

**SUMMARY REPORT
FROM THE
SNAPPER GROUPER
COMMITTEE MEETING
New Bern, NC
December 7-8, 2010**

The Snapper Grouper Committee met on December 7 & 8, 2010 in New Bern, NC. The Committee received a report from a representative of the Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel on their November 2010 meeting. The Committee also received a report from staff on *Oculina* research activities. The Committee discussed changes to the Comprehensive Annual Catch Limit Amendment and approved it for public hearings. The Committee made the following motions and provided the following guidance pertaining to the Comprehensive ACL Amendment.

Action 1: Removal of Species from Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Unit

MOTION #1: ADD ALTERNATIVES THAT WOULD REMOVE SPECIES FROM THE FMU BASED ON 10,000 LBS AND 20,000 LBS LANDINGS.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION #2: MAKE THE 20,000 LB ALTERNATIVE A PREFERRED UNDER ACTION 1 WITH THE EXCEPTION OF CUBERA SNAPPER, WARSAW GROUPER AND LESSER AMBERJACK

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION #3: IN ACTION 1, ADD SPECKLED HIND TO THE LIST OF SPECIES THAT ARE EXCLUDED FROM CONSIDERATION FOR ELIMINATION

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Action 2: Designate Snapper Grouper Species as Ecosystem Component (EC) Species

MOTION #4: UNDER ACTION 2, CHANGE THE PREFERRED TO ALTERNATIVE 1 (NO ACTION)

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Action 3: Establish Species Groupings for Snapper Grouper Species

MOTION #5: SEPARATE SCAMP AND BLACK GROUPER IN ACTION 3.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION #6: SELECT OPTION 2 UNDER THE NEW SPECIES GROUPINGS APPROACH AS PREFERRED

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Action 4: Establish an Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) Control Rule for Snapper Grouper Species That Have Not Been Assessed

MOTION # 7: MOVE ALTERNATIVE 4 TO THE APPENDIX

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Alternative 4. Establish an ABC Control Rule where ABC equals a percentage of the yield at MFMT.

Subalternative 4a. ABC=yield at 65%MFMT

Subalternative 4b. ABC=yield at 75%MFMT

Subalternative 4c. ABC=yield at 85%MFMT

MOTION #8: ADD AN ALTERNATIVE TO USE THE GULF COUNCIL'S CONTROL RULE TO ESTABLISH ABCS FOR UNASSESSED OR DATA-POOR STOCKS

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION #9: COMBINE ACTIONS 4 AND 5 UNDER A SINGLE ACTION

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Revised ABC Control Rule Action

Alternative 1 (No Action). Do not establish an ABC Control Rule for species in the Snapper Grouper FMU.

Alternative 2. Where applicable, establish an ABC Control Rule where ABC equals OFL.

Alternative 3. For unassessed species: establish an ABC Control Rule where ABC equals a percentage of OFL or a percentage of the median landings 1999-2008, as appropriate.

Subalternative 3a. ABC=65% (OFL or median landings 1999-2008)

Subalternative 3b. ABC=75% (OFL or median landings 1999-2008)

Subalternative 3c. ABC=85% (OFL or median landings 1999-2008)

Alternative 4. For assessed species: establish an ABC Control Rule where ABC equals a percentage of the yield at MFMT.

Subalternative 4a. ABC=yield at 65%MFMT

Subalternative 4b. ABC=yield at 75%MFMT

Subalternative 4c. ABC=yield at 85%MFMT

Alternative 5 (Preferred). For assessed species: establish ABCs based on the South Atlantic SSC's ABC control rule. For unassessed species: adopt the South Atlantic SSC's Control Rule but establish an interim ABC = 75% of median landings 1999-2008 until the SSC's control can be fully applied.

Suggest moving Alternative 6 to the Appendix as it is redundant

Alternative 6. For assessed species: establish an ABC Control Rule where ABC is a percentage of OFL and the percentage is based upon the level of risk of overfishing (P*).

Subalternative 6a. ABC=X% of OFL. The X% is based upon P* equals .20.

Subalternative 6b. ABC=X% of OFL. The X% is based upon P* equals .30.

Subalternative 6c. ABC=X% of OFL. The X% is based upon P* equals .40.

Subalternative 6d. ABC=X% of OFL. The X% is based upon P* equals .50.

Alternative 7. For assessed species: establish ABCs based on the South Atlantic's SSC's ABC control rule. For unassessed species: establish ABCs based on the Gulf Council SSC's ABC control rule (ABC = 1.5 standard deviations above mean landings 19XX to 20XX).

Action 6: Specify Allocations for the Snapper Grouper Fishery

SUGGESTION TO CHANGE WORDING OF ACTION TO SPECIFY THAT IT APPLIES TO SPECIES THAT DO NOT CURRENTLY HAVE ALLOCATIONS

GUIDANCE TO ADD ACLS TO ESTABLISH GROUP ACLS

CLARIFY THAT ALTERNATIVE 2 REFERS TO SPECIES THAT DO NOT CURRENTLY HAVE ALLOCATIONS

Action 7: Establish Annual Catch Limits (ACLs) for the Snapper Grouper Fishery

GUIDANCE TO ADD LANGUAGE TO ACTION TO MAKE REFERENCE TO OY

MOTION #10: WHEN ESTABLISHING ACLS FOR THE SECTORS, DIVIDE THE ACL NOT THE ABC
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION #11: MAKE ALTERNATIVE 2 THE PREFERRED
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Alternative 2. Establish ACLs for species as needed where $ACL = OY = ABC$.

Action 8: Specify Accountability Measures (AMs)/Annual Catch Targets (ACTs) for species in the Snapper Grouper FMU

MOTION #12: REPLACE SUBALTERNATIVE 2A: DO NOT ESTABLISH A COMMERCIAL SECTOR ACT
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Alternative 2. Specify Annual Catch Targets (ACT) for the commercial sector

Subalternative 2a. The commercial sector ACT equals the commercial sector ACL.

MOTION #13: SELECT ALTERNATIVES 3 AND 4 AS PREFERRED
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Alternative 3. After the commercial ACL or ACT (if specified) is projected to be met, all purchase and sale of X is prohibited and harvest and/or possession is limited to the bag limit.

Alternative 4. If the commercial sector ACL or ACT (if specified) is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the commercial sector ACL in the following season by the amount of the overage.

MOTION #14: COMBINE ALTERNATIVE 6 AND ALTERNATIVE 8 SO THAT THE TRIGGER FOR AMS IS INCORPORATED INTO SUBALTERNATIVES 8A AND 8B APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Alternative 6. For post-season accountability measures, compare recreational ACL with recreational landings over a range of years. For 2011, use only 2011 landings. For 2012, use the average landings of 2011 and 2012. For 2013 and beyond, use the most recent three-year running average.

Alternative 8. Take corrective action if the recreational ACL has been exceeded.

Subalternative 8a. If the recreational sector ACL is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the recreational sector ACL or ACT (if specified) in the following season by the amount of the overage.

Subalternative 8b. If the recreational sector ACL is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the length of the following fishing year by the amount necessary to ensure landings do not exceed the recreational sector ACL for the following fishing year.

MOTION #15: SELECT NEW ALTERNATIVE 8B AS THE PREFERRED APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Action 9: Specify Allocations for the Wreckfish Fishery

MOTION #16: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 3 AS PREFERRED APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Alternative 3. Divide allocations as 95% Commercial and 5% Recreational.

Action 10: Establish an Annual Catch Limit (ACL) for Wreckfish

MOTION #17: REMOVE SUBALTERNATIVES UNDER ALTERNATIVES 2, 3 AND 4 TO THE APPENDIX APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Alternative 2 (Preferred). $ACL = OY = ABC$.

Subalternative 2a. Establish a single ACL (commercial and recreational) based on the current TAC.

Subalternative 2b. Establish commercial and recreational ACLs based on preferred allocation alternative.

Action 11: Specify Accountability Measures for the Wreckfish Fishery

MOTION #18: MOVE SUBALTERNATIVE 2C TO THE APPENDIX. APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Subalternative 2c. The recreational sector ACT equals sector ACL [(1-PSE) or 0.5, whichever is greater].

MOTION #19: MOVE ALTERNATIVE 2 TO THE APPENDIX APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Alternative 2. Specify Annual Catch Targets (ACT) for the recreational sector, apply the ACT to recreational AM Alternatives 3 and 4.

Subalternative 2a. The recreational sector ACT equals 85% of the recreational sector ACL.

Subalternative 2b. The recreational sector ACT equals 75% of the recreational sector ACL.

Subalternative 2c. The recreational sector ACT equals sector ACL [(1-PSE) or 0.5, whichever is greater].

MOTION #20: SELECT SUBALTERNATIVES 4A AND 4B AS PREFERRED
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Alternative 4. Take corrective action if the recreational ACL has been exceeded.

Subalternative 4a. If the recreational sector ACL is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the recreational sector ACL in the following season by the amount of the overage.

Subalternative 4b. If the recreational sector ACL is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the length of the following fishing year by the amount necessary to ensure landings do not exceed the recreational sector ACL for the following fishing year.

Action 12: Management Measures for Wreckfish

MOTION #21: MOVE ALTERNATIVE 2 (UNDER ACTION 12) TO THE APPENDIX
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Alternative 2. Eliminate the January 15-April 15 spawning season closure

MOTION #22: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 4 (UNDER ACTION 12) AS PREFERRED
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Alternative 4. Implement a one-wreckfish per vessel per day bag limit for the recreational fishery.

MOTION #23: EXEMPT THE RECREATIONAL SECTOR FROM HAVING TO
HAVE COMMERCIAL PERMITS (SNAPPER GROUPER AND WRECKFISH),
WRECKFISH SHARES, AND COUPONS TO LAND WRECKFISH.
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION #24: ADD TWO ALTERNATIVES FOR REC SEASON: JULY-AUGUST,
MAY-JUNE.
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION #25: MAKE THE JULY-AUGUST RECREATIONAL SEASON THE
PREFERRED
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Action 15: Black Grouper Annual Catch Limits

MOTION #26: REMOVE SUBALTERNATIVES 2, 3 AND 4 UNDER ACTION 15
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION #27: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 2 AS PREFERRED (ACL = ABC)
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Alternative 2. ACL = OY = ABC

Action 16: Accountability Measures/Management Measures for Black Grouper

MOTION #28: MODIFY LANGUAGE IN ALTERNATIVE 2A TO NOT ESTABLISH A COMMERCIAL SECTOR ACT AND MAKE THAT THE PREFERRED APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Alternative 2. Specify Annual Catch Targets (ACT) for the commercial sector, apply the ACT to commercial AM Alternatives 3 and 4.

Subalternative 2a. The commercial sector ACT equals the commercial sector ACL

MOTION #29: REMOVE THE PREFERRED STATUS OF ALTERNATIVE 7 APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Alternative 7 (Preferred). The Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to close the recreational fishery when the ACL is projected to be met.

MOTION #30: COMBINE ALTERNATIVE 6 WITH ALTERNATIVE 8 APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Alternative 6 (Preferred). For post-season accountability measures, compare recreational ACL with recreational landings over a range of years. For 2011, use only 2011 landings. For 2012, use the average landings of 2011 and 2012. For 2013 and beyond, use the most recent three-year running average.

Alternative 8 (Preferred). Take corrective action if the recreational ACL or ACT (if specified) has been exceeded.

Subalternative 8a (Preferred). If the recreational sector ACL is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the recreational sector ACL or ACT (if specified) in the following season by the amount of the overage.

Subalternative 8b. If the recreational sector ACL is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the length of the following fishing year by the amount necessary to ensure landings do not exceed the recreational sector ACL for the following fishing year.

MOTION #31: SELECT SUBALTERNATIVE 8B AS AN ADDITIONAL PREFERRED APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION #32: ADD AN ALTERNATIVE THAT WOULD SET THE ACT AT 90% OF THE ACL

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 5C AS PREFERRED APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

SUBSTITUTE MOTION BECOMES MAIN MOTION APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Alternative 5. Specify Annual Catch Targets (ACT) for the recreational sector, apply the ACT to recreational AM Alternatives 7-8.

Subalternative 5c. The recreational sector ACT equals sector ACL [(1-PSE) or 0.5, whichever is greater].

Action 17: Acceptable Biological Catch Control Rule and ABC for Dolphin

MOTION #33: MODIFY ALTERNATIVE 3 TO READ: ADOPT THE SAFMC SSC CONTROL RULE AND SET ABC EQUAL TO A PERCENTAGE OF OFL
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Alternative 3. Establish an ABC Control Rule where ABC equals a percentage of OFL.

MOTION #34: MOVE ALTERNATIVE 4 TO THE CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED APPENDIX

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Alternative 4. Establish an ABC Control Rule where ABC equals a percentage of the yield at MFMT.

MOTION #35: ADD AN ALTERNATIVE TO CONSIDER THE GULF COUNCIL'S SSC CONTROL RULE FOR DOLPHIN

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Action 19: Annual Catch Limits for Dolphin

MOTION #36: KEEP ALTERNATIVE 2 AS OUR PREFERRED
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Alternative 2. $ACL = OY = ABC$.

MOTION #37: MOVE SUBALTERNATIVES IN ALTERNATIVES 2-5 TO REJECTED APPENDIX

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Action 20: Accountability Measures for Dolphin

MOTION #38: ADD SUBALTERNATIVE 2A AND ADOPT AS PREFERRED;
MOVE CURRENT 2A TO THE REJECTED APPENDIX
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Subalternative 2a (Preferred). Do not specify a commercial sector ACT

MOTION #39: ADD ALTERNATIVE 4 AS A PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION #40: RECONSIDER PREVIOUS MOTION
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION #41: REMOVED PREFERRED DESIGNATION FROM ALTERNATIVE 4
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Alternative 4. If the commercial sector ACL is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the commercial sector ACL in the following season by the amount of the overage.

MOTION #42: USE THE 3-YEAR AVERAGE PSE FOR DOLPHIN
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION #43: AUTHORIZE THE RA TO MAKE IN-SEASON ADJUSTMENTS FOR
AMS BASED ON DATA AVAILABLE
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION #44: COMBINE ALTERNATIVE 6 WITH ALTERNATIVE 8 AND
REMOVE “FOR IN-SEASON”
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Alternative 6 (Preferred). For post-season accountability measures, compare recreational ACL with recreational landings over a range of years. For 2011, use only 2011 landings. For 2012, use the average landings of 2011 and 2012. For 2013 and beyond, use the most recent three-year running average.

Alternative 8 (Preferred). Take corrective action if the recreational ACL has been exceeded.

Subalternative 8a (Preferred). If the recreational sector ACL is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the recreational sector ACL in the following season by the amount of the overage.

Subalternative 8b. If the recreational sector ACL is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the length of the following fishing year by the amount necessary to ensure landings do not exceed the recreational sector ACL for the following fishing year.

Subalternative 8c (Preferred). If the recreational sector ACL is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the bag limit by the amount necessary to ensure landings do not exceed the recreational sector ACL for the following fishing year.

Action 21: Management Measures for Dolphin

MOTION #45: SET A 20” MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT FOR DOLPHIN FROM FLORIDA
THROUGH NEW ENGLAND COUNCIL’S AREA
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Action 22: Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) Control Rule and ABC for Wahoo

MOTION #46: REWORD ALTERNATIVE 3 TO ADOPT THE SAFMC SSC
CONTROL RULE AND SET ABC TO A PERCENTAGE OF OFL
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Alternative 3. Establish an ABC Control Rule where ABC equals a percentage of OFL.

MOTION #47: MOVE ALTERNATIVE 4 TO THE REJECTED APPENDIX
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Alternative 4. Establish an ABC Control Rule where ABC equals a percentage of the yield at MFMT.

MOTION #48: ADD AN ALTERNATIVE WITH THE GULF COUNCIL'S SSC CONTROL RULE
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Action 23: Allocations for Wahoo

MOTION #49: USE 1999 AS THE INITIAL YEAR FOR ALLOCATIONS IN ALTERNATIVE 3 & 4
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Action 24: Annual Catch Limits for Wahoo

MOTION #50: ADOPT ALTERNATIVE 2 AS OUR PREFERRED
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Alternative 2. Define allocations for wahoo based upon landings from the ALS, MRFSS, and headboat databases. The allocation would be based on landings from the years 2006-2008. The allocation would be 4% commercial and 96% recreational. The commercial and recreational allocation specified for 2011 would remain in effect beyond 2011 until modified.

MOTION #51: REMOVE SUBALTERNATIVES FROM ALTERNATIVES 2-5 TO CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED APPENDIX
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Action 25: Accountability Measures for Wahoo

MOTION #52: REPLACE SUBALTERNATIVE 2A WITH NEW WORDING AND SELECT AS THE PREFERRED
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Subalternative 2a (Preferred). Do not specify a commercial sector ACT

MOTION #53: MOVE EXISTING SUBALT 2A TO REJECTED APPENDIX
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Subalternative 2a. The commercial sector ACT equals the commercial sector ACL.

MOTION #54: REMOVE "OR ACT (IF SPECIFIED) FROM ALTS 3 & 4
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION #55: COMBINE ALTERNATIVE 6 WITH EACH OF SUBALTS IN ALT 8 AND REMOVE IN-SEASON FROM ALT 6
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Alternative 6 (Preferred). For post-season accountability measures, compare recreational ACL with recreational landings over a range of years. For 2011, use only 2011 landings. For 2012, use the average landings of 2011 and 2012. For 2013 and beyond, use the most recent three-year running average.

Alternative 8 (Preferred). Take corrective action if the recreational ACL has been exceeded.

Subalternative 8a. If the recreational sector ACL is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the recreational sector ACL in the following season by the amount of the overage.

Subalternative 8b. If the recreational sector ACL is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the length of the following fishing year by the amount necessary to ensure landings do not exceed the recreational sector ACL for the following fishing year.

Subalternative 8c (Preferred). If the recreational sector ACL is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the bag limit by the amount necessary to ensure landings do not exceed the recreational sector ACL for the following fishing year.

MOTION #56: ALLOW THE RA TO REDUCE THE BAG LIMIT OF WAHOO TO 1 FISH AND REDUCE THE SEASON AS NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE THE REDUCTION; MAKE THIS OUR NEW PREFERRED APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION #57: REMOVE “OR ACT (IF SPECIFIED)” FROM ALTERNATIVES 7 & 8 APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Action 26: Management Measures for Wahoo

MOTION #58: ESTABLISH A RECREATIONAL BOAT LIMIT OF 2 WAHOO PER BOAT/VESSEL PER DAY APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION #59: SELECT THE NEW ALTERNATIVE AS OUR PREFERRED APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Action 27: Designate Sargassum as Ecosystem Component Species and withdraw the Sargassum FMP

MOTION #60: MOVE ACTION 27 TO THE APPENDIX APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Action 28: Modify the Dolphin/Wahoo Framework Procedure

MOTION #61: MOVE ACTION 28 TO THE APPENDIX APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Action 29: Annual Catch Limit for Golden Crab

MOTION #62: ADOPT IPT’S RECOMMENDATION TO MODIFY WORDING OF NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Alternative 1 (No Action). Do not specify an ACL for Golden Crab.

Action 31: Modify the Golden Crab Framework Procedure

MOTION #63: REMOVE ACTION 31 TO THE APPENDIX. UNDERTAKE CHANGES TO FRAMEWORK PROCEDURES IN A FUTURE AMENDMENT APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

**MOTION #64: APPROVE COMPREHENSIVE ACL AMENDMENT FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE**