



**Scoping meetings are less formal than public hearings and occur prior to the Council taking any position on a management issue. When the Council is considering the need for management, scoping meetings provide an opportunity for members of the public to make suggestions BEFORE the Council has made any decisions.**

The purpose of this document is to request that the public provide additional and specific input on possible areas that the Council should examine in their consideration of marine protected areas (nearshore and/or offshore, natural and man-made), emphasizing the habitat and the species associated with the snapper grouper complex as an additional, necessary management tool.

**What are Marine Protected Areas?**

The Council will now be using the term **MARINE PROTECTED AREAS** in place of the term marine reserves. This change is necessary in order to be more consistent with pending Federal guidelines.

Marine protected areas, as defined in Presidential Executive Order 13158, means any area of the marine environment that has been reserved by federal, state, territorial, tribal, or local laws or regulations to provide lasting protection for part or all of the natural and cultural resources therein.

The Council further defines marine protected areas within its jurisdiction as a network of specific areas of marine environments reserved and managed for the primary purpose of aiding in the recovery of overfished stocks and to insure the persistence of healthy fish stocks, fisheries, and habitats. Such areas may be over natural or artificial bottom and may include prohibition of harvest on a permanent or lesser time period to accomplish needed conservation goals.

**The following types of actions are available to the Council, but during this second scoping process, the Council is focusing on Type 2 management actions to protect the snapper grouper fishery:**

Type 1. Permanent closure / no-take

Protects entire marine communities through prohibition of all fishing and collection of marine organisms, with the exception of permitted scientific or educational activities.

Type 2. Permanent closure / some take allowed

Protects specific elements of the marine community through prohibition of fishing and collection of targeted species. Exceptions for permitted scientific and educational activities.

Type 3. Limited duration closure / no-take

Protects entire marine communities through prohibition of all fishing and collection of marine organisms for a specified period of time (minimum 1 year). Exceptions for permitted scientific and educational activities.

Type 3b. Spawning area closure / no-take

Protects known spawning areas of snapper grouper species through the prohibition of all fishing and collection of marine organisms for a specified period of time corresponding with spawning periods. Exceptions for permitted scientific and educational activities.

Type 4. Limited duration closure / some take allowed

Protects specific elements of the marine community through prohibition of fishing and collection of targeted species for specified period of time (minimum of 1 year, with time certain 5 year reviews for assessment of achievement of objectives). Exceptions for permitted scientific and educational activities.

Type 4b. Spawning area closure / some take allowed

Protects known spawning areas of snapper grouper species through the prohibition of fishing for specific species for a specified period of time corresponding with spawning periods.

**During this second scoping process, the Council is focusing on Type 2 management actions. It is the Council's intent to specifically review areas suggested by the public and the Marine Protected Areas Advisory Panel, using maps of offshore areas, primarily aimed at protecting deepwater snapper grouper species (e.g., speckled hind and warsaw grouper) and taking into consideration criteria the Council has identified (Appendix B).**

**At this time, it is the Council's intent to prohibit fishing for and/or harvesting/possessing species in the snapper grouper management unit (Appendix C) in any areas designated as a Type 2 marine protected area. It is not the Council's intent to prohibit fishing for and/or the harvesting/possession of pelagic species, however, the law enforcement concerns listed in Appendix D are critical concerns and must be addressed. The public is invited to comment on all types of actions the Council has described.**

### **What is the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC)?**

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, headquartered in Charleston, S.C., is responsible for the conservation and management of fish stocks within the federal 200-mile limit (often referred to as the Exclusive Economic Zone or EEZ) off the coasts of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and east Florida to Key West.

Congress established the Council along with seven other regional fishery management councils with the passage of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act (now called the Magnuson-Stevens Act) in 1976.

The Council's membership is a balance of commercial and recreational fishermen, marine scientists, and state and federal fisheries managers, who combine their knowledge to prepare Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) to manage the living marine resources within the South Atlantic region. Fishery Management Plans are prepared through a deliberative planning process that includes public input provided by fishermen and other persons concerned with management of these resources.

Council members serve on committees which address issues specific to certain species or Council affairs. The Marine Protected Areas Committee (formerly the Marine Reserves Committee) was established in 1997 in response to the growing realization of the potential utility of marine protected areas as a fishery management tool.

The Council established a Marine Protected Areas Advisory Panel (formerly the Marine Reserves Advisory Panel) in 1999 which is made up of recreational and commercial fishermen, scientists, environmentalists, and other interested members of the public to advise the Council. Appendix A contains a list of phone numbers and addresses of Council Members, Marine Protected Areas Advisory Panel Members and Council staff responsible for marine protected areas.

### **What is the history of marine protected areas in the South Atlantic?**

**1990** - The potential for using marine protected areas within the snapper grouper fishery first originated with the Council's Snapper Grouper Plan Development Team (PDT). This technical group prepared a report (April 1990) entitled *The Potential of Marine Fishery Reserves for Reef Fish Management in the U.S. South Atlantic*. The Plan Development Team offered this approach because they believed it was the only viable option for maintaining optimum size, age, and genetic structure of slow growing, long-lived species over the long-term. The Council received an extensive briefing on marine protected areas at the February 1990 Council meeting. This provided an opportunity for the Council to discuss marine protected areas as a concept and to hear about experiences with marine protected areas in other parts of the world.

**1992** - Marine protected areas were initially considered as a possible option in early discussions on Amendment 4 to the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan, however, the Council determined the concept should be addressed separately and scheduled scoping meetings in each of the states. During 1992 the Council held scoping meetings.

**1993** - During the 1992 scoping process support for and against the concept surfaced. The Council reviewed the scoping information at the January 1993 meeting and decided to (1) recommend to National Marine Fisheries Service that they convene a Scientific Review Panel to review the concept of marine protected areas and (2) drop consideration of the marine protected areas concept at that time.

**1994** - The previously designated *Oculina* Bank Habitat Area of Particular Concern (HAPC) off Ft. Pierce in eastern-central Florida was declared the Experimental *Oculina* Research Reserve (EORR). This area, measuring 4 by 23 nautical miles with depths between 30 and 75 fathoms, was closed to bottom fishing for a period of 10 years to allow for scientific studies in a closed area. The 10 year sunset was specified to ensure establishment of a proper research and evaluation program. In 1995, the closure was extended to include all anchoring within the boundaries of the experimental closed area. The area was closed to bottom fishing to enhance stock stability and increase recruitment by providing an area where deepwater species (snowy grouper, golden tilefish, speckled hind, and warsaw, misty and yellowedge groupers ) can grow and reproduce without being subjected to fishing mortality. Fishing mortality results in severe reductions in numbers of males and altered size/age structure. This effect is magnified when fishing in areas where these groupers gather for spawning. Such spawning aggregations have been observed in the *Oculina* Habitat Area of Particular Concern.

**1995** - A scientific review of the 1990 Snapper Grouper Plan Development Team report was completed by the Scientific Review Panel as requested by the Council. The panel consisted of international experts with different experience in fishery science, marine protected areas, ecology, fish genetics, sociology, and economics.

The Scientific Review Panel concluded that properly designed marine protected areas, in combination with other management measures, can be an effective management tool for reef fish resources in the U.S. South Atlantic region subject to the following conditions: (1) biological, ecological, social, and economic objectives of the marine protected areas are clearly specified; (2) the relative biological, ecological, and economic impacts of marine protected areas in the context of other fishery management measures have been estimated for various constituents; and (3) the development of marine protected area proposals proceed with the involvement of all constituencies and stakeholders.

Also the scientific review panel concluded that recognizing the alarming declines in stocks of key fishery species, the panel would urge that marine protected area options be considered immediately as part of a comprehensive fisheries management plan to prevent irreversible loss to species and fisheries.

**1997** - In further developing Snapper Grouper Amendment 8 (and later Amendment 9), the Council realized that severe impacts would be felt by fishermen if necessary percentage reductions in catches of overfished species were imposed to achieve the mandated fishery management goals. Marine protected areas once again surfaced as a potential alternative to fisheries closures.

Also in 1997 the Council accepted portions of the Final Management Plan to the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary that designate one larger reserve that extends into the Council's jurisdiction and 12 small preservation areas that also function as marine protected areas. These areas are being evaluated and will be reexamined at a five year review.

**1998** - After deciding to reconsider the possibilities of marine protected areas, the Council proceeded to take steps to initiate a fact-finding process using the Marine Protected Areas Committee and the Advisory Panel.

**1999** - In May 1999, the Marine Protected Areas Advisory Panel unanimously passed a motion confirming that the Panel believes there is potential in using marine protected areas as a fishery management tool.

**2000** - The Council then laid out a deliberative process by which they would determine if marine protected areas were a tool that they should use to manage fisheries in the South Atlantic. This process included a series of informal meetings that Council members and staff attended in the spring of 2000. Any organizations that requested to could have a Council member and/or staff member come and talk with them about the potential use of marine protected areas. It was the Council's intent to begin a dialogue with stakeholders on ways to solve the overfishing problems in the South Atlantic Snapper Grouper Complex and to ask the public if they thought marine protected areas may be one answer to a complex problem.

The stakeholders voiced many different opinions on the use of marine protected areas. There was an equal amount of support and opposition for no-take marine protected areas, but many variations were offered from all sides. Many groups were in support of protecting known spawning areas from fishing, and creating artificial habitats and prohibiting fishing in these areas. The responses the Council heard from the more formal scoping meetings they held later in the spring of 2000 were similar.

In September of 2000, after reviewing comments received from the informal meetings and scoping meetings, the Council voted to move forward with the utilization of marine protected areas.

**2001** – At its March 2001 meeting, the Council voted to move forward with a second round of scoping meetings to request the public recommend specific areas to protect deepwater snapper grouper species.

### GOALS

Develop the concept of marine protected areas to:

- Supplement fishery management practices, thereby providing a buffer or insurance against overfishing and directly increasing spawning stock biomass and providing potential alternatives to fisheries closures;
- Manage the ecosystem as a whole, thereby providing a buffer against fishery collapse caused by environmental change, or unexpected natural events or events resulting from human activity;
- Protect, restore and improve Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) and EFH - Habitat Area of Particular Concern HAPCs; and
- Provide areas to serve as a benchmark for management trials or experiments and to improve scientific understanding of species under management.

### Reasons why the Council has decided to use marine protected areas:

Faced with fishery closures for individual species, and with further extreme gear or quota reductions, the Council reinitiated the question of using marine protected areas as a fishery management tool. In 1997 and 1998, when the Council amended the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan, marine protected areas were included as a discussion item for the purpose of evaluating them as a long-term approach to restoring and maintaining the health of the snapper grouper resource. Although marine protected areas were not proposed at that time, a number of realizations surfaced including:



Traditional fishery management practices aren't working to achieve all the Council's objectives and mandates, and marine protected areas may be useful to supplement traditional methods.

1. The snapper grouper fishery is a multi-species fishery and often times, when single-species management plans are applied, they do not work. Many fish that are prohibited or restricted are still being caught and killed (e.g., speckled hind and warsaw grouper). Even if released alive, mortality is high. Traditional management measures such as minimum sizes, quotas, and closure for individual species don't work if the species continues to be caught and killed as bycatch.

2. The status of most reef fish stocks is unknown in the southeastern United States, and stock information is available for only 23 out of 73 reef fish species in the snapper grouper complex. This lack of information makes management more difficult.

3. Fishes produce eggs in proportion to their body size. A red snapper that is 24 inches long produces as many eggs as 212 red snappers that are 17 inches long. Traditional fishery management plans use minimum sizes, which allow fish to mature and spawn one or more times before being caught. However this practice (and the desire by fishermen to catch large fishes) results in the biggest genetically fit individuals, which produce the most eggs, being removed from the population.

4. In addition to being very diverse, reef fishes have complex life histories that make them more susceptible to being overfished. Certain reef fishes change sex at some point in their life. When those species are overfished it changes the ratio of males to females within the population. Many of them are very large (a jewfish can reach 700 pounds), grow slowly, are long lived, and mature late in life. It takes a long time to replace a large, old grouper. Because these fish mature late in life, they often reach marketable size before they have matured and spawned for the first time. Fishes that live long have evolved this behavior to survive years of poor environmental conditions which limit survival of young fish. They have the genetic makeup that insures survival of the species, and by spawning late in life they pass these survival genes along to the next generation. Removing these fish before they are mature results in fish that spawn at a smaller size contributing to the gene pool of the species, which leads to undesirable genetic traits.

5. Many species form spawning aggregations on shelf-edge reefs, and aggregations are predictable and easily exploited. Fishing of spawning aggregations has also been implicated in the declining male to female sex ratios of gag and scamp in the South Atlantic. Such losses may negatively affect reproductive success. No management plans currently in effect are designed to preserve the size, age, social structure, or the natural sex ratios of reef fish stocks.

6. For gag, red porgy and vermilion snapper to achieve optimum yield the necessary percentage reductions in fishing mortality exceed 50%. Recognizing the severe impact such reductions would have on fishermen, and the potential for similar reductions on other species, the long-term solution may require use of area closures to achieve some of the necessary reduction in fishing mortality.

7. The worldwide demand for fish has increased dramatically in the last several decades, primarily because of increasing populations but also because of per-capita increases in consumption. In addition, an increased ability to locate and capture fish, both recreationally and commercially, through advances in fishing technology (GPS, loran, and electronic fish finders) has increased fishing pressure. Coastal growth, coupled with the advent of better

navigational/locational electronics, more fuel efficient engines, more disposable income such that more and more people can afford bigger boats and go farther offshore, have made reef fishes everywhere more accessible to fishing pressure.



The concept of marine protected areas will address management of the ecosystem as a whole, much like terrestrial refuges, reserves and national park systems are used to manage forest and other ecosystems.

1. Besides protecting stocks, permanent closed areas also protect physical habitat, age structure, biodiversity, and genetic diversity of the stock, and they produce a natural balance of species and community structure within the ecosystem. Protection of habitat is important because even greatly reduced fishing mortalities cannot totally compensate for habitat degradation caused by harmful nonfishing and fishing practices.

2. A marine protected area may work in the same way as discovering a virgin wreck loaded with fish and no one being able to disturb it. Instead of fishing the wreck out, it would instead be set aside much like a preserve on land. It's hoped that the abundance of sealife, plantlife, and habitat in the closed area will benefit outlying waters by fish having a safe haven, with some fish eventually moving out of the closed areas into neighboring open waters. Also, fish eggs and larvae can be carried to new areas by ocean currents which will produce more sealife outside the marine protected area. In this manner, it's hoped that marine protected areas can serve as insurance policies if fish populations decline elsewhere, and help deter collapses of certain species.



Marine protected areas will protect, restore, and improve Essential Fish Habitat and Essential Fish Habitat - Habitat Areas of Particular Concern. The Council has mandates to protect Essential Fish Habitat and has established an Essential Fish Habitat - Habitat Areas of Particular Concern to initiate the process.

1. Essential fish habitat for snapper-grouper species includes coral reefs, live/hard bottom, submerged aquatic vegetation, artificial reefs and medium to high profile outcroppings on and around the shelf break zone from shore to at least 600 feet (but to at least 2000 feet for wreckfish) where the annual water temperature range is sufficiently warm to maintain adult populations of members of this largely tropical complex. EFH includes the spawning area in the water column above the adult habitat and the additional pelagic environment, including *Sargassum*, required for larval survival and growth up to and including settlement. In addition the Gulf Stream is an essential fish habitat because it provides a mechanism to disperse snapper-grouper larvae. For specific life stages of estuarine dependent and nearshore snapper-grouper species, essential fish

habitat includes areas inshore of the 100-foot contour, such as attached macroalgae; submerged rooted vascular plants (seagrasses); estuarine emergent vegetated wetlands (saltmarshes, brackish marsh); tidal creeks; estuarine scrub/shrub (mangrove fringe); oyster reefs and shell banks; unconsolidated bottom (soft sediments); artificial reefs; and coral reefs and live/hard bottom.

2. Areas which meet the criteria for essential fish habitat-habitat areas of particular concern (EFH-HAPCs) for species in the snapper-grouper management unit include medium to high profile, offshore hard bottoms where spawning normally occurs; localities of known or likely periodic spawning aggregations; nearshore hard bottom areas; The Point, The Ten Fathom Ledge, and Big Rock (North Carolina); The Charleston Bump (South Carolina); mangrove habitat; seagrass habitat; oyster/shell habitat; all coastal inlets; all state-designated nursery habitats of particular importance to snapper grouper (e.g., Primary and Secondary Nursery Areas designated in North Carolina); pelagic and benthic *Sargassum*; Hoyt Hills for wreckfish; the *Oculina* Bank Habitat Area of Particular Concern; all hermatypic coral habitats and reefs; manganese outcroppings on the Blake Plateau; and Council-designated Artificial Reef Special Management Zones (SMZs).

**Where are we in the marine protected areas process?**

- Informal educational meetings were held by Council and Staff from January to April 2000.
- Scoping meetings were held in May 2000 for public input on whether the concept of marine protected areas has merit as a fishery management tool (written comments were also accepted).
- Based on the 1992 scoping process, the workshop, Advisory Panels and Scientific & Statistical Committee input, and the mid-2000 scoping process, the Council decided the concept of marine protected areas should be used as a fishery management tool in the South Atlantic to enhance the biomass of resources and provide greater biodiversity within areas under their management authority.
- Because the Council decided the concept of marine protected areas should be used as a fishery management tool, an additional round of scoping meetings is being held in Spring 2001 to allow the public to suggest specific areas that should be additionally regulated. A list of the scoping meeting dates and locations is in Appendix E.
- The Marine Protected Areas Advisory Panel (AP) will meet in May 2001 to recommend areas that should be regulated.
- The Council will review scoping and AP input and decide whether to continue the process of choosing areas to regulate. If the Council decides to continue the process at their June 2001 meeting, an amendment to the Snapper Grouper FMP will be developed and public hearings will be held in the fall of 2001. The Council will review the public hearing comments and finalize the action at the December 3-7, 2001 Council meeting.

**What other groups or agencies are currently discussing marine protected areas or closed areas?**

In 1990, Congress established the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary which currently has existing and proposed marine protected areas for the Florida Keys. The Council has expressed support for a proposed Sanctuary reserve in the Gulf Council's jurisdiction at the Dry Tortugas. For more information on the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary contact Billy Causey at (305) 743-2437.

In 1997, President Clinton signed Executive Order 13089 on Coral Reefs, establishing a multi-agency Task Force to direct coral reef conservation in the United States. This Task Force is exploring recommendations for establishing marine protected areas to protect coral ecosystems. For more information contact: the NOAA Public Affairs office at (202) 482- 6090 or the Department of the Interior at (202) 501-4633.

In 1999, Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary began collecting information necessary for reviewing the Sanctuary management plan. As a part of that process, Sanctuary staff held a series of meetings to get the initial views of the public on possible changes to the programs or regulations at Gray's Reef. The issue that received the greatest attention was the concern by many at the meetings that Gray's Reef would be closed to fishing through designation as a marine reserve. This issue arose in part because at the same time Sanctuary staff was holding meetings on the future of Gray's Reef, the Council was preparing scoping meetings to explore the public's views on the concept of marine protected areas, specifically closed areas in the region.

Within the National Marine Sanctuary Act there is a provision that calls for the Council to participate in decisions affecting fishing in National Marine Sanctuaries. Both agencies agreed to build upon this provision in the law and develop a Gray's Reef/SAFMC agreement known as a Memorandum of Understanding. This agreement is designed to facilitate the exchange of information, advice, and technical assistance between the two organizations. In the spirit of that agreement, Gray's Reef proposed to the Council that they work together through the Council process to consider how the marine protected areas may apply to Gray's Reef. The Sanctuary staff will work cooperatively with the Council as they evaluate the issue of marine protected areas on a broader regional basis.

For more information on Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary contact Becky Shortland at (912) 598-2381.

On May 26, 2000, the President signed Executive Order 13158 on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) to strengthen the protection of U.S. ocean and coastal resources. This directs the Departments of Commerce and the Interior, and other federal agencies, to strengthen and expand a national system of MPAs by working closely with state, territorial, local, tribal, and other stakeholders. As a result of this Executive Order, a website was created to provide information on MPAs and a MPA Center was established to coordinate implementation of the Executive Order. Also created was a Federal Marine Protected Areas Advisory Committee to provide expert advice and recommendations to the Secretaries of Commerce and the Interior on the development of a national system of marine protected areas. Council Member Tony Iarocci (Chairman of the SAFMC Marine Protected Areas Committee) serves on the Federal Advisory Panel. For more information go to [www.mpa.gov](http://www.mpa.gov).

**APPENDIX A**  
**South Atlantic Fishery Management Council**  
**2000-2001 Membership**

**The names of the Council Members who serve on the Marine Protected Areas Committee appear in bold.**

*Council Chairman:*

**Fulton Love**  
6817 Basin Road,  
Savannah, GA 31419  
912/925-3616  
912/925-1900 (fax)  
[ofljr@bellsouth.net](mailto:ofljr@bellsouth.net)

*Council Vice-Chairman:*

David Cupka  
SC Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 12259 (217 Ft. Johnson Road)  
Charleston, SC 29422-2559  
843/762-5010 or 795-6350  
843/762-5007 (fax)  
[cupkad@mrd.dnr.state.sc.us](mailto:cupkad@mrd.dnr.state.sc.us)

Dieter N. Busch  
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries  
Commission  
1444 Eye Street, N.W., 6<sup>th</sup> floor  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
202/289-6400  
202/289-6051(fax)  
[dbusch@asmfc.org](mailto:dbusch@asmfc.org)

**Bill Cole**  
**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**  
P.O. Box 972  
Morehead City, NC 28557-0972  
252/726-7021  
252/726-0254(fax)  
[Bill\\_W\\_Cole/R4/FWS/DOI@FWS.GOV](mailto:Bill_W_Cole/R4/FWS/DOI@FWS.GOV)

**Lt. Commander Dave Cinnalli**  
Seventh Coast Guard District  
Brickell Plaza Federal Building  
909 S.E. First Avenue  
Miami, FL 33131-3050  
305/415-6778  
305/536-4665(fax)  
[Dcinalli@D7.USCG.Mil](mailto:Dcinalli@D7.USCG.Mil)

**Louis Daniel**  
NC Division of Marine Fisheries  
P.O. Box 769 (3441 Arendell St.)  
Morehead City, NC 28557  
252/726-7021(ext.105)  
252/726-0254(fax)  
[louis.daniel@ncmail.net](mailto:louis.daniel@ncmail.net)

**John M. Dean**  
Baruch Institute  
University of South Carolina  
Columbia, SC 29208  
803/777-0075  
803/777-3935 (fax)  
[jmdean@sc.edu](mailto:jmdean@sc.edu)

Glenn H. Durden  
2004 Chevy Place  
Vidalia, GA 30474  
912/537-7074  
912/537-9033 (fax)  
[glennhd13@yahoo.com](mailto:glennhd13@yahoo.com)

**Jodie E. Gay**  
105 Friendly Lane  
Hampstead, NC 28443  
910/270-3718  
910/270-3718 (fax)  
[oldsmokey@worldnet.att.net](mailto:oldsmokey@worldnet.att.net)

Joe Powers,  
Acting Regional Administrator  
National Marine Fisheries Service,  
SE Region  
9721 Executive Center Drive, North  
St. Petersburg, FL 33702  
727/570-5301  
727/570-5300 (fax)  
[Joe.powers@noaa.gov](mailto:Joe.powers@noaa.gov)

**Edward (Ebbie) B. LeMaster III**  
135 Ponte Vedra Blvd.  
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082  
904/285-6017  
904/285-2463 (fax)  
[eblhcl@aol.com](mailto:eblhcl@aol.com)

**Clarence Wayne Lee**  
3000 Raymond Avenue  
Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948  
252/480-1287  
252/480-1631 (fax)  
[cwlee2@mindspring.com](mailto:cwlee2@mindspring.com)

**Council Staff Responsible for Marine protected areas:**

Kerry O'Malley  
One Southpark Circle  
Suite 306  
Charleston, SC 29407-4699  
843/571-4366  
843/571-4520 (fax)  
[kerry.omalley@noaa.gov](mailto:kerry.omalley@noaa.gov)

**Tony Iarocci**  
236 Guava Avenue  
Grassy Key, FL 33050  
305/743-7162  
305/743-2697 (fax)

Ken Haddad  
Florida Fish & Wildlife  
Conservation Commission  
2590 Executive Center Circle  
East, Suite 201  
Tallahassee, FL 32301  
850/487-0554  
850/487-4847 (fax)  
[ken.haddad@fwc.state.fl.us](mailto:ken.haddad@fwc.state.fl.us)

Jean-Pierre Ple'  
Office of Marine Conservation  
OES/OMC  
Department of State, Room 7820  
Washington, DC 20520  
202/647-1948

Susan Shipman,  
GA Department of Natural Resources  
Coastal Resources Division  
One Conservation Way, Suite 300  
Brunswick, GA 31520-8687  
912/264-7218  
912/262-2318 (fax)  
[s2@dnrcrd.dnr.state.ga.us](mailto:s2@dnrcrd.dnr.state.ga.us)

Charles Stone  
296 Rum Gully Road  
Murrells Inlet, SC 29576  
843/651-1654  
843/651-7995 (fax)  
[cstone@sccoast.net](mailto:cstone@sccoast.net)

## ***Marine Protected Areas Advisory Panel***

### **Outreach**

Susan White  
National Wildlife Refuge System  
USFWS  
4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Rm. 670  
Arlington, VA 22203  
703/358-2415  
703/358-1826 (fax)  
[susan\\_white@fws.gov](mailto:susan_white@fws.gov)

Sandy Seamans Ross  
P.O. Box 32  
Stumpy Point, NC 27978  
252/473-6833  
252/473-3411 (fax)  
[tradewinds@beachlink.com](mailto:tradewinds@beachlink.com)

Becky Shortland  
Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary  
10 Ocean Science Circle  
Savannah, GA 31411  
912/598-2381  
912/598-2367 (fax)  
[becky.shortland@noaa.gov](mailto:becky.shortland@noaa.gov)

Doug Kelly  
P.O. Box 10692  
Tampa, FL 33679  
813/639-9636  
813/639-9637 (fax)  
[dkelly@eangler.com](mailto:dkelly@eangler.com)

### **Conservation**

Dr. Doug Rader  
Environmental Defense Fund  
2500 Blue Ridge Road, Suite 330  
Raleigh, NC 27607  
919/881-2601  
919/881-2607 (fax)  
[dougr@edf.org](mailto:dougr@edf.org)

Jack Sobel, **Chairman**  
Center for Marine Conservation  
1725 Desales St., NW, Suite 600  
Washington, DC 20036  
202/429-5609  
202/872-0619 (fax)  
[jsobel@dccmc.org](mailto:jsobel@dccmc.org)

Alexander Stone  
P.O.Box 490438  
Key Biscayne, FL 33149  
305/358-4600  
305/358-3030 (fax)  
[a\\_stone@reefkeeper.org](mailto:a_stone@reefkeeper.org)

Dr. William D. Anderson, Jr.  
665 Clearview Dr.  
Charleston, SC 29412  
843/406-4028  
843/406-4001(fax)  
[andersonw@cofc.edu](mailto:andersonw@cofc.edu)

### **Charter/Headboat**

Patrick Kannan  
407 Maple Lane  
Morehead City, NC 28557  
919/240-0159

John Wierman  
101 Eight Point Road  
Goose Creek, SC 29445  
843/797-2848  
[j.wierman@excite.com](mailto:j.wierman@excite.com)

Judy Helmey  
P.O. Box 30771  
(124 Palmetto Drive)  
Savannah, GA 31410  
912/897-2478  
912/897-3460 (fax)  
[fishjudy2@aol.com](mailto:fishjudy2@aol.com)

Ron Rincones  
3950 Corey Road  
Valkaria, FL 32950-4119  
407/727-1036  
407/724-1002 (fax)  
fishrico@aol.com

**Recreational**

Frank Gibson  
P.O. Box 789  
Beaufort, SC 29901  
843/522-2020  
843/522-0647 (fax)  
[fgibson@islc.net](mailto:fgibson@islc.net)

Mac Currin  
801 Westwood Drive  
Raleigh, NC 27607  
919/881-0049  
919/881-0049 (fax)  
[mcurren@wans.net](mailto:mcurren@wans.net)

Robert Rowe  
837 Fathom Road  
North Palm Beach, FL 33408  
561/626-6551  
[bbrowel@worldnet.att.net](mailto:bbrowel@worldnet.att.net)

Joel Williams  
P.O.Box 176  
212 S.Main Street  
Reidsville, GA 30453  
912/557-4242  
912/557-4083 (fax)  
[joel@reeloutdoor.com](mailto:joel@reeloutdoor.com)

**Commercial**

Mark Marhefka, **Vice Chairman**  
P.O. Box 1231  
John's Island, SC 29457  
843/729-5497  
[mmgoldenfisher@aol.com](mailto:mmgoldenfisher@aol.com)

Reese Hair  
1297 Limestone Street  
Murrell's Inlet, SC 29376  
843/357-1667  
843/357-3470 (fax)

Jerry Schill  
North Carolina Fisheries Association  
P.O. Box 12303  
(2606 Neuse Blvd.)  
New Bern, NC 28561  
252/633-2288  
252/633-9616 (fax)  
[jschill\\_ncfish@coastalnet.com](mailto:jschill_ncfish@coastalnet.com)

Charles Phillips  
Route 2, Box 1672  
Townsend, GA 31331  
912/832-4423  
912/832-6228 (fax)  
[pseafood@darientel.net](mailto:pseafood@darientel.net)

Gregory P. DiDomenico  
Monroe County Commercial Fishermen  
P.O. Box 501404  
11400 Overseas Highway, Suite 214-A  
Marathon, FL 33050  
305/743-0294  
305/289-1207 (fax)

Ben Hartig  
9722 S.E. Sharon St.  
Hobe Sound, FL 33455  
561/546-1541  
561/546-9838 (fax)

Don DeMaria  
P.O. Box 420975  
Summerland Key, FL 33042-0975  
305/745-3045  
305/745-1235 (fax)  
[dondemaria@aol.com](mailto:dondemaria@aol.com)

**State Designees**

Dr. Luiz Barbieri  
100 Eighth Avenue SE  
St. Petersburg, FL 33701-5095  
727/896-8626  
727/823-0166 (fax)  
[barbieri\\_1@epic7.dep.state.fl.us](mailto:barbieri_1@epic7.dep.state.fl.us)

Henry Ansley  
GA DNR Coastal Resources Division  
One Conservation Way, Suite 300  
Brunswick, GA 31520-8687  
912/264-7218  
912/262-3143 (fax)  
[henry@dnrcrd.dnr.state.ga.us](mailto:henry@dnrcrd.dnr.state.ga.us)

George Sedberry  
SC DNR MRRI  
PO Box 12559  
Charleston, SC 29422-2559  
843/762-5045  
843/762-5110 (fax)  
[sedberryg@mrd.dnr.state.sc.us](mailto:sedberryg@mrd.dnr.state.sc.us)

Jim Francesconi  
NCDEHNR  
Resource Enhancement  
PO Box 769  
3441 Arendell Street  
Morehead City, NC 28557  
252/726-7021  
252/726-9218 (fax)  
[james.francesconi@ncmail.net](mailto:james.francesconi@ncmail.net)

Melvin Bell  
SC DNR Marine Resources Division  
PO Box 12559  
Charleston, SC 29422  
843/762-5066  
843/406-4060 (fax)  
[bellm@mrd.dnr.state.sc.us](mailto:bellm@mrd.dnr.state.sc.us)



## ***APPENDIX B***

The following is a broad list of criteria being suggested by the Marine Protected Areas Committee after taking into account public input received during the last round of scoping meetings and input received from the Marine Protected Areas AP. The Council will develop more specific criteria as they begin looking at sites suggested by the public during this round of scoping meetings.

Regionally representative?

Not conserved elsewhere?

High habitat diversity?

Unique habitat?

Includes fragile habitat(s)?

Includes vulnerable species?

Includes vulnerable or rare stages?

Supports exploited species?

Supplies adjacent areas?

Is the area large enough?

Are adjacent coastal areas supportive?

Is it aesthetically appealing?

Is it accessible to user groups?

Can enforcement provide support?

Is there effective management?

Does it satisfy socio-cultural needs?

Does it preserve historical site(s)?

## **APPENDIX C**

### ***Species in the Snapper Grouper Management Unit***

**SPR Estimates Available**

|                    |                                |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| Lane snapper       | <i>Lutjanus synagris</i>       |
| Yellowtail snapper | <i>Ocyurus chrysurus</i>       |
| Gray snapper       | <i>Lutjanus griseus</i>        |
| Mutton snapper     | <i>Lutjanus analis</i>         |
| Vermilion snapper  | <i>Rhomboplites aurorubens</i> |
| Red Snapper        | <i>Lutjanus campechanus</i>    |

**SPR Estimates Unavailable**

|                  |                             |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Black snapper    | <i>Apsilus dentatus</i>     |
| Queen snapper    | <i>Etelis oculatus</i>      |
| Schoolmaster     | <i>Lutjanus apodus</i>      |
| Blackfin snapper | <i>Lutjanus buccanella</i>  |
| Cubera snapper   | <i>Lutjanus cyanopterus</i> |
| Mahogany snapper | <i>Lutjanus mahogoni</i>    |
| Dog snapper      | <i>Lutjanus jocu</i>        |
| Silk snapper     | <i>Lutjanus vivanus</i>     |

**SEA BASSES - Serranidae**

**SPR Estimates Available**

|                |                              |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| Black sea bass | <i>Centropristis striata</i> |
|----------------|------------------------------|

**SPR Estimates Unavailable**

|               |                                    |
|---------------|------------------------------------|
| Bank sea bass | <i>Centropristis ocyurus</i>       |
| Rock sea bass | <i>Centropristis philadelphica</i> |

**GROUPERS = Serranidae**

**SPR Estimates Available**

|                 |                                 |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| Gag             | <i>Mycteroperca microlepis</i>  |
| Scamp           | <i>Mycteroperca phenax</i>      |
| Red grouper     | <i>Epinephelus morio</i>        |
| Black grouper   | <i>Mycteroperca bonaci</i>      |
| Speckled hind*  | <i>Epinephelus drummondhayi</i> |
| Snowy grouper*  | <i>Epinephelus niveatus</i>     |
| Warsaw grouper* | <i>Epinephelus nigritus</i>     |
| Wreckfish       | <i>Polyprion americanus</i>     |

**SPR Estimates Unavailable**

|                     |                                    |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| Rock hind           | <i>Epinephelus adscensionis</i>    |
| Graysby             | <i>Epinephelus cruentatus</i>      |
| Yellowedge grouper* | <i>Epinephelus flavolimbatus</i>   |
| Coney               | <i>Epinephelus fulva</i>           |
| Red hind            | <i>Epinephelus guttatus</i>        |
| Jewfish             | <i>Epinephelus itajara</i>         |
| Misty grouper*      | <i>Epinephelus mystacinus</i>      |
| Nassau grouper      | <i>Epinephelus striatus</i>        |
| Yellowmouth grouper | <i>Mycteroperca interstitialis</i> |
| Tiger grouper       | <i>Mycteroperca tigris</i>         |
| Yellowfin grouper   | <i>Mycteroperca venenosa</i>       |

\*These species form the deep water grouper fishery.

**SPR Estimates Available**

|           |                      |
|-----------|----------------------|
| Red porgy | <i>Pagrus pagrus</i> |
|-----------|----------------------|

**SPR Estimates Unavailable**

|                 |                                    |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| Sheepshead      | <i>Archosargus probatocephalus</i> |
| Grass porgy     | <i>Calamus arctifrons</i>          |
| Jolthead porgy  | <i>Calamus bajonado</i>            |
| Saucereye porgy | <i>Calamus calamus</i>             |
| Whitebone porgy | <i>Calamus leucosteus</i>          |
| Knobbed porgy   | <i>Calamus nodosus</i>             |
| Longspine porgy | <i>Stenotomus caprinus</i>         |
| Scup            | <i>Stenotomus chrysops</i>         |

**TRIGGERFISHES - Balistidae**

**SPR Estimates Available**

|                  |                           |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| Gray triggerfish | <i>Balistes capriscus</i> |
|------------------|---------------------------|

**SPR Estimates Unavailable**

|                   |                               |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| Queen triggerfish | <i>Balistes vetula</i>        |
| Ocean triggerfish | <i>Canthidermis sufflamen</i> |

**JACKS - Carangidae**

**SPR Estimates Available**

|                   |                         |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Greater amberjack | <i>Seriola dumerili</i> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|

**SPR Estimates Unavailable**

|                   |                            |
|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Yellow jack       | <i>Caranx bartholomaei</i> |
| Blue runner       | <i>Caranx crysos</i>       |
| Crevalle jack     | <i>Caranx hippos</i>       |
| Bar jack          | <i>Caranx ruber</i>        |
| Almaco jack       | <i>Seriola rivoliana</i>   |
| Lesser amberjack  | <i>Seriola fasciata</i>    |
| Banded rudderfish | <i>Seriola zonata</i>      |

**GRUNTS - Pomadasyidae**

**SPR Estimates Available**

White grunt *Haemulon plumieri*

**SPR Estimates Unavailable**

Black margate *Anisotremus surinamensis*

Porkfish *Anisotremus virginicus*

Margate *Haemulon album*

Tomtate *Haemulon aurolineatum*

Smallmouth grunt *Haemulon chrysargyreum*

French grunt *Haemulon flavolineatum*

Spanish grunt *Haemulon macrostomum*

Cottonwick *Haemulon melanurum*

Sailors choice *Haemulon parrai*

Blue striped grunt *Haemulon sciurus*

**TILEFISHES - Malacanthidae**

**SPR Estimates Available**

Tilefish (Golden)\* *Lopholatilus chamaeleonticeps*

**SPR Estimates Unavailable**

Blueline tilefish\* *Caulolatilus microps*

Sand tilefish\* *Malacanthus plumieri*

**SPR ESTIMATES ARE UNAVAILABLE FOR THE FOLLOWING SPECIES**

**SPADEFISHES - Ehippidae**

Spadefish *Chaetodipterus faber*

**WRASSES - Labridae**

Hogfish *Lachnolaimus maximus*

Puddingwife *Halichoeres radiatus*

**\*These species form the deep water grouper fishery.**

**APPENDIX D**  
*Recommendations of the  
Joint Law Enforcement Committee And Advisory Panel on Enforcement Criteria for  
Establishing Marine Protected Areas*

The Council's Law Enforcement Committee and Advisory Panel discussed the marine protected area concept and enforcement criteria for establishing marine reserves (now called marine protected areas) at their February 19-20, 1998 meeting. There was unanimous agreement that one of the most critical aspects of establishing marine protected areas, both from the scientific and enforcement standpoint, will be public support. Consensus was the Council, through its Information & Education Committee, should develop a plan for educating the public on the need for marine protected areas and for selling the concept to the fishing community.

A motion was approved recommending that as the Council proceeds on establishing marine protected areas, there should be a threat assessment conducted by the appropriate state, NMFS, and Coast Guard enforcement personnel (potentially the AP) for each marine protected area being developed. This assessment should be presented to the Council before they take action.

The committee and advisory panel developed the following criteria for the Marine Protected Area Committee's consideration:

- 1. A marine protected area should be configured in a square or rectangle.**
  - >> irregular shapes are very difficult to enforce
- 2. The bigger the better.**
  - >> wider areas are easier to enforce
  - >> **do not** include buffer zones
- 3. The boundaries should be delineated in latitude and longitude.**
  - >> where possible the boundaries should actually be latitude and longitude lines
  - >> **do not** use water depths
  - >> **do not** use County lines
- 4. Must be in an acceptable format to be included and identified on NOAA charts.**
  - >> will require coordination with appropriate NOAA personnel

**5. Allowable activities in the marine protected area should be limited.**

- >> No transit - best
- >> Prohibit all fishing - next best
- >> If any fishing activity or gear is allowed, enforcement becomes very difficult.

**6. Locate marine protected areas away from highly populated areas.**

- >> the location should provide for the best possible buy-in by fishermen
- >> voluntary compliance is the most important element for insuring enforceability

**7. Provide for on-site enforcement capability.**

- >> there will be costs associated with this capability

***APPENDIX E***  
***Dates and Locations of Scoping Meetings***

**All meetings will begin at 6:00 P.M.**

Monday, April 16, 2001

Crystal Coastal Civic Center  
3505 Arendell Street  
Morehead City NC 28557  
Phone: 252-247-3883

Wednesday, April 18, 2001

Blockade Runner  
275 Waynick Boulevard  
Wrightsville Beach NC 28480  
Phone: 910-256-2251

Tuesday, May 1, 2001

Sea Turtle Inn  
1 Ocean Boulevard  
Atlantic Beach FL 32233  
Phone: 904-249-7402

Wednesday, May 2, 2001

Radisson Beach Resort  
2600 N. A1A  
Fort Pierce FL 34949  
Phone: 561-465-5544

Thursday, May 3, 2001

Holiday Isle's  
US Highway 1  
Islamorada FL 33036  
Phone: 305-664-2711

Wednesday, May 9, 2001

Embassy Suites North Charleston  
Convention Center  
5055 International Boulevard  
North Charleston SC 29418  
Phone: 843-747-1882

Monday, May 14, 2001

St. John's Inn  
Oceanfront at 70<sup>th</sup> Avenue, N.  
Myrtle Beach SC 29572  
Phone: 843-918-8000

Tuesday, May 15, 2001

University of Georgia  
Marine Extension Service  
715 Bay Street  
Brunswick GA 31520  
Phone: 912-264-7268

Wednesday, May 16, 2001

Richmond Hill City Hall  
40 Richard R. Davis Drive  
Richmond Hill GA 31324  
Phone: 912-756-3345

Written comments will be must be received in the Council office (address on cover) on or before May 21, 2001. The Council accepts comments sent by mail, fax, or E-mail.