The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's

South Atlantic Update

Published for fishermen and others interested in marine resource conservation issues **Fall 2010**

Secretary of Commerce Approves Amendment 17A to End Overfishing of Red Snapper

Red snapper fishery will remain closed; area closure for all snapper grouper fishing to be implemented

On October 27, 2010, the Council received notification that the Secretary of Commerce had given final approval to Amendment 17A to the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan. The controversial amendment will extend the current closure of the red snapper fishery throughout the South Atlantic region. In addition, the amendment further reduces fishing mortality by establishing a large area closure off the southeastern coast of Georgia and northern Florida where fishing for all species in the snapper grouper management complex will be prohibited. The use of spearfishing gear and commercial black sea bass pots will be allowed within the area closure because of the lack of red snapper bycatch associated with the gear. The harvest of red snapper will be prohibited within the area closure for all gear types.

According to the letter sent to the Council, "the final rule to implement Amendment 17A will likely publish in the Federal Register in the second-half of November". Until the final rule is published, the specific date for implementation of the regulations in the amendment is unknown. The red snapper fishery has been closed to both commercial and recreational fishermen since January 4, 2010, and the interim rule for the closure is scheduled to expire December 5, 2010.

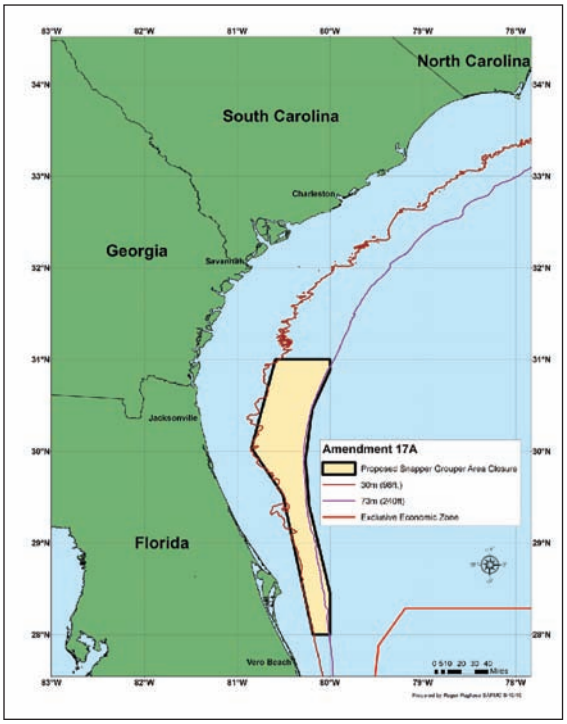
After two years of considering options to meet the deadline and mandates of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to end overfishing of red snapper, the Council approved Amendment 17A for submission to the Secretary of Commerce in a split vote during its June 2010 meeting. While working on the amendment, the Council requested the interim rule in March 2009 to close the red snapper fishery in an effort to help address the issue of overfishing.

New Stock Assessment –

Exploring options for modifying the area closure

The measures currently in Amendment 17A are based on a 2008 stock assessment for red snapper conducted through the Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR)

(Continued page 4)



An area closure prohibiting fishing for all snapper grouper species in waters ranging in depth from 98 to 240 feet off the coasts of southern Georgia (31 degrees N. latitude) extending southward off Florida to just south of Melbourne, Florida (28 degrees N. latitude) will be implemented through Amendment 17A. The start date for the closure and other regulations will be announced in late November.

The area closure is designed to further reduce fishing mortality associated with red snapper as fishermen target other species in the snapper grouper management complex. The use of black sea bass pots and spearfishing (no harvest of red snapper) would be allowed within the area closure. The closure targets areas where red snapper catches are highest. The Council may request measures to modify the closure once the results of the new red snapper stock assessment are received in December.

December 6-10 2010 Council Meeting

New Bern, NC

Wednesday, December 8, 2010 at 5:30 PM

Informal *Q&A* Session

Thursday, December 9, 2010 at 1:45 PM

Open Public Comment

Interested persons will be provided the opportunity to present oral or written statements regarding matters on the Council agenda.

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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. Anyone wishing to submit information or articles pertaining to fishing or fisheries management, or letters to the editor on a pertinent issue, is invited and encouraged to do so. 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. NA05NMF4410004.

Council Elects New Chair and Vice-Chair at September Meeting

During its September meeting members of the Council unanimously elected David M. Cupka as its new chairman and Dr. Brian Cheuvront to serve as vice-chair. Mr. Cupka, from Charleston, SC, currently serves as an at-large member of the Council. He has served several terms on the Council, including his appointed position as the representative for the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources' Division of Marine Fisheries before his retirement. He previously served as Chairman of the Council from 1995-1996, and again in 2001-2004. His election as Chairman gives him the distinction of being the only member of the Council to serve as Chairman three separate times.


David Cupka

"This is a challenging time in the history of the Council as we struggle to implement the mandates of the Magnuson-Stevens Act," explained Chairman Cupka. "During my tenure as Council Chairman I plan to focus on completion of the Annual Catch Limit and Accountability Measure requirements; improvements to the SEDAR stock assessment process; and working on the issue of catch shares in those instances where fishermen have expressed an interest in exploring the concept."

Dr. Brian Cheuvront is the Council representative for the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries. A social psychologist, Dr. Cheuvront's work as the socio-economic program manager for the Division has given him first-hand experience in working with fishing communities to assess how fisheries management affects people. "In making user group allocations, people all too often view commercial and recreational fishing interests as being contrary to each other. I honestly believe it doesn't have to be this way. My experience is that all user groups are concerned about the status of the fishery resources. We just need to be honest and fair with everyone, especially the fish", he said.


Dr. Brian Cheuvront

Before being appointed to represent the agency, Brian served on the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee and was the vice-chair of the Socioeconomic Subcommittee. He has also participated in several SEDAR stock assessment workshops involving Council-managed species.

In the News:

New Control Date Requested for Snapper Grouper and Mackerel

The Council has requested NOAA Fisheries implement a new control date of **September 17, 2010** for the snapper grouper fishery, and king mackerel and Spanish mackerel fisheries. The Council is concerned that the old control date for snapper grouper, dating back to 2004, was getting old for management purposes. In addition, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council is considering addressing latent permits in the mackerel fisheries, which may ultimately affect the South Atlantic Council.

A control date may be used by fishery managers when considering management measures to limit participation in the fishery. The purpose of a control date is to put fishermen on notice that if they enter a fishery after the established control date they may not be assured future participation in that fishery.



NOAA Fisheries Service Soliciting Public Comment on Measures to End Overfishing for Snapper Grouper Species

NOAA Fisheries Service is accepting public comment on Snapper Grouper Amendment 17B and management measures to end overfishing and set Annual Catch Limits and Accountability Measures for species in the snapper grouper management complex.

Amendment 17B, approved for Secretarial review by the Council in December 2009, would set an ACL of zero (landed catch) for speckled hind and warsaw grouper, prohibiting all harvest. In order to maintain the ACL, **all fishing for or possesion of deepwater snapper grouper species (snowy grouper, blueline tilefish, yellowedge grouper, misty grouper, queen snapper, and silk snapper) would be prohibited beyond a depth of 240 feet.** By prohibiting harvest and possession of these cooccurring species, fishing mortality of speckled hind and warsaw grouper is expected to decrease.

In the South Atlantic snapper grouper fishery there are nine species listed as currently undergoing overfishing: speckled hind, warsaw grouper, snowy grouper, golden tilefish, black sea bass,red grouper, gag, vermilion snapper, and red snapper. Amendment 17B includes actions to establish ACLs for eight of these species, as well as black grouper, which is currently neither overfished nor undergoing overfishing.

As part of the Secretarial review process, NOAA Fisheries is soliciting comment on Amendment 17B until **November 22, 2010**. Public comment on the Proposed Rule outlining the regulations as proposed in the amendment, is being accepted until **November 26, 2010.**

Additional information is available online at http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sf/SASnapperGrouperHomepage.htm. Copies of Amendment 17B and the Proposed Rule with instructions on how to submit comments are available from the Council's Web site at www.safmc.net.

Limits Proposed for Commercial Golden Tilefish and Black Sea Bass Pot Fisheries

Amendment 18A includes restrictions on participation; improvements to data collection for all species managed by the Council

Reductions in commercial quotas and an increase in regulations for several species in the snapper grouper management complex has Council members concerned about possible shifts to the commercial golden tilefish and black sea bass fisheries. As a result, the Council is proposing Amendment 18A to limit participation in these commercial fisheries as well as improve the accuracy, timing, and quantity of fisheries data for the commercial and for-hire/charter sectors.

Golden Tilefish

Both the commercial golden tilefish and black sea bass fisheries are relatively specialized fisheries. The golden tilefish fishery occurs primarily in deeper waters off the central and southeast coasts of Florida, with a smaller fishery off the Carolinas. The majority of golden tilefish are landed using bottom longline gear, with some landings (approximately 8%) from fishermen using vertical hook-and-lines. The current commercial quota is 295,000 pounds (gutted weight). An average of 11 vessels landed more than 5,000 lbs. of golden tilefish from 2003 through 2007, with an average annual dockside revenue of $682,000.

Amendment 18A includes provisions to implement a gear endorsement program for the golden tilefish fishery to limit effort. Fishermen using longline gear for golden tilefish also often target various species of shark. As restrictions in the shark fishery and snapper grouper species increase, there could be an increased incentive to target golden tilefish. An increase in participation in the golden tilefish fishery would intensify the "race to fish" that already exists in the fishery and has resulted in a shortened season. The fishing seasons in recent years have already been shortened to such a degree that North Carolina and South Carolina fishermen, who are typically unable to fish until April or May due to weather conditions, and hook and line fishermen from Florida, who typically do not fish until the fall, are increasingly unable to participate in the fishery.

Current regulations for golden tilefish include a 4,000-pound gutted weight trip limit until 75% of the quota is caught, after which, a 300-pound gutted weight trip limit is imposed. The Council is concerned an increase in participation in this fishery could deteriorate profits for current golden tilefish fishermen. Other actions currently in Amendment 18A for the commercial golden tilefish fishery include allocation of the quota between gear groups, a change in the fishing year, and modifications to the current trip limits (including a trip limit for vessels not receiving an endorsement).



As regulations increase, the Council is concerned about possible shifts in effort to the commercial black sea bass pot and golden tilefish fisheries. Amendment 18A proposes restrictions to participation. The commercial quota for each fishery was reached within the first 6 months of the fishing year in 2010.

(Continued page 5)

Actions in Amendment 17A

- Annual catch limit and accountability measures for red snapper in the South Atlantic;
- A rebuilding plan for red snapper;
- A prohibition on all harvest and possession of South Atlantic red snapper;
- An area closure off southern Georgia and north/central Florida where fishing for all snapper grouper species will be prohibited, except when using spearfishing gear or black sea bass pots to fish for species other than red snapper;
- A requirement for circle hooks in the snapper grouper fishery north of 28 degrees N. latitude; and
- A requirement for a program to monitor red snapper.

Amendment 17A *(Continued from page 1)*

program. A new benchmark stock assessment was recently completed for red snapper. The new assessment incorporates updated information on red snapper, including recent landings data. The assessment must be reviewed by the Scientific and Statistical Committee before being presented to the Council, but preliminary indications show the stock may be improving.

The Council moved forward during its September meeting to develop preliminary options for modifications to the area closure, dependent upon the new stock assessment and recommendations from its SSC. These options range from modifying the size or configuration of the area to allowing some fishing for snapper grouper species within the area closure. The options are being included in Regulatory Amendment 10 and will be reviewed again by the Council during its December meeting in New Bern, NC. The regulatory amendment process would allow the Council to expedite any changes more quickly through the management process.



A copy of Amendment 17A is available online at www.safmc.net. The Final Rule with implementation dates for the regulations will be posted as soon as it becomes available.

Preliminary results of a new red snapper stock assessment indicate the stock is still overfished and undergoing overfishing, but the impacts of the current red snapper closure, combined with more recent assessment data and a strong year class, may allow for modifications to regulations for an area closure for all snapper grouper fishing off the coasts of Florida and southern Georgia. The Council will receive the final assessment in December.

New Red Snapper Stock Assessment Shows Signs of Improvement

A new benchmark stock assessment has been completed for red snapper through the Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR) stock assessment program. The assessment, known as SEDAR 24, will be reviewed by the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee when it meets in November, and the results presented to the Council during its December 6-10, 2010 meeting in New Bern, NC. An earlier stock assessment, completed in 2008, identified the red snapper stock as severely overfished and undergoing overfishing. The 2008 assessment led to a closure of the fishery throughout the South Atlantic and controversial measures in Amendment 17A, including continued closure of the fishery and a large area closure off the coast of Florida and southern Georgia where fishing for all snapper grouper species would be prohibited.



Over 4,000 additional otolith samples from red snapper were meticulously processed to provide age data for the new stock assessment.

SEDAR 24 includes data through 2009 and preliminary indications show the red snapper stock continues to improve. Three additional years of data (2006-2009) and significant additional age samples from 2009 were included in the updated assessment. More than 4000 additional otoliths (ear bones) were processed and aged by NOAA Fisheries Service's Laboratory in Beaufort, NC and by the state agencies in South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida in record time in order for the age data to be included in the new assessment.

"While the red snapper stock remains overfished and overfishing continues, the three additional years of data and increased age sampling intensity, along with indications of a very good year class, and the impacts of the current regulations in place, have combined to show improvement in the stock," said John Carmichael, the Council's Science and Statistics Program Manager and SEDAR program coordinator. Other modifications to the new assessment include some changes in the estimates of historical recreational catches, changes to estimates for bycatch mortality (fish that die when released), and changes in fishery selectivity patterns. Both commercial and recreational fishermen participated in the 3-step series of workshops, including a week-long Data Workshop held in May, a series of webinars for the Assessment Workshop, and the Review Workshop held in mid-October.

Fishermen interested in participating in the SEDAR process are encouraged to apply to the SEDAR Pool. Contact Kim Iverson, Public Information Officer at kim.iverson@safmc.net or call the Council office at 843/571-4366 or Toll Free 866/SAFMC-10 for application materials.

Amendment 18A *(continued from page 3)*

Black Sea Bass

Black sea bass are primarily harvested commercially using black sea bass pots off the coasts of North and South Carolina, with limited harvest off the northeastern coast of Florida. The use of pots is restricted north of Cape Hatteras, NC and south of Cape Canaveral, Florida. The pots have specific design requirements, including escape vents and degradable panels to help prevent bycatch. No other snapper grouper species may be harvested using pots. Between 2003 and 2007, an average of 14 vessels landed over 10,000 pounds of black sea bass annually with an average dockside revenue of $937,000. The current annual quota is 309,000 pounds.

Federal commercial snapper grouper permit holders must apply for tags in order to utilize black sea bass pots. Currently there is no limit to the number of tags issued to individual permit holders. Although the black sea bass pot fishery makes up a small percentage of the overall commercial snapper grouper fishery, the total number of vessels fishing pots increased from 49 in 2008 to 59 in 2009. There is concern that this increase may continue as regulations become more restrictive for other snapper grouper species.

Amendment 18A proposes restricting participation in the fishery to individuals who have historically fished black sea bass pots in order to maintain participation in the fishery that is more manageable and profitable. The amendment also contains management alternatives regarding the number of pots that may be fished by each vessel and requirements for fishermen to retrieve the pots in a timely manner in order to reduce bycatch. The Council's preferred alternative would require pots be retrieved at the end of each fishing trip, helping to reduce the chances that pots could be lost and "ghost fishing" occur.

Data Collection

Amendment 18A includes provisions to improve the accuracy, timing, and quantity of fisheries statistics collected by the current data collection programs for both commercial and for-hire sectors for all fisheries regulated by the Council. Alternatives for the commercial sector include the use of electronic logbooks, the option to make logbook reports online, and online landings reporting requirements through the Standard Atlantic Fisheries Information System (SAFIS). Alternatives regarding data improvements for the for-hire sector include electronic reporting, a logbook for recording discard characteristics, and online landings reporting requirements through the SAFIS system. For more information on SAFIS visit: http://safis.accsp.org/.



The Council is soliciting public comment on Amendment 18A until **November 12, 2010**. Copies of the Amendment 18A Public Hearing Summary are available online at www.safmc.net or through the Council office. Comments may be emailed to: SGAmend18AComments@safmc.net or mailed directly to the Council office. The Council will review the comments during its December 6-10, 2010 meeting in New Bern, NC, and is scheduled to approve the amendment for submission to the Secretary of Commerce for final approval in March 2011.

Snapper Grouper Regulations Snap Shot



Shallow-Water Grouper

Closed January 1st through April 30th - Both commercial and recreational fisheries • includes gag, black grouper, red grouper, scamp, rock hind, red hind, coney, graysby, yellowfin grouper, yellowmouth grouper, and tiger grouper

Grouper Aggregate Bag Limit

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

Note:

- No more than 1 may be a gag ***or*** black grouper (each 24" TL)
- Speckled hind and warsaw - 1 per *vessel* per trip. May not be sold or traded; no transfer at sea
- No more than 1 fish may be snowy grouper
- No more than 1 fish may be golden tilefish

Goliath grouper and Nassau grouper - Closed to harvest or possession

Wreckfish - Only ITQ shareholders or their designees may harvest or possess wreckfish

Snapper

- Vermilion snapper closed for recreational fishery November 1 through March 31
- Aggregate bag limit of 10 snapper per person/day (excluding vermilion snapper)
- In addition to the aggregate bag limit, 5 vermilion snapper per person/day (except during the recreational closure) - 12" TL

Note:

- Beginning January 4, 2010, the red snapper fishery is closed to commercial and recreational harvest.
- Maximum of 2 cubera snapper per person (not to exceed 2 per vessel) for fish 30" Total Length (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.

Fishermen may also retain

- 1 greater amberjack per person/day (in April, for-hire/charter vessels limited to 1 per person/day or 1 per person/trip)
- Limit of 15 black sea bass per person/day - 15" TL
- 5 hogfish per person/day, off east coast of Florida - 12" FL
- 3 red porgy per person/day or 3 per person/trip, whichever is more restrictive - 14" TL

Other Regulations

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 tomtates and bluerunners. You may catch your bag limits and in addition retain up to 20 other fish for which there is no bag limit.

- Dehooking tools are required for both commercial and recreational fishermen to use when necessary while fishing for snapper grouper species.

- Sale of bag limit snapper grouper prohibited unless the vessel owner has been issued a Federal Commercial Snapper Grouper Permit.

Amendments at a Glance – A quick reference guide

There are several amendments to various Fishery Management Plans currently under development by the Council. Some are being developed to meet statutory requirements under the Magnuson-Stevens Act while others address issues of concern relative to specific fisheries. Below is a brief summary of the amendments currently being considered by the Council and the tentative timelines for addressing the various amendments. Draft copies of the amendments as they are being developed are available in the briefing book materials for each Council meeting. The briefing book materials are available from the Council's Web site at www.safmc.net prior to each meeting.

The Council will hold a series of public hearings and scoping meetings beginning in late January and continuing into early February 2011. Several of the amendments currently being considered by the Council will be addressed during these meetings. Details regarding the meeting dates and locations will be available as arrangements are finalized. Additional information regarding each amendment addressed at the meetings will also be featured in the Winter 2011 *Update* newsletter and summary documents will be available in early January.

Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan

Amendment 18A – Commercial Black Sea Bass Pot/Golden Tilefish Participation; Data Reporting
Measures to limit participation and effort in the commercial black sea bass pot fishery and the commercial golden tilefish fishery; data reporting requirements for commercial and for-hire fishermen. Non-statutory. *Status*: Final approval in March 2011 (see page 3).



Amendment 18B – Extension of FMU Northward
Alternatives to extend the snapper grouper fishery management unit (FMU) northward, possibly through the Mid-Atlantic and northward to New England. Statutory. *Status:* Under review by NOAA General Counsel to determine the need for an amendment to account for mortality when tracking annual catch limits. If not required, the amendment will not move forward.

Amendment 20 – Commercial Wreckfish ITQs
Addresses measures relative to the commercial wreckfish Individual Transferable Quota (ITQ) program currently in place. Non-statutory. Status: Scoping held in 2009. Public hearings May 2011 and final approval in September 2011.

Amendment 21 – Comprehensive Catch Shares
Addresses the possible use of catch share programs for species currently under management through quotas (except snowy grouper), effort and participation reduction, and endorsement actions. The amendment will include ITQ, cooperatives, regional and state by state quota analysis, and other components. Non-statutory. *Status*: Public scoping Jan/Feb 2011.

Amendment 22 – Long-term Measures for Red Snapper
As the red snapper stock begins to rebuild, the Council will look at various management options for the fishery. Non-statutory. *Status:* Public scoping Jan/Feb 2011.

Amendment 24 – Ending Overfishing/Rebuilding Red Grouper
The Council received notice in June 2010 that the red grouper stock is currently overfished and undergoing overfishing and has 2 years to implement measures to end overfishing and rebuild the stock. The amendment will consider restrictions currently in place and contain additional measures to meet the mandates of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Statutory. *Status:* Public scoping in Jan/Feb 2011, public hearings summer 2011, and final approval in December 2011.

Regulatory Amendment 9 – Trip Limits
Options for trip limits for commercial greater amberjack, vermilion snapper, black sea bass, and gag. Non-statutory. *Status*: Public hearings in Jan/Feb 2011 and final approval in March 2011.

Regulatory Amendment 10 – Changes to Amendment 17A (red snapper)
Alternatives in this amendment will allow for any necessary changes to regulations implemented in Amendment 17A, including the area closure for all snapper grouper species. Non-statutory. *Status:* Public hearings in Jan/Feb 2011 and final approval in March 2011.

Other Amendments

Comprehensive Annual Catch Limit (ACL) Amendment
The amendment establishes ACLs and Accountability Measures for species managed by the Council that are not currently listed as undergoing overfishing as required by the Magnuson-Stevens Act. This includes species in the snapper grouper management complex as well as dolphin, wahoo, golden crab, and sargassum. Statutory. *Status*: Approve for public hearings in December 2010 and final approval in June 2011.



Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 2
Includes regulatory actions pertaining to the management of octocorals and non-regulatory actions that update existing Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) information. Also addresses modifying management of South Carolina's SMZs, amending sea turtle release gear requirements for the Snapper Grouper Fishery, and designating new EFH areas. Statutory. *Status:* Public hearings Jan/Feb 2011 and final approval in June 2011.

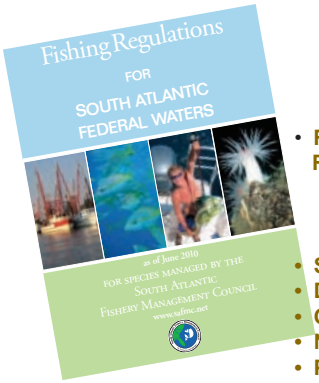
Mackerel Amendment 18
Joint amendment with the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council to establish ACLs and AMs for king mackerel, Spanish mackerel and cobia. Statutory. *Status:* Approve amendment for public hearings: SAFMC in December 2010 and Gulf Council at February 2011 meeting. Public hearings in April 2011 and final approval in June 2011.

Spiny Lobster Amendment 10
Joint amendment with the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council to establish ACLs and AMs for spiny lobster. Statutory. *Status:* SAFMC approve for public hearings in December 2010 and Gulf Council at February 2011 meeting. Public hearings in April 2011 and final approval in June 2011.



Golden Crab Amendment 5
Implements catch shares for the commercial golden crab fishery. Non-statutory. *Status:* Public hearings in July/August 2011 and final approval in September 2011.

NOW AVAILABLE!



Federal Fishing Regulations for South Atlantic Waters

- **Recreational and Commercial Regulations:**
  - Snapper Grouper Species
  - King and Spanish Mackerel
  - Dolphin and Wahoo
- **Snapper Grouper ID Chart**
- **Deepwater MPAs**
- **Oculina Bank Managed Area**
- **New Deepwater Coral Protected Areas**
- **Proposed Regulations and More...**

Download your copy at www.safmc.net. Complimentary copies are available from the Council office. Email julie.odell@safmc.net or call 843/571-4366 or Toll Free 866/SAFMC-10.

SAFMC Meeting Dates and Locations 2011 Schedule

March 7-11, 2011
Sea Palms Conf. Center
5445 Frederica Road
St. Simons Island, GA 31522
Phone: 1800/841-6268

June 13-17, 2011
Marriott Beachside Hotel
3841 N. Roosevelt Blvd.
Key West, Florida 33040
Phone: 1800/546-0885

September 12-16, 2011
Charleston Marriott Hotel
170 Lockwood Boulevard
Charleston, SC 29403
Phone: 1800/968-3569

Dec 5-9, 2011
Holiday Inn Brownstone
1707 Hillsborough St.
Raleigh, NC 27605
Phone: 1800/331-7919

Acronyms

ABC - Allowable 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

LAPP - Limited Access Privilege Program

MSY - Maximum Sustainable Yield

MRFSS - Marine Recreational Fishing Statistics Survey

NMFS - National Marine Fisheries Service

OY - Optimum Yield

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

SSC - Scientific & Statistical Committee

SFA - Sustainable Fisheries Act

TAC - Total Allowable Catch

VMS - Vessel Monitoring System

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Meeting

December 6-10, 2010

Hilton New Bern/Riverfront
100 Middle Street
New Bern, NC 28560
Phone: 800/326-3745 or 252/638-3585

For a detailed agenda contact the Council office toll free at 1-866 SAFMC-10 or 843/571-4366. The agenda is also available on the Council's web site www.safmc.net

PRELIMINARY MEETING AGENDA

Monday	**1:30 - 4:30**	**Spiny Lobster Committee Meeting**
	4:30 - 5:30	**Golden Crab Committee Meeting**
Tuesday	**8:30 - 12:00**	**Mackerel Committee Meeting**
	1:30 - 3:30	**Ecosystem-Based Management Committee Meeting**
	3:30 - 5:00	**SEDAR Committee Meeting**
Wednesday	**8:30 - 9:30**	**Personnel Committee Meeting (Closed)**
	9:30 - 10:30	**Joint Exec/Finance Committee Meeting**
	10:30 - 12:00	**SOPPs Committee Meeting**
	1:30 - 5:00	**Snapper Grouper Committee Meeting**
	5:30 PM	***Open informal public Q&A***
Thursday	**8:30 - 12:00**	**Snapper Grouper Committee Meeting**
	1:30 - 5:00	**Council Session**
	1:45 PM	***Public comment on agenda items***
Friday	**8:00 - 12:00**	**Council Session**

Note! Watch the Council meeting online

TO WATCH THE COUNCIL MEETING LIVE FROM NEW BERN, NC CHOOSE A DIRECT LINK FOR LIVE VIDEO FEED AT WWW.SAFMC.NET.

2010 - 2011

Mark your calendar...

November 7-11	***Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Meeting*** Charleston, SC www.asmfc.org
November 14-17	***Energy Use in Fisheries International Symposium*** Seattle, WA www.energyfish.nmfs.noaa.gov
December 14-16	***Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Meeting*** Virginia Beach, VA www.mafmc.org
January 14-15	***American Fisheries Society Southern Division Meeting*** Tampa, FL www.sdafs.org/meeting/meethome.htm
February 7-10	***Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Meeting*** Gulfport, MS www.gulfcouncil.org

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Meeting
September 6 - 10, 2010
New Bern, NC

Inside:

- *Council Seeks Public Comment on Snapper Grouper Amendment 18A*
- *NOAA Fisheries - Public Comment Period Open for Snapper Grouper Amendment 17B*

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

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