

SUMMARY REPORT
FROM THE SNAPPER GROUPEER COMMITTEE MEETING
Jekyll Island, GA
March 4th & 5th, 2009

The Snapper Grouper Committee met on March 3rd and 4th, 2009 in Jekyll Island, GA.

1. Presentations

The Committee received the following presentations: *Oculina* Update (Kim Iverson and Myra Brouwer), black sea bass release mortality study (Paul Ruderhausen), using acoustics to predict CPUE of deepwater fish in the Snowy Grouper Wreck MPA (Paul Ruderhausen), Gray's Reef Research Area request for draft proposed regulations (Dr. George Sedberry), and Final Rule for National Standard 1 Guidelines (Dr. Jack McGovern).

2. Gray's Reef

The Committee decided to defer to Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary for rule-making in terms of the establishment of the research area.

3. Amendment 17, Rick DeVictor, SAFMC Staff

The Committee provided direction to staff in terms of Amendment 17. The Committee directed staff to have a draft ready for public hearings at the June 2009 meeting. The details are provided in the motions.

4. Red Snapper Interim Rule

The Committee requests that the Council request an interim rule to implement no harvest of red snapper in the EEZ off NC, SC, GA, and FL with an intent to request an extension for a total of a 1 year closure and to request the states to adopt compatible regulations.

The Committee would like staff and state/NMFS scientists to evaluate a red snapper monitoring program based on a research set-aside to include an experimental headboat fishery with observers.

5. Amendment 18 – Kate Quigley, SAFMC Staff

Kate Quigley provided a summary of scoping comments submitted by the public regarding actions in Amendment 18 concerning snapper grouper species. The Committee reviewed the actions and alternatives in the amendment.

6. Comprehensive ACL Amendment, Rick DeVictor, SAFMC Staff

Rick DeVictor provided a summary of scoping comments submitted by the public regarding actions in the Comprehensive ACL Amendment concerning snapper grouper species. The Committee reviewed the list of actions in the Comprehensive ACL Amendment.

The committee approved the following motions:

MOTION #1: DEFER TO GRAY’S REEF NMS FOR RULE-MAKING IN TERMS OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE RESEARCH AREA.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION #2: ESTABLISH AN ACL = 0 FOR SPECKLED HIND AND WARSAW. PROHIBIT ALL FISHING FOR, POSSESSION, AND RETENTION OF ALL DEEPWATER SNAPPER GROUPEER SPECIES SEAWARD OF 40 FATHOMS. ALLOW HARVEST OF GOLDEN TILEFISH IN A SPECIFIED AREA. [PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE]

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION #3: ADD ALTERNATIVE 5 TO THE GOLDEN TILEFISH MEASURES.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION #4: ADOPT GOLDEN TILEFISH ALTERNATIVE 5 AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION #5: ESTABLISH A RECREATIONAL DAILY BAG LIMIT OF 1 SNOWY GROUPEER PER VESSEL LIMIT. [INTENT IS TO PROHIBIT HIGH-GRADING AND RECREATIONAL TARGETING]

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION #6: MOVE SNOWY GROUPER ALTERNATIVES 2 & 5 TO THE APPENDIX APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION #7: ADD A RECREATIONAL AM TO USE THE 3-YEAR RUNNING AVERAGE OF RECREATIONAL SNOWY GROUPER CATCHES AND ALLOW THE RA TO SHORTEN THE FOLLOWING SEASON TO ENSURE THE CATCHES DO NOT EXCEED THE RECREATIONAL ACL [INTENT TO TRACK WORKING FOR ALTERNATIVE 2C UNDER SECTION 4.4] APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION #8: SELECT NEW SNOWY GROUPER ALTERNATIVE 2 AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE: TO ESTABLISH A RECREATIONAL DAILY BAG LIMIT OF 1 SNOWY GROUPER PER VESSEL AND ADD A RECREATIONAL AM TO USE THE 3-YEAR RUNNING AVERAGE OF RECREATIONAL SNOWY GROUPER CATCHES AND ALLOW THE RA TO SHORTEN THE FOLLOWING SEASON TO ENSURE THE CATCHES DO NOT EXCEED THE RECREATIONAL ACL APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION #9: EXCLUDE WRECKFISH FROM THE DEEP WATER CLOSED AREA ALTERNATIVE APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION #10: MOVE CLOSURE ALTERNATIVES 3 AND 4 TO THE APPENDIX. APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION #11: MODIFY ALTERNATIVE 5 IN ORDER TO CLOSE THE LOGBOOK GRID SQUARES 2880, 2980, 3080, AND 3180 BETWEEN 30 M AND A GREATER DEPTH TO BE DETERMINED AT A LATER DATE (STAFF TO PROVIDE ANALYSIS) APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION #12: DIRECT STAFF TO ANALYZE THE IMPACTS OF A CLOSURE FOR RED SNAPPER ON OTHER SPECIES FROM PREVIOUS REGULATIONS APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION #13: EVALUATE A RED SNAPPER MONITORING PROGRAM BASED ON A RESEARCH SET-ASIDE TO INCLUDE AN EXPERIMENTAL HEADBOAT FISHERY WITH OBSERVERS [INTENT FOR SCIENTISTS TO DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS ON #TRIPS, AREAS TO FISH, ETC.] APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

**MOTION #14: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 2B AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE FOR BLACK AND RED GROUPER
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE**

**MOTION #15: MOVE ACT ALTERNATIVE 3A TO THE APPENDIX.
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE**

**MOTION #16: MAKE ALTERNATIVE 2C THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE FOR THE RECREATIONAL AMS.
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE**

**MOTION #17: REMOVE AM ALTERNATIVE 4B TO THE APPENDIX
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE**

**MOTION #18: NOT ONLY INCLUDE SEDAR FOR ADJUSTMENTS BUT ALSO INCLUDE OTHER AVENUES FOR ADJUSTMENTS; STAFF TO DEVELOP ALTERNATIVES FOR ADJUSTMENTS TO THE FRAMEWORK PROCEDURE
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE**

**MOTION #19: REQUEST AN INTERIM RULE TO IMPLEMENT NO HARVEST OF RED SNAPPER IN THE EEZ OFF NC, SC, GA & FL. [INTENT TO REQUEST AN EXTENSION FOR A TOTAL OF A 1 YEAR CLOSURE AND TO REQUEST THE STATES TO ADOPT COMPATIBLE REGULATIONS]
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE**

**MOTION #20: REQUEST THE RA NOT TO PUBLISH THE FINAL RULE PRIOR TO JUNE 2009 COUNCIL MEETING
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE**

**MOTION #21: RECOMMEND THE COUNCIL REQUEST THE NMFS TO DRAFT A RED SNAPPER MONITORING PROGRAM FOR REVIEW AT THE JUNE 2009 MEETING
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE**