



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Dr. Michelle Duval, Chair | Charlie Phillips, Vice Chair
Gregg T. Waugh, Executive Director

AGENDA **Snapper Grouper Committee**

Sawgrass Marriott
1000 PGA Tour Boulevard
Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida

Tuesday, June 13, 2017 – 2:30 to 5:30 P.M. (Times subject to change)

Wednesday, June 14, 2017 – 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

Approval of Agenda – Dr. Michelle Duval

Approval of March 2017 Committee minutes – Dr. Michelle Duval

1. Status of Commercial and Recreational Catches versus Quotas for Species under ACLs – NMFS SERO (*Attachments 1a and 1b*)
2. Status of Amendments under Formal Review – NMFS SERO
 - a) Amendment 36 (Spawning SMZs) – sent for formal review on 8/30/16
 - b) Amendment 37 (Hogfish) – sent for formal review on 9/23/16
 - c) Amendment 41 (Mutton Snapper) – sent for formal review on 2/28/17
3. Advisory Panel Report (*Attachment 2*) – Kenneth Fex
4. 2016 Southeast Reef Fish Survey (SERFS) Report (*Attachment 3*) – Dr. Marcel Reichert
5. Vision Blueprint Regulatory Amendment 26 – Recreational (*Attachments 4a and 4b*)
 - a) Overview of Decision Document – Myra Brouwer
 - b) **Committee action:** review, modify document as necessary and approve for public hearings – Dr. Michelle Duval
6. Vision Blueprint Regulatory Amendment 27 – Commercial (*Attachments 5a and 5b*)
 - a) Overview of Decision Document – Myra Brouwer
 - b) **Committee action:** review, modify document as necessary and approve for public hearings – Dr. Michelle Duval

7. Snapper Grouper Amendment 43 (Red Snapper and Recreational Reporting; *Attachments 6a – 6e*)
 - a) 2016 Red Snapper Landings and Discards – NMFS SERO
 - b) Status of the 2017 Red Snapper Fishing Season – NMFS SERO
 - c) SSC Report – Dr. Marcel Reichert
 - d) SAFMC/Snook and Game Fish Foundation Reporting App – Dr. Chip Collier
 - e) Overview of Decision Document – Dr. Chip Collier
 - f) **Committee action:** review, modify document as necessary, and provide guidance to staff – Dr. Michelle Duval

8. White Paper on Snapper Grouper For-Hire Limited Entry (*Attachments 7a and 7b*)
 - a) Review white paper – Dr. Kari MacLauchlin
 - b) **Committee action:** discuss and provide guidance to staff – Dr. Michelle Duval

9. Socio-economic Characterization/Portfolio Analysis (*Attachment 8*)
 - a) Update – Dr. Kari MacLauchlin
 - b) **Committee action:** discuss and provide guidance to staff – Dr. Michelle Duval

10. Red grouper stock status (*Attachment 9*)
 - a) Red Grouper Assessment Presentation (SEDAR 53) – NMFS SEFSC
 - b) SSC Report – Dr. Marcel Reichert
 - c) **Committee action:** discuss and provide guidance to staff – Dr. Michelle Duval

11. Golden Tilefish (*Attachment 10*)
 - a) SSC Report – Dr. Marcel Reichert
 - b) SEDAR Steering Committee Actions – John Carmichael
 - c) Background Document – Myra Brouwer
 - d) **Committee action:** discuss and provide guidance to staff including possible request of interim rule – Dr. Michelle Duval

12. ABC Control Rule Modifications (*Attachment 11*)
 - a) Background Document – John Carmichael
 - b) SSC Report – Dr. Marcel Reichert
 - c) **Committee action:** discuss and provide guidance to staff – Dr. Michelle Duval

13. Wreckfish ITQ Review
 - a) Background and Timing – Dr. Brian Chevront

Other Business – Dr. Michelle Duval

Adjourn – Dr. Michelle Duval

Committee Members

Michelle Duval, Chair
Jessica McCawley, Vice Chair
Anna Beckwith
Mel Bell
Zack Bowen
Chester Brewer
Mark Brown
Chris Conklin
Roy Crabtree
Tim Griner
Ben Hartig
Doug Haymans
Charlie Phillips
Mid-Atlantic Liaison, Tony DiLernia/Dewey Hemilright

Attachments

Scientific and Statistical Committee Summary Report (May 2017)
Attachment 1a: Status of commercial catches vs. ACLs
Attachment 1b: Status of recreational catches vs. ACLs
Attachment 2: April 2017 Advisory Panel Meeting Summary Report
Attachment 3: SERFS Presentation
Attachment 4a: Vision Blueprint Regulatory Amendment 26 Decision Document
Attachment 4b: Draft Vision Blueprint Regulatory Amendment 26
Attachment 5a: Vision Blueprint Regulatory Amendment 27 Decision Document
Attachment 5b: Draft Vision Blueprint Regulatory Amendment 27
Attachment 6a: 2016 Red Snapper Landings and Discards
Attachment 6b: Presentation on Red Snapper 2017 Season
Attachment 6c: Reporting App Presentation
Attachment 6d: Amendment 43 Options Paper
Attachment 6e: Index-Based Approach for Experimental Red Snapper Quota
Attachment 7a: White Paper on For-Hire Limited Entry for the Snapper Grouper Fishery
Attachment 7b: For-Hire Limited Entry Presentation
Attachment 8: Socio Economic Characterization/Portfolio Analysis Outline with AP Input
Attachment 9: Red Grouper Assessment (SEDAR 53) Presentation
Attachment 10: Background Document of Golden Tilefish
Attachment 11: Background Document on ABC Control Rule Modifications

Staff: Myra Brouwer

OVERVIEW

Snapper Grouper Committee

The Committee will approve of minutes from March 2017 meeting and agenda.

1. Status of Commercial and Recreational Catches versus Quotas for Species under ACLs – (*Attachments 1a and 1b*)

Description: NMFS Southeast Regional Office (SERO) staff will update the Committee on the status of commercial and recreational landings of snapper grouper species and species complexes versus their respective ACLs. The update on recreational landings will be finalized prior to the meeting but is not included in the Briefing Book.

Required Committee Action: None.

2. Status of Amendments under Formal Review

Description: NMFS SERO staff will update the Committee on the status of three amendments submitted for formal review.

Required Committee Action: None.

3. April 2017 Advisory Panel Meeting Summary Report (*Attachment 2*)

Description: The Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel (AP) met in Charleston, SC on April 17-19, 2017. The AP Chair, Mr. Kenneth Fex, will deliver the APs recommendations on developing amendments to the Snapper Grouper FMP and other items related to the management of the fishery. Council staff will provide a brief overview of the Red Grouper Fishery Performance Report (attached to the AP's summary report).

Required Committee Action: Consider the AP's recommendations as appropriate and provide guidance to staff.

4. 2016 Southeast Reef Fish Survey (SERFS) Report (*Attachment 3*)

Description: Dr. Marcel Reichert (SCDNR) will deliver a presentation summarizing trends in abundance of snapper grouper species sampled through the SERFS in 2016.

Required Committee Action: None.

5. Vision Blueprint Regulatory Amendment 26 (Recreational) (*Attachments 4a and 4b*)

Description: Council staff will facilitate discussion of each action in the amendment using a Decision Document (*Attachment 4a*). Staff will present preliminary analyses in addition to any Interdisciplinary Planning Team (IPT) and Snapper Grouper AP recommendations.

Status of amendment: The Committee reviewed scoping comments and provided guidance during the March 2017 meeting on the actions to be included in the amendment and the range of alternatives for analysis. The amendment is scheduled to be approved for public hearings at this meeting. The Council would review public input at the September 2017 meetings with final approval expected in December 2017 or March 2018.

Required Committee Action: Discuss and modify the document as necessary. Approve for public hearings in August 2017.

- 6. Vision Blueprint Regulatory Amendment 27 (Commercial) (*Attachments 5a and 5b*)**
Description: Council staff will facilitate discussion of each action in the amendment using a Decision Document (*Attachment 5a*) and present preliminary analyses in addition to any Interdisciplinary Planning Team (IPT) and Snapper Grouper AP recommendations.
Status of amendment: The Committee reviewed scoping comments and provided guidance during the March 2017 meeting on the actions to be included in the amendment and the range of alternatives for analysis. The amendment is scheduled to be approved for public hearings at this meeting. The Council would review public input at the September 2017 meetings with final approval expected in December 2017 or March 2018.
Required Committee Action: Discuss and modify the document as necessary. Approve for public hearings in August 2017.
- 7. Snapper Grouper Amendment 43 (Red Snapper and Recreational Reporting) (*Attachments 6a – 6e*)**
Description: NMFS SERO staff will present the 2016 estimates of discards of red snapper and, adhering to the approach approved through Amendment 28, inform the Committee whether limited harvest of red snapper in 2017 will be allowed (*Attachments 6a and 6b*). Dr. Marcel Reichert will deliver the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC)'s recommendations regarding the determination of an Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) for red snapper and any other recommendations. Council staff will update the Committee on progress to date on development of a reporting application (app) for the private recreational sector (*Attachment 6c*). The project is being developed through the Snook and Gamefish Foundation in cooperation with the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program. Council staff will facilitate discussion of the actions and alternatives in Amendment 43 using a Options Paper (*Attachment 6d*) and present preliminary analyses in addition to any Interdisciplinary Planning Team (IPT) and Snapper Grouper AP recommendations. Finally, Council staff will review a white paper for an index-based approach for an experimental quota for red snapper (*Attachment 6e*) to develop methods to possibly allow limited harvest while modifying the effort/catch in subsequent years based on the trend in an index.
Status of Amendment: The Committee reviewed scoping comments and provided guidance during the March 2017 meeting on the actions to be included in the amendment and the range of alternatives for analysis.
Required Committee Action: Discuss and modify the document as necessary.
- 8. White Paper on Snapper Grouper For-Hire Limited Entry (*Attachments 7a and 7b*)**
Description: During the December 2016 meeting, the Council requested that a white paper be developed to better inform further discussion on possible development of a limited-entry program for the for-hire component of the snapper grouper fishery. A white paper (*Attachment 7a*) was developed and presented (*Attachment 7b*) to the Committee during the March 2017 meeting. Due to time constraints, the Committee had limited discussion of the topic and decided to revisit the discussion in June. *Attachments 7a* and *7b* have been updated to include the recommendations from the Snapper Grouper AP and to provide information about tourism and for-hire permits by county.
Required Committee Action: Discuss and provide guidance to staff.

9. Snapper Grouper Fishery Socio-economic Characterization/Portfolio Analysis (Attachment 8)

Description: During discussion of the Vision Blueprint Commercial Regulatory Amendment 27 at the March 2017 Council meeting, the Committee instructed staff to continue work on the portfolio analysis and socio-economic characterization of the snapper grouper commercial fishery to explore management approaches for “traditional bandit boats” in the future. The Snapper Grouper AP had suggested the analysis at a recent meeting. Council staff will present a draft outline of the characterization along with recommendations from the AP.

Required Committee Action: Discuss and provide guidance to staff.

10. Red grouper stock status (Attachment 9)

Description: NMFS staff will present results of the red grouper standard assessment that was completed in February 2017 with data through 2015 (SEDAR 53 2017). The SSC reviewed the assessment at their May 2017 meeting and deemed the assessment suitable for management. The red grouper stock in the South Atlantic is undergoing overfishing and is overfished. The Council can expect to receive a letter from the agency notifying them of the status of the red grouper stock and requesting that a rebuilding plan be put in place within two years of the notification. The existing rebuilding plan is no longer expected to result in rebuilding to B_{MSY} within the specified timeframe. Dr. Marcel Reichert will present the SSC’s recommendations regarding the assessment update.

Required Committee Action: Discuss and provide guidance to staff.

11. Golden Tilefish (Attachment 10)

Description: The status of the South Atlantic golden tilefish stock was updated in 2016 with data through 2014 (SEDAR 25 2016 Update). The assessment indicated the golden tilefish stock is undergoing overfishing but is not overfished. The Council received the results of the assessment at their June 2016 and made further requests to the SSC and Science Center for more information and revised projections. The SSC discussed the golden tilefish assessment at their October 2016 and May 2017 meetings. Dr. Marcel Reichert will present the SSC’s latest recommendations pertaining to golden tilefish. Council staff will update the Committee on the most recent SEDAR Steering Committee actions and present a background document on discussions to date.

Required Committee Action: Discuss and provide guidance to staff. Consider requesting a temporary rule to end overfishing of golden tilefish while an amendment is developed to put in place long-term management measures.

12. ABC Control Rule Modifications (Attachment 11)

Description: The Council and SSC have held numerous discussions on ABC control rule revisions over the last several years. In December 2016 the Council included control rule modifications in amendments for Dolphin Wahoo (DW 10) and Golden Tilefish (SG 45). Although other priorities took precedence in March 2017, work continued on developing control rule modifications.

Required Committee Action: Provide guidance on control rule modifications and implementation.

13. Wreckfish ITQ Review

Description: In May 2016 the NMFS issued draft guidance intended to ensure the reviews of Catch Share Programs are comprehensive, conducted in a coordinated and transparent fashion, and meet the statutory requirements. The Wreckfish Individual Transferable Quota (ITQ) Program is the only program implemented in the South Atlantic that would need to undergo review under the current guidance. Council staff will brief the Committee on requirements to complete review and discuss potential timing.

Required Committee Action: Provide direction to staff to begin formally the development of the Wreckfish ITQ Review.

Other Business