



South Atlantic Update

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

Summer 2016

Options to Allow Harvest of Red Snapper Management Discussed

Council looks at "adaptive management" approach; requests additional review of stock assessment

Discussions were often-times intense as members of the South Atlantic Council reviewed the results of the latest benchmark stock assessment for South Atlantic red snapper, showing the stock remains overfished and overfishing is occurring. Red snapper continue to be closed to harvest in federal waters for the second year in a row after the estimated total number of fish removed in 2015 was more than double the allowable number of removals set at 114,000 fish. The majority of the total removals were attributed to fish discarded by recreational anglers. An estimated 28.5% of fish released by recreational anglers do not survive.

Members of the Council voiced concerns over the conclusion that overfishing was occurring, noting the uncertainty in the stock assessment as outlined by its Scientific and Statistical Committee and questioning the models and reference points used in the assessment. After much discussion, the Council asked that the SSC review the assessment again and address its concerns during the next SSC meeting scheduled for October 18-20, 2016.

"We have other species that are overfished and under a rebuilding plan where we continue to allow harvest," said Council Chair Dr. Michelle Duval, noting snowy grouper as an example. "The issue that folks are struggling with is the *overfishing* designation...it just doesn't make sense that by not allowing harvest we're actually killing more fish than we're supposed to be. That speaks to the need for a different strategy."

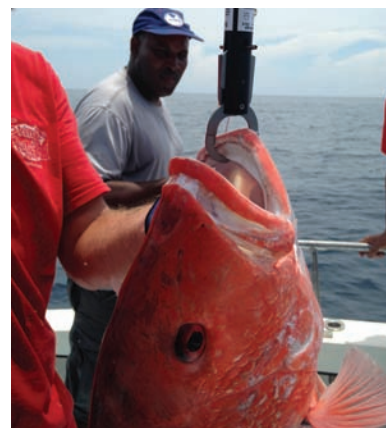
Adaptive Management Approach

The different strategy may come in the form of a new adaptive management approach outlined by Council member Ben Hartig during the Council's June meeting. Hartig presented a list of ideas for red snapper management, noting input received from the Council's Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel and from the public as part of the Council's Visioning Project for the Snapper Grouper fishery.

The comprehensive approach emphasizes the need for improvements in data collection, flexibility, and the ability to cap effort and mortality while allowing for a limited harvest of red snapper. The presentation included several ideas for addressing

As the red snapper stock continues to rebuild and the fishery remains closed, the number of discarded fish increases - frustrating fishermen and managers alike.

The use of descending devices, such as the one shown here, to help reduce discard mortality coupled with additional measures may allow a limited harvest of red snapper in the future.



Credit: Guess Hoo Charters

the needs and it was generally well-received. The Council has requested a more formal options paper be developed for review and discussion during its September 2016 meeting.

Potential Options for the Red Snapper Adaptive Management Approach Include:

• Federal Snapper Grouper Recreational Stamp

The stamp would better identify private anglers targeting snapper grouper species including red snapper.

• Gear requirements

Use of descending devices and venting tools, limiting # of hooks

• Federal private recreational fishing season

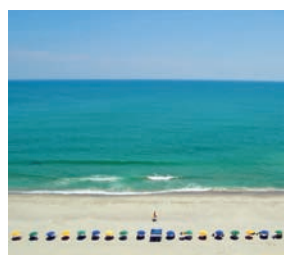
A season would allow better monitoring, reduce discard mortality by getting hooks out of the water, and allow managers to turn discards into landings.

• Ways to improve data collection

Electronic reporting, logbook reporting for private recreational anglers, increased sampling, cooperative research and citizen science projects, tagging programs, etc.

Inside This Issue:

| | |
|--|---|
| From the Chair | 2 |
| In The News | 3 |
| Cobia Update | 3 |
| Regulations Snapshot | 4 |
| Cobia, Mutton Snapper, Allocations | 4 |
| Amendments at a Glance | 5 |
| From the Executive Director's Desk | 6 |
| September 2016 Meeting Agenda | 7 |
| Calendar | 8 |



**September 12-16,
2016**

**Council Meeting
Myrtle Beach, SC**

See page 7 for details

**Formal Public Comment
Wednesday, September 14**

SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Gregg T. Waugh **Dr. Brian Chevront, Deputy**
Executive Director **John Carmichael, Deputy**

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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.

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Chairman's Perspective

Dr. Michelle Duval, Council Chair

Innovation, Evolution and Rethinking Past Approaches



The June Council meeting was one of the busiest on record -- and it was only our second meeting to start without a Visioning Session. We managed to fill every second of every day and then some. Of course, several high profile issues -- red snapper, cobia, golden tilefish, allocation sharing -- contributed to our full use of available time, and it looks like we will be quite busy for the near future!

While there was understandable frustration around the Council table, I also heard some common threads in the conversations from that week -- namely innovation, evolution and rethinking some of our past approaches. Whether the discussion was focused on promising new tools that could help us manage in the face of climate change (OceanAdapt, <http://oceanadapt.rutgers.edu/>) or taking a page out of the NMFS Highly Migratory Species handbook regarding allocation management, there seemed to be an undercurrent of alternative thinking throughout the week.

New approaches are at the core of the Vision Blueprint for the snapper grouper fishery, and it was gratifying to hear many of the ideas brought forward by stakeholders during that process discussed with renewed interest and determination during our conversations about red snapper. It seemed as though all Council members were mentally stretching themselves to bring forward new tactics (or at least an unconventional twist on existing tools) to help move us from where we are to where we'd like to be. As noted above, we were not shy to borrow ideas from other management partners: we looked to the Gulf Council for a trigger-based option to scope for our allocation sharing amendment, and to the Mid-Atlantic Council for an alternative to evaluate risks associated with a phased approach to reducing annual catch limits.

From a broader perspective, innovation and evolution of our management approaches, as well as collection of data to support those approaches, will become increasingly critical as our fisheries evolve in response to changing environmental conditions. As we heard during our Ecosystem and Habitat Committee, while we have not experienced the dramatic shifts in distribution seen in the northeast, changes in water temperature and other environmental parameters have been slowly occurring and impacts on managed species will be evident in the coming years. Cooperative approaches with industry, such as the comparative deepwater species sampling methods discussed during our Snapper Grouper Committee, as well as our Citizen Science program, are important tools to support and stimulate innovations in science, just as cross-communication and sharing of ideas across Council boundaries will support evolution of our management approaches.

Michelle

In the News:

Control Date Requested for Federal Charter/For-Hire Permits

The Council has requested NOAA Fisheries establish a control date for open access Atlantic Charter/For-hire Federal Vessel Permits of **June 15, 2016**. The request was made during the Council's June meeting and would affect Federal Charter/For-Hire permits for Atlantic Dolphin Wahoo, Atlantic Coastal Migratory Pelagics, and South Atlantic Snapper Grouper.

The control date is designed to alert fishermen that enter the fishery after that date they may not be guaranteed to be included in the limited entry program should the Council develop a limited entry program. The announcement of a control date does *not* commit the Council to use that date.

The Council discussed the need for a limited entry program for the charter/for-hire fishery to help improve data collection as it moves toward mandatory electronic reporting for charterboats. Discussions will continue in September. The Council may change the control date or choose not to take any further action.

Secretary of Commerce Announces Council Member Appointments



Tim Griner will become the latest member of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council when he is sworn in as

a NC obligatory member during the September 2016 meeting. A resident of Charlotte, NC, Tim is the owner of The Charlotte Fish Company and the commercial boat *F/V Mariner*, providing whole fish to area restaurants, specialty seafood retailers, and selected grocery stores.

Tim grew up fishing during summer vacations on the Gulf of Mexico and along the NC coast. A civil engineer with a BS degree from NCSU, Tim used a downturn in the economy as an opportunity to focus on developing a market for his fish and growing his company. As a commercial fisherman and business owner, Tim provides fresh product straight from the dock at Ocean Isle, NC to his customers in Charlotte.

"The best way to understand the process was to get involved," said Griner. "To understand the science behind management decisions and then share with stakeholders. True stakeholder involvement is necessary to achieve conservation and sustainable harvesting of our marine resources."



Council member **Chris Conklin** from Murrells Inlet, SC has been reappointed as the SC obligatory representative to serve for a second term. Owner of the family-operated

Seven Seas Seafood Market, Chris is an avid commercial and recreational fisherman.

After graduating from the Citadel, he returned home to continue the tradition of providing fresh seafood to the Grand Strand and beyond - directly from the local docks. As a husband and father of a 4-year old and new twins, Chris is remaining onshore a bit more these days.

Congratulations to both Tim and Chris!

Measures Proposed to Help Extend Atlantic Cobia Season Beginning in 2017

Public comment to be reviewed in September; benchmark stock assessment requested for 2018

Council members considered over 60 written comments and comments received during a well-attended Q&A session held in Kitty Hawk, NC in May as it discussed management measures to help extend the season for Atlantic cobia. Many of the comments came from fishermen in North Carolina and Virginia negatively impacted when the recreational fishery in federal waters closed on June 20, 2016.

In 2015, recreational landings of Atlantic cobia reached 1,540,776 pounds, more than double the allowable annual catch limit of 630,000 pounds according to NOAA Fisheries. As required by the accountability measures in place, the season was shortened the following year.

Fishermen questioned the landings data and argued that the closure unfairly impacted fishermen in the northern part of the seasonal migratory range. Fishermen also questioned the Atlantic cobia boundary (GA to NY) established in 2015 following the latest stock assessment.

The concerns and comments were addressed during discussions by the Council's Mackerel/Cobia Committee that included a member from the Mid-Atlantic Council representing the Virginia Marine Resources Commission.

The intent is for the Council to approve the measures in Framework Amendment 4 to the Coastal Migratory Pelagic Fishery Management Plan in September and have the new regulations in place prior to the 2017 season.

The Council also requested that a benchmark SEDAR stock assessment be conducted for cobia in 2018 and that cobia be included in a SEDAR Stock Assessment Identification Workshop scheduled for 2017. For additional information about SEDAR visit: sedarweb.org.



Photo credit: theoutdoorimage.com

Proposed Measures for Atlantic Cobia (federal waters from GA to NY)

- **Reduce the recreational bag limit and implement a vessel limit**
Current bag limit = 2 fish per person/day
 - Preferred alternatives:
 - 1 fish per person/day with a 3 fish per vessel/day limit
- **Increase the recreational minimum size limit**
Current minimum size limit = 33 inches fork length
 - Preferred alternative: 36 inches fork length
- **Modify the current accountability measures (AMs)**
Modifying the method used for calculating seasonal overages in the current AMs would allow more flexibility should the annual catch limit (ACL) be exceeded.
- **Establish a commercial trip limit**
Current commercial limit = 2 fish per person/day
No preferred alternative to date. Considering a commercial trip limit with a step down if 75% of the commercial ACL is met to help extend the season.

Public hearings are underway and public comment is being accepted until August 19, 2016 (see p. 6).

[Learn More!](#)

Public hearing summaries, presentations, and story map available at:

<http://safmc.net/meetings/public-hearing-and-scoping-meeting-schedule>

Snapper Grouper Regulations Snap Shot



Recreational

Aggregate Grouper Bag Limit

3 grouper per person/day includes: *black, gag, misty, red, scamp, snowy, yellowedge, yellowfin, yellowmouth grouper, and also includes golden tilefish, sand tilefish, coney, graysby, red hind and rock hind.*

- No more than 1 may be a gag OR black grouper; size limit for either is 24" Total Length (TL)
- Snowy grouper-1 fish per vessel per day. *Open May 1 - August 31*
- Blueline tilefish -3 fish per person/day (effective 7/13/16). *Open May 1- August 31*
- Golden tilefish - 1 per person/day
- Wreckfish -1 per vessel per day. *Open July 1 - August 31*

Aggregate Snapper Bag Limit

- Aggregate bag limit of 10 snapper (excluding vermilion snapper) per person/day
- Maximum of 2 cubera snapper per person (not to exceed 2 per vessel) for fish 30" TL or larger off Florida. These are not included in the 10 snapper bag limit. *Cubera less than 30" TL are included in the 10 fish bag limit.*
- Red snapper - *Closed to harvest*

In addition, fishermen may also retain:

- 1 greater amberjack per person/day (NOTE: in April, for-hire/charter vessels limited to 1 per person/day or 1 per person/trip)
- 7 black sea bass per person/day - 13" TL (effective 8/12/16)
- 3 red porgy per person/day or 3 per person/trip, whichever is more restrictive - 14" TL
- 5 vermilion snapper per person/day - 12" TL

There is an aggregate bag limit of 20 fish per person inclusive of all fish in the snapper grouper management unit currently *not under the bag limit*, excluding tomate. You may catch your bag limits and in addition retain up to 20 other fish for which there are no individual bag limits.

Commercial

Commercial Trip Limits

- Snowy Grouper - 200-lbs (gw)
- Blueline tilefish - 300-lbs (gw); (effective 7/13/16)
- Black sea bass - 1,000-lbs (gw) / 1,180-lbs (ww)
- Gag - 1,000-lbs (gw)
- Red porgy - 120 fish per trip
- Greater amberjack - 1,200-lbs (gw)
- Red snapper - Closed to harvest
- Gray triggerfish - 1,000-lbs (ww);
- Vermilion snapper - 1,000-lbs (gw)
- Golden tilefish - Hook-and-line: 500-lbs (gw); Longline: 4,000-lbs (gw); **NOTE:** Longline CLOSED March 15, 2016

Other Regulations

- Dehooking tools are required
- The sale of bag limit snapper grouper is prohibited
- The following are closed year-round to harvest or possession: goliath grouper, Nassau grouper, speckled hind, and warsaw grouper.
- Non-stainless steel circle hooks are required for both commercial and recreational fishermen targeting snapper grouper species north of 28 degrees N. latitude when fishing with natural baits.

Visit <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov> for the latest information on the status of annual catch limits

NOTE: Regulations are subject to change.
For the latest updates, download the *SA Fishing Regulations App* or visit www.safmc.net.

Public Comment Period Open - *Weigh in now on measures proposed for Atlantic cobia, mutton snapper, and allocation options for dolphin and yellowtail snapper*

The Council is seeking public input on management measures that could impact fishermen fishing in federal waters from New England to the Florida Keys. Comments are being accepted through 5:00 PM August 19, 2016. Public hearings are underway and the Council will also take public comment as part of its September meeting agenda. (See page 6 for details on how to comment.)

Atlantic Cobia

Regulation changes are proposed for Atlantic cobia, a species commonly targeted by recreational fishermen as it migrates northward in late spring and early summer. The Council is proposing measures to extend the recreational fishery beginning in 2017. See the story on page 3 for additional information and an overview of proposed measures.

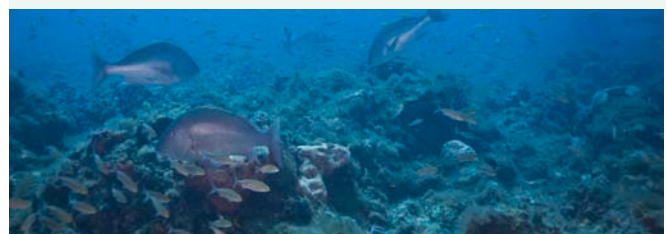
Mutton Snapper

Changes are being proposed to reduce harvest of mutton snapper based on a recent update to the stock assessment showing a smaller adult population compared to a 2008 assessment and concerns expressed by the public and the Council's advisory panels about targeting mutton snapper spawning aggregations.

(Continued page 6)

Proposed Measures for Mutton Snapper (Snapper Grouper Amendment 41)

- **Specify management parameters including the Maximum Sustainable Yield and revise the optimum yield, annual catch limit and annual catch target.**
 - Proposed changes would reduce the annual catch limit from 926,600 pounds (whole weight) to 587,633 pounds (ww) beginning in 2017.
- **Increase the recreational minimum size limit**
Current minimum size limit = 16 inches (total length)
 - Preferred alternative: 18 inches (TL)
- **Designate a spawning season for regulatory purposes**
Current: Commercial restrictions apply in May through June - 10 fish per person/day or 10 fish per person/trip, whichever is more restrictive
 - Preferred alternative: Designate April - June as "spawning months". The remainder of the year would be "regular season".
- **Reduce the recreational bag limit**
Current bag limit: 10 fish per person/day, included in the 10-snapper aggregate bag limit.
 - Preferred alternative: 3 fish per person/day year round, included in the 10-snapper aggregate bag limit.
- **Modify the commercial trip limit**
Current commercial limit = 10 fish per person/day or per trip whichever is more restrictive from May through June.
 - Preferred alternative: Establish a commercial trip limit of 300 pounds during the "regular season" and a trip limit of 3 fish per person/day during the "spawning months" (April - June).



Credit: John Hunt FWC

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 web site at www.safmc.net as they become available. Information on all amendments is available from the "Fishery Management Plan" page of the website.

Currently Under Development by the Council

Snapper Grouper Amendment 37 – Hogfish

Recent studies indicate there are two separate genetic stocks of hogfish in the South Atlantic. The amendment would specify 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/EFL 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 July-September for the FL Keys/E FL stock, and other measures. **Status:** Public hearings were held in Jan/Feb 2016. The Council is scheduled to approve the amendment for Secretarial review during its September 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 are scheduled for August 2016. **Status:** The Council will review public comments and continue development of preferred management alternatives during its September 2016 meeting.

Coastal Migratory Pelagics Framework Amendment 4

Atlantic Migratory Cobia

In March 2016, the Council began development of this framework amendment with actions intended to 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. Actions include changes to bag limits, vessel limits, minimum size limits, and accountability measures. A step-down for commercial harvest once landings have reached a percentage of the annual catch limit is also included. **Status:** Public hearings scheduled for August 2016 with final approval by the Council in September 2016.

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 will continue to review the revised amendment in September 2016.



Credit: Teaser2 Charters

New! Bag Limits Increase for Black Sea Bass and Blueline Tilefish

Effective August 12, 2016

Black sea bass bag limit increases from 5 to 7 fish per person/day

Effective August 13, 2016

Blueline tilefish bag limit increases from 1 per vessel/day to 3 fish per *person*/day

Approved by Council and Under Secretarial Review

Snapper Grouper Amendment 36

Spawning Special Management Zones

Establishes a process for identifying spawning sites/aggregations for snapper grouper species, including speckled hind and warsaw grouper, based on characteristics of sites important to spawning. Proposed regulations would prohibit fishing for and/or possessing snapper grouper species in five areas designated as Spawning SMZs. **Status:** Approved by Council in March 2016 and will be sent to NOAA Fisheries in August 2016.

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 Regulatory Amendment 16

Commercial black sea bass pot closure and gear markings

The amendment would modify the current prohibition on the use of black sea bass pots November - April and specify new black sea bass pot gear modifications to aid in gear identification in the event of a whale entanglement. **Status:** Approved by the Council in December 2015 and sent to NOAA Fisheries on 3/4/16.

Dolphin Wahoo Regulatory Amendment 1

Dolphin Commercial Trip Limit

The amendment would implement a 4,000-pound commercial trip limit once 75% of the commercial annual catch limit has been landed. **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.

Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 26 – King Mackerel

ACLs, boundary and mixing zone changes, other measures

A joint amendment with the Gulf of Mexico Council, it updates annual catch limits for Gulf and Atlantic king mackerel based on the latest stock assessment, modifies the stock boundary consistent with the one used in the assessment, allows bag limit sales of Atlantic king mackerel in the small coastal shark gillnet fishery, and other measures. **Status:** Approved by the South Atlantic Council in March 2016 and the Gulf Council in April 2016. Sent to NOAA Fisheries on 7/7/16.

Recently Implemented (New Regulations)

Snapper Grouper Regulatory Amendment 25

Blueline Tilefish, Yellowtail Snapper and Black Sea Bass

Effective July 13, 2016:

- Blueline tilefish recreational bag limit increases from 1 to 3 fish per person/day (included in the grouper aggregate) from May - August
- Blueline tilefish commercial trip limit increases to 300 pounds (gw).

Effective August 12, 2016:

- Fishing year for yellowtail snapper changes from Jan - Dec 31 to August 1 - July 31 (resets the annual catch limit for 2016)
- Black sea bass: recreational bag limit increases from 5 to 7 fish per person/day.

Note: This an overview and is not all-inclusive. For a complete list of amendments, visit the *Resource Library* at www.safmc.net.

Dolphin and Yellowtail Snapper Allocations (Scoping)

Public scoping comments are being solicited on options for dolphin (mahimahi) and yellowtail snapper. Dolphin are managed by the Council in federal waters along the Atlantic coast from Maine to Florida. The commercial fishery was closed in 2015 after meeting its annual catch limit. Options are being considered that would allow the commercial hook-and-line fishery to remain open all year, including gear allocations and sector allocations.



The commercial yellowtail snapper fishery also closed early in 2015 after meeting the annual catch limit. Shifting allocations, either temporarily or permanently between sectors is being considered to allow the commercial fishery to remain open.

Scoping Options for Dolphin and Yellowtail Snapper

• Dolphin

- Gear-based Allocations: Separate the commercial dolphin allocation into two gear-based sectors - Hook-and-line sector and longline sector
- Sector Allocations: shift allocations between recreational and commercial sectors either temporarily or permanently. The current allocation is 90% recreational (13,810,361 lbs. ww) and 10% commercial (1,534,485 lbs. ww)

• Yellowtail Snapper

- Sector Allocations: shift allocations between recreational and commercial sectors either temporarily or permanently. The current allocation is 47.44% recreational (1,440,990 lbs. ww) and 52.56% commercial (1,595,510 lbs. ww).

Submit Your Comments on Atlantic Cobia, Mutton Snapper and Scoping for Dolphin and Yellowtail Snapper Allocations

| Mark your calendar | | Public Hearing Dates: | |
|---|--|--|--|
| South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Public Hearing/Scoping Meetings All Meetings Begin at 6:00 PM | | | |
| Atlantic Cobia | Mutton Snapper | Atlantic Cobia | Mutton Snapper |
| August 11 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Virginia Beach, VA 23462 | August 11 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Virginia Beach, VA 23462 | August 11 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Virginia Beach, VA 23462 | August 11 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Virginia Beach, VA 23462 |
| August 12 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Virginia Beach, VA 23462 | August 12 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Virginia Beach, VA 23462 | August 12 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Virginia Beach, VA 23462 | August 12 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Virginia Beach, VA 23462 |
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| August 15 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Virginia Beach, VA 23462 | August 15 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Virginia Beach, VA 23462 | August 15 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Virginia Beach, VA 23462 | August 15 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Virginia Beach, VA 23462 |
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Learn More

View public hearing presentations, read the summaries, and use the new story maps to get a quick overview of what is proposed and why.

Attend

Attend a public hearing. A series of hearings are scheduled throughout the region beginning in early August. The Council will also hold a public comment session during its September meeting (see agenda next page).

Submit Written Comments

Use the new online public comment form for each amendment. Comments submitted using the online form are immediately posted to the Council's website and available for all Council members and the public to view. **Comments must be received by 5:00 PM on August 19, 2016.**



Visit the [Public Hearing and Scoping Meeting](http://safmc.net/meetings/public-hearing-and-scoping-meeting-schedule) page at: <http://safmc.net/meetings/public-hearing-and-scoping-meeting-schedule>

- Public Hearing Schedule
- Public Hearing and Scoping Summaries
- Powerpoint and Video Overviews
- Interactive Story Maps
- Online Comment Form

From The Executive Director's Desk



Gregg Waugh

Our June 2016 meeting was extremely busy! Red snapper was the big item and even though there is no season

opening for 2016, the Council laid out an adaptive management approach that could lead to an opening of some length in 2018. Details are included in the meeting report available at: <http://safmc.net/meetings/june-2016-council-meeting>. Please take a look and let us know your thoughts.

There are now several ways to get information about what happened at each Council meeting. Look for the Council's Press Release on the Friday afternoon after each meeting. The press release will include links to a new Story Map feature that covers the big items. For those interested in the details, they are included in the Meeting Report. Please take a look and give us

your feedback on these methods to get information out to you quickly.

I would like to discuss how fishermen in Virginia are represented during the development of management measures for cobia. We have heard a number of comments that you have no voice. I want to let you know this is not the case! The South Atlantic Council provides two voting seats for the Mid-Atlantic Council on the Mackerel/Cobia Committee that develops all mackerel and cobia amendments. This means that those two Mid-Atlantic Council representatives can participate in the discussions and can make motions.

The Mackerel/Cobia Committee met during the June Council meeting and developed specific actions and alternatives for Framework Amendment 4 addressing Atlantic cobia. Even though the Mid-Atlantic Council met the same week as the South Atlantic Council, they still sent Mr. Rob O'Reilly, Chief of Fisheries Management, Virginia Marine Resources Commission to the meeting for the committee meeting that we scheduled for Thursday afternoon

to accommodate their attendance. Mr. O'Reilly was very active in having the needs and concerns of Virginia's cobia fishermen addressed. I have coordinated with Chris Moore, Mid-Atlantic Council Executive Director, to ensure our two Councils do not meet at the same time in the future so that fishermen and members can attend each other's meetings.

In addition, the Mid-Atlantic and South Atlantic Councils are holding a joint public hearing in Virginia Beach on August 9th beginning at 6 pm, and the Mid-Atlantic Council will discuss the amendment during their August 8-11, 2016 meeting. Public hearing documents, presentations, and an interactive Story Map outlining proposed measures is available from the website and public comment is being accepted until August 19th. We are pleased to offer these multiple opportunities for Virginia's fishermen to have input, and we look forward to seeing and hearing from you at the public meetings.

Gregg

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SAFMC Meeting Dates and Locations 2016 Schedule

March 7-11, 2016
Westin Jekyll Island
110 Ocean Way
Jekyll Island, GA 31527
Phone: 912/635-4545

September 12-16, 2016
Marina Inn at Grand Dunes
8121 Amalfi Place
Myrtle Beach, SC 29572
Phone: 843/913-1333

June 13-17, 2016
Hilton Cocoa Beach
1550 N. Atlantic Ave.
Cocoa Beach, FL 32931
Phone: 321/799-0003

December 5-9, 2016
Doubletree Oceanfront
2717 W. Ft. Macon Rd.
Atlantic Beach, NC 28512
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 September 12-16, 2016



Marina Inn at Grande Dunes
8121 Amalfi Place
Myrtle Beach, SC 29572
Phone: 843/913-1333

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 - 12:00 | Parliamentary Practice Workshop |
| | 1:30 - 4:00 | Habitat Protection & Ecosystem-Based Committee |
| | 4:00 - 5:00 | Information and Education Committee |
| Tuesday | 8:30 - 9:30 | SSC Selection Committee (Closed Session) |
| | 9:30 - 11:00 | Advisory Panel Selection Committee (Closed Session) |
| | 11:00 - 12:00 | SEDAR Committee |
| | 1:30 - 5:00 | Snapper Grouper Committee |
| | 5:30 | Informal Q&A with Sam Rauch, NOAA Fisheries Deputy Assistant Administrator |
| Wednesday | 8:30 - 12:00 | Snapper Grouper Committee (continued) |
| | 1:30 - 3:30 | Joint Dolphin Wahoo and Mackerel/Cobia Committee |
| | 3:30 - 5:30 | Mackerel/Cobia Committee |
| | 5:30 | Formal Public Comment |
| Thursday | 8:30 - 9:30 | Mackerel Cobia Committee (continued) |
| | 9:30 - 10:30 | Law Enforcement Committee |
| | 10:30 - 11:30 | Protected Resources Committee |
| | 1:00 - 4:00 | Data Collection Committee |
| | 4:00 - 5:00 | Executive Finance Committee |
| | 5:00 - 5:00 | Highly Migratory Pelagics Committee |
| Friday | 8:30 - 12:00 | - Council Session - |

Note! Follow the Council meeting live online

Watch the Council meeting from Myrtle Beach, SC via webinar. Registration information is available from the September 2016 Meeting Information page at www.safmc.net.



Channel SAFMC



www.facebook.com/SouthAtlanticCouncil

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic And Atmospheric Administration

**South Atlantic
Fishery Management Council**
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Mark your calendar...

- August 1-17** *SAFMC Public Hearing/ Scoping Meetings*
Region-wide www.safmc.net
- August 2-4** *Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Meeting*
Alexandria, VA www.asmfc.org
- August 4-5** *SAFMC Joint Law Enforcement Committee/Advisory Panel Meeting*
Charleston, SC www.safmc.net
- August 8-11** *Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Meeting*
Virginia Beach, VA www.mafmc.org
- August 15-18** *Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Meeting*
New Orleans, LA www.gulfcouncil.org
- August 21-25** *American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting*
Kansas City, MO www.2016.fisheries.org

South Atlantic Fishery
Management Council
Meeting
September 12-16, 2016
Myrtle Beach, SC



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