



# SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Trish Murphey, Chair | Jessica McCawley, Vice Chair  
John Carmichael, Executive Director

## AGENDA

### Snapper Grouper Commercial Sub-Committee

Villas by the Sea  
1175 Beachview Drive N.  
Jekyll Island, GA

[Webinar Registration Link](#)

Monday, March 3, 2025  
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Public comment will be solicited at the beginning of the meeting. Those wishing to comment should indicate such in the manner requested by the Chair, who will recognize individuals to provide comment in-person or via webinar. Written comments can be submitted [HERE](#). Submitted written comments can be read [HERE](#).

Welcome and Introductions

Approval of Agenda – Jessica McCawley, Sub-Committee Chair

Approve November 2024 Minutes

Public Comment

1. Review of Requested Commercial Information (*Attachments 1a and 1b*)
  - a. Overview Presentation – Michael Schmidtke
2. Discussion of Commercial Issues to be Addressed and Prioritization of Issues (*Attachment 2*)
  - a. Overview – Michael Schmidtke
3. Discussion of Next Steps and Timeline
4. Other Business

Adjourn

### Committee Members:

Jessica McCawley, Chair

Kerry Marhefka, Vice-chair

Tim Griner  
Trish Murphey  
Amy Dukes  
Andy Strelcheck  
James Hull, Jr.  
Charlie Phillips

Staff Lead: Michael Schmidtke ([mike.schmidtke@safmc.net](mailto:mike.schmidtke@safmc.net))

**Attachments:**

**Attachment 1a:** Snapper Grouper Commercial Historical Information Overview Presentation

**Attachment 1b:** Snapper Grouper Commercial Landings Information Document

**Attachment 2:** Discussion Document

# **OVERVIEW**

## **Snapper Grouper Commercial Sub-Committee**

### **1. Review of Requested Commercial Information (*Attachments 1a and 1b*)**

In November 2024, the Sub-Committee directed staff to compile and request the following information. Links are provided if the information is available online.

- Previous reports on the 2-for-1 permit policy with updates through recent years, if possible
  - [2018 MacLaughlin Buck](#)
  - [NOAA Economics of the U.S. South Atlantic Snapper-Grouper Fishery -2018](#)
  - [2021 Commercial Permits White Paper](#)
  - [2024 Commercial Permits White Paper Update](#)
- A previous [SERO presentation](#) by Kevin McIntosh that addressed several permit-related questions, including transfers, renewals, and processes for business and individual ownership
- A previous staff report on overcapitalization of the fishery (possibly written by John Carmichael)
  - *A report on “potential optimum yield” developed in 2014 for a Visioning Workshop is included on the meeting webpage in Additional Materials*
- A summary of the frequency that commercial trips meet their trip limit
  - Look initially at analyses completed for recent amendments
  - As possible, include the length of the trip (day versus multi-day trip)
- Commercial landings by state for the top 5-10 commercial species in the last 5 years
- Commercial landings relative to annual catch limits by stock for 2020-2024
- Number of 2-for-1 permit exchanges over time (*some information is in previous white papers, but Council staff are also working with the SERO Permit Office for more updated information at a future meeting*)
- Information about permit ownership (*some information is in previous white papers, but Council staff are also working with the SERO Permit Office for more updated information at a future meeting*)
  - Percentage of owner-operators and multi-permit owners
  - Evaluate data over time, if possible
  - Qualitative information can be useful, as well. The intent is to show whether and how permit ownership has changed over time; not necessarily through exact numbers.
  - Coordinate with state agencies and the Southeast Regional Office (SERO)

Staff will summarize the available information and provide updates on future data availability, as necessary.

**Sub-Committee Action:** Review the requested information.

### **2. Discussion of Commercial Issues and Initial Prioritization (*Attachment 2*)**

The Sub-Committee will discuss initial prioritization of commercial issues. In November 2024, the Sub-Committee revised and provided some additional details on their list of commercial issues to be addressed. This list was included in the Meeting Summary Report,

and the Sub-Committee will review the list, revise as necessary, and prioritize issues as possible with the additional information provided.

**Sub-Committee Action:** Prioritize commercial issues requiring further consideration.

### **3. Discussion of Next Steps and Timeline**

The Sub-Committee will discuss short-term steps to progress toward addressing the most immediate or highest priority commercial issues and the avenue for addressing them (e.g., an amendment to the snapper grouper FMP).

**Sub-Committee Action:** Direct staff on additional information to be gathered or developed. Provide guidance on the timing and format of the next Sub-Committee meeting.

### **4. Other Business**