

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS OVERVIEW

BLOCKADE RUNNER
275 WAYNICK DRIVE
WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH, NC 28480

December 5-6, 2001

At this meeting the Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel, the Snapper Grouper Assessment Group and the Scientific and Statistical Committee will meet to provide input on sites the Council is considering for marine protected areas

Following discussions held by the AP, Assessment Group, and SSC, the Snapper Grouper Committee will make recommendations to the Council on which sites should be included in the first round of public hearings.

Explanation of criteria (Attachment 1): In order to clear up some confusion over the criteria the Council is using for siting MPAs and to be sure that the record clearly reflects the Council's intent staff has prepared the a summary of the way we understand the Council's past deliberations on criteria for MPAs. The Snapper Grouper Committee has reviewed this information at their last meeting. The Council will have an opportunity to discuss this issue during Full Council.

Public Information Document (September 2001) – South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Development of Marine Protected Areas (Attachment 2): This short document was developed at the request of Council members in order to help ensure that the public receives the correct information regarding the Council's use of marine protected areas. The Snapper Grouper Committee has reviewed this document at their last meeting The Council will review the document and approve it for distribution at this meeting.

List of Marine Protected Areas as Revised by the Snapper Grouper Committee on October 30, 2001 (Attachment 3): The Snapper Grouper Committee reviewed the list of recommended sites they received from the MPA Committee when they met in October. At the recommendation of both the Snapper Grouper and MPA Committees the Snapper Grouper AP, Assessment Group and the SSC will have a chance to provide any additional input on sites at this meeting before the Committee and Council take action on which sites will go out to the first round of public hearings.

A GIS Analysis of MARMAP Fishery Independent Data, and Some Fishery Dependent Data, in Relation to Potential MPAs in the South Atlantic Bight (Attachment 4): This is a copy of the presentation that George Sedberry presented at the multi-AP meeting and the Snapper Grouper Committee meeting. The MPA and Snapper Grouper Committees recommended that the Snapper Grouper AP, Assessment Group and SSC review this data and other sources to determine if any additional sites may be reasonable candidates to further protect species of concern.

