



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, North Charleston SC 29405
Call: (843) 571-4366 | Toll-Free: (866) SAFMC-10 | Fax: (843) 769-4520 | Connect: www.safmc.net

Carolyn N. Belcher, Ph.D., Chair | Trish Murphey., Vice Chair
John Carmichael, Executive Director

AGENDA

Wreckfish Advisory Group and Sub-Committee

World Golf Village Renaissance

500 South Legacy Trail

Saint Augustine, Florida 32092

Tuesday, September 19, 2023

Wreckfish Advisory Group – 9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. (Times subject to change)

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes (June 2022)

1. Snapper Grouper Amendment 48 (Wreckfish) Review (**Attachments 1a and 1b**)
 - o Overview – Christina Wiegand
2. Participation and Eligibility for the Wreckfish ITQ Program (**Attachment 2**)
 - a. Presentation – Jessica Stephen, NMFS
 - b. Discussion – Christina Wiegand
 - c. **Advisory Group Action:** provide recommendations to the Council, as appropriate.
3. Monitoring for the Wreckfish ITQ Program (**Attachment 3**)
 - a. Presentation – Jessica Stephen, NMFS
 - b. Discussion – Christina Wiegand
 - c. **Advisory Group Action:** provide recommendations to the Council, as appropriate.

Other Business

Adjourn

Wednesday, September 20, 2023

Wreckfish Sub-Committee – 9:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M. (Times subject to change)

Approval of Agenda

4. Snapper Grouper Amendment 48 (Wreckfish ITQ Modernization) (**Attachment 4**)
 - d. Overview – Christina Wiegand
 - e. **Sub-Committee Action:** approve the range of actions and alternatives to be added to Snapper Grouper Amendment 48.

Other Business

Adjourn

Advisory Group Members

Mike and Jim Freeman

John Polston

Paul Reiss

Pete Boehm

Cole Richards

Charlie Phillips

Chris Conklin

Scott Vaeth

Sub-Committee Members

Jessica McCawley

Kerry Marhefka

Tim Griner

Andy Strelcheck

Attachments

Attachment 1a: Snapper Grouper Amendment 48 Advisory Group Discussion Document

Attachment 1b: Snapper Grouper Amendment 48 Draft Document

Attachment 2: Presentation on Participation and Eligibility in the Wreckfish ITQ Program

Attachment 3: Presentation on Monitoring in the Wreckfish ITQ Program

Attachment 4: Snapper Grouper Amendment 48 Sub-Committee Decision Document

Staff Lead: Christina Wiegand (christina.wiegand@safmc.net)

OVERVIEW

Wreckfish Advisory Group Meeting

The Advisory Group will approve the minutes from the June 2022 meeting and the agenda for the September 2023 Advisory Group meeting.

1. Snapper Grouper Amendment 48 (Wreckfish) Review (Attachment 1).

Description: A review of the Wreckfish Individual Transferable Quota (ITQ) Program was completed in 2019 and included recommendations for improvement, specifically modernization of the program. At their June 2023 meeting the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) established an ad-hoc advisory group consisting of the current shareholders (Wreckfish Advisory Group) and Council Wreckfish Sub-Committee to discuss continued development of Amendment 48. Staff will provide the Advisory Group with a summary of the actions currently contained in Amendment 48 and previously discussed by ITQ shareholders, as well as the next steps in the amendment development process.

Advisory Group Action: none.

2. Participation and Eligibility in the Wreckfish ITQ Program (Attachment 2).

Description: Snapper Grouper Amendment 48 considers actions to move from the current paper-based coupon systems to an electronic reporting system. Moving to an electronic reporting will require the Council to review current participation and eligibility requirements in the fishery. Currently, there are some aspects of eligibility and participation in an electronic system that are not specified in the current wreckfish ITQ regulations. As such, simply retaining the status quo requirements may result in unintended effects. NMFS staff will provide a presentation on needed participation and eligibility decisions and Council staff will lead a discussion with the Advisory Group to gather input for Council consideration.

Advisory Group Action: provide recommendations to the Council, as appropriate.

3. Monitoring for the Wreckfish ITQ Program (Attachment 3)

Description: Snapper Grouper Amendment 48 considers actions and alternatives necessary to improve and modernize the Council's Wreckfish ITQ program based on recommendations from the ITQ Review. One of those recommendations included modifications to monitoring requirements for the fishery, specifically the offloading site and time requirements. Shareholders report that they rarely encounter law enforcement officials at the dock and the allowable offloading time requirement negatively affects the efficiency of their fishing operations. Since fishermen report that they rarely encounter law enforcement when offloading, the intended outcome of approved offloading sites and times as a deterrent for landing unreported fish has not been realized. As such, the Council is considering other options for monitoring of the wreckfish ITQ fishery. NMFS staff will provide a presentation on monitoring options and Council staff will lead a discussion with the Advisory Group to gather input for Council consideration.

Committee Action: review and approve Advisory Panel agenda topics.

Other Business

Wreckfish Sub-Committee Meeting

The Sub-Committee will approve the agenda for the September 2023 Sub-Committee meeting.

4. Snapper Grouper Amendment 48 (Wreckfish) (Attachment 4).

Description: In June 2023, the Council received presentations from NMFS on different monitoring options for the wreckfish ITQ fishery. Additionally, NMFS indicated that additional actions would need to be added to Snapper Group Amendment 48 (modernization of the wreckfish ITQ fishery) to address participation and eligibility requirements. Staff will present draft actions and alternatives related to these two topics for Sub-Committee discussion and approval.

Advisory Group Action: approve the range of actions and alternatives to be added to Snapper Grouper Amendment 48.

Other Business