DRAFT statement of potential anticipated benefits from establishing a permit for the private component of the recreational sector in the Snapper Grouper fishery

As part of developing a private recreational permit for the Snapper Grouper fishery, the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council will focus on communicating some of the anticipated potential benefits of such a permit. As such, the Snapper Grouper Recreational Permitting and Reporting Technical AP will be asked to provide initial feedback on the benefits that have been highlighted and complied by staff from previous meetings of the AP and additional sources. The initial draft statement is as follows:

A permit for the private component of the Snapper Grouper fishery is anticipated to result in direct and ancillary benefits that would improve information available to fishery managers. The anticipated benefits are as follows:

1) Implementing a private recreational permit would better identify the universe of participants in the private recreational component of the recreational sector fishing for Snapper Grouper species. While all states in the South Atlantic region have implemented a saltwater fishing license, these licenses provide a relatively broad perspective in that they cover participants involved in all marine fishing activity rather than specifically the relatively smaller subset of those fishing for Snapper Grouper species.

2) A private recreational permit would improve existing sampling frames and could potentially be incorporated into the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) sampling efforts. This would result in an increase in the precision of recreational catch and effort estimates. The magnitude of such improvements is unknown and cannot be determined until after implementation.

3) Additionally, a private recreational permit has the potential to be consistent with existing state-based efforts to improve estimates of private recreational catch and effort such as the Florida-based State Reef Fish Survey.

4) Such a permit would provide a foundation for future efforts to implement or expand outreach and education activities as well as implement reporting, should the Council decide to pursue such efforts in the future.

5) There are also ancillary benefits that may result from implementing a private recreational permit in the Snapper Grouper fishing. These may include but are not limited to:
   a) Assist in improvements to economic valuation and other economic information for the recreational sector through greatly improved sampling frames and datasets. These

sampling frames may pair well with contemporary and emerging economic research methods currently being utilized in the Southeastern U.S.[1]

b) Enhance or provide baseline information specific to the Snapper Grouper fishery regarding:
   i) Social and demographic information for private anglers.
   ii) Fleet characteristics of the private component of the recreational sector.
   iii) Prevalence of gear types used in the recreational Snapper Grouper fishery (i.e., manual rod and reel, electric reel, and spear gear).

c) Assist in tracking of climate induced shifts in Snapper Grouper species distribution and catches.[2,3]

[1] Carter, D., S. Lovell, D. Records, and C. Liese. 2022. The Effect of Changes in Trip Costs and Gag Regulations on Recreational Fishing Demand in the Gulf of Mexico. North American Journal of Fisheries Management. 42(6) pages 1465-1476. https://afspubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/nafm.10831.

[2] https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/feature-story/recreational-fishery-data-reveals-climate-driven-shifts-atlantic-highly-migratory

[3] Crear, D., T. Curtis, C. Hutt, and Y. Lee. 2023. Climate-influenced shifts in a highly migratory species recreational fishery. NOAA Institutional Repository. https://repository.library.noaa.gov/view/noaa/49287.