

**FINAL**  
**SUMMARY REPORT**  
**SNAPPER GROUPEL COMMITTEE**  
**SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**  
**December 5-6, 2023**

The Committee approved the minutes from the September 2023 meeting and the agenda for the December 2023 meeting.

**Updates**

The Committee received updates on the red snapper Notice of Funding Opportunity and Exempted Fishing Permits, regulations and accountability measures resulting from recent implementation of Snapper Grouper Amendment 53 (Gag and Black Grouper), and the System Management Plan Work Group. For gag, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Southeast Regional Office (SERO) will inform the Council at the March meeting of the projected recreational season and adjusted commercial catch level for 2024.

**Wreckfish (SG Amendment 48)**

A review of the Wreckfish Individual Transferable Quota (ITQ) Program was completed in 2019 and included recommendations for improvement, including stakeholder concerns with offloading site and time requirements. At their June 2023 meeting the Council established an ad-hoc advisory group consisting of the current shareholders (Wreckfish Advisory Group) and Council Wreckfish Sub-Committee to discuss continued development of Amendment 48. Those two groups met to discuss Amendment 48 on September 19th and 20th. Staff presented the Wreckfish Advisory Group report and the Wreckfish Sub-Committee report for Committee discussion.

**MOTION 1:** APPROVE ALL MOTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE WRECKFISH SUB-COMMITTEE, AS PRESENTED IN THE SEPTEMBER 2023 SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT [APPENDED].

**APPROVED BY COUNCIL**

**Private Recreational Permitting (SG Amendment 46)**

Amendment 46 considers establishing a private recreational permit and education requirement for the South Atlantic snapper grouper fishery. Over multiple meetings, the Council has received input and technical guidance from the Private Recreational Reporting Working Group, Joint Council Workgroup on Section 102 of the Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act, and several advisory panels (AP). After reviewing this input, the Council began work on the amendment and approved it for scoping at the December 2022 meeting. Of note at this meeting was also the removal of a reporting component from further consideration in the amendment.

The Council has since further developed Amendment 46, with the amendment being most recently reviewed by the Snapper Grouper AP and Outreach and Communications AP at their October 2023 meetings. The Committee received the AP summary reports from the respective AP Chairs, passed the following motions, and provided the following direction to staff:

**MOTION 2: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 3 AS PREFERRED IN ACTION 1.**

**Action 1. Establish a private recreational snapper grouper permit to fish for, harvest, or possess snapper grouper species in the South Atlantic region**

**PREFERRED Alternative 3.** Require a federal permit for all private anglers to fish for, harvest, or possess snapper grouper species in the South Atlantic exclusive economic zone.

**APPROVED BY COMMITTEE**

**APPROVED BY COUNCIL**

**MOTION 3: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 2 AS PREFERRED IN ACTION 2.**

**Action 2. Specify the species for which a private recreational snapper grouper permit would be required**

**PREFERRED Alternative 2.** A federal private recreational snapper grouper permit would be required when fishing for, harvesting, or possessing any species in the snapper grouper fishery management unit.

**APPROVED BY COMMITTEE**

**APPROVED BY COUNCIL**

**MOTION 4: APPROVE AMENDMENT 46 AND ALL ACTIONS, AS REVISED.**

**APPROVED BY COMMITTEE**

**APPROVED BY COUNCIL**

**DIRECTION TO STAFF:**

- Allow the IPT to incorporate the Committee’s guidance into the actions and alternatives.
- Action 2: Include the addition of blueline tilefish, golden tilefish, snowy grouper, and wreckfish to Alternative 4.

**Action 2. Specify the species for which a private recreational snapper grouper permit would be required**

**Alternative 4.** A federal private recreational snapper grouper permit would be required when fishing for, harvesting, or possessing any deepwater species.

- Action 3: Approve inclusion of draft Alternatives 2 and 3.
  - In Alternative 2, task the IPT to change “implemented at the same time” to wording similar to “would be required before initial issuance of a permit”.
  - In Alternative 3, task the IPT to add sub-alternatives that would allow delayed implementation including:
    - Within a time period specified by the Council.
    - If a permit holder is selected to take the education module.
    - Before initial renewal of the permit.

**Action 3. Establish an education component in conjunction with a private recreational snapper grouper permit**

~~DRAFT~~ **Alternative 2.** Establish and require an education component in conjunction with a private recreational snapper grouper permit to fish for, harvest, or possess snapper grouper species in the South Atlantic exclusive economic zone. The education component would be **implemented at the same time** as the private recreational permit requirement.

~~DRAFT~~ **Alternative 3.** Establish and require an education component in conjunction with a private recreational snapper grouper permit to fish for, harvest, or possess snapper grouper species in the South Atlantic exclusive economic zone. The education component would be **implemented at a later date** after the private recreational permit requirement has been established.

- Action 4: Approve inclusion of draft Alternative 5.
  - Prepare a discussion of the general contents of education materials and what may constitute an update to these materials. Topics may include:
    - Species ID
    - Species in the Snapper Grouper FMU
    - Best fishing practices
    - MPA and SMZs locations and regulations
    - Basic regulations
      - Descending device rigged and ready requirement
      - Size limits

**Action 4. Specify the timing of the education component requirement for the private recreational snapper grouper permit**

~~DRAFT~~ **Alternative 5.** Completion of the education component would be required **upon initial issuance** of a federal private recreational snapper grouper permit and **each time that the education component materials are updated.**

- Action 5: Include the revised version of draft Action 5 in Amendment 46.

~~DRAFT~~ **Action 5. Establish an exemption to the federal private recreational snapper grouper permit requirement based on permitting by the states.**

**Alternative 1 (No Action).** Do not establish an exemption to the federal private recreational snapper grouper permit requirement to fish for, harvest, or possess snapper grouper species in the South Atlantic region.

**Alternative 2.** Establish an exemption to the federal private recreational snapper grouper permit requirement. The National Marine Fisheries Service would certify a state permit as equivalent to a federal private recreational snapper grouper permit provided the state implements equivalent measures that at a minimum include the following:

**Sub-alternative 2a.** The state permit is required for the same entity as the federal permit.

**Sub-alternative 2b.** The state permit is required for the same snapper grouper species as the federal permit.

**Sub-alternative 2c.** The state permit would remain valid for the same period of time as the federal permit.

**Sub-alternative 2d.** The state permit would have the same education requirement as the federal permit.

## **NEAR-TERM NEXT STEPS FOR AMENDMENT 46:**

### **Order of AP review and Council Meetings**

- 1) Gather input from the Law Enforcement AP prior to the March 2024 meeting.
  - Request that the Law Enforcement AP provide input on:
    - Enforceability by permit type (Action 1).
    - Enforceability of a permit covering the entire Snapper Grouper FMU vs a subset of species (Action 2).
    - Enforcement of a permit that only covers fishing activity in federal waters.
    - Enforceability of an education requirement (Action 3 and 4) – Weigh in with input regarding the education program. What is important to educating anglers?
- 2) Council reviews Amendment 46 at the March 2024 meeting.
  - Discuss revisions based on input from the December 2023 meeting.
  - Further discuss details of actions and alternatives.
  - The amendment would not be prepared for public hearings.
  - Compile and organize all previous Technical AP reports and recommendations into a single document.
  - Consider questions and topics that would benefit from input by the Technical AP and Private Angler AP.
- 3) Convene the Technical AP and Private Angler AP to provide input on Amendment 46.
- 4) Council reviews Amendment 46 at the June 2024 meeting.
  - Consider AP recommendations.
  - Potentially consider approval for public hearings, depending on progress made in March.

### **Gag and Black Grouper Recreational Vessel Limits and On-Demand Gear for Black Sea Bass (Regulatory Amendment 36)**

Regulatory Amendment 36 considers revising the gag and black grouper recreational vessel limits and revising commercial black sea bass pot requirements to allow the use of on-demand black sea bass pots.

Council staff presented a decision document describing the issues being addressed by this amendment, including some drafted actions and alternatives. The Committee made the following motion and provided the following guidance:

**MOTION 5: APPROVE REGULATORY AMENDMENT 36 FOR SCOPING.  
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE  
APPROVED BY COUNCIL**

- Do not include misidentification of gag and black grouper as rationale for recreational vessel limit changes.
- As part of scoping, communicate with black sea bass pot endorsement holders, particularly those that participated in the Exempted Fishing Permit project, asking which types of on-demand gear they would want to be available for use.

**Scamp/Yellowmouth Grouper (SG Amendment 55)**

The results of SEDAR 68 were reviewed by the Council in March 2023 and staff were directed to start a plan amendment to reorganize the Other Shallow Water Grouper Complex, establish the new Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper Complex and then establish a rebuilding plan, catch levels, allocations, and accountability measures (AM) for this new complex. In June 2023 the Council approved the amendment for scoping. Scoping hearings were held July 31, August 1 and 2. In October 2023, the AP reviewed the amendment and provided feedback. The Council was provided an overview of the AP's discussion and staff reviewed a decision document. The committee passed the following motions, and provided the following direction to staff:

**DIRECTION TO STAFF:** Make the following edits to the Purpose and Need:

**REVISED Purpose:** The purpose of this fishery management plan amendment is to modify the Other South Atlantic Shallow Water Grouper complex by removing yellowmouth grouper from the complex and establishing a new Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper complex. For the new complex, modify conservation and management measures, establish stock determination criteria, a rebuilding plan, catch levels, sector allocations, and accountability measures based on the results of the SEDAR 68 (2022) stock assessment. For the Other Shallow Water Grouper complex, modify catch levels.

- SEDAR 68 is research track. Operational assessment may need to be referenced differently to clarify.

**Need:** The *need* for this fishery management plan amendment is to rebuild the scamp and yellowmouth grouper stock, and achieve optimum yield while minimizing, to the extent practicable, adverse social and economic effects.

**MOTION 6:** SELECT ALTERNATIVE 2 AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE FOR ACTION 1.

**Action 1. Reorganize the Other South Atlantic Shallow Water Grouper complex and establish a new Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper complex**

**Alternative 2.** Remove yellowmouth grouper from the Other South Atlantic Shallow Water Grouper complex and establish a new Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper complex. The reorganized Other South Atlantic Shallow Water Grouper complex would contain rock hind, red hind, coney, graysby, and yellowfin grouper.

**APPROVED BY COMMITTEE**

**APPROVED BY COUNCIL**

**MOTION 7:** SELECT ALTERNATIVE 3 AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE FOR SUB-ACTION 2A.

**Action 2. Establish maximum sustainable yield, maximum fishing mortality threshold, minimum stock size threshold, and equilibrium optimum yield for the Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper complex**

**Sub-Action 2a. Establish the maximum sustainable yield for the Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper complex.**

**Alternative 3.** Establish the maximum sustainable yield proxy at the fishing mortality at 40% of the spawning potential ratio for the Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper complex.

**APPROVED BY COMMITTEE**

**APPROVED BY COUNCIL**

**MOTION 8:** SELECT ALTERNATIVE 3 AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE FOR SUB-ACTION 2B.

**Sub-Action 2b. Establish the maximum fishing mortality threshold for the Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper complex.**

**Alternative 3.** Establish the maximum fishing mortality threshold equal to the maximum sustainable yield proxy of fishing mortality at 40% spawning potential ratio for the Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper complex.

**APPROVED BY COMMITTEE**

**APPROVED BY COUNCIL**

**MOTION 9:** SELECT ALTERNATIVE 3 AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE FOR SUB-ACTION 2C.

**Sub-Action 2c. Establish the minimum stock size threshold for the Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper complex.**

**Alternative 3.** Establish the minimum stock size threshold equal to 75% of the spawning stock biomass at maximum sustainable yield.

**APPROVED BY COMMITTEE**

**APPROVED BY COUNCIL**

**MOTION 10:** SELECT ALTERNATIVE 3 AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE FOR ACTION 3.

**Action 3. Establish a rebuilding timeframe for the Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper complex**

**Alternative 3.** Establish a rebuilding timeframe equal to  $T_{max}$ . This would equal 10 years with the rebuilding period ending in 2035. 2025 would be Year 1.

**APPROVED BY COMMITTEE**

**APPROVED BY COUNCIL**

**MOTION 11:** SELECT ALTERNATIVE 2 AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE FOR ACTION 4.

2 ABSTENTIONS, 8 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED

**Action 4. Establish the acceptable biological catch and total annual catch limit for the Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper complex**

**Alternative 2.** Establish the acceptable biological catch and set it equal to the recommendation from the Scientific and Statistical Committee. Establish the total annual catch limit for the Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper complex and set it equal to the recommended acceptable biological catch. The recommended acceptable biological catch is inclusive of recreational estimates from the Marine Recreational Information Program's Fishing Effort Survey.

**APPROVED BY COMMITTEE**

**APPROVED BY COUNCIL**

**MOTION 12:** SELECT ALTERNATIVE 2 AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE FOR ACTION 6.

**Action 6. Establish commercial accountability measures for the Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper complex**

**Alternative 2.** If commercial landings for the Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper complex reach or are projected to reach the commercial annual catch limit, the commercial sector will close for the remainder of the fishing year.

If commercial landings for the Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper complex exceed the commercial annual catch limit, the total annual catch limit is exceeded, and the Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper complex is overfished, the commercial annual catch limit for the following fishing year will be reduced by the amount of the commercial annual catch limit overage in the prior fishing year.

**APPROVED BY COMMITTEE**

**APPROVED BY COUNCIL**

**DIRECTION TO STAFF:** Include an alternative in Action 7 that includes a payback in the post-season AM for the recreational sector.

**Action 7. Establish recreational accountability measures for the Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper complex**

**Alternative 6.** If recreational landings for the Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper complex reached or are projected to reach the recreational annual catch limit, recreational harvest is closed for the remainder of the fishing year.

If recreational landings for the Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper complex exceed the recreational annual catch limit, the recreational annual catch limit for the following fishing year will be reduced by the amount of the recreational annual catch limit overage in the prior fishing year, regardless of stock status and if the total annual catch limit is exceeded.

**DIRECTION TO STAFF:** Clarify that the current OY (formulaic definition as established in SFA Amendment) is the equilibrium OY and add discussion to explain in the document.

**DIRECTION TO STAFF:**

Include in Amendment 55:

- Adjustment to fishing season
  - Maintain May 1 opening and explore a range of season lengths.
- Modification to bag limit (include vessel limit)
  - 1-3 fish
- Modification to trip limit
  - Match alternatives that were analyzed for gag.

**Yellowtail Snapper (SG Amendment 44/RF Amendment 55)**

The Council reviewed the results of the SEDAR 68 Interim Analysis and instructed staff to resume work on this joint plan amendment in September 2022. This amendment will modify catch levels for South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico yellowtail snapper as well updating the jurisdictional allocation of the stock acceptable biological catch, total South Atlantic annual catch limit, Gulf of Mexico annual catch limit, and South Atlantic sector allocations. During the September South Atlantic Council meeting, in light of the MRIP-FES pilot study results, the Council requested that the SSC re-consider their ABC recommendation and stated their intent to prioritize an updated assessment for yellowtail snapper that includes SRFS recreational estimates. A clarification letter was sent to the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (GMFMC) in October 2023 explaining the South Atlantic Council's intent. The GMFMC subsequently approved a motion to deprioritize work on the amendment until completion of the updated assessment. The Council reviewed the Gulf Council's motions and passed the following motion:

**MOTION 13: DEPRIORITIZE WORK ON SNAPPER GROUPE AMENDMENT 44/REEF FISH AMENDMENT 55 UNTIL AFTER THE COMPLETION OF THE UPDATED SEDAR 64 OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT THAT INCORPORATES CALIBRATED SRFS RECREATIONAL LANDINGS ESTIMATES.**

**APPROVED BY COMMITTEE**

**APPROVED BY COUNCIL**



### **Red Snapper (Regulatory Amendment 35)**

In September 2023, the Council directed staff to not submit Regulatory Amendment 35 for secretarial review pending additional discussion. Council staff presented a review of the timeline, analyses and work completed, and rationale for the Council’s multipronged plan to end overfishing of red snapper, which included Regulatory Amendment 35. The Committee made the following motion and provided the following guidance:

**MOTION 14: RESCIND THE MARCH 2023 ACTION TO APPROVE SNAPPER GROUPEL REGULATORY AMENDMENT 35 FOR SECRETARIAL REVIEW.**

**APPROVED BY COMMITTEE**

**APPROVED BY COUNCIL**

The Committee discussed potential actions and information that could be considered in the Council's response to the overfished and experiencing overfishing stock status of red snapper from SEDAR 73.

**DIRECTION TO STAFF:** Compile information on the following topics for discussion at the March 2024 Council Meeting:

- Review information that was compiled during development of Reg 35 and consider what additional information would be needed to consider a different “short-term” action (would need to conduct public meetings).
- Aggregate Snapper Grouper bag limit – Jessica (FL) can provide info submitted for Red Snapper Exempted Fishing Permit application.
- Consider results of Crosson and Shertzer paper exploring management procedures – REQUEST PRESENTATION FOR MARCH 2024 AFTER PRESENTED TO SSC
- Temporary closures for some areas – Get feedback from LE AP at their upcoming meeting.
  - Rotating closures – CONCEPTUALLY, NOT SPECIFIC FEEDBACK FROM LE AP.
- Consider with Amendment 46 process, reporting requirements for recreational catch and discard data.
- Changes in indices or SERFS data since SEDAR 73.
- Review vision for the snapper grouper fishery (include vision blueprint and goals and objectives for March 2024 meeting) to inform discussions.

### **Best Fishing Practices Outreach**

The Committee received updates from staff on the Best Fishing Practices Campaign, including the video project, “What It Means to Me”, the Best Fishing Practices Master Volunteer Program, and the Sea Grant Reef Fish Fellowship.

### **AP recommendations on topics not on agenda**

The Snapper Grouper AP met on October 10-12, 2023, and discussed additional topics pertaining to the snapper grouper fishery. Robert Lorenz, AP Chair, presented the Snapper Grouper AP’s recommendations to the Committee on items not covered on the Committee’s agenda. The Committee requested the following items related to the AP’s discussions:

#### Commercial Permits

- Analysis to consider an optimal number of snapper grouper commercial permits
  - Consider capacity of modern, declining infrastructure.
- Consult Kevin McIntosh (SERO) to help address permit questions.

#### **DIRECTION TO STAFF:**

- Update the commercial 2 for 1 white paper with information on 225 permits – prepare for review at the March 2024 meeting.

**MOTION 15:** INITIATE AN AMENDMENT TO ESTABLISH LIMITED ENTRY FOR THE FOR-HIRE COMPONENTS OF THE SNAPPER GROUPE, COASTAL MIGRATORY PELAGICS, AND DOLPHIN WAHOO FISHERIES.

**APPROVED BY COUNCIL**

**MOTION 16:** TO PREVENT SPECULATIVE ENTRY, ESTABLISH AN ADDITIONAL CONTROL DATE OF DECEMBER 8, 2023, THAT THE SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (COUNCIL) MAY USE IF IT DECIDES TO CREATE RESTRICTIONS LIMITING PARTICIPATION IN THE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE FOR THE FEDERAL CHARTER VESSEL/HEADBOAT (FOR-HIRE) COMPONENT OF THE RECREATIONAL SECTORS OF THE COASTAL MIGRATORY PELAGICS FISHERY IN THE ATLANTIC, DOLPHIN AND WAHOO FISHERY IN THE ATLANTIC, AND SNAPPER-GROUPER FISHERY IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC. ANYONE OBTAINING A FEDERAL FOR-HIRE PERMIT FOR THESE RECREATIONAL SECTORS AFTER THE CONTROL DATE WILL NOT BE ASSURED OF FUTURE ACCESS SHOULD A MANAGEMENT REGIME THAT LIMITS PARTICIPATION IN THE SECTOR BE PREPARED AND IMPLEMENTED. ADDITIONALLY, FEDERAL PERMIT HOLDERS THAT HAVE NOT REPORTED SNAPPER-GROUPER, COASTAL MIGRATORY PELAGIC, AND/OR DOLPHIN AND WAHOO CATCH FROM THE SOUTH ATLANTIC TO THE SOUTHEAST FOR-HIRE INTEGRATED ELECTRONIC REPORTING PROGRAM ON OR PRIOR TO DECEMBER 5, 2023 WILL NOT BE ASSURED OF FUTURE ACCESS SHOULD A MANAGEMENT REGIME THAT LIMITS PARTICIPATION IN THE SECTOR BE PREPARED AND IMPLEMENTED.

**APPROVED BY COUNCIL**

#### For-Hire Limited Entry Document

- Summarize information compiled for Amendment 47.
- Investigate changes in the for-hire industry since Amendment 47.
- Include dolphin-wahoo and coastal migratory pelagics in for-hire limited entry considerations.

Explore optimal effort/yield via the management strategy evaluation and test management procedures that can achieve that.

- Need to get to initial set of effort estimates for fishery components/sectors.
- Ensure that the MSE eventually accounts for commercial effort once objectives are clarified.

### **Other Business**

New catch limits for golden tilefish were implemented in December 2023 (Amendment 52). Based on accountability measures, SERO will project the 2024 season length and announce early in the year.

### **Timing and Tasks:**

#### **MOTION 17: DIRECT STAFF TO DO THE FOLLOWING:**

- Continue to develop Snapper Grouper Amendment 48 (Wreckfish) and convene the next meeting of the Wreckfish Sub-Committee via webinar prior to the March 2024 Council meeting.
- Continue development of Amendment 46 for review at the March 2024 Council meeting (see direction to staff above).
- Conduct scoping for Regulatory Amendment 36, including communication with black sea bass pot endorsement holders.
- Draft a letter on behalf of the Council regarding what the Council would like included in future stock status letters.
- Red snapper tasks (see direction to staff above).
- Prepare an updated information paper describing the snapper Grouper commercial 2 for 1 permit policy and SG2 permits.

**APPROVED BY COUNCIL**

**DRAFT**  
**SUMMARY REPORT**  
**WRECKFISH SUB-COMMITTEE**  
**SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**  
**Saint Augustine, Florida**  
**September 20, 2023**

The Sub-Committee approved the September 2023 meeting agenda.

**Snapper Grouper Amendment 48 (Wreckfish)**

A review of the Wreckfish Individual Transferable Quota (ITQ) Program was completed in 2019 and included recommendations for improvement, specifically modernization of the program. At their June 2023 meeting, the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's (Council) Snapper Grouper Committee received presentations from National Marine Fisheries Service's Southeast Regional Office (SERO) on different monitoring options for the wreckfish ITQ fishery and participation and eligibility decisions required to modernize the fishery. Due to the complexity and depth of discussion needed on these topics, the Council established an ad-hoc advisory group consisting of the current shareholders (Wreckfish Advisory Group) and a Wreckfish Sub-Committee to discuss continued development of Amendment 48.

Snapper Grouper Amendment 48 considers actions to move from the current paper-based coupon systems to an electronic reporting system. Moving to electronic reporting will require the Council to review current participation and eligibility requirements in the fishery. Currently, there are some aspects of eligibility and participation in an electronic system that are not specified in the current wreckfish ITQ regulations. As such, simply retaining the status quo requirements is not sufficient to move forward with electronic reporting.

Additionally, Amendment 48 considers modifications to monitoring requirements for the fishery, specifically the offloading site and time requirements. Shareholders report that they never encounter law enforcement officials at the dock and the offloading time requirement negatively affects the efficiency of their fishing operations. Since fishermen report that they rarely encounter law enforcement when offloading, the intended outcome of approved offloading sites and times as a deterrent for landing unreported fish has not been realized. As such, Amendment 48 considers additional options for monitoring of the wreckfish ITQ fishery.

Council staff reviewed input received from the most recent Wreckfish Advisory Group (ITQ shareholders) meeting and presented draft actions and alternatives related to monitoring, participation, and eligibility for the Sub-Committee to consider for inclusion in Amendment 48.

The following motions were approved:

**DIRECTION TO STAFF: LOOK UP RATIONALE FOR THE ORIGINAL SPAWNING SEASON CLOSURE TIME PERIOD.**

**MOTION 1:** SPLIT ACTION 5 INTO TWO ACTIONS, ONE ADDRESSING OFFLOADING HOURS AND ONE ADDRESSING OFFLOADING SITES.

**APPROVED BY SUB-COMMITTEE.**

DIRECTION TO STAFF: BRING THIS AMENDMENT AND NEW ACTIONS TO THE LAW ENFORCEMENT ADVISORY PANEL BEFORE THE MARCH 2024 MEETING. TOPICS: OFFLOADING SITE (FIXED FACILITY) AND TIME REQUIREMENTS, MONITORING ACTIONS.

**MOTION 2:** CHANGE THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE IN SUB-ACTION 6-4 TO ALTERNATIVE 2.

**Sub-Action 6-4. Determination of wreckfish individual transferable quota program cost recovery fees.**

**Alternative 2.** The cost recovery fee will be based on actual\* ex-vessel value of the wreckfish landings.

**APPROVED BY SUB-COMMITTEE.**

**MOTION 3:** ADD CONSIDERATION OF TIME FOR PRICE DETERMINATION FOLLOWING LANDING, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVES FOR 15-DAYS, 30-DAYS.

**APPROVED BY SUB-COMMITTEE.**

- DIRECTION TO STAFF: IPT TO DISCUSS HOW TO INCORPORATE THIS INTO THE AMENDMENT AND CONSIDER INPUT PROVIDED BY SHAREHOLDERS

**MOTION 4:** DO NOT INCLUDE AN ACTION FOR A TRIP DECLARATION (HAIL OUT) REQUIREMENT IN AMENDMENT 48.

**APPROVED BY SUB-COMMITTEE.**

**MOTION 5:** ADD ACTION B. (HAIL-IN) TO AMENDMENT 48, AS MODIFIED.

**Action B. Pre-landing Notification Requirement for Commercial Vessels Participating in the Wreckfish Component of the Snapper Grouper Fishery.**

**Alternative 1 (No Action).** Commercial vessels participating in the wreckfish component of the snapper grouper fishery are not required to notify the National Marine Fisheries Service in advance of landing wreckfish.

**Alternative 2.** The owner or operator of a commercial snapper grouper unlimited permitted vessel participating in the wreckfish component of the snapper grouper fishery is responsible for ensuring that the National Marine Fisheries Service is contacted at least three hours, but no more than 24 hours, in advance of landing using a National Marine Fisheries Service approved method (other than a vessel monitoring system). When providing advance notice of landing, they must include the expected date and time, pre-approved landing location, estimated weight of wreckfish on-board the vessel, dealer where the wreckfish are to be received, shareholder, and vessel.

**APPROVED BY SUB-COMMITTEE.**

DIRECTION TO STAFF: HAVE NOAA OLE AND STATE AGENCIES PROVIDE INFORMATION ON WRECKFISH CITATIONS AND HOW OFTEN WRECKFISH VESSELS ARE INTERCEPTED AT THE DOCK.

DIRECTION TO STAFF: CONSIDER A NOTIFICATION TIME OF LESS THAN 3 HOURS IN ADVANCE AND PROVIDE MORE CLARITY ON “NMFS APPROVED METHOD” LANGUAGE. PROVIDE INFORMATION ON HOW OTHER SYSTEMS THAT INCLUDE CALL-IN TO A 24-HOUR LINE FUNCTION AND ACCOUNT FOR THINGS LIKE TECHNICAL ISSUES.

**MOTION 6:** ADD ACTION C TO AMENDMENT 48, AS MODIFIED.

**Action C. Wreckfish Individual Transferable Quota Online Shareholder Account Eligibility**

**Alternative 1 (No Action).** To be eligible to open a wreckfish individual transferable quota shareholder account, individuals must be United States citizens, permanent resident aliens, or a corporation, partnership, or other entity eligible to own and control a United States fishing vessel.

**Alternative 2.** To be eligible to open a wreckfish individual transferable quota shareholder account, individuals must be entities who are United States citizens, permanent resident aliens, or a corporation, partnership, or other entity eligible to own and control a United States fishing vessel and hold a valid or renewable commercial snapper grouper unlimited permit.

~~**Alternative 3.** To be eligible to open a wreckfish individual transferable quota shareholder account, individuals must be entities who are United States citizens, permanent resident aliens, or a corporation, partnership, or other entity eligible to own and control a United States fishing vessel and hold a valid or renewable commercial snapper grouper unlimited permit and a valid wreckfish permit.~~

**APPROVED BY SUB-COMMITTEE.**

**MOTION 7:** ADD ACTION D TO AMENDMENT 48, AS MODIFIED.

**Action D. Requirements for Obtaining and Maintaining Wreckfish Individual Transferable Quota Shares in the Online System**

**Alternative 1 (No Action).** No requirements to obtain or maintain wreckfish individual transferable quota shares in an online system.

**Alternative 2.** To obtain (transfer into a shareholder account) or maintain shares (hold existing shares in a shareholder account), all shareholder accounts must be associated with individuals who are United States citizens, permanent resident aliens, or a corporation, partnership, or other entity eligible to own and control a United States fishing vessel.

**Alternative 3.** To obtain (transfer into a shareholder account) or maintain shares (hold existing shares in a shareholder account), all shareholder accounts must be associated with entities who are United States citizens, permanent resident aliens, or a corporation, partnership, or other entity

eligible to own and control a United States fishing vessel and hold a valid or renewable commercial snapper grouper unlimited permit or the shares will be reclaimed by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). A shareholder account is associated with a permit if the permit has the exact same entities listed on both the shareholder account and permit.

~~**Alternative 4.** To obtain (transfer into a shareholder account) or maintain shares (hold existing shares in a shareholder account), all shareholder accounts must be associated with entities who are United States citizens, permanent resident aliens, or a corporation, partnership, or other entity eligible to own and control a United States fishing vessel and hold a valid or renewable commercial snapper grouper unlimited permit and hold a valid wreckfish permit or the shares will be reclaimed by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). A shareholder account is associated with a permit if the permit has the exact same entities listed on both the shareholder account and permit.~~

**APPROVED BY SUB-COMMITTEE.**

DIRECTION TO STAFF: PROVIDE INFORMATION FROM NOAA GC ON SANCTIONS AND HAVE THE IPT DISCUSS VALID VS. VALID OR RENEWABLE LANGUAGE.

**MOTION 8:** BRING ACTION E INTO THE DOCUMENT AS MODIFIED.

### **Action E. Share Divestment for Permit-Required Accounts**

**Alternative 1 (No Action).** NMFS will not reclaim shares of shareholder accounts not in compliance with the requirements to maintain shares.

**Alternative 2.** Shareholder accounts must be in compliance with the requirements to maintain shares, or NMFS will reclaim all shares in a shareholder account:

**Sub-alternative 2a.** 1 year following the effective date implementing this amendment.

**Sub-alternative 2a.** 1 year following the effective date implementing this amendment.

**Sub-alternative 2b.** 3 years following the effective date implementing this amendment.

~~**Sub-alternative 2c.** 5 years following the effective date implementing this amendment.~~

**Alternative 3.** After implementation of this amendment, if a shareholder is no longer in compliance with the requirements to maintain shares, the shareholder(s) must divest of the account's shares, or the shares will be reclaimed by NMFS:

**Sub-alternative 3a.** 1 year following the transfer or termination of the permit.

**Sub-alternative 3b.** 3 years following the transfer or termination of the permit.

~~**Sub-alternative 3c.** 5 years following the transfer or termination of the permit.~~

**APPROVED BY SUB-COMMITTEE.**

DIRECTION TO STAFF: WORK WITH IPT TO ADD LANGUAGE ON HOW DIVESTMENT WORKS IN CASE OF DEATH.

**MOTION 9: ADD ACTION F TO AMENDMENT 48**

**Action F. Redistribution of reclaimed shares to remaining shareholders.**

**Alternative 1 (No Action).** NMFS will not reclaim and redistribute shares of shareholder accounts not in compliance with the requirements to maintain shares.

**Alternative 2.** Redistribute reclaimed shares to remaining shareholders equally.

**Alternative 3.** Redistribute reclaimed shares to remaining shareholders based on the proportion of remaining shares held by each remaining shareholder.

**Alternative 4.** Redistribute reclaimed shares to remaining shareholders based on landings history.

**Sub-alternative 4a.** Proportion of total wreckfish landings over the most recent five fishing years.

**Sub-alternative 4b.** Proportion of total wreckfish landings over the most recent three fishing years.

**APPROVED BY SUB-COMMITTEE.**

**MOTION 10: ADD ACTION G TO AMENDMENT 48, AS MODIFIED**

**Action G. Wreckfish Individual Transferable Quota Requirements to Obtain Annual Allocation from Shares.**

**Alternative 1 (No Action).** To obtain annual allocation from shares, an account must hold active wreckfish individual transferable quota shares.

**Alternative 2.** To obtain annual allocation from shares, an account must hold active wreckfish individual transferable quota shares and be in good standing with respect to:

**Sub-alternative 2a.** Collection and submission of cost recovery fees.

**Sub-alternative 2b.** Wreckfish individual transferable quota reporting requirements.

~~**Sub-alternative 2c.** Commercial snapper grouper unlimited permit reporting requirements.~~

**APPROVED BY SUB-COMMITTEE.**

**DIRECTION TO STAFF: ADD AN ALTERNATIVE UNDER ACTION G TO REQUIRE AN SGI PERMIT TO OBTAIN ANNUAL ALLOCATION FROM SHARES. IPT TO DISCUSS VALID VS. VALID AND RENEWABLE.**



**MOTION 11: ADD ACTION H TO AMENDMENT 48, AS MODIFIED**

**Action H. Wreckfish Individual Transferable Quota Requirements to Obtain Annual Allocation through Transfer.**

**Alternative 1 (No Action).** Do not limit who can receive annual allocation through transfer in the online system.

**Alternative 2.** Individual transferable quota annual allocation can be transferred only to individual transferable quota accounts holding shares. Eligible accounts must be held by individuals who are United States citizens or permanent resident aliens.

**Alternative 3.** Individual transferable quota annual allocation can be transferred only to accounts with an associated valid snapper grouper unlimited permit. Eligible accounts must be associated with individuals who are United States citizens or permanent resident aliens.

~~**Alternative 4.** Individual transferable quota annual allocation can be transferred only to accounts with a valid snapper grouper unlimited permit and valid wreckfish permit. Eligible accounts must be associated with individuals who are United States citizens or permanent resident aliens.~~

**APPROVED BY SUB-COMMITTEE.**

**MOTION 12: ADD ACTION I TO AMENDMENT 48**

**Action I. Retaining Annual Allocation before a Commercial Annual Catch Limit Reduction**

**Purpose of Action:** While no stock assessment or ACL reduction is expected for wreckfish, this action would provide the Regional Administrator with the ability to withhold annual allocation in the event a reduction is required in the future.

**Alternative 1 (No Action).** Distribute 100% of the wreckfish annual allocation to individual transferable quota shareholders on January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

**Alternative 2.** Provide the Regional Administrator with the authority to withhold the amount of wreckfish annual allocation before distribution at the beginning of a year in which a commercial annual catch limit reduction is expected to occur. Withheld wreckfish annual allocation will be distributed to shareholders if the effective date of the final rule implementing the quota reduction has not occurred by:

**Sub-alternative 2a.** June 1.

**Sub-alternative 2b.** August 1.

**APPROVED BY SUB-COMMITTEE.**

**Other Business**

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Note: Council staff drafts the timing and task motion based on Sub-Committee action. If points require clarification, they will be added to the draft motion. The Sub-Committee should review this wording carefully to be sure it accurately reflects their intent prior to making the motion.

**1. Timing and Task(s)**

**MOTION 13:** ADOPT THE FOLLOWING TIMING AND TASKS:

2. Update the full Snapper Grouper Committee on decisions made during the December 2023 Council meeting.
3. Continue to develop Snapper Grouper Amendment 48 (Wreckfish) including the addition of monitoring, participation, and eligibility actions, as approved.
4. Convene the next meeting of the Wreckfish Sub-Committee via webinar prior to the March 2024 Council meeting.