

SAFMC VISIONING WORKSHOP REPORT

December 2, 2013

Wilmington, NC

Introduction & Recap of September 2013 Workshop

- Staff reviewed discussions from the September 2013 workshop about the continued revisions to the snapper grouper FMP goals and objectives.

Review/Continued Discussion of Revised Snapper Grouper Strategic Goal Statements/Goals/Objectives

- Council reviewed the draft strategic goal statements developed by the visioning workgroup and provided additional edits to the goal statement for Communication and inclusion of habitat considerations in the goals/objectives.
- Council members gave staff guidance to maintain the four strategic goals under Science, Communication, Management, and Governance, rather than framing the strategic goals around the 10 National Standards.
- Staff briefly discussed proposed edits to some of the snapper grouper FMP objectives and Council expressed interest in looking at developing target metrics for implementing these goals/objectives in the future.

Port Meeting Discussions:

Key Issues -

Staff asked the Council to brainstorm a list of key issues for which the Council would like feedback from stakeholders at the port meetings. The list includes:

- **Discards**
- **Confusing/Conflicting regulations**
- **Views on electronic reporting and monitoring** (including VMS and other tools).
- **Definition of localized depletion**
- **Alternative management strategies** (i.e., full retention/ no size-limits)
- **Data quality** - Understanding that the Council does not collect data but does have ability to include in amendments the data that needs to be collected. Consider ways to improve data collection?
- **Allocations** – How to effectively and fairly establish allocations between sectors? How often are allocations revisited?
- **Spatial Management** – Should there be established criteria to guide the Council on when to use spatial management?
- **Shifting pressure to other fisheries**
- **Regional approaches to management**
- **Best way to communicate with stakeholders**

Facilitation Questions for Port Meetings –

The visioning workgroup developed revised questions to use during the port meetings that would address each strategic goal. Staff reviewed the draft questions and Council provided feedback on broad framework questions about communication and management (what is working/not working and ideas for improving) and sector-specific questions aimed at getting feedback on specific fisheries issues. Sector-specific questions included:

- **Commercial** – Questions dealing with species targeted/discarded; ideas about full retention vs. size limits; allocation issues; views on electronic reporting and monitoring; regulatory issues; spatial management; and data collection ideas.
- **For-Hire** - Questions dealing with species targeted/discarded; seasonality and regulatory solutions; allocation issues; views on electronic reporting and monitoring; spatial management; artificial reefs; healthy ecosystems in context of eco-tourism.
- **Recreational** – Questions dealing with species targeted/discarded; allocation issues; views on electronic reporting and monitoring; spatial management; artificial reefs; and healthy ecosystems in context of eco-tourism.
- **Chefs/Dealers** – Questions dealing with supply chain and demand issues; and seasonality of fisheries.
- **Coastal Tourism/Marine-Related Businesses** – Questions dealing with seasonality of fisheries; outreach needs; tournament/fishing events; and healthy ecosystems in context of eco-tourism.

Materials for Port Meetings:

- Prepare an introductory presentation that will include purpose of visioning project; Council's jurisdiction; brief explanation of roles and responsibilities of each agency in the process including Congress; and how the information from port meetings will be used.
- Create posters to hang at each port meeting that include commonly used acronyms, list of snapper grouper species, information on MSA and mandates the Council has to operate under; and list of 10 National Standards.
- Provide informational handouts on stock assessments, SEDAR, MPAs, and other management issues.

Additional Needs for Collecting Stakeholder Input:

- Create a web-based comment form for each sector to submit comments via the SAFMC website.
- Work with NOAA General Counsel to determine requirements for using a web-based comment form to collect feedback and determine Federal Register notice requirements.
- When compiling feedback from the port meetings and on-line consider organizing by both sector-specific feedback and geographical areas.

Format and Locations for Port Meetings:

- Two staff will facilitate port meetings – Amber will be lead and other staff person should be a tech staff on a rotating basis.
- Staff led a discussion about hosting sector-specific meetings where meeting location will influence the sectors in attendance at each meeting. Members of the snapper grouper advisory panel also offered to host meetings in their respective state.
- State representatives on the Council will provide a list of specific meeting locations by state by Thursday morning. The port meeting schedule will be developed by the visioning workgroup.

Pre-Port Meeting Outreach:

Staff reviewed the draft outreach flyer that will be mailed to all federal snapper grouper permit holders (commercial, for-hire, and dealers). Council provided feedback on the content and wording of the flyer and expressed support for this outreach approach. The workgroup will continue to work on outreach strategies for private recreational anglers and other stakeholders.