



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Louis Daniel, Chairman
George Geiger, Vice Chairman
Director

Robert K. Mahood, Executive Director
Gregg T. Waugh, Deputy Executive

AGENDA Snapper Grouper Committee Meeting

Jekyll Island Club Hotel
371 Riverview Drive
Jekyll Island, Georgia 31527

Monday, February 27, 2006 — 1:30 P.M. to 5:30 P.M.
Tuesday, February 28, 2006 — 8:30 A.M. to 12:00 NOON

1. Approval of Agenda – Mac Currin
2. Approval of December 2005 meeting minutes – Mac Currin
3. Law Enforcement Advisory Panel/Committee Report (**Attachment 1**) – George Geiger
4. Amendment 14 (**Attachments 2 and 3**)
 - A. Summarize amendment status and team comments (**Attachment 4**) – Kerry O'Malley
 - B. Finalize Committee recommendations on final list of alternatives – Mac Currin – **ACTION**
5. Amendment 15 (**Attachment 5**)
 - A. Summarize amendment status and team comments (**Attachment 6**) – Rick DeVactor
 - B. Finalize Committee recommendations on final list of alternatives – Mac Currin – **ACTION**
6. NMFS Presentations
 - A. Report on evaluating electronic logbooks in snapper grouper fishery – NMFS SEFSC
 - B. Report on current evaluations of paper logbook versus trip ticket in the snapper grouper and mackerel fisheries – NMFS SEFSC

7. SEDAR 10 (gag) data workshop report – Rick DeVictor
8. *Oculina* Evaluation Team
 - A. Overview – Kerry O’Malley
 - B. Committee recommendations – Mac Currin – **ACTION**
9. Other Business – Mac Currin
10. Adjourn – Mac Currin

DATE	<u>March 8, 2006</u>
FISHERY:	<u>Snapper Grouper</u>
SUBJECT:	<u>Briefing Materials</u>
STAFF	<u>DeVictor</u>
SOURCE:	<u>SAFMC</u>

Snapper Grouper Committee Members:

Mac Currin, Chair	Mark Robson, Vice-Chair
Robert Boyles	Roy Crabtree
David Cupka	Louis Daniel
George Geiger	Tony Iarocci
Rite Merritt	Susan Shipman

DISCUSSION DOCUMENT

Snapper Grouper Committee Meeting

February 27-28, 2006
Jekyll Island Club Hotel
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The Snapper Grouper Committee needs to: (A) receive a report on the Law Enforcement Advisory Panel/Committee meeting; (B) finalize Committee recommendations for the list of alternatives for Snapper Grouper FMP Amendment 14; (C) finalize Committee recommendations for the list of alternatives for Snapper Grouper FMP Amendment 15; (D) receive two presentations from NMFS SEFSC; (E) receive a report on the SEDAR 10 (gag) data workshop; and (F) appoint individuals to spots that remain vacant on the *Oculina* Evaluation Team.

A. Law Enforcement Advisory Panel/Committee Report (Attachment 1)

The Law Enforcement Advisory Panel and Committee met on January 31st. The Law Enforcement Committee chair will brief the Committee on the recommendations pertinent to Amendments 14 and 15 and any other issues raised during the meeting.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: The Committee will consider the Law Enforcement Advisory Panel and Committee recommendations as they finalize the alternatives for Amendments 14 and 15.

B. Amendment 14 (Attachments 2, 3, and 4)

Draft Snapper Grouper FMP Amendment 14 (**Attachment 2**) was distributed to the team for comments on 1/20/06. Team comments are provided in **Attachment 4**. Additional information on the MPA sites is presented in **Attachment 3** (note: this information was not available for team comment). Staff will present any issues raised by the team and brief the Committee on the status of the document.

The Committee is scheduled to provide recommendations on the final list of alternatives to the full Council. During this week's meeting, the Council is scheduled to provide the team with the final list of alternatives. The team will develop a public hearing draft for the June Council meeting. At that meeting, the SSC will review the amendment and provide scientific advice to the Council. The Council is scheduled to approve Amendment 14 for public hearings at the June Council meeting. Following public hearings, the Council is scheduled to approve the Amendment for submission to the Secretary of Commerce at the December Council meeting.

Committee Input is requested on re-naming the proposed MPA sites. Dr. George Sedberry and his colleagues at the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources have

done some recent work in many of the proposed MPAs and have begun calling these sites by names that are more appropriate and more distinctive than the names staff has been using. Below is a list of the proposed name changes:

The proposed MPA currently called Central South Carolina B = Scamp Ridge MPA
The proposed MPA currently called Georgia MPA = Tilefish MPA
The proposed MPA currently called North Florida Option 1 = Jacksonville Scarp MPA
The proposed MPA currently called North Florida Option 2 = St. Augustine Scarp MPA

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: Finalize Committee recommendations on the final list of alternatives for Snapper Grouper FMP Amendment 14 and provide input on the names of certain sites.

C. Amendment 15 (Attachments 5 and 6)

The alternatives in draft FMP Amendment 15 (**Attachment 5**) were distributed to the team for comment on 1/17/06. Team comments are provided in **Attachment 6**. All team comments have been addressed (Attachment 4 reflects these changes) with the exception of two SERO comments on the permit transferability action. The Council needs to address these two comments as SERO believes that the current language is confusing and does not believe that the Council should finalize the wording until additional team discussions. In addition, SERO recommends the addition of several alternatives to the permit transferability action. Two alternatives suggested by SERO include the implementation of a controlled access program such as an IFQ program and a program to eliminate latent permits. The proposed schedule for the Amendment is identical to the one outlined above for Amendment 14.

Dr. Louis Daniel suggests the addition of two proposed actions to Amendment 15. These actions are added to the end of Attachment 4. As the team was not presented with these alternatives, they did not provide comments.

The team recommends that an environmental assessment (EA) be prepared for this amendment. Following the drafting of an EA, the Council will either produce a Finding of No Significant Impact Statement (FONSI) or proceed with the drafting of an EIS. An EIS will be necessary if these actions will result in significant impacts to the environment as determined through criterion established by NEPA. The team believes that it is likely that an EA/FONSI will be sufficient for the actions in this amendment.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: Finalize Committee recommendations on the final list of alternatives for Snapper Grouper FMP Amendment 15.

D. NMFS Presentations

The Committee will receive two presentations from NMFS SEFSC.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: No Committee action is required.

E. SEDAR 10 (gag) data workshop

The data workshop for SEDAR 10 was held January 23rd to 27th in Charleston. The Committee will receive a report on the workshop and any issues that developed during the meeting.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: No Committee action is required.

F. *Oculina* Evaluation Team

Snapper Grouper FMP Amendment 13A requires that the size and configuration of the *Oculina* Experimental Closed Area be reviewed within three years of the implementation date of Amendment 13A and that a 10-year re-evaluation be conducted for the area. As the final rule for Amendment 13A was published on 3/26/04, the Council will need to review the size and configuration of the area by the March 2007 Council meeting.

The *Oculina* Evaluation Plan, approved by the Council, calls for the creation of an *Oculina* Evaluation Team to assist the Council with these and other reviews. The *Oculina* Evaluation Team, to be comprised of individuals knowledgeable about the *Oculina* Experimental Closed Area, will review the most recent information on the effectiveness of the closed area and provide input to the Council. This group will make recommendations to the Council anytime during the fishery management process but especially before the Council takes significant action concerning the closed area (i.e., before the 3 year and 10 year re-evaluation periods).

The *Oculina* Evaluation Team is scheduled to deliver its first report to the Council by the March 2007 Council meeting in order for the Council to make its determination on whether or not it is necessary to change the size and configuration of the closed area. The *Oculina* Evaluation Team will submit its second report by March 2014 in order for the Council to re-evaluate all regulations within *Oculina* Experimental Closed Area.

At the September 2005 Council meeting, the Committee identified individuals best suited to serve on the *Oculina* Evaluation Team. Some people chosen have since indicated they are unable to participate on the team. Staff will recommend replacements for these people.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: The Committee needs to appoint individuals to spots that remain vacant.

TAB 1

ATTACHMENT 1

Law Enforcement Advisory Panel/Committee Report

SNAPPER GROUPE COMMITTEE MEETING

February 27-28, 2006
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TAB 1

ATTACHMENT 2

Draft Snapper Grouper FMP Amendment 14

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TAB 1

ATTACHMENT 3

Additional Amendment 14 Information

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TAB 1

ATTACHMENT 4

**Draft Snapper Grouper FMP Amendment 14
Team Comments**

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TAB 1

ATTACHMENT 5

**Draft FMP Amendment 15 purpose/need and
alternatives**

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TAB 1

ATTACHMENT 6

**Draft Snapper Grouper FMP Amendment 15
Team Comments**

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