

**SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL MEETING  
ORLANDO, FLORIDA  
JUNE 12-13, 2008  
SUMMARY COUNCIL MOTIONS**

**ADVISORY PANEL SELECTION**

**MOTION #1:** RANDY MANCHESTER WAS APPOINTED TO THE GOLDEN CRAB ADVISORY PANEL (AP).

**MOTION #2:** KATHI HARRINGTON, JOHN DUREN, SUSAN HILFER, JENKINS MIKELL, JR., CAMERON SEBASTIAN, AND JAMES HARVEY WERE REAPPOINTED TO THE HABITAT AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AP.

**MOTION #3:** CHRIS WOODWARD, NANCY FISH, SUZI DURANT, PAMELA FLETCHER AND ELIZABETH VONKOLNITZ WERE REAPPOINTED TO THE INFORMATION AND EDUCATION AP.

**MOTION #4:** DICK BRAME, PAUL DUNN, JODIE GAY, CARL ERICKSON AND RONNIE HOUCK WERE REAPPOINTED TO THE KING AND SPANISH MACKEREL AP.

**MOTION #5:** TIM ADAMS WAS APPOINTED TO THE KING AND SPANISH MACKEREL AP.

**MOTION #6:** FRED DENNIS, JAKE FLOWERS, WARREN GAUTIER, TONY HERRING, MARILYN SOLORZANO, JOHN WILLIAMS, AND STEVEN WILSON WERE REAPPOINTED TO THE DEEPWATER SHRIMP AP.

**MOTION #7:** LAURILEE THOMPSON WAS APPOINTED TO THE DEEPWATER SHRIMP AP.

**MOTION #8:** PHIL CONKLIN, BO STOKES, CHARLIE PHILLIPS, GREG DEBRANGO, AND PAUL REISS WERE REAPPOINTED TO THE SNAPPER GROUPER AP.

**MOTION #9:** THE COUNCIL VOTED TO CREATE A NEW CONSERVATION/NGO SEAT ON THE SNAPPER GROUPER ADVISORY PANEL.

**MOTION #10:** EILEEN DOUGHERTY AND ELIZABETH FEATHERSTON WERE APPOINTED TO THE SNAPPER GROUPER ADVISORY PANEL.

**MOTION #11:** THE COUNCIL VOTED TO CREATE A NEW SOUTH CAROLINA FOR-HIRE/CHARTER SEAT AND ADVERTISE THE OPEN SEAT.

## **SSC SELECTION COMMITTEE**

**MOTION #1:** THE COUNCIL VOTED TO ESTABLISH THOSE TECHNICAL COMMITTEES IDENTIFIED AS ‘PROPOSED’ IN THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE PROCESS DOCUMENT.

## **LIMITED ACCESS PRIVILEGE PROGRAMS**

**MOTION #1:** THE COUNCIL VOTED TO CONVENE A GOLDEN TILEFISH LAPP WORKGROUP TO BEGIN DEVELOPMENT OF A GOLDEN TILEFISH LAP PROGRAM.

## **ALLOCATIONS**

**MOTION #1:** THE COUNCIL APPROVED ALLOCATING AMONG THREE SECTORS: (1) COMMERCIAL, (2) RECREATIONAL, AND (3) FOR-HIRE.

**MOTION #2:** THE COUNCIL VOTED NOT TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE ALLOCATION AMENDMENT.

**MOTION #3:** THE COUNCIL VOTED TO RESCIND MOTION 4 FROM THE APRIL ALLOCATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING AS IT WAS PASSED (*The Motion read: “...the Council’s judgment based on fairness and equity – this approach would consider any number of factors including but not limited to social and economic values (including demographic shifts) and models, when available; landings data; and the Council’s view of what fisheries should look like into the future. Also, move Alternative 4 to Appendix A”*).

## **SPINY LOBSTER**

**MOTION #1:** THE COUNCIL ADOPTED ALTERNATIVE 2 UNDER ACTION 1 AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE. *Action 1, Alternative 2 reads as follows:*

*No person in the U.S. would be allowed to import a spiny lobster (*Panulirus argus*):*

- 1. Less than 5 ounces tail weight (5 ounces is defined as a tail that weights 4.2 - 5.4 ounces).*
- 2. 3.0 inches (7.62 cm) or less carapace length if the animal is whole.*
- 3. Less than 5.5 inches (13.97 cm) tail length if only the tail is present.*

*In Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, no person would be allowed to import a spiny lobster (*Panulirus argus*):*

- 1. Less than 6.0 ounces tail weight (6 ounces is defined as a tail that weighs 5.9 – 6.4 ounces).*
- 2. Less than 3.5 inches (8.89 cm) carapace length if the animal is whole.*
- 3. Less than 6.2 inches (15.75 cm) tail length if only the tail is present.*

**MOTION #2:** THE COUNCIL ADOPTED ALTERNATIVE 2 UNDER ACTION 2 AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE. *Action 2, Alternative 2 reads as follows:*

*Do not allow the importation of spiny lobster tail meat which is not in whole tail form with the exoskeleton attached; and do not allow the importation of spiny lobster with eggs attached or importation of spiny lobster where the eggs, swimmerets, or pleopods have been removed or stripped.*

**MOTION #3:** THE COUNCIL APPROVED THE IMPORT AMENDMENT FOR PUBLIC HEARING.

**SHRIMP**

**Shrimp Amendment 7**

**MOTION #1:** THE COUNCIL ADOPTED ALTERNATIVE 2 UNDER ACTION 4 AS COUNCIL'S PREFERRED. *Alternative 2 creates two types of permits for the rock shrimp fishery and specifies that a vessel can only have one permit.*

**MOTION #2:** THE COUNCIL VOTED TO CHANGE THE LANGUAGE IN ALTERNATIVE 2 UNDER ACTION 4 TO:

RENAME THE LIMITED ACCESS ENDORSEMENT AND THE OPEN ACCESS PERMIT OF THE EXISTING PERMIT SYSTEM AS FOLLOWS:

- A. ROCK SHRIMP PERMIT (SOUTH ATLANTIC EEZ) – WOULD ALLOW FISHING THROUGHOUT THE SOUTH ATLANTIC EEZ.
- B. ROCK SHRIMP PERMIT (CAROLINAS ZONE) – WOULD ALLOW FISHING IN THE EEZ OFF NORTH AND SOUTH CAROLINA.

*Note of clarification: Rock Shrimp Permit (Carolinas Zone) holders (currently open access permit holders) may not apply for the Rock Shrimp Permit (South Atlantic EEZ) (currently limited access endorsement). Fishermen who currently possess valid (non-expired) open access Rock Shrimp Permits (RS) or limited access Rock Shrimp Endorsements (RSE) need not apply to receive a renamed permit because these renamed permits will be sent to current permit holders automatically. Permit holders that have expired permits but renewable Rock Shrimp Endorsements (RSE) will need to apply to receive a renamed Rock Shrimp Permit (South Atlantic EEZ). Permit holders that have an expired open access Rock Shrimp Permit (RS) will need to apply to receive a renamed Rock Shrimp Permit (Carolinas Zone). Permit holders eligible for reinstatement will need to apply to have a Rock Shrimp Permit (South Atlantic EEZ) reinstated to them.*

**MOTION #3:** THE COUNCIL ADDED A NEW ACTION (*implied as the preferred*) TO ESTABLISH A VMS REQUIREMENT SPECIFYING THAT AN APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL, REINSTATEMENT, OR TRANSFER OF A ROCK SHRIMP LIMITED ACCESS ENDORSEMENT WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED COMPLETE UNTIL PROOF OF ACTIVATION AND OPERATIONAL STATUS OF AN APPROVED VESSEL MONITORING SYSTEM (FOR THE VESSEL RECEIVING THE PERMIT) HAS BEEN VERIFIED BY NMFS VMS PERSONNEL.

**MOTION #4:** THE COUNCIL VOTED TO HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING IN THE GULF OF MEXICO REGION, IN A LOCATION THAT ACCOMMODATES THE MAJORITY OF SOUTH ATLANTIC ROCK SHRIMP PERMIT HOLDERS, BEFORE THE SEPTEMBER 2008 COUNCIL MEETING.

**MOTION #5:** THE COUNCIL APPROVED AMENDMENT 7 FOR PUBLIC HEARING.

## **ECOSYSTEM**

### **Comprehensive Ecosystem Plan and Amendment**

**MOTION #1:** INCLUDE THE ALTERNATIVE ENTITLED “SHRIMP FISHERY ACCESS AREA” INTO THE DOCUMENT.

**MOTION #2:** THE COUNCIL ADOPTED THE “SHRIMP FISHERY ACCESS AREA” ALTERNATIVE AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE. *This alternative creates a “Shrimp Fishery Access Area” (SFAA) within the proposed Stetson Reefs, Savannah and East Florida Lithoherms, and Miami Terrace C-HAPC boundaries, where fishing with a shrimp trawl and/or shrimp possession is allowed by any vessel holding a rock shrimp limited access endorsement and equipped with an approved vessel monitoring system (VMS).*

*The SFAA is located as follows: The western boundary is the western boundary of the CHAPC. The northern boundary of the SFAA is at latitude 30° 12’ N. The southern boundary is at latitude 26° 18’ 56” N.*

*From the northern boundary extending southward to latitude 27° 30’ N, the eastern boundary is 1.0 nm due east of the western boundary of the HAPC, except between latitudes 29° 20’ 25” N. and 29° 8’ N., and between latitudes 28° 30’ 37” N. and 28° 14’ N., where shrimping is not allowed within the CHAPC.*

*From the southern boundary extending northward to latitude 27° 30’ N, the eastern boundary is 1.5 nm due east of the western boundary of the HAPC, except between latitudes 26° 57’ 6” N. and 26° 49’ 58” N., where shrimping is not allowed within the C-HAPC.*

**MOTION #3:** THE COUNCIL VOTED TO MOVE ALTERNATIVE 4 (SECTION 2.1.2) REGARDING ACOUSTIC MONITORING TO THE CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED APPENDIX.

**MOTION #4:** THE COUNCIL SELECTED THE NEWLY FORMED GOLDEN CRAB ALTERNATIVE TO BE INCLUDED IN THE AMENDMENT *(as follows).*

*Preferred Alternative 2.*

*Sub-Alternative 2a. Create an “Allowable Golden Crab Fishing Area” in the Northern Golden Crab Fishing Zone within the proposed Coral HAPC boundaries;*

*Sub-Alternative 2b. Create an “Allowable Golden Crab Fishing Area” in the Middle Golden Crab Fishing Zone within the proposed Coral HAPC boundaries; and*

*Sub-Alternative 2c. Create an “Allowable Golden Crab Fishing Area” in the Southern Golden Crab Fishing Zone within the proposed Coral HAPC boundaries.*

**MOTION #5:** THE COUNCIL ADOPTED THE NEW GOLDEN CRAB ALTERNATIVE AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE.

**MOTION #6:** THE COUNCIL APPROVED THE ALTERNATIVE SUGGESTED BY THE GOLDEN CRAB INDUSTRY AS AN ADDITIONAL ALTERNATIVE TO GO OUT FOR PUBLIC HEARING (*as follows*).

*Move the western boundary of the Northern and Middle Zone Golden Crab Allowable Gear Areas west to the boundary of the CHAPC to include the proposed Shrimp Fishery Access Areas.*

### **SNAPPER GROUPE**

#### **Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary**

**MOTION #1:** THE COUNCIL CONCURRED WITH GRAY'S REEF MOVING FORWARD WITH REGULATIONS THAT PROHIBIT ALL SPEARFISHING WITHIN THE GRAY'S REEF NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY.

#### **Amendment 15B**

**MOTION #2:** THE COUNCIL VOTED TO REAFFIRM ITS POSITION ON THE SALE OF FISH CAUGHT UNDER THE BAG LIMIT IN PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE 2 AS FOLLOWS: A SOUTH ATLANTIC SNAPPER GROUPE HARVESTED OR POSSESSED IN THE EEZ ON BOARD A VESSEL THAT DOES NOT HAVE A VALID FEDERAL COMMERCIAL PERMIT FOR THE SOUTH ATLANTIC SNAPPER GROUPE, OR A SOUTH ATLANTIC SNAPPER GROUPE POSSESSED UNDER THE BAG LIMITS, MAY NOT BE SOLD OR PURCHASED. A PERSON ABOARD A VESSEL WITH BOTH A FEDERAL FOR-HIRE VESSEL PERMIT AND A FEDERAL COMMERCIAL SNAPPER GROUPE PERMIT IS CONSIDERED TO BE FISHING AS FOR-HIRE WHEN FISHING AS DESCRIBED IN 50 CFR 622.2. SNAPPER GROUPE HARVESTED OR POSSESSED ON SUCH A TRIP MAY NOT BE SOLD OR PURCHASED, REGARDLESS OF WHERE IT IS HARVESTED.

**MOTION #3:** THE COUNCIL SPECIFIED THAT THE RECREATIONAL SNOWY GROUPE ALLOCATION IS 523 FISH (EQUIVALENT TO 4,400 POUNDS GUTTED WEIGHT).

**MOTION #4:** THE COUNCIL VOTED TO SEND AMENDMENT 15B TO THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR FORMAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL.

**MOTION #5:** THE COUNCIL VOTED TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED RULE AS MODIFIED FOR SNAPPER GROUPE AMENDMENT 15B.

**MOTION #6:** THE COUNCIL DELEGATED THE AUTHORITY TO THE COUNCIL CHAIRMAN TO REVIEW ANY EDITORIAL CHANGES TO THE PROPOSED RULE AND DEEM THEM AS NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE.

## **Amendment 16**

**MOTION #7:** SPLIT ALTERNATIVE 2 INTO 2A.-COMMERCIAL AND 2B. - RECREATIONAL WITH BOTH AS PREFERRED ALTERNATIVES (*Note: Alternative 2 specifies a gag spawning season closure for both the commercial and recreational sector. This split would create two alternatives, one specified for each sector.*)

**MOTION #8:** THE COUNCIL ADDED A NEW ALTERNATIVE THAT WOULD ESTABLISH A 1,000-POUND GAG GROUPER COMMERCIAL TRIP LIMIT WITH A FISHING YEAR START DATE OF MAY 1. IN ADDITION, DURING MARCH AND APRIL NO FISHING FOR AND/OR POSSESSION OF THE FOLLOWING SPECIES WOULD BE ALLOWED: GAG, BLACK GROUPER, RED GROUPER, SCAMP, RED HIND, ROCK HIND, YELLOWMOUTH GROUPER, TIGER GROUPER, YELLOWFIN GROUPER, GRAYSBY, AND CONEY.

**MOTION #9:** THE COUNCIL ADDED A NEW ALTERNATIVE THAT WOULD ESTABLISH A 1,000-POUND GAG GROUPER COMMERCIAL TRIP LIMIT WITH A FISHING YEAR START DATE OF JANUARY 1. IN ADDITION, DURING FEBRUARY, MARCH AND APRIL NO FISHING FOR AND/OR POSSESSION OF THE FOLLOWING SPECIES WOULD BE ALLOWED: GAG, BLACK GROUPER, RED GROUPER, SCAMP, RED HIND, ROCK HIND, YELLOWMOUTH GROUPER, TIGER GROUPER, YELLOWFIN GROUPER, GRAYSBY, AND CONEY.

**MOTION#10:** THE COUNCIL VOTED TO ESTABLISH AN ALTERNATIVE TO IMPLEMENT A MAY 1 FISHING YEAR START DATE AND A 1,000-POUND TRIP LIMIT FOR THE COMMERCIAL VERMILION SNAPPER FISHERY. (*Note: this does not include a seasonal split.*)

**MOTION #11:** THE COUNCIL APPROVED THE FOLLOWING ALTERNATIVE: SOUTH OF THE MIAMI-DADE/MONROE COUNTY LINE, NO FISHING FOR AND/OR POSSESSION OF THE FOLLOWING SPECIES WOULD BE ALLOWED DURING JUNE 1-DEC. 31: GAG, BLACK GROUPER, RED GROUPER, SCAMP, RED HIND, ROCK HIND, YELLOWMOUTH GROUPER, TIGER GROUPER, YELLOWFIN GROUPER, GRAYSBY, AND CONEY. NO FISHING FOR AND/OR POSSESSION OF GAG WOULD BE ALLOWED YEAR-ROUND SOUTH OF THE MIAMI-DADE/MONROE COUNTY LINE. FISHING FOR BLACK GROUPER, RED GROUPER, SCAMP, RED HIND, ROCK HIND, YELLOWMOUTH GROUPER, TIGER GROUPER, YELLOWFIN GROUPER, GRAYSBY, AND CONEY WOULD BE ALLOWED JAN.1-MAY 31 FOR MONROE COUNTY. (*Note: This would apply to both the recreational and commercial fisheries.*)

**Motion #12:** THE COUNCIL SPECIFIED THAT THE ANALYSIS OUTLINED IN THE PREVIOUS MOTION (11) WOULD BE CONTINGENT ON STAFF'S ABILITY TO ACCOMPLISH THE ANALYSIS WITHIN THE TIME CONSTRAINTS OF APPROVING AMENDMENT 16 AT THE SEPTEMBER 2008 COUNCIL MEETING.

**MOTION #13:** THE COUNCIL VOTED TO REQUIRE USE OF VENTING AND DEHOOKING TOOLS (ALTERNATIVE 3).

**MOTION #14:** THE COUNCIL ADOPTED ALTERNATIVE 3 AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE AND IT APPLIES TO THE COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL SNAPPER GROUPEL FISHERIES. *(Note: This refers to the action to require the use of venting and dehooking tools.)*

**Other Actions**

**MOTION #15:** THE COUNCIL VOTED TO MOVE GREATER AMBERJACK AND MUTTON SNAPPER FROM AMENDMENT 17 TO THE COMPREHENSIVE ACL AMENDMENT AND MOVE RED SNAPPER FROM AMENDMENT 18 INTO AMENDMENT 17.

**MOTION #16:** THE COUNCIL DIRECTED STAFF TO DEVELOP A LETTER TO THE REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR REQUESTING THE REGIONAL OFFICE DEVELOP AN INTERIM RULE CLOSING HARVEST OF RED SNAPPER AND IMPLEMENTING THE REDUCTIONS IN FISHING MORTALITY AS SPECIFIED IN THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVES IN AMENDMENT 16 FOR GAG GROUPEL, VERMILION SNAPPER, BLACK GROUPEL, AND RED GROUPEL. *(Note: The intent is the Interim Rule would be brought before the Council for consideration at the September 2008 meeting.)*

**MOTION #17:** THE COUNCIL APPROVED WRITING A LETTER TO NMFS REQUESTING THAT THE SENTENCE THAT SPECIFIES A SPEED IN EXCESS OF 4 KNOTS AND A VISIBLE WAKE BE REMOVED FROM THE PROPOSED REGULATIONS IN AMENDMENT 14.

**OTHER MOTIONS**

**MOTION #1:** THE COUNCIL VOTED TO RECOMMEND THAT THE REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR APPROVE THE EXEMPTED FISHERY PERMIT REQUEST SUBMITTED BY THE GULF AND SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERIES FOUNDATION.