we think we can get it done before this time next year; and that is the problem I see if we don't get permanent changes implemented pretty quickly, we will be sitting here potentially in the same boat next year. My thought had been if the South Atlantic – if the Gulf just pulled it out of the Reef Fish Plan and gave it to the South Atlantic, we could basically require you have to have a snapper grouper permit in the South Atlantic EEZ and recognize the Gulf reef fish permit in the Gulf of Mexico EEZ, and the permitting situation would be largely unchanged as long as the attorneys felt like we could do that kind of thing. We just ran out of time on the ACL Amendment to deal with it.

DR. DUVAL: So it is going to require a plan amendment regardless of which mechanism we use. Monica.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: There were a couple of species; I think mutton, yellowtail and maybe there was one more.

MR. CUPKA: I think it was Nassau grouper, which we ended up with, I believe.

DR. CRABTREE: Yellowtail and Nassau.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: Okay, so there were three species in which the Gulf was giving the South Atlantic their consent to manage if that is what the South Atlantic wanted to do. I don't know if you wanted to deal with all – if and when you get to that place where you want to do a plan amendment, you might as well deal with all three species.

MR. CUPKA: Well, we already have one, Monica. We have already got Nassau grouper. We did that so it is really just two left.

DR. DUVAL: Good point, Monica, and we can fold that into the mix because clearly we're going to have to do a plan amendment of some sort. Well, it would be advisable to just do a plan amendment to deal with when the emergency rule runs out on an ACL adjustment plus this issue of allocation between the Gulf and the South Atlantic.

DR. CRABTREE: It is just the timing. Whatever vehicle we're going to use to make the permanent adjustments to the ACL, we probably need to vote that up no later than the March meeting, and I don't think we can do a plan amendment that quickly that deals with these things but maybe we could. If we wait until the June meeting, I don't think we can get it done before potentially the fishery would close.

MS. BROUWER: I just wanted to bring your attention to an attachment that was actually e-mailed to everybody. It is up on the screen. It is the landings trends for yellowtail. I bring this up because it looks like the recreational landings have been well below the ACL. The recreational landings are in red. If you are considering a plan amendment to make these changes, perhaps it would be a good time to reconsider sector allocations for this species.

DR. DUVAL: Good point; wrap it up all into one. Roy, did you have another comment?

DR. CRABTREE: Just if you want to look at those things, we won't get that done in time so we'd need to do a framework action to adjust the ACLs and then deal with it. As soon as you bring up the allocation, it is going to become controversial.

DR. DUVAL: Right, the allocation adjustment would have to be a plan amendment; so I guess moving forward, if we really need to make a decision, if we're going to do a plan amendment to incorporate all of these things, we'd almost have to have a draft at the December meeting to go out for scoping. Yes, for a plan amendment we would almost have to be voting on a document at our December meeting to go out for January/February scoping and then get the results of that in March and have final approval in June. Is there staff input on whether or not that is feasible?

MS. BROUWER: I think so.

DR. DUVAL: So do we want to entertain a motion from the committee to – you're right, getting ahead of myself. We have a motion on the table and let's dispense with this. **The motion is to request an emergency rule to adjust the commercial ACL for yellowtail snapper based on the current stock assessment, the SSC's ABC recommendation based on the current ABC Control Rule, interjurisdictional allocation and commercial and recreational allocations. Is**

there anymore discussion on this motion? Is there any objection to this motion? Seeing none, that motion is approved.

So now, as Roy has indicated, in order to get through the process and if we want to consider making permanent the new ACL, if we want to consider basically taking over management of yellowtail snapper from the Gulf Council and potentially adjusting the ACL allocations based on what Myra has shown us, this will take a plan amendment. The other two species, Monica, that you mentioned were mutton snapper and – just mutton snapper. Go ahead, Roy.

DR. CRABTREE: I think we need a framework action to adjust the yellowtail snapper ACLs.

DR. DUVAL: And then deal with everything else in a plan amendment later.

DR. CRABTREE: So I would move that we begin a framework action to adjust the yellowtail snapper ACLs.

DR. DUVAL: Is there a second to that motion; seconded by Ben. Discussion? So just to get to the timing of this, when would the committee want to see a draft of this regulatory amendment. Could we see that in –

DR. CRABTREE: I would think December we'll do the assessment and the analysis for the emergency rule and we can tier off of that; so we look at it in December, go to public hearings after that and come back in at March and load it up.

DR. DUVAL: Does that need to be part of the motion? Roy and Ben, that is okay with you adding this to the motion?

DR. CRABTREE: Yes.

MR. HARTIG: Yes.

DR. DUVAL: **Okay, so the motion now reads initiate development of a regulatory amendment to adjust the yellowtail snapper ACLs and bring this to the council for review at the December meeting. Is there anymore discussion on this motion? Is there any objection? Seeing none, that motion stands approved.** I think maybe down the road we could consider a plan amendment to do some of these other things because we're clearly not going to be able to do this by the end of next year, looking at things like adjusting the sector allocation and whatnot.

DR. CRABTREE: Gregg or Myra, any chance you think we could bring this framework in for final action in December and do a public hearing at the December meeting and vote it up.

MS. BROUWER: I guess that would depend on the priorities that the council decides on. I think it is doable.

DR. CRABTREE: Okay, so we're going to come back to priorities in a different committee.

MS. BROUWER: At full council.

DR. CRABTREE: So back to the other point; yes, I think if you want to look at the Gulf turning over yellowtail and mutton and if you want to revisit those allocations, yes, you would need to start working on a plan amendment to do those things.

DR. DUVAL: Well, we might want to save that for after – we might want to wait until after the SSC has had a chance to look at Boyles' Law; because if we're going to do any adjustment of commercial or recreational allocations, it would be better to have their input. I think we'll probably hold off on that until after the December meeting. I need a ten-minute break right now before we get into the last few agenda items.

(Whereupon, a recess was held.)

DR. DUVAL: We're going to go ahead and ramp back up here. We still have several agenda items to go. The next one is Amendment 22, which is a tag program for red snapper and deepwater species. The amendment itself is Attachment 5A and then Attachment 5B is actually a recent draft addendum that the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Striped Bass Board just passed with regard to commercial striped bass tagging as reference. I'm going to turn it over to Myra to kind of run us through Amendment 22 and what is in there.

MS. BROUWER: As Michelle mentioned, the attachment in your briefing book is at this point just an options paper. The IPT didn't have a lot to work with in terms of ideas that you might have on how you want to see a tag program developed. Most of what we have in here really is just things that you will have to think about and determine before we can flesh this out a little bit further.

What I'm going to do is basically just walk your through and explain to you where we are going to need your input. Also just a background, the idea of a tag program for red snapper was scoped a couple of years ago, right after Regulatory Amendment 10 went into effect to take away the closure that was put in place for red snapper.

It was included in the amendment for long-term management options so it had many other things in there including catch shares. Then that amendment was basically just put on the back burner until now. There is an action to look at red snapper, and then the other thing that has been included in here – and it is a suggestion from the IPT – is to consider a similar program for the deepwater species. That would be golden tilefish, snowy grouper and wreckfish.

Okay, I just came across this note from the IPT, which is on Page 2 of your attachment. I guess we would need clarification as to whether you intend to do another emergency rule to allow some harvest of red snapper each year until the long-term management regime, which is just the tag program at this point, is implemented. That's basically just something to keep in mind for the discussion.

DR. CRABTREE: Well, we can't sit here and say we plan to do an emergency rules every year because emergency rules have to be due to new and unforeseen circumstances. Our options for next year are yet another framework kind of amendment to allow a very short season or something along the lines of Amendment 22 unless some new and unforeseen information actually comes up next year that leads us into a situation where an emergency rule might be appropriate, but we can't plan on that being the case.

MS. BROUWER: Okay, we have the possible actions that we came up with. Back in June you discussed doing a lottery for the tags. There was discussion about keeping the commercial and recreational allocations and apply that to the lottery. Action 1 would be to, first of all, establish the tag program for red snapper and then specify criteria for tag usage. We will get into that in just a minute.

Action 2 would then be to determine sector allocations for tag distribution, and, of course, that would be if you wanted an allocation for the commercial sector as well as the recreational; or, you could choose to continue to manage the commercial sector the way it has been done and do a tag program just for the recreational fishery.

Action 3 would put all the specifics in there for how this issuance process would work from year to year. And then like I mentioned, Actions 4 and 5 are suggestions to include in this amendment if you wanted to continue to consider a tag program for deepwater species. Again, background for folks, that action was actually scoped under CE-BA 3 earlier this year.

Then the council chose to not consider it any further because they wanted more information on existing tag programs at the state level and that is when we talked about all this at the June meeting. The proposed timeline for this amendment is for you to give us more guidance based on this options paper.

I don't think you can choose preferreds because we don't really have alternatives for you. We would hold public hearings in January/February of 2013 and approve for submission in March and June and the regulations would then be implemented in late 2013. That is sort of a rough timeline of what we're looking at.

Then we have a draft purpose and need that we have included. Before we get too far into the weeds about this and approving language and all that stuff, perhaps some discussion on whether this is the only consideration that you are going to put out there for long-term management of red snapper or are there other options that could potentially also be explored.

DR. DUVAL: Are there any comments from committee members at this point? One of the things that sort of sticks out at me is the proposed timeline that regulations will not be implemented until late 2013; so if we wanted to have some red snapper harvest next year we would need to do it through some other mechanism.

As Roy has alluded to earlier, we can't keep doing emergency rules. But that kind of pops out at me and are there other means of allowing red snapper harvest or deepwater species harvest? Just to remind folks, the reason that we went out to scoping with a tag harvest program for the

recreational ACLs for the deepwater species is just that we're measuring those ACLs in numbers of fish; you know, 523 snowy grouper; I think it is a thousand something for golden tilefish. We were just looking at the landings from earlier today that were at least twice that amount in terms of numbers of fish for both of those species; so thoughts on purpose and need? Anna.

MS. BECKWITH: Not necessarily to purpose and need, but are there any other examples where the National Marine Fisheries has had a tag program for a fish in this region?

DR. CRABTREE: I'm not sure. I'm not aware of any at this point. HMS is considering it but I don't think has done it yet.

DR. DUVAL: Bonnie, did you have something to add?

DR. PONWITH: The closest thing to the tagging that this sets out to describe that I have experienced is the punch-card system that they have for managing salmon in Puget Sound. That would be run by Washington state, but it is kind of an analogous situation where the card is where you keep your records. Affixed to the card is a stamp; the stamp is your license.

It is similar to the lay of the land here in that there are many, many, many departure points so it is impossible to kind of control doing effort estimation via dockside techniques. What they do is have people, when they go out and when they catch a fish, they have to put a punch card in the punch card and then fill out the date for that. Then when the punch card is full, they turn that punch card into the state that uses that for the estimate of what the total landings were. That is about the closest I have seen to that.

DR. DUVAL: And I think it is a great question that Anna asked. It really gets to the point of is there the infrastructure available at the Service to administer something like this. Bonnie, from your remarks, I know just from operating in North Carolina that it is far more likely that the states would be able to administer something like that. Anna, did you have a followup?

MS. BECKWITH: And that was I think my original point that states certainly seem to have a lot more experience, something akin to the stamp program for snook in Florida and certainly all of the hunting tags that North Carolina and such. I know North Carolina would likely like to administer their own portion of this program and that would something that I'll be looking to discuss a little bit later.

MR. HAYMANS: Georgia is migrating – part of our system is already contracted out and all of our tag programs and quota hunts and everything will be contracted out by the end of 2013, starting for the 2014 season. There are a plethora of companies out there who do this. It wouldn't require hiring anybody extra for the National Marine Fisheries Service. We should truly push the Fisheries Service towards contracting this sort of thing out. They do the tag fulfillment, the whole nine yards.

DR. DUVAL: It sounds like we may want to have some further information on some of those organizations that actually do that, a presentation or something like that. David.

MR. CUPKA: I wanted to ask you, Michelle; I think you had indicated you have some familiarity with the ASMFC striped bass tag program, and I looked that over and it seemed to me that part of the problem they've had deals from the fact that state agencies are handling those from the standpoint of they're not consistent across the states I guess, and that has created a lot of loopholes.

I think that is one thing that if you do go with the states issuing these things it seems to me there needs to be some consistency on how that sort of program is run or you get all these loopholes. Is that a true statement based on your familiarity with that paper. I think you said you worked on that.

DR. DUVAL: Yes, it is, and Bob Beal is here with the ASMFC so he can jump in at any point, but we actually just approved this addendum at the last commission meeting in August. It was a lack of coast-wide consistency between the different states' commercial harvest tag programs. There were a couple of significant law enforcement incidents that occurred in Maryland and Virginia with illegal harvest and poaching.

Really, the problem there was that the agencies tags were – they didn't have years on them so it was easy to save the tags and just poach the fish from year to year. It was really more for consistency of information on the tags. I think the Interstate Watershed Task Force would really have liked to have seen the same color tag across all states; but as discussion went on they recognized the utility of having different colors for different gear types in the Chesapeake Region.

Then for North Carolina we use different color tags for our different water bodies. But having the year, the state of issue, the minimum size limit, a unique tag number on there, those were all of the things that they really wanted to see on there. Bob, I don't know if you want any more to that.

MR. BEAL: Not a whole lot; I think the important part is the addendum that was just passed by the commission was primarily a law enforcement issue. It wasn't an allocation. It was designed 100 percent to close loopholes. Some states didn't have any tagging programs in place, so that allowed fish to – as soon as they got to the market, if they ended up in that state, they were fine, there wouldn't be any problems.

The other shortcoming of the tagging programs that were in place was a lot of the states did not limit the number of tags that were available. They would just give out tags, as many as you needed, but they would monitor the pounds landed. Once the quota was full they shut down the fishery, so that allowed an unlimited number of tags to be out on the market.

Under the new program all the states are required to use some biological metric to allocate their tags. Most of the states are essentially going to take the average weight of an individual fish, divide their quota, and that is the number of tags they're going to give out. There are provisions to reduce the number of tags and increase consistency up and down the coast. The commission wasn't able to go far as law enforcement folks wanted, but that is kind of the spot we're in a lot of times. I would be happy to answer any questions on it, though.

MR. CUPKA: Well, I'm certainly not speaking against it. I'm just pointing out by going with individual states, there are problems there if you don't set it up right whereas if you've got one person doing it there is more of a chance of consistency. Some of these species where we have very low numbers, I don't know of any other way to control it other than do something like this. I just wanted to make it clear I wasn't necessarily speaking against but just a word of caution of some of the problems that you have if it isn't very carefully thought out.

DR. DUVAL: I agree, and certainly if we move down this road and if it's something that the states administer and the states certainly have experience in doing that, that we would want to have a very coordinated approach and have tags that are the same and have all the same information on them, that there is obviously some biological metric for potentially – we already have our ACL but for ensuring that there are not tags just floating out there on the free market by having the year on them or something like that. Doug, you had a followup.

MR. HAYMANS: Well, I was just going to ask Bob what species do you guys have tags for?

MR. BEAL: Only for striped bass for now. In the lobster fishery they have to have trap tags, but that is on the gear and not the individual fish. Under the new plan for striped bass, any striped bass that is landed commercially – this only applies to a commercial fishery – has to have a tag at point of harvest or before it enters point of sale.

I think to the point of consistency, if the council wants to consider it, this is the time to do it. The commission has got twelve different jurisdictions involved in striped bass commercial fishing and they've all had systems in place, some of them for decades now, with established tag colors and protocols and everything else. Trying to get those states to come off those positions is pretty tough; but to start from scratch, that is the time you want to do it and then get the consistency at that point.

MR. BELL: Not to be a stick in the mud, but keep in mind I can appreciate why it makes sense for the states to manage this, but given current levels of manning and budget issues and things I'm not really looking for something else to have to manage right now. I deal very heavily with our commercial permitting and licensing and stuff, and we're having enough trouble just keeping up with we're doing now. That may just be our issue here, but it does come with it some necessary manpower and ability to do that.

DR. DUVAL: And I think we can all appreciate that comment state budgets being what they are. To me it makes more sense because the states do have experience with tag programs to have some kind of, for example, allocation for each of the states based on what their historical landing of each of these deepwater species might be. I'm just speaking solely for the deepwater species right now. I'm not really sure – I remain to be convinced that a red snapper tag program is probably the appropriate mechanism to go, but we'll see how our conversation plays out. Steve.

MR. AMICK: I'm a new council member and it has just come to my attention that we had – I wasn't aware that there was a tagging program in the works. My feelings are that a tagging program as far as the recreational for-hire is a terrible idea. I see lots of problems in these option

papers. I don't see how it would play out. In my mind it would be much easier to do something like we're doing this year even if it is a short season; establish the ACL for red snapper down the line, hopefully it will increase and have short seasons. Being in the for-hire sector, I see lots of trouble down the line and I really don't support going down the path using the tag program to manage long term the red snapper for many reasons.

MS. BECKWITH: And I'm optimistic in my view of red snapper recovering, so I also am not sure that a tag program that is an appropriate management tool for red snapper. And to Steve's point, our particular for-hire industry is less interested in a tag program and certainly can see more of an economical benefit of having particular open seasons where they can publicize that and try and get charters that are interested in catching a particular species such as red snapper during an opening regardless of how short that is.

That is something that we can use to our benefit rather than having a handful of tags that we may or may not be able to utilize. I also have a concern just from a practical perspective. It is a little bit in the weeds but I'd be curious to know how – you know, if we have 14,000 allotted red snapper; are we going to be issuing 14,000 tags; are we going to be issuing 30,000 tags in the hopes of getting 14,000 red snapper that are actually harvested? I would be concerned about that as well.

DR. DUVAL: Yes, that is certainly a concern if you were to issue tags. Just because someone has a tag, it doesn't necessarily mean that they're actually going to go out and harvest that fish. There are probably some examples from game that could come into play here. I have been remiss in calling on Martha; I apologize.

MS. BADEMAN: I just wanted to talk a little bit about some of the complications that could arise in Florida with a tag program. Not only would we have to work through the commission, we would also have to work through our legislature. If we are going to have a fee associated with it, which we most likely would need to because it can be pretty expensive to administer these programs.

It would be difficult I think to get both on board, the commission and the legislature, and it would also take a really, really long time. 2013 would not be possible; just something to keep in mind. We do have a tag program for tarpon, which I think we talked about at the June meeting, and there are some issues with that, some kinks that probably need to be worked out as well. It's not all perfect.

MR. WAUGH: As you all discuss this, not just specific to red snapper, we recognize that everybody doesn't have a warm, fuzzy feeling about tags, but we've got recreational ACLs, and the L is "limit". We have blown every one every year. The guidelines say if you do that, then you need to examine your accountability measures.

We can't keep letting these recreational ACLs ride, and that is why you see the recommendation to include the deepwater species in here because those have consistently been exceeded, and we're going to have to address that at some point. To us the only viable way with some of these

low numbers right now are tags. Certainly, if you all have some other suggestions we're going to start looking at them because we can't just keep letting those overages ride and ride.

DR. DUVAL: And that is a great point and I think that certainly speaks to I think the interest that I've had in examining a tag-based approach for the deepwater species. Red snapper I think, as Anna mentioned, I don't think anyone doubts that red snapper is recovering and it is certainly a fish that is much more accessible to the recreational angling population than some of these deepwater species. Doug.

MR. HAYMANS: What Gregg just said made me think if you had a tag program; would the only need for MRIP creel clerks then would be to look at the regulatory discards? If assume that a hundred percent of the tags that you gave out got used, that is your harvest portion, right?

DR. PONWITH: The MRIP dockside intercept folks aren't just sampling red snapper. They are sampling the entire recreational fleet and all the species that they catch and getting biological samples. The other thing is that even if you did go to a tag program you would still want dockside intercepts to get the biological samples to represent the fishery-dependent data.

MR. HAYMANS: Right, and I realize that. I guess I'm thinking more along the lines of specifically for red snapper. If a guy has got a red snapper in his cooler and he hadn't put a tag in its jaw, he is not going to allow you to see it. I hadn't thought of that particular part yet.

DR. PONWITH: And to that point, I hope Otha was paying really close attention to that because in my mind dockside sampling for biological samples is a critical science requirement, but my other experience with tag-like programs, this punch-card program, its success really hinges on some pretty good enforcement.

DR. CRABTREE: To me this is more of an accountability mechanism to keep you from going way over. You issue 10,000 tags, you can be fairly certain that no more than 10,000 fish are going to be caught; but it's not going to tell you how many fish are caught. If you put a requirement that after they use their tag they have to notify you or send you something, I suspect you'll get compliance on the order of 20 or 25 percent of people will do that.

That is what we have seen with the Florida Tarpon Tag Program because I used to go to tarpon tournaments and write down all the tag numbers in the tarpon and then look and see what cards were sent in and most people never sent the card in. The problem of estimating the catch for these rare species isn't going to go away; but what are you going to do with red snapper if we have these two three-day weekends and we find out they caught way too many fish.

Then that means next year if we want to have a season we're going to have to shorten it way down and with six days you don't have a lot of room to start shortening things up. I know people don't really like tags but for a lot of these fisheries there is just not a practical way to control the catch other than something like that.

Now, I guess if you don't want to pursue this for snapper, then we need to think about, well, what are we going to do next year? Are we just going to not have a season next year? I guess you could put in place a start date for the season.

It would be yet another framework action and you could specify a start date and say fishing on weekends and the Fisheries Service closed the fishery – you know, projects when it closes. Then we could come in some time next year and look at what happened last year, look at the new discard estimates we get and then we could determine how many days, if any, there would be for it. It seems to me that is about the only other alternative we have in the meantime.

MS. BECKWITH: I personally find that a more attractive option just because I can envision a number of tags being issued to people throughout the United States that are just not going to harvest those fish. At least people can plan around those weekends in advance and they either can take their own boats out, they can hire guides, but there is a set open quality to that which I find attractive. That would be my preference; and the tag program for the deepwater species, I have no problem with that one.

MR. AMICK: I would just like to add my comments. Let's use that 10,000 red snapper number; let's say we pretended that this year we had a tag program in place and you allocated 10,000 tags for this coming weekend or season. We would like to fish for snapper but are we really having any kind of a season, really?

So your recreational sector would have 10,000 tags and you allocated how you would distribute it to the people, a lottery or whatever. If you had an allocation for the for-hire sector and you divided it up a certain percentage – let's say 50 percent recreational and then 50 percent for-hire, for example, and you divided it up, that leaves 5,000 tags for the for-hire section.

1,068 permit holders that do for-hire, 59 headboats; okay, so you distributed 5,000 tags for the for-hire sector in four states; okay, so then you decided if you want to fish six months for it or you can use them when you want to or only during this period; and so you allocate this out; and you've got a fella that has a headboat off of Mayport and he is holding five tags.

So he books his trip and he says, okay, I've got five tags that I can use during whatever period – and this is my season; this is your red snapper season when using a tag program. And I just don't see it working. It is not fair and equitable; whereas if you had a season, even as short as it could be, then anybody that wanted to go catch a red snapper had the opportunity to take their own boat, spend the fuel, their time and go catch what they could.

There is the question of I'm not sure how the tags would limit going over an ACL, but the so-called tag program to open up a season is so limited that it has virtually no economic value and there is not truly a true open season. I would almost prefer to even have a closed season and wait until the ACLs get high enough where we can have a reasonable period of time to land red snapper across the board.

DR. DUVAL: Thanks for those comments, Steve. Other thoughts? Doug.

MR. HAYMANS: I think I read one of the possible actions was that you would subdivide recreational between private and for-hire; was that one of the things?

MS. BROUWER: Yes, I believe that is one of the options under one of the actions.

MR. HAYMANS: Okay, so do we have anywhere a comparison of the number of trips for for-hire versus the total number of recreational anglers that are out there? Is that data out there?

MS. BROUWER: I don't have those data available, no.

MR. HAYMANS: Well, not certainly available but I guess we can get to that through MRFSS, through MRIP.

DR. DUVAL: I'm sensing some folks not necessarily in favor of a tag program for red snapper or at least divided opinions on whether that is the best way to move forward. I think certainly some of the questions that have been asked get to doing something like this is certainly a lot more complicated than it seems maybe right up front, and there are a number of different questions that would need to be answered. John.

MR. JOLLEY: I just would remind my colleagues that you said the complicated nature, and, of course, every time we – you know, this just adds another layer of complication to these fisheries. I understand the problem of trying to get good catch data on a timely basis, but remember the public is out there already suffering with a lack of confidence.

I would hope that if we move with some kind of a tagging program we pick something as a pilot, move slowly, and make sure we get it implemented properly and learn as much about it and then we had to spread to other species, but I'm very sympathetic to the public's concern about how complicated it is getting to go fishing.

MR. HAYMANS: Madam Chairman, I was about to make a motion to develop a tag program for South Atlantic Red Snapper and let's vote it either up or down. I would make a motion that we establish a tag program for South Atlantic Red Snapper and specify the criteria for tag use.

DR. DUVAL: There is a motion by Doug; seconded by Ben. **The motion is to establish a tag program for South Atlantic Red Snapper and establish criteria for such a program.** I guess the one question I would have for you, Doug, are you specifically talking recreational sector only? It does not distinguish between recreational and commercial.

MR. HAYMANS: Yes, recreational because I think we're going to continue to have a small trip limit for commercial, so, yes, recreational.

DR. DUVAL: Okay, discussion. Martha.

MS. BADEMAN: I just have a question. We talked a little bit about some of pros and cons of having the states run a tagging program. What about the National Fisheries Service because we haven't really talked about that? How would that work and could it work?

DR. CRABTREE: I'm sorry; what was the question?

MS. BADEMAN: What if you did the tagging program instead of the states; is that possible, what do you see?

DR. CRABTREE: I had originally envisioned this as that is how it would go if we did it. I think if the states each did it, it becomes a much, much more complicated process. If I could comment on your motion, you're not as a position yet to be deciding whether you're going to do this or not.

I guess the question here is whether you want staff to continue work on an amendment to look at this. I think that is really the issue. If you do want them to continue working on this amendment, do you want it just to be red snapper or do you want it to include some others and that kind of thing. We're not making a final decision unless the decision is you don't want any part of this and you want the staff to stop working on it.

MR. HAYMANS: That was really the purpose of the motion was to find out from the entire council whether you want to move forward or not. Maybe a motion is not the best way and maybe a straw poll is; I don't know.

MR. PHILLIPS: Doug, did you just want to do red snapper? Actually I see golden tile and snowy is actually probably fitting the bill better for a tag program than red snapper, but did you just want to talk about red snapper?

MR. HAYMANS: That was my intention but I'm open to an amendment.

MR. AMICK: I think that there might be merit to a tagging program for the low numbers of snowy grouper or wreckfish, golden tile. I don't see where it is fitting for the numbers that you're talking with on red snapper.

MR. HARTIG: I think it would be nice to have a little bit of tempering this red snapper enthusiasm from what has actually happened in the Gulf. Things have gotten a lot better in the Gulf. The recreational seasons are getting shorter. I see a lot of value in this because of those kinds of things that we're facing. What is the experience in the Gulf with recreational catches as the stock has gotten better?

DR. CRABTREE: The seasons have gotten shorter; the quotas have gone up. We're probably a quota of a little over 4 million pounds now for the recreational fishery in the Gulf. They were able to fish I think 46 days this year, and that was with a six-day extension because of weather and Tropical Storm Debbie. The fishing is great and it is a tremendous world class fishery, but it is very short.

MR. PHILLIPS: I see benefits with the tagging especially for the golden tile and the snowies. Red snapper, if you're out fishing for gags or something and you catch a red snapper you can keep it and then it is not a discard. It could help with the discards, but then again you have deal

with compliance and so where do you end up settling down on the scale I guess is the question. There are a lot of pluses and minuses to weigh.

MR. BELL: I saw this I guess initially as a mechanism where if you found yourself in a position where you had a smaller than usual number of fish in an ACL or something and you needed to be very careful about making sure you didn't blow past that, this was an effective tool. If it is non-species specific, it potentially offers the Service a tool they can use in the future for whatever species that might fit within the box.

It might provide a useful mechanism to kind of deal with this. Maybe we use it for red snapper now and later we use it for something else, but nothing exists right now. You don't have the authority to do that. If you created it, it would at least give them an option to use it in the future, perhaps.

DR. DUVAL: Myra has modified the language and I just want to check and make sure that is okay with the motion maker and the seconder. We switched out a work to say "continue to consider a recreational tag program for South Atlantic Red Snapper and establish criteria for such a program." Is that okay with Doug and Ben?

MR. HAYMANS: That is a bit weak. That's what we're doing right now; we continuing to consider it. Doesn't it need some sort of direction? I don't know; Ben, do you have thoughts on how to reword that?

MR. HARTIG: "Establish"; if you want to get rid of those first three words and just enter "establish"; that would make it pretty clear what you're going to do.

MR. CRABTREE: Well, it is just you can't establish this program through a motion. You're going to have to go through the amendment process. If this motion passes that you want to continue working on it, then we're going to go back to going through this document and you're going to have to give staff some guidance about the alternatives and the options and all of that kind of thing. If the motion fails, then I guess we're done with it.

MR. MAHOOD: Yes, and that is all the staffs need to know, both Roy's staff and our staff, is do we want to move ahead and still consider a tag program for red snapper. I think what Doug has put up there should try to reach that decision; and if you vote for it, you do want us to continue working on it; if you vote against it, you want to look at something else.

MR. PHILLIPS: Well, if we vote this down what are we going to do with snowies and golden tile? We just have another motion if we want to look at a tag program for that? Okay, that is what I want to know.

MR. AMICK: Just one more point; Charlie brought up that I don't see how a tagging program would help with the discards. I can imagine a group of two or three fellas going out and they've got one of these rare tags on the boat. The idea is that, okay, you catch a red snapper and you put the tag on it and it is supposed to be not removable.

But is going to happen is the fellas are going to be out there and they're going to catch one red snapper and say, "I don't if I want the tag on this fish". Okay, and they're going to wait and at the end of the day if they don't catch another snapper or something, they'll put that tag on it sure enough; but if they catch a snapper that is 10 or 12 pounds and the first one is 8 pounds, that tag will go on that big snapper and it will come in and that 8-pound snapper will go back in the water. Now, that's not how you would want to think it would happen, but that's human nature, I believe.

MR. BROUWER: I just wanted to suggest that if you wanted to continue to consider a tag program for the deepwater species, to make this cleaner you might consider changing your language to say "remove consideration of a tag program for red snapper from Amendment 22." That would take that part of it away and then we can move on to talking about the deepwater species, if that is what you want to do.

MR. HARTIG: Bonnie, in the punch-card salmon scenario what level of fish are we talking about; do you remember how many fish were allocated to that sector for that kind of punch-card program?

DR. PONWITH: I don't recall what their quotas were, but this wasn't a remnant, you know, like a small, small fishery. This was a fairly substantial – I mean a very high participation level and a high quota. An individual would buy a punch card. There were 20 punches on that card. When the card is full, you're done; or, if the quota allows it, you can go get another punch card. It depends upon satisfying that quota. Again, on the coast their program was similar to the MRIP Program for monitoring the quotas, but in Puget Sound that just simply didn't work and so that's where they used it.

MR. HARTIG: And, Roy, given there is 4 million pounds of fish allocated to the recreational fishery in the Gulf, that is what I was looking at and looking at the numbers about when you would change back to a different mode of allocating fish. Do you think 4 million is too many tags to deal with; is a hundred thousand, a million? Is there a time when we switch this program if we approve it to a different program as far as identifying how many red snapper are harvested?

DR. CRABTREE: Well, first off, I think the MSY estimate for South Atlantic red snapper is less than 2 million pounds. The Gulf Fishery catches a hundred thousand pounds of fish a day and we're taking six days to catch 13,000 fish or something, so it is a while different scale. I don't know when you get to that point.

My worry is with these short seasons like we're doing this year, that we're going to find out after we get through this that we really have no way of knowing how many fish were caught. That is going to be a problem for us to have a fishery that we can't really monitor or tell what is going on with it. This is one way to address that and maybe not the only way but it is one way.

DR. DUVAL: We have a motion on the floor and we have staff's suggestion that instead of this motion we could potentially consider a motion to remove consideration of a recreational tag program for South Atlantic red snapper from Amendment 22. What is your pleasure, folks? Do you want to vote on this motion, vote it up or down? I'm seeing heads nodding around the table.

Is there anymore discussion on this motion before we take a vote? **The motion is establish a recreational tag program for South Atlantic red snapper and establish criteria for such a program.** How about we have a show of hands for who is in favor of this motion; opposed, can I have those folks raise their hands. Five in favor, eight against, and **that motion fails.** That begs the question what do you want to do with red snapper or do you want to consider a tag program for the deepwater species?

MR. HARTIG: Yes, I'd move that we consider a tag program for the deepwater species.

DR. DUVAL: Motion by Ben; seconded by Anna to consider a recreational tag program for the deepwater species. Discussion?

DR. CRABTREE: What species?

DR. DUVAL: I think Myra is clarifying this for us right now; golden tilefish, snowy grouper and wreckfish. Discussion on the motion? Ben.

MR. HARTIG: Well, the rationale, Roy had laid it out clearly before. We've heard it throughout this meeting so far that the recreational catches at least on paper on look like they're going significantly over. Now, having said that, it is a rare species and the CVs and uncertainty associated with those estimates are relatively high. This is one way that we could actually keep the recreational allocation within the allocation, actually.

MR. BELL: So the purpose of this is to stay in place – I mean, that is how we would manage the ACL for the recreational sector for the foreseeable future. That is the idea; it's not just sort of a one-shot deal?

MR. HARTIG: Yes and the way I see golden tilefish and snowy grouper managed by this council – and many of you may disagree with me – I see golden tilefish and snowy and wreckfish being a relatively small percentage of the harvest overtime. In my position I'm not willing to continue to erode those three species that have been primarily commercial through time to continually erode more allocation to the recreational fishery.

I think we can give them a fixed amount. I think we manage it through tags like that motion said; and additionally – and I'm not going to make that motion now – I would like to see VMS on any of those vessels that fish in the deepwater because they would be fishing in the areas of the MPAs as well. That is another thing to come up later.

MR. HAYMANS: Weren't the catches of wreckfish by recreational anglers like in the less than hundreds; very small?

DR. DUVAL: This is the first year we have had a recreational ACL for wreckfish so I would say technically there would be zero catch information.

MR. HAYMANS: I thought I saw somewhere and maybe it was the ACL that was less than a thousand fish; it was tiny. I guess where I was going with the question is, is this going to be per species or is it going to be an aggregate tag? What would you think?

DR. DUVAL: I'm sorry; say that again, Doug.

MR. HAYMANS: Would the tag be by species or would be an aggregate tag for all three species?

DR. DUVAL: That's an interesting question.

MR. HARTIG: I missed it; what was it?

DR. DUVAL: Doug asked if the intent would be to have a different tag for each species or if it would be an aggregate tag for all three species. I think the intent, when we scoped it, was to have different tags for each species.

MR. HAYMANS: The question is who is going to apply for a wreckfish tag?

MR. HARTIG: To that point, Doug, we were approached by the recreational fishery for swordfish down towards southern Florida who fish in the daytime with live bait in the areas where wreckfish live. That is where this all came about where we allocated a portion of the TAC to the recreational fishery was because they are catching a few of these animals. They just don't want to turn that animal back dead. From 1,200 to 1,800 feet there is not much chance of survival. That is where all this came from, and, yes, there are some being caught. Didn't we put a season, a short season? Didn't we have a three-month season?

DR. CRABTREE: I think it was July/August. We opened it in Wave 4 and I believe the accountability measure is if we go over it closes back down, meaning there won't be another season, but I'm not sure about that.

DR. DUVAL: I think we're definitely starting to get into the weeds of designing criteria, which presumably we have given staff at least enough direction to start putting together potential design criteria that could come back to us in December. We need to be careful to make sure that we have timing associated with our motions.

I guess maybe before we vote on this – you know, we've heard a couple of examples, one from Bonnie and Doug made mention of the fact that they will have contracted out all of their tagging in the state of Georgia. I was wondering if the committee wanted to entertain a potential presentation at the December meeting with regard to how Georgia has done this or the structure of that. Then Bonnie also mentioned another type of program that isn't really – it sounds more like a stamp rather than a tag program, but all the same this punch card. Just to get a sense of the different options, but I don't know; I throw that out there for the committee to consider. Doug.

MR. HAYMANS: I guess rather than Georgia or any of the other 23 states that I know of that contract out their license and tag stuff, why not just have a company like Active Sports come in

and give a presentation on what their capabilities are. They do quota hunts, they do tag fulfillments and all that sort of thing. Really, it is a no-cost program to the agency because it is paid for through the convenience fee that the applicants pay. To me we need to get one of those companies to come in and give a presentation on what they can do.

DR. DUVAL: What do folks think about something like that? I see some heads nodding; okay. Let's go ahead and take a vote on this motion before we consider the time and to see if people actually support this, and then we can deal with the timing and what we might want after that. **The motion is to consider a recreational tag program for the deepwater species, which are golden tilefish, snowy grouper and wreckfish, in Amendment 22. Is there any objection to that motion? Seeing none, that motion passes.**

Now I think we would also need a motion for when we would like staff to bring back something for the committee to review. I think I'm going to ask Gregg and Myra here – I know the spreadsheet is getting pretty well loaded up; so in terms of timing and when we want to see something, I don't even know if we would be able to have something ready for 2014. Myra.

MS. BROUWER: Well, I think what we're going to need if you do want to proceed with designing a tag program for the deepwater species is answers to several of the questions we've posed in this options paper.

I see that taking a good bit of time, but I don't know that we can develop alternatives and options that are going to be very informative unless you give us direction on how you envision this program working. We would have to have that conversation at this meeting if you want us to have something for you to look at in December.

DR. DUVAL: How are folks feeling about that? We still have to go through Regulatory Amendment 14. We have got a discussion of the blue runner issue and a couple of other business items and discussion on vision and long-term planning. Do you guys want to keep moving ahead with the discussion of answering some of these questions so that staff could come back in December or would you rather have that conversation in December and then staff will come back in March? Charlie.

MR. PHILLIPS: Well, if we can get a presentation on how some company might run the tags, it might help us answer a lot of the questions in December and then we can go do something in March.

DR. DUVAL: Excellent idea, Charlie. Doug.

MR. HAYMANS: No, I think you need to answer some of the questions to provide the information to the company so that they can structure something for you. It's a lot of possibilities out there but they need some direction, the companies.

MR. CUPKA: I was going to Roy; I know his original intent was that NMFS handle the program; have you changed your position on that before we start dragging companies in here to address this?

DR. CRABTREE: Well, we're not going to contract with a company to do this because we don't have any money to contract with a company to do this, and so we can't do that. Now, there was discussion about having the states do this; and if that is the path you want to go, then I'm not sure what we do and you're going to have to deal with legislatures and all that kind of thing.

Yes, from my perspective to make this work in any reasonable timeframe, it is going to be something that the Fisheries Service runs and does. It is going to have to be very simple and very straightforward or we're not going to be able to probably handle it and we won't be able to do it.

MR. CUPKA: Yes, and that was my understanding is why I raised the issue. If we're going to go that route why are we even going to bring in some of these contractors to make a presentation if we don't need to do that? To me it seems like it would be a waste of our time and their time.

MR. HAYMANS: The only reason I mentioned it was I don't want to do it. I mean that is the whole reason why we've contracted individuals and it was simply offering them so that there is a platform out there to do it with; but if they want to tackle it, that's fine.

MS. BECKWITH: I would be happy for the National Marine Fisheries to take care of this particular tagging program so you will get no argument from us.

MR. HARTIG: Well, let's do this; if NMFS is going to be the administrator of this program and they want it simple, maybe they can come up with some options that they can deal with and we can talk about it at full council. Does that seem like a fair way to do it? Jack, can you do all that in the interim; develop a tag program? I mean realistically they're going to be the ones who deal with it and we have to know what they can deal with, what they think they can accomplish with it; not accomplish but the details of how they want it to proceed.

DR. CRABTREE: There is a list of question here. I can answer most of these questions just right off the bat, if you want.

DR. DUVAL: Just to let folks know, PDF Page 4 of the options paper has a list of questions that staff put together; who can apply, what agencies will issue the tags, what would the tags look like, would they be transferable, should they have any additional regulatory requirements, et cetera. David.

MR. CUPKA: I think some of the options and their alternatives aren't even feasible. For example, I don't think NMFS can charge a different fee for somebody that is not a South Atlantic resident as opposed to someone who is. Some of those things could be removed. I don't think the national standard would allow you to do that, right?

DR. DUVAL: Let's go ahead and look at these questions. The first one is who can apply?

DR. CRABTREE: Any U.S. citizen.

DR. DUVAL: Yes, I don't think it is possible to deny anybody the right to apply for one of these tags. These are public trust resources. That would be my understanding. We can skip Question 2 as this is what the agency is proposing, so that would be NOAA Fisheries. And then what would the tags look like; non-removable, one-time use tags?

DR. CRABTREE: Well, I would think they would be – it seems to me a one-time use tag means it is non-removable. I don't know what designed in such a way that prevents high grading means.

DR. DUVAL: So the terminology that gets used at the ASMFC when we talk about this is tamper resistant and tamper evident; so you put it on the fish it is not coming off. That presumably gets at the high grading issue. There are different qualities of tags and I think some of the other states and jurisdictions could speak to that. I think the Potomac River Fisheries Commission has tried every tag that there is out there and they have a manufacturer that they recommend specifically I think for their tags. Bob, I don't know if you want to say anything about that.

MR. BEAL: Yes, I think the Potomac River has some of the craftiest characters on the east coast so they have to – they've found ways around all the other tags except these. We can help out and give you the names of the suppliers and those sorts of things, but there are a lot of different types of tags. The different types of tags have different numbers of characters that you can include on them and different characteristics. We can help out with that, for sure.

DR. CRABTREE: But I think beyond that you want a one-time use, non-removable tag, I think the details of exactly what tag would be an administrative detail that you would leave to the Fisheries Service.

DR. DUVAL: The next question is will the tags be transferable?

DR. CRABTREE: Well, they would not be transferable in the sense that we're going to track anything. I don't really care if it is going to be a – the way I envision this is this is going to be a lottery and there is going to be – say it is snowy grouper; there are going to be 500 tags available. We're going to have a website and some defined period of time where you go in and apply and then we're going to randomly pick 500 people and they're going to each get a tag.

Then beyond that if somebody who gets a tag gives it to someone, I don't know that we have any reason to really care what happens after that. If he wants to sell it to someone but we're administratively not going to do like we do with permits, which is track these and keep up with them because that would be too costly and we just can't do that. I don't know if that is consistent with how you guys are thinking about it, but that is sort of how I would see it.

DR. DUVAL: Well, I think it would definitely have to be a lottery system. We've already seen just from the report on the recreational ACLs that there is more people out there catching these things than there are fish to go around, so it would certainly have to be a lottery system. Bob.

MR. MAHOOD: We hit on this earlier of who would be eligible, but on the commercial side would it have to be a permit holder? Now, I don't know what you would do on the recreational side.

DR. DUVAL: This is just a recreational type program.

MR. MAHOOD: Okay, but then a question of what if Holly Binns sends out a letter and has 20,000 people apply for tags for snowy grouper?

DR. CRABTREE: Well, I think she could do that. My vision of this is that you would be selected with replacement, which means that one person could get two tags or three tags if they were really lucky; and, yes, if someone wanted to set up some campaign to get these things, I don't know how to prevent that.

DR. DUVAL: But that is a consideration and I think that was a point that Anna tried to bring up earlier that if you issue exactly that many tags; does it mean that is exactly how many fish you're going to get. The next question is should tags have any additional requirements such as a season, size limit, and bag limit?

DR. CRABTREE: Well, if I could, we don't have size limits in these fisheries now, so those wouldn't make sense. I don't know why you would have a bag limit if it is a tag. Now, I guess you could have a season, but it's not really clear to me what advantage that serves. I think from a data collection perspective having all of the fishing take place in some smaller time window might make things easier.

MR. WAUGH: Wreckfish has a spawning season closure. That's the one that I can think of where you might want to talk about a season.

DR. DUVAL: I think wreckfish is only open for two months. Anna.

MS. BECKWITH: And my thought was having a particular season would help with the data collection because I would assume you would want some sort of a catch card to come along with these, and we would want unused tags to be returned would be my vision of this. By having a season, then it would give a timeframe to catch the fish, get your catch card back, return your unused tags in a timely manner so we could assess this for the following year. That would be my preference.

DR. DUVAL: Good points; and that gets to the next question which is what would be the reporting requirements; and the following question is what data would be required to be provided? The HMS catch card is one that is mentioned, so presumably we would want something like that? The Fisheries Service would be able to do something like that?

DR. CRABTREE: I think we could and I think we could send out – when we send the tag out to whoever gets it, we could send them a card and ask them to fill it out and send it in or we could send them a link to a website that they're to get on. Now, I believe that a large percentage of people won't do that and I guess we can try to take them off of the list the following year so

they're not eligible again, maybe, but how effectively we can do that – because you're going to have people who have the same name and issues like that. I think we can do that and ask for that kind of reporting. How good the data you get from that is I'm skeptical, but it would remain to be seen. In terms of check-in sites and those kinds of things, we have no funding to do anything like that, and so I don't think we would be able to do that.

MR. BELL: Yes, Roy kind of covered it but to me there is value in collecting data from the system. I like the idea of a website where you go on the website and put in your number that you got and then you can say I didn't fish or whatever, didn't use it, whatever. And if you don't respond within a certain amount of time, then you're somehow taken out of the eligibility for the following year or something if you fail to report. I think there is usefulness in getting some data out of this. Of course, the problem is there has got to be a system to manage the data and deal with the data and do something with it.

MR. HAYMANS: So we're sort of thinking outside of the box with a tag program, so let's go a little bit further. I know this isn't a cell phone plan or anything, but there is no such thing as rollover here. If we've got 5,000 tags and the guys only used 3,500, that is an extra spawning cycle that those other 1,500 fish got to go through. Is there no reason why they can't be added to the next year? Why have an expiring tag?

DR. CRABTREE: Because if the ACL is 500 fish and you issue 500 tags and they don't use 200, if you roll them over to the next year and now you have issued more tags than the next year's ACL. To do it that way you would have to go back to the SSC and get new ABC and increase the ACL, and then it becomes too administratively cumbersome to do it.

For this to work it has to be very simple or we can't afford to do it. So you say, okay, they have to go to the website and enter that they caught their fish; and if they don't they're not eligible the next year; well, how are we going to know who it is. Somebody is going to just go on a website and put a name in and an address.

I'm not going to have any way to know if that is a real name or who that person is. And then if I say, well, you didn't it; next year all that person has got to do is change a little piece of their name and they're not the same person anymore. There are a lot of things that sound good, but administratively we're not going to be able to do it. Those are just the realities of it.

MS. BECKWITH: Well, I think it is clear that the goal here is not optimum yield to actually harvest these fish. It is strictly an AM so if we go forth with that viewpoint, them having 500 tags and assuming that only a handful of them are actually going to be harvested, that is going to be the outcome of this. It is certainly not going to be the harvesting of 500 or 5,000 fish.

DR. DUVAL: Moving on to data that would be required to be provided. John.

MR. CARMICHAEL: I'm just curious if you settled reporting because it seems like some of that stuff is tied back to an individual, but you weren't saying anything about transferability. I get the tags, I give them out to someone else, you have my name as getting the tags; I have a penalty if that person doesn't return the card?

As Roy said, I just changed my name to John T. Carmichael next year and use a post office box and you send me a whole bunch tags anyway, so I think we have to kind of think about some of this stuff. If you're just going to put the tags out there and let anybody have them and do anything they want with them, then the reporting like that is going to be problematic probably.

DR. DUVAL: Good point. Yes, what do you do? If you're just issuing the tags and they can be freely given around so that people are allowed to harvest, how do you require the reporting if it is issued in one person's name?

MR. CARMICHAEL: It comes down to what you want the tags to do. Do you want the tags to be an overall cap of what could possibly be harvested or do you want the tags to be a data source for what is harvested? If you want a cap, then you issue the total tags and you don't care what happens to them or you don't care if they all get caught.

If you want it to be a data source, then you either need to track all the tags and have them tied to an individual so that you have accountability or you need to require people, if they have a tag it gives them the right to catch the fish and then they have a responsibility to report the data on the fish much as, say, a big game tag operates. They're kind of different things.

DR. CRABTREE: And remember, for example, snowy grouper, we're talking 500 fish. It isn't going to matter if they report to us or anything. Ninety-five percent of the harvest is in the commercial fishery. The assessment will be entirely driven by the commercial fishery; and whether the recreational fishery takes 500 fish or 200 fish is not going to make any difference in the overall assessment of the status of the stock.

I suspect you could run the assessment without any recreational data, which I think may be what in fact they did, but it is just not going to be that critical to what we're doing. The purpose of the tag is to find some way to have the fishery capped and not have it catch ten times as many fish as they're supposed to.

MR. CARMICHAEL: So then you just issue the tags, you don't reporting, you don't need data. It just provides the cap and it is a simple program. You issue 500 non-removable tags and people can use them. If they get caught with a fish recreationally, they better have a tag in its jaw. And that is all you need to do, it would seem.

MR. BELL: I understand the problem with that, though, is it being open to any citizen or anybody at all, I think what you will end up doing is have a very few number of fishermen perhaps in there and, yes, you will stay within the cap for sure, but you may really be restricting folks' ability or right to even have access to a fish. The system could be easily flooded. That is why I thought the feedback mechanism would be fished or didn't fish. You would learn something about how it worked or didn't work I guess from that.

DR. CRABTREE: And I don't really have a problem with asking them to send a card in or do something like that, but just understand that we're not going to be able to do penalties and things

like that and you're going to have a lot of non-compliance. Maybe folks would surprise you and you would get some knowledge of at least what is going on with it.

DR. PONWITH: To that point, a belated answer to Ben's question about salmon punch cards – and this is such a dramatically different scope. It is more relevant if we were still talking about red snapper, but it still might have utility. They are still using punch cards for salmon on Washington state.

In 2008 they issued 600,000 punch cards, and their intent was to do a subset of those punch cards to create an estimate for what the unsampled punch cards contained. Their intent was of those 600,000 cards to inspect 150,000 cards. Those were supposed to be returned. Of those 150 that were supposed to be returned, 79,000 were actually returned, which created an expansion factor of between 7 and 8 percent. Those cards resulted in the harvest of 252,000 fish. That is the scope of the program that they're using in Washington state.

DR. DUVAL: I agree; in a perfect world we would certainly want folks to report information, but again the goal is to cap harvest. Certainly it doesn't get around the question of – I was going to say it doesn't really get around the question of high grading, but these fish are all going to be dead when they come up, so you're just going to end up having a fish illegally. I'm just thinking out loud. Is there anymore discussion on the issue of reporting? Some of this may come out in what we see after staff has a chance to develop this, maybe. John.

MR. JOLLEY: After thinking about this, I'm thinking about the tag return rates in the recreational fishery and how low they have been. You start out with a higher compliance because everybody is enthused and then slowly but surely fewer people report. I think if you're going to go this way you just want to keep a cap, keep it simple and as low cost as possible. If you need to modify things in the future, then maybe that makes sense. I think John made a good comment.

MS. BROUWER: Just to clarify, I guess what I'm hearing then is the purpose for the program would be to cap the harvest; and if that is indeed the purposed, then we would develop alternatives based on that. Is that what you intend to do?

DR. DUVAL: I'm seeing heads nodding around the table that the intent for development of a deepwater tag program is to cap the harvest. That begs the question in terms of number seven what data would be required to be provided, I guess we wouldn't actually be requiring any data. If we wanted to send out a catch card it would be an entirely voluntary situation as to whether or not someone wants to return that. We have got a couple more things to go through here in terms of the next question is will there be a fee? I don't think the Fisheries Service can charge anything above what the administrative –

DR. CRABTREE: We will charge the administrative cost.

DR. DUVAL: And hopefully we might be able to have an estimate of what that administrative cost might be when we see this document?

DR. CRABTREE: No. There will be an estimate of administrative costs somewhere in the rule-making phase when we know exactly what the program is; but until this program is specified out as to what it is going to be, we won't be able to calculate what our administrative costs would be.

DR. DUVAL: I'll just note that we did receive some public comment when we took this out to scoping in the spring. It was very concerned about fees that might be charged by the agency; so I just bring that everyone's attention. Then the next question is how the tags would be issued. I think Roy has already spoken to that in terms of setting up a website where you enter, and there is a lottery for issuing these tags.

DR. CRABTREE: I think there are different ways this could work. To me it would just be pure chance. It wouldn't matter where you're from or anything else; and it would be sampling with replacement so that you could get picked more than once. If you do it without replacement, then you might have fewer applicants than you have tags available and then you're got to figure out how to handle that and gets more complicated. But if you have with replacement, if you have a thousand tags and only 200 people apply, you just keep pinging them until all of them are accounted for and send them out. It seems the simplest way.

MR. CARMICHAEL: The other way that you could which avoid maybe one person getting three and another person getting none is you could just say you sample without replacement and if you get done and you still have tags left you would do another round. You've go through everybody the first time and it would be at least a simple way.

DR. CRABTREE: Yes, that's a reasonable other way to do it.

DR. DUVAL: That seems like a fairer way, but I guess we could have a couple of alternatives.

MS. BADEMAN: I was just going to say I think that is how our alligator tags work. Anyone can get in the first round and then the second round you can apply if you did not get selected the first round. Then I think if there is anything left after that, they do a third round and anybody can jump in on that one.

MR. CARMICHAEL: That sounds a little more complicated because it sounds like you're asking for applications three times and I don't think that is what this would do. If you had a thousand people and 500 tags to give out, half of them are going to get one. If you had 250 people, you would go through one round and give out 250 and then you go through another round and give out 250. You could do that however many times that it worked out.

DR. CRABTREE: I think there could be some alternatives as to how that would work, but I think by and large it is going to be random draw. We're not going to try to divvy this up based on state of residence. Obviously, the fee will just be one fee regardless of where you are. I don't think that it would be too cumbersome to me say if you don't win the lottery one year you get priority the next year. That I think is just too cumbersome to do.

MR. HAYMANS: Well, to that point in the states at least we could provide the program that does that, that assigns priority if you're not selected the first year. That is pretty straightforward.

Next year if I applied and I wasn't successful next year I could either choose to apply my priority point or not. Right now I have got four priority points for alligator hunting in Georgia and I still ain't been picked. I think it is possible and the programs are out there to do it.

DR. CRABTREE: It's possible. Here is the dilemma and the fundamental difference with the states. We're going to charge an administrative fee; so if we put things like that in it, the cost of the thing is going to go up because it is going to cost us more to administer the program if we have to do that.

The fundamental problem with the whole thing, of course, is the fee we charge is going to go into the U.S. Treasury and the Fisheries Service won't get any of the money. We're going to have to do this out our existing staff and existing capability. Every extra bell and whistle you put on there is going to mean someone in my shop is going to have to spend more time dealing with that, and we may not be able to do that.

MR. HAYMANS: If I may, the initial point I made a long ago was that these outside services do it at no cost to the agency. The convenience fee that the applicant pays pays for the process. We simply have to come up with the contract to tell them what we want. I hear you don't want to do that, you want to keep it within the agency and that is fine.

DR. CRABTREE: Well, I'm willing to look at that. I just don't know if we legally can do that because that company is going to make a profit.

MR. HAYMANS: Four million dollars in Georgia last year.

DR. CRABTREE: And if that's part of administrative fees, I just don't know if we legally can do something like that, so I guess that would be a question for Monica to look at.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: Yes, there could be a problem with that but I'll talk to you and get some more information and look into that.

DR. CRABTREE: So I guess, Madam Chairman, that would be an issue to consult with the attorneys between now and the next meeting is the feasibility of contracting the whole thing out. If it is feasible, then I don't have any objections to going that path.

DR. DUVAL: Okay, I think we have pretty much run through the gamut of initial questions to help flesh out what would be included in this amendment. Now, we have to deal with timing. Would folks want to see this come back in December, would they want to see this come back in March? We're starting to pile some things up here. Gregg.

MR. WAUGH: Realistically you won't be able to affect 2013 catches so it should be on a schedule to try to affect 2014 catches, if that helps some.

DR. CRABTREE: Yes, I agree with that and even that may be ambitious depending on how long it takes to order tags and the Paperwork Reduction Act and software development and all of those kinds of things.

DR. DUVAL: So is it even realistic to expect to see anything fleshed out with regard to options and alternatives in December? Would it better to wait until March? I'm just afraid of the other items that we have already tasked the staff with during this meeting. I think we would need a motion to direct staff to further develop Amendment 22 based on the answers to the questions that we just went through and the options paper and bring that back to us in March; wouldn't we? This would still be an options paper at this point; just so everybody is clear on that. John.

MR. JOLLEY: Well, I so move; I think March or June would be fine.

DR. DUVAL: Motion by John; second by Tom Burgess. **The motion actually reads direct staff to further develop Amendment 22 and bring to council as an options paper in March 2013 or June 2013.** Is there any discussion? Anna.

MS. BECKWITH: Just a quick question; can we legally prioritize by state of residence?

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: What do you mean?

MS. BECKWITH: Amongst some of the options that the staff had put, they were open to residents of any state holding a recreational fishing license, things like that where you would get some – certainly people that live in the South Atlantic states would have some priority over these tags; would that be legal or no?

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: Well, the Magnuson Act requires actually that these different actions taken underneath the Magnuson Act be fair and equitable, so equitable doesn't always mean that it is equal. But, yes, I think you raise a good point. I'll look into it because I thought in the past when we've discussed this there could be – we discussed if someone from Indiana could apply for this tag and get it. I'll look into that option; and if it is not legal, we may not want to leave it in.

MR. PHILLIPS: And, Monica, to that point can we exclude legal aliens from applying? I know we want U.S. citizens but are we going to run into some issues?

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: Did you ask me if we can exclude illegal aliens?

MR. PHILLIPS: Legal aliens.

MR. SMIT-BRUNELLO: I'll look into that, too.

MR. CUPKA: We can ahead and vote on this but again I want to remind everybody that at some point in this meeting and probably during Executive Finance we're going to be looking at all of these. I know you said you were concerned about how much we have already heaped and we need to keep in mind there are other committees that haven't even met yet that are going to be probably adding stuff, too, so all this is subject to prioritization at some point in this meeting.

DR. DUVAL: I agree, so everyone is on notice. I think once we see the spreadsheet of Executive Finance we may have to reprioritize a few things. Is there anymore discussion on this motion? Is there any objection to this motion? Seeing none, **the motion stands approved.** John.

MR. CARMICHAEL: In the timing and task it might be good to bring this where it stands so far to the SSC. The SEP is also meeting in October and I think they might have some good insights into this since we're kind of on an extended timeframe, but they won't meet again until April, so it would be nice to sort of bring what has come out of this meeting to them at their October meeting.

DR. DUVAL: Is there a space on the agenda to do that right now.

MR. CARMICHAEL: Yes, I believe that there probably is because we've bumped the yellowtail snapper assessment to a joint meeting with the Gulf, so that frees up a little time and I think they would want to talk about it. I know the SEP is very interested in talking about the tagging programs that are being considered.

DR. DUVAL: Okay, so I would entertain a motion to I guess send whatever – we won't have anything developed to see at that point, and I'm not sure what we would be sending to the SSC.

MR. CARMICHAEL: Well, I think just what you received and then the committee report that talks about your discussion of it here today, and they can build on that.

DR. CRABTREE: That seems really premature to me to bother the SSC with it at this point. I would think we would want to get this more fleshed out and further along before we would go the SSC. It is not really a science deal that we're talking about here to begin with, so I don't know that we're going to get much from them. I wouldn't do that yet. I think they've got enough issues to deal with.

DR. DUVAL: I think it was just a suggestion from John to kind of get out ahead of what the discussion might be. Certainly, if we keep going down this path before the amendment comes into its final form, the SSC would have to review it, anyway.

MR. CARMICHAEL: Yes, I was sort of thinking of the shrimp example where they got basically nothing in April and then we convened them and they raised some serious questions about alternatives that hadn't gone to public hearing. I would sort of hate to keep them out of the loop for so long knowing that they're not going to meet until April. The Socio-Economic Panel does deal with a bit more than just the pure technical fisheries science stuff, and they may have just some insights that might be helpful to you in March or they may have nothing, I don't know. I think there is time for the Socio-Economic Panel at least to look at it.

MR. PHILLIPS: Yes, and I wouldn't mind them looking at it but like you said we've got several committees to go. We may very well be sending them some more stuff to look at. If they have got time, look at it; and if their schedule is loaded up otherwise, not.

DR. DUVAL: Is there anyone who is interested in sending this to at least the Socio-Economic Panel in October, and that would be the committee report plus the draft options paper as we have it? I would entertain a motion to that effect.

MR. HARTIG: So moved.

DR. DUVAL: **Motion by Ben and seconded by Charlie to direct staff to include the Amendment 22 Options Paper and Snapper Grouper Committee Report on the Socio-Economic Panel Agenda in October.** Any discussion on that? Any objection to that? Seeing none, that **motion stands approved**. Is there anymore discussion on this before we move on to our next agenda item? Roy.

DR. CRABTREE: Yes, I think we need to talk a little about red snapper. What are we going to do? You've got the opening coming up the next two weekends and then that's it. I don't think we're going to be able to just rely on emergency rules, so we need to start thinking about that.

MR. WAUGH: You have got Regulatory Amendment – what we're tagging as 15 now to deal with yellowtail snapper. The tentative timing would be to approve that for public hearings in December, hearings in January and finalize it in March. One option would be to add red snapper to that. If you want to affect anything for the 2013 fishing year for red snapper, we would need to finish it in March.

We should know by our March meeting what the catches were and where we are relative to the rebuilding schedule; whether there is an excess available. The option would be to include – if you wanted to include it in an existing regulatory amendment, it would be to add it to yellowtail snapper. If you want to have it separate, then it would be a separate regulatory amendment but on that same timeline.

MS. BECKWITH: I was actually going to ask if we could add it to Regulatory Amendment 14 since we are considering that next.

MR. WAUGH: And we don't have any timelines associated with that yet, but that is another vehicle, yes. But if you were to do that, then that Regulatory Amendment 14 would have to be approved for public hearings in December, go out in January and then come back to the council for final approval in March.

DR. DUVAL: So two different options there. Red snapper; what is your pleasure. We have heard some ideas about opening for really just sort of predetermined shorter seasons, weekend harvest. We have the Gulf as an example to look towards. Roy.

DR. CRABTREE: I guess one way we could go would be to set up a start date and then I guess you would have to decide if you want to have it be weekends like we did this time. It would just be that the fishery opens on such and such a date, they fish weekends until NMFS projects that the available fish would be caught and then it closes. That way it would be on the books.

If we decided, okay, the opening date is going to be August 1 or whatever you decided on, we could come in at some point in the spring when we get the discard reports – and didn't we get those discard estimates, what, in the March meeting we looked at that?

DR. DUVAL: No, I think that was June. That was just the last meeting.

DR. CRABTREE: So we would get those reports at some time in the year and then go over where they are and look back at what happens this year when we had the opening and then we would, as we do with a lot of these fisheries, do some sort of projection to determine how many days that is likely to take and we would just put a notice out in the Federal Register saying the fishery is going to open this day, fish weekends, close on this day.

DR. DUVAL: And just to the folks who suggested doing something like this, fishing on weekends, were you envisioning a two-day weekend, a three-day weekend? Three-day weekends are what we are going forward with now starting Friday.

DR. CRABTREE: Well, I think these are just things that would have to be alternatives in the regulatory amendment to look at so we wouldn't have to decide, but that is one approach. Then with the commercial fishery you would have a start date and fishing would occur on some period of time until the quota is caught.

It is just we would need to get something in the regulations and right now we don't have anything. That is the kind of scheme I'm thinking of, which would be similar to what we're doing starting on Friday with the how much and how long and all remaining to be seen. I guess also in this framework action we would have to determine what the ACLs are based on the projections that we have somehow. We would need Carmichael to figure out what to do with that, but we would have to have some alternatives for that. But we do have those projections that have a certain amount of mortalities required and we have to back out the discards and all, so we would have to figure that out.

DR. DUVAL: And so for this little mini-season that we're starting this Friday, we wouldn't have any information on actual harvest or estimated harvest until when?

DR. CRABTREE: Well, let's see, it is September so that is Wave 5, and so that is September/October, so we'd get these catch estimates January/February, something like that. But understand that the MRIP estimates of what is caught for these two three-days are not likely to be particularly informative. They may have CVs of almost a hundred percent on them.

Now, my understanding is that Florida is basically doing a special survey where they're going to call for-hire operators and ask them did you participate in this two weekend fishery; and if you did, how many red snapper did you catch?

We may get something like that, but that is not normally done and that will give us some sort of estimate for the for-hire sector and then we may be able to extrapolate from that something from it. It is not straightforward that we're just going to get a very useful estimate out of MRIP. It is

going to take more than that. That is part of the problem with the path we're on with a fishery like this.

DR. DUVAL: And then again if those come in on January or February, let's say February, then it is going to take some additional time for the SSC to give us an ABC recommendation for doing something similar like this, correct, so we're still looking almost again at June or am I projecting out a little bit too far? When we're talking about potentially seeing harvest estimates at the March meeting, would that include a recommendation for ABC for the following season?

MR. WAUGH: No, the existing ABC we have we will be operating on until we get another assessment, so we will have this ABC for 2013 and 2014. We will get an assessment at our December 2014 meeting. What we need are the updated discard mortalities and estimates of catch from this season.

DR. CRABTREE: But you really so much – yes, we might need that for the – that is the trickiest part of this is specifying the ABC and figuring out how to do that, and that is going to take some thought. That is going to be something that is going to have to be done on an annual basis and then used to project what the catches are. I'm not sure how we're going to do that.

MS. BROUWER: I'm just thinking that it is going to be some time before we know if this upcoming opening – if the landings are going to go over the ACL; and if they go over the ACL by a whole bunch, then there is not even going to be consideration of an opening for next year. Would we better off just waiting to see how we do during this opening and seeing whether it is feasible that folks are going to be able to limit harvest to somewhere near the ACL or if they're going to go above by a big amount.

DR. CRABTREE: Well, it's just if we wait until we get that information, we're already at the March meeting and now there is not time to do anything. If they come in showing everything worked great and we stayed well within it and the discards are low, then it is going to be too late to do a framework.

DR. DUVAL: And we would be down the path of another emergency rule which we can't keep – well, we wouldn't have that option of basically doing an emergency rule, I don't think, based on the criteria. What are your thoughts, folks? We could use Regulatory Amendment 14 or Regulatory Amendment 15 to put in a placeholder for a season opening that is similar to what we have done for this year. Then I guess when we see – we certainly have the option of removing it before it would be approved for final action, correct?

MR. WAUGH: Yes, that is correct. I think the bigger picture is do you want to try and have the capability of opening in 2013; and if you do, you need to take final action at March. In order to do that, we will have the estimates of catches with the caveats, but what we're going to need from the Center is estimates of discards for 2013 discard mortality. We will have to have that in time for our March 2014 meeting.

DR. CRABTREE: And the key there really – well, the big part of that is MRFSS, which we will get when we get the catch estimates; so the missing piece would be the headboat, which we

might be able to get. Commercial logbooks, I don't know that we could get that because a lot of them probably won't even have been submitted by that point. We might be able to get some of that but maybe not all of it.

DR. DUVAL: Well, for the commercial sector you will have the dealer reports. I know that for North Carolina we've already said we're going to canvass our dealers this year for those landings.

DR. CRABTREE: Yes, but they're not going to give you the discard information for the remainder of the year.

DR. DUVAL: I see what you're saying.

DR. CRABTREE: Now, the commercial discards are just a tiny fraction of the overall discards, so you could argue that they're not that big of a deal. The bulk of the discards, as I recall, were from the MRIP numbers, which we will have.

MR. BURGESS: As far as where it should be put as you said with Regulatory Amendment 14, it seems like there are quite a few things in there that are going to take a lot of public input. To really reflect on what the fishing industry wants and how it would best suit them, that might take just a little bit of time to get it in place. I don't know how we would affect next year's seasons with like black sea bass and vermilion snapper and everything. Like I say, I support the public input on all of these things and it might be better to put it in a stand-alone amendment just to address it and try to move it faster.

MR. BELL: Just so I understand this, if we're even going to have the option of doing this next year, we need to do something now related to wherever we put this. When we opened this door, we have created an expectation that we can do this if it's available.

The numbers may not work out. We may find out that we exceeded the ACL this year. But, if it didn't and it does work out, then there is an expectation that we will do it. I'm not sure where to put it but I think we do need to set it up so it can be done. We can't do the emergency action thing again so it sounds like that is our only choice here other than just not doing it at all.

DR. DUVAL: I think if we put a placeholder in a regulatory amendment, and Tom has suggested that with all the items that we have in Regulatory Amendment 14, which is our next agenda item, that it might be better to put it in a different regulatory amendment. Regulatory Amendment 15 is a potential but I think we would – because if we take final action on that in March when we would presumably hopefully have the discard information and the catch information, I think we would just have to be clear that if the numbers don't work out there is no season opening.

Is there any other discussion or comments or questions? I think we're going to need a motion to do something with regard to red snapper, either direct staff to place consideration of a season opening for red snapper, both commercially and recreationally, in Regulatory Amendment 15 or some other amendment. Anna.

MS. BECKWITH: So moved on Amendment 15.

DR. DUVAL: The motion reads direct staff to develop alternatives for red snapper management in Regulatory Amendment 15; motion by Anna; second by John Jolley. Is there other discussion on this motion? Is there objection to this motion? Seeing none, that motion stands approved.

Now we get into Regulatory Amendment 14, which contains a number of potential management measures for greater amberjack, mutton snapper, gray triggerfish, black sea bass and vermilion snapper. Myra is going to quickly take us through this, but that is Attachment 6 in your briefing book.

MS. BROUWER: I apologize I don't have the PDF pages, but it is a very short document, so you shouldn't have a problem following along. The possible actions in this amendment based on the guidance you provided to staff at the June meeting is to modify the fishing year and reduce the trip limit for greater amberjack; implement additional regulations to protect mutton snapper during the spawning season; modify the minimum size limit for gray triggerfish; modify the commercial and recreational fishing years for black sea bass; and modify the commercial trip limit for vermilion snapper.

The timeline that you have suggested is we have the council reviewing public input and approving the amendment for formal submission at their March 2013 meeting. Then what the IPT did for this options paper is go back and pull the various management measures that have been put in place for these species.

For greater amberjack there are several amendments that put in regulations going back to Amendment 4, but then the latest activity to place in Regulatory Amendment 9, which increased the commercial trip limit to 1,200 pounds. We also included the alternatives that were considered in that regulatory amendment and the ones that were considered but then moved to the appendix.

All of this has already been analyzed and discussed when you guys were discussing Regulatory Amendment 9. Further, for greater amberjack the Comprehensive ACL Amendment put in the ABC and the ACLs and the allocations that are up on the screen as well as the accountability measures. The current status of the fishery; the SEDAR schedule has this being assessed in 2014.

The reason for this discussion is because there have been folks coming forward to the council requesting that the council consider changing the start date of the fishing year from May to January. Also, it is important that the month of March remain open because it is prior to Lent and it is also a very productive month for fishing. Some fishermen have commented that the current trip limit of 1,200 pounds is economically profitable and they would not like this trip limit reduced. Then this item here is already outdated.

As of July 30th when we put this together, 37 percent of the ACL had been met. Your possible actions are to modify the fishing year, and we put two options in there – well, three, no action, have the fishing year start in January or modify the fishing year for greater amberjack to begin on March 1st; and then several options again for reducing the trip limit for greater amberjack. I guess we would need guidance on whether you want these two actions to remain in this regulatory amendment and whether this is an adequate range of alternatives that should be analyzed and brought back to you the next time you see this.

DR. DUVAL: Comments from the committee regarding these two possible actions and their options. It seems reasonable in terms of the options proposed for either keeping the fishing year the same or changing it. Are there any other options that folks would want to consider there? No one has any input?

What about the trip limit for greater amberjack; 1,200 pounds. We heard that given the reduced ACL and the increased trip limit to 1,200 pounds, that this was going to result in an early closure of the fishery and there was concern that was what going to happen. Do folks want to reconsider one of the alternatives from Regulatory Amendment 9 as well as Option 2, which is reduce the commercial trip limit to a thousand pounds gutted weight.? David.

MR. CUPKA: Myra, all the alternatives in Regulatory Amendment 9 are for higher trip limits than this, aren't they, so you wouldn't achieve a reduction from those. Regulatory Amendment 9 had a number of proposed trip limits but they're all higher than this and we're trying to reduce –

MS. BROUWER: Correct.

MR. CUPKA: So there isn't any Regulatory 9 I think that would reduce it; is that correct?

MR. BROUWER: That is correct.

DR. DUVAL: So if folks wanted to add perhaps another option that was lower than a thousand pounds, you have the opportunity to do so. John, you had a comment?

MR. JOLLEY: I'd just be interested in what Ben would have to say about going from 1,200 to a thousand pounds.

MR. HARTIG: Well, talking to fishermen in the lower part of the state, at least some of the people in the Keys don't have a problem with going back to a thousand pounds, but some of the Keys do have a problem. The guys I've talked in the northern zone want to continue the 1,200 pounds, and I think that is pretty well a consensus of that.

For myself, fishing where I do I don't have a problem going back to a thousand pounds if it is going to extend the season. That's the critical thing here. It doesn't look like landings are on the same type of – I can't think of the word, but it doesn't look like the quota is going to be met this year on the landings. I can't remember where we were with it. Were we at 70 on amberjacks, Jack? Jack is going to look real quick so at least I'll know what it is.

DR. DUVAL: I guess while Jack is looking that up, since all the alternatives from Regulatory Amendment 9 were higher than 1,200 pounds, that would leave us with just two options unless we wanted to throw in something that was less than a thousand pounds in there. Monica, are two options sufficient for this?

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: Would you repeat what those two options are?

DR. DUVAL: No action which is to not reduce the trip limit for greater amberjack – it would stay at 1,200 pounds – or Option 2 to reduce the commercial trip limit to a thousand pounds.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: So it seems like with something like a trip limit it is rather hard to say that there is only action and no action because there could be a number of other reasonable alternatives for a trip limit unless you have got good rationale to say why it should only be this or this, and that's it.

DR. DUVAL: So that says to me that we need at least another option in there to provide a range.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: It says to me that you need other reasonable options in there if there are other reasonable options. Whether that is one or three, I'm not sure.

DR. DUVAL: Suggestions from the committee? I know Ben is having a little conversation with Jack here about the landings. John Jolley.

MR. JOLLEY: Well, if we're trying to extend the season maybe we should consider an option of going to 800 pounds. I'm not going to support that, but that could be an option.

MR. HARTIG: I don't think we need to go beyond a thousand pounds. I think a thousand pounds is the lowest they would like to go. Do we have that yet?

DR. DUVAL: That is Option 2 that is up there, so right now we only have no action –

MR. HARTIG: You need one and look at another option so we could have three for Monica – 750 pounds just to put in there for comment.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: Well, if you guys don't think there is any other reasonable options –

MR. HARTIG: I think there are.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: – then the record should support that those are the only reasonable options, but you're going to have to explain to me why those are the only reasonable options. Not just explain to me but for the record it should be set forth as why those are the only two.

MR. HARTIG: Well, Jack came up where as of August we're at 46 percent of the quota, so there is a chance we may meet it with the 1,200 pounds. Now, at a thousand pounds that probably would not be met based on that extra 200 pounds – well, I say that, I'm not sure of that either.

But, no, trying to develop a rationale of why we only need the two, the fishery had operated at a thousand pounds before and we never really reached the allocation. The reason we bumped it up was because the allocation hadn't been met and then last year we met the allocation, Jack, for the first time.

DR. McGOVERN: We didn't close.

MR. HARTIG: We didn't close but we would have exceeded the ACL last year. The fishermen came and wanted to change the start date and wanted to go – some wanted to go to a less trip limit, but then on the other hand you've got guys in the upper end of the range who have to travel much farther and found that 1,200 pounds – at least the 200 pounds was covering their fuel.

There are other considerations here. Going to less than that is going to severely economically impact individuals who have to travel farther to catch amberjacks. Both in the Keys and in the northern part of the range they have to travel considerably farther to catch those fish, and the economics just doesn't work for them. I don't know if I answered your question.

DR. DUVAL: Monica, does that provide sufficient rationale for only two options under this action?

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: I guess it does for now. Let's leave it at that; and then if it turns out differently, we can always plug something in. I think Ben made a pretty good case for why at this point that's really the only other reasonable alternative.

DR. DUVAL: And we could sort of split the baby and go with adding an option for 1,100 pounds just to – if a thousand is the lowest people could absolutely go in terms of economic impacts and we don't want to go higher than 1,200, and the comment from the public was that was going to cause the fishery to close early, then 1,100 might be a reasonable option to also put in there to kind of split things out.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: That is so close; just leave it at the two right now.

DR. DUVAL: We didn't have any comments on the different options for modifying the fishing year for greater amberjack, and I'll just remind folks that it is no action, begins on May 1st; to options to modify it for either January 1st or March 1st. Do folks feel like that is a reasonable range of options for this? I would entertain a motion to include Options 1 through 3 for the action regarding the fishing year for greater amberjack.

MR. HARTIG: So moved.

DR. DUVAL: Motion by Ben; seconded by Mel. Is there any discussion on this motion? The motion is include Options 1 through 3 for the year adjustment for greater amberjack. Is there any objection to this motion? Seeing none, that motion stands approved.

We're going to need a similar motion with regard to the trip limit for greater amberjack; so again I would entertain a motion to include Options 1 and 2 for the trip limit adjustment for greater amberjack. Motion by David; second by Ben. Any discussion on this? Any objection? Seeing none, that motion stands approved. Now we move on to mutton snapper.

MS. BROUWER: Okay, for mutton snapper, again some background on what has been done so far to manage harvest of this species. The Comprehensive ACL split the ABC into the South Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico ABC, and that percentage was 82 for the South Atlantic and 18 percent for the Gulf.

The ABC was set at 926,000 pounds and that was further subdivided between commercial and recreational and those are the figures up on the screen for those ACLs. The in-season and post-season AMs are also up on your screen. What is going on with this portion of the fishery – well, several things.

The latest issue and one that keeps coming up is the need to have management measures in place during the mutton spawn because there is a derby that takes place in the Florida Keys. There is concern that spawning aggregations are being targeted. We've also heard reports that gravid amberjack are being targeted because the roe is used as chum, I guess, for the mutton snapper as bait. There have been a number of requests both from individual fishermen and also from the Snapper Grouper AP to have management in place to alleviate the situation.

I will also remind you that mutton snapper was one of those species that you considered removing from the FMU. The Snapper Grouper AP spoke against it. The possible actions would be to have no action; to designate area closures coinciding with known spawning aggregation sites and close them to fishing for mutton snapper during May and June.

Under that option we have Western Dry Rocks, which has been offered as an area that is a known spawning aggregation for this species, and Eyeglass Bar is another one that was brought forward. Option 3 would be to implement a reduction in the bag limit to five per person per day only during May and June.

Option 4 would be to reduce the bag limit to three during May and June; Option 5, modify the commercial spawning season closure, which is currently in place, and prohibit all commercial or recreational during May and June or prohibit all commercial and recreational harvest in April through June.

MR. PHILLIPS: I have a question on no action. It says limited commercial harvest to mutton of ten fish per person or ten fish per trip, whichever is more restrictive. That doesn't make sense to me. You have got to have at least one person on the boat, which is ten fish.

MS. BROUWER: Yes, Charlie, that language came straight out of the regulations. That is what is currently in the books.

DR. DUVAL: So outside of Charlie pointing out some crazy regulation; are there thoughts with regard to the options here?

MR. HARTIG: Well, speaking to that, Charlie, basically you can keep ten fish if you're by yourself. If you have three people, you can ten fish. You couldn't keep thirty the way I read it, so it is more restrictive. It is either a person limit or vessel limit.

MR. CUPKA: Myra, the AP recommended the Western Dry Rocks but the Eyeglass Bar; did that come out of the public hearings do you recall?

MS. BROUWER: No, that was a suggestion from Todd Kellison from surveys that he has been conducting in the Keys. It is an area where they have witnessed a lot of spawning activity, and so we put that out there as well for you guys to consider.

MR. HARTIG: The way I see this is we go back to Riley's Hump, tremendous success story of mutton snapper aggregations. We've protected a small discrete area and we have been able to get a big bang for our buck. We see anecdotal information that year class strength all around to the east coast where I am, we've had significant improvements in mutton snapper abundance in the last five years. The anecdotal information is pointing to Riley's Hump.

If we can get two other areas here that we know where those fish spawn and we can have discrete closures in those two areas without impacting the entire region; but I think having said that, that I want to address bag limits overall for an localized depletion in certain areas, but succinctly do that for these specific places and then come in with some regulations about lowering the bag limit as well throughout the entire year, and I think that will provide – the rationale for lowering the bag limit would be the localized depletion issues that you see, where you have a lot of pressure up around where I am.

And then you also would allow to continue some harvest outside of that area in the spawning season to deal with discard mortality that you're going to have because people are catching mutton snappers fishing for every other species in the area that we fish. King mackerel, you have a mutton snapper bycatch.

All the headboats will continue to catch mutton snappers in fairly deep – well, not fairly deep but right at a hundred feet where survival may start to increase; as far as release mortality goes will decrease in those depths. I think if we approach this, first, take those two areas and close those during the spawning season like we have with Riley's Hump, but allow harvest in the other times of the year, I think we can get a start. If you want me to make a motion for number one, I would move that we close Western Dry Rocks and Eyeglass Bar in May and June to the harvest of mutton snappers.

DR. DUVAL: We're not picking –

MR. HARTIG: We're not; okay.

DR. DUVAL: No, this is the options paper so you're withdrawing that motion?

MR. HARTIG: Yes.

DR. DUVAL: I was going to say I think what you need to do is if you're happy with those options that are laid out here in the paper right now, if you want to modify any of the options that are in there – in terms of area closures you have both those areas in there right now as suboptions and I would assume that those are not mutually exclusive. David.

MR. CUPKA: I don't have a problem with any of that. I was just trying to find out where that one recommendation came from. Obviously, I have been talking with Don DeMaria for some time about the necessity of protecting these spawning muttons, so I don't have a problem with that. I agree with those options that are in there.

MR. HARTIG: Okay, I would like to add one other option and that is – well, actually it would be three in one – is reducing the bag limit on mutton snapper outside of the spawning season and the options would be three, five and seven mutton snappers.

MS. BADEMAN: Would it be year round or just during those two months?

DR. DUVAL: Your intent is that would be year round; right?

MR. HARTIG: My intent is it would be year round, yes.

DR. DUVAL: Ben's motion is to add an option to reduce the bag limit of mutton snapper outside of the spawning of the season –

MR. HARTIG: For all year.

DR. DUVAL: Add an option to reduce the bag limit of mutton snapper year round to three, five or seven fish per person per day. Second by John Jolley. Discussion? Those would be the three, five or seven per person per day would be suboptions for this new – I guess it would be Option 6.

DR. MCGOVERN: I guess the committee needs to clarify if that is included within the ten snapper aggregate or if this is a separate bag limit outside the ten snapper aggregate.

MR. HARTIG: Well, I would like to see what the other people feel about it. It could go either way as far as I'm concerned. We can include it. Does anybody else have any thoughts on that one; include it now and go out to public hearing with it included in the – Martha just informed me in the current regulations it would be included in the ten-fish snapper bag limit.

DR. DUVAL: The intent is that this would stay included in the ten-fish aggregate snapper bag limit. Discussion? **The motion is to add an option to reduce the bag limit of mutton snapper year round to three, five or seven per person per day, and that is included in the aggregate ten snapper bag limit. Any more discussion? Any objection? Seeing none, the motion stands approved.**

We're also going to need an additional motion to – unless there are more options the committee would like to included, we're going to need a motion accepting or approving Option 1 through 6

for inclusion in the amendment. Is anyone willing to make that motion; Charlie. Do I have a second; Ben. Any more discussion? The motion reads approve Options 1 through 6 for inclusion in Regulatory Amendment 14. David.

MR. CUPKA: Do we need to put in pertaining to mutton snapper. Since we don't have an action to refer to, they aren't numbered. Do you want to include some verbiage in the motion that those options pertain to mutton snapper? We could call it action number so and so but there aren't any numbered actions.

DR. DUVAL: The motion now reads approve Options 1 through 6 under the action to implement additional regulations to protect mutton snapper during the spawning season for inclusion in Regulatory Amendment 14. Any more discussion? Any objection? Seeing none, that motion stands approved. Moving on to gray triggerfish.

MS. BROUWER: Gray triggerfish; again there is some background on the management measures. The Comprehensive ACL put in some ACLs for this species and accountability measures. As of July 30th, obviously the landings indicated that 72 percent of the commercial ACL had been landed and now we're facing a closure.

The public as well as the Snapper Grouper AP has recommended increasing the size limit to 14 inches for both recreational and commercial on a number of occasions. Changing the size and bag limit for gray triggerfish was included during the scoping for CE-BA 3, and it was also considered during the early development of Amendment 13C.

The majority of people who commented were in favor of the proposed changes. Then there is just some background information on what the AP provided in the way of gray triggerfish background at their meeting. Then again in 2012 the Snapper Grouper AP recommended that the council consider increasing the minimum size to 14 inches for both gray triggerfish and hogfish. You have already talked about waiting to change management for hogfish until the stock assessment is completed.

These are the possible options; no action, which is currently the size limit is 12 inches but only off of East Florida for both recreational and commercial sectors. Option 2 would implement a 12-inch minimum size limit throughout the South Atlantic for both commercial and recreational sectors.

Option 3 would implement a 14-inch size limit off East Florida only. Option 4 would put in a 14-inch size limit for both commercial and recreational throughout the South Atlantic EEZ. Option 5 in here we didn't really have a suggestion, but you could look at modifying the bag limit or put in a bag limit and a commercial trip limit as well.

DR. DUVAL: If I recall based on a conversation that we had at the last meeting when we were putting these items in here, didn't Florida ask to also consider the measurement method for gray trigger as well. Wasn't we do it total length and in the Gulf it is measured on the fork; is that correct, Martha?

MS. BADEMAN: Yes, that was one of the issues.

DR. DUVAL: So I assume we would need a motion to add that as an option.

MS. BADEMAN: Yes, so moved.

DR. DUVAL: Motion by Martha to add options to change the measurement method for gray triggerfish. Are we looking to be consistent with the Gulf? I'm assuming that is the way you're looking to go. I know, Martha, I think you guys try to be consistent with the Gulf regulations.

MS. BADEMAN: Well, it would just be nice to have some kind of consistency between state and federal waters in the Atlantic because otherwise you're getting all kinds of fish everywhere and of all sizes depending on how you're measuring it; so if we could go consistent with fork length, that would be super and just have uniform regulations the whole way around.

MR. HARTIG: To that point, the way I've been measuring triggerfish off the east coast has been fork length and that is the way that the state required it to be measured, if I'm not mistaken.

MS. BADEMAN: Yes.

MR. HARTIG: And throughout the rest of our jurisdiction now, how does that work? Are we measuring fork length? Well, we're not measuring because we don't have a size limit in the rest of the area.

DR. DUVAL: Correct.

MR. HARTIG: How are fishermen looking at this as far as a measurement concern, because it is a significant difference in triggerfish whether you measure them fork length or total length. Those tail filaments are pretty long so people who bought into a 14-inch size limit and measure them total length may not be happy with it once you go to fork length. Those are just things that we're going to have to hear from the public and take into consideration.

DR. DUVAL: Before we go much further, did we get a second to this motion? Charlie seconded. **Okay, so the motion reads add an option to change the measurement method for gray triggerfish to have consistency between state and federal waters. The measurement would be specified in fork length. Is there more discussion on this motion? I think Ben has laid out some of the issues. Is there any objection to this motion? Seeing none, that motion stands approved.** Now we have the rest of the options that are in this particular action with regard to gray triggerfish. Martha.

MS. BADEMAN: I just have a question about the timing of this amendment. Since we have a stock assessment due for triggerfish late next year; are we anticipating that this would be approved after that stock assessment comes out? I'm just thinking down the road depending on what that stock assessment says whether we're stuck doing something that we don't really need to do or don't want to do or we're going to have to do more.

MS. BROUWER: Yes, I think that would be up to the committee to decide if they want to delay action. Like I said, there was support for this measure from the public and the AP has made several motions in the past few years to increase the size limit.

MR. PHILLIPS: Yes, I think that also is going to apply to vermilion that has an update coming in so we may want to consider just taking both of these actions out of this amendment until we get our assessments. Whatever we do, when we get an assessment it is going to be a whole new ballgame anyway, so I don't see a whole lot of utility in going through this and then turning right around and doing it again. I would be inclined to make a motion to take this action out of this amendment.

DR. DUVAL: Well, let's hold off on that right now and have a little bit more discussion. Tom.

MR. SWATZEL: Well, just to point out and going back to vermilion, we will have the vermilion stock assessment update I think for us in December so we should be able to include actions for vermilion in this particular amendment.

DR. DUVAL: That is what I was going to say as well. Given that we will have that update in December, this amendment would not be approved to go out to the public until our December meeting, anyway. I think for vermilion specifically, that gives us the opportunity to go out based on the results of the stock assessment and see what the public has to say about that. If we choose to not take action on vermilion, we don't have to. But with regard to gray triggerfish, that is an assessment that is coming up here in 2013 so what is the pleasure of the committee? There was public support for this.

MR. HARTIG: The 2013 stock assessment, John, the 2013 data workshop for gray triggerfish starts in the fall?

DR. DUVAL: In February.

MR. HARTIG: In February. Okay, so we wouldn't have results for – after you run through the three workshops and the SSC review –

MR. CARMICHAEL: I think the SSC in the fall.

MR. HARTIG: Okay, the fall of 2013.

DR. DUVAL: And the schedule we have for this regulatory amendment right now would have us taking final action to send to the secretary at our March meeting. Do we want to keep this action for gray triggerfish in here right now or do we want to wait until after the results of the assessment come out? Roy.

DR. CRABTREE: I tend to agree with Charlie and get the assessment results. We're probably going to have to adjust the ACL and all the rest of it.

DR. DUVAL: I would tend to think the same way so I would entertain a motion to remove this action on gray triggerfish from consideration until after we receive the results of the stock assessment. Motion by Charlie; second by David. Is there anymore discussion on this motion? Is there any opposition to this motion? Seeing none, that motion stands approved.

MS. BECKWITH: I just wanted to note that the AP had also requested for us to take into consideration hogfish; and I didn't know since it had been moved down on the assessments' list if that was something we wanted to take into consideration in this amendment.

DR. DUVAL: It is my understanding that – I know there are some members of the AP that feel pretty strongly about this. Our AP Chair, Robert Johnson is here and he can probably say a couple of words about that. Robert, I don't know if you want to come up the mike. The hogfish assessment that is being done by Florida will not be complete until June of 2014 I think is what Luiz told us yesterday. It seems to make sense to wait until after the assessment, but I know there was some support around the AP; and so, Robert, if you don't mind speaking to that, that would be great.

MR. JOHNSON: I just think the AP thinks that the council is kicking the can down the road every time we mention this on hog snapper and gray triggerfish. Anyway, North Carolina and South Carolina have seen a huge increase in hog snapper landings; I think 75 percent, 80 percent increase. The people on the AP from that part of the world really want to see the council go to that 14-inch minimum size limit like last year. They really wish the council would move forward with that; at least do that much.

DR. DUVAL: Thank you, Robert. What is your pleasure? Do you want to include an action in this regulatory amendment to change the minimum size limit for hog snapper?

MS. BECKWITH: So moved.

DR. DUVAL: Motion by Anna Beckwith to add an action to change the minimum size limit for hogfish to 14 inches; seconded by John Jolley. Roy.

DR. CRABTREE: What you mean is you want to look at some alternatives for minimum size limits for hogfish, right, because we're going to have to look at a range of alternatives; and –

DR. DUVAL: Yes.

DR. CRABTREE: – then after it is analyzed we will pick which one.

DR. DUVAL: So both Anna and John, you're okay with modifying that to just simply say add action to change the minimum size limit for hogfish to Regulatory Amendment 14, and one of the options in there would 14 inches, I would assume. We would need a little bit of discussion on what those other options might be.

MS. BECKWITH: Twelve inches.

MR. WAUGH: What is in place now I think is 12 inches, and so 12, 13 and 14. You certainly don't want to go over 14 at this stage.

MR. PHILLIPS: Could I get an idea from staff how much time this is going to take so we can kind of chew over what – if we change it up to 14 and we're going to get the assessment; what kind of bang for our buck we're going to get for six months or nine months before we go back and look at it again. I want to know how much time we're going to spend for what we're going to get.

MR. WAUGH: The amount of calculations is not that significant to do that analysis and you'll get the protection. There is no doubt whatever you get out of the stock assessment is not going to argue for the size limit to go down, so you will be ahead of the game.

MR. JOLLEY: Might we want to modify that motion to say in place of "change", "increase the minimum size limit"?

DR. DUVAL: We can certainly do that. **Right now the motion reads add an action to increase the minimum size limit for hogfish to Regulatory Amendment 14; include options for 12, 13 and 14 inches.**

MS. BADEMAN: It is already 12. That is the no action, I guess.

DR. DUVAL: That would be the no action. Do we need another alternative? All right, is there further discussion on this motion? Any objection to this motion? Seeing none, **that motion stands approved.** Charlie.

MR. PHILLIPS: David just asked me if it was fork length or total length and I don't know.

DR. DUVAL: It is fork length.

MS. BADEMAN: If we can back up to triggerfish, the motion that we made to pull it out was only for the size limit, but we have options up there for the bag limit and trip limit as well. Do we need a motion to remove consideration of those, also? In that case I would like to make a motion to remove the action to modify the bag limit and establish a commercial trip limit for gray triggerfish until completion of the stock assessment.

DR. DUVAL: Motion by Martha; second by John Jolley. Is there any discussion on that motion? The motion reads remove action to modify the bag limit of gray triggerfish until completion of the stock assessment.

MS. BADEMAN: And commercial trip limit; that is one, too.

DR. DUVAL: **So now it reads remove options to modify the bag limit and establish a commercial trip limit for gray triggerfish until the completion of the stock assessment. Any objection to this motion? Seeing none, that motion stands approved.** Black sea bass.

MS. BROUWER: Okay, for black sea bass; again there was some discussion of changing the fishing year when we were talking about Regulatory Amendment 9. The amendment originally included a suite of harvest management measures for black sea bass including, like I said, a change in the fishing year. These are the four alternatives that the council received input on.

The Snapper Grouper Committee had recommended selecting Alternative 6, which was to change the sea bass fishing year to January through December and have separate commercial ACLs or a split season quota. This is where I dug through the minutes and I included a conversation that took place when we were discussing the management of black sea bass and how it was going to be very difficult for the council to establish management that would be amendable to the Carolinas and to Florida at the same time.

The committee engaged in a short discussion about the need to look at state-by-state management for black sea bass. The issues here are that the right whale calving season in the South Atlantic is November through April and interactions with the pots are a concern. Also, Amendment 18A implemented measures to limit participation and reduce effort and so that should alleviate some of those concerns.

Also, the black sea bass fishing year north of Cape Hatteras is the calendar year. Then there are some recommendations that came out of the AP beginning in 2010; again, separate allocation for the pot fishery for the state of Florida. In 2011 the AP recommended changing the recreational fishing year to being April 1st and again requested that the council discuss regional approaches to management.

They recommended allocating the commercial ACL to hook and line and pot sectors at the historical levels and spawning season closures. This is also something that was discussed during development of Regulatory Amendment 9. These are some of the options that the team came up with.

No action would keep the fishing year starting June 1st; then modifying the fishing year to several start dates, January 1st, November 1st, December 1st, July 1st, March 1st; and then modify the recreational fishing year as well. We kept the two options separate, the commercial and the recreational, to give the council the choice to modify one or not the other. Right now they are consistent. They both begin June 1st.

DR. DUVAL: I'm sure this item will generate a little bit of comment from folks on the committee. Tom Swatzel.

MR. SWATZEL: Well, speaking from a recreational perspective from South Carolina, the current recreational fishing year starting June 1 works well for us. I know there has been a lot of discussion about it starting like April 1, but I think some of this discussion occurred before we ended up with 96-day fishing seasons.

At least in South Carolina the main bulk of the recreational season is June through August. I'm not really sure – again, I can't speak for other states, but from my perspective the recreational

June 1 start date works well right now. I'm interested to hear what other states might have to say, but I certainly wouldn't advocate changing it.

MR. HAYMANS: I guess I would ask Tom what are you fishing for in March and April, or mainly in March; what are you fishing for besides sheepshead?

MR. SWATZEL: Well, inshore fishing for sea bass also. Obviously, we'd like a six- or eight- or nine-month season on sea bass, but that is just not going to happen anytime soon, so it becomes primarily catch and release, but again we're dealing with fewer people that time of year than we are in June, July and August.

MR. AMICK: I proposed the April 1st start date. The way we're turning out with the current ACL, I would agree with Tom that I don't see any benefit at starting the year on April 1st now for the black sea bass recreationally. What I had in mind in the past when I was on the AP was that it would be nice to avoid these overlapping seasons in the beginning of the year where we have basically nothing to fish for in March. April 1st the vermilion come in, but it is very difficult to put a respectable trip together with just five vermilion and then wait until May 1st for your grouper.

We're limited to vermilion snapper through the month of April and it would be nice to have a unified start date for the snapper grouper species where you eliminate a lot of the discards, so April 1st was what I felt a good start date. But, we're looking at a short 90-day season on black sea bass, and I don't feel like this is a time to make a change in the recreational start date.

MR. BURGESS: It seems like a great time to consider some regional management if there are some places that want to change the fishing year. I think if this amendment goes forward that I don't think any changes to the black sea bass fishing year would be able to go in before June 1st. If the council would be willing to change this around a little bit and look at more of a regional approach to management, one of the things that would come under a regional approach would be state-by-state management.

As I hear around the table, I sense there is some consensus of a starting date that we do have now. We haven't heard from Florida yet, but I think it would be a good time to start to look at this. We have some time to work on it if the council wants to move in that direction, but I'm not interested in changing the start date at this time for commercial. As far as recreational for North Carolina, I think at the AP meeting there was a mention by a North Carolina captain, recreational, that he was not interested in changing the season either.

MR. HAYMANS: So do we know that the earlier fishing time would provide the same level of landings? In other words, is the season still going to be 90 days if we're fishing April, May and June rather than June, July and August; will it stretch out a little bit? Also, can we add in an option into this Regulatory Amendment 14 to go some two-week-per-month seasons in order to stretch that through that time period? Is that possible to add to it?

DR. DUVAL: I assume you mean two-week-per-month season recreational?

MR. HAYMANS: Correct.

DR. DUVAL: Anything is possible technically. Whether it is likely to happen two weeks on and two weeks off, we'd probably want the Service to weigh in on that a little bit.

MR. HAYMANS: Well, I'm interested in any alternative that would provide recreational anglers south of South Carolina something to fish for in the spring. We're slamming our sheepshead populations on the artificial reefs and we're just applying more pressure inshore. It doesn't make a whole lot of sense to me that we can't figure out a way to allow black sea bass – it used to be January 1st and it worked fine.

MR. PHILLIPS: Tom, what would the pot fishermen feel about some kind of set-aside for the hook-and-line fishermen on black sea bass like we have got on golden tile so that they can keep those fish that they're interacting with through the year of catching vermilion and stuff? I don't if this might be a place to put it. There is not an action for this but I was just curious.

MR. BURGESS: Well, the hook-and-line fishermen have historically had a place in this fishery and that should be protected, and I sure do support that. I know in Regulatory Amendment 9 what we discussed at that time was closing the pot fishery down when there was 10 percent left. That number came about only because it protected their historical participation or their allocation, if you want to call it that, in this fishery.

As something for the hook-and-line fishermen, I strongly support that and continue to, and I did at that time. But I know that the National Marine Fisheries Service can't monitor it to that level, to close the fishery down at 10 percent and things like that. There are some ways to address that and I sure would support that.

MS. BADEMAN: Back to Tom's first point about regional management, Florida would certainly support looking into that. I don't know if we could accomplish that in a regulatory amendment. I didn't think so; Myra is nodding no. But also to get back to when the recreational season opening would be advantageous to different regions, for Florida black sea bass is big in the winter and the fall; so a fall opening, I've just got the suggestion for October, if we could maybe add that to the mix.

DR. CRABTREE: I think this is mentioned in the document somewhere, but I do want to comment on the alternatives to change the commercial season. I think that anything you do that moves this trap fishery into the right whale calving season will be extremely difficult to do and I suspect will not be doable. It also will push this into an environmental impact statement, and we will have to go through all that process. But I think it will be very difficult to get a biological opinion that will go along with moving the trap fishery into the right whale calving season.

MR. PHILLIPS: I guess back to my point after we finish this, and I'll ask Roy if it is doable and if this is the place to do it, or you, Madam Chair, but could we add an action with some alternatives on set-asides for hook and line?

DR. DUVAL: That would be subdividing the commercial ACL. If that is an allocation, then that might have to be done through a plan amendment?

DR. CRABTREE: Yes, I think it would require a plan amendment. Yes, it is doable but I think it would have to be a plan amendment.

DR. DUVAL: So it seems like we do have a little bit of fodder for a future plan amendment in terms of regional or state-by-state management for black sea bass as well as consideration of a sub-allocation of the ACL to the hook-and-line fishery. We are running short on time so I do want to try to have our conversation converge here on some decision points for black sea bass.

We've heard a request of possibly adding October to the mix for the options under modification of the recreational fishery year to begin. We've also heard a suggestion from Doug to consider adding an option that would allow for two weeks and two weeks off fishing during the recreational season. We would need motions to add those options to this mix.

The only other thing I was just going to ask staff about is that right now Option 1 is no action, do not modify commercial or recreational fishing years for black sea bass. The current fishing year for both sectors begins June 1. We could choose to modify one but not the other, so choosing – I guess I'm just saying choosing Option 1 obligates you to no action on both seasons. I'm wondering if we just might want to split that out when you guys go back and look at it. Doug.

MR. HAYMANS: Well, a question first and then I've got a motion, and maybe Bob or Tom, but the commission's black sea bass plan starts at Cape Hatteras and runs north?

MR. BEAL: Right.

MR. HAYMANS: And is that a state-by-state allocation for that and how much does North Carolina get of that allocation?

MR. BEAL: I don't remember the percent off the top of my head, but, yes, it is state-by-state commercial and we're moving that way on the recreational side as well for black sea bass allocation. It is a unique plan in that it is joint between the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and the Mid-Atlantic Council.

The Mid-Atlantic Council sets an overall TAC for the commercial fishery and then the ASMFC fishery management plan subdivides that into the state allocations for recreational and commercial. I'll get back to you on the percent share of North Carolina.

DR. DUVAL: Doug, I will just let you know that North Carolina's commercial portion of the black sea bass north of Hatteras quota is really pretty small. It is a winter trawl fishery for the most part and caught in conjunction with summer flounder. North of Hatteras, North Carolina, because we do have our own state allocation, we have the ability to set aside a small amount for the pot and hook-and-line portions of that fishery north of Hatteras.

MR. HAYMANS: Madam Chairman, I'd like to make a motion that we modify the recreational fishing year for black sea bass.

DR. DUVAL: A little bit of confusion, sorry, Doug, go ahead.

MR. HAYMANS: I would just make a motion that we modify the recreational fishing year for black sea bass with the options that will become alternatives below that, including the October 1st. That would be January 1st, April 1st and October 1st.

DR. DUVAL: Okay, so **that motion reads modify the black sea bass recreational fishing year to consider start dates of January 1, April 1 and October 1.** Second by Martha. Discussion?

MR. CUPKA: Doug, what about the other sub-options if it turns out the commercial is different from any of those; did you want to take that out or leave that in?

MR. HAYMANS: Well, I've heard lots of discussion to leave – and particularly the right whale situation is the most important – to leave it alone starting June 1, so I would tend to leave that there and just go with this as recreational.

DR. DUVAL: So, Doug, are you trying to suggest with this motion that you would only consider under this action modification of the recreational fishing year?

MR. HAYMANS: That is my intent, yes.

DR. DUVAL: So leave out any consideration of modification of the commercial fishing year?

MR. HAYMANS: I didn't hear any support for that during our previous discussion. Actually, I didn't hear any support for my motion either, but I made it anyway.

DR. DUVAL: I'm only asking because I think we want to be clear in the motion that you're actually considering modification of that action itself.

MR. HAYMANS: What I'm reading in my document it says "possible action" so if I want it to be included as an action I need to make it an action, right? I mean right now it is not an action.

MS. BROUWER: And I guess just to clarify, the way that we have structured this action is actually not the best way to do it because the no action does not allow you to choose modifying just the recreational fishing years; so perhaps a motion to restructure the action so that it does give you the option to make changes to only the commercial or only the recreational or both.

MR. HAYMANS: If you'll word it I'll read it.

DR. DUVAL: Well, we have your motion on the table right now so that would be the next motion. Is there anymore discussion on this motion? David.

MR. CUPKA: Yes, again, one of the sub-options is to adopt the same fishing season as the commercial sector, and you don't want to change that. You want to leave that June 1; so by taking that out, that means that you're removing the option to start the recreational on June 1; is that your intent? Okay, just so you're clear.

MR. WAUGH: This is why it is critical to have the no action written to state what is currently in place. You're not doing anything in the no action. You're not do not modify. The no action is just a statement of what is in place. What is in place now is a June 1 start date for both recreational and commercial.

DR. DUVAL: And once we vote on this motion, we would need another motion to restructure this action so that it reads that the no action alternative is do not modify the recreational black sea bass fishing year; correct?

MR. WAUGH: Well, I think what you want to do is you only want to consider changing the recreational black sea bass fishing year. You don't want to make any change to the commercial.

DR. DUVAL: That is what we're trying to figure out here around the table.

MR. WAUGH: I wouldn't worry about the no action alternative. We'll fix that because that should just be a statement of what is in place. You're not doing anything so I wouldn't worry about the no action alternative. I'd just figure out whether you want to include alternatives that will change just the recreational or the recreational and the commercial.

DR. DUVAL: David, did you still have a comment?

MR. CUPKA: Well, we have heard discussion that the recreational don't want to change from the June 1, and yet it seems to me – I don't know; maybe it gets back to the way the no action is written. Right now it is June 1; so if we decided not to change the recreational, it would stay June 1. I just want to make sure we don't lose that option.

MR. HARTIG: I'm just looking at the utility of what happened this season. We opened on July 1; yes, we have a lot of new regulations about trap tending and trip limits and things of that nature, but it seems to be extending the season when we opened it at the same time we did with vermilion.

I think when fishermen have to make a decision about which fish they're going to prosecute, any one fishery doesn't get excessive effort in that timeframe, and I think this is what we should be shooting for in the long term is trying to get concurrence on the times when we can open these fisheries. I think the season is extending this year.

I think it is a good idea and I think we may want to look at July 1 as the opening day for black sea bass. I see utility in doing that. Now, the other question I have is, Roy, what are the dates of the calving season for right whales; what are the dates we don't want to go to that you say are –

DR. CRABTREE: November 15th is the critical date. When we did the rules delaying the start date until July 1, that didn't seem to cause any problems because all of the analyses indicated it would close before November 15th. I think that you can do as long as we don't start pushing it past the 15th.

MR. HARTIG: Okay, but then anything – November 1 is not going to work because it is November 15th is when the –

DR. CRABTREE: Yes, November, even October is problematic.

MR. HARTIG: And December, yes, you're into –

DR. CRABTREE: You're in the heart of it then.

MR. HARTIG: You're in the heart of it so neither one of those is going to work due to ESA concerns, but I would like to see July, anyway. I mean, that one month seems to have helped the fishery extend and that is I think what this council's goal is doing is trying to extend the seasons on these fisheries. I think that coupled with what we've done in regulations has helped.

DR. DUVAL: So, Ben, you're clearly talking about the commercial fishing year –

MR. HARTIG: Start the commercial fishing year to July 1.

DR. DUVAL: Right, but this motion that we have before us, that we have not yet voted on, is consider action to modify the recreational fishing year.

MR. HARTIG: Right, and why I said that was because I was concerned that this would preclude discussion of the commercial change of fishing year. When Gregg had talked about that; if we approve this, it may preclude the commercial change in the fishing year. That is what I got out of the discussion.

MR. HAYMANS: How about let's delink commercial and recreational and have a separate motion after this one for commercial?

DR. DUVAL: And that is what I was going to suggest. Can we go ahead and vote on this motion? **Is there anymore discussion of this particular motion, which is to consider action to modify the black sea bass recreational fishing year to consider start dates of January 1, April 1 and October 1; recognizing that staff is going to restructure the no action alternative to split that out between commercial and recreational. Any more discussion? Any opposition? One opposed; the motion passes.** Now, with regard to the commercial sector; do we want to consider any options to include in this regulatory amendment to potentially change the commercial fishing year? Tom Burgess.

MR. BURGESS: Well, getting directly to Ben's point, it is true that there are fishermen that chose to go B-liner fishing instead of go sea bass potting – they did have endorsements – and it directly affected the length of the season. But through further discussion with fishermen and the

concerns about regulatory discards, what happened during that time was they had to throw their sea bass overboard.

We won't be able to have anything in place at that time; but I was thinking of addressing that and rather than dropping the sea bass commercial season back to July, I was going to speak briefly when we speak about vermilion snapper is move that up to June. Not only would the fishermen not have to discard the sea bass, but also the grouper fishermen would not have to discard vermilion snapper for an extra 30 days, so they would only have 30 days of discards. Speaking to Ben's point about aligning these fisheries, I've heard a lot that regulatory discards are a problem.

I have heard discussion of changing the grouper year, but I think that is a little complicated, and I think that possibly just addressing – putting an option in to adjust the vermilion season by one month is a possibility for discussion. Getting back to the part about starting the recreational fishery, now if this come before the council in March will it be able to be implemented next year to address any of these concerns or changes in the fishing year and things like that?

It seems like it was really close last year to get the sea bass issues passed and that was through emergency action to delay. My point of bringing this up is if next year's season is not going to be affected by this amendment for black sea bass, it seems like a great time to start to explore some ideas of regional management and it seems a great time to go with maybe state-by-state management if we have that time if we're not going to be affecting next year's season, so I would support that, also.

DR. DUVAL: And obviously that is going to require an amendment. Now, the timeline for this regulatory amendment, if we give final approval to actions contained with this amendment in March, they would hopefully be effective for the 2014 fishing year, but certainly not for 2013.

MR. WAUGH: Generally it takes about six months to get the regulations implemented; so if we take final action in March, you're looking six months after that.

DR. DUVAL: So with that discussion around the table; is there a desire by the committee to include options in here to change the start date of the commercial black sea bass season? Tom, you mentioned potentially including an option to change the beginning of the vermilion season to line up with the existing commercial black sea bass season. If that is the case, if we don't want to include any measures to alter the black sea bass commercial fishing year, we will move on from this part of the discussion. Ben.

MR. HARTIG: We haven't talked to the vermilion guys and we don't know what they think about changing their season. I don't care how it is done, if you move vermilion up or move sea bass back, but I think we ought to start going down that road where we can open our major fisheries at the same time.

I think it reduces bycatch and I think it is a great long-term strategy for us to start down the road upon. I would continue to ask that we have the July 1st, January 1st, March 1st in this discussion, I guess, leaving out the November and December months due to right whale calving season. I

don't know why those other months were in there. If you don't want to see those, that is fine with me; you can leave it January 1st, July 1st and then no action if you don't want to have all those extra options. I'm just thinking out loud.

DR. DUVAL: I'm assuming that is in the form of a motion?

MR. HARTIG: It was a roundabout one. Yes, the motion I'll make is modify the commercial fishing year to begin on January 1st, July 1st – yes, the motion is to consider action to modify the black sea bass commercial fishing year to consider start dates of July 1, March 1 and January 1.

DR. DUVAL: Motion by Ben; second by John Jolley. Discussion? Gregg.

MR. WAUGH: This will now trigger an EIS and you won't be finishing this until late 2013. Roy laid it out; January 1 is right in the middle of the calving season. Any consideration of modifications I would suspect to the commercial fishing year will trigger an EIS. If you want to consider that, I'd suggest you put it in a different amendment.

MR. HARTIG: Well, let me withdraw that motion or can I amend the motion to remove January 1. My intent was not to give any months in there in the calving season; and March 1 does it, too, okay; so it is just July.

DR. DUVAL: Is that okay with the seconder of the motion, John?

MR. JOLLEY: I guess.

MR. HARTIG: And I'm sorry for that, I was confused. It is getting late.

DR. DUVAL: Yes, it is and speaking of time my intent is that we finish up – we have one more item to go in here and that's consideration of vermilion snapper and then we're going to break. With the chairman's indulgence, I would suggest that we take up the last two items on the Snapper Grouper Committee Agenda tomorrow morning at 8:30, and then we'll just move right into data collection, if that is okay with you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CUPKA: That is what I was going to suggest with the exception of starting at 8:00 rather than 8:30.

DR. DUVAL: He is the chairman so we will start at 8:00 rather than 8:30 tomorrow. **The motion on the floor now reads consider action to modify the black sea bass commercial fishing year to consider a start date of July 1. Motion by Ben; seconded by John Jolley.**

MR. CUPKA: Yes, just a question about the March 1; it says this starts the fishing year to begin after the right whale, so it seems to me March 1 is a possible alternative and would not trigger an EIS. It is right after the end of the calving season; isn't it?

MR. WAUGH: I would ask Roy, and I don't know if he can answer this right now, but my suspicion is any consideration of changing the commercial black sea bass fishing year will trigger an EIS. When we talked about even raising the quota, there were individuals in Protected

Resources that were concerned and talking about having to do an EIS because that might extend the fishing year and you might run into the calving season.

DR. CRABTREE: Well, I wouldn't say any change to the season; but if we're just talking July 1, we would have to take a preliminary look at it. If the analysis was clear that it won't push it into the calving season, then I don't really see just off the top of my head why that would necessarily trigger an EIS. If it is questionable and it might or might not, then that probably would because of the uncertainty. But if it is just July 1, that might be all right.

DR. DUVAL: Anymore discussion on this motion? Is there any opposition to this motion? Seeing none, this **motion stands approved**. Tom Burgess.

MR. BURGESS: I will be brief. Getting back to the discards with the hook-and-line fishery, would it be possible at this time to open up in June with a 50-pound trip limit for the hook-and-line fishery? I just thought it was a reasonable approach to address the discards that people are concerned about.

DR. DUVAL: Is that something that we can do, opening June 1st just to the hook-and-line sector to deal with discards? Can we do that through framework?

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: Through your framework you can make changes based on gear, areas, seasons. I think you can do that via framework.

DR. DUVAL: So, Tom, are you offering a motion to include an option to open the black sea bass commercial season on June 1st to the hook-and-line sector only with a trip limit of 50 pounds? Motion by Tom Burgess; second by Ben. Discussion.

MR. PHILLIPS: Since this is just going to be options to look at; could I make a friendly amendment and look at May 1 and June 1, because then it would coincide opening with grouper; just something to look at.

DR. DUVAL: Is that a friendly amendment that the maker and seconder of the motion would accept to open June 1 and May 1, or, Charlie, are you saying having two different options; one option opening May 1 and one opening June 1? Okay, two different options. **Let me see if I can read this correctly; include options to open the black sea bass commercial season to the hook-and-line sector only on either June 1 or May 1 with a trip limit of 50 pounds.** That's okay with Ben and Tom? Is there any other discussion on this motion? Ben.

MR. HARTIG: Now, does this mean that the 50-pound trip limit ends with the opening of the sea bass season or is it a 50-pound trip limit through the whole time? It ends with the opening of the black sea bass season; I just want to make that clarification and make sure that we have that on the record.

DR. DUVAL: So it is clear that this 50-pound trip limit ends with the opening of the black sea bass pot season. Ben.

MR. HARTIG: And further rationale for this; May 1st grouper opens so you would have an option to open the season the same time grouper is open so that is a good thing.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: And this is to deal specifically with discards?

MR. HARTIG: Yes, it is to deal specifically with discards.

DR. DUVAL: Okay, other comments around the table on this motion? Any objection to this motion? Seeing none, that **motion stands approved**. Bob.

MR. BEAL: I just wanted to respond to Doug's question earlier about North Carolina's allocation north of Hatteras. They received 11 percent on the commercial side and 1 percent on the recreational side.

MR. HAYMANS: And that 11 percent is 194,000 pounds?

MR. BEAL: That sound about right.

MR. HAYMANS: So 1.76 million pounds.

MR. BEAL: Yes, it is about an overall million pound quota; it sounds right.

DR. DUVAL: All right, let's quickly try to get through vermilion snapper before we recess.

MS. BROUWER: On vermilion snapper, this is another species that was included in Regulatory Amendment 9. That amendment implemented a trip limit of 1,500 pounds for vermilion. There were other alternatives that were analyzed in that amendment, which I have included in here. The SEDAR assessment is being conducted this year.

You will look at the results of that assessment in December, I believe. In 2010 the Snapper Grouper AP supported that change to the 1,500 pound trip limit. Your possible actions to modify the trip limit would be to reconsider any of the alternatives in Regulatory Amendment 9 and then we also included options to look at modifying the bag limit, the commercial and recreational minimum size limits, split season quota, whatever you want to do.

DR. DUVAL: This was something that we had heard during public comment at the June meeting that folks were kind of burning through the vermilion commercial quota pretty quickly and that it might be wise to consider a reduced trip limit for the vermilion snapper fishery. Now, as we mentioned earlier, the assessment is going on, we will receive the results in December.

We can include this in here, take it out to the public and see what they think. In terms of some of those sub-alternatives to reduce the trip limit to 500 pounds when 75 percent of the ACL is met or projected to be met, I'm just wondering if that is reasonable given the quota monitoring capabilities. I know we're trying to do that right now with golden tile. Is that reasonable?

MR. PHILLIPS: Madam Chair, I would not want to take Subalternatives 3A and 4A forward. I'm hopeful that the assessment is going to give us more fish; and I'm guessing since we don't know what it is going to be, then we can come up with some more alternatives in December when we've got some information that gives us some guidance. I would take the Subalternatives 3A and 4A out for those very reasons that you mentioned.

DR. DUVAL: So do you want to take out Subalternatives 2A, 3A and 4A because they all have that similar 75 percent trigger?

MR. PHILLIPS: Yes. I missed 2A; sorry.

DR. DUVAL: So are you making that in the form of a motion?

MR. PHILLIPS: I will make that in the form of a motion.

MS. BROUWER: Just for clarification, Charlie, do you intend to then revisit these alternatives because these are the ones that were included in Regulatory Amendment 9. Do you want to include them in Regulatory Amendment 14 but leaving out the ones that you just mentioned?

MR. PHILLIPS: Yes, I'd like to take the 2A, 3A and 4A out; and then when we get the assessment, then if we decide 1,500 is good or a thousand might be where we need to be or 2,000 – because that was my issue; not knowing what the assessment is going to be it makes it very, very difficult to decide what kind of options we need.

DR. DUVAL: So 1,500 pounds would be the no action alternative right now; and then your other alternatives would be a thousand pounds, 750 pounds, 500 pounds and 400 pounds.

MR. PHILLIPS: And because we have got the Alternative 1, which is no trip limit, then I guess that gives us leeway to go above 1,500 pounds if we want to because it is still in the range; am I right?

DR. DUVAL: I'm sorry, maybe it is the late hour; I'm not sure I understand what you're saying. Our current trip limit is 1,500 pounds so that is no action; so are you saying that you want to include an option for no trip limit?

MR. PHILLIPS: There already is an option in there; Alternative 1 is no trip limit. That was during Regulatory Amendment 9 so that is in there; and since that is in there, come December, since there is no trip limit, then we should be able to set – if we want to add an alternative anywhere between no limit and 1,500 pounds, we can, I think.

DR. DUVAL: You would need to add an alternative for no trip limit; that is what I'm trying to say. We are at 1,500 right now; that is our existing no action. What Myra has put in here for your reference is what was included in Regulatory Amendment 9 where there was no trip limit at that point. You can include in your motion an option for no trip limit.

MR. PHILLIPS: It that will make it cleaner, then I'd like to add that into my options; no trip limit.

DR. DUVAL: Well, then you're backtracking. What we heard during public comment was that the 1,500 pound trip limit was actually perhaps too high because the vermilion season closed I think in February. The first January through June split season closed actually in February of this year if I recall. Charlie.

MR. PHILLIPS: And that is the problem; we're trying to make a regulation without seeing the assessment, so what I want to do is make sure we have got plenty of room to pick a trip limit or a no trip limit. If the assessment comes back really good, then 1,500 pounds may not be enough. We may have enough fish where 1,500 pounds – you know, we have got a lot of boats that fish a long way offshore.

There is a reason to have high trip limits for these boats that fish a long way offshore and make very long trips. You have heard some of the observers saying they were making 15-day trips out of South Carolina. Most of my boats make seven. It is a lot different making a 7-day trip versus making a 3-day trip, so you need high trip limits for people that stay out a long time. I just didn't want to limit it. Again, once we get the assessment, then we can make some judgment.

DR. DUVAL: **Okay, if you look up at the screen – we don't have a second to Charlie's motion yet, but the motion is to consider options to modify the trip limit for vermilion snapper to; one, no trip limit; two, 1,000 pounds; three, 500 pounds; four, 400 pounds. Is there a second to that motion?**

DR. CRABTREE: Yes, I'll second it.

DR. DUVAL: Roy. Is there any discussion? Tom.

MR. BURGESS: Will we still have no action and where it maintains it at the 1,500 pounds?

DR. DUVAL: Yes, we will. Is there any other comment on this motion? Any objection to this motion? Seeing none, the **motion stands approved**. We are recessed for this evening and we will meet back here at 8:00 o'clock tomorrow morning.

(Whereupon, the meeting was recessed at 6:05 o'clock p.m., September 11, 2012.)

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WEDNESDAY MORNING SESSION

SEPTEMBER 12, 2012

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The Snapper Grouper Committee of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council reconvened in the Topaz Room of the Charleston Marriott Hotel, Charleston, South Carolina, Wednesday morning, September 12, 2012, and was called to order at 8:00 o'clock a.m. by Chairman Michelle Duval.

DR. DUVAL: All right, everybody, we're going to go ahead and get started. We're reconvening the Snapper Grouper Committee of the South Atlantic Council. It has come to my attention that we do actually have a few outstanding things to deal with regarding Regulatory Amendment 14. When we finished up yesterday, we had discussed some options to modify the vermilion snapper trip limit; but given that we're going to be receiving an assessment update in December, we might want to think about including some options for changing the bag limit for vermilion.

We're at a five-fish bag limit for that right now. There is some discussion about also adding an option to change the vermilion snapper commercial fishing year to provide some options for bringing that in line with the opening of the black sea bass fishing year. Tom Swatzel, would you like to offer some thoughts on a bag limit option for vermilion snapper?

MR. SWATZEL: Yes, I'd like to offer a motion to include an array of options concerning possible bag limit changes in Amendment 14 for vermilion snapper.

DR. DUVAL: **So the motion is include an action to consider alternatives to change the bag limit for vermilion snapper in Regulatory Amendment 14.** Is there a second to that motion; seconded by Mel Bell. Discussion? Myra, do you need anything else from us right now? We're at a five-fish bag limit, so we're not going to really hear anything.

Presumably we would want options to increase the bag limit if the vermilion assessment comes up, so are there thoughts on what we might want to go to? A range would be good; so five fish, seven fish, ten fish? Tom.

MR. SWATZEL: Well, let's look, say, up to ten just to see.

DR. DUVAL: Okay, so the motion now reads include action to consider alternatives to change the bag limit for vermilion snapper in Regulatory Amendment 14; include alternatives that increase the bag limit up to ten fish. Is there other discussion or comments on this motion?

DR. CRABTREE: So we're putting an alternative in there to increase the bag limit; do we have any alternatives that would look at decreasing the bag limit?

DR. DUVAL: We can include in the range if you would like?

DR. CRABTREE: I would like to because I'm hearing from a lot of fishermen they would rather have a longer season and they would be willing to trade off some bag limit to get a longer season.

DR. DUVAL: I guess you would have to ask the maker and seconder of the motion, Tom and Mel, would you accept a friendly amendment to change that range; maybe something down to three fish. Mel.

MR. BELL: You could just set it up so where instead of just increase, it would be to adjust the bag limit to range from – well, I don't know what the bottom should be, but a range from something up to ten or something like that; three to ten?

DR. CRABTREE: Three to ten.

DR. DUVAL: Three to ten, okay. I'll read it one more time. The motion now reads – well, first of all, is everybody okay with this before – any other tweaks people want to make? **The motion reads include action to consider alternatives to change the bag limit for vermilion snapper in Regulatory Amendment 14; include alternatives that would adjust the bag limit from three to ten fish. Is there anymore discussion on this motion? Any opposition to this motion? Seeing none, that motion stands approved.** I think the next thing we wanted to consider, we had some discussion yesterday about the benefits of having –

MS. BADEMAN: I'm hiding over here again; sorry. Related to what Roy just said; do we want to – and I don't know and maybe this is where you're about to go – do we want to throw in options to change the season for vermilion for recreational?

DR. DUVAL: That is exactly where I was going. I was just going to refresh folks on the discussion yesterday. We included some options to change the black sea bass fishing year.

MS. BADEMAN: Well, we're talking about vermilion right; you just said black sea bass. Okay, I was thinking –

DR. DUVAL: I'm talking about the vermilion fishing year and I was just saying that our discussion yesterday looking at changes to the black sea bass fishing year included discussion of how it was beneficial to try to line up the vermilion and the black sea bass fishing year. I was going to entertain some discussion or motion on including options that would align the vermilion and black sea bass commercial fishing years.

MS. BADEMAN: I was thinking more along the lines of the closure for vermilion, shortening that or lengthening it, for recreational.

DR. DUVAL: So you're talking about recreational; two different topics. Well, let's deal with the commercial end of things first. Tom Burgess.

MR. BURGESS: I would like to **make a motion to include an action to consider moving the commercial vermilion snapper fishery opening from July to June.**

DR. DUVAL: Is there a second to that motion; seconded by Ben. Discussion? Tom.

MR. BURGESS: The reasoning behind that is I've heard from a lot of fishermen that are concerned about regulatory discards. As we said, they are included in the ACL or accounted for rather.

When they have to throw them over for an extended amount of time, their expenses are the same because they catch the baits the same, because they already caught the fish, their fuel is the same, so it is really just a bottom-line thing where they're making – their trip is more profitable and considerably much so. As I say, this is in response to the concerns of the fishermen.

DR. CRABTREE: Didn't we yesterday talk about moving the sea bass start date from June to July so it would coincide with vermilion?

DR. DUVAL: So we're just including options to do it either way. Doug.

MR. HAYMANS: Well, I was thinking about the motion being more in line with allow staff to look at options to align the two seasons and bring us back the options of aligning. In other words, rather than box yourself into a June or July, the motion would somehow read that you look at multiple species – not just vermilion and blacks but for aligning their commercial seasons. Is there a way to do that and allow staff to give us some options? I mean we know we want a midsummer or early summer/late spring opening on these.

DR. DUVAL: So you're thinking about throwing – what of those species would you want to throw in there?

MR. HAYMANS: I don't know; I guess that is for the fishermen to tell me, but rather than going species by species and this month or that month, what are the best options for combining seasons?

DR. DUVAL: This is getting into some of the discussion that I actually wanted to have on sort of our next to last agenda item before other business, which was a vision for the fishery. It gets into – that is the kind of conversation that I want to have. I am not sure it is going to be very efficient right now to try to go through species by species and figure out what we might want to include versus what we don't want to include. Like we said, we're going to need some input from the fishermen. Tom Burgess.

MR. BURGESS: The reason I just did this one is because it is kind of simple and straightforward and it doesn't involve a lot of changes, but it directly addresses what the concerns of the industry are that I've heard about. It is one small step but hopefully in the right direction to where other steps, you know, kind of get people talking about these things and adjusting things. I've heard about adjusting the grouper opening and things like that, but that seems a little more complicated due to the geographical range of that. Maybe this is something that could be accomplished and give them some relief.

MR. PHILLIPS: Tom, I agree with you; I think we need to look at these options. I think because we put a suboption in on moving black sea bass up to May for the hook and line, you

may consider a friendly amendment to look at opening it from July to June as an option or May as a suboption. I would like to make that as a friendly amendment.

DR. DUVAL: Well, maybe you could reword it to consider options for opening the commercial vermilion snapper fishery on, you know, Subalternative A, July 1; Subalternative B, June 1; and Subalternative C, May 1; is that what you're saying, Charlie? Tom and Ben as the maker and seconder of the motion; are you guys okay with that? Okay. Are there any other thoughts or suggestions regarding the vermilion commercial fishing year? Jack.

DR. McGOVERN: I just have a question; is this the second – you know, we have a split season now. It's January through June and July through December. Is this the start of the second season or the start of the whole fishing year and there is one season?

DR. DUVAL: Excellent point. Tom.

MR. BURGESS: It was just the start of the second season. I had thought about changing the first season or just putting an option in there to go from January to December, but I guess that would change the fishing year, so I don't think that would be appropriate or it would be possible rather without changing everything.

As Jack had said, this would be number one, say, just for conversation if you started in May and then start another one whenever down the line, but because of the fishing year starting January – and that is correct, right – that it might change things to start the first one at a different date, so I just thought doing this one – and as I had stated first just with that one month to address my concerns or the concerns of the fishermen and just kind of leave it at that and see what they say.

DR. DUVAL: We might just want to clarify that this would be moving the opening of the second vermilion season as opposed to the first one. Charlie.

MR. PHILLIPS: What we're doing is we probably can make this a little more profitable for the fishermen. They can catch more stuff, there are less discards. What is going to happen is the tradeoff is going to be toward the end of the year everything is going to close, so there is going to be nothing for the public sector to get from the commercial fishermen. We need to understand we're making a tradeoff, and we probably need to talk about this in the visioning.

We need that January opening because the vermilion snapper fishermen have to – there is no grouper, there is going to be no anything really to catch for the first six months of the year. They need a couple of months to catch something to try to scratch by until the summer opening if we align everything. They'd probably get two or three good months; and can they live on the rest of the year after everything is closed. We will talk about all this in the visioning, but that is where we're going and we need to keep this in the back of our minds.

MR. HARTIG: And, Charlie, as I see this evolving, if you get everything open at the same time, you're not going to need as much of each species to make a trip. You may start looking a little longer term about stretching these things out more, and it may actually work to the benefit of the fishermen to have much longer seasons in the long run. That is what I'm hoping, anyway.

DR. DUVAL: Those are excellent comments. As Charlie has pointed out to me, there are other people in the supply chain. There are restaurants, there is the consuming public and I think those are all great topics for visioning. Hopefully we will get to that soon. Are there any other comments or thoughts on this? Any other tweaks that we want to make to this motion? We have clarified that it would just be the second vermilion snapper season. Ben.

MR. HARTIG: Just functionally, if you even moved it to May 1st, Jack, they've caught the quota by May 1st, so right now it wouldn't make any difference if you changed it. With the winter opening, they're closed by May.

DR. DUVAL: All right, are ready to vote on this? **If there are no other modifications, the motion reads include an action to consider options for moving the opening of the second commercial vermilion snapper season; Option 1, July 1st; Option 2, June 1st; Option 3, May 1st. Any other discussion? Any opposition? Seeing none, that motion stands approved.** The next thing I think we might want to put an option in for would be red porgy. I have been reminded that we're going to be getting an assessment update in December. Martha.

MS. BADEMAN: Before we leave vermilion, can we add an action to consider options for changing the recreational closed season?

DR. DUVAL: Absolutely; and that is in the form of a motion, I assume?

MS. BADEMAN: Yes, it is.

DR. DUVAL: Second by Ben. Discussion? I think staff would like some clarification on what you're thinking of in terms of a range for that closure. Right now it is November through March.

MS. BADEMAN: If we have a positive assessment, Roy mentioned as people were interested in having a longer season rather than a higher bag limit, so maybe tacking on a month – maybe opening November or opening March, adding a month under the open season on the closure now. I'm not sure if we would need to add options that would also shorten it depending on what the season looks like. My intention would be if we had the option to look at making the open season longer and the closed season shorter.

MR. HARTIG: If I may, Madam Chairman, the seasonal aspect of vermilion snapper off of Florida and North Carolina or the Carolinas is considerably different. In the wintertime in Florida you have an influx of visitors to Florida who like to go fishing and would like to catch vermilions during the wintertime when it is closed. That is the tourist season. Of course, in Carolinas the weather is so bad up in that area during the wintertime that there is not much recreational fishing going on. That is the conundrum we're in with vermilions as far as the two areas go.

DR. DUVAL: I think staff is just looking for some guidance on – Martha, I know you have clarified that your intent would hopefully be to shorten the length of the closed season, but I think we're trying to get the range that you would be considering clear enough; so having a

closure run November through March would be status quo; so maybe November through February; or December through March. That is what we're looking for; okay. Now that doesn't include options to lengthen the season.

MS. BADEMAN: I'm okay with that right now, but I don't know if anybody else is about that.

DR. DUVAL: If we were going to tack on a month, which end would you want to tack it on to?

MS. BADEMAN: We're hearing we would rather have it open March; so if you were going to tack another month on, I would say tack it on to the front end so it would close – what would it be, October if we were adding a month?

DR. DUVAL: Yes.

MS. BADEMAN: Okay, I guess we would have to close in –

DR. DUVAL: Other thoughts? Steve.

MR. AMICK: I would just like to comment that this is just one – whatever way you're going to go, we're stuck in Georgia; and what is good for Florida or North Carolina, we're kind of mixed. I'm looking, well, yes, it would be nice to have vermilion snapper in November. It gives us a chance to fish with something else when we're targeting grouper.

I think to really fit the situation and the needs of the needs of the different regions is a different start date for each state where you can let Florida decide when they need to catch their fish, when North Carolina needs to catch their fish, and as well as Georgia and South Carolina. There might even be a consensus of the northern states that let's say with South Carolina many of the start and beginning dates could be the same to limit four different start date seasons. But to be equitable about start dates and the effects of what it has on the recreational fishermen, I think it needs to be looked at down the line.

DR. DUVAL: I would agree. In regional management that is something that the fishermen have commented about for a long time. I'll make a smart comment and say this sound like state-by-state quotas for the recreational vermilion snapper fishery. That is the kind of discussion I want to have or I foresee happening as we look at visioning; you know, what do we want the fishery to look like and recognize that there are state and regional differences that work better – for how to try to make things work better throughout the region.

Is there anymore discussion on this motion or any other suboptions that folks would want to add? Obviously, I think we're all hoping that what comes back from the assessment is not going to indicate that we would need to lengthen the closed season.

All right, if there is no other discussion, the motion reads include an action to consider options to lengthen or shorten the recreational closed season for vermilion snapper: Option 1, closure November 1st through February 1st; Option 2, closure December 1st through March 1st; and Option 3, closure October 1st through March 1st.

Any more discussion? Any opposition? Seeing none, **that motion stands approved**. Now is it okay to move on to red porgy? Again, as I was starting to say previously, we are going to have an update to the red porgy assessment that we're going to see in December. It has been noted that it might be nice to put in a placeholder to look at potential changes to the commercial trip limit and the recreational bag limit. Tom Swatzel.

MR. SWATZEL: I would like to make a motion to include an action to consider a range of options to increase the bag limit up to five fish.

DR. DUVAL: Motion by Tom to include an action to consider a range of options to increase the red porgy bag limit; second by John Jolley. Discussion? Right now the bag limit is three fish, right? **If there is no discussion, the motion reads include an action to consider a range of options to increase the red porgy recreational bag limit up to five fish.** Any other discussion? Roy.

DR. CRABTREE: Well, what are you going to do if the assessment comes back saying we've got to lower the quotas because we're not on track to recovery. You might be having to look at reducing bag limits and things.

DR. DUVAL: We are not going to be voting to take this out to public hearing until December anyway, so couldn't we add an option to lower the bag limit if that is the case? Do you want to add any options at this point to look at a decrease in the recreational bag limit? I'm not seeing any interest in doing something like that. Okay, is everybody ready? Any other discussion? Is there any opposition to this motion? Seeing none, **that motion stands approved**. Tom Burgess.

MR. BURGESS: I think it would be appropriate to make a motion to include an action to consider a range of options to increase the red porgy headcount in the commercial fishery up to 240.

DR. DUVAL: Motion by Tom to include an action to consider a range of options to increase the red porgy commercial headcount in the commercial fishery up to 240 fish. Right now it is 120. Is there a second to that motion; second by Charlie. Tom.

MR. BURGESS: This was requested by the AP at their last meeting and it kind of just goes along with Tom's motion.

MR. HARTIG: The only question I have is once we get up to 240 fish; would it be better to do a poundage limit instead of a headcount on 240? That is a lot to count. It is easier to estimate weights of fish once you get up to 240 in my mind than it is – well, I'm fine with it. When we go to hearing, we can hear, but I'm just thinking out loud that is a lot of fish to count. We have problems counting 50 kings at times; so 240 red porgy, that leaves some room for error.

MR. PHILLIPS: Tom, maybe you might want to change it to 240 fish or the equivalent in weight.

DR. DUVAL: Friendly amendment; you okay with that? I'll just say we've had issues with topics like this, fish counts versus weights, in North Carolina. And just recalling back to the AP meeting in April, I think there was some conversation that it is just easier for the fishermen to deal with the count of fish, certainly; but I think from the enforcement perspective, once you get above a certain kind of fish, then it is more difficult to deal with. I assume that what we agree upon here today for Regulatory Amendment 14 is going to be on the agenda for the AP meeting in November; is that correct? Yes, okay. Ben.

MR. HARTIG: Well, practically if law enforcement is going to count 240 red porgies on the water, that is an extensive time where those fish are out of the ice. That is going to be a product liability issue. These kinds of things I think are dockside types of enforcement options, and I think they're good in that regard.

DR. DUVAL: Any other comments on the motion? **The motion reads include an action to consider a range of options to increase the red porgy commercial headcount in the commercial fishery up to 240 fish or the equivalent poundage. Any other discussion? Any opposition? Seeing none, that motion stands approved.**

Now there was another item that was brought up by the AP, and that is in regards to the aggregate grouper bag limit, and I'm going to ask our AP Chair, Robert Johnson, if he wouldn't mind stepping up here to clarify and convey the AP's discussion and intent with this motion. The request was to consider going from a three to a four-fish grouper aggregate and increasing the gag within that aggregate from one to two fish. That was based on not meeting the recreational ACLs, I believe, if I'm stating it correctly.

MR. JOHNSON: That is correct; the AP felt that the recreational sector had consistently been below the ACL for gags and well below 50 percent, if I recall. They thought maybe an increase back to two fish and an increase in the aggregate limit might be appropriate.

DR. DUVAL: Thanks for that, Robert. Are there any thoughts around the table? Steve.

MR. AMICK: I have a question for Robert. If we're only hitting 50 percent of the ACL for gag grouper, instead of increasing the bag limit what do you think of extending the season a month or so?

MR. JOHNSON: We didn't think that was appropriate because the closure is a spawning closure, and there is a great deal of support among the AP for keeping that in place. We think that is a good thing. We just thought that maybe an increase in the bag limit would be appropriate.

DR. DUVAL: I guess at this time if there is interest around the table, I would entertain a motion to include an action in Regulatory Amendment 14 to consider an increase in the aggregate grouper bag limit from three to four fish; and within that an increase in the gag or black from one to two fish. Doug.

MR. HAYMANS: So moved, Madam Chairman.

DR. DUVAL: Thank you; second by Tom Swatzel. Okay, discussion? Ben.

MR. HARTIG: Yes, I would like to just have John come up and explain where we are in rebuilding of each of these stocks and what was the criteria of why we had to address gag grouper and red grouper – well, I guess red is not in there, but on gag.

MR. CARMICHAEL: Red grouper you're early in a rebuilding plan. It went in, what, Amendment 24; this last year? It is a ten-year rebuilding plan and you're rebuilding at what then was Foy level, which was what you expected to be your sustainable harvest. Because it wasn't that far down, you were able to do that within ten years; so I think red grouper, the expectation is once you move out of the rebuilding plan, there is really not going to be a lot of change unless there is some change in the expectation of productivity of the stock, which would come from a later assessment, but that remains to be seen. And gag is not in a rebuilding plan. Were there any others or just those two?

MR. HARTIG: No, that's fine.

MR. PHILLIPS: John, could you refresh my memory on when we're going to do an assessment on gag?

MR. CARMICHAEL: I think we asked for that for 2014 in the SEDAR Committee; yes.

DR. DUVAL: Other comments or discussion on this motion? **The motion reads include an action in Regulatory Amendment 14 to increase the aggregate grouper bag limit from three to four fish; and within that increase the gag bag limit from one to two fish. Is there any other discussion? Any opposition? Seeing none, that motion stands approved.**

Jack, I wonder if you might want to talk to us a little bit about the shallow water grouper closure and the regulations for that. It is my understanding that when we reach the gag quota, that will shut down the shallow water grouper fishery; is that correct?

DR. McGOVERN: That is correct; that was done through Amendment 16. It states in there when the gag quota is met, the same species that are closed during the January through April closure will also be closed. That was something we had talked about we might want to have in Amendment 14 or see what it says in Amendment 24 regarding that. I think Gregg has looked in Amendment 24 to see if that is addressed there.

MR. WAUGH: In looking at this, in Amendment 24 what we did was deal with red grouper and splitting out red grouper from this aggregate. We set up separate ACL and OY for red grouper. Under that action the preferred was to eliminate the commercial sector aggregate ACL for black grouper, gag and red grouper and eliminate the in-season AM that specifies a prohibition on possession of all shallow water grouper once the commercial aggregate ACL is projected to be met. My understanding of what we did then was that broke out red grouper, and red grouper was no longer subject to those regulations that we had in 16.

DR. CRABTREE: Well, I think I sort of thought we had changed that as well, but I guess it is not changed in the regulations. I believe we're at about 75 percent of that quota now, so it is quite possible that we will hit it and have a closure soon, and that means it would be closed all the way until May 1.

I guess what I recommend is that Monica, Jack and Gregg get together and take a look at the language in Amendment 24; and if the language in there is clear enough that was our intent, then we could maybe do a technical correction. If the amendment is ambiguous and unclear, then we may have to do something more than that to change it. If you could figure that out and let us know at full council, I suppose, and if we do need to change something, some advice on what vehicle we could use because I think we're going to need to do something quickly.

DR. DUVAL: I would agree. Is that possible, Monica?

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: Sure.

DR. DUVAL: So we will discuss that at full council then. John.

MR. CARMICHAEL: Just thinking ahead some to looking at bag and changing the bag limit, if you were to do this right on the toes of an assessment coming in, I guess you have to consider why you think they're not catching their limit. If perhaps it is because gag are less abundant than was anticipated when it was set, you might be really exacerbating a situation.

Now, if it is because the regulations are having far more impact than anyone anticipated, then this might be justified; or if maybe effort is down or something, but I think care should be taken to considering why the limit is not being met with the existing bag limit; because if the population is less abundant, then you might be on the verge of overfishing with the current limit; and then if you raise it up, you might be putting yourself right into an overfishing situation.

Remember, this was just barely not overfishing and projected to become overfished and then be out of overfished within a couple of years. If it ends up it is overfished, you're going to be a rebuilding plan, which is going to be troublesome as we know from so many. The assessment is 2014 and it is standard/update so we would expect to having the results to you by December 2014.

DR. DUVAL: Those are great cautionary comments, John, and I definitely appreciate that. I was talking with Robert trying to recall the conversation around the table at the AP, because I think there was majority support for doing this, but I do think there were some folks who made some cautionary statements in that regard in terms of recovery. I asked Robert to come back up because I wasn't sure if there were any other comments that he wanted to add to that discussion.

MR. JOHNSON: To just address what John said, we felt like the reason the recreational ACL wasn't being met was the four-month closure during the spawning when the grouper is the easiest to catch. They are very accessible, they're grouped up to spawn and that is when the recreational fishery used to whack them. When you put that four-month closure in place, it gave them a lot of protection and we felt that was the reasoning.

MR. HARTIG: Just to John's comments, I had concerns. I never read the gag grouper assessment. I never got into it. When it came out and said that we were going to do these different reductions, they were fully warranted in my opinion. Then when I got back and asked John – or I made the comment on the phone the other day in the conference call that gag is overfished; well, it was never overfished.

Okay, well, from my perspective fishing for that fish for 40 years and the area where I fish and where they used to migrate down to my area, there was no question that the stock was overfished based on my history. But on the other side of that there is no question that we see increased gag grouper every year in Florida again; so whatever we have done is working. We are on a trajectory to improve that stock. Now, whether we get to improvements that is 35 or 40 percent of what I used to see, we're not there yet, but things are improving. I don't have a problem with this right now. I will be involved in the next gag assessment.

DR. DUVAL: And I guess the only other thing to add there is that the caution is if we do end up increasing the aggregate bag limit and increasing the gag limit from one to two fish and then we get an assessment back that says that we need to go back the other way, it is very difficult to do and it is a little bit of a PR fiasco. Roy.

DR. CRABTREE: It just seems to me we're getting ahead of ourselves with this limit. Three grouper; the average recreational fisherman goes out and catches three grouper, he has a great day. I just think with this one I'm going to vote against the motion. It seems to me this is one we ought to hold on until we get the new assessment.

DR. DUVAL: Well, we have already voted on the motion, but certainly at full council you have the opportunity to vote against that. Is there any other discussion about this? I think we have expressed our concerns regarding this motion. I don't think there is anything else to address in Regulatory Amendment 14 at this point. Monica and Jack and Gregg will get back to us at full council regarding the regulations in terms of the shallow water grouper. The next item on the agenda is the blue runner issue. I think Ben is going to bring us up to speed on this.

MR. HARTIG: For those of you who don't know, blue runner has always been on the snapper grouper list. Unfortunately, most of the dealers and the net fishermen in particular and even hook-and-line fishermen never knew it was on the list. This came to the forefront, and I'm exactly sure how it did, but it did come to the forefront.

Dealers got concerned if they continued to buy blue runner from federal waters that they would be prosecuted. This oversight is real in that in blue runner and jack crevalles – which jack crevalles used to be on our snapper grouper list, we moved them back to the state in the ACL Amendment.

But both of those species back there when we did the snapper grouper permits, if these fishermen had known that those two stocks were in that complex, they could have qualified for snapper grouper permits based on their blue runner and jack crevalles. None of that ever happened because they knew they were on the list. That is a fair appraisal of how this happened.

No one ever bothered to look to see if blue runner was on the list. We moved crevalles back to the state. I think the way that we're going to try and deal with this to try and remove blue runner out of the snapper grouper complex, out of our management actually, and move it to state management.

Most of the landings occur in state waters. Most of the landings occur in Florida. The problem is in the gill net fishery, which it has to fish in federal waters, and Spanish mackerel, the bycatch in that fishery is the problem, and it is significant. It is one of the higher-valued species that they catch in that mixed-species fishery when those mackerel are moving through the Cape.

It is an economic part of their trip which they really couldn't continue fishing without, actually. Having said that, we have a vehicle to move forward. We've had some conversations with the state, with both Jessica and Martha, and they said that the state doesn't have a problem taking over blue runner management.

DR. DUVAL: Martha, do you want to add anything to that?

MS. BADEMAN: Like Ben said, we don't have a problem taking over management of this species. Just for everybody's information, we don't have specific bag limits or gear requirements or anything like that for blue runner in state waters, but recreational and commercial license is required depending on what you're doing. We're certainly willing to take over management of this species if the council is I guess willing to relinquish it.

MR. JOLLEY: I would echo what my colleagues from Florida were saying. I'm also concerned about our live bait fishermen. We're catching a lot of live blue runners for the sail fishery in Florida, and I don't know that any of those bait people have got grouper snapper permits.

DR. CRABTREE: Ben, in the meantime these guys – I mean word is out that they can't land these so I assume they're not at this time. Now, is it going to just not be profitable for them to go fish for Spanish mackerel now or are they going to go fish and these blue runners are going to be discarded; and if so, are most of them going to be dead?

MR. HARTIG: All of them are going to be dead. They are going to be discarded for the people who want to try and obey the rules. There are ways to try and get around this. If you're not intercepted on the water and you say that you caught your blue runners in a cast net in state waters as part of that trip, you could still sell your blue runners, but that is a stretch. Frankly, if you're pulling your net in and you have blue runners in the net –

DR. CRABTREE: Doesn't Florida require that you have a snapper grouper permit to sell –

MS. BADEMAN: No, we don't.

MR. HARTIG: That is the real difference this one. We actually went through and looked at the species that Florida lists as reef fish species, and it is not the same as us. They take some of these species that we had listed as reef fish and they're not in the state, so you can sell blue

runners in state waters with an RS. I don't even think you need an RS. I think you just need the SPL –

MS. BADEMAN: That's right.

MR. HARTIG: – and I'm seeing nods in the back, so all you need is an SPL to sell blue runners. That is where we are with that in state waters. But under the vehicle – that is what I was going to ask, Roy – what vehicle will we use to remove blue runner from the snapper grouper management unit?

DR. CRABTREE: It would have to be a plan amendment. We went through pretty exhaustively I think all the criteria and all the things you would have to satisfy to do this in the ACL Amendment, so there is lots of language that could be brought forward to look at this. You just need to put the numbers and data in and see if this meets the criteria.

The argument you're going to make is that federal management is not needed for this species and that the state is better suited to handle that. The most compelling thing I'm hearing is that 75 percent or so of the landings are coming from state waters, so I think you can make a good case that the state is better suited to manage this fishery.

DR. DUVAL: And where are we on the ACL right now in terms of coming close to it? Jack, do you have –

DR. McGOVERN: Sixty-two percent, 63 percent.

DR. DUVAL: So 63 percent of the ACL; that is getting close. Roy, I don't know, could we do this more quickly through emergency action, moving this species to state management? A plan amendment is going to take a little while.

DR. CRABTREE: I don't know. It is hard for me to see what – I mean, it is not new and unforeseen. This is in the management plan and you have to have a snapper grouper permit to land it. I suppose if you can convince the Office of General Counsel that this meets all of our emergency criteria, you could look at it, but I think it is a high hurdle.

MR. HARTIG: Well, I would argue that this is a new and unforeseen circumstance. The fishery has operated ever since we put blue runner in the complex as it was not there. This is over 20-something years that blue runner has been sold by the commercial fishery from federal waters; way before the reef fish plan went into effect.

Yes, it is in the plan but the regular way of doing business for the fishery over this whole time period has been to be able to sell blue runners without a snapper grouper permit. That is the way that the fishery has – that is the way the sale has occurred for well over 20 years. The other part is it is so unforeseen that these fishermen did not know that they could have qualified for a reef fish permit by using the blue runner and jack crevalles to qualify.

Those are things that they could have done if they would have known that they were in the complex, which they didn't. It was an oversight by the fishermen and the fish houses that these fish were not – they never realized that they were in the plan. Now, it is certainly unforeseen if you go for 20 years selling a product every year that it was in the plan that no one ever thought it was.

MS. BROUWER: Just to add further to what Ben said, it was brought to our attention during public hearings that some of these folks derived up to 30 percent of their income from blue runners, so it is a pretty substantial chunk.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: So just to ask a couple of questions; blue runner is in a group with – it has an ACL and it is in a group, so what you're telling me is blue runner that has been in the Snapper Grouper FMP for all these many years, people didn't know it was in the Snapper Grouper FMP?

MR. HARTIG: No, that is exactly right, they did not know; because if they know, they could have qualified – when the net ban went into effect in 1995, they could have qualified for a reef fish permit with blue runner landings and jack crevalle landings. They had enough landings to qualify for a snapper grouper permit, and they would have if they would have known that they were in the complex. That just proves to me that no one knew that they were in the complex.

Back then when we ratcheted down on snapper grouper; that was a pretty important permit. If you could have had access to that, especially since you were cut out of the net fishery in '95, looking for options and trying to continue fishing, that would have been one that you would have chosen if you would have known. That is what really proved to me in this whole argument that no one ever knew, the markets nor the fishermen who caught them, that blue runner was part of the snapper grouper complex.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: So blue runner is caught by the North Carolina fishers as well. That is what came to our attention, right?

MR. HARTIG: Most of the landings – and I don't know the percentages – very little landings occur north of Florida.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: So that was blueline tilefish, sorry.

MR. HARTIG: That was blueline tilefish.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: Well, what does the council want to do? Maybe we need some discussion.

MR. HARTIG: What we would like to do is take care of this in the most expedient manner that we can.

DR. CRABTREE: So we have to do a plan amendment. That is the only way to do this. Of course, that will take some time, so the question that came up is could you do an emergency rule

in the meantime while we prepare a plan amendment to do this, so that these guys are able to continue fishing. It is a strange situation we've got here since we have essentially illegal harvest going on by people who never knew it was illegal and have traditionally and historically done this.

DR. DUVAL: Well, there was no ACL for this species until we did the Comprehensive ACL Amendment, right? It is entirely feasible that people would not necessarily know that it is under the federal snapper grouper plan if there has never been any kind of quota on the species.

DR. CRABTREE: Yes, and that seems to be the case, but they have been in the management plan since 1983, and the permit requirement went in place in 1992. In addition, gill net is not an authorized gear in the fishery for snapper grouper, so there are a whole lot of violations there going on. Now, I will grant you that the extent of this and the fact that it is going on is new and unforeseen to me, and I think that it certainly is going to have economic impacts on folks.

MS. BROUWER: Roy, I understand where you're coming from but the other side of the coin, too, is that enforcement never stepped up and said you need to have a snapper grouper permit to possess these fish. For 17 years nobody said that.

DR. DUVAL: John Jolley, did you have anything to add? I did not mean to overlook you earlier.

MR. JOLLEY: This is minor but I didn't know that blue runner were in the grouper snapper thing until I joined the council. I'm pretty sure that 1,350 members of the West Palm Beach Fishing Club don't have any idea that blue runners are part of grouper snapper.

DR. CRABTREE: But I suspect that most people don't realize that knobbed porgy is in the snapper grouper plan. There may be quite a few things in there that people don't know about, so we need to be careful about that.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: I do note that they have excluded from the 20-fish bag limit as well. They have always been excluded from the 20-fish bag limit and they don't have a specific bag limit. It excludes blue runner and tomtate. What I would advise you to do is to give this some thought and think about all the rationale that you can marshall up to meet the emergency rule requirements and bring this back to full council as well.

If the committee wants to decide right now, that is fine, but I think you need to give this some more thought and think about any other reasons why – so there was rationale to include it in the FMP in the beginning of the FMP, so you need to think about why you think it is appropriate to remove it. I'll be glad to talk with you in the meantime and see if we can facilitate the discussion.

DR. CRABTREE: And I'm not opposed to this at all, and I'm not opposed to an emergency rule, but we really need to get that rationale down particularly for the emergency rule and how this meets the emergency rule criteria. Otherwise, I'm afraid that it will get to us and I won't be

able to go through with it. I agree with Monica; let's do some homework on this one and come back to it in full council and see if we can make a compelling case for it.

MR. HARTIG: David, if we delay to full council – what is the committee that deals with finances?

MR. CUPKA: Executive Finance Committee.

MR. HARTIG: Executive Finance; when we get there, if this isn't in the quay to be talked about when we get into that committee, as we delay this to full council; is that a problem?

MR. CUPKA: No, I don't think it will be.

DR. DUVAL: I'm trying to wrap up on this issue. Does the committee want to entertain a **motion to begin development of a plan amendment to remove blue runner from the fishery management unit and give management of the species over to the state of Florida?**

MR. HARTIG: So moved, Madam Chair.

DR. DUVAL: Motion by Ben; seconded by Mel. We've added a lot of to-do's to the honey-do list here in this committee so far, so we're going to have to prioritize some things when we start taking a look at Gregg's spreadsheet in Executive Finance. Is there anymore discussion on this issue? Mel.

MR. BELL: I just ask a question; so we went through this process a while back or you did and removed a number of species. Are there any other likely surprises out there?

DR. DUVAL: That is an excellent question.

MR. BELL: I mean if you're going to go to the trouble to do this, if there is anything else that is in there that might rise to that same level, maybe now is the time to think about it.

MR. HAYMANS: And an additional question or comment; why do we need this allow management by the state of Florida; why does that need to be there? The other species we removed from the list, we just allowed if states want to manage them, they could, and I don't want to get into a situation like corals where they're prohibited in the other states and Florida is only managing them. I would take the state management out.

DR. CRABTREE: I think that is right; the only thing you're going to do is take it out of the FMU. Now, I think it is helpful that Florida has expressed their willingness to take it on. We went through remember in the ACL Amendment – I guess some folks weren't here then, but we went through a list of species that we were considering removing from the FMP, and there was a lot of public comment opposed to that idea. I don't know if you want to revisit any of that in this amendment again or not, but we went through that whole exercise in the ACL Amendment.

DR. DUVAL: I don't think we have time to revisit that right now. We're already eating into my other committee and we still have a couple of things of importance left to discuss. I would suggest we delay that to another time although Mel's question is pertinent. **The motion now reads direct staff to begin development of a snapper grouper plan amendment to remove blue runner from the snapper grouper fishery management unit.**

MR. HARTIG: That's fine.

DR. DUVAL: **Is there any other discussion or comment on this motion? Any objection to this motion? Seeing none that motion stands approved.** **Unfortunately, we're getting to one of the items on the agenda that I think is one of the most important, and that is a discussion on vision and long-term strategic planning.

I asked Myra to put this on the agenda because I kind of feel like we've been in sort of crisis management mode with the snapper grouper fishery. We were under mandates of the Reauthorized Magnuson Act to deal with our overfished species by a time certain and establishing ACLs. I know discussion of a long-term vision for the fishery is something that staff has been eager to talk about, and I know that several members of the council have also been eager to talk about.

I'm not expecting this to be a long discussion here, but I just wanted to get the ball rolling. This is precipitated by the conversations that I've had with fishermen over the past few months who were saying they're getting tired of derby fisheries and that they need a year-round fishery, and they're tired of the discards. Those are the two comments that I hear the most.

It is not specific to either the commercial or the recreational sector. I'm hearing that from all the fishermen that I've talked to. One of the things that I have said to them is what do you want your fishery to look like? I have mentioned this to a few folks and I sort of envision as a starting point a very simplistic exercise whereby you could just take a white board and have the months of the year as column headings across the top of it, you could have the species in rows down the left-side of it, and just ask folks to take a marker and mark the months of the year that they would like to see certain fisheries open.

Now, I don't expect that to be identical from north to south. It certainly wouldn't be identical within just even North Carolina and I'm sure not even within Florida. There are major differences even within some of the states. I think that would give us something of a blueprint of where to start looking for how to have something that is more like a year-round fishery.

One of the attachments that is in your briefing book is the results of the Mid-Atlantic Council's Visioning Workshop. They had a very well thought out process that they engaged in. They actually just finished it up earlier this year whereby they actually had a subgroup of council members who got together to try to create a roadmap for the process that they would use to develop a long-term vision for the fishery.

They had an advisory panel that consisted of council members, recreational representatives, commercial fishing representatives. They used a variety of tools. They had several surveys to

solicit input from various stakeholders, commercial, recreational, NGOs, the general public, as well as conducting several informal round table discussions throughout the area of their management and compiled all that information together to help establish some priorities for what they wanted their fisheries to look.

The Mid-Atlantic is in a slightly different place than us. They have fisheries that are for the most part rebuilt. There might be one or two that are coming up that would require some reductions, and Bob Beal might be able to speak to that a little bit more than I can right now. I just wanted to get the ball rolling in terms of having a discussion for us taking the time to do that instead of kind of going through this species by species by species.

Some of the remarks that Charlie made earlier alluded to this. One of the things that the Mid-Atlantic Council did I believe was they were very inclusive in terms of trying to also look at folks; you know, local businesses that are impacted by closures of the recreational fishery, dealers and restaurants that are impacted by closures of the commercial fishery with regard to supply of product, things like that. I was talking briefly to Doug Haymans about this prior to the council meeting and a suggestion that Doug made, which I thought would be a good one, was if we could get together perhaps on that Monday.

We generally don't start until Monday afternoon but Monday morning of the December council meeting and at least as a council sit down and discuss how we want to develop a roadmap for moving forward. One thing I might throw out there for a suggestion is to invite Rick Robins, who is the chair of the Mid-Atlantic Council, to perhaps come down and talk to us a little bit about the process that they went through; you know, lessons learned and things like that. I just throw that open for discussion. We're already riding overtime quite a bit, but if folks have any comments on that I would welcome them. David.

MR. CUPKA: I think that would be a good start and I'm certainly in favor of doing something like this. I think it is something that needs to be done. I have talked with Robins about this process that they've gone through at several of our CCC meetings. I think they did an excellent job, but it was no small undertaking, believe me.

They spent hundreds of thousands of dollars to get that product that they got. It wasn't just staff working on it parttime. It was a major undertaking. It's not to say that we shouldn't try and do what we can, but we need to keep that in mind. I know here we're really just talking about one of our fisheries where they did it for all of it.

It is no small undertaking, but it is important and it is something that we need to embark on and see how we can move ahead in that regard. We do need in mind that what we're talking about is not something we can expect staff to do in three months' time for \$20,000. It could be expensive and there can a lot involved, but it is extremely important. I think we need to figure out how we can move in that direction. I know Rick would probably be glad to come down and share of the lessons they learned with us, so it wouldn't be like inventing the wheel all over again.

DR. DUVAL: And that was certainly my thought in talking to Rick, that he could advise us on some economies that could be achieved. Mel.

MR. BELL: I was just going to say David is absolutely right; it is important and it is costly in terms of time. All I can tell you from an agency perspective of just doing strategic planning within an agency it is difficult enough, but we really need to.

One of my biggest frustrations in working in this field is I feel like we're constantly in crisis management, crisis, crisis, crisis. The only way to get out of that mode is to get in front of it and you have got to think strategically down the line. I think that would be great.

DR. DUVAL: And I think we've heard a lot comments from fishermen about things like we need to just open all the species all at once and regional management and things like that. I think all of those different tools for managing our fisheries would benefit from that kind of more detailed discussion. Ben.

MR. HARTIG: Yes, ditto for all that has been said. I have been a big supporter of this for a long time. I will say at this meeting is the first time that I see some direction to go in a more strategic planning way to deal with bycatch in the fisheries. We've got some starts at this meeting, which is great, but it is a start. Certainly the bycatch from my perspective is critical and from the environmental, the NGOs it is critical. We can get so much more out of our fisheries by decreasing that bycatch.

MR. BURGESS: Yes, I agree with everything that has been said and also possibly running it before the AP. I'm sure you're probably thinking of that.

DR. DUVAL: And you've read my mind because that is exactly what I was going to say next is I had asked Myra if we could put something like this on the AP agenda for the upcoming meeting in November. I think it would be excellent to get their input as a starting point for the discussions we would begin having in December. Are there any other comments on this topic? I know we're well over time right now, and there was at least one item of other business that I wanted to bring up.

Okay, a couple of things; Myra I think mentioned this earlier when we were talking about red snapper but we have some inconsistencies in terms of the zero retention for captains and crew within the snapper grouper fishery. I believe what we have now is put in through Amendment 16; so, for instance, for the red snapper reopening captains and crew will be able to each retain one red snapper.

I bring that up because I think the Gulf, their reef fish plan does not allow any retention by captains by crew for any of those species and we may want to consider – I'm not suggesting that we get into a protracted discussion of this now, but I just want to bring it up for everybody's attention as a potential future agenda item to consider modifying that so that we're consistent throughout the FMP. Doug.

MR. HAYMANS: I would just like to ask staff if we could get just a listing of which species are affected for the next meeting.

DR. DUVAL: I think we could do that. The other thing I had wanted to bring up was there are several items that we have discussed throughout the meeting that would require a plan amendment to change. I guess I would just like folks to be thinking about this as to whether or not this is something we'd want to start discussing at the next meeting.

We have talked about a sub-allocation of the black sea bass commercial ACL for the hook-and-line fishery. There has been mention of looking at state-by-state or regional quota management for the commercial black sea bass fishery and also I think moving yellowtail and was it black grouper completely over to South Atlantic Council management – oh, yellowtail and mutton snapper, which would require a plan amendment; is that correct? Yes.

I'm just putting that out there as things that we might want to consider for a future amendment down the road. We don't really have time to discuss it right now. I think once we see the spreadsheet of all the tasks that we have come up from this meeting as well as the committee meetings, we're going to have to prioritize and think about some of those things. Is there any other business to come before the committee? Tom.

MR. BURGESS: Just before the meeting I spoke to a commercial diver who brought to my attention what took place in the Gulf recently. They were similar to the South Atlantic where there was only – I'm not really well versed on this situation, but I'll do the best I can. We only allow and them, too, in the past three divers on a boat. The Gulf recently changed that in Amendment 34 to allow four divers; and as specified in the news release it was for safety purposes.

His concerns were adopting this for the South Atlantic. As I did read the news release for the Gulf concerning this amendment, there was something about dual-permitted vessels. I'm not really clear on all that, but he wanted to see if we could maybe adopt this for the South Atlantic, also.

DR. DUVAL: Sorry, Tom, I was conversing with Myra a little bit about other business. You're suggesting to the council might want to do something similar to what the Gulf has done in terms of allowing four divers on a vessel for safety reasons?

MR. BURGESS: Yes, if this committee thinks it is appropriate to possibly look at that.

MR. HARTIG: I believe Jim Attack brought that up at one of the Snapper Grouper – not the last one but the one before – AP meetings.

DR. DUVAL: And that is what I was saying to Tom; it sounded familiar to me. I was pretty sure I had heard about it before. Roy.

DR. CRABTREE: Yes, it is Amendment 34 to the reef fish plan in the Gulf; and I think if staff took a look at that, they'd see all the rationale and everything that came out of it. That would be a good starting point if you want to do something similar. It has to do with distinguishing between commercial and recreational trips and the limits on the number of crew you're allowed to have on board on commercial trips.

DR. DUVAL: And that would require us to alter through a plan amendment?

DR. CRABTREE: Yes.

DR. DUVAL: All right, is there anything else? If not, we will adjourn.

(Whereupon, the meeting was adjourned at 9:17 o'clock a.m., September 12, 2012.)

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INDEX OF MOTIONS

PAGE 3: Motion to remove item on Oculina Research Activities from the Snapper Grouper Committee Agenda and cover under Ecosystem Committee or the Habitat and Environmental Protection Committee. Motion carried on Page 3.

PAGE 29: Motion to move the discussion of golden tilefish season options to full council. Motion carried on Page 29.

MPA and HAPC MOTIONS

PAGE 41: Motion to request that an analysis of the impact of regulations on co-occurring species of speckled hind and Warsaw grouper be conducted and the reduction in bycatch that has potentially been achieved. Motion carried on Page 41.

PAGE 46: Motion to move forward with consideration of Deepwater MPAs, Tier 1, reconfiguration of existing MPAs, using percent occurrence as a criterion to protect speckled hind and Warsaw grouper through a regulatory amendment and that alternatives be presented at the December council meeting. Motion carried on Page 46.

PAGE 49: Motion to add habitat as an additional criterion to analyze Tier 1 MPAs. Motion carried on Page 49.

REGULATORY AMENDMENT 13 MOTIONS

PAGE 58: Motion to continue development of Regulatory Amendment 13 to make technical adjustment to the recreational catches for unassessed snapper grouper species. The existing Boyles' Law and the ABC/ACL/ACT determinations would be used. At the December meeting the amendment would be reviewed, public comment would be taken and it would be approved for submission to the Secretary of Commerce. Motion carried on Page 59.

PAGE 64: Motion to request an emergency rule to adjust the commercial ACL for yellowtail snapper based on the current stock assessment, the SSC's ABC recommendation based on the current ABC Control Rule, interjurisdictional allocation and commercial and recreational allocations. Motion carried on Page 65.

PAGE 65: Motion to initiate development of a regulatory amendment to adjust the yellowtail snapper ACLs and bring to the council for review at the December meeting. Motion carried on Page 65.

AMENDMENT 22 MOTIONS

PAGE 74: Motion to establish a recreational tag program for South Atlantic red snapper and establish criteria for such a program. Motion defeated on Page 74.

PAGE 80: Motion to consider a recreational tag program for the deepwater species, which are golden tilefish, snowy grouper and wreckfish, in Amendment 22. Motion carried on Page 80.

PAGE 89: Motion to direct staff to further develop Amendment 22 and bring to council as an options paper in March 2013 or June 2013. Motion carried on Page 90.

PAGE 91: Motion to direct staff to include the Amendment 22 Options Paper and Snapper Grouper Committee Report on the Socio-Economic Panel Agenda in October. Motion carried on Page 91.

PAGE 95: Motion to direct staff to develop alternatives for red snapper management in Regulatory Amendment 15. Motion carried on Page 95.

REGULATORY AMENDMENT 14 MOTIONS

PAGE 98: Motion to include Options 1 through 3 for the year adjustment for greater amberjack. Motion carried on Page 98.

PAGE 99: Motion to include Options 1 and 2 for the trip limit adjustment for greater amberjack. Motion carried on Page 99.

PAGE 101: Motion to add an option to reduce the bag limit of mutton snapper year round to three, five or seven per person per day, and that is included in the aggregate ten snapper bag limit. Motion carried on Page 101.

PAGE 102: Motion to approve Options 1 through 6 under the action to implement additional regulations to protect mutton snapper during the spawning season for inclusion in Regulatory Amendment 14. Motion carried on Page 102.

PAGE 103: Motion to add an option to change the measurement method for gray triggerfish to have consistency between state and federal waters. The measurement would be specified in fork length. Motion carried on Page 103.

PAGE 105: Motion to remove the action on gray triggerfish from consideration until after the results of the stock assessment are received. Motion carried on Page 105.

PAGE 106: Motion to add an action to increase the minimum size limit for hogfish to Regulatory Amendment 14; include options for 12, 13 and 14 inches. Motion carried on Page 106.

PAGE 106: Motion to remove options to modify the bag limit and establish a commercial trip limit for gray triggerfish until the completion of the stock assessment. Motion carried on Page 106.

PAGE 111: Motion to consider action to modify the black sea bass recreational fishing year to consider start dates of January 1, April 1 and October 1; recognizing that staff is going to restructure the no action alternative to split that out between commercial and recreational. Motion carried on Page 113.

INDEX OF MOTIONS (CONTINUED)

PAGE 115: Motion to consider action to modify the black sea bass commercial fishing year to consider a start date of July 1. Motion carried on Page 116.

PAGE 116: Motion to include options to open the black sea bass commercial season to the hook-and-line sector only on either June 1 or May 1 with a trip limit of 50 pounds. Motion carried on Page 117.

PAGE 119: Motion to consider options to modify the trip limit for vermilion snapper to; one, no trip limit; two, 1,000 pounds; three, 500 pounds; four, 400 pounds. Motion carried on Page 119.

PAGE 120: Motion to include action to consider alternatives to change the bag limit for vermilion snapper in Regulatory Amendment 14; include alternatives that would adjust the bag limit from three to ten fish. Motion carried on Page 121.

PAGE 121: Motion to include an action to consider options for moving the opening of the second commercial vermilion snapper season; Option 1, July 1st; Option 2, June 1st; Option 3, May 1st. Motion carried on Page 124.

PAGE 125: Motion to include an action to consider options to lengthen or shorten the recreational closed season for vermilion snapper: Option 1, closure November 1st through February 1st; Option 2, closure December 1st through March 1st; and Option 3, closure October 1st through March 1st. Motion carried on Page 126.

PAGE 126: Motion to include an action to consider a range of options to increase the red porgy recreational bag limit up to five fish. Motion carried on Page 126.

PAGE 127: Motion to include an action to consider a range of options to increase the red porgy commercial headcount in the commercial fishery up to 240 fish or the equivalent poundage. Motion carried on Page 127.

PAGE 128: Motion to include an action in Regulatory Amendment 14 to increase the aggregate grouper bag limit from three to four fish; and within that increase the gag bag limit from one to two fish. Motion carried on Page 128.

PAGE 135: Motion to direct staff to begin development of a snapper grouper plan amendment to remove blue runner from the snapper grouper fishery management unit. Motion carried on Page 136.

SNAPPER GROUPE

- ✓ Michelle Duval, Chair
 - ✓ ~~Jessica McCawley~~, Vice Chair **MARTHA BADERMAN**
 - ✓ Steve Amick
 - ✓ Anna Beckwith
 - ✓ Mel Bell
 - ✓ Tom Burgess
 - ✓ Roy Crabtree
 - ✓ David Cupka
 - ✓ Ben Hartig
 - ✓ Doug Haymans
 - ✓ John Jolley
 - ✓ Charlie Phillips
 - ✓ Tom Swatzel
- Staff contact:
Myra Brouwer / Brian Cheuvront

SOPPs

Tom Swatzel, Chair
Anna Beckwith
Ben Hartig
Doug Haymans
Staff contact: Bob Mahood

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Jessica McCawley, Chair
Ben Hartig, Vice Chair
Anna Beckwith
Roy Crabtree
John Jolley
Staff contact: Kari MacLauchlin

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

2012 - 2013 Council Membership

COUNCIL CHAIRMAN:

David M. Cupka
P.O. Box 12753
Charleston, SC 29422
843/795-8591 (hm)
843/870-5495 (cell)
palmettobooks@bellsouth.net

VICE-CHAIRMAN

Ben Hartig
9277 Sharon Street
Hobe Sound, FL 33455
772/546-1541 (ph)
mackattackben@att.net

Steve Amick
6902 Sandnettlles Drive
Savannah, GA 31410
912/429-3537 (ph)
912/898-0361 (f)
SteveAmicks@aol.com

Mel Bell
S.C. Dept. of Natural Resources
Marine Resources Division
P.O. Box 12559
(217 Ft. Johnson Road)
Charleston, SC 29422-2559
843/953-9007 (ph)
843/953-9159 (fax)
bellm@dnr.sc.gov

Anna Beckwith
1907 Paulette Road
Morehead City, NC 28557
252/671-3474 (ph)
AnnaBarriosBeckwith@gmail.com

Tom Burgess
P.O. Box 33
Sneads Ferry, NC 28460
910/327-3528
tbburgess@embarqmail.com

Dr. Roy Crabtree
Regional Administrator
NOAA Fisheries, Southeast Region
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL 33701
727/824-5301 (ph); 727/824-5320 (f)
roy.crabtree@noaa.gov

Dr. Michelle Duval
NC Division of Marine Fisheries
3441 Arendell St.
PO Box 769
Morehead City, NC 28557
252/726-7021 (ph); 252/726-0254 (f)
michelle.duval@ncdenr.gov

Lt. Mario Gil
U.S. Coast Guard
Brickell Plaza Federal Building
909 S.E. First Avenue
Room 876/ DRE
Miami, FL 33131-3050
305/415-6768 (ph)
305/415-6791 (f)
Mario.g.gil@uscg.mil

Doug Haymans
Coastal Resources Division
GA Dept. of Natural Resources
One Conservation Way, Suite 300
Brunswick, GA 31520-8687
912/264-7218 (ph); 912/262-2318 (f)
Doug.Haymans@dnr.state.ga.us

John W. Jolley
4925 Pine Tree Drive
Boynton Beach, FL 33436
561/732-4530 (ph)
jolleyjw@yahoo.com

Deirdre Warner-Kramer
Office of Marine Conservation
OES/OMC
2201 C Street, N.W.
Department of State, Room 5806
Washington, DC 20520
202/647-3228 (ph); 202/736-7350 (f)
Warner-KramerDM@state.gov

Dr. Wilson Laney
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
South Atlantic Fisheries Coordinator
P.O. Box 33683
Raleigh, NC 27695-7617
(110 Brooks Ave
237 David Clark Laboratories,
NCSU Campus
Raleigh, NC 27695-7617)
919/515-5019 (ph)
919/515-4415 (f)
Wilson_Laney@fws.gov

Jessica R. McCawley
Director,
Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission
2590 Executive Center Circle E.,
Suite 201
Tallahassee, FL 32301
850/487-0554 (ph); 850/487-4847(f)
jessica.mccawley@myfwc.com

Robert E. Beal
Acting Executive Director
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries
Commission
1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, VA 20001
703/842-0740 (ph); 703/842-0741 (f)
rbeal@asmfc.org

Charles Phillips
Phillips Seafood / Sapelo Sea Farms
1418 Sapelo Avenue, N.E.
Townsend, GA 31331
912/832-3149 (ph); 912/832-6228 (f)
Ga_capt@yahoo.com

Tom Swatzel
P.O. Box 1311
Murrells Inlet, SC 29576
843/222-7456 (ph)
tom@swatzel.com

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Staff

Executive Director

✓ Robert K. Mahood
robert.mahood@safmc.net

Deputy Executive Director

✓ Gregg T. Waugh
gregg.waugh@safmc.net

Public Information Officer

✓ Kim Iverson
kim.iverson@safmc.net

Senior Fishery Biologist

✓ Roger Pugliese
roger.pugliese@safmc.net

Fishery Scientist

✓ Myra Brouwer
myra.brouwer@safmc.net

Coral Reef Scientist

✓ Anna Martin
anna.martin@safmc.net

Fishery Biologist

✓ Dr. Mike Errigo
mike.errigo@safmc.net

Fisheries Social Scientist

✓ Dr. Kari MacLauchlin
kari.maclauchlin@safmc.net

Staff Economist

✓ Dr. Brian Chevront
brian.chevront@safmc.net

Science and Statistics Program Manager

✓ John Carmichael
john.carmichael@safmc.net

SEDAR Coordinators

✓ Dr. Julie Neer - julie.neer@safmc.net
Julia Byrd - julia.byrd@safmc.net

SEDAR Admin/Outreach

Andrea Grabman
andrea.grabman@safmc.net

Administrative Officer

✓ Mike Collins
mike.collins@safmc.net

Financial Secretary

Debra Buscher
deb.buscher@safmc.net

Admin. Secretary /Travel Coordinator

Cindy Chaya
cindy.chaya@safmc.net

Purchasing & Grants

✓ Julie O'Dell
julie.odell@safmc.net

✓ AMBER VON HARTEN

FRANK HELLES

OTHA EASLEY

BONNIE BONWETH

MONICA SMITH-BRUNELLO

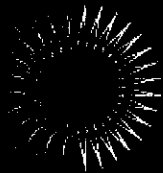
JACK MCGOVERN

JOEY BALLENGER

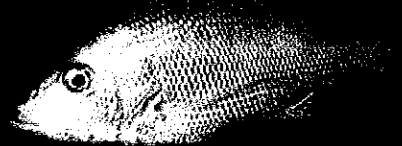
PAM DANA

VINCE O'SHEA

ANNE MARIE EICH



THE
PEW
ENVIRONMENT GROUP



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISH CONSERVATION CAMPAIGN

www.PewEnvironment.org/SouthAtlanticFish

DEEP TROUBLE

Saving two struggling species means protecting where they live and spawn

Warsaw grouper and speckled hind lost protection in 2012 when fishery managers dropped some fishing restrictions in an area stretching from North Carolina to Florida. The change leaves the species inadequately protected and in danger of further decline.

WHAT MAKES THEM VULNERABLE

- These fish start life as females and some develop into males as they age. Catching the fish before this critical sex change could deplete the male population, potentially throwing natural reproduction rates out of balance.
- The species reproduce later in life than many fish. Too many are caught before they can spawn.
- These species rarely survive catch and release. Quickly pulling the deep-dwelling fish to the surface can cause fatal internal injuries. Although catching these species is prohibited, fishermen can accidentally snare them when pursuing other targets.



SPECKLED HIND

Identifier: Tiny white spots covering reddish-brown head, body, and fins

Length: Up to 43 inches

Weight: Up to 66 pounds

Life span: Up to 35 years

Preferred depth: 80 to 1,300 feet

Preferred habitat: High- and low-profile hard bottoms

5%

of fully
reproductive
population
remaining*



WARSAW GROUPE

Identifier: Dark reddish brown or brownish gray to nearly black body; elongated second spine in dorsal fin

Length: Up to 8 feet

Weight: Up to 440 pounds

Life span: Up to 41 years

Preferred depth: 180 to 1,700 feet

Preferred habitat: Rough, rocky bottoms

6%

of fully
reproductive
population
remaining*

STATUS (BOTH FISH)

Critically Endangered – International Union for Conservation of Nature

Species of Concern – National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Endangered – American Fisheries Society

Undergoing Overfishing – National Marine Fisheries Service

* Most recent population status data available. Recent research indicates continued population decline.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, which governs fishing policy three-to-200 miles offshore from North Carolina to Florida, will determine whether to implement new protected areas to help speckled hind and Warsaw grouper. Anyone interested will have a chance to comment during public hearings. A final vote may come as soon as March 2013.

Old protections lifted

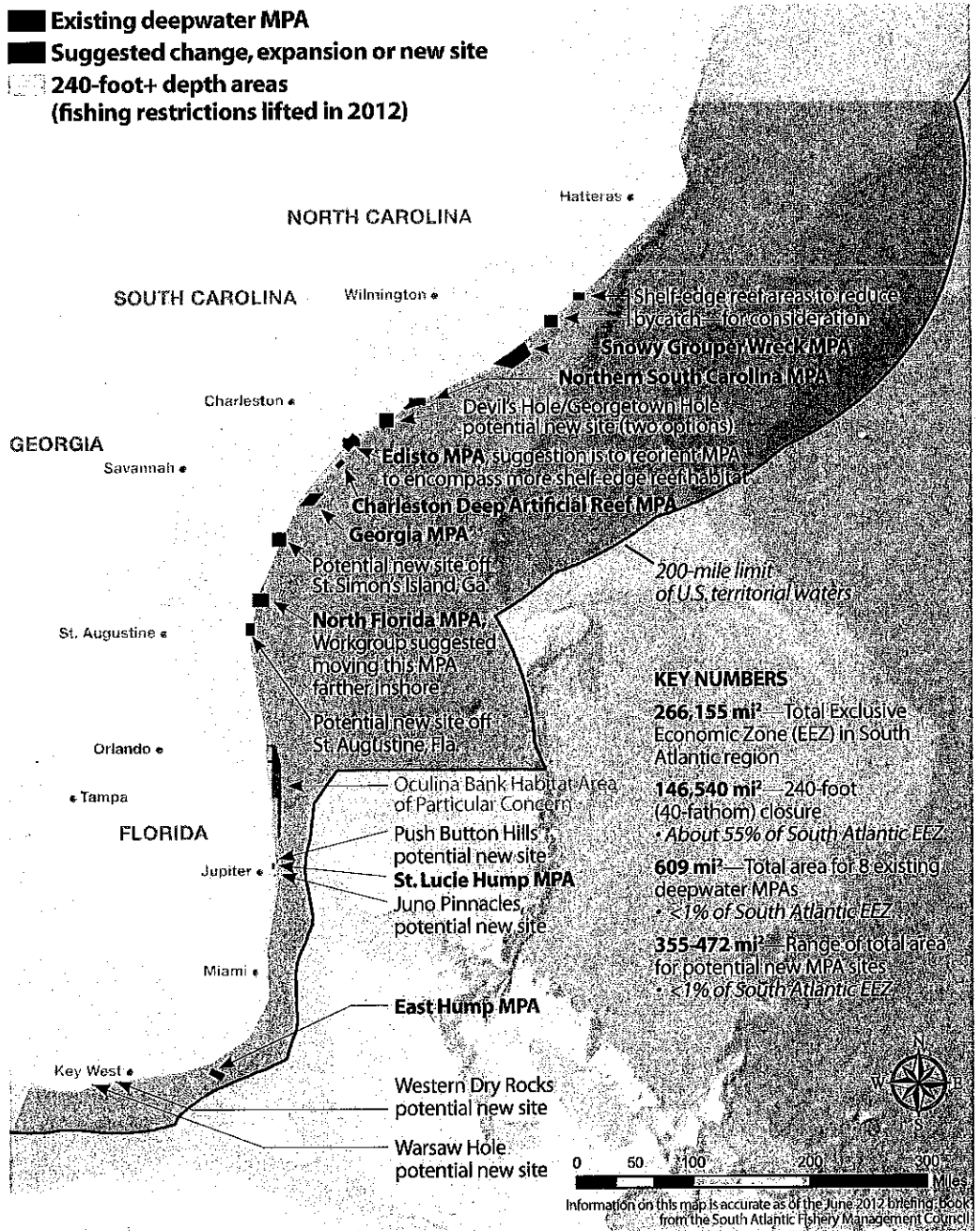
In 2012, fishery managers reopened fishing for six species in waters deeper than 240 feet offshore from North Carolina to Florida. Targeting the six deepwater species—snowy grouper, blueline tilefish, yellowedge grouper, misty grouper, queen snapper and silk snapper—had been restricted since 2010 because too many speckled hind and Warsaw grouper were being caught accidentally by anglers targeting these other fish that live in the same areas and at similar depths. Conservation groups, including Pew, objected to the reopening because alternative measures to protect these species were not implemented, leaving them vulnerable to continued overfishing.

New protections considered

Fishery managers are considering more targeted protected areas to give speckled hind and Warsaw grouper safe havens, to live and spawn. Eight small marine protected areas already exist to help these and other species. But they are not enough to save these two imperiled fish. Managers also are analyzing sites for new protected areas that could include places where these fish gather to spawn. In all of these marine protected areas, fishing for speckled hind, Warsaw grouper and other snapper or grouper species is prohibited, but fishermen can still troll for species such as billfish, tuna, and mackerel that are caught near the surface of the water.

SAFE HAVENS

This map shows existing marine protected areas (MPAs), additions or alterations to those areas, and potential new sites suggested by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's MPA Expert Workgroup to better protect speckled hind and Warsaw grouper. All locations would allow limited fishing of multiple species using a method known as trolling at the surface that is unlikely to result in accidental catch of the deep-dwelling speckled hind and Warsaw grouper.



Sources: NOAA, South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

Pew Environment Group

HOW TO HELP

Visit www.PewEnvironment.org/SouthAtlanticFish to learn more and sign up for our e-newsletter. To join other conservation-minded Southerners in actively supporting sustainable fisheries and healthy coastal communities, contact Leda Dunmire at ldunmire@pewtrusts.org or 305-393-0934.

PEW ENVIRONMENT GROUP

PEG works to bring scientific expertise to bear on fishery management plans and seeks common ground with fishermen to find solutions that balance human and environmental needs and raise awareness about overfishing and potential remedies.

PLEASE SIGN IN

So that we will have a record of your attendance at each meeting and so that your name may be included in the minutes, we ask that you sign this sheet for the meeting shown below.

Snapper Grouper Committee Meeting

Charleston, SC

Tuesday, September 11, 2012

Wednesday

12

NAME &
ORGANIZATION

AREA CODE &
PHONE NUMBER

P.O. BOX/STREET
CITY, STATE & ZIP

Ken Strong Consulting 202-330-9520 WA DC 20008

Arnel HERRERA 772-215-1283 FL (Sebastian)

Richard TURNER Yellowtail Fisherman 305-481-0672 990 S Brad St MARIETTA FL 33050

Marco Herrera Yellowtail Fisherman 305 797-5743 2820 SW 7 Ave Miami, FL 33149

Manuel Herrera Yellowtail Fisherman 305 951-3069 707 S.W. 28th Rd. Miami FL 33129

Jim Buss SEAFAR Atlantic 301 4033035 300 Lenwood Dr. Conover NC 28620

Kate Quigley 843-327-1114 kquigley@caplogroup.com

Paul Nelson 386-527-0732 Capt Paul Nelson

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201

North Charleston, SC 29405

843-571-4366 or Toll Free 866/SAFMC-10

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Snapper Grouper Committee Meeting

Charleston, SC

Tuesday, September 11, 2012

NAME & ORGANIZATION	AREA CODE & PHONE NUMBER	P.O. BOX/STREET CITY, STATE & ZIP
FRANKE HELLES	654PF	Helles@verizon.net
Judy Samisin	654PF 5112	Judy Samisin att.net
Brian Gorski	407-854 7002	bgorski@caflorida.org
Daniel Hedley	(561) 455-6007	731 W. Hershore Blvd Deerfield Beach FL 33441
Snapper Grouper AT Robert Johnson	(904) 741-2628	
Stacy KABoer	654PF-666	staboer@iglb.com
Dee Brilless	SCDNR 843-953-9044	SCDNR
Lisa Dumas	DEG	
Samantha Pelt-Minner	727-369-6013	Ocean Conservancy

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201

North Charleston, SC 29405

843-571-4366 or Toll Free 866/SAFMC-10

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Snapper Grouper Committee Meeting

Charleston, SC

~~Tuesday~~, September 11, 2012
Wednesday, 12

NAME &
ORGANIZATION

AREA CODE &
PHONE NUMBER

P.O. BOX/STREET
CITY, STATE & ZIP

Snapper Grouper AP

Robert Johnson

(904) 744-2628

Frank Hecles

689444

helhel@verizon.net

Robert Johnson

457-8675 386-2390948

DSF2009@aol.com

David Arling

(561) 453-6007

131 west Hillshore Blvd

Johnny Hall

(386) 547-1854

Hollis@foodcbl.com

Dee Ballenger

843 953-9096

SCDNA

Susan Shuman

912.222.9206

susan@shumanatt.net

Leda Dunmore

305 393 0934

Holly Binas

850-322-7845

hbinas@pertrush.org

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201

North Charleston, SC 29405

843-571-4366 or Toll Free 866/SAFMC-10

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Snapper Grouper Committee Meeting

Charleston, SC

Tuesday, September 11, 2012

NAME &
ORGANIZATION

AREA CODE &
PHONE NUMBER

P.O. BOX/STREET
CITY, STATE & ZIP

Ernest Muhammad SCNR

(843) 953-9364

217 Fort Johnson Rd.

Melissa Locke

919-881-2909

4000 Westchase Blvd Raleigh NC

Tenion Gross

202-540-6313

600 NW, Lighthouse 02004

Steven Shipman

912-222-9206

242 Simmons Island GA 31532

Mark Brown

843-881-9735

242 Pandora Dr.
Mt Pl. SC 29466

Bill McDonald

770-377-8747

P.O. Box 2218
Stouckhouse GA 30281

Steve Cox

252 728 9511

MHC NC

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201

North Charleston, SC 29405

843-571-4366 or Toll Free 866/SAFMC-10

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Snapper Grouper Committee Meeting

Charleston, SC

Tuesday, September 11, 2012

NAME &
ORGANIZATION

AREA CODE &
PHONE NUMBER

P.O. BOX/STREET
CITY, STATE & ZIP

Nick Brewer	CCA	
Ken Stump, consultant	202-370-9520	WAB & 20008
Paul Hudson DSF	386-239-0948	ECFS 32120-9351
Jimmy Hall	(386) 547-1254	SFA ECFS
Shelba Marie EDF	919 4380035	Wilmington, NC
Tracey Smart SCDNR	843 953 9226	CHS, SC
Holly BinsPEG	850-322-7845	Tallahassee, FL
Bruce Keen FKEN	305-619-0039	10350 1404 NW Marshall FL 33050
Terry Gibson	772-285-7683	Deer Beach, FL 34657

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201

North Charleston, SC 29405

843-571-4366 or Toll Free 866/SAFMC-10

No	Karla	Gore	Sep 11, 2012 02:21 PM EDT
No	Anik	Clemens	Sep 11, 2012 02:12 PM EDT
No	Michelle	OWen	Sep 11, 2012 02:49 PM EDT
No	Jim	Atack	Sep 11, 2012 01:50 PM EDT
No	Patrick	Murphy	Sep 11, 2012 01:45 PM EDT
No	Heather	Blough	Sep 10, 2012 12:37 PM EDT
No	todd	phillips	Sep 11, 2012 02:59 PM EDT
No	Rob	Harris	Sep 11, 2012 03:33 PM EDT
No	jeff	barger	Sep 11, 2012 02:05 PM EDT
No	Michelle	Pate	Sep 11, 2012 01:47 PM EDT
No	Jeanna	Merrifield	Sep 11, 2012 03:22 PM EDT
No	Cindy	Chaya	Aug 22, 2012 11:53 AM EDT
No	K	M	Sep 11, 2012 03:41 PM EDT
No	Donald	Steamer	Sep 11, 2012 11:59 AM EDT
No	Janie	Thomas	Sep 11, 2012 01:44 PM EDT
No	scott	sandorf	Sep 11, 2012 01:15 PM EDT
No	Nick	Farmer	Aug 22, 2012 12:56 PM EDT
No	Anne	Eich	Aug 22, 2012 02:26 PM EDT
No	Michael	Merrifield	Sep 11, 2012 12:37 PM EDT
No	david	grubbs	Sep 11, 2012 01:41 PM EDT
No	bobby	cardin	Sep 11, 2012 04:33 PM EDT
No	Elizabeth	Fetherston	Sep 11, 2012 02:42 PM EDT

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General Information

Webinar N: Webinar ID

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Sep 11, 201 238

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108 32

Total Attended

33

Session Details

Attended	Interest Ra	First Name	Last Name	Registration	Join Time	Leave Time	In Session I
Yes	3	deb	buscher	Aug 22, 201	Sep 11, 201	Sep 11, 201	34.97
Yes	22	Anthony	Austin	Sep 11, 201	Sep 11, 201	Sep 11, 201	30.02
Yes	44	Nikhil	Mehta	Aug 22, 201	Sep 11, 201	Sep 11, 201	185.35
Yes	0	David	Gloeckner	Sep 11, 201	Sep 11, 201	Sep 11, 201	25.72
Yes	9	susan	gerhart	Sep 11, 201	Sep 11, 201	Sep 11, 201	167.4
Yes	2	Katie	Latanich	Sep 11, 201	Sep 11, 201	Sep 11, 201	32.03
Yes	53	joseph	Klostermann	Sep 11, 201	Sep 11, 201	Sep 11, 201	93.72
Yes	13	Mike	C	Sep 05, 201	Sep 11, 201	Sep 11, 201	233.7
Yes	10	Kathy	Knowlton	Sep 11, 201	Sep 11, 201	Sep 11, 201	178.02
Yes	55	ira	laks	Sep 11, 201	Sep 11, 201	Sep 11, 201	137.95
Yes	7	roger	pugliese	Sep 11, 201	Sep 11, 201	Sep 11, 201	121.05
Yes	50	William	MacLauchlin	Sep 11, 201	Sep 11, 201	Sep 11, 201	15.23
Yes	52	Trevor	McMahan	Sep 11, 201	Sep 11, 201	Sep 11, 201	57.82
Yes	51	Vincent	Bonura	Sep 11, 201	Sep 11, 201	Sep 11, 201	89.53
Yes	12	Christina	Package	Sep 11, 201	Sep 11, 201	Sep 11, 201	168.03
Yes	9	Scott	Baker	Sep 11, 201	Sep 11, 201	Sep 11, 201	149.28
Yes	7	Bob	English	Sep 11, 201	Sep 11, 201	Sep 11, 201	64.95
Yes	50	Joshua	McCoy	Sep 11, 201	Sep 11, 201	Sep 11, 201	6.97
Yes	44	Kate	Michie	Aug 28, 201	Sep 11, 201	Sep 11, 201	161.18
Yes	14	stephen	holiman	Sep 11, 201	Sep 11, 201	Sep 11, 201	126.1
Yes	50	lew	augusta	Sep 11, 201	Sep 11, 201	Sep 11, 201	2.23
Yes	35	Delancey	Larry	Sep 11, 201	Sep 11, 201	Sep 11, 201	124.75
Yes	12	Karla	Gore	Sep 11, 201	Sep 11, 201	Sep 11, 201	70.92
Yes	12	becky	stanley	Sep 11, 201	Sep 11, 201	Sep 11, 201	55.28
Yes	11	Delaine	Hildreth	Sep 11, 201	Sep 11, 201	Sep 11, 201	171.13
Yes	25	mac	currin	Sep 11, 201	Sep 11, 201	Sep 11, 201	116.85
Yes	17	phil	steele	Sep 11, 201	Sep 11, 201	Sep 11, 201	173.78
Yes	3	Helen	Takade-Heumacher	Sep 11, 201	Sep 11, 201	Sep 11, 201	82.12
Yes	40	Rebecca	McGinn	Sep 11, 201	Sep 11, 201	Sep 11, 201	7.8
Yes	51	wayne	mershon	Sep 11, 201	Sep 11, 201	Sep 11, 201	36.15
Yes	49	Sherri	McCoy	Sep 11, 201	Sep 11, 201	Sep 11, 201	192.7
Yes	11	Rick	DeVictor	Sep 11, 201	Sep 11, 201	Sep 11, 201	168.9
Yes	3	Andrea	Grabman	Sep 11, 201	Sep 11, 201	Sep 11, 201	94.52

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Webinar Name SAFMC Council Meeting - Day 2 of 5 (Tuesday)	Webinar ID 905946306
Actual Start Date/Time Sep 11, 2012 11:32 AM EDT	Actual Duration (minutes) 397
Clicked Registration Link 108	Opened Invitation 32
Total Attended 41	

Session Details

Package,Christina	christina.package@noaa.gov
Attended Yes	
Registration Date	Sep 11, 2012 08:35 AM EDT
City	St. Petersburg
State	FL
Unsubscribed	No

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 11, 2012 01:36 PM EDT	Sep 11, 2012 02:05 PM EDT	29.13

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 49

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

M,K	kari.maclauchlin@safmc.net
Attended Yes	
Registration Date	Sep 11, 2012 03:41 PM EDT
City	here
State	SC
Unsubscribed	No

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 11, 2012 03:42 PM EDT	Sep 11, 2012 03:50 PM EDT	8.33

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 23

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

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barger,jeff		jeffreycbarger@gmail.com
Attended	Yes	
Registration Date	Sep 11, 2012 02:05 PM EDT	
City	Austin	
State	TX	
Unsubscribed	No	

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 11, 2012 02:06 PM EDT	Sep 11, 2012 04:39 PM EDT	153.23

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 39

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

Atack,Jim		jim.atack@adm.com
Attended	Yes	
Registration Date	Sep 11, 2012 01:50 PM EDT	
City	Southport	
State	NC	
Unsubscribed	No	

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 11, 2012 01:50 PM EDT	Sep 11, 2012 05:20 PM EDT	210.05

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 35

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

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pugliese,roger	roger.pugliese@safmc.net
Attended	Yes
Registration Date	Sep 11, 2012 09:24 AM EDT
City	charleston
State	SC
Unsubscribed	No

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 11, 2012 03:29 PM EDT	Sep 11, 2012 03:52 PM EDT	23.37

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 21

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

steele,phil	phil.steele@noaa.gov
Attended	Yes
Registration Date	Sep 11, 2012 08:31 AM EDT
City	st petersburg
State	FL
Unsubscribed	No

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 11, 2012 11:33 AM EDT	Sep 11, 2012 04:00 PM EDT	266.33

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 31

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

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DeVictor,Rick		rick.devictor@noaa.gov
Attended	Yes	
Registration Date	Sep 11, 2012 08:37 AM EDT	
City	St Pete	
State	FL	
Unsubscribed	No	

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 11, 2012 11:32 AM EDT	Sep 11, 2012 04:48 PM EDT	316.03

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 30

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

Mehta,Nikhil		nikhil.mehta@noaa.gov
Attended	Yes	
Registration Date	Aug 22, 2012 11:47 AM EDT	
City	St. Petersburg	
State	FL	
Unsubscribed	No	

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 11, 2012 11:32 AM EDT	Sep 11, 2012 05:23 PM EDT	350.57

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 64

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

laks,ira		captainira@att.net	
Attended	Yes		
Registration Date		Sep 11, 2012 09:08 AM EDT	
City		jupiter	
State		FL	
Unsubscribed		No	

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 11, 2012 11:32 AM EDT	Sep 11, 2012 06:04 PM EDT	391.98

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 78

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

McCoy,Sherri		sherrim@cfl.rr.com	
Attended	Yes		
Registration Date		Sep 11, 2012 08:38 AM EDT	
City		Cape Canaveral	
State		FL	
Unsubscribed		No	

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 11, 2012 11:47 AM EDT	Sep 11, 2012 06:10 PM EDT	382.58

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 30

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

McMahan,Trevor		roughfishn@live.com
Attended	Yes	
Registration Date	Sep 11, 2012 10:28 AM EDT	
City	Citrus Springs	
State	FL	
Unsubscribed	No	

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 11, 2012 11:32 AM EDT	Sep 11, 2012 06:04 PM EDT	310

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 77

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

Merrifield,Michael		mikem@wildoceanmarket.com
Attended	Yes	
Registration Date	Sep 11, 2012 12:37 PM EDT	
City	Titusville	
State	FL	
Unsubscribed	No	

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 11, 2012 12:37 PM EDT	Sep 11, 2012 02:10 PM EDT	67.97

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 20

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

Takade-Heumacher,Helen		htakade@edf.org
Attended	Yes	
Registration Date	Sep 11, 2012 08:35 AM EDT	
City	Raleigh	
State	NC	
Unsubscribed	No	

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 11, 2012 04:13 PM EDT	Sep 11, 2012 06:08 PM EDT	115.2

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 20

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

Austin,Anthony		redress@ec.rr.com
Attended	Yes	
Registration Date	Sep 11, 2012 10:54 AM EDT	
City	HJubert	
State	NC	
Unsubscribed	No	

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 11, 2012 01:42 PM EDT	Sep 11, 2012 06:01 PM EDT	259.57

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 37

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

currin,mac		maccurrin@gmail.com
Attended	Yes	
Registration Date	Sep 11, 2012 08:26 AM EDT	
City	raleigh	
State	NC	
Unsubscribed	No	

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 11, 2012 11:36 AM EDT	Sep 11, 2012 04:09 PM EDT	273.18

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 52

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

Latanich,Katie		cal7@duke.edu
Attended	Yes	
Registration Date	Sep 11, 2012 10:50 AM EDT	
City	Beaufort	
State	NC	
Unsubscribed	No	

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 11, 2012 11:32 AM EDT	Sep 11, 2012 05:05 PM EDT	117.55

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 25

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

Bonura,Vincent		sailraiser25c@aol.com
Attended	Yes	
Registration Date	Sep 11, 2012 09:53 AM EDT	
City	Fort Lauderdale	
State	HI	
Unsubscribed	No	

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 11, 2012 11:32 AM EDT	Sep 11, 2012 06:10 PM EDT	398.15

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 80

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

Michie,Kate		kate.michie@noaa.gov
Attended	Yes	
Registration Date	Aug 28, 2012 08:44 AM EDT	
City	St. Petersburg	
State	FL	
Unsubscribed	No	

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 11, 2012 11:32 AM EDT	Sep 11, 2012 04:31 PM EDT	299.23

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 39

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

OWen,Mlchelle		mlowen@gmail.com
Attended	Yes	
Registration Date	Sep 11, 2012 02:49 PM EDT	
City	Atlanta	
State	GA	
Unsubscribed	No	

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 11, 2012 02:51 PM EDT	Sep 11, 2012 04:13 PM EDT	81.8

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 23

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

Gore,Karla		karlagore@gmail.com
Attended	Yes	
Registration Date	Sep 11, 2012 02:21 PM EDT	
City	Sarasota	
State	FL	
Unsubscribed	No	

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 11, 2012 02:21 PM EDT	Sep 11, 2012 05:04 PM EDT	162.97

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 25

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

Pate,Michelle		pates@dnr.sc.gov
Attended	Yes	
Registration Date	Sep 11, 2012 01:47 PM EDT	
City	charleston	
State	SC	
Unsubscribed	No	

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 11, 2012 01:48 PM EDT	Sep 11, 2012 04:03 PM EDT	135.35

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 26

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

Gloeckner,David		david.gloeckner@noaa.gov
Attended	Yes	
Registration Date	Sep 11, 2012 11:01 AM EDT	
City	Miami	
State	FL	
Unsubscribed	No	

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 11, 2012 11:34 AM EDT	Sep 11, 2012 04:20 PM EDT	285.65

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 28

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

Knowlton,Kathy		kathy.knowlton@gadnr.org
Attended	Yes	
Registration Date	Sep 11, 2012 08:27 AM EDT	
City	Brunswick	
State	GA	
Unsubscribed	No	

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 11, 2012 11:44 AM EDT	Sep 11, 2012 04:37 PM EDT	207.7

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 27

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

Larry,Delancey		delanceyl@dnr.sc.gov
Attended	Yes	
Registration Date	Sep 11, 2012 09:20 AM EDT	
City	Charleston	
State	SC	
Unsubscribed	No	

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 11, 2012 03:21 PM EDT	Sep 11, 2012 04:38 PM EDT	77.28

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 62

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

Clemens,Anik	anik.clemens@noaa.gov
Attended	Yes
Registration Date	Sep 11, 2012 02:12 PM EDT
City	Saint Petersburg
State	FL
Unsubscribed	No

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 11, 2012 02:13 PM EDT	Sep 11, 2012 04:17 PM EDT	124.27

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 25

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

holiman,stephen	stephen.holiman@noaa.gov
Attended	Yes
Registration Date	Sep 11, 2012 08:21 AM EDT
City	st. petersburg
State	FL
Unsubscribed	No

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 11, 2012 11:32 AM EDT	Sep 11, 2012 04:30 PM EDT	297.62

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 41

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

phillips,todd		tphillips@oceanconservancy.org
Attended	Yes	
Registration Date	Sep 11, 2012 02:59 PM EDT	
City	Austin	
State	TX	
Unsubscribed	No	

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 11, 2012 02:59 PM EDT	Sep 11, 2012 04:24 PM EDT	84.52

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 23

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

Murphy,Patrick		patrick.l.murphy@noaa.gov
Attended	Yes	
Registration Date	Sep 11, 2012 01:45 PM EDT	
City	St. Petersburg	
State	FL	
Unsubscribed	No	

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 11, 2012 01:46 PM EDT	Sep 11, 2012 06:10 PM EDT	264.15

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 32

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

Steamer,Donald	boo1936@gmail.com
Attended	Yes
Registration Date	Sep 11, 2012 11:59 AM EDT
City	Key Colony Beach
State	FL
Unsubscribed	No

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 11, 2012 12:00 PM EDT	Sep 11, 2012 05:49 PM EDT	349.43

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 59

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

MacLauchlin,William	billmac@charter.net
Attended	Yes
Registration Date	Sep 11, 2012 09:06 AM EDT
City	Stockbridge
State	GA
Unsubscribed	No

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 11, 2012 04:53 PM EDT	Sep 11, 2012 06:09 PM EDT	76.33

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 49

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

cardin,bobby		bobbycardin772@aol.com
Attended	Yes	
Registration Date	Sep 11, 2012 04:33 PM EDT	
City	fort pierce	
State	FL	
Unsubscribed	No	

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 11, 2012 04:37 PM EDT	Sep 11, 2012 04:55 PM EDT	17.72

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 32

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

Thomas,Janie		fecspi@aol.com
Attended	Yes	
Registration Date	Sep 11, 2012 01:44 PM EDT	
City	Fernandina Beach	
State	FL	
Unsubscribed	No	

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 11, 2012 01:47 PM EDT	Sep 11, 2012 06:10 PM EDT	263.08

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 76

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

grubbs,david		heavyhittercharters@cfl.rr.com
Attended	Yes	
Registration Date	Sep 11, 2012 01:41 PM EDT	
City	port orange	
State	FL	
Unsubscribed	No	

[In Session](#)

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 11, 2012 01:41 PM EDT	Sep 11, 2012 06:10 PM EDT	268.67

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 68

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

gerhart,susan		susan.gerhart@noaa.gov
Attended	Yes	
Registration Date	Sep 11, 2012 08:38 AM EDT	
City	st petersburg	
State	FL	
Unsubscribed	No	

[In Session](#)

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 11, 2012 11:36 AM EDT	Sep 11, 2012 05:49 PM EDT	355.97

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 37

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

C,Mike	mec181@yahoo.com
Attended	Yes
Registration Date	Sep 05, 2012 10:31 AM EDT
City	MtP
State	SC
Unsubscribed	No

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 11, 2012 11:35 AM EDT	Sep 11, 2012 06:06 PM EDT	391.4

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 33

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

Grabman,Andrea	andrea.grabman@safmc.net
Attended	Yes
Registration Date	Sep 11, 2012 09:51 AM EDT
City	Charleston
State	SC
Unsubscribed	No

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 11, 2012 11:34 AM EDT	Sep 11, 2012 03:37 PM EDT	151.42

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 25

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

Klostermann,Joseph		grkjfk@aol.com
Attended	Yes	
Registration Date	Sep 11, 2012 09:53 AM EDT	
City	Ft. pierce	
State	FL	
Unsubscribed	No	

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 11, 2012 02:18 PM EDT	Sep 11, 2012 06:10 PM EDT	231.02

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 55

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

Baker,Scott		bakers@uncw.edu
Attended	Yes	
Registration Date	Sep 11, 2012 08:56 AM EDT	
City	Wilmington	
State	NC	
Unsubscribed	No	

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 11, 2012 02:19 PM EDT	Sep 11, 2012 04:12 PM EDT	112.63

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 25

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

Merrifield,Jeanna		jeannam@wildoceanmarket.com
Attended	Yes	
Registration Date	Sep 11, 2012 03:22 PM EDT	
City	Titusville	
State	FL	
Unsubscribed	No	

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 11, 2012 03:23 PM EDT	Sep 11, 2012 06:10 PM EDT	167.05

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 25

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

mershon,wayne		kenyonseafood@sc.rr.com
Attended	Yes	
Registration Date	Sep 11, 2012 10:50 AM EDT	
City	murrells inlet	
State	SC	
Unsubscribed	No	

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 11, 2012 03:19 PM EDT	Sep 11, 2012 06:10 PM EDT	170.48

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 48

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

sandorf,scott		scott.sandorf@noaa.gov
Attended	Yes	
Registration Date	Sep 11, 2012 01:15 PM EDT	
City	st petersburg	
State	FL	
Unsubscribed	No	

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 11, 2012 01:22 PM EDT	Sep 11, 2012 05:18 PM EDT	236.72

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 33

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

Chaya,Cindy		cindy.chaya@safmc.net
Attended	No	
Registration Date	Aug 22, 2012 11:53 AM EDT	
City	Charleston	
State	SC	
Unsubscribed	No	

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
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Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

Gore,Karla	karla.gore@noaa.gov
Attended	No
Registration Date	Sep 11, 2012 10:15 AM EDT
City	Sarasota
State	FL
Unsubscribed	No

[In Session](#)

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
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Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

Farmer,Nick	nick.farmer@noaa.gov
Attended	No
Registration Date	Aug 22, 2012 12:56 PM EDT
City	St Petersburg
State	FL
Unsubscribed	No

[In Session](#)

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
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Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

Hildreth,Delaine		delaine.hildreth@gadnr.org
Attended	No	
Registration Date	Sep 11, 2012 08:34 AM EDT	
City	Brunswick	
State	GA	
Unsubscribed	No	

[In Session](#)

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
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Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

Harris,Rob		rw_harris@msn.com
Attended	No	
Registration Date	Sep 11, 2012 03:33 PM EDT	
City	Key West	
State	FL	
Unsubscribed	No	

[In Session](#)

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
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Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

McGinn,Rebecca		littleriverfish@yahoo.com	
Attended	No		
Registration Date		Sep 11, 2012 11:13 AM EDT	
City		Little River	
State		SC	
Unsubscribed		No	

[In Session](#)

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
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Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

Eich,Anne		annemarie.eich@noaa.gov	
Attended	No		
Registration Date		Aug 22, 2012 02:26 PM EDT	
City		Saint Petersburg	
State		FL	
Unsubscribed		No	

[In Session](#)

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
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Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

augusta,lew	capt@captlew.com
Attended	No
Registration Date	Sep 11, 2012 10:16 AM EDT
City	vero beach
State	FL
Unsubscribed	No

[In Session](#)

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
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Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

McCoy,Joshua	sherrim@wildoceanmarket.com
Attended	No
Registration Date	Sep 11, 2012 08:31 AM EDT
City	cape canaveral
State	FL
Unsubscribed	No

[In Session](#)

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
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Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

Blough,Heather	heather.blough@noaa.gov
Attended	No
Registration Date	Sep 10, 2012 12:37 PM EDT
City	Saint Petersburg
State	FL
Unsubscribed	No

[In Session](#)

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
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Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

stanley,becky	becky.stanley@noaa.gov
Attended	No
Registration Date	Sep 11, 2012 08:35 AM EDT
City	saint petersburg
State	FL
Unsubscribed	No

[In Session](#)

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
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Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

Fetherston,Elizabeth	ef13@duke.edu
Attended	No
Registration Date	Sep 11, 2012 02:42 PM EDT
City	St. Petersburg
State	FL
Unsubscribed	No

[In Session](#)

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
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Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

buscher,deb	deb.buscher@safmc.net
Attended	No
Registration Date	Aug 22, 2012 11:51 AM EDT
City	n. charleston
State	SC
Unsubscribed	No

[In Session](#)

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
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Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

English,Bob		bob_english72@comcast.net
Attended	No	
Registration Date	Sep 11, 2012 12:22 AM EDT	
City	Charleston	
State	SC	
Unsubscribed	No	

[In Session](#)

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
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Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

Generated

Oct 04, 2012 05:58 AM PDT

General Information

Webinar Name

SAFMC Council Meeting - Day 3 of 5 (Wednesday)

Webinar ID

767120818

Actual Start Date/Time

Sep 12, 2012 09:52 AM EDT

Actual Duration (minutes)

590

Clicked Registration Link

139

Opened Invitation

57

Total Attended

53

Session Details

sandorf,scott	scott.sandorf@noaa.gov
Attended	Yes
Registration Date	Sep 12, 2012 08:49 AM EDT
City	st petersburg
State	FL
Unsubscribed	No

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 12, 2012 09:52 AM EDT	Sep 12, 2012 04:54 PM EDT	421.62

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 51

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

Takade-Heumacher,Helen	htakade@edf.org
Attended	Yes
Registration Date	Sep 12, 2012 08:55 AM EDT
City	Raleigh
State	NC
Unsubscribed	No

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 12, 2012 09:58 AM EDT	Sep 12, 2012 06:40 PM EDT	409.08

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 30

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

McCaffity,Chris	freefish7@hotmail.com
Attended	Yes
Registration Date	Sep 12, 2012 04:41 PM EDT
City	Morehead City
State	NC
Unsubscribed	No

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 12, 2012 04:43 PM EDT	Sep 12, 2012 07:42 PM EDT	179.48

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 22

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

holiman,stephen	stephen.holiman@noaa.gov
Attended	Yes
Registration Date	Sep 12, 2012 08:18 AM EDT
City	st. petersburg
State	FL
Unsubscribed	No

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 12, 2012 09:53 AM EDT	Sep 12, 2012 03:28 PM EDT	334.8

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 45

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

Baker,Scott		bakers@uncw.edu
Attended	Yes	
Registration Date	Sep 12, 2012 10:34 AM EDT	
City	Wilmington	
State	NC	
Unsubscribed	No	

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 12, 2012 10:35 AM EDT	Sep 12, 2012 04:17 PM EDT	341.87

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 26

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

currin,mac		maccurrin@gmail.com
Attended	Yes	
Registration Date	Sep 12, 2012 09:44 AM EDT	
City	raleigh	
State	NC	
Unsubscribed	No	

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 12, 2012 09:53 AM EDT	Sep 12, 2012 10:55 AM EDT	62.5

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 43

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

mitchell,warren		warren.mitchell@noaa.gov
Attended	Yes	
Registration Date	Sep 12, 2012 04:26 PM EDT	
City	beaufort	
State	NC	
Unsubscribed	No	

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 12, 2012 04:26 PM EDT	Sep 12, 2012 05:19 PM EDT	52.83

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 29

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

Mehta,Nikhil		nikhil.mehta@noaa.gov
Attended	Yes	
Registration Date	Aug 22, 2012 11:49 AM EDT	
City	St. Petersburg	
State	FL	
Unsubscribed	No	

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 12, 2012 09:54 AM EDT	Sep 12, 2012 04:34 PM EDT	399.18

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 65

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

DeLancey,Larry		delanceyl@dnr.sc.gov
Attended	Yes	
Registration Date	Sep 12, 2012 02:02 PM EDT	
City	Chas	
State	SC	
Unsubscribed	No	

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 12, 2012 02:02 PM EDT	Sep 12, 2012 04:34 PM EDT	152.23

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 63

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

mershon,wayne		kenyonseafood@sc.rr.com
Attended	Yes	
Registration Date	Sep 12, 2012 11:32 AM EDT	
City	murrells inlet	
State	SC	
Unsubscribed	No	

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 12, 2012 11:32 AM EDT	Sep 12, 2012 04:56 PM EDT	43.83

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 36

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

merrifield,jeanna	jeannam@wildoceanmarket.com
Attended	Yes
Registration Date	Sep 12, 2012 02:24 PM EDT
City	Titusville
State	FL
Unsubscribed	No

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 12, 2012 02:24 PM EDT	Sep 12, 2012 07:43 PM EDT	319.07

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 61

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

Steamer,Donald	boo1936@gmail.com
Attended	Yes
Registration Date	Sep 12, 2012 12:07 PM EDT
City	Key Colony Beach
State	FL
Unsubscribed	No

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 12, 2012 12:08 PM EDT	Sep 12, 2012 06:28 PM EDT	380.68

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 55

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

Rincones,Ron		fishrico@aol.com
Attended	Yes	
Registration Date	Sep 12, 2012 04:14 PM EDT	
City	Valkaria	
State	FL	
Unsubscribed	No	

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 12, 2012 04:14 PM EDT	Sep 12, 2012 04:15 PM EDT	.97

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 70

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

waltermire,robert		aquahaulit@aol.com
Attended	Yes	
Registration Date	Sep 12, 2012 03:48 PM EDT	
City	sebastian	
State	FL	
Unsubscribed	No	

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 12, 2012 03:49 PM EDT	Sep 12, 2012 07:42 PM EDT	233.87

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 24

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

Latanich,Katie		cal7@duke.edu
Attended	Yes	
Registration Date	Sep 12, 2012 02:15 PM EDT	
City	Beaufort	
State	NC	
Unsubscribed	No	

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 12, 2012 02:16 PM EDT	Sep 12, 2012 02:17 PM EDT	1.23

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 38

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

Byrd,Julia		julia.byrd@safmc.net
Attended	Yes	
Registration Date	Sep 12, 2012 05:10 PM EDT	
City	Charleston	
State	SC	
Unsubscribed	No	

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 12, 2012 05:10 PM EDT	Sep 12, 2012 06:57 PM EDT	106.23

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 22

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

hill,nicholas	livebaitman@yahoo.com
Attended	Yes
Registration Date	Sep 12, 2012 12:00 PM EDT
City	grant
State	FL
Unsubscribed	No

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 12, 2012 12:02 PM EDT	Sep 12, 2012 07:42 PM EDT	460.53

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 64

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

gibson,shane	shanegibson24@yahoo.com
Attended	Yes
Registration Date	Sep 12, 2012 03:45 PM EDT
City	riviera beach
State	FL
Unsubscribed	No

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 12, 2012 03:46 PM EDT	Sep 12, 2012 05:12 PM EDT	86.43

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 22

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

steele,phil	phil.steele@noaa.gov
Attended	Yes
Registration Date	Sep 12, 2012 10:27 AM EDT
City	st petersburg
State	FL
Unsubscribed	No

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 12, 2012 10:28 AM EDT	Sep 12, 2012 11:47 AM EDT	79.3

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 22

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

hartig,patty	pattyhartigpainter@att.net
Attended	Yes
Registration Date	Sep 12, 2012 04:30 PM EDT
City	hobe sound
State	FL
Unsubscribed	No

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 12, 2012 04:30 PM EDT	Sep 12, 2012 05:33 PM EDT	62.88

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 57

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

linville,mike		whateversbitin03@yahoo.com
Attended	Yes	
Registration Date	Sep 12, 2012 04:00 PM EDT	
City	jupiter	
State	FL	
Unsubscribed	No	

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 12, 2012 04:00 PM EDT	Sep 12, 2012 05:27 PM EDT	86.85

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 71

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

laks,ira		captainira@att.net
Attended	Yes	
Registration Date	Sep 12, 2012 08:26 AM EDT	
City	jupiter	
State	FL	
Unsubscribed	No	

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 12, 2012 09:54 AM EDT	Sep 12, 2012 07:43 PM EDT	589.27

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 69

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

Michie,Kate		kate.michie@noaa.gov
Attended	Yes	
Registration Date	Aug 28, 2012 08:42 AM EDT	
City	St. Petersburg	
State	FL	
Unsubscribed	No	

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 12, 2012 12:59 PM EDT	Sep 12, 2012 02:47 PM EDT	108.37

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 39

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

Thomas,Janie		fecspi@aol.com
Attended	Yes	
Registration Date	Sep 12, 2012 10:00 AM EDT	
City	EACH	
State	FL	
Unsubscribed	No	

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 12, 2012 10:00 AM EDT	Sep 12, 2012 11:05 AM EDT	65.48

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 68

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

merritt,rita	miridon@ec.rr.com
Attended	Yes
Registration Date	Sep 12, 2012 12:49 PM EDT
City	WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH
State	NC
Unsubscribed	No

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 12, 2012 12:49 PM EDT	Sep 12, 2012 01:43 PM EDT	53.27

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 26

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

Port-Minner,Samantha	sport-minner@oceanconservancy.org
Attended	Yes
Registration Date	Sep 12, 2012 04:25 PM EDT
City	Saint Petersburg
State	FL
Unsubscribed	No

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 12, 2012 04:26 PM EDT	Sep 12, 2012 05:44 PM EDT	22.88

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 40

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

branstetter,steve		steve.branstetter@noaa.gov
Attended	Yes	
Registration Date	Sep 12, 2012 09:45 AM EDT	
City	st. petersburg	
State	FL	
Unsubscribed	No	

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 12, 2012 09:53 AM EDT	Sep 12, 2012 07:43 PM EDT	358.07

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 46

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

Pate,Michelle		pates@dnr.sc.gov
Attended	Yes	
Registration Date	Sep 12, 2012 01:15 PM EDT	
City	Charleston	
State	SC	
Unsubscribed	No	

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 12, 2012 01:15 PM EDT	Sep 12, 2012 03:00 PM EDT	104.72

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 22

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

Gore,Karla	karla.gore@noaa.gov
Attended	Yes
Registration Date	Sep 12, 2012 08:47 AM EDT
City	Sarasota
State	FL
Unsubscribed	No

[In Session](#)

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 12, 2012 10:27 AM EDT	Sep 12, 2012 03:17 PM EDT	187.3

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 28

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

grubbs,david	heavyhittercharters@cfl.rr.com
Attended	Yes
Registration Date	Sep 12, 2012 08:28 AM EDT
City	port orange
State	FL
Unsubscribed	No

[In Session](#)

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 12, 2012 09:54 AM EDT	Sep 12, 2012 01:54 PM EDT	240.07

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 29

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

Crabtree,Laura		lcrabtree7@verizon.net
Attended	Yes	
Registration Date	Sep 12, 2012 05:51 PM EDT	
City	St. Petersburg	
State	FL	
Unsubscribed	No	

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 12, 2012 05:53 PM EDT	Sep 12, 2012 07:02 PM EDT	69.77

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 22

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

MCMAHAN,trevor		roughfishn@live.com
Attended	Yes	
Registration Date	Sep 12, 2012 08:14 AM EDT	
City	CITRUS SPRINGS	
State	FL	
Unsubscribed	No	

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 12, 2012 09:55 AM EDT	Sep 12, 2012 07:43 PM EDT	588.03

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 75

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

brennan,kenneth		kenneth.brennan@noaa.gov
Attended	Yes	
Registration Date	Sep 12, 2012 10:06 AM EDT	
City	beaufort	
State	NC	
Unsubscribed	No	

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 12, 2012 10:14 AM EDT	Sep 12, 2012 04:50 PM EDT	383.98

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 32

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

klostermann,joseph		grkjfk@aol.com
Attended	Yes	
Registration Date	Sep 12, 2012 10:39 AM EDT	
City	ft. pierce	
State	FL	
Unsubscribed	No	

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 12, 2012 10:39 AM EDT	Sep 12, 2012 07:43 PM EDT	544.12

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 66

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

Bonura,Vincent		sailraiser25c@aol.com
Attended	Yes	
Registration Date	Sep 12, 2012 11:03 AM EDT	
City	Fort Lauderdale	
State	FL	
Unsubscribed	No	

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 12, 2012 11:04 AM EDT	Sep 12, 2012 07:42 PM EDT	473.75

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 77

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

Austin,Anthony		redress@ec.rr.com
Attended	Yes	
Registration Date	Sep 12, 2012 07:45 AM EDT	
City	Hubert	
State	NC	
Unsubscribed	No	

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 12, 2012 01:41 PM EDT	Sep 12, 2012 07:42 PM EDT	352.7

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 62

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

Barile,Peter		abaco711@hotmail.com
Attended	Yes	
Registration Date	Sep 05, 2012 02:12 PM EDT	
City	Melbourne	
State	FL	
Unsubscribed	No	

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 12, 2012 01:26 PM EDT	Sep 12, 2012 07:43 PM EDT	345.82

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 23

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

phillips,todd		tphillips@oceanconservancy.org
Attended	Yes	
Registration Date	Sep 12, 2012 09:56 AM EDT	
City	austin	
State	TX	
Unsubscribed	No	

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 12, 2012 09:57 AM EDT	Sep 12, 2012 11:54 AM EDT	117.63

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 22

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

DeVictor,Rick		rick.devictor@noaa.gov
Attended	Yes	
Registration Date	Sep 12, 2012 08:21 AM EDT	
City	St Pete	
State	FL	
Unsubscribed	No	

[In Session](#)

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 12, 2012 09:58 AM EDT	Sep 12, 2012 04:40 PM EDT	402.23

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 33

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

kodetsky,ron		kingfish10@netzero.net
Attended	Yes	
Registration Date	Sep 12, 2012 07:09 PM EDT	
City	psl	
State	FL	
Unsubscribed	No	

[In Session](#)

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 12, 2012 07:10 PM EDT	Sep 12, 2012 07:42 PM EDT	32.37

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 29

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

Knowlton,Kathy		kathy.knowlton@gadnr.org
Attended	Yes	
Registration Date	Sep 12, 2012 08:29 AM EDT	
City	Brunswick	
State	GA	
Unsubscribed	No	

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 12, 2012 09:52 AM EDT	Sep 12, 2012 02:43 PM EDT	291

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 29

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

Clemens,Anik		anik.clemens@noaa.gov
Attended	Yes	
Registration Date	Sep 12, 2012 08:53 AM EDT	
City	Saint Petersburg	
State	FL	
Unsubscribed	No	

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 12, 2012 09:53 AM EDT	Sep 12, 2012 04:30 PM EDT	397.18

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 29

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

grabman, andrea		andrea.grabman@safmc.net
Attended	Yes	
Registration Date	Sep 12, 2012 10:16 AM EDT	
City	charleston	
State	SC	
Unsubscribed	No	

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 12, 2012 10:16 AM EDT	Sep 12, 2012 05:25 PM EDT	107.12

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 24

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

Merrifield, Michael		mikem@wildoceanmarket.com
Attended	Yes	
Registration Date	Sep 12, 2012 07:59 AM EDT	
City	Titusville	
State	FL	
Unsubscribed	No	

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 12, 2012 09:53 AM EDT	Sep 12, 2012 11:19 AM EDT	86.82

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 70

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

MacLauchlin,Bill	billmac@charter.net
Attended	Yes
Registration Date	Sep 12, 2012 02:27 PM EDT
City	Stockbridge
State	GA
Unsubscribed	No

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 12, 2012 02:28 PM EDT	Sep 12, 2012 07:42 PM EDT	314.47

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 44

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

baker,mike	mikebaker15@yahoo.com
Attended	Yes
Registration Date	Sep 12, 2012 12:26 PM EDT
City	hobe sound
State	FL
Unsubscribed	No

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 12, 2012 12:26 PM EDT	Sep 12, 2012 12:28 PM EDT	1.9

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 31

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

carmichael,john		john.carmichael@safmc.net
Attended	Yes	
Registration Date	Sep 12, 2012 05:43 PM EDT	
City	charleston	
State	SC	
Unsubscribed	No	

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 12, 2012 05:43 PM EDT	Sep 12, 2012 06:59 PM EDT	75.52

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 22

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

C,Mike		mec181@yahoo.com
Attended	Yes	
Registration Date	Sep 05, 2012 10:32 AM EDT	
City	MtP	
State	SC	
Unsubscribed	No	

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 12, 2012 09:54 AM EDT	Sep 12, 2012 07:35 PM EDT	578.73

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 30

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

pugliese,roger	roger.pugliese@safmc.net
Attended	Yes
Registration Date	Sep 12, 2012 08:38 AM EDT
City	Charleston
State	SC
Unsubscribed	No

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 12, 2012 10:05 AM EDT	Sep 12, 2012 05:01 PM EDT	415.58

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 27

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

Malinowski,Richard	rich.malinowski@noaa.gov
Attended	Yes
Registration Date	Sep 10, 2012 08:07 AM EDT
City	Saint Petersburg
State	FL
Unsubscribed	No

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 12, 2012 09:52 AM EDT	Sep 12, 2012 02:32 PM EDT	279.67

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 41

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

travis,michael		mike.travis@noaa.gov
Attended	Yes	
Registration Date	Sep 12, 2012 11:44 AM EDT	
City	clearwater	
State	FL	
Unsubscribed	No	

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 12, 2012 11:44 AM EDT	Sep 12, 2012 02:33 PM EDT	169.22

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 26

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

Holland,Jack		jack.holland@ncdenr.gov
Attended	Yes	
Registration Date	Sep 12, 2012 09:07 AM EDT	
City	Wilmington	
State	NC	
Unsubscribed	No	

In Session

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 12, 2012 10:13 AM EDT	Sep 12, 2012 03:51 PM EDT	238.98

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 35

Registration Q & A

Questions Asked by Attendee

Poll Questions

Post Session Survey Questions

*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

gerhart,susan	susan.gerhart@noaa.gov
Attended	Yes
Registration Date	Sep 10, 2012 02:27 PM EDT
City	st petersburg
State	FL
Unsubscribed	No

[In Session](#)

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
Sep 12, 2012 09:53 AM EDT	Sep 12, 2012 07:42 PM EDT	448.38

Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest: 57

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

buscher,deb	deb.buscher@safmc.net
Attended	No
Registration Date	Aug 22, 2012 11:56 AM EDT
City	n. charleston
State	SC
Unsubscribed	No

[In Session](#)

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
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Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

Farmer,Nick	nick.farmer@noaa.gov
Attended	No
Registration Date	Aug 22, 2012 12:57 PM EDT
City	ST PETERSBURG
State	FL
Unsubscribed	No

[In Session](#)

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
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Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

Chaya,Cindy	cindy.chaya@safmc.net
Attended	No
Registration Date	Aug 22, 2012 11:54 AM EDT
City	Charleston
State	SC
Unsubscribed	No

[In Session](#)

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
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Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

Thomas,chJanie		fecapt@aol.com
Attended	No	
Registration Date	Sep 12, 2012 08:54 AM EDT	
City	Fernandina Beach	
State	GA	
Unsubscribed	No	

[In Session](#)

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
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Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

Blough,Heather		heather.blough@noaa.gov
Attended	No	
Registration Date	Sep 10, 2012 12:37 PM EDT	
City	Saint Petersburg	
State	FL	
Unsubscribed	No	

[In Session](#)

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
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Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

smith,clinton	crabdaddy68@yahoo.com
Attended	No
Registration Date	Sep 08, 2012 07:16 PM EDT
City	grant
State	FL
Unsubscribed	No

[In Session](#)

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
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Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

b,steve	steve.branstetetter@noaa.gov
Attended	No
Registration Date	Sep 12, 2012 06:20 PM EDT
City	st pete
State	FL
Unsubscribed	No

[In Session](#)

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
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Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

stanley,becky	becky.stanley@noaa.gov
Attended	No
Registration Date	Sep 12, 2012 09:13 AM EDT
City	saint petersburg
State	FL
Unsubscribed	No

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Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
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Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

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sergent,richard	richiebagman@yahoo.com
Attended	No
Registration Date	Sep 12, 2012 02:41 PM EDT
City	jupiter
State	FL
Unsubscribed	No

[In Session](#)

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
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Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

califf,julie		julie.califf@gadnr.org
Attended	No	
Registration Date	Sep 12, 2012 10:15 AM EDT	
City	brunswick	
State	GA	
Unsubscribed	No	

[In Session](#)

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
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Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

Bowen,Zack		fishzack@comcast.net
Attended	No	
Registration Date	Sep 12, 2012 09:19 AM EDT	
City	Savannah	
State	GA	
Unsubscribed	No	

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Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
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Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

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*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

Eich,Anne	annemarie.eich@noaa.gov
Attended	No
Registration Date	Aug 22, 2012 02:28 PM EDT
City	Saint Petersburg
State	FL
Unsubscribed	No

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Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
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Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

english,bob	bob_english72@comcast.net
Attended	No
Registration Date	Sep 11, 2012 12:56 PM EDT
City	charleston
State	SC
Unsubscribed	No

[In Session](#)

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
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Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:

[Registration Q & A](#)

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[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

*If an attendee left and rejoined the session, the In Session Duration column only includes their first visit.

branstetter,steve		steve.branstetter@noaa.gov
Attended	No	
Registration Date	Sep 12, 2012 04:24 PM EDT	
City	st. pete	
State	FL	
Unsubscribed	No	

[In Session](#)

Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
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Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

[Poll Questions](#)

[Post Session Survey Questions](#)

Barbieri,Luiz		luiz.barbieri@myfwc.com
Attended	No	
Registration Date	Aug 24, 2012 01:44 PM EDT	
City	St. Petersburg	
State	FL	
Unsubscribed	No	

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Join Time	Leave Time	In Session Duration* (minutes)
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Interest Rating

Attendee's In-Session Level of Interest:

[Registration Q & A](#)

[Questions Asked by Attendee](#)

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