Fishermen Needed for Upcoming 2013 Stock Assessments of Gray Triggerfish and Blueline Tilefish

If you are an avid fisherman with experience in fishing for gray triggerfish or blueline tilefish, you may be eligible to participate in the upcoming 2013 stock assessment for these species. The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council is soliciting volunteers to participate in stock assessments for the two species scheduled to begin in early 2013. The benchmark assessments will be conducted through the Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR) stock assessment program.

"Knowledgeable fishermen play a key role in the stock assessment process," explained John Carmichael, Science and Statistics Program Manager for the Council. "Fishermen chosen to serve as panelists bring their on-the-water experience and observations to the table, especially during the Data Workshop. Their participation helps us to better understand trends in fishing activity and other factors that are considered during assessment." Recreational, commercial, and for-hire (charter/headboat) fishermen are encouraged to apply.

The SEDAR assessment process consists of a Data Workshop, Assessment Workshop, and Review Workshop. Representatives may be appointed to serve as panelists at the Data Workshop and observers at the Assessment and Review Workshops. Computer and internet access is required in order to participate during the Assessment Workshop component.

The Data Workshop is scheduled for February 11-15, 2013 in Charleston, SC. The Assessment Workshop will be held via a series of webinars between May and July and the final Review Workshop will be held in Beaufort, NC August 26-29, 2013.

Please contact Kim Iverson at kim.iverson@safmc.net or call 843/571-4366 or toll free 855/SAFMC-10 if you are interested in applying to the SEDAR Pool and participating in this or other stock assessment workshops. **The application deadline is August 15, 2012** for fishermen interested in serving as a panelist for SEDAR 32.

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.