

**SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
MEETING**

**ATLANTIC BEACH, NORTH CAROLINA
DECEMBER 7, 2006**

SUMMARY COUNCIL MOTIONS

COASTAL MIGRATORY PELAGICS

MOTION #1: THE COUNCIL APPROVED MACKEREL AMENDMENT 18 FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS.

SNAPPER GROUPEL

AMENDMENT 15

MOTION #1: THE COUNCIL APPROVED A MODIFICATION OF ALTERNATIVE 2A AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE (25 FISH AGGREGATE TRIP LIMIT FOR THE DEEPWATER UNIT EXCLUDING SILK SNAPPER). SNOWY GROUPEL, YELLOWEDGE GROUPEL, WARSAW GROUPEL, SPECKLED HIND, MISTY GROUPEL, AND QUEEN SNAPPER ARE INCLUDED IN THE AGGREGATE.

MOTION #2: THE COUNCIL ADOPTED REBUILDING STRATEGIES FOR SNOWY GROUPEL, RED PORGY AND BLACK SEA BASS (THAT INCORPORATE BYCATCH) AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE. THEY VOTED TO INCLUDE A PROVISION FOR UP TO 20% OF THE QUOTA TO BE CARRIED OVER TO THE FOLLOWING YEAR; UNDERAGES MAY ONLY BE CARRIED FOR ONE YEAR.

MOTION #3: THE COUNCIL VOTED TO ADOPT ALTERNATIVE 2 AS THE PREFERRED FOR SEA TURTLE AND SMALLTOOTH SAWFISH AS FOLLOWS:

Alternative 2. Require all vessels with commercial and for-hire snapper grouper vessel permits to comply with regulations consistent with the sea turtle bycatch release equipment and protocols specified in 50 CFR 635.21(a)(3), (c)(5)(i), and (ii)(Appendix D). All vessels must have a copy of the document provided by NMFS titled, "Careful Release Protocols for Sea Turtle Release With Minimal Injury" (Appendix E) posted inside the wheelhouse, or within a waterproof case if no wheelhouse. These vessels would also be required to have the following items on board:

- a long-handled line clipper or cutter,**
- a long-handled dehooker for ingested hooks,**
- a long-handled dehooker for external hooks,**
- a long-handled device to pull an "inverted V",**
- a dipnet,**
- a tire (or other comparable cushioned, elevated surface that immobilizes boated sea turtles),**

- a short-handled dehooker for ingested hooks,
- a short-handled dehooker for external hooks,
- long-nose or needle-nose pliers,
- bolt cutters,
- monofilament line cutters,
- at least two types of mouth openers/mouth gags.

This equipment must meet the specifications described in 50 CFR 635.21(c)(5)(i)(A-L).

Require all vessels with commercial and for-hire snapper grouper permits that incidentally catch a smalltooth sawfish to follow the latest NMFS approved guidance on smalltooth sawfish release techniques (available at [to be added later]). This currently states to (1) keep the smalltooth sawfish in the water at all times and do not attempt to handle the animal; (2) if it can be done safely, untangle the line if it is wrapped around the saw, and try to remove the hook(s) with a long-handled dehooker if one is on board; (3) if the hook cannot be removed, cut the line as close to the hook as possible.

MOTION #4: THE COUNCIL VOTED TO BEGIN TO EXPLORE THE DEVELOPMENT OF LAPP'S IN THE SNAPPER GROUPER FISHERY DURING 2007.

MOTION #5: THE COUNCIL DIRECTED STAFF TO ADD A SUITE OF ALTERNATIVES TO AMENDMENT 15 THAT WOULD LIMIT THE NUMBER OF BLACK SEA BASS TRAP TAGS THAT WOULD BE ISSUED TO ANY PARTICULAR PERMIT HOLDER

ADVISORY PANEL SELECTION

THROUGH A SERIES OF MOTIONS, THE COUNCIL TOOK THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS:

APPOINTED MARGO STILES TO THE CORAL AP.

APPOINTED DR. CHRISTOPHER ELKINS TO THE HABITAT & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AP.

APPOINTED RICHARD VENDETTI, JR. TO THE SHRIMP AP.

APPOINTED LEROY GOULD, SCOTT OSBORNE AND SCOTT ZIMMERMAN TO THE SNAPPER GROUPER AP.

APPOINTED SAMMY RAY TO THE WRECKFISH SUBPANEL OF THE SNAPPER GROUPER AP.

CONTROLLED ACCESS

MOTION #1: THE COUNCIL VOTED TO HOLD A CONTROLLED ACCESS COMMITTEE MEETING IN JANUARY 2007 TO DISCUSS GOALS FOR A LAPP PROGRAM.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

MOTION #1: THE COUNCIL VOTED TO PROHIBIT THE USE OF SHARK BOTTOM LONGLINES WITHIN THE PROPOSED MPAS, WITHOUT EXCEPTION.

MOTION #2: THE COUNCIL VOTED TO EXPLORE CONNECTING THE SATELLITE OCULINA HAPCs INTO ONE LARGER HAPC (FROM THE COMMON WESTERN MOST LONGITUDE).

MOTION #3: THE COUNCIL VOTED TO CONTINUE TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF THE SALE OF TOURNAMENT CAUGHT FISH.

OTHER MOTIONS

MOTION #1: REQUEST HMS IMPLEMENT NEW RULEMAKING TO ALLOW USE OF GREENSTICKS BY GENERAL CATEGORY TUNA PERMIT HOLDERS.

MOTION #2: THE COUNCIL APPROVED SENDING A LETTER TO THE STATE OF VIRGINIA REQUESTING THAT THEY IMPLEMENT SOUTH ATLANTIC SNAPPER GROUPEER REGULATIONS ON BLUELINE TILEFISH AND SNOWY GROUPEER.