

# Final Summary Report

## Snapper Grouper Committee

Sawgrass Marriott  
1000 PGA Tour Boulevard  
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL  
June 2014

The Snapper Grouper Committee met on June 10 & 11, 2014, in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida.

### **Status of landings for quota-managed snapper grouper species**

The Committee received an update from Dr. Jack McGovern on the status of commercial landings for snapper grouper species under ACLs. In addition, Dr. Ponwith gave a presentation to explain the recent overage of the longline portion of the commercial golden tilefish ACL, which was exceeded by 33%. Dr. Ponwith stated that a few factors contributed to the overage, including the inability of the current quota monitoring system to track landings by vessel permit, issues with treatment of dates from the BlueFin data, and late dealer reporting. Dr. Ponwith indicated that the new dealer requirements that will be implemented in August 2014 will improve the ability to track landings. Additionally, there will be improvements in gear identification and vessel identification for tracking landings. A suggestion was made to incorporate a way to ensure the correct and complete information is submitted by dealers when the new electronic reporting requirements are implemented: use a code similar to what is used for online credit card transactions that would prevent the report from being submitted unless all of the fields are filled in.

Dr. Nick Farmer presented the Committee with an overview of recreational landings. Dr. Farmer began by clarifying why recreational landings reported via MRIP differ from those on the SERO website:

- For some species that were assessed using MRFSS estimates, recreational landings based on MRFSS are used to compare to the ACL.
- There are inconsistencies with inclusion of Monroe County landings.
- Recreational estimates provided by SERO include headboat data, whereas MRIP estimates do not.
- SERO uses a different weight standardization methodology than MRIP.

Dr. Farmer indicated that recreational landings estimates for 2013 have been finalized.

Dr. Farmer noted that frequent overages of some of the recreational ACLs (i.e., snowy grouper, golden tilefish) are due in part to the fact that some states continue to allow recreational harvest in state waters after a closure of harvest in Federal waters.

### **Status of Amendments Approved for Secretarial Review**

The Committee received a status report from Dr. McGovern on the following amendments:

- Regulatory Amendment 14 – The Proposed Rule published on April 25, 2014. The Final Rule package is being prepared at the Regional Office.
- Regulatory Amendment 21 (MSST) – currently under review in at the Regional Office.
- Emergency Rule (blueline tilefish) – became effective on April 17, 2014. Temporary regulations will expire on October 14, 2014. An extension can be requested that would carry the exiting regulations until April 2015.

### **Red Snapper Report**

Dr. Jack McGovern presented the Committee with an overview of data on red snapper removals used to determine whether harvest in 2014 could be allowed and what the ACL would be. Two estimates of total removals were considered: one using MRIP data and one derived from a study conducted by the state of Florida. The latter had much lower PSEs for Wave 4 than the MRIP data and, therefore, was used in the determination of a red snapper season in 2014. Dr. McGovern explained how the estimates of total removals were used, according to the methodology in Amendment 28, to determine the red snapper ACL and the length of the recreational season. The latter will consist of two three-day openings and one two-day opening in July 2014. The Committee acknowledged that the red snapper fishing season coincides with red snapper spawning. However, the Committee restated the intent to obtain as many biological samples as possible during the open season and their desire to schedule the season when weather is most likely to be favorable.

### **Snapper Grouper AP Report & SSC Report**

Kenny Fex, vice-chair of the Snapper Grouper AP, presented the Committee with an overview of the AP's recommendations from their May 2014 meeting.

Dr. Luiz Barbieri, SSC chair, presented the SSC's recommendations to the Committee. Among the items discussed were the wreckfish assessment, gag, snowy grouper, and blueline tilefish assessments. Dr. Barbieri stated the SSC intends to convene during a one-day workshop prior to their October 2014 meeting to evaluate the ABC Control Rule, including methods to arrive at ABCs for data-poor species.

### **Annual Report on South Atlantic Fishery Independent Surveys**

Dr. Marcel Reichert gave an overview of catch-per-unit effort trends observed in 2013 for a number of snapper grouper species. Dr. Reichert cautioned the Committee that the CPUE trends do not directly reflect population status. For instance, red snapper was the 9<sup>th</sup> most abundant species caught in chevron traps in 2013. While this may reflect an increase in abundance of red snapper it may also be due to a change in survey sampling intensity. Dr. Reichert stated that the short-bottom longline portion of the MARMAP survey is to resume in 2014.

### **Oculina Experimental Closed Area Evaluation**

Gregg Waugh, Council staff, gave an overview of the work accomplished by the Oculina Experimental Closed Area Evaluation Team. He indicated the current evaluation fulfills the requirement in Amendment 13A to conduct a 10-year re-evaluation of the Closed Area. Mr. Mike Merrifield, chair of the Deepwater Shrimp AP, presented the APs recommendations and

concerns. He indicated there was strong willingness from the deepwater shrimp industry to participate in cooperative research activities. A suggestion was made to eventually distribute the evaluation report to universities and other appropriate agencies/institutions in order to increase the likelihood of obtaining funding and the scientific guidance necessary for the industry to engage in cooperative research.

The Committee gave direction to staff to conduct another review of the OECA Evaluation Plan five years from now, when the entirety of the OECA will have been mapped.

**Regulatory Amendment 16 (black sea bass pot closure)**

MOTION: APPROVE RECOMMENDED IPT SUGGESTED CHANGES TO THE PURPOSE STATEMENT

The purpose of Regulatory Amendment 16 is to reconsider the annual November 1 **through** April 30 prohibition on the use of black sea bass pot gear.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: ACCEPT THE IPT'S WORDING FOR THE NEED STATEMENT

The need for the amendment is to ~~minimize potential negative~~ **increase** socio-economic ~~impacts~~ **benefits** to black sea bass pot endorsement holders while maintaining protection for ESA-listed whales in the South Atlantic region.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: APPROVE SUGGESTED EDITS TO ACTION 1 AND ALTERNATIVE 2

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

**Alternative 2.** Remove the annual November 1 **through** April 30 prohibition on the retention, possession, and fishing for black sea bass using black sea bass pot gear.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: APPROVE SUGGESTED EDITS TO ALTERNATIVE 3

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

**Alternative 3.** The black sea bass pot closure applies to the area currently designated as North Atlantic right whale critical habitat (Figure 2.1.1). **This area** encompasses waters between 31° 15'N, (approximately the mouth of the Altamaha River, Georgia) and 30° 15'N (approximately Jacksonville, Florida) from the shoreline out to 15 nautical miles offshore; and the waters between 30° 15'N and 28°00'N, (approximately Sebastian Inlet, Florida) from the shoreline out to 5 nautical miles. The closure applies to the area annually from November 15 through April 15.

Note: This area represents North Atlantic right whale critical habitat in the South Atlantic region designated on June 3, 1994. The map below provides location of the critical habitat boundary. The critical habitat designation did not provide waypoints for the boundary. The boundary

would not automatically change if the boundary for the right whale critical habitat were to change.

\*\*\*\*GUIDANCE TO EXPLAIN “THIS AREA” REFERS TO THE RWCH.\*\*\*\*

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: APPROVE SUGGESTED EDITS TO ALTERNATIVE 4

**New Alternative 4.** The black sea bass pot closure applies to waters inshore of points 1-15 listed below (Table 2.1.1); approximately Ponce Inlet, Florida, to Cape Hatteras, North Carolina (Figure 2.1.2). The closure applies to the area annually from November 1 through April 30.

Note: This area likely represents North Atlantic right whale calving habitat. The area identified from Cape Fear, North Carolina, southward to 29°N (approximately Ponce Inlet, Florida) is based on model outputs (i.e., Garrison 2007, Keller et al. 2012, Good 2008). The area from Cape Fear, North Carolina, to Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, is an extrapolation of those model outputs and based on sea surface temperatures and bathymetry.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: APPROVE SUGGESTED EDITS TO ALTERNATIVE 5

**New Alternative 5.** The black sea bass pot closure applies to waters inshore of points 1-28 listed below (Table 2.1.2), approximately Cape Canaveral, Florida, to Cape Hatteras, North Carolina (Figure 2.1.3). The closure applies to the area annually from November 1 through April 30.

Note: This area generally represents waters 25 m or shallower from 28° 21.5” N (approximately Cape Canaveral, Florida) to Savannah, Georgia; from the Georgia/South Carolina border to Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, the closure applies to waters under Council management that are 30 m or shallower. This bathymetric area is based on right whale sightings (all demographic segments) and sightings per unit of effort (proxy of density) by depth and captures 97% and 96% of right whale sightings off the North Carolina/South Carolina area, and Florida/Georgia area, respectively. The map below provides an approximate location of the proposed boundary.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

\*\*\*GUIDANCE TO BE CONSISTENT IN UNITS OF MEASURE (FEET VS. METERS)\*\*\*

MOTION: APPROVE ALTERNATIVES 6 & 7 AS PRESENTED:

**Alternative 6.** The black sea bass pot closure applies to waters inshore of points 1-28 listed below (Table 2.1.3); approximately Cape Canaveral, Florida, to Cape Hatteras, North Carolina (Figure 2.1.4). The closure applies to the area annually from November 1 through April 30.

Note: This area is based on joint comments received from non-government organizations (dated January 3, 2014) in response to NMFS’ December 4, 2013, Federal Register Notice of Intent to Prepare this Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) (78 FR 72868). The non-government organizations proposed the area as a reasonable alternative for consideration. The

area, also included in a Center for Biological Diversity et al. petition in 2009 for right whale critical habitat, is off the coasts of Georgia and Florida and based on calving right whale habitat modeling work of Garrison (2007) and Keller et al. (2012). This area represents the 75th percentile of sightings (91% of historical sightings included in their study) off Florida and Georgia (Garrison 2007 and Keller et al. 2012). Off the coasts of North Carolina and South Carolina, the closure extends from the coastline to 30 nautical miles offshore. The map below provides approximate location of proposed boundary.

**Alternative 7.** The black sea bass pot closure applies to waters inshore of points 1-20 listed below (Table 2.1.4), approximately Sebastian, Florida, to Cape Hatteras, North Carolina. The closure applies to the area annually from November 1 through April 30.

Note: This area is also based on joint comments received from a number of environmental groups (dated January 3, 2014) in response to NMFS' December 4, 2013, Federal Register Notice of Intent to Prepare this DEIS (78 FR 72868). The environmental groups proposed the area as a reasonable alternative for consideration. This area represents an existing management area, the Southeast Seasonal Gillnet Restricted Area, under the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan; and an additional area off North Carolina. The area off North Carolina includes waters shallower than 30 meters and is northward of the designated ALWTRP Southeast Restricted Area.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: GIVE THE IPT LATITUDE TO CONSTRUCT AN ALTERNATIVE THAT IS A COMBINATION OF ALTERNATIVES 3 AND 8.

**Alternative 3.** The black sea bass pot closure applies to the area currently designated as North Atlantic right whale critical habitat (Figure 2.1.1). This area encompasses waters between 31° 15'N, (approximately the mouth of the Altamaha River, Georgia) and 30° 15'N (approximately Jacksonville, Florida) from the shoreline out to 15 nautical miles offshore; and the waters between 30° 15'N and 28 °00'N, (approximately Sebastian Inlet, Florida) from the shoreline out to 5 nautical miles. The closure applies to the area annually from November 15 through April 15.

**Alternative 8.** The black sea bass pot closure applies to waters off the states of North Carolina and South Carolina, annually, from November 1 through December 15 and March 15 through April 30.

**Sub-alternative 8a.** The black sea bass pot closure applies in the entire exclusive economic zone off the states of North Carolina and South Carolina (Table 2.1.5).

**Sub-alternative 8b.** The black sea bass pot closure applies in the exclusive economic zone off the states of North Carolina and South Carolina in waters shallower than 25 meters (Table 2.1.6).

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: DIRECT THE IPT TO USE DATA FROM 2004 THROUGH 2013 FOR THE ANALYSES

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

**NOAA GC Update on Amendment 22 (recreational harvest tag program)**

Monica Smit-Brunello gave the Committee an update on the status of the NOAA GC Opinion regarding programs that fit the criteria of Limited Access Privilege Program (LAPP). Although the Opinion has not yet been finalized, Monica indicated that the likelihood of a program being considered a LAPP increases as more restrictions on eligibility are imposed. Monica will update the Committee again at the September 2014 Council meeting.

**Amendment 29 (ORCS & gray triggerfish)**

MOTION: APPROVE RECOMMENDED EDITS TO THE PURPOSE AND NEED STATEMENT

The purpose of the actions is to: update the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's (South Atlantic Council) acceptable biological catch (ABC) control rule ~~to incorporate methodology for determining the ABC of "Only Reliable Catch Species" (ORCS)~~ based on recommendations from the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC); adjust ABCs for the affected species; revise the ACLs for affected species; and establish revise management measures for gray triggerfish in federal waters of the South Atlantic region.

The need for action is to: specify ABCs, ACLs, and ACTs for snapper grouper species based on the best available scientific information, lengthen the commercial season for gray triggerfish to diminish and/or prevent derby conditions, and ensure that overfishing does not occur pending a new assessment of the gray triggerfish stock in the South Atlantic region.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

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

*Action 2. Apply the Revised ABC control rule to select unassessed snapper grouper species*

**Sub-alternative 4d.** Apply a risk tolerance scalar of 0.70 for rock hind, tomtate, white grunt and gray triggerfish and 0.50 for scamp.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: SELECT SUB-ALTERNATIVE 4D UNDER ACTION 2 AS PREFERRED

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: APPROVE THE SUGGESTED MODIFICATIONS TO THE ALTERNATIVES UNDER ACTION 3

*Action 3. Establish ACLs for select unassessed snapper grouper species*

**Alternative 1 (No Action).**  $ACL=OY=Current\ ABC$

**Alternative 2.**  $ACL=OY=Proposed\ ABC$

**Alternative 3.**  $ACL=OY=0.95*Proposed\ ABC$

**Alternative 4.** ACL=OY=0.90\*Proposed ABC

**Alternative 5.** ACL=OY=0.80\*Proposed ABC

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: MODIFY ALTERNATIVE 5 UNDER ACTION 3 TO READ:

ACL=OY=0.80\*Proposed ABC FOR ALL UNASSESSED SPECIES EXCEPT THE DEEPWATER COMPLEX.

**DISAPPROVED BY COMMITTEE**

MOTION: MODIFY ALTERNATIVE 5 UNDER ACTION 3 TO READ:

*Action 3. Establish ACLs for select unassessed snapper grouper species*

**Alternative 5.** ACL=OY=0.80\*Proposed ABC FOR SCAMP.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 5 UNDER ACTION 3 AS PREFERRED

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 2 UNDER ACTION 3 AS PREFERRED FOR THE REMAINING SPECIES EXCEPT THE DEEPWATER COMPLEX

*Action 3. Establish ACLs for select unassessed snapper grouper species*

**Alternative 2.** ACL=OY=Proposed ABC

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 1 (NO ACTION) AS OUR PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE FOR THE DEEPWATER COMPLEX

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: APPROVE SUGGESTED EDITS TO THE LANGUAGE OF THE ALTERNATIVES IN ACTION 4

*Action 4. Modify the minimum size limit for gray triggerfish*

**Alternative 1 (No Action).** Currently, the minimum size limit for gray triggerfish is specified in inches total length (TL) in federal waters off the east coast of Florida only. In Florida state waters, the minimum size for gray triggerfish is specified in inches fork length (FL). The minimum size limit is 12 inches TL in federal waters off the east coast of Florida and 12 inches FL in east Florida state waters state waters off the east coast of Florida.

**Alternative 2.** Specify a minimum size limit for gray triggerfish of 12 inches fork length (FL) in federal waters off the east coast of Florida.

**Sub-alternative 2a.** The minimum size limit applies to the commercial sector.

**Sub-alternative 2b.** The minimum size limit applies to the recreational sector.

**Preferred Alternative 3.** Specify a minimum size limit for gray triggerfish of 12 inches fork length (FL) in federal waters off North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia.

**Preferred Sub-alternative 3a.** The minimum size limit applies to the commercial sector.

**Preferred Sub-alternative 3b.** The minimum size limit applies to the recreational sector.

**Alternative 4.** Specify a minimum size limit for gray triggerfish of 14 inches fork length (FL) in federal waters off North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and the east coast of Florida.

**Sub-alternative 4a.** The minimum size limit applies to the commercial sector.

**Sub-alternative 4b.** The minimum size limit applies to the recreational sector.

**Preferred Alternative 5.** Specify a minimum size limit for gray triggerfish of 14 inches fork length (FL) in federal waters off the east coast of Florida.

**Preferred Sub-alternative 5a.** The minimum size limit applies to the commercial sector.

**Preferred Sub-alternative 5b.** The minimum size limit applies to the recreational sector.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE  
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: APPROVE SUGGESTED EDIT TO ALTERNATIVE 1 UNDER ACTION 5  
*Action 5. Establish a commercial split season for gray triggerfish*

**Alternative 1 (No Action).** The commercial fishing year for gray triggerfish is the calendar year (January 1- December 31). The commercial ACL is allocated for the entire year.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE  
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 3, SUB-ALTERNATIVE 3B AS ADDITIONAL PREFERRED UNDER ACTION 6:

*Action 6. Establish a commercial trip limit for gray triggerfish*

**Alternative 3.** When 75% of the gray triggerfish commercial seasonal quota is met or is projected to be met, the trip limit is reduced to:

**Sub-alternative 3b.** 500 lb ww

**MOTION FAILS**

**Amendment 32 (Blueline tilefish)**

MOTION: APPROVE INCLUSION OF ACTION 1 AND SELECT ALTERNATIVE 2 AS PREFERRED

*Action 1. Revise the Composition of the Deep-Water Complex and Adjust the Deep-Water Complex Annual Catch Limits, Optimum Yield, and Annual Catch Targets*



**Alternative 2.** Remove blueline tilefish from the Deep-Water Complex. Revise the Deep-Water Complex annual catch limits, optimum yield, and recreational annual catch targets to reflect the removal of blueline tilefish. The Deep-Water Complex total annual catch limit equals 79,684 pounds. The Deep-Water Complex annual catch limits and optimum yield would be 60,371 and 19,313 pounds whole weight for the commercial and recreational sectors, respectively. The Deep-Water Complex annual catch target for the recreational sector would be 9,657 pounds whole weight.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: INCLUDE AN ACTION TO REVISE ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES FOR THE DW COMPLEX IN AMENDMENT 32

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: APPROVE SUGGESTED EDITS TO ACTION 3 AND ALTERNATIVES

*Action 3. Establish Annual Catch Limits and Optimum Yield for Blueline Tilefish and Revise the ACL and OY for the Deep-Water Complex*

**Alternative 1 (No Action).** Do not establish annual catch limits and optimum yield for blueline tilefish. The National Marine Fisheries Service has temporarily removed blueline tilefish from the Deep-Water Complex and established the following annual catch limits for blueline tilefish for the commercial and recreational sectors: total ACL = 224,100 pounds whole weight (lbs ww); commercial ACL = 112,207 lbs ww; and recreational ACL = 111,893 lbs ww. The temporary measures will be in place for 180 days (through October 14, 2014) and may be extended for 186 additional days.

Note: Blueline tilefish is in the Deep-Water Complex and there is an annual catch limit for the complex. Action 1 proposes to separate blueline tilefish from the complex.

**Alternative 2.** ~~Separate blueline tilefish from the deep-water complex and e~~ Establish annual catch limits for blueline tilefish. The blueline tilefish ACL = OY = ABC. ~~Specify commercial and recreational ACLs based on existing sector allocations (50.07% commercial and 49.93% recreational). The deep-water complex ACL would remain at current levels with the current blueline tilefish portion removed.~~ Specify commercial and recreational annual catch limits for blueline tilefish for 2015, 2016, and 2017 and beyond. The annual catch limit for 2017 would remain in effect until modified. Annual catch limits in 2016 and 2017 will not increase automatically in a subsequent year if present year projected catch has exceeded the total annual catch limit. Specify commercial and recreational annual catch limits based on existing sector allocations (50.07% commercial and 49.93% recreational).

Year	Blueline Tilefish ACL (pounds whole weight)		
	Total	Commercial	Recreational
2015	36,359	18,205	18,154
2016	54,548	27,312	27,236
2017 and beyond until modified	72,928	36,515	36,413

**Alternative 3.** ~~Separate blueline tilefish from the deep-water complex and e~~ Establish annual catch limits for blueline tilefish. The blueline tilefish ACL = OY = 98%ABC. Specify commercial and recreational ACLs based on existing sector allocations (50.07% commercial and 49.93% recreational). ~~The deep-water complex ACL would remain at current levels with the current blueline tilefish portion removed.~~ Specify commercial and recreational ACLs for blueline tilefish for 2015, 2016, and 2017 and beyond. The annual catch limit for 2017 would remain in effect until modified. Annual catch limits in 2016 and 2017 will not increase automatically in a subsequent year if present year projected catch has exceeded the total annual catch limit. Specify commercial and recreational annual catch limits based on existing sector allocations (50.07% commercial and 49.93% recreational).

Year	Blueline Tilefish ACL (pounds whole weight)		
	Total	Commercial	Recreational
2015	35,632	17,841	17,791
2016	53,457	26,766	26,691
2017 and beyond until modified	71,469	35,785	35,685

**Alternative 4.** ~~Separate blueline tilefish from the deep-water complex and e~~ Establish annual catch limits for blueline tilefish. The blueline tilefish ACL = OY = 90%ABC. Specify commercial and recreational ACLs based on existing sector allocations (50.07% commercial and 49.93% recreational). ~~The deep-water complex ACL would remain at current levels with the current blueline tilefish portion removed.~~ Specify commercial and recreational annual catch limits for blueline tilefish for 2015, 2016, and 2017 and beyond. The annual catch limit for 2017 would remain in effect until modified. Annual catch limits in 2016 and 2017 will not increase automatically in a subsequent year if present year projected catch has exceeded the total annual catch limit. Specify commercial and recreational annual catch limits based on existing sector allocations (50.07% commercial and 49.93% recreational).

Year	Blueline Tilefish ACL (pounds whole weight)		
	Total	Commercial	Recreational
2015	32,723	16,384	16,339
2016	49,093	24,581	24,512
2017 and beyond until modified	65,635	32,864	32,772

\*\*\*DIRECTION TO STAFF TO ADD PROJECTED 2018 ABC/ACL TO TABLES UNDER ACTION 3\*\*\*\*

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: ADD AN ALTERNATIVE THAT EXTENDS THE ACL ESTABLISHED THROUGH THE EMERGENCY RULE (ACL=224,100 POUNDS) UNTIL THE NEXT STOCK ASSESSMENT

**MOTION FAILS**

MOTION: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 3 AS PREFERRED

**Alternative 3.** ~~Separate blueline tilefish from the deep-water complex and e~~ Establish annual catch limits for blueline tilefish. The blueline tilefish ACL = OY = 98%ABC. Specify commercial and recreational ACLs based on existing sector allocations (50.07% commercial and 49.93% recreational). ~~The deep-water complex ACL would remain at current levels with the current blueline tilefish portion removed.~~ Specify commercial and recreational ACLs for blueline tilefish for 2015, 2016, and 2017 and beyond. The annual catch limit for 2017 would remain in effect until modified. Annual catch limits in 2016 and 2017 will not increase automatically in a subsequent year if present year projected catch has exceeded the total annual catch limit. Specify commercial and recreational annual catch limits based on existing sector allocations (50.07% commercial and 49.93% recreational).

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: APPROVE THE SUGGESTED EDITS TO ALTERNATIVES UNDER ACTION 4  
*Action 4. Establish a Recreational Annual Catch Target for Blueline Tilefish and Revise the Recreational ACT for the Deep-Water Complex*

**Alternative 1 (No Action).** Do not establish an annual catch target for blueline tilefish for the recreational sector. Retain the current recreational ACT for the deep-water complex (yellowedge grouper, blueline tilefish, silk snapper, misty grouper, queen snapper, sand tilefish, black snapper, and blackfin snapper) for the recreational sector. Do not specify a recreational ACT for blueline tilefish.

**Alternative 2.** The recreational ACT for blueline tilefish equals the recreational  $ACL*(1-PSE)$  or  $ACL*0.5$ , whichever is greater. Establish an annual catch target for blueline tilefish for the recreational sector that equals the recreational  $ACL*(1-PSE)$  or  $ACL*0.5$ , whichever is greater. Adjust the recreational ACT for the Deep-water Complex to exclude blueline tilefish.

Year	Blueline Tilefish ACT (pounds whole weight)		
	Action 3; Alternative 2 ( $ACL=ABC$ )	Action 3; Alternative 3 ( $ACL=98\%ABC$ )	Action 3; Alternative 4 ( $ACL=90\%ABC$ )
2015	11,368	11,141	10,231
2016	17,055	16,714	15,350
2017 and beyond until modified	22,802	22,346	20,522

Note: Calculations use the most recent 5 years of recreational landings to obtain the PSE.

**Alternative 3.** The recreational ACT for blueline tilefish equals 85% of the recreational ACL. Establish an annual catch target for blueline tilefish for the recreational sector that equals 85% of the recreational annual catch limit. Adjust the recreational ACT for the Deep-water Complex to exclude blueline tilefish.

Year	Blueline Tilefish ACT (pounds whole weight)		
	Action 3; Alternative 2 ( $ACL=ABC$ )	Action 3; Alternative 3 ( $ACL=98\%ABC$ )	Action 3; Alternative 4 ( $ACL=90\%ABC$ )
2015	15,431	15,122	13,888
2016	23,150	22,687	20,835
2017 and beyond until modified	30,951	30,332	27,856

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE  
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 2 UNDER ACTION 4 AS PREFERRED

*Action 4. Establish a Recreational Annual Catch Target for Blueline Tilefish and Revise the Recreational ACT for the Deep-Water Complex*

**Alternative 2.** The recreational ACT for blueline tilefish equals the recreational  $ACL*(1-PSE)$  or  $ACL*0.5$ , whichever is greater. Establish an annual catch target for blueline tilefish for the recreational sector that equals the recreational  $ACL*(1-PSE)$  or  $ACL*0.5$ , whichever is greater. Adjust the recreational ACT for the Deep-water Complex to exclude blueline tilefish.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE  
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: APPROVE SUGGESTED EDITS TO ALTERNATIVES UNDER ACTION 5  
*Action 5. Specify Accountability Measures for Blueline Tilefish for the Commercial Sector*

**Alternative 1 (No Action).** ~~Retain the current accountability measures for the deep-water complex (yellowedge grouper, blueline tilefish, silk snapper, misty grouper, queen snapper, sand tilefish, black snapper, and blackfin snapper) for the commercial sector. Do not specify new accountability measures for blueline tilefish for the commercial sector. Do not specify accountability measures for blueline tilefish for the commercial sector.~~

The National Marine Fisheries Service has temporarily removed blueline tilefish from the Deep-Water Complex and established an in-season accountability measure for blueline tilefish for the commercial sector. The accountability measure is as follows: If commercial landings for blueline tilefish reach or are projected to reach the commercial annual catch limit, National Marine Fisheries Service will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close the commercial sector for blueline tilefish for the remainder of the fishing year. The temporary measures will be in place for 180 days (through October 14, 2014) and may be extended for 186 additional days.

Note: Blueline tilefish is in the Deep-Water Complex and there is an accountability measure for the commercial sector for the complex. Action 1 proposes to separate blueline tilefish from the complex.

**Alternative 2.** Specify the following in-season and post-season accountability measures for blueline tilefish for the commercial sector: If blueline tilefish commercial landings as estimated by the Science and Research Director reach or are projected to reach the commercial ACL, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to close the commercial sector for the remainder of the fishing year. On and after the effective date of such a notification, all sale or purchase is prohibited and harvest or possession of this species in or from the South Atlantic EEZ is limited to the bag and possession limit. This bag and possession limit applies in the South Atlantic on board a vessel for which a valid Federal commercial or charter vessel/headboat permit for South Atlantic snapper grouper has been issued as appropriate, without regard to where such species were harvested, i.e., in state or Federal waters. Additionally,

**Sub-alternative 2a.** If the commercial ACL is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the commercial ACL in the following fishing year by the amount of the commercial overage, only if the species is overfished.

**Sub-alternative 2b.** If the commercial ACL is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the commercial ACL in the following fishing year by the amount of the commercial overage, only if the total ACL (commercial ACL and recreational ACL) is exceeded.

**Sub-alternative 2c.** If the commercial ACL is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the commercial ACL in the following fishing year by the amount of the commercial overage, only if the species is overfished and the total ACL (commercial ACL and recreational ACL) is exceeded.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 2, SUB-ALTERNATIVE 2C, AS PREFERRED UNDER ACTION 5

*Action 5. Specify Accountability Measures for Blueline Tilefish for the Commercial Sector*

**Alternative 2.** Specify the following in-season and post-season accountability measures for blueline tilefish for the commercial sector: If blueline tilefish commercial landings as estimated by the Science and Research Director reach or are projected to reach the commercial ACL, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to close the commercial sector for the remainder of the fishing year. On and after the effective date of such a notification, all sale or purchase is prohibited and harvest or possession of this species in or from the South Atlantic EEZ is limited to the bag and possession limit. This bag and possession limit applies in the South Atlantic on board a vessel for which a valid Federal commercial or charter vessel/headboat permit for South Atlantic snapper grouper has been issued as appropriate, without regard to where such species were harvested, i.e., in state or Federal waters. Additionally,

**Sub-alternative 2c.** If the commercial ACL is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the commercial ACL in the following fishing year by the amount of the commercial overage, only if the species is overfished and the total ACL (commercial ACL and recreational ACL) is exceeded.

\*\*\*DIRECTION TO STAFF TO INCLUDE REVISIONS TO DWC COMMERCIAL AMs IN THIS ACTION\*\*\*\*

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: APPROVE INCLUSION OF ACTION 6 AND ITS ALTERNATIVES IN AMENDMENT 32

*Action 6. Specify Accountability Measures for Blueline Tilefish for the Recreational Sector*

**Alternative 1 (No Action).** Do not specify accountability measures for blueline tilefish for the recreational sector. The National Marine Fisheries Service has temporarily removed blueline tilefish from the deep-water complex and established an in-season accountability measure for blueline tilefish for the recreational sector. The accountability measure is as follows: If recreational landings for blueline tilefish reach or are projected to reach the recreational annual catch limit, National Marine Fisheries Service will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close the recreational sector for blueline tilefish for the remainder of the fishing year. The temporary measures will be in place for 180 days (through October 14, 2014) and may be extended for 186 additional days.

Note: Blueline tilefish is in the Deep-Water Complex and there is an accountability measure for the recreational sector for the complex. Action 1 proposes to separate blueline tilefish from the complex.

**Alternative 2.** Specify the following post-season accountability measures for blueline tilefish for the recreational sector: If blueline tilefish recreational landings, as estimated by the Science and Research Director, exceed the recreational ACL, then during the following fishing year, recreational landings will be monitored for a persistence in increased landings.

**Sub-alternative 2a.** If necessary, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the length of fishing season and the recreational ACL in the following fishing year by the amount of the recreational overage, only if the species is overfished. The length of the recreational season and recreational ACL will not be reduced if the Regional

Administrator determines, using the best scientific information available, that a reduction is unnecessary.

**Sub-alternative 2b.** If necessary, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the length of fishing season and the recreational ACL in the following fishing year by the amount of the recreational overage, only if the total ACL (commercial ACL and recreational ACL) is exceeded. The length of the recreational season and recreational ACL will not be reduced if the Regional Administrator determines, using the best scientific information available, that a reduction is unnecessary.

**Sub-alternative 2c.** If necessary, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the length of fishing season and the recreational ACL in the following fishing year by the amount of the recreational overage, only if the species is overfished and the total ACL (commercial ACL and recreational ACL) is exceeded. The length of the recreational season and recreational ACL will not be reduced if the Regional Administrator determines, using the best scientific information available, that a reduction is unnecessary.

**Alternative 3.** Specify the following in-season accountability measures for blueline tilefish for the recreational sector: If recreational landings for blueline tilefish reach or are projected to reach the recreational annual catch limit, National Marine Fisheries Service will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close the recreational sector for blueline tilefish for the remainder of the fishing year.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: ADD A NEW ALTERNATIVE TO ACTION 6 THAT MIRRORS ALTERNATIVE 4 (AND ITS SUB-ALTERNATIVES) IN ACTION 1 OF THE COMPREHENSIVE AMs AMENDMENT

**Alternative 4.** If recreational landings reach or are projected to reach the recreational annual catch limit, National Marine Fisheries Service will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close the recreational sector for the remainder of the fishing year, unless, using the best scientific information available, the Regional Administrator determines that a closure is unnecessary.

**Sub-alternative 4a.** If the species is overfished.

**Sub-alternative 4b.** Regardless of stock status.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 4, SUB-ALTERNATIVE 4B, AS PREFERRED UNDER ACTION 6

**Alternative 4.** If recreational landings reach or are projected to reach the recreational annual catch limit, National Marine Fisheries Service will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close the recreational sector for the remainder of the fishing year, unless, using the best scientific information available, the Regional Administrator determines that a closure is unnecessary.

**Sub-alternative 4b.** Regardless of stock status.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 2, SUB-ALTERNATIVE 2C, AS PREFERRED:

**Alternative 2.** Specify the following post-season accountability measures for blueline tilefish for the recreational sector: If blueline tilefish recreational landings, as estimated by the Science and Research Director, exceed the recreational ACL, then during the following fishing year, recreational landings will be monitored for a persistence in increased landings.

**Sub-alternative 2c.** If necessary, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the length of fishing season and the recreational ACL in the following fishing year by the amount of the recreational overage, only if the species is overfished and the total ACL (commercial ACL and recreational ACL) is exceeded. The length of the recreational season and recreational ACL will not be reduced if the Regional Administrator determines, using the best scientific information available, that a reduction is unnecessary.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: APPROVE SUGGESTED EDITS TO ACTION 7 AND ADDITION OF ALTERNATIVES

*Action 7. Establish ~~Management Measures a Trip Limit~~ for Blueline Tilefish for the Commercial Sector*

**Alternative 1 (No Action).** ~~Retain the current management measures for blueline tilefish for the commercial sector.~~ Do not ~~implement~~ establish a trip limit for blueline tilefish for the commercial sector.

**Alternative 2.** Establish a commercial trip limit for blueline tilefish from January through April of 100 pounds whole weight (lbs ww).

**Sub-alternative 2a.** Establish a commercial trip limit from May onwards of 1,500 lbs ww until 80% of the ACL is projected to be met. Then reduce the trip limit to 100 lbs ww for the remainder of the fishing year until the ACL is met or is projected to be met.

**Sub-alternative 2b.** Establish a commercial trip limit from May onwards of 2,000 lbs ww until 80% of the ACL is projected to be met. Then reduce the trip limit to 100 lbs ww for the remainder of the fishing year until the ACL is met or is projected to be met.

**Sub-alternative 2c.** Establish a commercial trip limit from May onwards of 2,500 lbs ww until 80% of the ACL is projected to be met. Then reduce the trip limit to 100 lbs ww for the remainder of the fishing year until the ACL is met or is projected to be met.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE



APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: INCLUDE A NEW ALTERNATIVE FOR COMMERCIAL TRIP LIMITS OF 300, 200, AND 100 POUNDS YEAR-ROUND

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: MOVE ALTERNATIVE 2 TO THE CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED APPENDIX

**Alternative 2.** Establish a commercial trip limit for blueline tilefish from January through April of 100 pounds whole weight (lbs ww).

**Sub-alternative 2a.** Establish a commercial trip limit from May onwards of 1,500 lbs ww until 80% of the ACL is projected to be met. Then reduce the trip limit to 100 lbs ww for the remainder of the fishing year until the ACL is met or is projected to be met.

**Sub-alternative 2b.** Establish a commercial trip limit from May onwards of 2,000 lbs ww until 80% of the ACL is projected to be met. Then reduce the trip limit to 100 lbs ww for the remainder of the fishing year until the ACL is met or is projected to be met.

**Sub-alternative 2c.** Establish a commercial trip limit from May onwards of 2,500 lbs ww until 80% of the ACL is projected to be met. Then reduce the trip limit to 100 lbs ww for the remainder of the fishing year until the ACL is met or is projected to be met.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: ADD AN ALTERNATIVE THAT WOULD SET A 100-POUND COMMERCIAL TRIP LIMIT WITH A STEP-DOWN TO 50 POUNDS ONCE 80% OF THE ACL IS MET OR PROJECTED TO BE MET

MOTION FAILS

MOTION: APPROVE SUGGESTED EDITS AND NEW ALTERNATIVES FOR ACTION 8

*Action 8. Adjust the Bag Limit for Establish Management Measures for Blueline Tilefish for the Recreational Sector*

**Alternative 1 (No Action).** Retain the current management measures for blueline tilefish for the recreational sector. Blueline tilefish is included in the aggregate grouper bag limit of 3/person/day of: gag, black, snowy, misty, red, scamp, yellowedge, yellowfin, yellowmouth, golden tilefish, sand tilefish, coney, graysby, red hind, and rock hind.

Retain the current blueline tilefish aggregate grouper bag limit of 3/person/day. The aggregate group contains the following species: gag, black grouper, snowy grouper, misty grouper, red grouper, scamp, yellowedge grouper, yellowfin grouper, yellowmouth grouper, blueline tilefish, golden tilefish, sand tilefish, coney, graysby, red hind, and rock hind.

**Alternative 2.** Remove blueline tilefish from the aggregate grouper bag limit.

**Alternative 3.** Establish a bag limit of blueline tilefish of 1/person/day.

**Alternative 4.** Establish a vessel limit of blueline tilefish of 1/vessel/day.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: ADD ALTERNATIVES THAT MIRROR WHAT IS BEING CONSIDERED FOR SNOWY GROUPER IN REGULATORY AMENDMENT 20 IN ORDER TO BE CONSISTENT IN MANGING DEEPWATER SPECIES  
 APPROVED BY COMMITTEE  
 APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: APPROVE AMENDMENT 32 FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS IN AUGUST 2014  
 APPROVED BY COMMITTEE  
 APPROVED BY COUNCIL

**Regulatory Amendment 22 (Gag & Wreckfish)**

**GAG:**

MOTION: MODIFY THE ABCs and ACLs FOR GAG AND WRECKFISH UNDER THE REGULAR FRAMEWORK.  
 APPROVED BY COMMITTEE  
 APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: APPROVE THE RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES AND SELECT ALTERNATIVE 2 AS PREFERRED.  
 APPROVED BY COMMITTEE  
 APPROVED BY COUNCIL

**Alternative 2.** ACL = ABC = projected landings from 2015-2019 with P\*=0.3.

Year	ABC	Directed			Change from ACLs in place		Recreational Change from avg. landings		
		Commercial ACL (51%)	Commercial Quota*	Recreational ACL (49%)	Commercial %Change	Recreational %Change	2 year avg %Change	3 year avg %Change	4 year avg %Change
2015	666,000	339,660	312,442	326,340	-4%	-4%	171%	138%	124%
2016	671,000	342,210	314,992	328,790	-4%	-3%	173%	140%	126%
2017	713,000	363,630	336,412	349,370	3%	3%	190%	155%	140%
2018	748,000	381,480	354,262	366,520	8%	8%	205%	168%	152%
2019	773,000	394,230	367,012	378,770	12%	11%	215%	177%	160%

\*Directed commercial quota = Commercial ACL – 27,218 lb gw.

MOTION: ADD AN ACTION AND ALTERNATIVE THAT INCREASES THE RECREATIONAL BAG LIMIT TO 2/PERSON/DAY OR 3/PERSON/DAY  
 INTENT TO REMOVE GAG FROM AGGREGATE  
 INTENT TO SEPARATE GAG/BLACK; BLACK WOULD REMAIN AT 1/PERSON/DAY  
 APPROVED BY COMMITTEE  
 APPROVED BY COUNCIL

**WRECKFISH:**

MOTION: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 2, ACTION 2 AS PREFERRED

**Alternative 2.** ACL = OY = ABC = projected landings from 2015-2020 with P\*=0.275.

Year	New ABC ww lbs	Commercial ACL (95%)	Recreational ACL (5%)	Change from ACLs in place	
				Commercial %Change	Recreational %Change
2015	433,000	411,350	21,650	84%	84%
2016	423,700	402,515	21,185	80%	80%
2017	414,200	393,490	20,710	76%	76%
2018	406,300	385,985	20,315	73%	73%
2019	396,800	376,960	19,840	69%	69%
2020	389,100	369,645	19,455	66%	66%

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE  
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 2 AS PREFERRED FOR ACTION 3.

**Alternative 2.** Specify the new wreckfish recreational ACL in numbers of fish using an average weight of **X pounds**.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE  
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

**Regulatory Amendment 20 (Snowy grouper)**

MOTION: ACCEPT THE IPT'S PROPOSED WORDING FOR THE PURPOSE AND NEED.

**Purpose for Action**

The *purpose* of this amendment for the of this proposed action is to adjust the rebuilding strategy, acceptable biological catch (ABC), annual catch limit (ACL), maximum sustainable yield (MSY), minimum stock size threshold (MSST), optimum yield (OY), and revise management measures for the snowy grouper component of the snapper grouper fishery. These adjustments address the recent stock assessment results based on data through 2012.

**Need for Action**

The *need* for the amendment is to proposed action is to prevent overfishing and continue rebuilding the stock while minimizing, to the extent practicable, adverse social and economic effects.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE  
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: ACCEPT THE IPT'S PROPOSED WORDING CHANGES FOR ALTERNATIVES 1-4 UNDER ACTION 1.

**Alternative 1 (No Action).** The current rebuilding strategy is specified as maintaining a modified/constant fishing mortality rate ( $F=F_{MSY}$ ) throughout the rebuilding timeframe. The **total allowable catch (TAC)** specified for 2009, of 102,960 pounds **whole weight (lb ww)** remains in effect beyond 2009 until modified. The current **acceptable biological catch (ABC)** is 102,960 **pounds lb ww** consistent with this rebuilding strategy.

**Alternative 2.** Define a rebuilding strategy for snowy grouper that maintains a constant fishing mortality rate ( $F=F_{Rebuild}$ ) throughout the rebuilding timeframe. Year 1 remains 2006 and the yield at  $F_{Rebuild}$  and ABC projections will change with each assessment. Specify a probability of success of 50% or what the SSC recommends based on the ABC control rule (Council to specify). ABC would change each year until 20**19xx**; the ABC for 20**19xx** would remain in effect until modified.

**Preferred Alternative 3.** Define a rebuilding strategy for snowy grouper that maintains a constant fishing mortality rate ( $F = 75\%F_{MSY}$ ) throughout the rebuilding timeframe. Year 1 remains 2006 and the yield at  $75\%F_{MSY}$  and ABC projections will change with each assessment. ABC would change each year until 2019; the ABC for 2019 would remain in effect until modified.

**Alternative 4.** Define a rebuilding strategy for snowy grouper that maintains a constant fishing mortality rate ( $F = F_{current}$ ) throughout the rebuilding timeframe. Year 1 remains 2006 and the yield at  $F_{current}$  and ABC projections will change with each assessment. ABC would change each year until 2019~~xx~~; the ABC for 2019~~xx~~ would remain in effect until modified.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: APPLY THE COUNCIL'S EXISTING ALLOCATION FORMULA AS IT APPLIES TO SNOWY GROUPE (AVERAGE OF LANDINGS FROM 1986-2005) USING THE SEDAR LANDINGS DATA. THE RESULTING ALLOCATION WOULD CHANGE FROM 95%C/5%R TO 83%C/17%R.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: ACCEPT THE IPT'S PROPOSED WORDING FOR ALTERNATIVE 1 UNDER ACTION 2.

**Alternative 1. (No Action.)** The current acceptable biological catch (ABC) = 102,960 pounds whole weight (lb ww) or 87,254 pounds gutted weight (lb gw). The total annual catch limit (ACL) (=ABC), commercial ACL, and recreational ACL are shown below:

whole weight		Calculated Values		Implemented Values (SG Am 15B)			
ABC	ACL	Com ACL (95%)	Rec ACL (5%)	Com ACL (95%)	Rec ACL (5%)		
102,960	102,960	97,812	5,148				
guttred weight							
ABC	ACL	Com ACL (95%)	Rec ACL (5%)	Com ACL (95%)	Rec ACL (5%)	Rec # Fish	
87,254	87,254	82,891	4,363	82,900	4,400	523	

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: APPROVE ALTERNATIVE 2 UNDER ACTION 2 AS OUR PREFERRED

**Alternative 2.** Specify that ACL=ABC=OY.

The ACL, commercial ACL, and recreational ACL are shown below.

Whole Weight						Annual Avg Rec Wt	Com ACL 83%	Rec ACL 17%	Estimated Rec #Fish
Year	ABC	ACL	Com ACL (95%)	Rec ACL (5%)	Estimated Rec #Fish				
2015	164,136	164,136	155,929	8,207	1,221	6.72	136,233	27,903	4,152
2016	178,791	178,791	169,851	8,940	1,319	6.78	148,397	30,394	4,483
2017	192,469	192,469	182,846	9,623	1,417	6.79	159,749	32,720	4,819
2018	205,170	205,170	194,912	10,259	1,466	7	170,291	34,879	4,983
2019	218,848	218,848	207,906	10,942	1,563	7	181,644	37,204	5,315
Gutted Weight						Annual Avg Rec Wt	Com ACL 83%	Rec ACL 17%	Estimated Rec #Fish
Year	ABC	ACL	Com ACL (95%)	Rec ACL (5%)	Estimated Rec #Fish				
2015	139,098	139,098	132,143	6,955	1,221		115,451	23,647	4,152
2016	151,518	151,518	143,942	7,576	1,319		125,760	25,758	4,483
2017	163,109	163,109	154,954	8,155	1,417		135,380	27,729	4,819
2018	173,873	173,873	165,179	8,694	1,466		144,315	29,558	4,983
2019	185,464	185,464	176,191	9,273	1,563		153,935	31,529	5,315

\*\*\*\*\*DIRECTION TO STAFF TO COMBINE ACTIONS 3 & 4 AND CALL THE ACTION COMMERCIAL MANAGEMENT MEASURES\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*DIRECTION TO GIVE STAFF EDITORIAL LICENSE TO UPDATE TABLE\*\*\*

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: ACCEPT THE IPT'S PROPOSED WORDING FOR ACTION 3 AND ALTERNATIVES 1 & 2 UNDER ACTION 3.

**Alternative 1 (No Action).** The current commercial snowy grouper fishing **yearseason** is the calendar year with no split of the commercial ACL **into separate seasons**.

~~**Alternative 2.** Split the commercial snowy grouper fishing season with an equal split of the ACL between January through April and May through December with the following trip limits for each of the seasons.~~

**Revised Alternative 2.** Split the commercial snowy grouper ACL into two quotas: 50% to the period January 1 through April 30 and 50% to the period May 1 through December 31. Any remaining commercial quota from the January through April season carries over into the May through December season; any remaining commercial quota from the May through December season does not carry over into the next fishing year. The following trip limit would apply to each season:

**Sub-alternative 2a.** 100 pounds ~~whole~~ gutted weight (lb gw).

**Sub-alternative 2b.** 150 lb gw. ~~pounds whole gutted weight (lb gw).~~

Year	Sub-alternative 2c. 200 lb gw. <del>pounds whole gutted weight (lb gw).</del>			Com Quota	
	whole weight ABC	ACL	Com ACL (95%)	Jan-April	May-Dec
2015	164,136	164,136	155,929	77,965	77,965
2016	178,791	178,791	169,851	84,926	84,926
2017	192,469	192,469	182,846	91,423	91,423
2018	205,170	205,170	194,912	97,456	97,456
2019	218,848	218,848	207,906	103,953	103,953

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE  
 APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: ACCEPT NEW ALTERNATIVE 3 AS SUGGESTED:

**Alternative 3.** Split the commercial snowy grouper ACL into two quotas: 40% to the period January 1 through April 30 and 60% to the period May 1 through December 31. Any remaining commercial quota from the January through April season carries over into the May through December season; any remaining commercial quota from the May through December season does not carry over into the next fishing year. Maintain the current 100-pound gutted weight (lb gw) trip limit for the January 1 through April 30 season and establish the following trip limit for the May through December season:

- Sub-alternative 3a.** 100 lb gw.
- Sub-alternative 3b.** 150 lb gw.
- Sub-alternative 3c.** 200 lb gw.
- Sub-alternative 3d.** 250 lb gw.
- Sub-alternative 3e.** 300 lb gw.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE  
 APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: MOVE ALTERNATIVE 2, ACTION 4 TO CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED APPENDIX.

**MOTION WITHDRAWN**

MOTION: MOVE ALTERNATIVE 2, ACTION 4 UNDER ACTION 3.

**Alternative 2.** ~~Establish a~~ Modify the commercial snowy grouper trip limit from January 1 until the ACL is met or projected to be met:

- Sub-alternative 2a.** ~~300 pounds gutted weight (lb gw).~~
- Sub-alternative 2b.** ~~200 pounds gutted weight (lb gw).~~
- Sub-alternative 2c.** ~~150 pounds gutted weight (lb gw).~~

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE  
 APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: MOVE EXISTING ALTERNATIVE 4, ACTION 4 TO THE CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED APPENDIX.

**Alternative 4.** ~~Establish a~~ Modify the commercial snowy grouper trip limit of 100 ~~pounds whole weight (lb gw)~~ January through April for all areas; for May through August from North Carolina through Cape Canaveral, Florida and south of Marathon, Florida as shown below; and 100 ~~pounds~~

~~gutted weight (lb gw) May through August for the rest of the area. From September through the end of the year, or until the ACL is met or projected to be met, the trip limit would be set at 100 pounds gutted weight (lb gw).~~

~~Sub-alternative 4a. 200 pounds gutted weight (lb gw).~~

~~Sub-alternative 4b. 250 pounds gutted weight (lb gw).~~

~~Sub-alternative 4c. 300 pounds gutted weight (lb gw).~~

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: ADD REVISED ALTERNATIVE 4, ACTION 4:

**Revised Alternative 4.** Maintain the current commercial snowy grouper trip limit of ~~400~~ 150 lb gw all year or until the commercial ACL is met or projected to be met except for the period May through August from the Florida Volusia/Brevard County line north when the trip limit will be as follows:

**Sub-alternative 4a.** 200 pounds gutted weight (lb gw).

**Sub-alternative 4b.** 250 pounds gutted weight (lb gw).

**Sub-alternative 4c.** 300 pounds gutted weight (lb gw).

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: MOVE REVISED ALTERNATIVE 4 TO ACTION 3

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: MOVE ACTION 4 TO CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED APPENDIX

(NOTE: THIS REFERS TO THE REMAINING ITEMS IN ACTION 4 THAT WERE NOT MOVED TO ACTION 3.)

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: ACCEPT THE IPT'S PROPOSED WORDING FOR ALTERNATIVES 1 & 3 UNDER ACTION 5.

**Alternative 1. (No Action.)** The current recreational grouper bag and possession limit is as ~~management measures are as follows:~~

- ~~Grouper and tilefish, combined--3. Within the 3-fish aggregate bag limit: No more than one fish may be gag or black grouper, combined; no more than one fish per vessel may be a snowy grouper; no more than one fish may be a golden tilefish; and no goliath grouper or Nassau grouper may be retained.~~
- ~~Part of Aggregate Grouper Bag Limit of 3/person/day of: gag, black grouper, snowy grouper, misty grouper, red grouper, scamp, yellowedge grouper, yellowfin grouper, yellowmouth grouper, blueline tilefish, golden tilefish, sand tile, coney, graysby, red hind and rock hind with a limit of 1 snowy grouper per vessel per day.~~
- ~~Sale of recreationally caught fish prohibited.~~

**Alternative 3.** Modify the recreational snowy grouper bag limit from 1/vessel/day year round to 1/vessel/day during May and June with no retention during the remainder of the year ~~and based~~

on 2012 recreational harvest. However, if future catches were similar to 2013 recreational harvest (Table9) recreational landings would be below the expected recreational ACL.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 1, ACTION 5, AS PREFERRED

**Action 5. Modify the Recreational Bag Limit for Snowy Grouper**

**Alternative 1. (No Action).** The current recreational grouper bag and possession limit is as management measures are as follows:

- Grouper and tilefish, combined--3. Within the 3-fish aggregate bag limit: No more than one fish may be gag or black grouper, combined; no more than one fish per vessel may be a snowy grouper; no more than one fish may be a golden tilefish; and no goliath grouper or Nassau grouper may be retained.
- ~~Part of Aggregate Grouper Bag Limit of 3/person/day of: gag, black grouper, snowy grouper, misty grouper, red grouper, seamp, yellowedge grouper, yellowfin grouper, yellowmouth grouper, blueline tilefish, golden tilefish, sand tile, coney, graysby, red hind and rock hind with a limit of 1 snowy grouper per vessel per day.~~
- ~~Sale of recreationally caught fish prohibited.~~

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

\*\*\*\*\*COMMITTEE CONSENSUS THAT THIS IS THE INTENT: OPTION 3. CLARIFY THAT THE COUNCIL'S INTENT IS THAT SNOWY GROUPE R REMAIN WITHIN THE AGGREGATE GROUPE R BAG LIMIT IN ALTERNATIVES 2-4 UNDER ACTION 5\*\*\*\*\*

MOTION: APPROVE REGULATORY AMENDMENT 20 FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

**Amendment 36 (Spawning SMZs)**

MOTION: APPROVE THE ALTERNATIVE SMZ APPROACH (AMENDMENT 36) FOR SCOPING IN AUGUST 2014.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

**Amendment 35 (Remove Species)**

MOTION: APPROVE THE MODIFIED PURPOSE & NEED STATEMENT:

**Purpose:** The purpose of Amendment 35 is to: remove 45 species from the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Unit (FMU) that do not need federal management. ~~Some of these species were originally placed in the fishery management plan for data monitoring purposes, rather than because they were considered to be in need of federal management.~~ Taking into account mandated specifications to provide ACLs and AMs for species in a fishery management plan other than annual stocks or designated ecosystem component species, the Council is simplifying its system of ACLs by removing some of the less frequently landed species that are not in need of federal management.

**Need:** The need for Amendment 35 is to: Simplify federal management without reducing the protection for 45 species rarely caught in states other than Florida.



APPROVED BY COMMITTEE  
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: MODIFY THE DOCUMENT AND REMOVE NASSAU GROUPEL FROM  
CONSIDERATION

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE  
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: APPROVE AMENDMENT 35 FOR SCOPING IN AUGUST 2014  
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: APPROVE TIMING AND TASK MOTION AS PRESENTED:

**Draft Timing & Task Motion:**

1. Direct staff to conduct another review of the Oculina Closed Area Evaluation Plan in 5 years, once the entire area has been mapped.
2. Direct staff to continue to develop Regulatory Amendment 16 (BSB pot closure) and prepare the amendment for review at the September 2014 meeting.
3. Direct staff to prepare Amendment 29 (ORCS & Gray Triggerfish) for approval for Secretarial review at the September 2014 meeting.
4. Direct staff to prepare Amendment 32 (Blueline Tilefish) for public hearings in August 2014 and Council's final review at the September 2014 meeting.
5. Request the SEFSC to provide the average weight by year for wreckfish for 2015 through 2020 to convert lbs ww to numbers of fish. This is needed by June 30, 2014 to complete analyses for the public hearing document to be reviewed at the September 15-19, 2014 Council meeting.
6. Direct staff to prepare Regulatory Amendment 22 (Gag & Wreckfish) for review & approval for public hearings at the September 2014 meeting.
7. Direct staff to prepare Regulatory Amendment 20 (Snowy grouper) for public hearings in August 2014 and Council's final review at the September 2014 meeting.
8. Direct staff to revise the scoping document for Amendment 36 (Spawning SMZs) for scoping in August 2014 and Council's review at the September 2014 meeting.
9. Direct staff to revise the scoping document for Amendment 35 (Removing Species) for scoping in August 2014 and Council's review at the September 2014 meeting.
10. Direct staff to work with NOAA GC and SERO staff to address the golden tilefish longline endorsement issue and report back to the Council at the September 2014 meeting and Council's review at the September 2014 meeting.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: DIRECT STAFF TO DETERMINE THE BEST VEHICLE TO SEPARATE  
ALMACO JACK FROM THE JACKS COMPLEX  
APPROVED BY COUNCIL