



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Trish Murphey, Chair | Jessica McCawley, Vice Chair
John Carmichael, Executive Director

AGENDA

System Management Plan Workgroup Webinar

Friday, October 31, 2025 – 9:00 A.M. – NOON

Approval of Minutes

Introduction of Workgroup Members

1. Data Collection and Findings in Warsaw Hole, Devil’s Hole, and South Cape Lookout – (*Attachment 1*)
 - a. Presentation – LGL
 - b. Workgroup Discussion
2. Data Collection in Area 51 and 53 – (*Attachments 2a-2c*)
 - a. Presentation – Chip Collier and Arnold Postell
 - b. Workgroup Discussion
3. Enforcement and Compliance in SSMZs – (*Attachment 3*)
 - a. Overview – Matt Walia, NMFS Office of Law Enforcement
 - b. Workgroup Discussion
4. Evaluation Tools for the SSMZs – (*Attachments 4a and 4b*)
 - a. Presentation for the Draft Evaluation Tool – Chip Collier
 - b. Workgroup Discussion
5. Next Steps
6. Public Comment

Adjourn

Staff Lead: Chip Collier (chip.collier@safmc.net)

Attachments:

Attachment 1: Recent information collected in Warsaw Hole, Devils Hole, and South Cape Lookout (will be available October 20)

Attachment 2a: Excerpts from Amendment 36 on Area 51 and 53

Attachment 2b: Information from Area 53

Attachment 2c: Ongoing Efforts in Area 51 and 53 (will be in recent materials)

Attachment 3: Enforcement and Compliance in SSMZs (will be in recent materials if available)

Attachment 4a: Previous Draft Evaluation Metrics and outline for supporting information

Attachment 4b: [Draft SSMZ Evaluation Tool](#) (link only)

Background Documents:

[Snapper Grouper Amendment 36](#)

[System Management Plan for the Spawning Special Management Zones](#)

OVERVIEW

System Management Plan Workgroup

The Workgroup will approve the agenda for the November 2023 meeting.

Introduction of Workgroup Members

1. Data Collection and Findings in Warsaw Hole, Devil’s Hole, and South Cape Lookout – (Attachment 1)

Staff from LGL will present recent findings from a cooperative research project focused on the Warsaw Hole, Devil’s Hole, and South Cape Lookout Spawning Special Management Zones (SSMZs). The project collected biological and video samples to identify both direct and indirect evidence of spawning activity within these protected areas.

Workgroup Action: Discuss and provide input, as appropriate.

2. Data Collection in Area 51 and 53 – (Attachments 2a-2c)

In response to previous requests, staff have compiled information on Areas 51 and 53 to support the evaluation of these SSMZs. The attachments include materials from Snapper Grouper Amendment 36 and the associated System Management Plan, a master’s thesis that compared Area 53 with a fished artificial reef prior to its SSMZ designation, and details on ongoing research being conducted by the South Carolina Aquarium within these areas.

Workgroup Action: Discuss and provide input, as appropriate.

3. Enforcement and Compliance in SSMZs – (Attachment 3)

Staff from the NOAA Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement will provide an overview of enforcement and compliance activities within the SSMZs. This presentation will help the workgroup better understand enforcement challenges and observed compliance trends across these protected areas.

Workgroup Action: Discuss and provide input, as appropriate.

4. Evaluation Tools for the SSMZs – (Attachments 4a and 4b)

The workgroup previously recommended developing a standardized evaluation tool for assessing each SSMZ. The attachments include the original evaluation framework and a link to a revised version reflecting prior workgroup feedback. Please note that the tool remains under development and may be further refined before the meeting. In addition, staff have identified the need to create a supplemental background document that consolidates relevant information to support evaluators in applying the tool.

Workgroup Action: Discuss and provide feedback on the revised evaluation tool and the proposed outline for the supplemental background document.

5. Next Steps

6. Public Comment

Adjourn