



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Jessica McCawley, Chair | Mel Bell, Vice Chair
 Gregg T. Waugh, Executive Director

AGENDA

Snapper Grouper Committee

Hilton Garden Inn/Outer Banks
 5353 N. Virginia Dare Trail
 Kitty Hawk, NC

Tuesday, December 4, 2018 – 2:30 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Wednesday, December 5, 2018 – 8:30 A.M. to 3:45 P.M. (Times subject to change)

Approval of Agenda – Jessica McCawley

Approval of October 2018 Committee minutes – Jessica McCawley

1. Status of Commercial and Recreational Catches versus ACLs – NMFS SERO
(Attachments 1a and 1b)
2. Status of Amendments under Formal Review – NMFS SERO
 - a. Abbreviated Framework Amendment 2 (Black Sea Bass & Vermilion Snapper) – sent to NMFS _____
 - b. Regulatory Amendment 28 (Golden Tilefish) – sent to NMFS 8/7/18
 - c. Vision Blueprint Regulatory Amendment 27 (Commercial) – sent to NMFS _____
3. Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel Report (*Attachments 2a and 2b*) – David Moss
4. Scientific and Statistical Committee Report (*SSC Report*) – Dr. George Sedberry
5. Regulatory Amendment 30 (Red Grouper) (*Attachments 3a-3c*)
 - a. Overview – John Hadley
 - b. **Committee action:** Review, modify draft amendment as necessary and provide guidance to staff – Jessica McCawley
6. Vision Blueprint Regulatory Amendment 26 - Recreational (*Attachments 4a-4c*)
 - a. Overview – Myra Brouwer
 - b. **Committee action:** Review updated analyses and consider recommending for formal review – Jessica McCawley

7. Regulatory Amendment 42 (Sea Turtle Release Gear & Framework Modification; *Attachments 5a and 5b*)
 - a. Overview – Christina Wiegand
 - b. **Committee action:** Review draft document and consider approval for public hearings – Jessica McCawley

8. Allocation Review Trigger Plan (*Attachments 6a-6d*)
 - a. Overview and examples (e.g., MRIP revisions) as trigger – Dr. Brian Cheuvront
 - b. **Committee action:** Provide guidance to staff on timing and approach – Jessica McCawley

9. Regulatory Amendment 32 (Yellowtail Snapper) (*Attachments 7a-7d*)
 - a. Overview – John Hadley
 - b. **Committee action:** Review, modify as needed, and consider recommending for formal review – Jessica McCawley

10. Recreational Accountability Amendment (*Attachments 8*)
 - a. Overview – Dr. Brian Cheuvront
 - b. **Committee action:** Provide guidance to staff – Jessica McCawley

11. Vision Blueprint Biennial Evaluation (*Attachment 9*)
 - a. Overview – Myra Brouwer & Amber Von Harten
 - b. **Committee Action:** Provide guidance to staff – Jessica McCawley

12. Update on red snapper CPUE index (*Attachment 10*) – Dr. Marcel Reichert

13. Review Characterization of Snapper Grouper Commercial Fishery (*Attachments 11a and 11b*)
 - a. Overview – Myra Brouwer
 - b. **Committee Action:** Provide guidance to staff – Jessica McCawley

14. Other Business – Jessica McCawley

Adjourn – Jessica McCawley

Committee Members

Jessica McCawley, Chair
 Mel Bell, Vice-chair
 Anna Beckwith
 Chester Brewer
 Kyle Christiansen
 Chris Conklin
 Roy Crabtree
 Tim Griner
 Doug Haymans
 Wilson Laney

LCDR Jeremy Montes
Steve Poland
Art Sapp
David Whitaker
Spud Woodward
Mid-Atlantic Liaison: Tony DiLernia, Dewey Hemilright

Attachments:

- Attachment 1a:** Status of commercial catches vs. ACLs
- Attachment 1b:** Status of recreational catches vs. ACLs (will be updated prior to the meeting)
- Attachment 2a:** Snapper Grouper AP Report
- Attachment 2b:** Snapper Grouper AP Minutes (October 2018)
- Attachment 3a:** Regulatory Amendment 30 Decision Document
- Attachment 3b:** Draft Regulatory Amendment 30
- Attachment 3c:** Revised Red Grouper Projections
- Attachment 4a:** Vision Blueprint Regulatory Amendment 26 Decision Document
- Attachment 4b:** Draft Vision Blueprint Regulatory Amendment 26
- Attachment 4c:** Vision Blueprint Regulatory Amendment 26 Codified Text (in Late Materials)
- Attachment 5a:** Amendment 42 Decision Document
- Attachment 5b:** Draft Amendment 42
- Attachment 6a:** CCC Allocation Procedural Directive 01-119-01
- Attachment 6b:** Policy 01-119
- Attachment 6c:** Procedural 01-119-02
- Attachment 6d:** Allocation Review Trigger Plan Options Paper
- Attachment 7a:** Regulatory Amendment 32 Decision Document
- Attachment 7b:** Draft Regulatory Amendment 32
- Attachment 7c:** Regulatory Amendment 32 Codified Text
- Attachment 7d:** Revised yellowtail snapper analysis inclusive of 2017 landings (in Late Materials)
- Attachment 8:** Recreational Accountability Amendment Decision Document
- Attachment 9:** Vision Blueprint Biennial Evaluation Presentation
- Attachment 10:** Presentation on red snapper CPUE index (in Late Materials)
- Attachment 11a:** Characterization of the Commercial Snapper Grouper Fishery Report
- Attachment 11b:** Characterization of the Commercial Snapper Grouper Fishery Presentation

Staff: Myra Brouwer

OVERVIEW

Snapper Grouper Committee

The Committee will approve minutes from the October 2018 meeting and the agenda for the December 2018 Committee meeting.

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

Description: National Marine Fisheries Service Southeast Regional Office (NMFS SERO) staff will update the Committee on the status of commercial and recreational landings of snapper grouper species and species complexes relative to their respective ACLs.

Required Committee Action: None.

2. Status of Amendments under Formal Review

Description: NMFS SERO staff will update the Committee on the status of amendments under review or recently submitted.

Required Committee Action: None.

3. Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel Report (Attachment 2a and 2b)

Description: The Snapper Grouper AP met in Charleston, SC on October 17-19, 2018. David Moss, AP Chair, will delivery a summary of the AP's discussions and recommendations and provide additional information/clarification as needed.

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

4. Scientific and Statistical Committee Report (SSC Report)

Description: The SSC met in Charleston, SC on October 15-17, 2018. Included in their agenda were several items pertaining to the management of the snapper grouper fishery. Dr. George Sedberry, SSC Chair, will delivery a summary of the SSC's discussions and recommendations on the following topics:

- Review of FL FWCC's gear selectivity study for Red Snapper and other reef fishes in the U.S. South Atlantic
- Review and discussion on the calibrated MRIP effort and catch estimates for SAFMC stocks and SSC suggested work group approach to updating ABC recommendations
- Review and discussion of MRIP revision assessments for Blueline Tilefish, Red Grouper, Black Seabass, and Vermilion Snapper
- Discussion of ABC Control rule proposed changes.
- Recommendation on new bag and size limit analysis methodology

Required Committee Action: Consider SSC's recommendations and provide guidance to staff.

5. Regulatory Amendment 30 (Red Grouper) (*Attachments 3a-3c*)

Description: The recent red grouper assessment (SEDAR 53) indicated that the stock is undergoing overfishing and is not making adequate progress toward rebuilding, which is supposed to take place by 2020 under the current rebuilding plan. In response, the Council needs to revise the rebuilding plan for red grouper by September 2019 to meet the statutory deadline. The public hearing for this amendment was held during the October 2018 meeting. At this meeting, the Council approved the purpose and need statements, selected or reconfirmed preferred alternatives, added a sub-alternative to extend the spawning season closure for red grouper off of the Carolinas through June, and voted to progress the amendment for final approval at the December meeting.

Status of amendment: There has been a delay in the timeline for this amendment due to issues related to the 2017 commercial data. The Council will review and modify the draft amendment with the intent of approving the amendment for formal review at the March 2019 meeting.

Required Committee Action: Review, modify draft amendment as necessary and provide guidance to staff.

6. Vision Blueprint Regulatory Amendment 26 (Recreational; *Attachments 4a-4c*)

Description: This amendment considers recreational management measures that address items in the 2016-2020 Vision Blueprint for the Snapper Grouper Fishery.

Status of amendment: In October 2018 the Council made modifications to the alternatives for a recreational season for deep-water species and selected preferred alternatives. The Council will review the updated analyses in December 2018 and consider approving the amendment for formal review.

Required Committee Action: Review updated analyses and consider recommending for formal review.

7. Regulatory Amendment 42 (Sea Turtle Release Gear & Framework Modification) (*Attachments 5a and 5b*)

Description: At the March 2018 meeting, the Council directed staff to conduct scoping webinars for proposed modifications to regulations for vessels with South Atlantic snapper grouper commercial or charter vessel headboat permits to allow the use of three additional sea turtle release gear types. The amendment also proposes changes to the snapper grouper framework procedure to facilitate modifying sea turtle and other protected resources release gear and handling requirements in the future.

Status of amendment: At the June 2018 meeting, the Council reviewed scoping comments and approved actions and alternatives to be analyzed. The amendment document has been reformatted to expedite review once approved. A draft public hearing document will be reviewed at the December 2018 meeting.

Required Committee Action: Review draft document and consider approval for public hearings.

8. Allocation Review Trigger Plan (*Attachment 6a – 6d*)

Description: As per, **Attachments 6a – 6d**, the Council needs to send to NMFS its plan for what triggers will direct the Council to begin a re-evaluation of sector allocations for any given species or FMP. A white paper, **Attachment 6d**, was prepared to help orient the Committee and begin the discussion of how the Committee and Council would like to

proceed. This plan will cover all species managed by the Council. The Committee may want to discuss whether to keep this topic in Snapper Grouper Committee or move it to some other committee for future discussion in March and June of 2019.

Status: The Council is just beginning work on this document.

Required Committee Action: Discuss the triggers the Council would like to consider and give direction to staff on how to proceed

9. Regulatory Amendment 32 (Yellowtail Snapper AMs; Attachments 7a-7d)

Description: In March 2018, the Council directed staff to begin work on an amendment that would revise in-season accountability measures for yellowtail snapper. The intent is to alleviate social-economic impacts due to in-season closures. Scoping was held via webinar in August 2018 and the Council reviewed input at their October 2018 meeting, selected an preferred alternative, and voted to progress the amendment for final approval at the December meeting.

Status of amendment: The public hearing for this amendment will be held during the December 2018 meeting. At this meeting, the Council will consider public input, review and modify the amendment, as necessary, and consider recommending for formal review.

Required Committee Action: Review, consider public input, modify as needed, and consider recommending for formal review.

10. Recreational Accountability Amendment (Attachment 8)

Description: At the March 2018 Council meeting the Council decided that it wanted to begin an amendment to explore ways to modify recreational accountability measures (AMs) with an emphasis on consistency across species and removing in-season AMs where possible. The Committee may want to discuss whether to keep this topic in Snapper Grouper Committee or move it to some other committee for future discussion.

Status of amendment: The Council reviewed a draft version of potential actions and alternatives in June of 2018. The actions/alternatives were modified based on Council direction (**Attachment 8**). Additionally, in June of 2018, the Council decided that this amendment would be only for the Snapper Grouper and Dolphin Wahoo FMPs.

Required Committee Action: Review the Actions/Alternatives. Give direction to staff on how to proceed.

11. Vision Blueprint Biennial Evaluation (Attachment 9)

Description: The 2016-2020 Vision Blueprint for the Snapper Grouper Fishery was approved in December 2015 and includes prioritized short-term objectives around broad goals addressing science, management, communication, and governance. The Vision Blueprint outlined an evaluation plan to review the implementation of items in the Blueprint. The biennial evaluation is scheduled to be completed in December 2018. To prepare for the biennial evaluation, staff will provide an overview of the objectives/activities accomplished to date, items that remain to be addressed, and feedback provided by the Snapper Grouper AP. Specific discussion questions for the committee to consider include:

- What additional stakeholder input is needed?
- What format(s) should be used to collect input?
- Timing of collecting input?

- Looking to the future – does the Council want to conduct Visioning in 2020 to update the Blueprint?

Required Committee Action: Provide guidance to staff.

12. Update on red snapper CPUE index (*Attachment 10*)

Description: Dr. Marcel Reichert will present an update of the Southeast Reef Fish Survey (SERFS) Red Snapper chevron trap CPUE index.

Required Committee Action: None

13. Characterization of the Commercial Snapper Grouper Fishery (*Attachments 11a and 11b*)

Description: The Socio-economic Profile of the South Atlantic Snapper Grouper Commercial Fishery is a broad project characterizing the commercial sector of the snapper grouper fishery. The project includes detailed information about permits and permit holders, snapper grouper vessels, participation, catch portfolios, and landings and revenue over the last 20 years. Dr. Kari MacLauchlin-Buck was contracted to conduct the analysis and produce a report. She presented preliminary findings to the Council at their March 2018 meeting. At the October 2018 meeting the Committee expressed interest in reviewing certain aspects of the characterization to inform discussions pertaining to permits and management approaches for commercial vessels that conduct multi-day trips. Staff will provide a brief overview presentation of the pertinent items in the characterization.

Required Committee Action: Provide guidance to staff.

Other Business