

SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA

DECEMBER 1-5, 2014

SUMMARY OF APPROVED COUNCIL MOTIONS

SNAPPER GROUPE

The Council approved the following motions relative to Snapper Grouper:

Regulatory Amendment 16 (black sea bass pot closure)

MOTION #1: MODIFY THE NEED AS FOLLOWS, “THE NEED FOR THE AMENDMENT IS TO MINIMIZE SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACTS INCREASE SOCIO-ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO BLACK SEA BASS POT ENDORSEMENT HOLDERS WHILE CONSIDERING THE NEED TO PROTECT MAINTAINING PROTECTION FOR ESA-LISTED WHALES IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC REGION.”

MOTION #2: ACCEPT THE IPT’S WORDING FOR ALTERNATIVE 8 AND SUB-ALTERNATIVES 8A AND 8B UNDER ACTION 1.

Alternative 8. *The black sea bass pot closure applies to the area currently designated as North Atlantic right whale critical habitat, in addition to waters inshore of points 1-29 listed below (Table 2.1.5), approximately North of the Altamaha River, Georgia, to Cape Hatteras, North Carolina (Figure 2.1.6).*

Sub-alternative 8a. *The black sea bass pot closure applies to the area annually from November 1 through December 15 and March 15 through April 30.*

Sub-alternative 8b. *For the area off North Carolina and South Carolina, the black sea bass pot closure applies annually from November 1 through December 15 and March 15 through April 30. For the area off Georgia and Florida, the black sea bass pot closure applies annually from November 15 through April 15.*

Note: Federal regulations would only apply to that portion of the area within the South Atlantic EEZ. The states will be asked to implement compatible regulations for the portion of the area within state waters.

Note: This area represents North Atlantic right whale critical habitat in the South Atlantic region designated on June 3, 1994. Off North Carolina and South Carolina, the black sea bass pot closure applies in the exclusive economic zone in waters shallower than 20 meters. The eastern boundary of the closure between these two areas was formed by drawing a straight line from the southeastern corner waypoint of the northern portion (NC/SC) to the northeastern corner waypoint of the southern section (FL/GA).”

MOTION #3: ADD A NEW ALTERNATIVE 9 UNDER ACTION 1.

Alternative 9. *The black sea bass pot closure applies to the area currently designated as North Atlantic right whale critical habitat, in addition to waters inshore of points 1-29 listed below (Table 2.1.5), approximately North of the Altamaha River, Georgia, to Cape Hatteras,*

North Carolina (Figure 2.1.6). For the area off North Carolina and South Carolina, the black sea bass pot closure applies annually from February 15 through April 30. For the area off Georgia and Florida, the black sea bass pot closure applies annually from November 15 through April 15.

Note: *Federal regulations would only apply to that portion of the area within the South Atlantic EEZ. The states will be asked to implement compatible regulations for the portion of the area within state waters.*

Note: *This area represents North Atlantic right whale critical habitat in the South Atlantic region designated on June 3, 1994. Off North Carolina and South Carolina, the black sea bass pot closure applies in the exclusive economic zone in waters shallower than 20 meters. The eastern boundary of the closure between these two areas was formed by drawing a straight line from the southeastern corner waypoint of the northern portion (NC/SC) to the northeastern corner waypoint of the southern section (FL/GA).*

MOTION #4: ADD NEW ACTION 2 - GEAR MODIFICATION.

Action 2: *Gear Modification.*

Alternative 1 (No Action). *Status quo.*

Alternative 2. *Specify a buoy line strength less than or equal to 2200 lbs and a weak link less than or equal to 400 lbs for black sea bass pots in the south Atlantic EEZ.*

Alternative 3: ~~*Line marking requirements.*~~

MOTION #5: SUBSTITUTE THE WORDING IN ALTERNATIVE 3 UNDER ACTION 2 WITH THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGE: “EXISTING TRAP/POT BUOY LINE MARKING REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED IN THE ATLANTIC LARGE WHALE TAKE REDUCTION PLAN WILL BE SUPPLEMENTED TO INCLUDE A DISTINGUISHING FEATURE SPECIFICALLY LINKED TO THE SOUTH ATLANTIC BLACK SEA BASS POT FISHERY. IN ADDITION TO THE 3 12-INCH COLOR MARKS AT THE TOP, MIDWAY, AND BOTTOM SECTIONS OF THE BUOY LINE SPECIFIED FOR THE INDIVIDUAL MANAGEMENT AREA IN WHICH THE GEAR IS DEPLOYED, A 2-INCH WIDE COLORED BAND WILL BE ADDED AT THE CENTER OF EACH REQUIRED 12-INCH COLORED MARK.”

MOTION #6: ADD ALTERNATIVES 10 AND 11 TO ACTION 1.

Alternative 10 (hybrid of 6 & 8): *The black sea bass pot closure applies to waters inshore of points 1-35 listed below (Table 1), basically Cape Canaveral, Florida, to Cape Hatteras, North Carolina.*

Sub-alternative 10a. *The black sea bass pot closure applies to the area annually from November 1 through April 15.*

Sub-alternative 10b. *For the area off North Carolina and South Carolina, the black sea bass pot closure applies annually from November 1 through December 15 and February 15 through April 30. For the area off Georgia and Florida, the black sea bass pot closure applies annually from November 15 through April 15.*

***Note:** Federal regulations would only apply to that portion of the area within the South Atlantic EEZ. The states will be asked to implement compatible regulations for the portion of the area within state waters.*

***Note:** This area, based on joint comments received from non-governmental organizations, and also included in a Center for Biological Diversity et al. petition in 2009 for right whale critical habitat, is off the coasts of Georgia and Florida and based on calving right whale habitat modeling work of Garrison (2007) and Keller et al. (2012). This area represents the 75th percentile of sightings (91% of historical sightings included in their study) off Florida and Georgia (Garrison 2007 and Keller et al. 2012). Off North Carolina and South Carolina, the black sea bass pot closure applies in the exclusive economic zone in waters shallower than 25 meters.*

***Alternative 11 (hybrid of 6 & 4):** The black sea bass pot closure applies to waters inshore of points 1-18 listed below (Table 2), basically Cape Canaveral, Florida, to Cape Hatteras, North Carolina.*

***Sub-alternative 11a.** The black sea bass pot closure applies to the area annually from November 1 through April 15.*

***Sub-alternative 11b.** For the area off North Carolina and South Carolina, the black sea bass pot closure applies annually from November 1 through December 15 and February 15 through April 30. For the area off Georgia and Florida, the black sea bass pot closure applies annually from November 15 through April 15.*

***Note:** Federal regulations would only apply to that portion of the area within the South Atlantic EEZ. The states will be asked to implement compatible regulations for the portion of the area within state waters.*

***Note:** This area likely represents North Atlantic right whale calving habitat off the coasts of Georgia and Florida and is based on calving right whale habitat modeling work of Garrison (2007) and Keller et al. (2012). This area represents the 75th percentile of sightings (91% of historical sightings included in their study) off Florida and Georgia (Garrison 2007 and Keller et al. 2012). From Point 11 north to Cape Fear, North Carolina, is based on model outputs (i.e., Garrison 2007, Keller et al. 2012, Good 2008). The area from Cape Fear, North Carolina, to Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, is an extrapolation of those model outputs and based on sea surface temperatures and bathymetry. Off North Carolina and South Carolina, the black sea bass pot closure applies in the exclusive economic zone in waters shallower than 20 meters.*

MOTION #7: CLARIFY THAT IN SUB-ALTERNATIVE 11B THE CLOSURE WOULD APPLY TO WATERS SHALLOWER THAN 20 METERS IN THE FALL MONTHS AND SHALLOWER THAN 25 METERS IN THE SPRING MONTHS.

MOTION #8: REMOVE ALTERNATIVE 2 UNDER ACTION 1 FROM CONSIDERATION AND MOVE THE ALTERNATIVE TO THE “CONSIDERED, BUT REJECTED” APPENDIX.

MOTION #9: APPROVE THE FOLLOWING TIMELINE FOR SNAPPER GROUPER REGULATORY AMENDMENT 16:

DEC 2014 -- ADD/REMOVE ALTERNATIVES.
JAN 2015 -- TAKE TO LARGE WHALE TAKE REDUCTION TEAM.
DEC 2014 - MAR 2015 -- CONDUCT ADDITIONAL BIOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF ALTERNATIVES.
MAR 2015 -- REVIEW THE DOCUMENT, CHOOSE PREFERRED, INITIATE DEIS.
MAR - JUN -- REVISE DOCUMENT.
JUN -- REVIEW DOCUMENT AND VOTE TO SEND OUT TO PUBLIC HEARING
AUG -- CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARINGS.
SEPT -- REVIEW PUBLIC HEARINGS COMMENTS AND DRAFT BIOLOGICAL OPINION.
DEC 2015 -- FINAL VOTE ON SENDING TO THE SECRETARY FOR FORMAL REVIEW AT NORTH CAROLINA MEETING.

Regulatory Amendment 22 (Gag & Wreckfish)

MOTION #10: ADOPT THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGE FOR THE PURPOSE AND NEED:

Purpose: The purpose for the amendment is to: adjust annual catch limits (ACL) and optimum yield (OY) for gag and wreckfish, and assess the need to modify the recreational bag limit for gag.

Need: The need for the amendment is to (1) address the recent stock assessment results for gag and wreckfish, and prevent overfishing while minimizing, to the extent practicable, adverse social and economic effects; and (2) to ensure the gag recreational bag limit is set at an appropriate level to foster sustainable harvest rates of the species.

MOTION #11: DESELECT ALTERNATIVE 2 AND SELECT ALTERNATIVE 3 AS PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE FOR ACTION 1.

Alternative 3. $ACL = OY = 0.95 * \text{Proposed ABC}$. The ACL for 2019 would remain in place until modified.

MOTION #12: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 1 (NO ACTION) AS PREFERRED FOR ACTION 2.

MOTION #13: APPROVE SNAPPER GROUPER REGULATORY AMENDMENT 22 FOR SECRETARIAL REVIEW.

MOTION #14: DEEM THE CODIFIED TEXT FOR REGULATORY AMENDMENT 22 AS NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE AND GIVE STAFF EDITORIAL LICENSE TO MAKE ANY NECESSARY EDITORIAL CHANGES TO THE DOCUMENT/CODIFIED TEXT AND GIVE THE COUNCIL CHAIR AUTHORITY TO APPROVE THE REVISIONS AND REDEEM THE CODIFIED TEXT

Amendment 36 (Spawning SMZs)

MOTION #15: ACCEPT THE IPT'S RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE PURPOSE AND NEED.

Purpose: Identify important spawning habitat for snapper grouper species that can be designated for protection to enhance spawning and increase recruitment. Reduce bycatch *and bycatch mortality* of snapper grouper species, including speckled hind and warsaw grouper. Align the existing South Carolina MPA with the permitted site.

Need: Protect spawning fish; promote recruitment; and reduce bycatch *and bycatch mortality* of economically and ecologically important snapper grouper species, including speckled hind and warsaw grouper, while minimizing *negative short-term social and economic effects and maximizing beneficial long-term*, to the extent practicable, social and economic impacts to snapper grouper fishermen. Move the existing South Carolina MPA.

MOTION #16: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 2 UNDER ACTION 1 AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE.

Action 1. *Modify the Special Management Zone (SMZ) procedure.*

Alternative 2. *Modify the SMZ procedure to include protection of natural bottom important for spawning by designating Spawning SMZs.*

MOTION #17: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 2 UNDER ACTION 2 AS PREFERRED

Action 2. *Modify the framework procedure to allow modifications of and/or additional Spawning Special Management Zones (Spawning SMZs).*

Alternative 2. *Modify the framework for the Snapper Grouper FMP to include modifying or establishing new Spawning SMZs.*

MOTION #18: ACCEPT THE IPT WORDING FOR REVISING ACTION 3 AND THE ALTERNATIVES.

Action 3. *Establish Spawning Special Management Zones (Spawning SMZs) off North Carolina*

Alternative 1. No Action. *There are no Spawning SMZs off North Carolina. Fishing for, harvest, and/or possession of species in the snapper grouper fishery management unit are prohibited year-round in the Snowy Grouper Wreck MPA (190 square miles).*

Alternative 2. *Establish Spawning SMZs in the MALCHASE WRECK area that prohibits fishing for, harvest, and/or possession of species in the snapper grouper fishery management unit year-round.*

Sub-alternative 2a. *Malchase Wreck (2.47 square miles)*

Sub-alternative 2b. *Malchase Wreck (2.25 square nautical miles)*

Sub-alternative 2b. *Malchase Wreck (1 square mile)*

Alternative 3. *Establish Spawning SMZs in the 780 BOTTOM area that prohibits fishing for, harvest, and/or possession of species in the snapper grouper fishery management unit year-round.*

Sub-alternative 3a. *780 Bottom (LARGER AREA square miles)*

Sub-alternative 3b. *780 Bottom (smaller portion)*

Sub-alternative 3c. *780 Bottom (still smaller portion)*

MOTION #19: ACCEPT THE IPT RECOMMENDATION FOR THE CHANGES TO ACTION 4.

Action 4. Establish Spawning Special Management Zones (Spawning SMZs) off South Carolina.

Alternative 1. No Action. There are no Spawning SMZs off South Carolina. Fishing for, harvest, and/or possession of species in the snapper grouper fishery management unit are prohibited year-round in the Northern South Carolina (67 square miles), Edisto (66 square miles), and the Charleston Deep Artificial Reef (28 square miles) MPAs.

Alternative 2. Establish Spawning SMZs in the DEVIL'S HOLE area that prohibits fishing for, harvest, and/or possession of species in the snapper grouper fishery management unit year-round.

Sub-alternative 2a. Devil's Hole 3 (LARGER AREA 27 square miles)

Sub-alternative 2b. Devil's Hole 3 (smaller portion)

Sub-alternative 2c. Devil's Hole (1 square mile)

Alternative 3. Establish Spawning SMZs in the AREA 51 area that prohibits fishing for, harvest, and/or possession of species in the snapper grouper fishery management unit year-round (2.24 square nautical miles).

Alternative 4. Establish Spawning SMZs in the AREA 53 area that prohibits fishing for, harvest, and/or possession of species in the snapper grouper fishery management unit year-round (2.24 square nautical miles).

MOTION #20: ACCEPT THE IPT'S RECOMMENDED CHANGES FOR ACTION 5.

Action 5. Establish Spawning Special Management Zones (Spawning SMZs) off Georgia

Alternative 1. No Action. There are no Spawning SMZs off Georgia. Fishing for, harvest, and/or possession of species in the snapper grouper fishery management unit are prohibited year-round in the Georgia MPA (102 square miles).

Alternative 2. Establish Spawning SMZs in the GEORGIA MPA RECONFIGURATION area that prohibits fishing for, harvest, and/or possession of species in the snapper grouper fishery management unit year-round.

Sub-alternative 2a. Georgia MPA Reconfiguration (area outside the existing MPA; LARGER AREA slightly less than 79 square miles)

Sub-alternative 2b. Georgia MPA Reconfiguration (area outside the existing MPA; smaller area significantly less than 79 square miles)

Sub-alternative 2c. Georgia MPA Reconfiguration (area outside the existing MPA; even smaller areas significantly less than 79 square miles)

Alternative 3. Establish Spawning SMZs in the ST. SIMONS area that prohibits fishing for, harvest, and/or possession of species in the snapper grouper fishery management unit year-round.

Sub-alternative 3a. St. Simons 2 Area (LARGER AREA 45 square miles)

Sub-alternative 3b. St. Simons 2 Area (SMALLER AREA less than 45 square miles)

Sub-alternative 3c. St. Simons 2 Area (even smaller AREA than 45 square miles)

MOTION #21: ACCEPT THE IPT'S RECOMMENDED CHANGES FOR ACTION 6.

Action 6. Establish Special Management Zones (Spawning SMZs) off Florida

Alternative 1. No Action. There are no Spawning SMZs off Florida. Fishing for, harvest,

and/or possession of species in the snapper grouper fishery management unit is prohibited year-round in the North Florida (X miles), Oculina Experimental Closed Area (108 square miles), St. Lucia Hump (9 square miles), and the East Hump (66 square miles) MPAs.

Alternative 2. *Establish Spawning SMZs in the WARSAW HOLE area that prohibits fishing for, harvest, and/or possession of species in the snapper grouper fishery management unit year-round.*

Sub-alternative 2a. *Warsaw Hole (2 square miles)*

Sub-alternative 2b. *Warsaw Hole (less than 2 square miles)*

Alternative 3. *Establish Spawning SMZs in the DAYTONA STEEPLES area that prohibits fishing for, harvest, and/or possession of species in the snapper grouper fishery management unit year-round.*

Sub-alternative 3a. *Daytona Steeples (LAREGER AREA 27 square miles)*

Sub-alternative 3b. *Daytona Steeples (SMALLER AREA less than 27 square miles)*

Sub-alternative 3c. *Daytona Steeples (even smaller AREA than 27 square miles)*

MOTION #22: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 2 UNDER ACTION 7 AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE.

Action 7. *Move the Existing Charleston Deep Artificial Reef MPA 1.4 miles to the Northwest to Match the Boundary of the Permitted Site*

Alternative 2. *Move the Existing Charleston Deep Artificial Reef MPA 1.4 miles to the northwest to match the boundary of the permitted site.*

MOTION #23: REMOVE ACTION 8 FROM AMENDMENT 36.

Action 8. *Consider Time-Area Spawning Closures.*

MOTION #24: ADD AN ACTION TO OUTLINE THE TRANSIT PROVISIONS AND THE ANCHORING PROVISIONS.

Amendment 35 (Remove Species)

MOTION #25: ACCEPT THE IPT'S EDITS TO THE PURPOSE AND NEED.

Purpose: *The purpose of Amendment 35 is to ensure that only snapper grouper species that require federal management are included in the Snapper Grouper FMP, that regulations for snapper grouper species in south Florida are as consistent as possible across state and federal jurisdictional boundaries, and that regulations implemented to govern the use of golden tilefish longline endorsements are aligned with the South Atlantic Council's intent for establishing the endorsement program.*

Need: *In accordance with national standards set forth in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the need for Amendment 35 is to simplify federal management of the snapper grouper fishery without reducing protection for species rarely caught in states other than Florida, make regulations consistent across jurisdictional boundaries, and ensure that regulations for commercially harvested golden tilefish are clear as to what quota golden tilefish longline endorsement holders may fish under; while minimizing, to the extent practicable, adverse socioeconomic impacts.*

MOTION #26: SELECT ALTERNATIVES 2-5 AS PREFERRED ALTERNATIVES UNDER ACTION 1

Action 1. Remove species from the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Unit (FMU)

Alternative 1. No Action. Retain the four species in the Snapper Grouper FMU.

*Alternative 2. Remove black snapper (*Apsilus dentatus*) from the Snapper Grouper FMU.*

*Alternative 3. Remove dog snapper (*Lutjanus jocu*) from the Snapper Grouper FMU.*

*Alternative 4. Remove mahogany snapper (*Lutjanus mahogoni*) from the Snapper Grouper FMU.*

*Alternative 5. Remove schoolmaster (*Lutjanus apodus*) from the Snapper Grouper FMU.*

Note: *This species is currently an ecosystem component species.*

MOTION #27: MOVE ALTERNATIVE 4 UNDER ACTION 2 TO THE CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED APPENDIX.

Action 2. Clarify regulations for the golden tilefish longline endorsement to reflect the South Atlantic Council's intent regarding to which gear-specific quota endorsement holders may fish under.

Alternative 4. Revise the golden tilefish longline endorsement regulations to indicate that vessels with golden tilefish endorsements are eligible to fish for golden tilefish using hook-and-line gear under the 500-pound gutted weight golden tilefish hook-and-line trip limit.

MOTION #28: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 3 UNDER ACTION 2 AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE.

Alternative 3. Revise the golden tilefish longline endorsement regulation to indicate that vessels that have valid or renewable golden tilefish longline endorsements anytime during the golden tilefish fishing year are not eligible to fish for golden tilefish using hook-and-line gear under the 500-pound gutted weight golden tilefish hook-and-line trip limit.

MOTION #29: APPROVE AMENDMENT 35 FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS.

Timing and Tasks

MOTION #30: APPROVE THE FOLLOWING TASK AND TIMING ITEMS:

- 1. Direct staff/IPT to address monitoring/evaluation needs upfront in the Amendment 36 document and reference the Monitoring/Evaluation Appendix.*
- 2. Direct staff/IPT to look within the areas identified for Spawning SMZs off each state and, using bottom topography, bring alternative boxes back at the March 2015 meeting for the Committee's consideration. Include any surveys of biomass in the areas that are available.*
- 3. Direct staff to discuss options for rebuilding plan for hogfish with Gulf Council.*
- 4. Direct staff to look into scheduling presentation(s) on sector management for March 2015 Council meeting.*
- 5. Direct staff to develop alternatives for an almaco trip limit. Bring to AP for their input in 2015. Develop alternatives that would allow for year-round fishery.*
- 6. Submit Regulatory Amendment 22 for formal review.*
- 7. Prepare Amendment 35 for public hearings.*

Note: *There was direction to staff to address red grouper issues in Amendment 37.*

MACKEREL

The Council approved the following motions relative to mackerel:

Amendment 26 (King mackerel ACLs and stock boundary)

MOTION #1: ADD AN ACTION TO REVISE KING MACKEREL ACLS WITH ALL 6 ALTERNATIVES.

P star= 0.325		ABC HIGH Alt 2	ABC MED Alt 3	ABC LOW Alt 4	Deterministic equilibrium yield at FSPR30 Alt 5	Deterministic equilibrium yield at 75% FSPR30 Alt 6	Buffer between ABC and OFL		
Fishing year	OFL						HI	MED	LO
2015	22.0581	20.1065	19.6765	19.1127	12.702	11.582	9%	11%	13%
2016	19.75	17.4478	16.5454	15.3707	12.702	11.582	12%	16%	22%
2017	18.2914	15.8215	14.3298	12.9389	12.702	11.582	14%	22%	29%
2018	16.6987	14.1257	12.9331	11.9398	12.702	11.582	15%	23%	28%
2019	15.1871	12.6589	12.0557	11.5715	12.702	11.582	17%	21%	24%
2020	14.2985	11.54	11.2501	11.0247	12.702	11.582	19%	21%	23%

MOTION #2: ADD AN ACTION TO ADJUST THE STOCK BOUNDARY FOR KING MACKEREL.

MOTION #3: ADD AN ACTION FOR ALLOWING SALE OF KING MACKEREL BYCATCH IN THE SHARK GILLNET FISHERY.

MOTION: ADD AN ACTION TO CONSIDER ESTABLISHING A SUBQUOTA SPECIFIC FOR THE [NEW] MIXING ZONE.

Approved by Committee. APPROVED BY COUNCIL.

MOTION #4: APPROVE AMENDMENT 26 FOR SCOPING.

Amendment 24 (Atlantic Spanish mackerel allocations/quota shift)

MOTION #5: POSTPONE WORK ON AMENDMENT 24 UNTIL 2016.

Timing And Tasks

MOTION #6: ADOPT THE TIMING AND TASK ITEMS AS PRESENTED:

1. Prepare a scoping document for Amendment 26 and scope the Amendment in January 2015.
2. Prepare draft Amendment 26 for the March 2015 meeting, including information requested during the discussion.
3. Prepare a discussion document on options and components of separating the FMP for March 2015.

JOINT DOLPHIN WAHOO/SNAPPER GROUPER

The Council approved the following motions relative to dolphin wahoo/snapper grouper:

Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7/Snapper Grouper Amendment 33 (Fillets from The Bahamas)

MOTION #1: ACCEPT THE IPT'S RECOMMENDED LANGUAGE CHANGES FOR THE NEED.

Need for Action - *The management measures are needed to increase the social and economic benefits to recreational fishermen and aid enforceability by modifying the regulations in the U.S. EEZ regarding the possession of fillets from fish that were legally harvested in Bahamian waters.*

MOTION #2: DESELECT ALTERNATIVE 3 AS A PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE AND SELECT ALTERNATIVE 1 (NO ACTION) AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE FOR ACTION 2.

Action 2. *Exempt dolphin and wahoo harvested lawfully from The Bahamas from the bag and possession limits in the U.S. EEZ. Vessels may possess onboard 2 wahoo per person and 10 dolphin per person with a maximum of 60 dolphin.*

Preferred Alternative 1 (No Action): *The bag limit for the possession of dolphin and wahoo lawfully harvested from The Bahamas, is 10 dolphin (60 dolphin per boat)/2 wahoo per person per day, in the U.S. EEZ. These limits currently also apply to fish lawfully harvested from The Bahamas.*

Alternative 2: *Exempt dolphin lawfully harvested in The Bahamas from regulations for bag limits in the U.S. EEZ.*

Alternative 3: *Exempt wahoo lawfully harvested in The Bahamas from regulations for bag limits in the U.S. EEZ.*

MOTION 3: ACCEPT IPT'S RECOMMENDED WORDING CHANGES FOR GEAR STOWAGE UNDER ACTION 4.

Action 4. *In addition to possessing valid Bahamian cruising and fishing permits, require stamped and dated passports to prove that vessel passengers were in The Bahamas if the vessel is in possession of snapper grouper fillets in the U.S. EEZ.*

Alternative 1 (No Action). *Vessels bringing snapper grouper fillets into the U.S. EEZ from The Bahamas are required to have valid current Bahamian cruising and fishing permits onboard the vessel.*

Preferred Alternative 2. *Vessels bringing snapper grouper fillets into the U.S. EEZ from The Bahamas are required to have stamped and dated passports to prove that the vessel passengers were in The Bahamas, as well as valid current Bahamian cruising and fishing permits onboard the vessel. All fishing gear must be appropriately stowed while in transit.*

MOTION 4: APPROVE THE IPT'S RECOMMENDED LANGUAGE CHANGE FOR ACTION 5.

Action 5. *Specify the number of snapper grouper fillets lawfully harvested in The Bahamas that may be brought into the U.S. EEZ.*

Alternative 1 (No Action). *Fishermen must abide by both U.S. and Bahamian bag and possession limits, in other words, the more restrictive of the two, when in the U.S. EEZ.*

Preferred Alternative 2. *Two fillets of snapper grouper species, regardless of the size of the fillet will count as 1 fish towards the possession limit. Fishermen must abide by both U.S. and Bahamian bag and possession limits; in other words, the more restrictive of the two when in the U.S. EEZ.*

Note: *The Committee discussed the codified text and suggested that specific references to "U.S. passports" be revised to apply to any "valid government passport."*

MOTION #5: NO RECREATIONALLY CAUGHT FISH FROM THE BAHAMAS MAY BE SOLD OR PURCHASED.

MOTION #6: APPROVE DOLPHIN WAHOO AMENDMENT 7 AND SNAPPER GROUPE AMENDMENT 33 FOR SECRETARIAL REVIEW, AND DEEM THE CODIFIED TEXT AS NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE. GIVE STAFF EDITORIAL LICENSE TO MAKE ANY NECESSARY EDITORIAL CHANGES TO THE DOCUMENT/CODIFIED TEXT AND GIVE THE COUNCIL CHAIR AUTHORITY TO APPROVE THE REVISIONS AND REDEEM THE CODIFIED TEXT.

Generic Accountability Measure and Dolphin Allocation Amendment:

MOTION #7: REMOVE RED SNAPPER FROM ACTION 1.

MOTION #8: MAKE THE APPROPRIATE EDITORIAL CHANGES (TO THE AMENDMENT) AS DISCUSSED.

MOTION #9: APPROVE DOLPHIN WAHOO AMENDMENT 8, GOLDEN CRAB AMENDMENT 9, AND SNAPPER GROUPE AMENDMENT 34 FOR SECRETARIAL REVIEW, AND DEEM THE CODIFIED TEXT AS NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE. GIVE STAFF EDITORIAL LICENSE TO MAKE ANY NECESSARY EDITORIAL CHANGES TO THE DOCUMENT/CODIFIED TEXT AND GIVE THE COUNCIL CHAIR AUTHORITY TO APPROVE THE REVISIONS AND RE-DEEM THE CODIFIED TEXT.

SEDAR

The Council approved the following motion relative to SEDAR:

MOTION #1: APPROVE THE MODIFIED SEDAR 41 SCHEDULE.

MOTION #2: ASSESS VERMILION SNAPPER EVERY 3 YEARS.

ADVISORY PANEL SELECTION

In Motions 1-12 the Council made the following appointments and reappointments to the Advisory Panels:

- APPOINTED DR. NICOLE FOGARTY TO THE CORAL AP.
- REAPPOINTED FRED KINARD, KYLE CHRISTIANSEN, AND RAY ROSHER TO THE DOLPHIN WAHOO ADVISORY PANEL.
- APPOINTED DAVID WILSON, GLENN HOPKINS, WENDELL BARNETT, CLAY BISHOP, TIM SCALISE, ROBERT BARNETT, ROBERT FREVERT AND REAPPOINT HARRIS HUDDLE TO THE DOLPHIN WAHOO AP.
- REAPPOINTED TIM NETTLES FOR ONE YEAR TO THE DOLPHIN WAHOO AP.
- REAPPOINTED BILL PARKER, THOMAS JONES, MARK CARTER, AND BILL KELLY TO THE HABITAT AP.
- APPOINTED DAVE HARTER, DR. JAMES GEIGER, AND DR. STEVE ROSS TO THE HABITAT AP.
- REAPPOINTED STEPHEN SWAN TO THE MACKEREL AP.
- APPOINTED SELBY LEWIS, ROBERT OLSEN, MASON BOWEN, IRA LAKS, AND STEVE ENGLISH TO THE MACKEREL AP.
- APPOINTED MILTON MATHIS, ROBERT LORENZ, WAYNE MERSHON, WES COVINGTON, JUDY HELMEY, AND EMILY HELMICK TO THE SNAPPER GROUPER AP.
- APPOINTED DAVE TIMPEY AND DAVID TUCKER TO THE SEDAR POOL.
- REAPPOINTED DICK BRAME FOR AN ADDITIONAL YEAR TO THE MACKEREL AP.
- APPOINTED MANUEL HERRERA TO THE MACKEREL AP.

DATA COLLECTION

The Council approved the following motion relative to data collection:

No Motions

SSC SELECTION

The Council approved the following motions relative to SSC Selection:

MOTION #1: RECOMMEND THAT THE COUNCIL DESIGNATE STATE AGENCY SEATS ON THE SSC, AND INCLUDE THIS DIRECTION IN THE SAFMC ADMINISTRATIVE HANDBOOK.

GOLDEN CRAB

MOTION #1: APPROVE GOLDEN CRAB AMENDMENT 9 FOR SECRETARIAL REVIEW, AND DEEM THE CODIFIED TEXT AS NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE. GIVE STAFF EDITORIAL LICENSE TO MAKE ANY NECESSARY EDITORIAL CHANGES TO THE DOCUMENT/CODIFIED TEXT AND GIVE THE COUNCIL CHAIR AUTHORITY TO APPROVE THE REVISIONS AND RE-DEEM THE CODIFIED TEXT.

EXECUTIVE FINANCE

MOTION #1: REMOVE SUB-ALTERNATIVES 3A, 3B, 4A AND 4B UNDER ACTION 9 IN THE DRAFT JOINT GENERIC AMENDMENT TO THE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE REEF FISH RESOURCES OF THE GULF OF MEXICO AND THE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE SNAPPER GROUPER RESOURCES OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC REGION.

Action 9. Specify Accountability Measures for South Florida Species.

Alternative 3. If commercial landings as estimated by the Science and Research Director reach or are projected to reach the commercial ACL, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to close the commercial sector for the remainder of the fishing year. On and after the effective date of such a notification, all sale or purchase is prohibited and harvest or possession of this species in or from the EEZ is limited to the bag and possession limit. Additionally,

~~*Option 3a. If the commercial ACL is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the commercial ACL in the following fishing year by the amount of the commercial overage, only if the species is overfished.*~~

~~*Option 3b. If the commercial ACL is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the commercial ACL in the following fishing year by the amount of the commercial overage, only if the total ACL (commercial ACL and recreational ACL) is exceeded.*~~

Option 3c. If the commercial ACL is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the commercial ACL in the following fishing year by the amount of the commercial overage, only if the species is overfished and the total ACL (commercial ACL and recreational ACL) is exceeded.

Alternative 4. If recreational landings, as estimated by the Science and Research Director, exceed the recreational ACL, then during the following fishing year, recreational landings will be monitored for a persistence in increased landings.

~~**Option 4a.** If necessary, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the length of fishing season and the recreational ACL in the following fishing year by the amount of the recreational overage, only if the species is overfished. The length of the recreational season and recreational ACL will not be reduced if the Regional Administrator determines, using the best scientific information available, that a reduction is unnecessary.~~

~~**Option 4b.** If necessary, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the length of fishing season and the recreational ACL in the following fishing year by the amount of the recreational overage, only if the total ACL (commercial ACL and recreational ACL) is exceeded. The length of the recreational season and recreational ACL will not be reduced if the Regional Administrator determines, using the best scientific information available, that a reduction is unnecessary.~~

Option 4c. If necessary, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the length of fishing season and the recreational ACL in the following fishing year by the amount of the recreational overage, only if the species is overfished **and** the total ACL (commercial ACL and recreational ACL) is exceeded. The length of the recreational season and recreational ACL will not be reduced if the Regional Administrator determines, using the best scientific information available, that a reduction is unnecessary.

PROTECTED RESOURCES

MOTION #1: DIRECT STAFF TO WORK WITH PROTECTED RESOURCES DIVISION TO DEVELOP A DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING PER THE COUNCIL COORDINATING COMMITTEE (CCC) REPORT REGARDING THE COUNCIL'S INVOLVEMENT WITH THE CONSULTATION PROCESS IN MARCH 2015.

HABITAT

Timing And Tasks

MOTION #1: APPROVE THE TIMING AND TASKS AS PRESENTED:

1. Direct staff to provide an updated VMS analysis using all of 2014 data and include information on vessels that are capable of fishing in the depth of the area that will be closed in Coral Amendment 8 and updated economic information for the area from Mike Merrifield. Present results to the Habitat and Environmental Protection Committee by the June 2015 Council meeting.
2. Direct staff to update the Council if new sanctuaries are proposed in the South Atlantic.
3. Direct staff to develop a document that describes all the management actions taken by the Council to protect habitats and manage fisheries off the coast of northeast Florida. Present results to the Habitat and Environmental Protection Committee by the March or June 2015 Council meetings.

COUNCIL SESSION (OTHER MOTIONS)

MOTION #1: RECOMMEND THAT THE REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR APPROVE THE TWO EXEMPTED FISHERIES PERMIT REQUESTS RELATIVE TO LIONFISH FROM DR. JAMES MORRIS AND FROM THE EASTERN CAROLINA ARTIFICIAL REEF ASSOCIATION.