



South Atlantic Update

Published for fishermen and others interested in marine resource conservation issues Winter 2011

Red Snapper Fishery Remains Closed

Updated stock assessment shows improvement in stock status, area closure deemed unnecessary

Fishermen from southern Georgia to Cape Canaveral, Florida breathed a slight sigh of relief as the Council reached agreement in December that the harvest moratorium in place for red snapper was sufficient to meet the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act to end overfishing and rebuild the red snapper stock. While some fishermen opposed a continued closure of the red snapper fishery in federal waters, many others were pleased to hear that a large area closure where fishing for *all* snapper grouper species would be prohibited is not necessary.

Both the 2008 and 2010 stock assessments for red snapper indicated the stock is undergoing overfishing and is overfished. However the results of the most recent assessment indicate that the stock biomass has benefited from two recent strong recruitment years and that the stock, while still overfished, is in better condition than what was estimated in 2008. In addition, the magnitude of overfishing is less than indicated in the previous assessment.

The area closure is included in Amendment 17A to the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan. The amendment, approved by the Secretary of Commerce in October 2010, continues the moratorium on the harvest of red snapper, requires the use of non-stainless steel circle hooks when fishing for snapper grouper species in federal waters north of 28 degrees N. latitude beginning March 3, 2011, and contains a measure to prohibit on the harvest and retention of most snapper grouper species in a 4,827 square mile area. However, the effective date of the closed area was delayed until June 2011, giving the Council time to consider the new red snapper stock assessment.



Courtesy of Art Beaulieu

After reviewing an updated stock assessment for red snapper, the Council agreed that the current moratorium on the harvest of red snapper is sufficient to end overfishing and approved Regulatory Amendment 10 for submission to the Secretary

of Commerce. The intent of the amendment is to eliminate implementation of a large area closure from southern Georgia to Melbourne, Florida that would prohibit the harvest of all snapper grouper species in order to help protect red snapper.

The moratorium on the harvest of red snapper continues in federal waters throughout the South Atlantic region. The Council may take action to modify the moratorium as the stock continues to rebuild.

After reviewing the assessment and advice from its scientific advisors, the Council approved Regulatory Amendment 10 during its December meeting. The amendment contains alternatives to reduce the size/shorten the time length of the snapper grouper area closure or to eliminate it, but will not change the red snapper harvest moratorium. The Council is requesting the large area closure be eliminated. The Secretary of Commerce must approve the amendment. The moratorium on harvest of red snapper will continue throughout federal waters in the South Atlantic region.

An updated stock assessment for red snapper is scheduled for 2013. The Council will continue to receive updates on monitoring activities from NOAA Fisheries.

New Circle Hook Requirement

The use of non-stainless steel circle hooks in the snapper grouper fishery in federal waters north of 28 degrees N. Latitude (approximately Sebastian Inlet, Florida) is required beginning **March 3, 2011**. See the Final Rule for Amendment 17A on the Council's website www.safmc.net for details.

NOTE! Public Hearing and Scoping Meeting Series

January 24 - February 3, 2011

comments accepted until February 14, 2011

See page 4 for details -

March 7- 11, 2011 Council Meeting
St. Simon's Island, GA

See page 7 for details

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Editor's Note

The South Atlantic Update is published by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. Its purpose is to report developments in fisheries management that would be of interest to its readers. Please credit the Council when reprinting articles used in this newsletter. Anyone wishing to submit information or articles pertaining to fishing or fisheries management, or letters to the editor on a pertinent issue, is invited and encouraged to do so. Submissions may be mailed to Kim Iverson, Editor, *South Atlantic Update*, 4055 Faber Place Dr., Suite 201, N. Charleston, SC 29405, or may be sent via the internet; Email address: kim.iverson@safmc.net.

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ACLs and Accountability Measures in Action: Is a Recreational Closure of Black Sea Bass In Store?

A closure of the recreational fishery for black sea bass may be the first introduction for many anglers to the concept of Accountability Measures (AMs) as required by the Magnuson-Stevens Act to help ensure that Annual Catch Limits (ACLs) are not exceeded. Under the new system of Accountability Measures, projected landings for the recreational black sea



Fishermen offload black sea bass after a charter trip in Morehead City, NC

bass fishery may lead to an early closure of the fishery by NOAA Fisheries Service, possibly by Mid-February.

The fishing year for black sea bass is June 1 – May 31, and the current recreational ACL for black sea bass is 409,000 pounds (gutted weight) as established in Amendment 13C in 2006. Recreational landings for 2009/2010 are estimated at 574,332 pounds and include both private recreational and for-hire (charter/headboat)

fisheries. Recreational landings include private angler data collected through the Marine Recreational Information Program and logbook data collection programs for the for-hire (charter/headboat) fishery. If closed, the recreational fishery would reopen June 1, 2011.

Beginning January 31, 2011, Amendment 17B (see next page) implements recreational AMs for black sea bass, vermilion snapper, gag, red grouper, and black grouper. According to the amendment, if the species is overfished (black sea bass is currently listed as overfished and is in year 5 of a 10-year rebuilding schedule) and the ACL is met or projected to be met, harvest will be prohibited. The recreational ACL would be compared to the recreational landings using only 2010 landings for 2010, an average of 2010 and 2011 landings for 2011, and a 3-year running average of landings for 2012 and beyond. Running averages will be used for recreational landings to account for the difficulty in accurate in-season monitoring of recreational fisheries.

The black sea bass fishery ACL is divided between recreational and commercial fishermen, with an allocation of 57% recreational and 43% commercial. The commercial fishery was closed in October 2010 when the quota was projected to be reached. NOAA Fisheries reopened the fishery for two weeks in December 2010 after weather conditions kept the quota from being met. Harvest levels must be kept below the commercial and recreational ACLs to prevent overfishing and rebuild black sea bass within the specified 10-year rebuilding period.

The Council may consider modifications to current recreational regulations to help avoid future closures, including decreases in bag limits. A benchmark stock assessment for both black sea bass and golden tilefish in the South Atlantic region is being conducted this year through the Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR) program. Details regarding the SEDAR 25 assessment workshop schedule are available from the Council's website at www.safmc.net.

In the News:

NOAA Fisheries to Host National ACL Science Workshop Feb. 15-17

NOAA Fisheries will host a National Annual Catch Limit (ACL) Science Workshop on February 15-17, 2011 in Silver Spring, MD. The meeting will be held in conjunction with the Regional Fishery Management Councils and will involve NOAA Fisheries staff, Council representatives and nationally recognized fishery science experts.

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) was amended in 2007 to include a requirement to implement ACLs and accountability measures in the nation's fisheries. This mandate substantially changed the nature and amount of data needed to manage the nation's fisheries. The workshop will focus on scoping potential improvements in the state of scientific information needed to support implementation of the MSA, particularly in determining and implementing ACLs.

For further information contact Richard Methot, Office of Science and Technology, NMFS at richard.methot@noaa.gov or at (206) 860-3365.

New Benchmark Stock Assessments for Black Sea Bass and Golden Tilefish Scheduled for 2011

Scientists, biologists, fishermen and others involved in the data collection process will come together April 26 - 28, 2011 in Charleston, SC to participate in the first of three workshops to assess black sea bass and golden tilefish stocks in the South Atlantic.

The assessment will be conducted through the Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR) stock assessment program and is the 25th in a series of assessments. SEDAR is organized around three workshops. The first is the Data Workshop, during which fisheries, resource monitoring, and life history data are compiled.

The second is the Assessment process, conducted through a series of webinars and workshops during which assessment models are developed and population parameters are estimated using information provided from the Data Workshop. The Assessment Workshop for SEDAR 25 will take place in Beaufort,

NC June 21-23, 2011. The third and final is the Review Workshop, during which independent experts review the input data, assessment methods, and assessment products. The Review Workshop is scheduled for September 20-22, 2011 in Charleston, SC.

The completed SEDAR 25 stock assessments for both black sea bass and golden tilefish will be submitted to NOAA Fisheries and the Council by October 24, 2011.

All meetings and webinars are open to the public. For more information on SEDAR 25, including a detailed copy of the schedule, visit the Council's website at www.safmc.net or contact Kari Fenske, SEDAR Coordinator at 843/571-4366 or Kari.Fenske@safmc.net.



Amendment 17B Implements Deepwater Closure, Other Measures to End Overfishing

Regulations to end overfishing and rebuild stocks for eight species begin January 31, 2011

As the clock ticked down on the final days of 2010, management measures to end overfishing of nine species currently listed as undergoing overfishing in the South Atlantic were implemented, meeting the mandates of the Magnuson-



Stevens Act. Approved by Congress in 2006, the reauthorized regional fishery management councils to develop and implement measures to end overfishing by 2010.

In the South Atlantic region, nine species, all in the snapper grouper management complex, are currently listed as undergoing overfishing. Amendment 17A addresses

red snapper. Amendment 17B to the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan, approved December 22, 2010, will implement measures for the remaining eight species (snowy grouper, golden tilefish, speckled hind, warsaw grouper, red grouper, black sea bass, gag, and vermilion snapper) to end overfishing, plus measures for black grouper.

A depth closure for six deepwater snapper grouper species is included in the amendment to help end overfishing of speckled hind and warsaw grouper by reducing bycatch. Both species are susceptible to overfishing and do not survive the trauma of being captured from deep water.

The deepwater closure will primarily impact commercial fishermen who target blueline tilefish off the coast of North Carolina and both commercial and recreational fishermen in the Florida Keys where the 240 foot boundary is close to shore. The Council heard from fishermen during public comment periods about the negative economic impacts of the deepwater closure as well as concerns that the closure is excessive to protect

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(Continued page 6)

New Regulations/Measures Begin January 31, 2011

- The harvest and possession of speckled hind and warsaw grouper is prohibited.

- Fishing for, possession, and retention of deepwater species (snowy grouper, blueline tilefish, yellowedge grouper, misty grouper, queen snapper, and silk snapper) seaward of a 240 foot depth is prohibited in South Atlantic federal waters.

- Recreational bag limit for snowy grouper reduced to 1 per vessel per trip. Commercial ACL (quota) = 82,000 lbs. gutted weight (gw) and recreational ACL = 523 fish.

- Golden tilefish allocation set at 97% commercial and 3% recreational based on historic landings. Commercial ACL = 282,819 lbs. (gw) and recreational ACL = 1,578 fish.

- ACLs and AMs for gag and aggregate ACLs and AMs for gag, black grouper, and red grouper.

- AMs for black sea bass, vermilion snapper, and golden tilefish

- Adds ACLs, Annual Catch Targets (ACTs) and AMs to the list of management measures that can be modified through a framework procedure (allowing for quicker adjustments)

Council Seeks Public Input on Management Issues

Meeting Series Scheduled - Written Comments Accepted Until February 14

The Council is holding a series of public hearings and scoping meetings to provide the public with information on current and future fisheries issues within its area of jurisdiction and to receive public input and recommendations on these issues.

Staff members and local Council representatives will be on hand throughout the afternoon and early evening to answer questions and discuss concerns about the topics listed below. In addition, individuals will have the opportunity to go on record to provide formal comments for the Council to consider in management decisions. Both public hearings and scoping meetings will be held during the 3:00 - 7:00 PM meetings.

Public scoping occurs at the beginning of the management process, providing the public an opportunity to comment on issues before the Council has decided to take any specific action. Using input received during the initial scoping process, the Council may then develop a Fishery Management Plan or amendment to address these issues. Public hearings are held to receive public comment on the specific management measures in the FMP or amendment prior to the Council taking final action.

Can't attend a meeting? See page 6 for information on how to obtain documents and provide written comments. **Written comments are due by 5:00 PM, February 14, 2011.**

Public Hearing Items

Comprehensive Annual Catch Limit (ACL) Amendment

Establishes ACLs and Accountability Measures for species currently not listed as undergoing overfishing

The Magnuson-Stevens Act mandates that Annual Catch Limits (ACLs) and Accountability Measures (AMs) be established for all species managed by the Council to ensure that overfishing does not occur. ACLs are the amount of fish (in pounds or numbers) that can be harvested on an annual basis. AMs are management controls that ensure that the ACLs are not exceeded; examples include corrective measures if overages occur and implementation of an in-season monitoring program.

The Act sets a deadline of 2010 to establish values for species undergoing overfishing and a deadline of 2011 for all other species. Amendments 17A and 17B to the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan met the 2010 requirements. The Comprehensive ACL Amendment will meet the requirements for remaining species in the snapper grouper management complex, plus dolphin, wahoo, and golden crab.

Note: Requirements for ACLs and AMs for king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, and cobia, as well as spiny lobster measures, will be addressed in separate amendments. Public hearings for these amendments will be held in April of this year.

Meeting Schedule

- **January 24 - New Bern, NC**
Hilton New Bern/Riverfront, 100 Middle Street
New Bern, NC 28560
- **January 26 - N. Charleston, SC**
Crowne Plaza Airport, 4831 Tanger Outlet Blvd.
N. Charleston, SC 29418
- **January 27 - Pooler, Georgia**
Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum, 175 Bourne Ave.
Pooler, GA 31322
- **January 31 - Jacksonville, FL**
Jacksonville Marriott Hotel, 4670 Salisbury Road
Jacksonville, FL 32256
- **February 1 - Cocoa Beach, FL**
International Palms Resort, 1300 N. Atlantic Avenue
Cocoa Beach, FL 32931
- **February 3 - Key Largo, FL**
Key Largo Grande Resort, 9700 Overseas Highway
Key Largo, FL 33037

Meetings will be held from
3:00 PM - 7:00 PM

The Comprehensive ACL Amendment alternatives for long-term management measures include:

- Changes to the snapper grouper fishery management unit, including the removal of some species and the development of species groups for management purposes
- Annual Catch Limits for snapper grouper species (including wreckfish), dolphin, wahoo, and golden crab
- Percent allocations to all sectors
- Accountability Measures: Actions to occur if limits and targets are projected to be exceeded or have been exceeded
- Regulations necessary to ensure mortality is at or below the annual limits

Proposed species groupings include Deepwater Grouper and Tilefish, Shallow-Water Grouper Complex, Jacks Complex, Snappers Complex, Porgies/Grunts/Hinds Complex and a Triggerfish Complex. ACLs and AMs may be established for several snapper grouper species based on these groupings.

In-season AMs under consideration in the Comprehensive ACL Amendment include such things as quota closures, trip or bag limit changes, gear restrictions or catch shares. Post-season AMs are triggered if the ACL is



Courtesy of Chris Page

The Comprehensive ACL Amendment contains alternatives to establish annual limits, targets, allocations, and accountability measures for species in the snapper grouper management complex as well as dolphin, wahoo, and golden crab. For example, the Council's preferred alternatives would set an ACL of 9,292,426 pounds (whole weight) for dolphin and allocate 8% commercial and 92% recreationally based on landings history. Alternatives to increase the minimum size limit, set commercial trip limits, and reduce the recreational bag limit are included as part of the accountability measures to ensure overfishing does not occur. Similar measures are proposed for wahoo.

exceeded, typically implemented after the fishing season, and include seasonal closures, reduced trip or bag limits, or shortening of the fishing season in the subsequent year. Both types of AMs can be used together to reduce the risk of overfishing.

Allocations for both commercial and recreational sectors will be established, and ACLs will be applied to the sectors. The amendment contains options for a recreational allocation for the wreckfish fishery, a deepwater commercial fishery currently managed through an Individual Transferable Quota system.

As the name implies, this amendment covers 27 management actions and many more alternatives. A summary of the document is available from the Council's website or by contacting the Council office (see p. 6). Email comments to: CompACLAmendPH@safmc.net.



Snapper Grouper Regulatory Amendment 9 *Commercial trip limits*

Regulatory Amendment 9 is being developed to prevent the progressive shortening of fishing seasons for black sea bass, vermilion snapper, and gag through the establishment of trip limits, split season quotas, and a spawning season closure for the black sea bass. The amendment also considers increasing the trip limit for greater amberjack, which is neither overfished nor experiencing overfishing. Email comments to: SGRegAmend9PH@safmc.net.

Snapper Grouper Regulatory Amendment 9 includes actions to:

- Establish harvest management measures for black sea bass including a trip limit, split season quotas and a spawning season closure
- Establish commercial trip limits for vermilion snapper and gag
- Modify the commercial trip limit for greater amberjack



Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 2

Octocoral management, Essential Fish Habitat and Habitat Areas of Particular Concern, SMZs in SC, and sea turtle release gear requirements

The amendment covers a broad range of issues across multiple fishery management plans, including the management and harvest of octocorals. A popular specimen in the aquarium trade, octocorals are harvested in state and federal waters in the South Atlantic (south of Cape Canaveral) and Gulf of Mexico. CE-BA 2 includes several management alternatives for continued management and to limit the harvest of octocorals to a specified ACL.

Management alternatives relative to Special Management Zones off South Carolina may limit commercial harvest of snapper grouper species, mackerel, cobia and other species to the recreational bag limit within the SMZs. The amendment also allows for modification of current regulations for sea turtle release gear used by the commercial snapper grouper fishery and the designation of Essential Fish Habitat-Habitat Areas of Concern for various fishery management plans, allowing additional protection of these areas. Email comments to: CEBA2PH@safmc.net.

Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 2 includes actions to:

- Remove octocorals from the Coral Fishery Management Plan
- Extend the South Atlantic Council's management unit for octocorals into the Gulf of Mexico Council's jurisdiction
- Modify the ACL for octocorals
- Modify Special Management Zones (SMZs) off South Carolina
- Modify the sea turtle release gear requirements for the commercial snapper grouper fishery
- Designate new Essential Fish Habitat - Habitat Areas of Particular Concern through modifications to the Coral, Snapper Grouper and *Sargassum* Fishery Management Plans



(Continued page 6)

Public Scoping Issues:

Snapper Grouper Amendment 21

Comprehensive catch shares

The South Atlantic snapper grouper fishery has nine stocks undergoing overfishing and five stocks that are overfished; therefore, too much fishing effort exists in the fishery and rebuilding of overfished stocks must occur. Recent regulations to end or prevent overfishing have resulted in a decrease in commercial quotas for several species. Attempts to reduce allowable catches without reducing fishing effort lead to derby fishing, chaos in the fishery, and lengthy commercial closures.

For these reasons, the Council is considering possible alternatives for effort control of various species in the snapper grouper fishery including: trip limits, effort and participation reductions, endorsements, catch shares, regional quotas, and state-by-state quotas as possible ways to address some of these problems.

Email comments to: SGAmend21Scoping@safmc.net.

Snapper Grouper Amendment 22

Long-term measures for red snapper

As the red snapper stock rebuilds under the rebuilding plan implemented through Amendment 17A, some level of harvest will eventually be allowed. In order to maintain long-term harvest levels of red snapper at or below the ACL, the Council has requested that an amendment be developed to explore alternative management methods for the species.

A broad range of options are being considered for scoping, including trip limits, bag limits, catch shares, tagging programs, endorsements, spawning season/area closures, gear requirements, and special management zones. Email comments to: SGAmend22Scoping@safmc.net.

Amendment 17B (Continued from page 3)

species that rarely occur within these areas. As a result, the Council will begin developing an amendment to explore alternative measures to address overfishing of both speckled hind and warsaw grouper.

Amendment 17B also designates Annual Catch Limits and Accountability Measures to ensure overfishing does not occur in the future. ACLs are the amount of fish (in numbers or pounds) of a species that fishermen are allowed to harvest on an annual basis. The ACLs are based on scientific recommendations.

Accountability Measures are specified in the amendment to ensure that ACLs are not exceeded or to correct or mitigate overages if they occur. These measures range from in-season trip or bag limit changes, quota closures, etc. to post-season shortening of the following fishing year.

Snapper Grouper Amendment 24

Ending overfishing/rebuilding the red grouper stock

The Council received notification in June 2010 that the red grouper stock was undergoing overfishing and is overfished. By law, the Council has two years to implement measures to end overfishing and develop a plan to rebuild the red grouper stock. Amendment 24 will establish ACLs, AMs, allocations between sectors, and a rebuilding program for red grouper.

Management measures currently in place, including a 4-month spawning season closure, will be considered while establishing measures to ensure overfishing does not occur.

Email comments to: SGAmend24Scoping@safmc.net.

Golden Crab Amendment 5

Establishing a catch share program for the fishery

A catch share program is being considered for the commercial golden crab fishery. The specialized deepwater trap fishery takes place primarily off the coast of southeastern Florida and involves a relatively small number of participants.



Courtesy of Howard Rau

Members of the Council's Golden Crab Advisory Panel have been directly involved in development of this amendment.

Email comments to: GCAmend5Scoping@safmc.net.

Copies of public hearing and scoping documents are available at www.safmc.net or by contacting the Council office. Written comments may be submitted to the Council until **5:00 PM on February 14, 2011**. Details on how to submit written comments are included in the documents.



Courtesy of Chris Page



March 7-11, 2011 Council Meeting

**Wednesday, March 9th
at 5:30 PM**
Informal Q&A Session

Join NOAA Fisheries
Regional Administrator, Dr.
Roy Crabtree and Council
Chairman David Cupka to
discuss current fisheries
issues.

SAFMC Meeting Dates and Locations 2011 Schedule

March 7-11, 2011	September 12-16, 2011
Sea Palms Conf. Center	Charleston Marriott Hotel
5445 Frederica Road	170 Lockwood Boulevard
St. Simon Island, GA 31522	Charleston, SC 29403
Phone: 1/800-841-6268	Phone: 1/800-968-3569

June 13-17, 2011	Dec 5-9, 2011
Marriott Beachside Hotel	Holiday Inn Brownstone
3841 N. Roosevelt Blvd.	1707 Hillsborough St.
Key West Florida 33040	Raleigh, NC 27605
Phone: 1/800-546-0885	Phone: 1/800/331-7919

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Meeting

March 7-11, 2011



Sea Palms Conference Center
5445 Frederica Road
St. Simons Island, GA 31522
Phone: 800/841-6268 or 912/638-3351

For a detailed agenda contact the Council office toll free at 1-866
SAFMC-10 or 843/571-4366. The agenda is also available on the
Council's web site www.safmc.net

PRELIMINARY MEETING AGENDA

Monday	1:30 - 2:30	Spiny Lobster Committee Meeting
	2:30 - 3:30	Mackerel Committee Meeting
	3:30 - 5:30	Ecosystem-Based Mgmt. Committee Meeting
	-Concurrent Session-	
	1:30 - 5:30	Law Enforcement Advisory Panel Meeting
Tuesday	8:30 - 10:00	Jt. Law Enforcement AP and Committee Meeting
	10:00 - 11:00	Golden Crab Committee Meeting
	11:00 - 12:00	Shrimp Committee Meeting
	1:30 - 2:30	SEDAR Committee Meeting
	2:30 - 3:30	Joint Exec/Finance Committees Meeting
	3:30 - 5:30	SOPPs Committee Meeting
Wednesday	8:30 - 5:00	Snapper Grouper Committee Meeting
	5:30	Open informal public Q&A session
Thursday	8:30 - 10:00	Snapper Grouper Committee Meeting (continued)
	10:00 - 5:30	Council Session
Friday	8:00 - 12:00	Council Session

Note! Watch the Council meeting live online

To watch the Council meeting live from St. Simon's Island, GA, choose a direct link for live video feed as the meeting occurs at www.safmc.net.



Acronyms

ABC - Allowable Biological Catch
ACCSP - Atlantic Coast Cooperative Statistics Program
ACL - Annual Catch Limit
AM - Accountability Measure
ACT - Annual Catch Target
AP - Advisory Panel
ASMFC - Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
BRD - Bycatch Reduction Device
EEZ - Exclusive Economic Zone
EFH - Essential Fish Habitat
EFH/HAPC - Essential Fish Habitat/Habitat Area of Particular Concern
FMP - Fishery Management Plan
HMS - Highly Migratory Species
ITQ - Individual Transferable Quota
LAPP - Limited Access Privilege Program
MSY - Maximum Sustainable Yield
MRFSS - Marine Recreational Fishing Statistics Survey
NMFS - National Marine Fisheries Service
OY - Optimum Yield
SEDAR - Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review (stock assessment process)
SSC - Scientific & Statistical Committee
SFA - Sustainable Fisheries Act
TAC - Total Allowable Catch
VMS - Vessel Monitoring System

Mark your calendar...

2011

- January 24-25** *Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Tech Meeting Week*
Arlington, VA www.asmfmc.org
- February 7-10** *Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Meeting*
Gulfport, MS www.gulfcouncil.org
- February 8-10** *Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Meeting*
New Bern, NC www.mafmc.org
- March 7-11** *South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Meeting*
St. Simons Island, GA www.safmc.net
- April 26-28** *SEDAR 25 Black Sea Bass & Golden Tilefish Data Workshop*
N. Charleston, SC Contact Kari Fenske 843/571-4366



See Inside for Information on Public Hearing and Scoping Meeting Topics

Public Comment Period Open Until **February 14, 2011**

See p. 4 for details

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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