(Continued)

as well as dolphin (fish) and wahoo. Preferred measures for wahoo would keep the current management measures in place. Measures for dolphin would keep current recreational bag limits, prohibit bag limit sales by the for-hire sector (bag limit sale is currently prohibited by private anglers), and establish a 20" size limit off the coast of SC. The Council is scheduled to approve the amendment during its June 2011 meeting for review by the Secretary of Commerce.

The Council also reviewed public comments relative to the use of catch shares in commercial fisheries and approved a motion to terminate all work relative to catch share development as currently outlined in draft Amendment 21 to the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan (excluding catch share development for the golden crab and wreckfish fisheries).

Work continues on the development of an amendment to consider options for addressing overfishing of speckled hind and warsaw grouper. Recent regulations restrict fishing for or retention of deepwater species (snowy grouper, blueline tilefish, yellowedge grouper, misty grouper, queen snapper, and silk snapper) in waters greater than 240 feet deep. The intent is to eliminate bycatch mortality when speckled hind and warsaw grouper are caught while fishermen are targeting other deepwater species. The Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee will review the draft amendment when it meets April 5-7, 2010 and the Council will review the SSC recommendations during its June meeting in Key West, FL.

The Council approved Amendment 18 to the Coastal Migratory Pelagics Fishery Management Plan for public hearings. The amendment establishes ACLs and accountability measures for king mackerel, Spanish mackerel and cobia. Public hearings are scheduled for April 2011. Details regarding the hearings, including the Amendment 18 Public Hearing Document, will be posted on the Council's website at www.safmc.net as they become available.

The next meeting of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council is scheduled for June 12-17, 2011 in Key West, FL. Details, including the meeting agenda and briefing book materials will be posted as they become available at www.safmc.net.

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.

barry tureno
4901 merlot court
wilmington nc 28409

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

SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201
North Charleston, SC 29405

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