

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

MPA EXPERT WORKGROUP MEETING

May 16-17, 2012

Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum
175 Bourne Avenue
Pooler, GA 31322

Council Guidance – An Overview

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) is considering the use of marine protected areas to help provide protection against discard mortality for speckled hind and warsaw grouper. At their March 2012 meeting, the Council directed staff to hold 2 of 5 planned Public MPA Workshops prior to June 2012. The remaining 3 workshops will be scheduled following the Council's June 11-15, 2012 meeting in Orlando, FL. The MPA Public Workshops will be held in conjunction with the Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel meeting in North Charleston, SC and during the MPA Expert Workgroup meeting in Pooler, GA.

1. **MPA Workshop #1 (General Public) – April 18, 2012 6:00 PM**

This workshop will be held in conjunction with a meeting of the Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel. The AP meeting will end at 5:00 PM and the workshop will begin at 6:00 PM. Location: Hilton Garden Inn, 5262 International Boulevard, North Charleston, SC.

2. **MPA Expert Workgroup (Expert Group of Scientists & Fishermen) – May 16-17, 2012**

The Expert Workgroup meeting will be held from 1:00 PM on Wednesday, May 16, 2012 through 1:00 PM on Thursday, May 17, 2012. Public input on data for the Expert Workgroup will be taken from 5:00 – 5:30 PM on Wednesday, May 16, 2012.

Location: Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum, 175 Bourne Avenue, Pooler, GA 31322

3. **MPA Workshop #2 (General Public) – May 16, 2012 6:00 PM**

The public workshop will begin following the Expert Workgroup meeting and public comment session. Location: Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum, 175 Bourne Avenue, Pooler, GA 31322

MPA Expert Workgroup

Background

The Council directed staff to convene a group of experts to provide scientific input on using MPAs to end overfishing of speckled hind and Warsaw grouper. Participants in the Workgroup include scientists and fishermen. Selection of participants was based on knowledge and expertise on these two species, their habitat, and/or fishery. Public input on data for the Expert Workgroup to consider will be taken from 5:00 – 5:30 PM on Wednesday, May 16, 2012. The MPA Workshop #2 targeting the general public will begin at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, May 16th.

MPA Expert Workgroup Participants

Scientists:

1. Will Heyman, Texas A&M - Experience with shelf-edge work in the Caribbean.
2. Ken Lindeman, Florida Institute of Technology – South Atlantic area expert.
3. George Sedberry, Grays Reef National Marine Sanctuary – South Atlantic area expert; Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) member.
4. Chris Koenig, FSU – Gulf of Mexico – protected area expert.
5. Gabe Ziskin – College of Charleston speckled hind thesis; good local knowledge.
6. Marcel Reichert (or Dave Wyanski) – MARMAP monitoring program/ habitat expert; SSC member.
7. Churchill Grimes – SSC member; historical knowledge and ecological background; familiar with deepwater species.
8. Stacey Harter – NMFS Panama City Lab; conducted research in existing MPAs.

Fishermen:

1. Rusty Hudson – commercial/recreational (FL)
2. Don DeMaria – commercial (FL)
3. Mark Marhefka – commercial (SC)
4. Mark Brown – recreational (SC)
5. Bobby Freeman – recreational (NC)
6. Ralph Delph – recreational (FL)
7. Jack Cox – commercial/dealer (NC)

Structure of MPA Workgroup (Scientists & Fishermen)

1. Opening Remarks – Myra Brouwer (SAFMC Staff): 10-15 minutes explaining the process, approach chosen by Council, timing, etc. Questions will be answered after the opening remarks.
2. Review of SSC Recommendations – Myra Brouwer/ SSC member
3. Review of AP Recommendations – Myra Brouwer/AP member
4. Break-out into groups at round tables and main table:
 - a. Charts will be available with known distributions of speckled hind/warsaw grouper and their important habitat.
 - b. Roger Pugliese (SAFMC Staff) is available to demonstrate the evaluation process and highlight species and habitat distribution and drawing tools available from the Council's web site.
 - c. Individuals in groups provide data with GIS coordinates:
 - i. Speckled hind or warsaw grouper catch locations
 - ii. Speckled hind or warsaw grouper spawning locations
 - iii. Speckled hind or warsaw grouper important habitat
 - d. Groups provide suggestions for using MPAs to end overfishing of speckled hind and warsaw grouper. If a group is not in favor of expanding existing or creation of new MPAs, please suggest an alternative approach given that all harvest and/or possession is prohibited.
 - e. Groups provide suggestions for modifications to existing or establishing new MPA sites to staff by drawing on charts or providing charts with locations.
5. Break-out Groups present recommendations to Plenary.
6. Plenary Group discusses and prepares the Workgroup Recommendations. A report will be written to present to the Council at the June meeting. The report is needed by noon on June 1st. It will be included in the second mailing of briefing book materials for the June Council meeting to be mailed on June 4, 2012. The Council meets June 11-15, 2012 in Orlando, Florida.

Notes:

1. Plenary Sessions will be recorded and written transcript provided in June briefing book.
2. Plenary Sessions will be live-streamed via webinar.
3. Break-out sessions will not be recorded or streamed.
4. Break-out groups will present findings to Plenary.
5. Written report will be produced for the Council's June meeting.