

Port Meeting Summary
Bluffton, SC
February 18, 2014, 6 p.m. session

1. Regional/Sub-Regional Management

Issues Not Working -

- Manage by area not entire Southeast region (the fish and the area/habitat in SC are not the same as FL).
- Move to zone management rather than regional management (more defined and specific).
- State by state management of red snapper.
- Put southeast FL in Gulf of Mexico management (Ft. Pierce southward).

Solutions -

- **Develop joint agreements with states to conduct state by state management.** (possibly only the recreational sector and something similar to the Joint Enforcement Agreement currently in place with law enforcement in the region.)
- **Put Southeast Florida under the Gulf of Mexico Council's management (Ft. Pierce southward).**
- **Support research to clearly define zone management for some species for the recreational sector** (possibly use genetics research findings as a way to split zones, i.e. hogfish).
- Consider that different species are available in different areas/states and that management strategies should reflect those regional differences in the fishery.

2. Improvements to Data & Research

Issues Not Working

- Best available data
- Recalculate biomass estimates done in SEDAR 15 (South Atlantic red snapper) based on data since 2006
- Expand DNA and all research cooperation with fishermen and captains

Solutions –

- **Joint agreements with states for data improvements** (similar to the Joint Enforcement Agreements currently in place for law enforcement in the region).
- **Expand opportunities for cooperative research (and more specifically DNA research) with fishermen and for-hire captains.** This would help build trust in the data collected and create 'buy-in' to the management process.
- **Develop methods for collecting and utilizing voluntary/anecdotal information for stock assessments and management**

3. Reporting Improvements

Issues Not Working -

- All for-hire vessels in the SAFMC jurisdiction need to submit logbooks/data on all fishing trips.
- The Marine Recreational Information Program - How good or bad are these data?

Solutions –

- **Require or encourage electronic reporting for all sectors.**
- **Use new technologies to encourage better reporting** (apps, mobile devices, websites).
- **Consider the use of tag harvest programs to track harvest for some species.**

4. Shifts in Fishing Pressure (Due to Closures)

Issues Not Working -

- How to keep from overfishing other species when some are closed?

Solutions -

- **Stagger fishing seasons for some species and align fishing seasons for other species that co-occur** (black seabass and red snapper specifically mentioned by group).
- **Rolling spawning season closures (time and area)**; for example, grouper spawning occurs in different areas during different times during the 4 month closure, closure should reflect regional difference.

5. Lionfish Issues & Other Invasive Species

Issues Not Working -

- Lack of coordinated effort to address management of lionfish in the region.
- Who is the responsible agency for managing lionfish?
- Not aggressive enough on lionfish

Solutions –

- Determine what role the Council may play in addressing lionfish management as it relates to impacts on the snapper grouper fishery.