

**SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL MEETING
JEKYLL ISLAND, MARCH 7, 2008
SUMMARY COUNCIL MOTIONS**

JOINT EXECUTIVE/FINANCE

MOTION #1: The Council approved the CY 2008 budget.

JOINT HABITAT/ECOSYSTEM

Comprehensive Ecosystem Plan and Amendment

MOTION #1: The Council voted to add VMS requirements for the golden crab fishery.

MOTION #2: The Council voted to include all the alternative boundaries proposed by the Deepwater Shrimp Advisory Panel (AP) and fishing areas proposed by the Golden Crab AP to take to public hearings as part of the proposed deepwater coral Habitat Areas of Particular Concern in the Comprehensive Ecosystem Amendment.

MOTION #3: The Council approved the Comprehensive Fishery Ecosystem Plan and for public hearings.

Limited Access Privilege Programs

MOTION #1: The Council voted to develop an outreach program on Limited Access Privilege Programs (LAPP) and encourage fishermen to submit LAPP ideas for consideration.

MOTION #2: The Council instructed staff to contact members of the commercial golden tilefish fishery and explore the possibility of a LAPP for that fishery.

SHRIMP

Shrimp Amendment 7

MOTION #1: The Council voted to make Alternative 2 - *Remove the 15,000-pound rock shrimp landing requirement* - the preferred alternative under Action 1 in Shrimp Amendment 7.

MOTION #2: The Council voted to move Alternatives 3 and 4 under Action 1 to Appendix A (Considered but rejected alternatives).

MOTION #3: The Council moved old Alternative 4 under Action 1 to Appendix A (Considered but rejected alternatives).

MOTION #4: The Council moved Alternative 2 under Action 2 to Appendix A (Considered but rejected alternatives).

MOTION #5: The Council voted to make Alternative 4 - *Reinstate all endorsements lost due to not meeting the landing requirement of 15,000 pounds of rock shrimp in one of four consecutive calendar years* - the preferred alternative under Action 2 in Shrimp Amendment 7.

MOTION #6: The Council voted to modify Alternative 2 to read “*Reinstate all endorsements for those who renewed their permit in the year in which they failed to renew their endorsement. Require rock shrimpers eligible to have their endorsement reinstated to apply for a limited access endorsement within one year after the effective date of the final rule for this amendment*” and to make Alternative 2 the preferred alternative under Action 3 in Shrimp Amendment 7. *This would only apply to fishermen who have had an endorsement at one time.*

MOTION #7: The Council voted to make Alternative 3 - *Require all South Atlantic shrimp permit holders to provide economic data if selected to do so* - the preferred alternative under Action 4 in Shrimp Amendment 7.

MOTION #8: The Council added a new Action 5 to clarify that there would be two types of permits: (1) a limited access permit that would allow permit holders to fish throughout the range of the fishery (North Carolina through Florida) and (2) an open access permit that would only allow permit holders to fish in North and South Carolina. Vessels would only be allowed to hold one type of permit.

SNAPPER GROUPE

Amendment 16

MOTION #1: The Council adopted Alternatives 2, 3 and 5A as the preferred alternatives under the action to reduce fishing mortality of gag in Snapper Grouper Amendment 16.

Alternative 2. Establish a gag spawning season closure January through April that applies to both the commercial (20% reduction) and recreational (31% reduction) sectors; no fishing for and/or possession of gag would be allowed. In addition, no fishing for and/or possession of the following species would be allowed: black grouper, red grouper, scamp, red hind, rock hind, yellowmouth grouper, tiger grouper, yellowfin grouper, graysby, and coney.

Alternative 3. Directed Commercial Quota. Establish the following directed quota (Table 4-17 below) (quota after PQBM has been subtracted) for 2009 onwards until modified. After the commercial quota is met, all purchase and sale of the following species is prohibited and harvest and/or possession is limited to the bag limit: gag, black grouper, red grouper, scamp, red hind, rock hind, yellowmouth grouper, tiger grouper, yellowfin grouper, graysby, and coney.

Table 4-17. Commercial quotas associated with allocation alternatives for gag taking into consideration estimate of PQBM. Allocation alternative 2 is preferred.

<i>With Jan-April Gag Seasonal Closure</i>			
	Preferred Allocation Alt 2	Allocation Alt 3	Allocation Alt 4
Commercial quota	353,940	458,040	423,340
PQBM	1,000	0	0
Directed quota	352,940	458,040	423,340
<i>With no Jan-April Gag Seasonal Closure</i>			
	Preferred Allocation Alt 2	Allocation Alt 3	Allocation Alt 4
Commercial quota	353,940	458,040	423,340
PQBM	7,000	1,000	1,000
Directed quota	346,940	457,040	422,340

Notes:
Dif

ferent values of PQBM could be used in the future. PQBM is rounded to the nearest 1,000 lbs. Weight is in lbs gutted weight.

***Alternative 5a.** Reduce the 5-grouper aggregate bag limit to a 3-grouper aggregate bag limit, reduce the existing bag limit from 2 gag or black grouper to 1 gag or black grouper within the grouper aggregate bag limit, and exclude the captain and crew on for-hire vessels from possessing a bag limit for groupers..*

MOTION #2: The Council voted to change Alternative 4 under the action to reduce fishing mortality of gag to indicate quotas will be tracked by dealer reporting and remove state trip ticket and logbook tracking. Alternative 4 now reads:

***Alternative 4. Divide the directed commercial quota into two regions:** Allocate 63.3% to North and South Carolina (224,044 pounds gutted weight) and 36.7% to Georgia and Florida (129,896 pounds gutted weight). Each region’s directed quota (after adjustment for PQBM) would be tracked through dealer reporting. After the commercial quota is met in either region, all purchase and sale is prohibited in that region and harvest and/or possession is limited to the bag limit in that region.*

MOTION #3. Adopt Alternative 2 under the action to reduce fishing mortality of vermilion snapper as the preferred alternative.

***Alternative 2. Directed Commercial Quota.** Establish a directed commercial quota based on an interim allocation of 68% commercial and 32% recreational. After the commercial quota is met, all purchase and sale is prohibited and harvest and/or possession is limited to the bag limit.*

MOTION #4. The Council voted to adopt Alternative 3A under the action to reduce fishing mortality of vermilion snapper as the preferred alternative.

Alternative 3A. *Allocate the directed commercial quota 50% to the period January 1st through June 30th and 50% to the period July 1st through December 31st . Any remaining quota from period 1 would transfer to period 2. Any remaining quota from period 2 would not be carried forward.*

MOTION #5. The Council voted to adopt Alternative 4D as the preferred alternative under the action to reduce fishing mortality of vermilion snapper with an extended closure through May 15th. Alternative 4D now reads:

Alternative 4D. *Reduce the bag limit from 10 to 4 vermilion snapper and a season closure (no fishing for and/or possession) from October 1st through May 15th.*

MOTION #6: The Council adopted Alternative 5C as preferred alternative under the action to require the use of venting tools, dehooking tools, and circle hooks. Alternative 5C now reads:

Alternative 5C. *Reduce recreational and commercial bycatch mortality by requiring the following for a person on board a vessel to fish for snapper grouper species in the South Atlantic EEZ: (a) use of venting and dehooking tools and (b) use of non-offset, non-stainless steel circle hooks when using natural baits to fish for snapper grouper species in both the commercial and recreational snapper grouper fisheries.*

MOTION #7: The Council approved Amendment 16 for public hearing.

Amendment 17

MOTION #8: The Council voted to retain Sub-alternatives 5A through 5D under the action to specify accountability measures in Amendment 17.

Sub-alternative 5A. *Establish a six-month seasonal closure for snowy grouper or deepwater snapper grouper unit during winter months.*

Sub-alternative 5B. *Establish regional quotas for snowy grouper or the deepwater snapper grouper unit.*

Sub-alternative 5C. *Restrict the number of hooks in the deepwater recreational fishery.*

Sub-alternative 5D. *Limit retention of deep water snapper grouper species to one fish per vessel.*

MOTION #9: The Council then reconsidered and voted to remove Sub-alternative 5A under the action to specify accountability measures from Amendment 17.

Sub-alternative 5A. *Establish six-month seasonal closure for snowy grouper or deepwater snapper grouper unit during winter months.*

MOTION #10: The Council further reconsidered and voted to exclude Sub-alternative 5D under the action to specify accountability measures from Amendment 17.

***Sub-alternative 5D.** Limit retention of deep water snapper grouper species to one fish per vessel.*

MOTION #11: The Council voted to delete Alternative 4 (including Sub-alternatives 4A through 4F) under the action to specify accountability measures from Amendment 17.

***Alternative 4.** Limit the number of sea bass tags and pots.*

MOTION #12: The Council voted to move red snapper actions from Amendment 17 into a new amendment and to hold scoping meetings on the new amendment in conjunction with public hearings for Amendment 16.

MOTION #13: The Council voted to remove the measures under Section 2.2.2.3 from Amendment 17.

2.2.2.3 Measures to Monitor Progress of a Fishery and Reduce Chance of Exceeding ACL

***Alternative 1 (no action).** Do not change methods to monitor commercial and recreational landings.*

***Alternative 2.** Commercial sector – track landings using logbooks, dealer reports & trip tickets; close fishery when quota projected to be met; incorporate PQBM.*

***Alternative 3.** Recreational sector – track landings using MRFSS & Headboat; change regulations and/or close fishery when allocation projected to be met; incorporate PQBM. **Alternative 4.** Improve recreational catch data – for-hire logbooks; private recreational logbooks.*

***Alternative 5.** Improve biological sampling – specify numbers of sample by species to be collected and analyzed with deadlines based on SEDAR assessment schedule.*

***Alternative 6.** Improve bycatch data – fully implement ACCSP.*

***Alternative 7.** Improve fishery independent surveys.*

***Alternative 8.** Others?*

MOTION #14: The Council voted to move the action (in Amendment 17) intended to remove species from the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Unit to the second Annual Catch Limit document that will be developed later.

SSC SELECTION COMMITTEE

MOTION #1: The Council appointed Sherry Larkin, John Whitehead, and Scott Crosson as members of the new SAFMC SSC.

MOTION #2: The Council also appointed Carolyn Belcher, Jeff Buckle, Doug Gregory, Erik Williams, Luiz Barbieri, Alex Chester, Pat Harris, Ken Pollock, Christine Burgess, Anne Lange, Marcel Reichert, Yan Jiao, and Andy Cooper as members of the new SAFMC SSC

OTHER

MOTION #1: The Council approved the modified 2008 FMP/Amendment /Framework Timelines.

MOTION #2: The Council recommended that the Regional Administrator approve the Exempted Fishery Permit requested by Tom Burgess.