

**SUMMARY REPORT**  
**FROM THE SNAPPER GROUPER COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Stuart, FL**  
**June 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

The Snapper Grouper Committee met on June 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009 in Stuart, FL.

1. Presentations

The Committee received the following presentations: red snapper assessment review (Dr. Frank Hester), *Oculina* Update (Kim Iverson and Myra Brouwer), SSC Report and ABC Control Rule (Dr. Carolyn Belcher), red snapper interim rule (SERO NOAA Fisheries), and red snapper projections (SEFSC NOAA Fisheries).

2. Red Snapper Independent Study, Dr. Hester, John Carmichael (SAFMC Staff)

Dr. Hester raised a number of concerns with the red snapper assessment produced through SEDAR. His main concern involved the flat-topped selectivity used for red snapper recreational landings. John Carmichael provided staff's assessment of the review. There is study underway by SEFSC investigating the effects of a dome-shaped selectivity on the assessment results. Early indications are that there is not a significant change to the results when using a dome-shaped selectivity.

3. Red Snapper Interim Rule

SERO reported that the interim has been sent to Headquarters.

4. Amendment 17, Rick DeVactor (SAFMC Staff), Dr. Waters (SEFSC), Dr. Lamberte (SERO),

The Committee received two presentations on the economic effects of the management measures, in addition to a presentation on the reductions in fishing mortality expected from the spatial closures. The Committee provided direction to staff in terms of Amendment 17. The details are provided in the motions.

5. Amendment 18 – Kate Quigley, SAFMC Staff

The Committee provided direction to staff in terms of Amendment 18. The details are provided in the motions.

The following direction was given to staff:

Golden Tilefish - Staff to expand endorsement eligibility requirements

Black Sea Bass - Staff to look into other requirements as specified to protect marine mammals

Gag - change language in the Comparison section in Chapter 2 to reflect the changes resulting from Amendment 16; identify the regions as 1) GA and FL and 2) SC and NC

Data Reporting - Review 15B to make sure Amendment 18 alternatives do not overlap with those already explored in Amendment 15B; find out if the recreational options have been explored already by MRIP and if there are problems with their use or how they can be coordinated;

Wreckfish - Staff to get together and bring back options in September

#### 6. Comprehensive ACL Amendment, Rick DeVictor, SAFMC Staff

The Committee reviewed the list of actions in the Comprehensive ACL Amendment. Staff will investigate the possibility of either removing species from the FMU or designating species as Ecosystem Component species using National Standard 3 and the Final Rule to the National Standard 1 Guideline Revisions.

#### **The committee approved the following motions:**

##### 4.1 Speckled hind/warsaw grouper

MOTION 1: CHANGE ALTERNATIVE 3 BY ELIMINATING GOLDEN TILEFISH

SUBMOTION: REMOVE GOLDEN TILEFISH FROM ALTERNATIVE 3, ELIMINATE ALTERNATIVE 4, REMOVE REFERENCE TO THE ALLOWABLE HARVEST AREA FOR GOLDEN TILEFISH IN ALTERNATIVE 5 AND REMOVE VMS REQUIREMENT FROM SUB-ALTERNATIVE 5A

SUBMOTION APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MAIN MOTION APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

##### 4.2 GOLDEN TILEFISH

MOTION 2: MODIFY ALTERNATIVE 2 TO SET UP A RECREATIONAL ACL ALONG THE LINES OF THE WAY ALTERNATIVE 2 IS STRUCTURED FOR SNOWY GROUPER

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION 3: MAKE THE NEW ALTERNATIVE 2 FOR GOLDEN TILEFISH OUR PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

#### 4.4 RED SNAPPER

MOTION 4: MSY ALTERNATIVE 2 BE OUR PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION 5: OY ALTERNATIVE 2B ( $75\%F_{MSY}$ ) BE OUR PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

#### 4.5.1 REBUILDING SCHEDULE

MOTION 6: PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE BE ALTERNATIVE 4 (35 YEARS), THE LONGEST ALLOWABLE TIME TO REBUILD

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

#### 4.5.2 REBUILDING STRATEGY

MOTION 7: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 4 AS OUR PREFERRED

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION 8: ADD NEW ALTERNATIVE:

1. ACL = 0 LANDED CATCH
2. AM & MONITORING = SEFSC IMPLEMENTS EXPANDED FISHERY INDEPENDENT MONITORING AND TRACK INCREASING CPUE ABUNDANCE OVER TIME; AM BASED ON CPUE INCREASING AT AN ACCEPTABLE RATE

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION 9: ADD A NEW ALTERNATIVE THAT MEETS THE REBUILDING TIMELINE OF 35 YEARS AT  $75\%F_{MSY}$

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

#### 4.6 RED SNAPPER MANAGEMENT MEASURES

MOTION 10: MOVE ALTERNATIVE 7 TO THE APPENDIX ALONG WITH THE ANALYSES

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

#### 4.8 BLACK GROUPER, GAG, ETC.

MOTION 11: REPLACE THE LANGUAGE IN THE CURRENT PREFERRED WITH THE FOLLOWING:

Alternative 2b. Retain the current commercial ACL for gag of 353,940 lbs gw and the commercial AM to prohibit commercial harvest of shallow water groupers when met. Retain the current recreational ACL of gag 340,060 lbs gw.

In addition, establish an ACL for gag, black grouper, and red grouper of 662,403 lbs gw (commercial) and 648,663 lbs gw (recreational). [These values are equivalent to the expected catch resulting from the implementation of management measures for red grouper and black grouper in Amendment 16 and the gag ACL specified in Amendment 16.]

Prohibit the commercial possession of shallow water groupers when either the gag or the gag, black grouper, and red grouper ACL is met.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION 12: ADOPT 5B AS OUR PREFERRED:

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Alternative 5b. If a species *is overfished* and the sector ACL is projected to be met, prohibit the harvest and retention of species or species group. If the ACL is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the sector ACL in the following year by the amount of the overage.

#### 4.9 FRAMEWORK

MOTION 13: ADOPT ALTERNATIVE 2 FOR FRAMEWORK AS OUR PREFERRED

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Alternative 2. Update the framework procedure for specification of Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan (FMP) to incorporate ACLs, ACTs, and, AMs. Such modifications would be based upon new scientific information indicating such modifications are prudent.

MOTION 14: SPLIT AMENDMENT 17 INTO

1. AMENDMENT 17A – RED SNAPPER
2. AMENDMENT 17B – REST OF THEM

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION 15: SPLIT THE REVIEW AND MODIFICATION OF THE WRECKFISH ITQ PROGRAM OUT OF AMENDMENT 18 INTO A SEPARATE SNAPPER GROUPE AMENDMENT 19

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION 16: The following are the timing and tasks for staff:

### Speckled Hind/Warsaw Grouper Action:

- (1) For alternative 5, draw line with way points
- (2) Add 2008 data to the discard information
- (3) Add analysis indicating the biological effects (specifically in terms of discards) for the alternatives in order to determine if blueline tilefish needs to be included in this action

### Golden tilefish

- (1) Change alternative to reflect snowy grouper Alternative 2 and use number of fish
- (2) Investigate a future amendment that implements tagging for species with low ACLs
- (3) Add alternatives for golden tilefish allocations

### Red Snapper – MSY/OY

- (1) Separate into 2 actions
- (2) Put in MSY values for no action in the table
- (3) Redo analysis to reflect follow red snapper projections (higher yield for F30%) so Council could evaluate risk
- (4) Change MSY language to read: “MSY equals the yield produced by Fmsy or the Fmsy proxy. MSY and Fmsy are defined by the most recent SEDAR/SSC.

### Red Snapper – Management Measures

- (1) Better define “properly stowed”
- (2) Prepare material concerning transit, number of waypoints, and straight lines for the Law Enforcement AP meeting for their comment

### Red Snapper – Monitoring

- (1) Expand to for-hire and headboat
- (2) Write letter to NOAA (Dr. Lubchenco) to encourage expansion of fishery independent process

### Framework

- (1) Add flexibility to number 1 in the list for the SSC to review assessments and information besides SEDAR (e.g., assessments done by other agencies, protected resources reports)