



# **Vision Blueprint for the Snapper Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region 2016-2020**

**Summary of accomplishments and actions left to  
address**



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# Outline

- I. Council's Vision**
- II. Evaluation Plan – Biennial Review Guidance**
- III. Vision Blueprint strategic goals and objectives**
  - ❖ **Summary of progress on prioritized activities**
  - ❖ **What's left**
- IV. Advisory Panel's recommendations**



# Evaluation Plan

## *Biennial Review*

**Purpose:** Mid-term review of progress on the implementation of the Vision Blueprint and stakeholder perceptions.

**Timing:** December 2018

### **Tasks:**

- Review the short-term action items from each goal to determine what outcomes were achieved in 2016-2018;
- Provide opportunity for public input on outcomes of short-term action items (*survey, webinars/comment stations, etc.*)





# Science

Management decisions are based upon robust, defensible science that considers qualitative and quantitative data analyzed in a timely, clear, and transparent way that builds stakeholder confidence

1. Promote collection of quality data to support management plans and programs
2. Encourage development of mechanisms to effectively engage and collaborate with stakeholders on research, data collection, and analysis



# Progress through 2018 - Science

- ✓ Charter vessel electronic reporting amendment and pilot
- ✓ Pilot tilefish survey in Mid-Atlantic, discussions on data collection for species that overlap Council jurisdictions
- ✓ Citizen Science Program, MyFishCount, Fishery Performance Reports
- ✓ Support tools for Fishery Ecosystem Plan, R/V *Okeanos* cruise in 2018 to map deep-water ecosystems
- ✓ Cooperative research on red snapper



# What's Left - Science

- Evaluate fishery-dependent and independent programs
- Evaluate SEDAR
- Validate data collection programs
- Identify sampling resources to support data programs
- Identify alternative sources of funding for FI programs
- Consider industry research set-aside funding program to support research and monitoring needs



# Management

Adopt management strategies that rebuild and maintain fishery resources, adapt to regional differences in the fishery, and consider social and economic needs of fishing communities

1. Develop management measures that consider sub-regional differences and issues within the fishery
2. Develop management measures that allow consistent access to the fishery for all sectors
3. Ensure that management decisions help maximize social and economic opportunity for all sectors





# Progress through 2018 - Management

- ✓ Management boundaries for hogfish in Amendment 37
- ✓ Vision Blueprint amendments 26 & 27: recreational season for deep-water species, commercial split seasons, trip and bag limit adjustments, etc.
- ✓ Amendment 46 (recreational permit/stamp)
- ✓ Socio-economic Characterization of the Commercial Snapper Grouper Fishery
- ✓ Regulatory Amendment 29 (best fishing practices)
- ✓ Citizen Science Program
- ✓ MyFishCount



# What's Left - Management

- Species-specific quota-based management
  - Design elements (*e.g.*, quota transfer by sub-region)
  - Management elements (*e.g.*, sub-regions set quotas, openings, etc.)
- Staggered spawning season closures
- Regulations by sub-region not based on quota or allocations



# What's Left - Management

- State-by-state regulations for either sector
- Use bag-limit step-down as post-season AM for rec sector
- Charter boat limit instead of per-person limit
- Alternative management approaches for multi-day boats (“traditional bandit boats”) – permit stacking, multi-day endorsement, sector/community shares)
- Evaluate retention of bag limit when commercial season is closed



# What's Left - Management

- Adaptive management to slowly increase almaco and rudderfish ACL
- Use multi-year ACLs/catch specifications
- Consider non-traditional stakeholders in management decisions (restaurants, eco tourism, bait/tackle businesses)
- Consider diversity of harvest operations (owner-operator, multiple vessels)



# What's Left - Management

- Consider permit bank to address new entrants
- Consider number of days allowed to fish for rec sector
- “Time out” period of no fishing for rec sector



# Communication

Employ interactive outreach strategies that encourage continuous participation and support two-way engagement between managers and stakeholders while building a greater understanding of science and management

1. Develop approaches that provide streamlined and timely information to increase awareness and stakeholder engagement
2. Improve awareness and understanding of fishery science and research and how these inform management





# Progress through 2018 - Communication

- ✓ Remote listening stations
- ✓ Q&A for upcoming amendments
- ✓ Website improvement
- ✓ Support expansion of MREP-SE
- ✓ informal port meetings for education purposes
- ✓ Diversify locations of in-person meetings
- ✓ YouTube Channel, forum for commercial fishermen
- ✓ MyFishCount portal in-person trainings
- ✓ Charter ER reporting and trainings



# What's Left - Communication

- Work with agency partners to provide notification of ACL monitoring updates
- Incorporate real-time calendar for fishery closures for both sectors
- Website analytics to evaluate effectiveness and access of materials on website
- Advertising campaign highlighting Council activities and success stories



# What's Left - Communication

- Outreach strategies related to connection between habitat and fisheries
- Targeted outreach about the Council process including role of SSC
- Expand use of educational webinars on stock assessment, data collections, etc.
- Develop training for new AP members



# Governance

Commit to a transparent, balanced, and timely decision-making process that allows flexible yet well-defined protocols and strategies for managing the snapper grouper fishery

1. Create an accountable and flexible decision-making process for development and evaluation of management measures
2. Build capacity to streamline management efforts and better coordinate with management partners



# Progress through 2018 - Governance

- ✓ Abbreviated framework procedure
- ✓ online comment forms and public comment at AP meetings
- ✓ SAFMC and SERO staffs meeting in June 2018
- ✓ ecosystem partners
- ✓ Citizen Science Program
- ✓ MyFishCount



# What's Left - Governance

- Develop mechanism for evaluating decision-making process to ensure consistency and accountability
- Consider how scientific information is incorporated into the management process and provide flexibility
- Develop a regulations evaluation process
- Establish working relationships with non-fishery entities and agencies for future marine management issues





# Council request to the AP

1. How should the Council solicit input from stakeholders on the Vision Blueprint?
2. How should the Council prioritize items left to address under each strategic goal?



# Snapper Grouper AP Input

## For the Remaining Management Objectives:

- Pursuit of research on life history of managed species is critical
- While staggered spawning season closures is an attractive concept, it is complicated from a regulatory standpoint. More information would be needed to consider feasibility in the South Atlantic region.
- More information would be needed to consider whether a bag limit step-down could work for the recreational sector.
- Time out period of no fishing for the recreational sector is not feasible and should be removed from consideration.



# Snapper Grouper AP Input

## For the Remaining Management Objectives:

- Needs of “non-traditional stakeholders” are already being addressed by the needs of the commercial and recreational sectors.
- Multi-year ACLs is an interesting concept and should be considered.
- Multi-day trip limits would be a good way to address the “carbon footprint” of the commercial fishing industry and should be considered in management in addition to permit stacking.
- Permit stacking would also be economically beneficial and alleviate the cost to fishermen when a vessel requires maintenance or is otherwise unable to fish.



# Snapper Grouper AP Input

## For the Management Goals:

- Permit stacking may improve professionalism in the fishery. Pros and cons would need to be examined.
- Weekly trip limits or multi-day endorsements could be considered.
- Instead of referring to large vessels capable of making multi-day trips as “traditional bandit boats”, suggest using the term “trip fishing vessels”.



# Evaluation Plan

## *Information needed for Biennial Review*

**Timing:** December 2018

### **Tasks:**

- ✓ Review the short-term action items from each goal to determine what outcomes were achieved in 2016-2018;
- Provide opportunity for public input on outcomes of short-term action items (*survey, webinars/comment stations, etc.*)

### **Discussion Items:**

- What additional stakeholder input is needed?
- What format(s) should be used to collect input?
- Timing of collecting input?
- Looking to the future – does the Council want to conduct Visioning in 2020 to update the Blueprint?