

Scoping Presentation for Amendment 43 to the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan of the South Atlantic Region



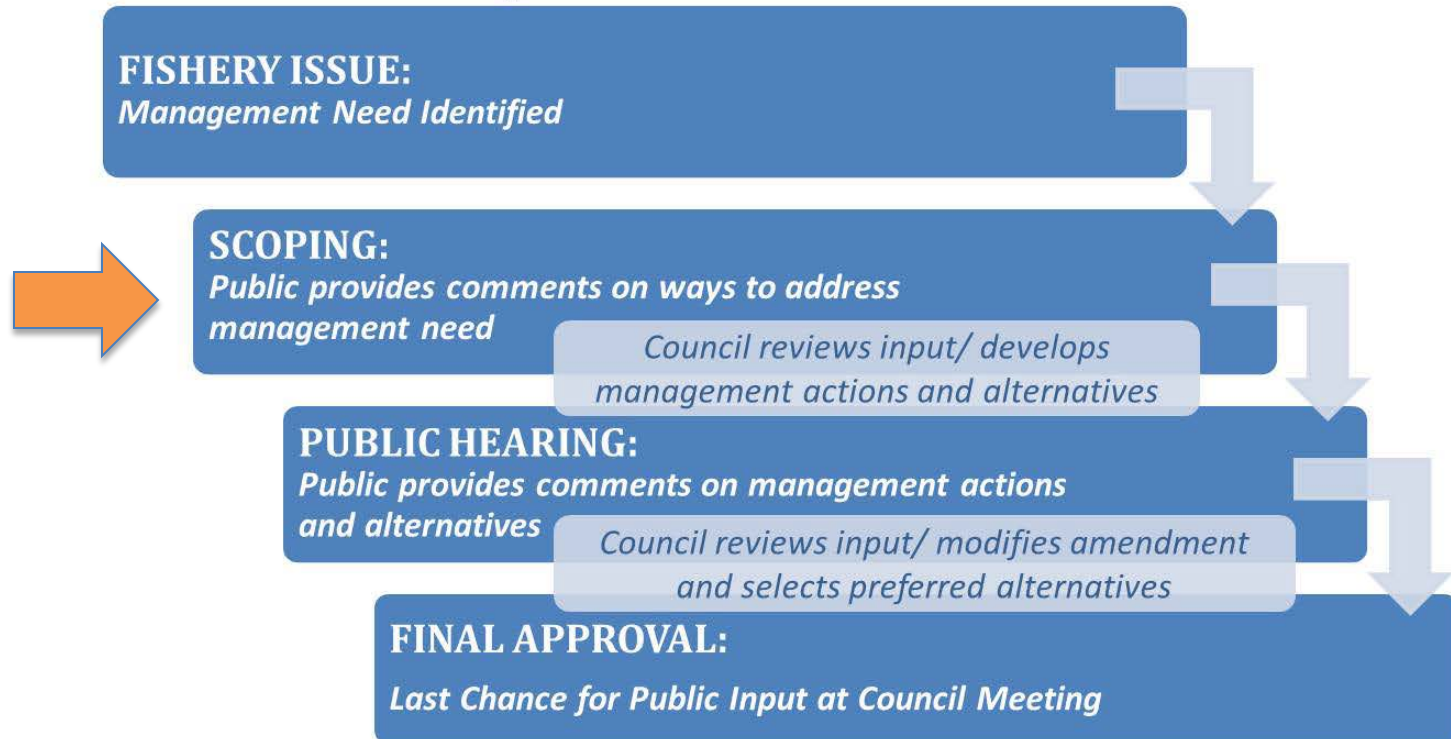
Red Snapper Management and Recreational Reporting Requirements in the South Atlantic Region

Prepared by Chip Collier
January 6, 2017



What is Scoping?

Council Process – *FMP/Plan Amendment*



Background for Amendment 43



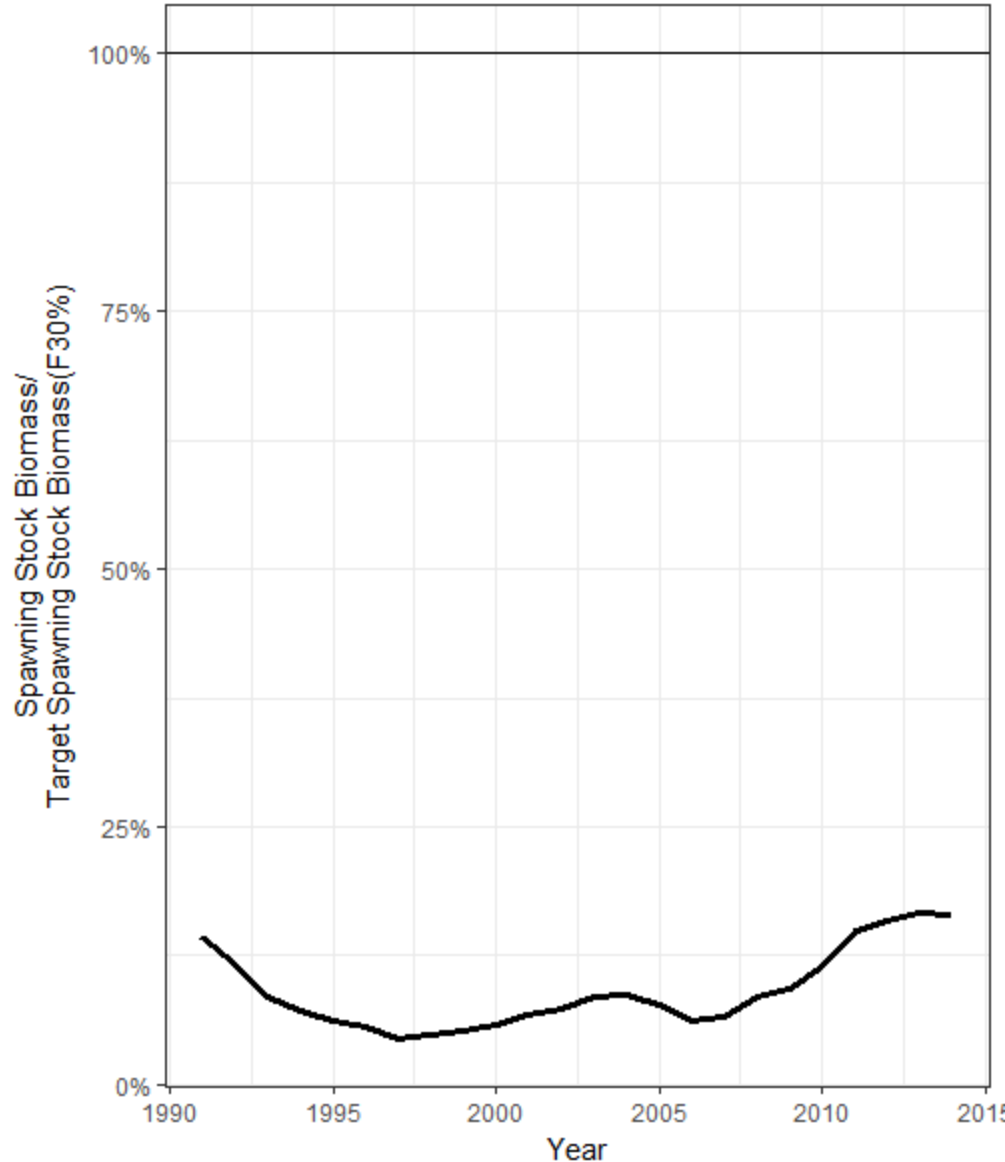
- A recent stock assessment (SEDAR 41) indicated red snapper are overfished and overfishing is still occurring.
- To end overfishing, total removals (landings + dead discards) must be reduced to less than 100,000 fish per year.
 - 2014 = 205,859 and 2015 = 276,729 (values from NMFS report to SAFMC)
- Council is considering measures to (1) reduce the overall number of red snapper discards and (2) improve the survival of released red snapper and other snapper grouper species.
- The Council is also seeking input on ways to improve estimates of catch, discards, and effort in the private recreational fishery.



Background for Amendment 43



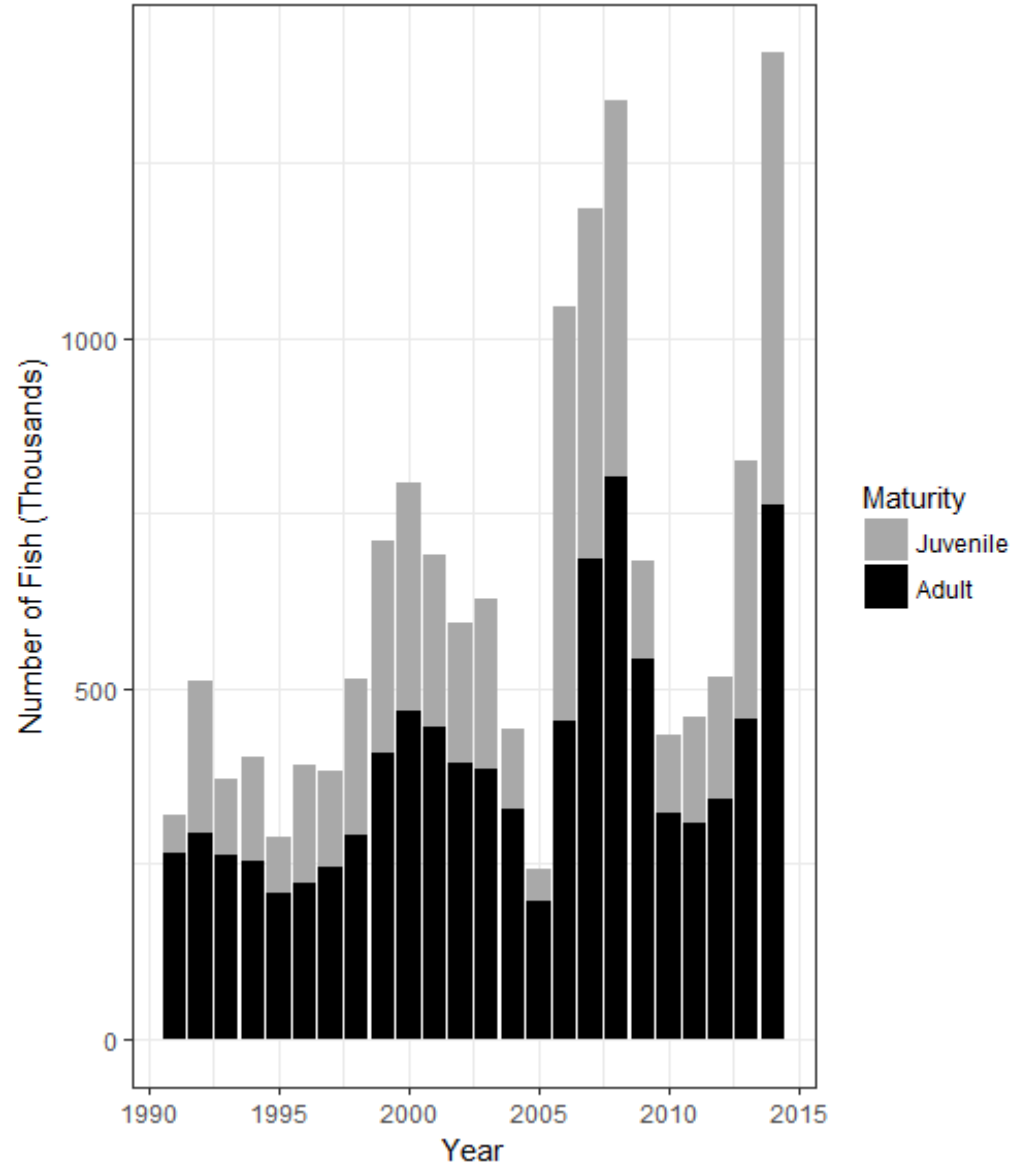
- The red snapper stock is in a rebuilding plan.
- The stock will no longer be overfished when the biomass reaches 30% of the unfished biomass level, which equates to a ratio of 100% on this chart
- The lowest Spawning Stock Biomass ratio occurred in 1997 and has been increasing since.



Background for Amendment 43



- High recruitment of red snapper in 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2014.
- The red snapper population has almost quadrupled since 1991.
- To continue to rebuild population and improve chances of strong year classes, young fish need to mature and grow.





Issues in Amendment 43

There are four primary issues that the Council would like your input on:

- What is the best way to reduce discards of red snapper to stop overfishing (as required by law)?
- What management measures could improve the survival of discarded red snapper?
- If red snapper removals (landings and dead discards) are reduced significantly, limited harvest may be possible. What management measures would you like to see used to manage red snapper harvest if a limited red snapper season is allowed?
- How could estimates of catch, discards, and effort in the private recreational snapper grouper fishery be improved?



How Can the Number of Discarded Red Snapper be Reduced?

- The number of discarded red snapper needs to be reduced so that total removals (catch + dead discards) is below acceptable biological catch (ABC).
- In 2015, over 500,000 red snapper were caught and released.
- The number caught and released needs to be reduced to less than 250,000 fish.
- What are potential ways to reduce the number of discarded red snapper?



How Could Survival of Released Fish be Improved?

- Red snapper are impacted by barotrauma, hook injuries, and other injuries from fishing interactions.
- Discard mortality estimates used in the SEDAR 41
 - Recreational = 28.5%
 - Commercial = 38%
- What management measures could improve the survival of red snapper and other discarded snapper grouper species?



Could There be Limited Red Snapper Harvest?

- In 2015, over 500,000 red snapper were caught and released.
- The number caught and released would need to be reduced to less than 250,000 fish and survival of released fish would need to be improved.
- If a season were allowed in 2018, landings (commercial and recreational combined) would likely be less than 30,000 fish.
- What management measures would you like to see used to manage red snapper harvest if a limited red snapper season is allowed?



How Could Catch, Discards, and Effort Estimates in Private Recreational Fishery Improve?

- During Port Meetings, several fishermen suggested improving recreational catch and effort estimates.
- Current method uses dockside interviews of fishermen combined with telephone survey (MRIP) to estimate catch and effort for private recreational fishermen.
- Headboat and commercial vessels report catch and effort for every trip.
- A for-hire amendment proposing reporting requirements for charter boat trips is under review.
- What are the best ways to improve the estimates of catch, discards, and effort in the private recreational snapper grouper fishery?



Timing



Process Steps	Dates
Scoping webinar hearings	January/February 2017
Scoping comments due	February 10, 2017
Review scoping comments and revise actions/alternatives	March 2017
Review effects analysis and approve for public hearings	June 2017
Public hearings	August 2017
Review public hearing comments and approve all actions/alternatives	September 2017
Final action to approve for Secretarial review	December 2017





How Do I Comment?

Written comments:

- Use the online public comment form available from the Public Hearings and Scoping Meeting schedule page at <http://safmc.net/safmc-meetings/public-hearing-and-scoping-meeting-schedule/>
- Mail: use address on scoping document
- Fax (843) 769-4520

Comments must be received **by 5:00 P.M. on February 10, 2017.**

Questions:

Chip Collier at chip.collier@safmc.net or (843) 302-8444



Public Scoping/Hearings 2017

January 12, 2017 – Scoping Webinar for Vision Blueprint Amendments only	January 17, 2017 – Question & Answer Webinar (Amendments 43 & 44)
January 18, 2017 – Listening Station (Am 44) Harvey Government Center Key West, FL 33040	January 19, 2017 – Listening Station (Am 44) Hyatt Place Marathon Marathon, FL 33050
January 23, 2017 Lexington Hotel & Conference Center Jacksonville, FL 32207	January 24, 2017 Hilton Cocoa Beach Oceanfront Cocoa Beach, FL 32931
January 25, 2017 Flagler Place Stuart, FL 34994	January 26, 2017 Hilton Key Largo Key Largo, FL 33037
January 30, 2017 Murrells Inlet Community Center Murrells Inlet, SC 29576	January 31, 2017 Crowne Plaza Charleston, SC 29418
February 1, 2017 Richmond Hill City Center Richmond Hill, GA 31324	February 6, 2017 Hilton Wilmington Riverside Wilmington, NC 28401
February 7, 2017 Hatteras Community Center Hatteras, NC 27943	February 8, 2017 Doubletree by Hilton Atlantic Beach Oceanfront Atlantic Beach, NC 28512



Questions??



Image: Don DeMaria

Amendment 43 Scoping Questions

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