



South Atlantic Update

Published for fishermen and others interested in federal marine resource conservation issues

Winter 2017

Council Reviews Input from Winter Public Hearing and Scoping Meetings

Management options for red snapper, Visioning, and yellowtail snapper considered in March

Council members and staff traveled from Hatteras, NC to Key West, FL in January and February to solicit public input on management issues affecting some of the 55 species within the snapper grouper management unit that includes snappers, grouper, porgies, jacks, tilefish, and grunts. A total of 241 people attended the public hearing/scoping meetings with additional input solicited through webinars and via the Council's online comment forms.

Public scoping comments were solicited on options for red snapper and recreational reporting through Snapper Grouper Amendment 43 and two Vision Blueprint Regulatory Amendments with options for recreational and commercial sectors as outlined through the Council's 2016-2020 Vision Blueprint. Scoping is the first stage of the process to amend a fishery management plan after an issue has been identified and allows the public to comment before the Council decides whether or not to move forward with an amendment. During the scoping process, the Council asked for input on a number of questions.

Public Scoping:

Red Snapper - Snapper Grouper Amendment 43

How can the number of discarded red snapper be reduced? How could survival of these released fish be improved? How could catch, discard, and effort estimates in the recreational fishery for red snapper be improved?

These are some of the questions the Council is asking of stakeholders as they consider options for management of red snapper in Snapper Grouper Amendment 43. The fishery remains closed to harvest primarily due to the estimated number of dead discards in the recreational fishery as the stock continues to rebuild.

Data collected by NOAA Fisheries through the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) estimate that over 500,000 red snapper were caught and released in 2015. Estimates used in the most recent stock assessment indicate that 28.5% of red snapper released by recreational fishermen do not survive. The number of discards present a challenge as the Council



Council member and full-time charter captain Mark Brown (left) prepares to release a red snapper landed by a client off the coast of Charleston, SC. The Council will review public comment on options for the red snapper fishery during its March meeting in Jekyll Island, GA.

considers viable management options to reduce the number of discards and perhaps allow limited harvest.

Fishermen and others attending the scoping/public hearing meetings questioned the MRIP data being used for estimates of landings and discards and the estimated discard mortality rate. Some expressed concerns that efforts to reduce discards could lead to large area closures. There was some support for having closed areas for certain months if that time is known to have a high abundance of red snapper, creating a snapper grouper season in shallower water, and modifications to tackle. Some fishermen suggested discards could be reduced by allowing harvest of some red snapper because people would stop fishing after they caught red snapper.

There was general support for requiring the use of descending devices to reduce discard mortality as well continued use of circle

(Continued page 4)



March 6-10, 2017
Council Meeting
Jekyll Island, GA
See page 7 for details

Formal Public Comment
Wednesday, March 8
at 4:30 PM

Inside This Issue:

From the Chair	2
In The News	3
Law Enforcement Officer of the Year	3
Amendments at a Glance	5
From the Executive Director's Desk	6
March 2017 Meeting Agenda	7
Calendar	8

SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Gregg T. Waugh
Executive Director

Dr. Brian Cheuvront, Deputy
John Carmichael, Deputy

VOTING MEMBERS Designated State Officials

Dr. Michelle Duval - Chair Morehead City, NC (252) 808-8011	Jessica McCawley Tallahassee, FL (850) 487-0554
Doug Haymans Brunswick, GA (912) 264-7218	Mel Bell Charleston, SC (843) 953-9007

Appointed Obligatory Members

Ben Hartig Hobe Sound, FL (772) 546-1542	Tim Griner Charlotte, NC 980/722-0918
Zack Bowen Savannah, GA (912) 398-3733	Chris Conklin Murrells Inlet, SC 843/543-3833

Appointed At-Large Members

W. Chester Brewer West Palm Beach, FL (561) 655-4777	Charlie Phillips, Vice Chair Townsend, GA (912) 832-3149
Mark Brown Mt. Pleasant, SC (843) 881-9735	Anna Barrios Beckwith Morehead City, NC (252) 671-3474

NMFS Regional Administrator

Dr. Roy Crabtree
St. Petersburg, FL
(727) 824-5301

Non-Voting Members

Robert Beal ASMFC Washington, DC (202) 289-6400	Dr. Wilson Laney U. S. Fish & Wildlife Raleigh, NC (919) 515-5019
---	---

LT Tara Pray U. S. Coast Guard Miami, FL (305) 415-6778	Deirdre Warner-Kramer State Department Washington, DC (202) 647-2883
---	--

Editor's Note

The *South Atlantic Update* is published by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. Its purpose is to report developments in fisheries management that would be of interest to its readers. Please credit the Council when reprinting articles used in this newsletter. Submissions may be mailed to Kim Iverson, Editor, *South Atlantic Update*, 4055 Faber Place Dr., Suite 201, N. Charleston, SC 29405, or may be sent via the internet; Email address: kim.iverson@safmc.net.

A publication of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Pursuant to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Award No. NA15NMF4410010.



Chairman's Perspective

Dr. Michelle Duval, Council Chair



"Hope Springs Eternal"

Navigating a New Year and a New Administration

It's a new year, and the rapid pace from 2016 has certainly carried forward into 2017 – as I consider the many items on the Council's plate, I feel as though I can already see December (and more gray hair and wrinkles) peeking at me through the doorway...



As with any new year, there are always a few changes and this one is no exception, most notably a new Administration that has moved quickly to implement several priorities. Our federal partners are still navigating the new regulatory environment of the President's recent Executive Order and what that means for Council actions that have already been submitted for secretarial review. Congressman Young (R-Alaska) introduced H.R. 200, "Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act," which is something of a resurrection of previously-introduced legislation that would modify and reauthorize the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Finally, the appointment of a new Assistant Administrator for Fisheries has yet to be made (although rumors abound). You can be certain that all Councils will be paying close attention to each of these items.

Closer to home, the start of a new year means a new round of scoping and public hearings for a variety of items: the future of red snapper management, yellowtail snapper allocation, and our first Vision Blueprint amendments. All of these issues present challenges and opportunities – challenges to our current way of approaching problems inside the confines of the Magnuson Act, and opportunities to work alongside our stakeholders to develop solutions and use our tools in new and different ways. The Vision Blueprint embodies this approach, and I have appreciated the thoughtful input regarding these two amendments during the past month.

Our Citizen Science Program, which is moving forward thanks to a shift in staff responsibilities, relies entirely on stakeholder participation to address our data and information gaps. It's clear that there is no one silver bullet that will address all issues to everyone's satisfaction; but perhaps if we can agree that the appropriate tool is a wrench, different types of situations will call for an adjustable wrench vs. a socket wrench vs. a hex key...

An extremely overused cliché is that "hope springs eternal," and at this time of the year I am usually still pretty hopeful that we can work our way through the challenges of 2017, if not to everyone's complete satisfaction, at least to everyone's agreement and acceptance. Michelle

In the News:

NOAA Fisheries Announces Atlantic Cobia (GA to NY) Closed for 2017

Recreational fishing for Atlantic cobia in federal waters from Georgia to New York will remain closed until January 1, 2018. In 2016, the recreational and total annual catch limits of Atlantic migratory group cobia were exceeded. Therefore, the 2017 recreational season must account for this overage.



With the understanding that recreational harvest of cobia will remain open in some state waters during the federal closure, NOAA Fisheries has determined that the annual catch limit in 2017 will likely be exceeded as the majority of cobia landings come from state waters.

NOAA Fisheries will reevaluate the federal closure if state regulations change in 2017. Access the *Fishery Bulletin* from NOAA Fisheries at: http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/fishery_bulletins/index.html.

MREP Southeast Accepting Applicants for 2017 Workshops

The Marine Resources Education Program (MREP) Southeast is formally inviting applications for all individuals interested in attending the 2017 Fisheries Science and Management workshops in Tampa-St. Petersburg, Florida.

MREP Southeast is for anyone with a vested interest in federally managed marine fish from Texas to North Carolina. The workshop-based program specifically runs through the fisheries science and management processes, demystifies the acronyms and vocabulary, and equips fishermen with the tools to engage with tough issues facing the managers of our offshore fisheries.

MREP provides a neutral setting away from contentious management issues for fishermen to work through the 'how' of the whole process, meet the people behind agency jobs, and share important feedback from the fishing community.

The program is offered as a series of workshops that build upon each other. Travel expenses are covered and seats are limited.



A unique educational experience, designed for fishermen, by fishermen

MREP Southeast Schedule

- **Fishery Science Workshop**
May 2-4, 2017
St. Petersburg, FL
- **Fishery Management Workshop**
September 19-21, 2017
Tampa, FL

Learn more and apply online at:
<http://www.gmri.org/mrep-southeast>

Special Agent Richard Chesler Awarded Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

Annual award honors law enforcement personnel going above and beyond the call of duty in protecting natural resources



Council Chair Dr. Michelle Duval and Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Special Agent Richard Chesler

Members of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council presented its annual Law Enforcement Officer of the Year award to NOAA Office for Law Enforcement Special Agent Richard Chesler during its December meeting in Morehead City, NC.

"We are fortunate to have dedicated men and women working tirelessly in the field and behind the scenes, at both the state and federal level to help protect our marine resources," said Council Chair Dr. Michelle Duval. "I am very pleased to

have the opportunity to present the award to Agent Chesler, who has exemplified these characteristics throughout his law enforcement career."

Special Agent Chesler began his career nearly two decades ago as a U.S. Coast Guard recruit, working counter-drug and U.N. Sanction enforcement in the Caribbean, Eastern Pacific, and Northern Arabian Gulf. His duties also included working as a boarding officer enforcing fisheries regulations off the coast of Alaska, where he developed a passion for natural resources. Before becoming a Special Agent with NOAA Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement in 2003 he also worked as a Deputy U.S. Marshal.

As a Special Agent based in Port Orange, Florida Chesler conducts complex criminal and civil investigations of violations of federal fisheries law under the Magnuson-Stevens Act as well as those impacting endangered species, marine mammals, and regulations covered under the Lacey Act. He also works field enforcement including patrols and surveillance and provides liaison and training as part of the joint enforcement agreement (JEA) with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, working closely with the offshore patrol

vessel program.

With an outgoing personality, SA Chesler has coordinated or participated in numerous outreach events, presented to the Council on law enforcement issues, and authored the law enforcement component of the Oculina Evaluation Plan, outlining enforcement approaches for the managed area.

"It is both an honor and privilege to join the elite group of fisheries enforcement professionals who have received this award," said Chesler. Nominees may be submitted annually from each of the southeastern state law enforcement agencies, the U.S. Coast Guard, and NOAA Fisheries.



Special Agent Richard Chesler talks with students during an outreach event to increase awareness of the Oculina Bank and the deepwater corals found there.

Scoping/Public Hearing Meetings (Continued from page 1)

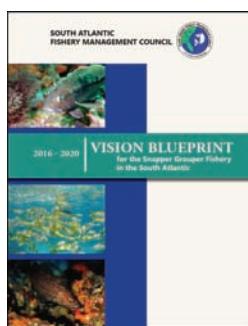
hooks and venting tools with additional outreach and education. Some fishermen supported using the Council's developing Citizen Science Program to help verify discard estimates or discard mortality.

Most fishermen suggested a recreational season to allow harvest of red snapper, suggesting the population is doing much better than in the past. There were a variety of combinations of bag limits, size limits, and seasons suggested. There was also some support for recreational reporting, primarily using electronic technology, and a possible tag program to allow harvest.

At the Council's request, a Red Snapper Discard Mortality Review is included in the briefing book materials for the Council's March meeting. The Council will review all comments and continue to discuss options during the meeting.

Snapper Grouper Visioning Amendments - for recreational and commercial sectors

Should aggregate bag limits for snapper grouper species be modified? Should the current shallow water grouper spawning season closure be modified? Should the recreational size limit for black sea bass change? How should commercial split seasons be structured?



The Council's **2016-2020 Vision Blueprint** for the Snapper Grouper Fishery is the culmination of three years of the Council working with stakeholders to develop a long-term plan for the fishery. Learn more by visiting the *Science and Statistics* section of the Council's website at www.safmc.net.

Most commentors supported retaining the current shallow-water grouper closure with some modifications recommended. Comments specific to the commercial fishery included support for a split season for red porgy (similar to the current split seasons for vermillion snapper and gray triggerfish), considering management measures specific to "traditional" bandit boats, removing minimum size limits for deepwater species, and other measures. Summaries of the scoping comments are available in the briefing book materials for the March meeting of the Snapper Grouper Committee.

Input on these and other issues was solicited as part of public scoping for Vision Blueprint Regulatory Amendment 26 addressing recreational options and Regulatory Amendment 27 focusing on commercial options as identified in the Council's Vision Blueprint for the Snapper Grouper Fishery.

Recommendations for changes to the current aggregate bag limit varied. Some fishermen felt the aggregate limits were confusing. There was some support for changing the species in the aggregate limits to reflect harvest depth instead of species composition to help reduce discards and simplify regulations. Many supported reducing the recreational black sea bass minimum size limit from 13 inches to 12 inches to help reduce discards.

Public Hearing:

Yellowtail Snapper - Snapper Grouper Amendment 44

The Council also solicited public comment on actions addressing allocations for yellowtail snapper. The Council had initially included both yellowtail snapper and dolphin in a joint amendment to consider modifying allocations between commercial and recreational sectors after the commercial fishery was closed for both species in 2015. During its December meeting, the Council decided to consider measures for dolphin in a separate amendment and move forward with yellowtail snapper actions in Amendment 44.



Yellowtail Snapper Fishery

- Fishery occurs primarily in South Florida and FL Keys
- ACL = 3,037,500 lbs. (ww)
- Current allocation:
 - 47.44% recreational
 - 52.56% commercial

The yellowtail fishery primarily occurs in southern Florida and the stock is not overfished or undergoing overfishing. Currently 75% of the total Acceptable Biological Catch is designated to the South Atlantic Council and 25% to the Gulf of Mexico Council. An action to specify a single ABC and subsequently combine annual catch limits were met with opposition by the majority of fishermen and others that provided both written and in-person public comment. Among the comments there were concerns that combining the ACLs could set a precedent for other species managed by the two councils.

An action to modify the current allocation of yellowtail snapper between commercial and recreational sectors in the South Atlantic was met with similar opposition. There were concerns that transfer of allocation isn't the best way to address closures and that several options in the amendment could cause a closure of the recreational fishery if quota were transferred. Commentors also noted the recent change in the fishing year (August 1 - July 31) to allow for a winter fishery for yellowtail snapper and the need to wait and see the effects on the fishery before making any other changes.

The Council will consider all public comments received for each of the amendments during its March 6-10, 2017 meeting in Jekyll Island, Georgia. Read Public Hearing and Scoping Meeting comments on the Council's website at: <http://safmc.net/safmc-meetings/public-hearing-and-scoping-meeting-schedule/>

Learn More and Submit Your Comments on Issues Addressed at the March 2017 Council Meeting



- Meeting materials for the March Council meeting are now available and include copies of each amendment and discussion documents.
- Submit comments online for issues being addressed by the Council at the March 2017 meeting and read what others are saying.

<http://safmc.net/safmc-meetings/council-meetings/>

Amendments at a Glance - A quick reference for proposed and recently implemented measures

Keeping track of the various amendments to fishery management plans as they are being developed and subsequent regulation changes can be a challenge. Below is a brief overview of amendments in various stages of development and implementation. Draft copies of the amendments are available in the briefing book materials for each Council meeting. Public hearing summaries and scoping documents outlining proposed management measures are also available prior to scheduled meetings. Materials are posted on the Council's website at www.safmc.net as they become available. Information on all implemented amendments is available from the "Fishery Management Plan" page of the website.

Currently Under Development by the Council

Snapper Grouper Amendment 44 – Yellowtail Snapper Allocations

The amendment proposes to specify a single Acceptable Biological Catch and Annual Catch Limit for South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico yellowtail snapper and modify allocations between the commercial and recreational sectors for the South Atlantic yellowtail snapper fishery. Alternatives in the amendment include temporary and permanent allocation shifts, establishing a common pool for the annual catch limit to be used by either sector, and a reserve category with a roll over credit. **Status:** Public hearings held in Jan/Feb 2017. Council to review public comment in March 2017.

Once an amendment is approved by the Council, the document is then sent to NOAA Fisheries as part of the Secretarial review process. Additional public comment is accepted on actions proposed in the amendment before they are approved, partially approved, or disapproved by the Secretary of Commerce.

Snapper Grouper Amendment 43 Red Snapper

The amendment includes options to reduce discards of red snapper, improve estimates - including recreational reporting, and options to possibly allow a fishery as the stock continues to rebuild. **Status:** Public scoping conducted in Jan/Feb 2017. Council will review public comment and options during its March 2017 meeting.

Snapper Grouper Visioning Amendments – Regulatory Amendment 26 (Recreational) and Regulatory Amendment 27 (Commercial) measures

The Council is developing two sector-specific amendments that include options for management measures identified as part of the Council's 2016-2020 Vision Blueprint for the Snapper Grouper Fishery. **Status:** Public scoping conducted in Jan/Feb 2017. Council will review public comment and options during its March 2017 meeting.

Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10 – Measures for dolphin

The amendment includes options for Optimum Yield, allocations, allowable gear, and operator permit cards. The Council will review the draft amendment during its March meeting and continue to develop actions and alternatives.

Approved by Council/Under Secretarial Review

South Atlantic For-Hire Electronic Logbook Amendment Requirement for Weekly Reporting by Charter Vessels

The amendment would require weekly trip-level electronic reporting for charter (6-pack) vessels to better monitor landings and discards, and better assess the impacts of regulations on the for-hire industry fishing in federal waters. The amendment would also modify the current timing of headboat reporting. **Status:** Public hearings were held in Jan/Feb 2016. The Council approved the amendment for Secretarial review during its December 2016 meeting.

Snapper Grouper Amendment 41 – Mutton Snapper

The amendment revises biological parameters, catch levels, and management measures for mutton snapper. Actions include reducing the recreational bag limit and commercial trip limit and increasing the minimum size limit. Scoping meetings were held in Jan/Feb 2016 and public hearings August 2016. **Status:** The Council approved the amendment for Secretarial review at its December 2016 meeting.

Under Secretarial Review (continued)

Snapper Grouper Amendment 37 – Hogfish

Recent studies indicate there are two separate genetic stocks of hogfish in the South Atlantic. The amendment specifies two separate stocks: 1) the Florida Keys/East Florida stock and 2) the GA/NC stock. A 2014 benchmark stock assessment was completed for hogfish and it was determined that the FL Keys/E FL stock was overfished and undergoing overfishing. The amendment establishes a rebuilding plan for the FL Keys/EFL stock and would reduce bag limits and commercial trip limits, increase minimum size limits, implement a recreational season of May - October for the FL Keys/E FL stock, and other measures. Public hearings were held in Jan/Feb 2016. **Status:** The Council approved the amendment for Secretarial review in September 2016. NOAA Fisheries issued the Proposed Rule in December 2016. Rulemaking continues.

Coastal Migratory Pelagics Framework Amendment 4

Atlantic Migratory Cobia

In March 2016, the Council began development of this framework amendment with actions intended to help lengthen the recreational season for Atlantic cobia (GA through NY) beginning in 2017. The recreational season closed in Federal waters on June 20, 2016 due to the landings in 2015 exceeding the recreational annual catch limit. NOAA Fisheries has announced that due to overages in 2016, the Atlantic cobia recreational fishery will remain closed in 2017 in federal waters. Actions include changes to bag limits, vessel limits, minimum size limits, and accountability measures. **Status:** Council approved the amendment during its September 2016 meeting. NOAA Fisheries is accepting public comment on the Proposed Rule until March 23, 2017.



Snapper Grouper Amendment 36

Spawning Special Management Zones

The amendment would establish Spawning Special Management Zones to help protect spawning snapper grouper species. **Status:** Approved by Council in March 2016. NOAA Fisheries is accepting comments on the amendment and Proposed Rule until March 6, 2017.

Dolphin Wahoo Regulatory Amendment 1

Dolphin Commercial Trip Limit

Status: Council approved in December 2015. Sent to NOAA Fisheries on 2/16/16. Comment period by NOAA Fisheries on the Proposed Rule for regulations ended August 1, 2016. **NOTE:** Implementation is delayed until March 21, 2017 in accordance with an executive memorandum from the White House.

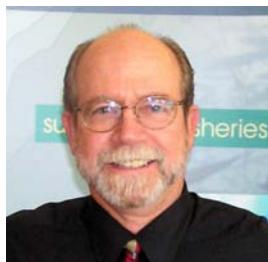
Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 26 – King Mackerel ACLs, boundary and mixing zone changes, other measures

Status: Approved by the South Atlantic Council in March 2016 and the Gulf Council in April 2016. Sent to NOAA Fisheries in July 2016. NOAA Fisheries announced the Proposed Rule in December 2016. Rulemaking continues.

Note: This listing is an overview and is not all-inclusive. For a complete list of amendments, visit www.safmc.net.

From The Executive Director's Desk

Sustainable Fisheries = Sustainable Jobs



Gregg Waugh

The overall objective of the Council's work is to ensure sustainable fisheries – and that leads to sustainable jobs. So much of the focus right now is on

regulations that limit or reduce the amount of fish available to fishermen, and this has resulted in efforts to reduce the number of regulations (e.g., the Executive Order for a freeze on regulations and a requirement to remove 2 regulations for every new regulation). The effort to eliminate or reduce fishing regulations, along with the extensive delays in the review and approval process, combine to have negative social and economic impacts on recreational and commercial fishermen and fishing communities.

Historically, the South Atlantic Council has, for the most part, set the Annual Catch Limits (ACLs) at the highest poundage possible given the stock assessment/science available and the requirement of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. What does this mean? Well it means that some of our regulations are good for jobs; they promote more economic returns for both recreational and commercial fishermen. Two of many examples are:

1. Snapper Grouper Regulatory

Amendment 16 (black sea bass pot closure and gear markings)

The amendment contains two actions: the first addresses the prohibition on use of commercial black sea bass pots from November 1 through April 30 that was implemented on October 23, 2013 to aid in the protection of migrating whales; the second action specifies new black sea bass pot gear modifications that aid in gear identification in the event of a whale entanglement. The amendment, which allows for the commercial winter fishery to reopen within defined boundaries, was approved by the Council and sent for Secretarial review on March 4, 2016. The Final Rule published on December 29, 2016 and regulations were effective to allow for the pot fishery to reopen on December 29, 2016, and for enhanced gear markings on January 20, 2017. The Council's intent was to have the new regulations in place to allow the fishery to open in November 2016.

While the 10 months required for review and implementation cost black sea bass

pot fishermen lost income (and the related lost jobs) from fishing with pots during the months of November and December 2016, the final rule does allow for an annual winter fishery once again.

Under the new Executive Order delaying the implementation of regulations, the requirements for buoy line markings have been delayed from January 20 to March 21, 2017. This delay in requiring markings on black sea bass pot lines could negatively impact the commercial industry if a whale is entangled in a pot line that is not marked. Such entanglements could be attributed to the black sea bass pot fishery when in fact it was from another fishery.

2. Joint Coastal Migratory Pelagic

Amendment 26 (king mackerel ACLs, redesignation of KM boundaries, and mixing zone, and other king mackerel actions)

This amendment contains actions to increase the Gulf and Atlantic king mackerel ACLs based on the results of the latest stock assessment (SEDAR 38); modify the stock boundary to be consistent with the stock boundary used in SEDAR 38; and other measures.

Public hearings were held in January/February 2016. The amendment was sent for formal review on July 7, 2016. The Notice of Availability published on December 15, 2016, with a comment period



until February 13, 2017. The Proposed Rule published on December 29, 2016 with comments due by January 30, 2017. The South Atlantic and Gulf Councils sent a comment letter dated 1/30/17 requesting waiver of the 30-day cooling-off period to increase the ACL as soon as possible.

The 7 months and counting required for review and implementation is costing king mackerel fishermen lost income (and the related lost jobs) from not being able to fish under higher catch limits and other regulations.

Lack of adequate data and the resulting uncertainty in assessment results is also costing jobs. The Council is moving forward with a Citizen Science Program to work with fishermen and scientists to improve our data/science and ensure results are used in improving our stock assessments.

New Projects Funded

The Council received very exciting news about two new projects that are being funded to improve data by partnering with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP), the Snook & Gamefish Foundation, and Harbor Light Software:

1. Recreational Stamp/Logbook

– the public is very concerned about having valid recreational data. To gather additional data, a mobile App would be modified by the Snook & Gamefish Foundation that would create an electronic recreational snapper grouper permit for individual fishermen (immediately sent to the applicant) and provide a platform to report recreational catch and discard data electronically. The public and managing partners would access the data through ACCSP. The application would also collect information on the size composition of discards and alert fishermen about managed areas. Improved private recreational catch estimates and other data would improve stock assessment results and in many cases lead to more jobs.

2. Outreach for the New For-Hire

Electronic Reporting Requirement – the project includes pre-implementation and implementation training and outreach programs about electronic reporting systems targeting charter captains and law enforcement officers throughout the region. The project, in cooperation with Harbor Light Software will also develop a customer service support system to provide real-time troubleshooting guidance on issues that may arise with the electronic reporting system. Better accounting of the charter catches may help prevent unnecessary recreational closures and would improve stock assessment results and in many cases lead to more jobs.

The Council remains committed to maximizing jobs within the fishing industry and the resulting social and economic benefits to fishing communities on a sustainable basis. To accomplish this goal, it is critical that we maintain the ability to implement management measures as needed and fix the data shortcomings, and the Council is actively working to fill these data gaps.

Gregg

Know Before You Go!

SA Fishing Regulations App Available Keep up with the latest federal fishing regulations



Scan the appropriate QR code below or search "SA Fishing Regulations" to download your free App today!

Apple/iPhone



Android



SAFMC Meeting Dates and Locations 2017 Schedule

March 6-10, 2017
Westin Jekyll Island
110 Ocean Way
Jekyll Island, GA
Phone: 912/635-4545

September 11-15, 2017
Town & Country Inn
2008 Savannah Highway
Charleston, SC
Phone: 843/571-1000

June 12-16, 2017
Sawgrass Marriott
1000 PGA Tour Blvd.
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL
Phone: 904/285-7777

December 4-8, 2017
Doubletree Oceanfront
2717 W. Ft. Macon Rd.
Atlantic Beach, NC
Phone: 252/240-1155

Acronyms

ABC - Acceptable Biological Catch

ACCSP - Atlantic Coast Cooperative Statistics Program

ACL - Annual Catch Limit

AM - Accountability Measure

ACT - Annual Catch Target

AP - Advisory Panel

ASMFC - Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

BRD - Bycatch Reduction Device

EEZ - Exclusive Economic Zone

EFH - Essential Fish Habitat

EFH/HAPC - Essential Fish Habitat/Habitat Area of Particular Concern

FMP - Fishery Management Plan

HMS - Highly Migratory Species

ITQ - Individual Transferable Quota

MSA - Magnuson-Stevens Act

MSY - Maximum Sustainable Yield

MRIP - Marine Recreational Information Program

NMFS - National Marine Fisheries Service

OY - Optimum Yield

SEDAR - Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review (stock assessment process)

SSC - Scientific & Statistical Committee

TAC - Total Allowable Catch

VMS - Vessel Monitoring System

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Meeting March 6-10, 2017



110 Ocean Way
Jekyll Island, GA 31527
Phone: 888/627-8316 or 912/635-4545

A detailed agenda is posted on the Council's website at www.safmc.net or contact the Council office toll free at 1-866/SAFMC-10 or 843/571-4366.

MEETING AGENDA

Monday	8:30 - 10:00	Advisory Panel Selection Committee (<i>Closed</i>)
	10:00 - 11:00	SEDAR Committee
	11:00 - 12:00	Protected Resources Committee
	1:30 - 2:30	Spiny Lobster Committee
	2:30 - 5:00	Habitat Protection & Ecosystem-Based Management Committee
Tuesday	8:30 - 11:00	Dolphin Wahoo Committee
	11:00 - 12:00	Snapper Grouper Committee
	1:30 - 5:00	Snapper Grouper Committee (<i>continued</i>)
Wednesday	8:30 - 3:30	Snapper Grouper Committee
	3:30 - 4:30	Mackerel Cobia Committee
	4:30	Formal Public Comment
Thursday	8:00 - 9:00	Mackerel Cobia Committee (<i>continued</i>)
	9:00 - 10:00	Citizen Science Committee
	10:00 - 12:00	Executive Finance Committee
	1:30 - 5:00	- Council Session -
Friday	8:30 - 12:00	- Council Session -

Note! Follow the Council meeting live online

Watch the Council meeting from Jekyll Island, GA via webinar. Registration information is available from the March 2017 Meeting Information page at www.safmc.net.



**South Atlantic
Fishery Management Council**
4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201
North Charleston, SC 29405

Presorted First Class
U.S. Postage
PAID
Charleston, SC
Permit 25

Electronic Service Requested



Printed on
recycled paper



Mark your calendar...

Feb 28-March 1 Council Coordinating Committee Meeting
Washington, DC www.fisherycouncils.org

March 15-17 SEDAR 48 Data Workshop for Black Grouper
St. Petersburg, FL www.sedar.org

April/May SAFMC Advisory Panel Meetings
Charleston, SC www.safmc.net

April 3-6 Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Meeting
Birmingham, AL www.gulfcouncil.org

April 11-13 Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Meeting
Avalon, NJ www.mafmc.org

April 24-27 SAFMC Scientific and Statistical Committee Meeting
Charleston, SC www.safmc.net

May 8-11 Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Meeting
Alexandria, VA www.asmfc.org

May 16-18 Council Coordinating Committee Meeting
Washington, DC www.fisherycouncils.org

South Atlantic Fishery
Management Council
Meeting
March 6-10, 2017
Jekyll Island, GA



Know Before You Go!
Download the FREE
SA Fishing Regulations
mobile App today.