South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

News Release

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Federal Fisheries Managers Hold Meetings of Public Interest

If you fish in federal waters more than three miles off the South Atlantic coast, chances are there is a meeting scheduled in the coming weeks regarding federal fisheries that is of interest to you. Please see the list below and mark your calendars. All meetings are open to the public and public comment is being solicited as noted below. Additional information, including meeting agendas and briefing book materials are posted on the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Web site at www.safmc.net as they become available.

April 5-7 – SAFMC Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) Meeting

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council will hold a 3-day meeting of its SSC beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 5th. The SSC is the body responsible for reviewing the regional fishery management council's scientific materials as outlined in the reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act. The SSC will meet in North Charleston, SC to discuss several fishery management issues including: control rules for setting Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) levels for species managed by the Council; Amendment 18 to the Coastal Migratory Pelagics Fishery Management Plan (FMP) to establish Annual Catch Limits (ACLs) and Accountability Measures (AMs) for king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, and cobia to prevent overfishing; the Comprehensive ACL Amendment that sets ACLs and AMs for species not currently listed as undergoing overfishing, including dolphin, wahoo, and several species of snapper and grouper; Regulatory Amendment 11 to the Snapper Grouper FMP outlining options to modify the current prohibition of deepwater species at depths greater than 240 feet; measures for spiny lobster, and others. A complete meeting agenda and briefing book materials are available from the Council's website. Meeting location: Crowne Plaza Hotel, 4831 Tanger Outlet Blvd., North Charleston, SC 29418; Hotel phone (843) 405-4236.

April 6-7 – SAFMC Mackerel Advisory Panel Meeting

The Council will hold a meeting of its King and Spanish Mackerel AP to review draft Amendment 18 to the Coastal Migratory Pelagic FMP establishing ACLs and AMs for king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, and cobia. The AP will receive a presentation from Dr. Michael Denson with the SC Department of Natural Resources regarding cobia research in SC. In addition, the AP will review a discussion paper regarding options for the sale of bag limit caught mackerel and cobia. The AP will provide recommendations to the Council for consideration. Meeting location: Crowne Plaza Hotel, 4831 Tanger Outlet Blvd., North Charleston, SC 29418; Hotel phone (843) 405-4236.

April 7-8 – SAFMC Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel Meeting

The Council's Dolphin Wahoo AP will meet to review the Comprehensive ACL Amendment establishing ACLs and AMs as required by the Magnuson-Stevens Act for species not currently listed as undergoing overfishing by the end of 2011. The amendment includes snapper grouper species as well as dolphin and wahoo. Public hearings for the amendment were held earlier this year. The AP will receive an update on dolphin research findings, review the actions in the amendment relative to dolphin and wahoo, and provide recommendations to the Council for consideration. Meeting location: Crowne Plaza Hotel, 4831 Tanger Outlet Blvd., North Charleston, SC 29418; Hotel phone (843) 405-4236.

(Continued)

Meetings ***(Continued)***

April 11 – 20 – SAFMC Public Hearings: Mackerel and Spiny Lobster

The Council will hold a series of 7 public hearings from New Bern, NC to Key West, FL beginning April 11th regarding Amendment 18 to the Coastal Migratory FMP (king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, and cobia) and Amendment 10 to the Spiny Lobster FMP relative establishing ACLs and AMs to prevent overfishing and other management measures. The Council is accepting written comment on the amendments until April 29, 2011. Details, including a news release specific to the hearings, dates, locations, and public hearing documents are available at www.safmc.net.

April 13-14 – SAFMC Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel Meeting

The Snapper Grouper AP will review and provide recommendations on several amendments addressing management measures for the 72 species covered in the Snapper Grouper FMP including: the Comprehensive ACL Amendment as it addresses measures for snapper grouper species; Regulatory Amendment 11 to the Snapper Grouper FMP (options for the current restrictions in place for deepwater species in waters greater than 240 feet deep); Amendment 18A addressing golden tilefish and black sea bass commercial regulations; Amendment 24 addressing rebuilding of the red grouper stock; and regional management approaches. Meeting location: Town and Country Inn, 2008 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC 29507; Hotel phone (843) 571-1000.

April 20 – SAFMC Spiny Lobster Advisory Panel Meeting

Members of the Spiny Lobster AP will meet in Key West, FL to review and provide recommendations to the Council regarding Amendment 10 to the Spiny Lobster FMP, including establishment of ACLs, AMs, allocations, area restrictions, gear marking requirements, use of "shorts" as attractants, and other management measures proposed for the spiny lobster fishery. Meeting location: Doubletree Grand Key, 3990 S. Roosevelt Blvd., Key West, FL 33040; Hotel phone (305) 293-1818.

April 26-28 - SEDAR 25: Stock Assessment for Black Sea Bass and Golden Tilefish – Data Workshop

The Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR) stock assessment process involves three workshops: 1) Data Workshop, 2) Assessment Workshop, and 3) a Review Workshop. The Data Workshop for SEDAR 25 will take place at the Marriott Lockwood, 170 Lockwood Blvd., Charleston, SC 29403; Phone (800) 968-3569. Additional information about SEDAR, including a complete listing of dates and locations for the SEDAR 25 workshops is available at www.safmc.net. Persons interested in participating in the SEDAR process should contact Kim Iverson at kim.iverson@safmc.net or call 843/571-4366.

May 3-5 – Council Coordination Committee Meeting

The Council Coordination Committee (CCC), established under Section 302(1) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, consists of the chairmen, vice-chairmen, and executive directors of each of the eight Regional Fishery Management Councils. The CCC meets semiannually to discuss regional and national fishery management issues of relevance to all Councils, most recently addressing issues related to the implementation of the Act. In May the CCC will address a number of critical issues including: fishery resource allocation; national catch share policy; marine recreational fishery data; law enforcement; and Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning. Meeting location: Doubletree Hotel, 181 Church Street, Charleston, SC 29401, Hotel phone (843) 577-2644.

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, one of eight regional councils, conserves and manages fish stocks from three to 200 miles offshore of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and east Florida.