

Final Summary Report Snapper Grouper Committee

Doubletree Grand Key Resort
3990 S. Roosevelt Boulevard
Key West, FL

June 2015

The Snapper Grouper Committee met on June 9 & 10, 2015, in Key West, Florida.

Status of landings for quota-managed snapper grouper species

Dr. Jack McGovern, SERO, presented an overview of commercial landings of snapper grouper species through June 3, 2015. Dr. Nick Farmer presented an overview of recreational landings through Wave 1 of 2015 (January-February) including headboat landings. Dr. Farmer reminded the Committee that in-season accountability measures for the recreational sector would become effective once Amendment 34 (Generic AMs Amendment) is implemented.

Status of amendments approved for Secretarial Review

- Amendment 29 (ORCS) – Approved and regulations effective on July 1, 2015.
- Amendment 32 ER Request – Under review.
- Regulatory Amendment 20 (Snowy) – Final Rule package under review at SERO.
- Regulatory Amendment 22 (Gag & Wreckfish) -- Proposed Rule published on June 4. Comment period until July 6, 2015.
- Am 33/34 (fillets/AMs) – Proposed Rule packages under review at SERO.

Red Snapper 2015 Season

Dr. Nick Farmer, SERO staff, presented estimates of total removals for red snapper in 2014. Dr. Farmer went over the approach approved and implemented through Amendment 28 that is currently used to determine whether harvest of red snapper can be allowed in a given year. Because total removals in 2014 exceeded the projected Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) for 2014, harvest of red snapper in 2015 will not be allowed. The National Marine Fisheries Service will continue to monitor removals and apply the Amendment 28 formula to the 2015 removals estimates to determine whether harvest in 2016 would be allowed. Dr. Farmer stated that the release mortality estimates are those used in the SEDAR 24 stock assessment and those estimates are tied to depth. Dr. Farmer explained that even if release mortality estimates were much lower, total red snapper removals would still be too high to allow any harvest in 2015.

Council staff presented a suggested approach to allow limited harvest of red snapper:

- A. Set a fixed opening for 2016 with a 1 fish/person/trip bag limit – open May/June or July/August or 1 month (May, June, July or August); staff/SERO/SEFSC to conduct analyses to determine which time period approximates the ACL.
- B. Request fishermen to limit discards by voluntarily staying away from red snapper as much as they can; recommend areas to avoid.
- C. Request fishermen to voluntarily avoid highgrading.

- D. Request fishermen voluntarily stop fishing for red snapper after they catch their first red snapper and only retain the first red snapper they catch; put rod down after catching 1st red snapper.
- E. The actual mortality from 2016 would be compared with the 2016 ABC (and the new ABC from the new stock assessment) and the ABC for 2017 to determine the length of the 2017 season.
- F. If fishermen cooperate, they increase the chance that they will have another (and future) opening under a 1 fish bag limit. So the benefit from their voluntary cooperation may be a fixed open season.
- G. Request that fishermen voluntarily use descending devices.

MOTION: DIRECT STAFF TO EXPLORE SUGGESTED APPROACH AND DISCUSS IN SEPTEMBER 2015.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel (AP) report

Mr. Jim Atack, chairman of the Snapper Grouper AP, briefed the Committee on recommendations from the April 2015 AP meeting.

Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) report

Dr. Luiz Barberi, SSC chair, gave a brief presentation focused on those items of a decisional nature. Regarding blueline tilefish, Dr. Barbieri indicated that the SSC does not consider the current projections to represent Best Scientific Information Available (BSIA). The SSC recommended that the projections be re-done including 2014 landings and provide an OFL estimate based on $P^*=50\%$ and ABC estimates based on fishing at $P^*=30\%$. The SSC also recommends conducting projections using varying recruitment levels, similar to the scenarios recently provided for king mackerel, to address uncertainty in recent productivity trends. Dr. Barbieri also briefed the Committee on the mutton snapper stock assessment and the projections that were conducted for the East Florida/Florida Keys stock of hogfish.

Southeast Reef Fish Survey presentation

Presentation to be provided to the Committee at the September 2015 meeting.

MRIP “Rare Event” Sampling Presentation

Dr. David VanVorhees gave a presentation on various approaches that could be used in the South Atlantic to improve recreational catch estimates for “rare event” species. Such approaches included increasing sample size in the intercept survey, adjusting weighting of sample units, stratification (e.g., creation of a deepwater stratum), specialized survey design, multi-year ACLs, and small domain estimation. The Committee requested that some of these approaches be explored further to determine whether they could be implemented in the South Atlantic region (see Timing and Tasks).

Regulatory Amendment 16 (black sea bass pot closure)

The Committee made the following motions:

MOTION: ACCEPT THE IPT'S RECOMMENDED LANGUAGE FOR THE PURPOSE AND NEED.

The *purpose* of Regulatory Amendment 16 is to reduce the scope of the annual November 1 through April 30 prohibition on the use of black sea bass pot gear and enhance buoy line/weak link gear requirements and buoy line rope marking for black sea bass pots required by the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan.

The *need* for the amendment is to reduce the adverse socioeconomic impacts to black sea bass pot endorsement holders created by the annual November 1 through April 30 prohibition on the use of black sea bass pot gear and to increase the flexibility of black sea bass pot endorsement holders to fish with this gear while continuing to afford protection to ESA-listed whales in the South Atlantic region. In addition, the need is to reduce the adverse effects on whales if entangled and to help identify black sea bass pot lines used in the South Atlantic.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: CHANGE THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE FOR ACTION 1 TO ALTERNATIVE 8, SUB-ALTERNATIVE 8A AND CHANGE THE CLOSURE PERIOD TO NOV 1 – APR 30.

Action 1. *Modify the annual November 1 through April 30 prohibition on the use of black sea bass pot gear*

Alternative 8. The black sea bass pot closure applies to waters inshore of points 1-35 listed below (Table 2.1.6); approximately Daytona Beach, Florida, to Cape Hatteras, North Carolina (Figure 2.1.7).

Sub-alternative 8a. The black sea bass pot closure applies to the area annually from November 1 through April 15.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION FAILS (5 FAVOR/7 OPPOSED)

MOTION: ADD ALTERNATIVES 11 AND 12 TO REGULATORY AMENDMENT 16 FOR ANALYSIS

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: DE-SELECT ALTERNATIVE 9/9A AS PREFERRED AND SELECT ALTERNATIVE 12 AS PREFERRED UNDER ACTION 1

MOTION FAILS

MOTION: DE-SELECT ALTERNATIVE 9/9A AS PREFERRED UNDER ACTION 1
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: ACCEPT IPT'S RECOMMENDED WORDING CHANGES FOR ACTION 2.

Action 2. Enhance the existing *Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan (ALWTRP)* buoy line/weak link gear requirements and buoy line rope marking for black sea bass pots

Alternative 1 (No Action). Commercial fishermen will continue to fish in compliance with existing buoy line and weak link gear requirements for black sea bass pots as required by the ALWTRP.

Alternative 2. Modify the current ALWTRP buoy line requirements.

Sub-alternative 2a: From November 1 through April 30, the breaking strength must not exceed 2,200 lbs in federal waters in the South Atlantic EEZ.

Sub-alternative 2b: From November 1 through April 30, the breaking line strength must not exceed 1,200 lbs in federal waters in the South Atlantic EEZ.

Note: While the buoy line breaking strength would be modified by **Alternative 2**, it would only be required for November 1 through April 30. Fishermen could decide whether they would want to use the same buoy line from May 1 through October 31.

Alternative 3. Modify the current ALWTRP weak link requirements. From November 1 to April 30, the breaking strength of the weak links must not exceed 400 lbs for black sea bass pots in the South Atlantic EEZ.

Note: While the weak link breaking strength would be modified by **Alternative 3**, it would only be required for November 1 through April 30. Fishermen could decide whether they would want to use the same weak link strength from May 1 through October 31.

Alternative 4. Modify the current ALWTRP gear marking requirements. In addition to the Plan's rope marking requirements, include a feature specifically distinguishing the commercial South Atlantic black sea bass pot component of the snapper grouper fishery. In addition to the currently required three 12-inch color marks at the top, midway, and bottom sections of the buoy line specified for the individual management area in which the gear is deployed as required by the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan, an additional 12-inch wide colored band must be added at the end of each required 12-inch colored mark. Each of the three marks would be a total of 24 inches in length. The additional gear marking requirements of this action are required in federal waters from November 15 through April 15 (Southeast Restricted Area North), September 1 through May 31 (Offshore Trap/Pot Area), and September 1 through May 31 (Southern Nearshore Trap/Pot Waters Area).

Note: While the additional buoy line marking requirements would be modified by **Alternative 4**, the additional markings would only be required for November 1 through April 30. Fishermen could decide whether they would want to use the same line markings from May 1 through October 31.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: USE PURPLE AS THE COLOR FOR BLACK SEA BASS POT MARKING IN ADDITION TO THAT ALREADY REQUIRED UNDER THE ALWTRP.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 2, SUB-ALTERNATIVE 2A AS A PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE UNDER ACTION 2.

Action 2. Enhance the existing Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan (ALWTRP) buoy line/weak link gear requirements and buoy line rope marking for black sea bass pots

Alternative 2. Modify the current ALWTRP buoy line requirements.

Sub-alternative 2a: From November 1 through April 30, the breaking strength must not exceed 2,200 lbs in federal waters in the South Atlantic EEZ.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: SELECT ALTERNATIVES 3 AND 4 OF ACTION 2 AS PREFERRED ALTERNATIVES.

Action 2. Enhance the existing Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan (ALWTRP) buoy line/weak link gear requirements and buoy line rope marking for black sea bass pots

Alternative 3. Modify the current ALWTRP weak link requirements. From November 1 to April 30, the breaking strength of the weak links must not exceed 400 lbs for black sea bass pots in the South Atlantic EEZ.

Note: While the weak link breaking strength would be modified by **Alternative 3**, it would only be required for November 1 through April 30. Fishermen could decide whether they would want to use the same weak link strength from May 1 through October 31.

Alternative 4. Modify the current ALWTRP gear marking requirements. In addition to the Plan's rope marking requirements, include a feature specifically distinguishing the commercial South Atlantic black sea bass pot component of the snapper grouper fishery. In addition to the currently required three 12-inch color marks at the top, midway, and bottom sections of the buoy line specified for the individual management area in which the gear is deployed as required by the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan, an additional 12-inch wide colored band must be added at the end of each required 12-inch colored mark. Each of the three marks would be a total of 24 inches in length. The additional gear marking requirements of this action are required in federal waters from November 15 through April 15 (Southeast Restricted Area North), September 1 through May 31 (Offshore Trap/Pot Area), and September 1 through May 31 (Southern Nearshore Trap/Pot Waters Area).

Note: While the additional buoy line marking requirements would be modified by **Alternative 4**, the additional markings would only be required for November 1 through April 30. Fishermen could decide whether they would want to use the same line markings from May 1 through October 31.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO SEND REGULATORY AMENDMENT 16 OUT FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Amendment 36 (Spawning SMZs)

MOTION: REMOVE SUB-ALTERNATIVE 3A FROM ACTION 3

Action 3. Establish new Spawning Special Management Zones (Spawning SMZs) off North Carolina

Sub-alternative 3a. 780 Bottom (12 square miles)

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: ADD NEW ALTERNATIVES 4 AND 5 TO ACTION 3

Action 3. Establish new Spawning Special Management Zones (Spawning SMZs) off North Carolina

Alternative 4. Area north of 780 bottom

Alternative 5. South Cape Lookout site (3-5 miles)

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: ADD A NEW SUBALTERNATIVE TO ACTION 4 FOR AN AREA SOUTH OF THE NORTHERN SC MPA OF SUFFICIENT SIZE TO ENCOMPASS THE POINT OBSERVATIONS FOR OBSERVATIONS/SPAWNING (4 MILES BY 2 MILES OR 3 BY 2)

Action 4. Establish new Spawning Special Management Zones (Spawning SMZs) off South Carolina

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: ADD NEW SUB-ALTERNATIVE 2E TO ACTION 4

Action 4. Establish new Spawning Special Management Zones (Spawning SMZs) off South Carolina

Sub-Alternative 2e. Devil's Hole (15.2 square miles)

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: REMOVE SUB-ALTERNATIVES 2A-2C AND 3A AND ADD NEW SUB-ALTERNATIVE 3D TO ACTION 5

Action 5. Establish new Spawning Special Management Zones (Spawning SMZs) off Georgia

~~**Sub-alternative 2a.** Georgia MPA Reconfiguration (71.5 square miles)~~

~~**Sub-alternative 2b.** Georgia MPA Reconfiguration (52 square miles)~~

~~**Sub-alternative 2c.** Georgia MPA Reconfiguration (18 square miles)~~

~~**Sub-alternative 3a.** St. Simons 2 Area (23.5 square miles)~~

~~**Sub-alternative 3d.** St. Simons 2 Area (2 x 2 miles)~~

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: ADD NEW SUB-ALTERNATIVE 2C TO ACTION 6

Action 6. Establish new Spawning Special Management Zones (Spawning SMZs) off Florida

Sub-alternative 2c. Warsaw Hole (4 square miles)

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: MOVE THE 1 AND 2 SQUARE MILE AREAS TO HAVE THE WARSAW HOLE IN THE MIDDLE OF THOSE BOXES

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: REMOVE SUB-ALTERNATIVE 3A FROM ACTION 6

Action 6. Establish new Spawning Special Management Zones (Spawning SMZs) off Florida

Sub-alternative 3a. Daytona Steeples (27 square miles)

MOTION FAILS

DIRECTION TO STAFF: ANALYZE 27 SQ MI AREA TO FIND THE SMALLER AREA THAT NEEDS PROTECTION

MOTION: DIRECT STAFF TO ADD NEW ACTION 9 TO PUT A SUNSET CLAUSE ON ANY NEW NATURAL BOTTOM DESIGNATED AS AN SMZ.

SITES MUST BE MONITORED AND EVALUATED THROUGH ONGOING WORK OUTLINED IN THE SAFMC SMP. SMZ DESIGNATION WOULD BE REMOVED IF NO PROOF OF SPAWNING (EGGS, LARVAE, GRAVID FEMALES, ETC.) SG SPECIES IS FOUND WITHIN:

3 AND/OR 5 YEAR REVIEW

10 YEAR SUNSET UNLESS COUNCIL TAKES ACTION TO CONTINUE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

****LOOK AT PRIORITY SPECIES AND NOT EVERY RED PORGY (STAFF TO DEVELOP WORDING)****

MOTION: APPROVE THE PROPOSED CHANGE TO TIMING AND APPROVE AMENDMENT 36 FOR THE SECOND ROUND OF PUBLIC HEARINGS.

Proposed Change to Timing:

- September 2015 meeting – review 2nd round of public hearing comments and revised Amendment 36. Review the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) comments as available. Modify as necessary and approve all actions.
- December 2015 meeting – review all DEIS comments and completed Amendment 36. Modify as necessary and approve for formal review.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Amendment 38 (blueline tilefish)

The Committee did not review the Decision Document due to timing constraints. The Council discussed waiting to direct staff to develop the amendment pending results of the new projections. Discussion will ensue in September 2015.

Amendment 35 (removal of species and golden tilefish endorsements)

MOTION: APPROVE AMENDMENT 35 FOR SECRETARIAL REVIEW AND DEEM THE CODIFIED TEXT AS NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE. GIVE STAFF EDITORIAL LICENSE TO MAKE NECESSARY CHANGES TO THE DOCUMENT.
APPROVED BY COUNCIL (1 OPPOSED)

Amendment 37 (hogfish)

The Committee made the following motions:

MOTION: APPROVE THE PURPOSE AND NEED AS MODIFIED:

The *purpose* of this amendment is to modify the management unit for hogfish, specify fishing levels based on Scientific and Statistical Committee recommendations for the Georgia-North Carolina (GA-NC) and Florida Keys/East Florida (FLK/EFL) stocks of hogfish, and modify or establish management measures. For the FLK/EFL stock of hogfish, ~~partially delegate management to the state of Florida~~ and establish a rebuilding plan to increase hogfish biomass to sustainable levels within a specified time period based on results of the recent stock assessment conducted with data through 2012.

The *need* for this amendment is to align the management boundaries for hogfish with the best available science (i.e., genetic information), ~~allow for the determination of the best solutions for fisheries management issues that are unique to south Florida,~~ and end overfishing and rebuild the FLK/EFL stock of hogfish while minimizing, to the extent practicable, adverse social and economic effects.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: APPROVE INCLUSION OF OVERFISHING DEFINITION LANGUAGE IN AMENDMENT 37 WITH APPROPRIATE MODIFICATIONS TO APPLY TO THE FLK/EFL HOGFISH STOCK AND ALL ASSESSED SNAPPER GROUPER SPECIES FOR WHICH THIS LANGUAGE HAS NOT YET BEEN ADOPTED.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: APPROVE THE MODIFIED LANGUAGE AND TWO-ALTERNATIVE STRUCTURE UNDER ACTION 1:

Action 1. Modify the Fishery Management Unit for hogfish

Alternative 1 (No action). There is a Gulf stock and South Atlantic stock of hogfish separated at the jurisdictional boundary between the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council:

The boundary coincides with the line of demarcation between the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico, which begins at the intersection of the outer boundary of the EEZ, as specified in the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and 83°00' W. long., proceeds northward along that meridian to 24°35' N. lat., (near the Dry Tortugas Islands), thence eastward along that parallel, through Rebecca Shoal and the Quicksand Shoal, to the Marquesas Keys, and then through the Florida Keys to the mainland at the eastern end of Florida Bay, the line so running that the narrow waters within

the Dry Tortugas Islands, the Marquesas Keys and the Florida Keys, and between the Florida Keys and the mainland, are within the Gulf of Mexico.

Alternative 2. Modify the FMU to specify two separate stocks of hogfish: (1) a Georgia through North Carolina (GA-NC) stock from the Georgia/Florida state boundary to the North Carolina/Virginia state boundary, and (2) a Florida Keys/East Florida stock from the Florida/Georgia state boundary south to:

Sub-alternative 2a. The South Atlantic/Gulf of Mexico Council boundary.

Sub-alternative 2b. The Monroe/Collier County line.

Sub-alternative 2c. Shark Point on Florida's southwest coast.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: USE SHARK POINT AS THE BOUNDARY LINE BETWEEN THE WEST FLORIDA SHELF HOGFISH STOCK AND THE KEYS/SOUTH FLORIDA HOGFISH STOCK. SHARK POINT IS SPECIFIED AT 25 DEGREES 23 MINUTES NORTH LATITUDE ON THE WEST COAST OF FLORIDA.

APPROVED BY GMFMC

APPROVED BY SAFMC

MOTION: MOVE ACTION 2 TO THE CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED APPENDIX.

Action 2. Partial delegation of commercial and/or recreational management of ~~Florida~~ the Florida Keys/East Florida hogfish stock to the state of Florida in federal waters adjacent to the State of Florida

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: APPROVE THE RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES UNDER ACTION 3 FOR DETAILED ANALYSIS.

Action 3. Specify Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) for hogfish

GUIDANCE TO MODIFY TITLE OF ACTION TO SPECIFY MSY FOR TWO STOCKS AND STRUCTURE ALT 2 WITH SUB-ALTERNATIVES*

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: APPROVE THE RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES UNDER ACTION 4 FOR DETAILED ANALYSIS.

Action 4. Specify Minimum Stock Size Threshold (MSST) for hogfish

GUIDANCE TO MODIFY TITLE OF ACTION TO SPECIFY MSST FOR TWO STOCKS AND STRUCTURE ALTS WITH SUB-ALTERNATIVES*

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: APPROVE THE MODIFIED WORDING OF ACTION 5 AND ALTERNATIVE 2 AND THE RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES UNDER ACTION 5 FOR DETAILED ANALYSIS AND SPECIFY THE RECREATIONAL ACL IN NUMBERS OF FISH.

Action 5. Establish ~~Acceptable Biological Catch and~~ Annual Catch Limits (ACLs) for Atlantic the GA-NC and Florida Keys/East Florida stock of hogfish

Alternative 1 (No action). Maintain the current commercial and recreational ACLs for hogfish (FL to NC) based on the South Atlantic Council's Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan that applies to the stock of hogfish throughout the South Atlantic Council's jurisdiction. The current ABC for the entire stock of hogfish is 137,824 lbs ww and ACL = OY = ABC. The commercial ACL = 49,469 lbs ww (36.69%) and the recreational ACL = 85,355 lbs ww (63.31%).

Alternative 2. Establish an ACL for the GA-NC stock. Specify commercial and recreational ACLs using re-calculated sector allocations based on proposed modifications to the management unit (81.91% commercial and 18.09% recreational).

Sub-alternative 2a. GA-NC ACL = GA-NC OY = GA-NC ABC = 28,161 lbs ww.

Commercial ACL = 23,066 lbs ww. Recreational ACL = 5,094 lbs ww.

Sub-alternative 2b. GA-NC ACL = GA-NC OY = 95% GA-NC ABC = 26,753 lbs ww.

Commercial ACL = 21,913 lbs ww. Recreational ACL = 4,839 lbs ww.

Sub-alternative 2c. GA-NC ACL = GA-NC OY = 90% GA-NC ABC = 25,345 lbs ww.

Commercial ACL = 20,760 lbs ww. Recreational ACL = 4,585 lbs ww.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: APPROVE THE RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES UNDER ACTION 6 FOR DETAILED ANALYSIS.

Action 6. Establish a rebuilding plan and Acceptable Biological Catch for the Florida Keys/East Florida stock of hogfish

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: APPROVE THE RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES UNDER ACTION 7 FOR DETAILED ANALYSIS AND SPECIFY THE RECREATIONAL ACL IN NUMBERS OF FISH.

Action 7. Establish Annual Catch Limits (ACLs) for the Florida Keys/East Florida stock of hogfish

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: APPROVE THE RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES UNDER ACTION 8 FOR DETAILED ANALYSIS AND SPECIFY THE RECREATIONAL ACT IN NUMBERS OF FISH.

Action 8. Modify the recreational Annual Catch Target (ACT) for hogfish

****GUIDANCE TO REVISE TITLES OF ACTIONS TO SPECIFY TWO STOCKS OF HOGFISH****

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: APPROVE THE RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES UNDER ACTION 9 FOR DETAILED ANALYSIS AND ADD SUB-ALTERNATIVES UNDER ALTS 2 AND 3 TO INCLUDE SIZE LIMITS UP TO 20 INCHES.

Action 9. Modify the minimum size limit for hogfish for the commercial and recreational sectors

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: APPROVE THE MODIFIED RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES UNDER ACTION 9 FOR DETAILED ANALYSIS.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: ADD AN ALTERNATIVE SIMILAR TO SUB-ALTERNATIVE 3G TO ALTERNATIVE 2.

Sub-alternative 3g. Increase the minimum size limit from 12” to **X**” in year 1, to **Y**” in year 2, and to **Z**” in year 3.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: ANALYZE TRIP LIMIT ALTERNATIVES OF 250, 500, 750, AND 1,000 POUNDS FOR THE GA-NC STOCK

Action 10. Establish a commercial trip limit for hogfish

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: ANALYZE TRIP LIMIT ALTERNATIVES OF 50, 100, 150 AND 200 POUNDS FOR THE EFL/FLK STOCK

Action 10. Establish a commercial trip limit for hogfish

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION: RECONSIDER MOTION TO ANALYZE TRIP LIMIT ALTERNATIVES OF 50, 100, 150 AND 200 POUNDS FOR THE EFL/FLK STOCK

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION: ANALYZE TRIP LIMIT ALTERNATIVES OF 25, 50, 100, 150 AND 200 POUNDS FOR THE EFL/FLK STOCK

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: ADD A SUB-ALTERNATIVE TO ALTERNATIVE 2 TO EXAMINE A SIMILAR COMMERCIAL TRIP LIMIT OPTION TO THAT CURRENTLY IN PLACE IN NORTH CAROLINA (150 POUNDS FOR FIRST DAY AND 100 POUNDS EACH DAY THEREAFTER UP TO A MAX OF 750 POUNDS PER TRIP)

MOTION FAILS

MOTION: APPROVE THE RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES UNDER ACTION 11 FOR DETAILED ANALYSIS.

Action 11. Modify the recreational bag limits for hogfish

** DIRECTION TO STAFF TO INCLUDE GEAR-SPECIFIC ANALYSIS**

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: INCLUDE SUB-ALTERNATIVES UNDER ALTERNATIVES 2 AND 3 TO EXAMINE A BAG LIMIT OF 1 FISH PER PERSON PER DAY

Action 11. Modify the recreational bag limits for hogfish

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

****DIRECTION TO STAFF TO ADD ACTIONS TO ESTABLISH ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES FOR EACH STOCK THAT MIRROR THOSE ESTABLISHED IN THE GENERIC AMs AMENDMENT***

MOTION: APPROVE AMENDMENT 37 FOR SCOPING.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Regulatory Amendment 23 (golden tilefish)

Work on the amendment will not continue as currently structured. The Council opted to include the action addressing the fishing year for the hook-and-line component of the golden tilefish fishery in a regulatory amendment along with two actions initially contained in Regulatory Amendment 24: modification of the bag limit for black sea bass and implementation of a commercial trip limit for the Jacks Complex.

Regulatory Amendment 24 (multiple species)

Original actions contained in the amendment will be addressed at a later date pending further work on the Visioning Project. Two actions (see above) were selected to be included in a regulatory amendment. Regarding mutton snapper, the Council made the following motions:

MOTION: DIRECT STAFF TO INITIATE A PLAN AMENDMENT TO REVISE BIOLOGICAL BENCHMARKS, FISHING LEVELS, AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR MUTTON SNAPPER.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Timing & Tasks

MOTION: APPROVE THE FOLLOWING TASK AND TIMING ITEMS:

- Staff from the SEFSC, SERO, and Council examine how suggested approaches to monitor recreational landings of rarely encountered species would work for deepwater species in the South Atlantic (blueline tilefish, golden tilefish, snowy grouper, and wreckfish). Also provide information on cost of implementing new approaches.
- Send a letter to SEFSC requesting new projections for blueline tilefish.
- Prepare Amendment 37 for scoping
- Conduct public hearings for Regulatory Amendment 16
- Conduct public hearings for Amendment 36
- Finalize Amendment 35 and submit for formal review
- Retain actions to revise bag limit for black sea bass, implement a commercial trip limit for the Jacks Complex, and change the fishing year for the hook and line component of the golden tilefish fishery in a regulatory amendment
- Initiate amendment for mutton snapper

APPROVED BY COUNCIL