

**SSC Roadmap
November 2010**

Briefing Book Draft: October 25, 2010

Contents:

1. Introduction..... 3

2. National SSC Workshop Report 3

3. SEDAR Items..... 3

4. SEDAR 24 Assessment Recommendations..... 4

5. Comprehensive ACL Amendment..... 4

6. Snapper Grouper Amendment 18A 5

7. Snapper Grouper Amendment 24 6

8. Snapper Grouper Regulatory Amendment 9..... 7

9. Snapper Grouper Regulatory Amendment 10..... 8

10. Comprehensive Ecosystem Based Amendment 2..... 9

11. Information and Updates..... 10

12. Next Meeting 15

13. Other Business 15

Synopsis:

The purpose of this meeting is to review the SEDAR 24 assessment of South Atlantic red snapper and provide fishing level recommendations for red snapper, and to review several amendments that are under development.

Documents:

- Attachment 1. 2010 National SSC Agenda
- Attachment 2. SEDAR Steering Committee Summary Oct 2010
- Attachment 3. Black Sea Bass Package
- Attachment 4. Tilefish Package
- Attachment 5. SEDAR 24 SAR
- Attachment 6. Draft Comprehensive ACL Amendment
- Attachment 7. Species Groupings
- Attachment 8. Amendment 18A Public Hearing Draft
- Attachment 9. Red grouper projections
- Attachment 10. Regulatory Amendment 9
- Attachment 11. Regulatory Amendment 10 Draft
- Attachment 12. CE-BA2 Draft
- Attachment 13 Regional Operating Agreement Sept. 2010

1. Introduction

1.1. Documents

Agenda
Minutes, August 2010

1.2. Action

Approve August 2010 Minutes

2. National SSC Workshop Report

2.1. Documents

Attachment 1. 2010 National SSC Agenda

2.2. Overview

The SAFMC hosted the third annual National meeting of fishery management Council SSCs October 19 - 21 in Charleston, SC. The group discussed progress on ABC control rules and reviewed regional assessment and peer review programs.

3. SEDAR Items

3.1. Documents

Attachment 2. SEDAR Steering Committee Summary Oct 2010
Attachment 3. Black Sea Bass Package
Attachment 4. Tilefish Package

3.2. Overview

The SEDAR Steering Committee met October 4-6 in Charleston to discuss procedural issues and the assessment schedule. Considerable changes were proposed, which will be considered for approval at a February 2011 conference call. The SSC is asked to comment on the proposed changes.

The Steering Committee approved elevating the South Atlantic black sea bass update to a benchmark. Golden tilefish, last assessed as a benchmark in SEDAR 4, will be assessed in the same workshops. The SSC is asked to review and comment on the schedule and Terms of Reference, and recommend SSC participants, for black sea bass and golden tilefish.

3.3. Action

Comment on the proposed process changes
Comment on the sea bass and tilefish schedules and TORS
Recommend participants for the sea bass and tilefish assessments
DW participants : 2-3 SSC, recommend others
AW participants: 2 SSC, recommend others

RW: 2 reviewers and 1 chair. Recommend other reviewer

4. SEDAR 24 Assessment Recommendations

4.1. Documents

Attachment 5. SEDAR 24 SAR

4.2. Overview

SEDAR 24 assessed South Atlantic red snapper, culminating in a review workshop October 12-14 in Savannah. The SSC is asked to review this assessment and to provide fishing level recommendations.

SEDAR 15 determined that red snapper were overfished and experiencing overfishing. Actions were developed in Amendment 17A to address red snapper, including a rebuilding plan and a closure to all snapper-grouper fishing between Sebastian FL and the GA/FL border. Amendment 17A is currently under Secretarial review. SEDAR 24 developed a new benchmark for red snapper to evaluate recruitment trends since SEDAR 15, to incorporate increased age samples, and re-evaluate historic catch and discard mortality estimates. The Council is considering a regulatory amendment (RA 10 below) to modify the actions proposed in Amendment 17A in accordance with current stock conditions as indicated by SEDAR 24.

4.3. Action

Review the assessment and recommend whether it is adequate for management
Provide fishing level recommendations for red snapper

5. Comprehensive ACL Amendment

5.1. Documents

Attachment 6. Draft Comprehensive ACL Amendment
Attachment 7. Species Groupings

5.2. Overview

This amendment will apply to a number of Council FMPs and will address ACL and AMs for all stocks not addressed through Snapper-Grouper Amendments 17A, 17B, Golden Crab Amendment 5, Mackerel Amendment 18 and CE-BA 2.

This amendment will include the ABC control rules for assessed and unassessed stocks developed by the SSC.

Staff Contact:

1. Snapper Grouper: Myra Brouwer
2. Golden Crab: Gregg Waugh
3. Dolphin/Wahoo : Gregg Waugh

5.3. Comprehensive ACL Schedule

NOI	1/16/09
Scoping Complete	Feb 2009
Council review options & make recommendations	March 2009 – June 2010
APs review	July 2009, Nov 2010
SSC first review	Dec 2009
SSC provide ABC recommendations.....	April 2010
Council review & approve for Public Hearing	December 2010
Public Hearings.....	Jan/Feb 2011
SSC Final review	Nov 2010; possibly April 2011
Council Approval.....	March 2011
Final Review & Submission	June 2011
Regulations implemented.....	By December 31, 2011

5.4. Presentations

Overview: Myra Brouwer
Species Groupings: Nick Farmer, SERO

5.5. ACTIONS

- Review species groupings alternatives, comment on the adequacy and appropriateness of suggested groupings, and provide guidance for further work if necessary.
- Review data needs and provide guidance
- Final review of fishing level recommendations and alternatives.

6. **Snapper Grouper Amendment 18A**

6.1. Documents:

Attachment 8. Amendment 18A Public Hearing Draft

6.2. Overview

The SSC originally received this as Amendment 17, intended to address stocks currently experiencing overfishing. Some actions in the original Amendment 17 were moved to a new Amendment 18 following the December 2008 Council meeting. Amendment 17 was split in 17A and 17B at the June 2009 Council meeting.

Amendment 18 included actions to address golden tilefish and black sea bass effort trends, extend the range of the snapper-grouper FMP northward, modify snowy grouper and gag quotas and quota management, and improve reporting.

Amendment 18 was split in September 2010 into 18A and 18B.

Amendment 18A

- Limit participation and effort in the golden tilefish fishery (endorsements);
- Allow for transferability of golden tilefish endorsements;

- Changes to the golden tilefish fishing year;
- Change golden tilefish fishing limits;
- Limit participation in the black sea bass pot fishery;
- Limit effort in the black sea bass pot fishery;
- Implement measures to reduce bycatch in the black sea bass pot fishery; and
- Changes to improve data collection.

Amendment 18B

- Extend the range of the snapper grouper fishery management plan north and
- Designate EFH and EFH-HAPCs in the northern areas.

Note: NMFS and NOAA GC are to review the requirement to extend the FMU north to account for mortality in that area when tracking the ACL. If it is not required then this amendment will not move forward.

Staff Contact: Kate Quigley

6.3. Snapper Grouper Amendment 18A Schedule

NOI	1/28/09
Approve for Scoping.....	Dec 2008
Scoping Complete.....	Feb 2009
Council review options & make recommendations	March – June 2009
AP review options & make recommendations.....	April 2009
SSC first review	June 2009
Council review & approve for Public Hearing	September 2010
Public Hearings.....	October 2010
SSC Final review	November 2010
Council Approval.....	December 2010
Final Review & Submission	March 2011
Regulations implemented.....	No statutory deadline

6.4. Presentations

Overview: Kate Quigley

6.5. ACTIONS

Review and Comment:

- Actions and Alternatives
- Analyses of impacts
- Adequacy of data
- Improvements to data collection

7. Snapper Grouper Amendment 24

7.1. Documents

Attachment 9. Red grouper projections

7.2. Overview

Staff Contact: Myra Brouwer

The amendment proposes a number of rebuilding strategies for red grouper based on constant fishing mortality projections at 85%FM_{sy}, 75%FM_{sy}, and 65%FM_{sy}. The amendment also includes a rebuilding strategy for red grouper requested by the SSC that sets FOY equal to FREBUILD, and would have a 70% probability of rebuilding success in ten years. At their June 2010 meeting, the Council requested an additional projection, which would rebuild the stock sometime between the minimum amount of time that the fishery can be rebuilt in the absence of fishing (three years) and the maximum amount of time allowed by the MSA (ten years) to rebuild an overfished stock.

Two additional projections were requested from the SEFSC, and are provided in Attachment 9:

- FREBUILD that would result in the stock being rebuilt in seven years
- Yield at F45%SPR, which is the status quo optimum yield.

7.3. Snapper Grouper 24 Schedule

NOI	
Scoping Complete.....	Jan 2011
Council reviews options & makes recommendations.....	March 2011
AP’s review.....	Nov 2010
SSC first review	April 2011
SSC provide ABC recommendations.....	April 2010
Council review & approve for Public Hearing	June 2011
Public Hearings.....	Summer/Fall 2011
SSC Final review	Nov 2011?
Final Review & Submission	December 2011
Regulations implemented.....	by June 9, 2012

7.4. Presentations - None

7.5. ACTIONS

- Review and comment on additional projections.

8. Snapper Grouper Regulatory Amendment 9

8.1. Documents

Attachment 10. Regulatory Amendment 9

8.2. Overview

Staff Contact: Myra Brouwer

This Regulatory Amendment establishes trip limits for several snapper-grouper stocks and adjusts black sea bass measures.

Actions:

- Trip Limits for black sea bass, vermilion snapper, gag and greater amberjack
- Black sea bass fishing year and spawning season closure

8.3. Snapper Grouper Regulatory Amendment 9 Schedule

NOI	not needed because EA
Scoping Complete	none needed because Reg Amendment
Council review options & make recommendations	September 2010
AP's review	November 2010
SSC first review	November 2010
SSC provide ABC recommendations	N/A
Council review & approve for Public Hearing	December 2010
Public Hearings	Jan/Feb 2011
SSC Final review	expected April 2011
Final Review & Submission	expected March or June 2011
Regulations implemented	TBD

8.4. Presentations

Overview: Myra Brouwer

8.5. ACTIONS

- Review and comment on actions and alternatives

9. Snapper Grouper Regulatory Amendment 10

9.1. Documents

Attachment 11. Regulatory Amendment 10 Draft

9.2. Overview

Staff Contact: Myra Brouwer

This Amendment modifies red snapper actions. At their September 2010 meeting, the Council decided that a Regulatory Amendment through framework action and an environmental assessment would be the proper level of analysis in order to analyze a change in regulations from those actions proposed in Amendment 17A. The Council provided the following two alternatives to act as bookends for the analysis:

- (1) The combination of the red snapper closure and the smallest possible spatial closure to close snapper grouper fishing.
- (2) The combination of the red snapper closure and the closure in Amendment 17A but possession and retention [of snapper grouper species] would be allowed a portion of the year.

Actions under this RA are dependent upon the findings of the SEDAR 24 benchmark of Atlantic red snapper.

Actions:

- Modify red snapper regulations in response to the new stock assessment

9.3. Snapper Grouper Regulatory Amendment 10 Schedule

NOI	None because EA
Scoping Complete	None because Reg Amendment
Council review options & make recommendations	December 2010
AP’s review	November 2010
SSC first and final review	November 2010
SSC provide ABC recommendations.....	N/A
Two possible timelines:	
A. Council takes public comment at December 2010 meeting and makes final changes and approve for submission to Secretary of Commerce	December 2010
B. Council review & approve for Public Hearing.....	December 2010
Public Hearings	Jan/Feb 2011
Final Review & Submission	March 2011
Regulations implemented.....	??

9.4. Presentations

Overview: Myra Brouwer

9.5. ACTIONS

- Review and comment on actions and alternatives

10. Comprehensive Ecosystem Based Amendment 2

10.1. Documents

Attachment 12. CE-BA2 Draft

10.2. Overview

Staff Contact: Anna Martin

Actions:

- Remove octocorals from the FMU under the South Atlantic Coral FMP.
- Extend the FMU for octocorals into the Gulf Council’s area of jurisdiction.
- Modify the ACL for octocorals in the South Atlantic.
- Modify management of South Carolina SMZs.

- Modify sea turtle release gear requirements for the snapper grouper fishery.
- Amend the Shrimp FMP to designate new EFH-HAPCs.
- Amend the Snapper Grouper FMP to designate new EFH-HAPCs.
- Amend the Coastal Migratory Pelagics FMP to designate new EFH-HAPCs.
- Amend the Coral FMP to designate new EFH-HAPCs.
- Amend the FMP for Pelagic Sargassum Habitat to designate new EFH HAPCs.

Note: At their September meeting, the Council decided to remove Actions specifying MSY, OY, ABC, ACL, and AMs. These actions were replaced with a discussion. A new action modifying the ACL for octocorals was added.

10.3. CEBA II Schedule

NOI	None because EA
Scoping Complete	Jan/Feb 2009
Council review options & make recommendations	March 2009 – Sept 2010
APs review	Sept 09 & Aug 2010 & Nov 2010?
SSC first review	November 2010
SSC provide ABC recommendations.....	April & Aug 2010
Council review & approve for Public Hearing	December 2010
Public Hearings	Jan/Feb 2011
SSC Final review	April 2011?
Final Review & Submission	June 2011
Regulations implemented	

10.4. Presentations

Overview: Anna Martin

10.5. ACTIONS

- Review and comment on actions and alternatives.
- Comment on the new alternative to modify the existing ACL in the Gulf and South Atlantic for octocorals to 50,000 colonies for state and EEZ waters combined.

11. Information and Updates

Attachment 13 Regional Operating Agreement Sept. 2010

11.1. FMP REPORTS

Staff contact: Gregg Waugh

11.1.1. Coastal Migratory Pelagic

Mackerel Amendment 18

Document: Draft Mackerel Amendment 18

Summary:

Actions:

- Establish OFL, ABC, ACL, and AMs for king & Spanish Mackerel and Cobia
- Establish Cobia migratory groups
- Establish management measures necessary to ensure ACLs not exceeded

Schedule:

NOI	1/22/2008
Scoping Complete	2/2009
Council review options & make recommendations	2008-2010
APs review	2009
SSC first review	Dec 2009
SSC provide ABC recommendations.....	April 2010
Council review & approve for Public Hearing	December 2010
Public Hearings.....	Jan 2011
SSC Final review	April 2011
Final Review & Submission	June 2011
Regulations implemented.....	

11.1.2. Snapper Grouper

SG Amendment 18B

Document: None; waiting on NOAA GC and NMFS guidance

Summary: Extend FMP range

Actions:

Schedule:

NOI	1/22/09
Scoping Complete	Jan 2009
Council review options & make recommendations	
APs review	
SSC first review	
SSC provide ABC recommendations.....	NA
Council review & approve for Public Hearing	
Public Hearings.....	Oct 2010

SSC Final review
 Final Review & Submission
 Regulations implemented.....

SG Amendment 20

Document:
 Summary:
 Actions:

Schedule:

NOI 1/9/2009
 Scoping Complete..... Jan 2009
 Council review options & make recommendationsMar 2009 -
 APs review
 SSC first review April 2011
 SSC provide ABC recommendations.....NA
 Council review & approve for Public Hearing
 Public Hearings
 SSC Final review
 Final Review & Submission
 Regulations implemented.....

SG Amendment 21

Document:
 Summary:
 Actions:

Schedule:

NOI
 Scoping Complete..... Jan 2011
 Council review options & make recommendations
 APs review
 SSC first review April 2011
 SSC provide ABC recommendations.....NA
 Council review & approve for Public Hearing
 Public Hearings
 SSC Final review
 Final Review & Submission
 Regulations implemented.....

SG Amendment 22

Document:
 Summary:
 Actions:

Schedule:

NOI

Scoping Complete.....	Jan 2011
Council review options & make recommendations	
APs review	
SSC first review	April 2011
SSC provide ABC recommendations.....	NA
Council review & approve for Public Hearing	
Public Hearings.....	
SSC Final review	
Final Review & Submission	
Regulations implemented.....	

SG Amedment 24 – See 7.3 above

11.1.3. Spiny Lobster

Amendment 10

Document:
Summary:
Actions:

Schedule:

NOI	
Scoping Complete.....	
Council review options & make recommendations	
APs review	
SSC first review	
SSC provide ABC recommendations.....	
Council review & approve for Public Hearing	
Public Hearings.....	
SSC Final review	
Final Review & Submission	
Regulations implemented.....	

11.1.4. Golden Crab

Amendment 5

Schedule:

NOI	
Scoping Complete.....	Nov 2009
Council review options & make recommendations	Sept 2009-Dec 2010
APs review	Summer 2009
SSC first review	April 2011
SSC provide ABC recommendations.....	April 2010
Council review & approve for Public Hearing	March 2011
Public Hearings.....	May 2011
SSC Final review	April 2011

Final Review & Submission Sept. 2011
 Regulations implemented.....

11.2. Hearings and Scopings

1. Snapper Grouper Amendment 18A
2. Multiple Hearings and Scopings
 24-28 January and January 31-February 4
 (Specific sites and dates to be determined)

Scoping Topics

- A. Snapper Grouper Amendment 21 – Catch Shares;
- B. Snapper Grouper Amendment 22 – Red Snapper Long-term Management
- C. Snapper Grouper Amendment 24 – Red Grouper
- D. Golden Crab Amendment 5 – Golden Crab Catch Shares

Public Hearing Topics

- A. Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 2
- B. Comprehensive Annual Catch Limit Amendment
- C. Mackerel Amendment 18
- D. Snapper Grouper Regulatory Amendment 9 – trip limits
- E. Snapper Grouper Regulatory Amendment 10 – red snapper adjustments

11.3. Future Council Meetings

- A. December 5-10, 2010
 Sheraton New Bern
 100 Middle Street
 New Bern, NC 28562
 Phone: 1-800-326-3745 or 252-638-3585/Fax: 252-638-8112
- B. March 7-11, 2011 – Georgia
 Sea Palms Resort & Conference Center
 5445 Frederica Road
 St. Simons Island, GA 31522
 Phone: 1-800-841-6268 or 912-638-3351/Fax: 912-638-5416
- C. June 13-17, 2011 – Florida
 Key West Marriott Beachside Hotel
 3841 N. Roosevelt Blvd.
 Key West, FL 33040
 Phone: 1-800-546-0885 or 305-296-8100/Fax: 305-293-0205
- D. September 12-16, 2011 – South Carolina
 The Charleston Marriott Hotel

170 Lockwood Boulevard
Charleston SC 29403
Phone: 1-800-968-3569 or 843-723-3000/Fax: 843-723-0276

E. December 5-9, 2011 – North Carolina

Holiday Inn Brownstone Hotel
1707 Hillsborough Street
Raleigh, NC 27605
Phone: 1-800-331-7919 or 919-828-0811/Fax: 919-834-0904

F. March 5-9, 2012 – Georgia

G. June 11-15, 2012 – Florida

H. September 10-14, 2012 – South Carolina

I. December 3-7, 2012 – North Carolina

12. Next Meeting

Proposed Meeting Dates:

April 5-7, 2011

November 8 - 10, 2011

13. Other Business