

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

DRAFT Sector Vision

Vision –

The snapper grouper fishery is a healthy, sustainable fishery that balances and optimizes benefits for all.

Mission –

The Council is responsible for the conservation and management of fish stocks within the federal 200-mile limit of the Atlantic off the coasts of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and east Florida to Key West. Management is consistent with the National Standards of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The role of the council is to develop fishery management plans needed to manage fishery resources within federal waters.

Principles of Vision by Sector –

Commercial	Recreational	For-Hire
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Accountability</i>• <i>Healthy Stocks for Harvest</i>• <i>Predictability & Availability</i>• <i>Professional & Profitable Commercial Fishery</i>• <i>Quality, Quantity, and Application of Data</i>• <i>Alternative Management Strategies</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>ACL Management for Recreational Experience</i>• <i>Improved Data</i>• <i>Manage for Sustainability (Resource)</i>• <i>Defined Sectors</i>• <i>Achieve Optimal Allocation</i>• <i>Alternative Management Strategies</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Defined Sectors</i>• <i>Management for Sustainable Businesses</i>• <i>Improved Data/ Reporting</i>• <i>Manage for Sustainability (Resource)</i>• <i>Professional & Profitable Fishery (Effort Control)</i>

Strategic Goals -

SCIENCE

Develop management decisions based upon robust, defensible science that considers qualitative and quantitative data analyzed in a timely, clear, and transparent manner that builds stakeholder confidence.

MANAGEMENT

Adopt management strategies that rebuild and maintain fishery resources, adapt to regional differences in the fishery, and consider the social and economic needs of fishing communities.

COMMUNICATION

Employ interactive outreach strategies that encourage continuous stakeholder participation supporting two-way engagement between managers and stakeholders while building a greater understanding of science and management.

GOVERNANCE

Commit to a transparent, balanced, and timely decision-making process that allows flexible yet well-defined protocols and strategies.

Appendix:
Draft Sector Vision with Specific Themes/Issues

Commercial

Accountability

- Monitoring (e.g. vms requirements) - **X**
- Electronic logbooks
- Timely reporting of landings

Alternative Management Approaches

- Increase Aquaculture

Healthy Stocks

- Increased # fish stock/biomass
- More species have been assessed
- No species in rebuilding plan
- Lots of cohorts
- Sustainable fishery, no overfishing, fisheries results
- Healthy stock- healthy catches
- Less regulatory discards
- Season alignment that decreases discards

Predictability and Availability

- Season as long as possible
- Year round access - **X**
- Consistent economic opportunity
- More defined spawning season closures
- Predictability for business
- Sub-regionally appropriate management - **X**
- Set season open/close
- Simplified regulation
- Fishing = money making enterprise
- More fish: less closures
- Few or no derby fisheries
- Multispecies trip limits for opportunity of successful trip
- Public has year round access in markets

Develop Professional (profitable) Commercial Fishery

- Collaborative management
- Fishermen buy in to management and participate
- Thriving villages
- Adaptability for changing conditions
- Better prices for fishermen
- Fishermen out of my pockets
- Fleet that matches available harvest
- Fewer vessels and permits
- Boats more diversified “fishing for different species at the same time”
- Smaller fast boat fishery- **XX**
- Professional fisheries
- More professional fishery

Data Quality, Quantity, and Application

- Initial SA habitat map product
- Draft ecopath model more or less complete
- Alternative management strategies that addresses uncertainty

- Research underway on habitat/production relationships
- Coordinated artificial reef plan for federal and state waters
- Collect adequate data to reduce uncertainties

NEW VISION IDEAS: Increase Stock Assessment Capacity

- Regulated timely reporting (tied to permits)
- More observer data
- Cooperative data collection programs
- Realistic sedar schedule for SA

Recreational

ACL management for recreational experience

- Manage fishing opportunities and trip satisfaction
- Catch enough for worthwhile trip
- Reasonable bag limits with multispecies available
- Less complicated bag limits
 - Separate Deepwater
 - Grouper aggregate
 - Overall bag for “other”

- Alignment of size for all species (overall, FL, etc.)
- Stable but flexible
 - In season bag limit changes to manage effort/ACL - **X X X**
- Bag limits large enough to encourage offshore participation
- More discards - **X X X X**
- Limited discards

Better data

- Reef fish stamp (**X X**) where money goes to enforcement - **X X**
- Required reporting
- Identification of snapper grouper fishermen - **X**
- Refined MRIP
- Better landings estimates
- Electronic logbook
- Validated self-reporting - **X**
- VMS - **X X X X**
- Recreational angler volunteer logbooks
- Recreational fishermen adhere to same accountability as commercial - **X**

- Voluntary reporting fish check-in
- Harvest tags - **X X**
- Reef fish stamp - **X**
- Manage for experience- abundance vs msy
- More consistent licensing
- Recreational permits
- Citizen science
- Reporting improvements?
- More port intercepts
- Narrow the sampling universe
- Alternative platform observation program
- Money from permits go to stock assessments - **X**

Manage For Sustainability

- Adequate supporting infrastructure
- Year round fishing opportunity - **X X**
- Seasons aligned to reduce discards
- Fewer problems with inconsistent state and federal regulations

- Set seasons
- Predictable seasons
- Snapper grouper season (rec)
- Sustainable support for industry

Defined Sectors

- Clearly defined role (numbers vs money)
- Sector separation

Achieve Optimal Allocation

- Match numbers of recreational fishermen with allowable resources
- Focus of allocation - **X**
- More boats and effort - **XXXXXX**

Alternative Management strategies

Recreational education and outreach

- Engage recreational participants
- Noaa charts with mpa
- More apps for recreational use i.e. fish id keys, etc.
- Educated about mpas/species closures
- Engaged fishermen
- Better educated recreational anglers (i.e. release techniques, fish id, etc.)
- Better educated fishermen

NEW VISION IDEAS:

- AIS vice VMS one time investment without any continuing cost (subscription) – can apply to commercial, recreational, for-hire or some combination of those

For Hire

Defined sectors (for-hire vs. recreational) - **X**

- For-hire vs recreational
- Review current allocations
- Keep sector consolidation for now
- Sector separation - **X**
- Clearly defined sectors - **X**

Alternative management strategies

- Regional management
- Manage for experience
- Abundance not msy
- Flexible management

Manage for sustainable businesses

- Sustainable businesses
- Supporting infrastructure
- Busy marinas
- Consistent economic opportunity

Improved data/reporting

- Electronic logbooks (trip by trip)
- Mandatory reporting
- Consolidated electronic reporting techniques
- Required reporting
- Continue to develop better reporting
- More accurate catch accounting vms
- VMS - **XXX**
- Cooperative data collection programs

Manage for sustainability

- Seasonal spawning closures
- Predictable seasons
- Stable regulations
- Simple/easy to understand regulations
- Overlapping species with reasonable bag limits

- Seasons that allow for trip satisfaction and profits
- Stability throughout the year
- Some species available throughout the year
- Align season to reduce discards
- Reduce discards

Professional fishery (Effort control)

- Empowered advocates for the resource
- Engaged in the management process
- Certification (i.e. to increase professionalism)
- Educated operators
- Professional/profitable
- Moratorium on permits
- Limited entry/access