

Vision Blueprint Regulatory Amendment 26 Recreational Measures

Prepared by SAFMC Staff

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

September 20, 2017

What the Council did in June

- Reviewed actions/alternatives and preliminary analyses
- Amendment was not approved for public hearings
- Gave staff guidance to modify some actions/alternatives
- Added a new action addressing prohibition on powerheads in the EEZ off SC

Timing From June 2017 Meeting

- **June 2017** - Reviewed actions/alternatives and preliminary analyses and provided guidance. Did not approve for public hearings.
- **September 2017** - Review/Finalize actions/alternatives and Purpose and Need.
- **December 2017** - Review analyses, select preferred alternatives and approve for public hearings
- **March 2018** - Review public comment, modify document as appropriate, and approve all actions.
- **June 2018** - Review and approve for formal review.

What needs to be done at this meeting to meet the current timing:

- Review Purpose and Need statement, modify as necessary, **and finalize**
- Review the IPT's proposed modifications to actions/alternatives
- Consider removing actions/alternatives
- **Finalize actions/alternatives** – this will allow staff/IPT to complete analyses for selection of preferred alternatives in Dec
- Review and approve timing of amendment development

Actions – As of June 2017

1. Modify the species composition of the recreational aggregates
2. Modify or establish recreational aggregate and single-species bag limits
3. Specify measures to reduce bycatch mortality of deep-water species (with sub-actions for season, size limits, and gear restrictions)
4. Modify the seasonal prohibition on recreational harvest and possession of shallow-water groupers
5. Remove the recreational minimum size limit for certain deep-water species (included as sub-action 3)
6. Reduce the recreational minimum size limit for black sea bass
7. Reduce the recreational minimum size limit for gray triggerfish in the Exclusive Economic Zone off East Florida
8. Remove the recreational prohibition on the use of powerheads in the Exclusive Economic Zone off South Carolina

RECREATIONAL SECTOR WANTS A SET SEASON WITH NO IN-SEASON CLOSURE = GAME MANAGEMENT

SPECIES	SEASON	BAG LIIMIT
Alligator	2 nd Sat. Sept – 2 nd Sat Oct (1 month)	1 tag/person
Turkey	March 20 – May 5 (private)	No more than 2 gobblers/day; 3 gobblers/season
Deer	Zone 1 = Oct 11 – Jan 1 Zone 3 = Aug 15 – Jan 1	Antlered = 2/day; 5/season Antlered = 2/da; 5/season
Ducks	Nov 18-25, Dec 9 – Jan 28	1-4 depending on species
Marsh Hens/Rails	Oct 6-10, Nov 3 – Jan 6	14 king & clapper 25 Sora & Virginia

Overview of Alternative Approach

1: Modify composition of recreational aggregates – (1) deep-water species, (2) shallow-water groupers, (3) other shallow-water species

2: Deep-Water Species - with sub-actions for season, aggregate bag limit, size limit, and gear restrictions

3: Shallow-Water Groupers - with sub-actions for season, aggregate bag limit, size limit, and gear restrictions

4: Other Shallow-Water Species - with sub-actions for season, aggregate bag limit, size limit, and gear restrictions

5: Remove prohibition on powerheads in the EEZ off South Carolina

Alternative Approach Would:

1. Build on game management concepts that were popular among stakeholders during Visioning (i.e., predictability of seasons, reducing discards)
2. Reflect how the fishery currently operates
3. Simplify regulations
4. Reduce the number of actions in the amendment

Alternative Approach

Action 1: Modify the species composition of the recreational aggregates – (Current Action 1)

Results in three groups:

1. Deep-water species
2. Shallow-water groupers
3. Other shallow-water species

Alternative Approach

Action 2: Deep-Water Species Aggregate (Current Actions 1 & 3)

Sub-action 2.1: Season – 2 or 4 months; remove in-season closure; staff/IPT monitor; changes (via framework) to bag limit first and season second

Sub-action 2.2: Aggregate bag limit – 1 or 2 fish (all species combined) per person per day (**Current Action 2**)

Total ACL of Deep Water Species = 146,615 pounds + 7,838 fish (snowy grouper and golden tilefish)

Alternative Approach

Action 2: Deep-Water Species Aggregate (Continued)

Sub-action 2.3: Remove size limits (**Current Action 3 or 5**)

Sub-action 2.4: Gear restrictions (single-hook rig requirement, others?)
(**Current Action 3**)

Alternative Approach

Action 3: Shallow-Water Grouper Aggregate – (Current Action 1)

Sub-action 3.1: Season (**Current Action 4**) – set season annually and remove in-season closure; Open season options: May 1-December 31 (current), May 1-October 31, others?

Sub-action 3.2: Aggregate bag limit – 1 or 2 fish (all species combined) per person per day (**Current Action 2**)

Total ACL for Shallow-Water Groupers = 1,099,569 pounds

Sub-action 3.3: Size limits?

Sub-action 3.4: Gear restrictions?

Alternative Approach

Action 4: Other Shallow-Water Species Aggregate –

Sub-action 4.1: Season (could be year-round) and remove in-season closure

Sub-action 4.2: Aggregate bag limit – 1 to 5 (Up to 10?) fish per person per day
(**Current Action 2**) (all species combined with some exceptions for overfished species)

Total ACL for Other SW Species = 7,408,186 pounds + 16,677 (hogfish)

Sub-action 4.3: Size limits – reduce black sea bass and gray triggerfish size limits (**Current Actions 6 & 7**)

Sub-action 4.4: Gear restrictions?

Level of Harvest Possible Under Current Regulations

Commercial: Unlimited commercial permit = up to existing trip limits
Trip limited commercial permit = 225 pounds/trip

Recreational: Current Charter (average 6 people) = 756 pounds/trip possible
Current Private Rec (average 4.5 people) = 567 pounds/trip possible

Alternative Approach

Action 5: Remove the recreational prohibition on the use of powerheads in the Exclusive Economic Zone off South Carolina
(**Current Action 8**)

Action 1: Modify composition of recreational aggregates – (1) deep-water species, (2) shallow-water groupers, (3) other shallow-water species (Current Action 1)

Action 2: Deep-Water Species (Current Actions 1 & 3)

- 2.1: Season –season and no in-season closure
- 2.2: Bag limits –1 or 2 fish per person per day
- 2.3: Size limits (Current Action 5)
- 2.4: Gear restrictions

Action 3: Shallow-Water Groupers (Current Action 1)

- 3.1: Season (Current Action 4) and no in-season closure
- 3.2: Bag limits –1 or 2 fish per person per day (Current Action 2)
- 3.3: Size limits?
- 3.4: Gear restrictions?

Action 4: Other Shallow-Water Species (Current Action 1)

- 4.1: Season –season and no in-season closure
- 4.2: Bag limits –1 to 5 (up to 10?) fish per person per day (Current Action 2) (exceptions for overfished sp)
- 4.3: Size limits – reduce black sea bass and gray triggerfish size limits (Current Actions 6 & 7)
- 4.4: Gear restrictions?

Action 5: Remove prohibition on powerheads in the EEZ off South Carolina (Current Action 8)

Adjustment to Timing?

September 2017 – Review/Finalize actions/alternatives and Purpose and Need.
Was this accomplished? If not revise timing:

- December 2017 - Review/Finalize actions/alternatives and Purpose and Need
- March 2018 - Review analyses, select preferred alternatives and approve for public hearings
- June 2018 – review public comment, modify document, and approve all actions
- September 2018 - Review and approve for formal review.

To Move Forward:

- OPTION 1. RETAIN STRUCTURE OF VISION BLUEPRINT REGULATORY AMENDMENT 26 AS DIRECTED BY COUNCIL IN JUNE 2017
- OPTION 2. ADOPT ALTERNATIVE APPROACH AS PRESENTED IN SEPTEMBER 2017 AND DIRECT STAFF TO PROCEED WITH DEVELOPMENT OF AMENDMENT ACCORDINGLY
 - Would require further guidance under each action
 - Would require new timing to be approved

Extra slides on ACLs

Proposed Aggregate	Species	Total ACL	Comm ACL	Rec ACL	2016 rec landings	%ACL	Rec Season	
Deep-water Species	Deepwater Complex	169,896	131,268	38,628	17,494	45%		
	Blackfin snapper	3,665	1,096	2,569				
	Queen snapper	9,466	87,756	710				
	Misty grouper	2,863	2,388	475				
	Silk snapper	90,323	66,794	23,529				
	Yellowedge grouper	55,596	50,464	5,132				
	Sand tilefish	7,983	1,770	6,213				
	Other Deep-water species							
	Blueline tilefish	174,798	87,521	87,277	172,286	197%	May-Aug	
	Snowy grouper*	163,109	135,380	<i>4,819</i>	9,746	217%	May-Aug	
Golden tilefish*	560,490	541,296	<i>3,019</i>	13,010	431%			
Wreckfish	414,200	393,490	20,710	0		Jul-Aug		
Total (ww/gw)		1,482,493	1,288,955	146,615				
Total (fish)				7,838				
*gutted weight; italics = numbers of fish								

Proposed Aggregate	Species	Total ACL	Comm ACL	Rec ACL	2016 rec landings	%ACL	Rec Season	
Shallow-water Groupers	Shallow Water Grouper Complex	104,190	55,542	48,648	28,229	58%	May-Dec	
	Red hind	33,084	24,350	8,734				
	Rock hind	37,493	22,833	14,660				
	Coney	2,718	665	2,053				
	Graysby	17,598	2,771	14,827				
	Yellowfin grouper	9,258	4,879	4,379				
	Yellowmouth grouper	4,039	44	3,995				
	Other SWG							
	Scamp	335,744	219,375	116,369	30,961	27%	May-Dec	
	Gag*	677,351	318,231	331,902	135,862	43%	May-Dec	
	Black grouper	262,594	96,844	165,750	116,547	70%	May-Dec	
	Red grouper	780,000	343,200	436,800	155,271	36%	May-Dec	
	Total		2,159,879	1,033,192	1,099,469			

Proposed Aggregate	Species	Total ACL	Comm ACL	Rec ACL	2016 rec landings	%ACL	Rec Season	
Other shallow-water species	Jacks Complex	457,221	189,422	267,799	247,598	92%		
	Snappers Complex	1,513,883	1,169,308	344,575	1,053,214	90%		
	Grunts Complex	836,025	217,903	618,122	420,847	68%		
	Porgies Complex	143,262	36,348	106,914	140,105	131%		
	Other shallow-water species							
	Sand tilefish	7,983	1,770	6,213				
	Yellowtail snapper	3,037,500	1,596,510	1,440,990	518,785	36%		
	Mutton snapper	926,600	157,743	768,857	608,480	80%		
	Atlantic spadefish	812,478	150,552	661,926	27,591	4%		
	Bar jack	62,249	13,228	49,021	2,005	4%		
	Black Sea Bass	1,756,450	755,274	1,001,177	321,369	32%	Apr-Dec	
	Gray triggerfish	716,999	312,324	404,675	393,302	97%		
	Greater amberjack	1,968,000	769,388	1,167,837	1,252,576	107%		
	GA-NC hogfish	33,930	23,456	988**		**		
	FLK/EFL hogfish	17,034	3,510	15,689**		**	May-Oct	
	Red porgy	328,000	164,000	164,000	145,173	89%		
Vermilion snapper	1,269,000	862,920	406,080	366,063	90%			
Total (ww)		13,869,580	6,423,656	7,408,186				
Total (fish)		17,034		16,677				
	Italics = # fish							

Extras slides on bag limit poundage

What an angler or trip can land, on average, if they caught all their Snapper Grouper bag limits on a recreational trip

Aggregate/Species	Avg Bag Wt/Person	Avg Bag Wt/Trip		
		All	Charter	Private
10 Snapper	11.97	30.50	51.63	33.15
20 Fish	32.15	73.90	169.85	94.83
3 Grouper	12.33	42.25	54.83	38.09
GREATER AMBERJACK	19.93	71.68	87.50	62.61
HOGFISH	1.77	4.91	6.90	5.29
RED SNAPPER	11.83	57.46	47.34	58.54
RED PORGY	5.36	24.35	28.82	20.41
VERMILION SNAPPER	6.14	24.30	32.60	20.65
BLACK SEA BASS	9.42	30.97	47.10	28.08
AMBERJACK GENUS	3.57	23.82	33.27	31.15
GRUNT FAMILY	0.93	1.64	3.13	2.02
JACK FAMILY	3.57	4.92	13.94	7.80
PORGY FAMILY	0.32	2.41	4.26	2.73
WRECKFISH	6.38	40.00	40.00	40.00
Total	125.7	433.1	621.2	445.4

3 Grouper Aggregate						
Species	Num	Avg Wt	%	Rel Avg Wt	Bag Lim (pp)	Bag Avg Wt
BLUELINE TILEFISH	56,953	4.65	24.87%	1.16	3	3.47
RED GROUPEr	34,579	7.79	15.10%	1.18	3	3.53
GRAYSBY	32,737	0.93	14.29%	0.13	3	0.40
GAG*	31,372	14.67	13.70%	2.01	1	2.01
SCAMP	18,330	6.53	8.00%	0.52	3	1.57
TILEFISH	13,684	4.83	5.97%	0.29	1	0.29
ROCK HIND	13,203	1.91	5.76%	0.11	3	0.33
SAND TILEFISH	13,114	0.95	5.73%	0.05	3	0.16
BLACK GROUPEr*	6,674	11.82	2.91%	0.34	1	0.34
SNOWY GROUPEr**	4,313	10.46	1.88%	0.20	0.29	0.06
RED HIND	2,115	1.46	0.92%	0.01	3	0.04
YELLOWEDGE GROUPEr	1,035	7.80	0.45%	0.04	3	0.11
CONEY	786	0.93	0.34%	0.00	3	0.01
YELLOWFIN GROUPEr	57	10.26	0.02%	0.00	3	0.01
YELLOWMOUTH GROUPEr	41	7.90	0.02%	0.00	3	0.00
MISTY GROUPEr	31	2.35	0.01%	0.00	3	0.00
Total	229,024			6.05	3	12.33
* Only 1 Black Grouper or Gag and 1 Tilefish can be landed within the aggregate bag limit.						
** 1 Snowy can be retained per vessel.						

Avg Bag Lim Wt per Private Trip for 3 Grouper Agg

Year	Anglers	Trips	Ang/Trip	Bag Wt
2014	147,439	46,637	3.16	38.98
2015	121,923	41,035	2.97	36.64
2016	207,481	66,681	3.11	38.37
Avg.	158,948	51,451	3.09	38.09

Avg Bag Lim Wt per Charter Trip for 3 Grouper Agg

Year	Anglers	Trips	Ang/Trip	Bag Wt
2014	61,718	14,201	4.35	53.59
2015	65,490	14,259	4.59	56.63
2016	99,842	22,605	4.42	54.46
Avg.	75,684	17,022	4.45	54.83

10 Snapper Aggregate						
Species	Num	Avg Wt	%	Rel Avg Wt	Bag Lim (pp)	Bag Avg Wt
GRAY SNAPPER	1,996,437	1.08	49.95%	0.54	10	5.39
YELLOWTAIL SNAPPER	1,324,665	1.01	33.14%	0.34	10	3.36
LANE SNAPPER	356,269	0.67	8.91%	0.06	10	0.60
MUTTON SNAPPER	307,776	3.23	7.70%	0.25	10	2.48
SILK SNAPPER	3,563	1.73	0.09%	0.00	10	0.02
BLACKFIN SNAPPER	3,377	2.73	0.08%	0.00	10	0.02
CUBERA SNAPPER	3,335	8.61	0.08%	0.01	10	0.07
QUEEN SNAPPER	1,359	8.97	0.03%	0.00	10	0.03
Total	3,996,781			1.20		11.97

Avg Bag Lim Wt per Charter Trip for 10 Snapper Agg				
Year	Anglers	Trips	Ang/Trip	Bag Wt
2014	225,625	57,892	3.90	46.64
2015	411,390	94,786	4.34	51.94
2016	397,789	87,184	4.56	54.60
Avg.	344,935	79,954	4.31	51.63

Avg Bag Lim Wt per Private Trip for 10 Snapper Agg				
Year	Anglers	Trips	Ang/Trip	Bag Wt
2014	1,405,010	509,803	2.76	32.98
2015	972,302	363,316	2.68	32.02
2016	1,199,157	418,013	2.87	34.33
Avg.	1,192,156	430,377	2.77	33.15

20 Fish Aggregate						
Species	Num	Avg Wt	%	Rel Avg Wt	Bag Lim (pp)	Bag Avg Wt
WHITE GRUNT	1,049,103	0.75	42.23%	0.32	20	6.30
GRAY TRIGGERFISH	543,279	2.16	21.87%	0.47	20	9.44
ATLANTIC SPADEFISH	373,480	2.56	15.03%	0.38	20	7.69
JOLTHEAD PORGY	123,663	1.76	4.98%	0.09	20	1.75
SAILORS CHOICE	102,396	0.59	4.12%	0.02	20	0.49
WHITEBONE PORGY	84,616	1.23	3.41%	0.04	20	0.84
ALMACO JACK	80,337	5.16	3.23%	0.17	20	3.34
BANDED RUDDERFISH	48,822	3.99	1.97%	0.08	20	1.57
SCUP	35,691	0.81	1.44%	0.01	20	0.23
KNOBBED PORGY	22,361	1.17	0.90%	0.01	20	0.21
MARGATE	12,418	1.49	0.50%	0.01	20	0.15
BAR JACK	4,967	1.72	0.20%	0.00	20	0.07
LESSER AMBERJACK	2,108	3.49	0.08%	0.00	20	0.06
COTTONWICK	642	0.59	0.03%	0.00	20	0.00
SAUCEREYE PORGY	323	1.08	0.01%	0.00	20	0.00
Total	2,484,206			1.61		32.15

Avg Bag Lim Wt per Charter Trip for 20 Fish Agg

Year	Anglers	Trips	Ang/Trip	Bag Wt
2014	467,834	84,600	5.53	177.78
2015	211,884	42,526	4.98	160.18
2016	210,766	41,427	5.09	163.56
Avg.	296,828	56,184	5.28	169.85

Avg Bag Lim Wt per Private Trip for 20 Fish Agg

Year	Anglers	Trips	Ang/Trip	Bag Wt
2014	715,977	247,172	2.90	93.13
2015	522,604	186,161	2.81	90.25
2016	853,944	276,079	3.09	99.44
Avg.	697,508	236,471	2.95	94.83

Individual Species Bag Limits				
Species	Num	Avg Wt	Bag Lim (pp)	Bag Avg Wt
GREATER AMBERJACK	154,553	19.93	1	19.93
HOGFISH	293,573	1.77	1	1.77
RED SNAPPER	94,033	11.83	1	11.83
RED PORGY	168,247	1.79	3	5.36
VERMILION SNAPPER	912,091	1.23	5	6.14
BLACK SEA BASS	930,910	1.35	7	9.42
WRECKFISH	3.92	40.00	0.26	10.20

Average weight for **charter trips** (2015-2016) for individual species: **196 lbs**

Average weight for **private trips** (2014-2016) for individual bag limits: **250 lbs**