

FINAL
SUMMARY REPORT - SAFMC Visioning Workshop
September 14, 2015
Hilton Head Island, SC

Review of Draft Snapper Grouper Vision Blueprint: Public Input

Staff presented an overview of the public input sessions held in July and August 2015 and reviewed the overall public input received on the Draft Vision Blueprint. Discussion included:

Amount of participation in the meetings and written comment received –

- The use of comment stations was well received by stakeholders.
- In the future, balancing comments/discussion from the participants at the comment station and participants tuning in via webinar needs to be considered. However, the exchange of ideas between webinar participants and comment station participants worked well since it allowed all participants to hear ideas from throughout the region.
- It was noted that some of the written comments received used a mail-in type form that was fairly concise and it was suggested that perhaps a mailed form could be used in the future to collect stakeholder input on specific management issues. Council also discussed that most of the input centered around a few action items that stakeholders did not support (catch shares, electronic monitoring, and closed areas) and that there was limited input on items supported by stakeholders.
- Council directed staff to also look back at the 2014 port meeting summaries to compile additional input on action items in the draft vision blueprint.

Survey of stakeholder perceptions on specific issues –

- Council discussed the possibility of using a stakeholder survey in the future to gather information about certain management tools (catch shares, electronic monitoring, etc.), why stakeholders may not support these tools, and to collect ideas about the use of other types of management tools. Additionally, information on how some of these management tools were introduced to stakeholders and implemented successfully in other regions would be useful if these types of tools are used in the future in the South Atlantic.
- Council also discussed using a stakeholder survey in 2016 after the vision blueprint is adopted to help prioritize the short-term action items to gauge which items stakeholders support as priority items for development of a snapper grouper amendment in 2016. The survey could be administered online (Survey Monkey) or via mail.

New ideas from public input – Council reviewed some of the new ideas brought forward by stakeholders during the public input and will discuss incorporating relevant ideas into the draft vision blueprint at the October 2015 Council member visioning workshop.

Outreach on Vision Blueprint –

- Council discussed the use of a series of port meeting-style educational meetings to provide stakeholders with information on new management issues and topics of concern. These meetings would be idea specific to provide more information on a specific management tool (i.e., permit stacking, state-by-state quotas, etc.).
- Staff noted that there is some confusion among stakeholders about how the vision blueprint will be used and the process for how short-term action items will be developed by the Council. Suggestions were made to prepare some outreach materials on how the blueprint will be adopted by the Council first and then short-term action items will be developed through the formal amendment process with ample opportunity for public input at that time.

Format of Vision Blueprint – Council discussed the current format and layout of the draft blueprint and the need to simplify the document into a format that is more user-friendly. The format/layout of the blueprint will be redesigned after the October visioning workshop with input from the Council.

Council also discussed using a similar process to SEDAR when considering prioritization of actions within the vision blueprint and how they will fit in with the Council’s current activities.

Planning Discussion for October Council Member Visioning Workshop

The Council member visioning workshop will be held October 14-15, 2015 in Charleston, SC. The goals for the workshop will be for Council to consider the 2015 public input; begin prioritizing items for the final Vision Blueprint document; and to develop an implementation and evaluation/review plan for the Vision Blueprint. Specifically, at the workshop, Council will determine strategies and actions that will not be considered at this time, items that will be addressed in the short term (next 2 years), and items that will be considered in the mid- to long-term (3-5 years).

In preparation for the workshop, staff will send a survey to Council members that will focus on ranking the importance (both in timing of implementation and value to the vision) of the objectives under each strategic goal.