

**REPORT FROM THE
SNAPPER GROUPER ASSESSMENT GROUP MEETING
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA
FEBRUARY 4-6, 1998**

The assessment group was given an update on the South Atlantic Council's Marine Fishery Reserve actions as outlined in the overview for this meeting (Tab 5). The assessment group reviewed the original PDT list of criteria (Tab 5, Attachment 2) and then discussed appropriate criteria for developing Marine Fishery Reserves. The following draft list was approved for distribution to the Council:

1. Include Representative Habitats
2. No Take
3. Replicated and Dispersed Network Design (i.e., they should be self-sustaining)
4. Individual sites should have some potential for ecological integrity
5. Reserves should be created on principal, not solely for protection of one species. Reserves are essential for scientific understanding and management. Reserves protect a portion of the range of species and they also protect the ecology and habitat for a number of species.
6. Magnuson Act Considerations:
 - A. Fairness and Equity
 - B. Promote Conservation
 - C. Excessive Shares
 - D. Consistency with Fishery Management Plan and Objectives
 - E. Impacts on Traditional Uses
 - F. Promote Orderly Use of the Resource
 - G. Optimize Biological Production