

**New England Fishery Management Council Meeting Agenda**  
**Tuesday - Thursday, September 26-28, 2017**  
**Beauport Hotel, 55 Commercial Street, Gloucester, MA 01930**  
**tel: (978) 282-0008 | [www.beauporthotel.com](http://www.beauporthotel.com)**

Sending comments? Written comments must be received at the NEFMC office no later than 5 p.m., Wednesday, September 20, 2017 to be considered at this meeting. Please address them to Council Chairman Dr. John Quinn or Executive Director Tom Nies at: NEFMC, 50 Water St., Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950. Email submissions should be sent to [comments@nefmc.org](mailto:comments@nefmc.org).

**Tuesday, September 26, 2017**

- 9:00 a.m. Introductions and Announcements** (Chairman Dr. John Quinn)
- 9:05 Swearing-in of Reappointed Council Members** (Regional Administrator John Bullard)
- 9:15 Election of 2017-2018 Officers**
- 9:45 Reports on Recent Activities**  
Council Chairman, Council Executive Director, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (GARFO) Regional Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) General Counsel, Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC), Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, U.S. Coast Guard, NOAA Enforcement, Northeast Trawl Advisory Panel
- 11:15 Whiting Committee Report** (Mark Gibson)  
Amendment 22: select limited access, permitting, and possession limit preferred alternatives for public hearing; Annual Monitoring Report: receive plan development team presentation on 2016 fishing year with assessment update and specification recommendations; 2018-2020 specifications: initiate action
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch Break**
- 1:45 Whiting Committee Report Continued**
- 2:15 Atlantic Herring Committee Report** (Peter Kendall)  
Amendment 8: review and clarify unresolved details for alternatives under consideration; review Management Strategy Evaluation results; potentially select preferred alternatives for acceptable biological catch (ABC) control rule

**Wednesday, September 27, 2017**

- 8:30 a.m. Transboundary Resource Assessment Committee (TRAC)** (Dr. Liz Brooks, NEFSC)  
Receive summary of 2017 assessment results for Eastern Georges Bank (GB) cod, Eastern GB haddock, and GB yellowtail flounder
- 9:15 Scientific and Statistical Committee Report** (Jason McNamee)  
Receive SSC recommendations for 2018-2019 overfishing limits (OFLs) and ABCs for GB yellowtail flounder and Northeast skate complex; receive SSC working group update
- 10:00 Transboundary Management Guidance Committee (TMGC)** (Terry Stockwell)  
Review and possibly approve TMGC recommendations for 2018 total allowable catches (TACs) for shared U.S./Canada groundfish stocks on Georges Bank
- 11:00 Open Period for Public Comment**  
Opportunity for the public to provide brief comments on issues relevant to Council business but not listed on this agenda (please limit remarks to 3-5 minutes)
- 11:15 Groundfish Committee Report** (Terry Stockwell)  
Framework Adjustment 57: (1) receive update on framework, which includes 2018-2020 fishery specifications, 2018 TACs for U.S./Canada stocks, Atlantic halibut accountability measures (AMs), recreational management measures, common pool trimester TAC adjustments, and southern windowpane flounder AMs; (2) receive TMGC's TAC recommendations for U.S./Canada shared stocks; and (3) receive

SSC's 2018-2019 GB yellowtail flounder OFL and ABC recommendations; Groundfish Monitoring Amendment 23: receive progress report

**12:15 p.m. Lunch Break**

**1:45 Groundfish Committee Report Continued**

**3:45 Skate Committee Report** (Dr. Matt McKenzie)

Annual Monitoring Report: receive report on fishing year (FY) 2016; Framework Adjustment 5: consider final action to allow barndoor skate landings and establish FY 2018-2019 specifications, including possession limits; Amendment 5: update on development of a limited access program for the Northeast skate complex

**Thursday, September 28, 2017**

**8:30 a.m. 2018 Council Priorities – Initial Discussion** (Executive Director Tom Nies)

**9:30 Scallop Committee Report** (Mark Alexander)

Framework Adjustment 29: receive 2017 survey results and progress report on framework, which includes: (1) fishery specifications for the 2018 fishing year and default specs for 2019, (2) scallop fishery AMs for yellowtail flounder and windowpane flounder, (3) Northern Gulf of Maine Management Area modifications, and (4) Closed Area I Scallop Access Area changes to be consistent with pending habitat area revisions

**11:00 Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management Committee Report** (John Pappalardo)

Georges Bank eFEP: receive report on development of a “worked example” (i.e. demonstration) using operating and/or assessment models for a Georges Bank Ecosystem Production Unit

**11:45 Habitat** (Dr. John Quinn)

Omnibus Deep-Sea Coral Amendment, Clam Dredge Framework, and Wind Energy Development: receive brief updates on each

**12:15 p.m. Lunch Break**

**1:30 Council Program Review Update** (Executive Director Tom Nies)

**2:00 Research Steering Committee Report** (Mark Alexander)

Receive report on: (1) developing a process to prioritize Council research priorities; (2) providing input to the Northeast Cooperative Research Program; and (3) reviewing collaborative research projects

**2:15 Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM)** (GARFO, NEFMC staff)

SBRM Omnibus Framework: final action to address assigning at-sea observers to lobster pot fleet in an unbiased manner through the Northeast Fishery Observer Program; SBRM Three-Year Report: update

**3:00 Other business**

The Council may go into closed session following other business to discuss ongoing litigation

*Times listed next to the agenda items are estimates and are subject to change.*

*This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Council member financial disclosure forms are available for examination at the meeting.*

Although other non-emergency issues not contained on this agenda may come before this Council for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Council action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305 (c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

**Documents pertaining to Council actions are available for review prior to a final vote by the Council.**

**Please check the Council's website, [www.nefmc.org](http://www.nefmc.org), or call (978) 465-0492 for copies.**

**This meeting will be recorded. Consistent with 16 USC 1852, a copy of the recording is available upon request.**

# Liaison Report from the Sept 26-28 NEFMC Meeting in Gloucester, MA.

Tuesday, September 26, 2017  
9:26 AM

- Mackerel

There is a Benchmark assessment being conducted this November 28 thru 30th, I am unsure how quickly this data will become available for use in management.

- Survey

The Bigalow will not be conducting the Southern New England component, Mid-Atlantic strata of the annual survey. The R/V Pieces will be conducting the Northern Survey area once it is calibrated to the Bigalow. There is some concern, the two vessels have never had comparison tows and hence there is concern about the calibration.

- **Whiting: Council Selects Amendment 22 Limited Access Preferred Alternatives; Receives Initial Stock Status Updates**

**Limited Access Qualification Criteria** – Five alternatives plus no action. The Council selected “no action” as its preferred alternative. Some members considered limited access unnecessary.

**Possession Limits by Permit Type** – Three alternatives for higher-poundage Category 1 permits, two alternatives for Category II permits, and two alternatives for incidental permits for vessels that do not qualify for limited access. The Council selected Alternative 1 as preferred, to “maintain existing whiting possession limits” with in-season triggers to adjust possession limits.

**Permit Conditions** – Amendment 22 contains permit conditions that could apply if limited access is adopted. The Council agreed to support the Advisory Panel’s recommended preferred alternatives. These permit conditions state that:

- Large-mesh limited access permit characteristics would apply to small-mesh limited access permits;
- Permit allowances would stipulate that only one vessel may qualify based on a single permit history;
- Squid and herring vessels with incidental whiting permits could exceed whatever possession limit ultimately is adopted for incidental permits; and
- A new option that would leave the raised footrope trawl areas (excluding the Cultivator Shoal area), as “open access” and retain existing possession limits for different mesh sizes

(to access the full press release and see the map and possession limit table please follow the link below).  
<http://s3.amazonaws.com/nefmc.org/NEFMC-Whiting-Amendment-22-Stock-Updates.pdf>

- **Atlantic Herring: Council Discusses Amendment 8 ABC Control Rules; Passes on Picking “Preferred Alternative”**

Amendment 8 is divided into two major components:

- Alternatives to establish a long-term ABC control rule that “may explicitly account for herring’s role in the ecosystem and address the biological and ecological requirements of the stock”; and

- Alternatives to address potential localized depletion and user conflicts in the fishery.

The Council is expected to approve Draft Amendment 8 proposals during its December meeting if all of the necessary analyses are completed. The Council is tentatively planning to schedule Public Hearings in the spring of 2018.

(to access the full press release please follow the link below).

<http://s3.amazonaws.com/nefmc.org/NEFMC-Atlantic-Herring-Amendment-8-Control-Rules.pdf>

- **Groundfish: Council Endorses 2018 U.S./Canada TACs; Receives Progress Report on Groundfish Framework 57, Monitoring Amendment**

The Council received a progress report on Framework Adjustment 57, which, in addition to setting 2018 specifications for U.S./Canada stocks, will:

1. Modify Atlantic halibut management;
2. Modify the southern windowpane flounder accountability measures for all large-mesh non-groundfish fisheries, including the scup and summer flounder fisheries, among others, with the “extension of Framework Adjustment 52 provisions to large-mesh non-groundfish trawl fisheries” being the first priority in this section;
3. Revise common pool trimester TACs; and
4. Revise the recreational management measures process.

(to access the full press release and see the map and possession limit table please follow the link below).

<http://s3.amazonaws.com/nefmc.org/NEFMC-Endorses-U.S.Canada-Groundfish-TACs.pdf>

- **Skates: Council Approves 2018-2019 Fishery Specifications and Proportional Barndoor Skate Possession Limit for Wing Fishery**

- **WING FISHERY** – allocated 66.5% of the overall TAL, equivalent to 8,749 mt, up 377 mt from the current TAL; and

- **BAIT FISHERY** – allocated 33.5% of the overall TAL, equivalent to 4,408 mt, up 190 mt from the current TAL.

- **BARNDOR SKATE** - landings will be capped at 25% of the total wing possession limit allowed per season.

(to access the full press release please follow the link below).

<http://s3.amazonaws.com/nefmc.org/NEFMC-Approves-Skates-Specs-Barndoor-Landings.pdf>



# SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, North Charleston SC 29405

Call: (843) 571-4366 | Toll-Free: (866) SAFMC-10 | Fax: (843) 769-4520 | Connect: [www.safmc.net](http://www.safmc.net)

Dr. Michelle Duval, Chair | Charlie Phillips, Vice Chair  
Gregg T. Waugh, Executive Director

## FINAL REVISED AGENDA

Town & Country Inn  
2008 Savannah Highway  
Charleston, SC 29407  
Phone: Reservations: 843-571-1000/Fax: 843-766-9444

Except for advertised (scheduled) public hearings and public comment sessions, the times indicated on the agenda may be adjusted as necessary to accommodate the completion of agenda items. Interested parties should be aware that meetings may start earlier or later than indicated.

Written comments received by close of business the Monday before the meeting (9/18) will be compiled, posted to the website as part of the meeting materials, and included in the administrative record. Please use the online comment form at: <https://safmc.wufoo.com/forms/wql4dgt0gzt64f/> to ensure your comments are posted immediately to the Council's website and available for Council consideration.

Individuals that wish to submit comments after 9/18 must use the Council's online form at:

<https://safmc.wufoo.com/forms/wql4dgt0gzt64f/>

Comments will automatically be posted to the website and available for Council consideration. Comments received prior to noon on Thursday of the Council meeting (9/28) will be a part of the meeting administrative record.

To view comments <https://safmc.wufoo.com/reports/2017-sept-council-meeting-public-comment-report/>

### **Monday, September 25, 2017**

#### **9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. COUNCIL SESSION (TAB 1)**

9:00 - 9:10 Call to Order and Introductions/Dr. Michelle Duval  
Adoption of Agenda/Dr. Michelle Duval  
Approval of June 2017 Minutes/Dr. Michelle Duval

9:10 - 9:15 Swearing in of Council Members (Mark Brown & Chester Brewer)/NMFS

9:15 - 9:40 Top Issues for Future Discussions with Chris Oliver, Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA Fisheries/Dr. Michelle Duval

9:40 - 10:00 Florida Red Snapper Data Overview/Dr. Luiz Barbieri, FL FWC  
Questions and Discussion/Dr. Michelle Duval

10:00 - 10:15 BREAK

10:15 - 12:00 **PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION/Dr. Michelle Duval**

**The Council Chair, based on the number of individuals wishing to comment, will determine the amount of time provided to each commenter.**

Red Snapper Emergency Action Request –overview by Gregg Waugh/ Dr. Chip Collier  
Public Comment

Snapper Grouper Amendment 43 (Red Snapper) –overview by Dr. Chip Collier  
Public Comment

12:00 - 1:30 LUNCH

**Monday, September 25, 2017 COUNCIL SESSION CONTINUED (TAB 1)**

- 1:30 - 2:45 Red Snapper Emergency Action request
  - a. Overview – NMFS/Dr. Chip Collier
  - b. Review and approve/disapprove for formal review – Dr. Michelle Duval
- 2:45 – 3:00 BREAK
- 3:00 – 4:30 Snapper Grouper Amendment 43 (Red Snapper Annual Catch Limit)
  - a. Overview – Dr. Chip Collier
  - b. Review and approve/disapprove for formal review – Dr. Michelle Duval
- 4:30 – 5:00 Other Business
- 5:00 pm Recess until Thursday

**Tuesday, September 26, 2017 COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

**8:00 A.M. to 9:30 A.M. AP Selection Committee/Chester Brewer (CLOSED SESSION) (TAB 2)**

- 1. Review structure of Habitat Protection & Ecosystem-Based Management Advisory Panel
  - a. Overview – Kim Iverson/Roger Pugliese
  - b. Discuss and provide guidance to staff – Chester Brewer – **ACTION**
- 2. Review applications and make recommendations for appointments
  - a. Overview – Kim Iverson
  - b. Discuss and provide guidance to staff – Chester Brewer – **ACTION**

**9:30 A.M. to 11:30 A.M. Habitat Protection & Ecosystem-Based Management Committee/Doug Haymans (TAB 3)**

- 1. EFH Policy Statement on Artificial Reefs
  - a. Overview – Roger Pugliese
  - b. Review, modify, and approve – Doug Haymans – **ACTION**
- 2. Draft SAFMC FEP II Implementation Plan
  - a. Overview – Roger Pugliese
  - b. Review and provide guidance to staff – Doug Haymans – **ACTION**
- 3. SAFMC FEP II Dashboard Development
  - a. Overview – Cameron Rhodes/Roger Pugliese
  - b. Discuss and provide guidance to staff – Doug Haymans – **ACTION**
- 4. Habitat and Ecosystem Tools and Model Development
  - a. Overview – Roger Pugliese
  - b. Discuss and provide guidance to staff – Doug Haymans – **ACTION**

**11:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M. SEDAR Committee/Dr. Michelle Duval (TAB 4)**

- 1. SSC Report on the Research Track Process
  - a. Overview – Dr. Marcel Reichert/John Carmichael
  - b. Discuss and provide guidance to staff – Dr. Michelle Duval – **ACTION**
- 2. Joint SAFMC-GMFC MRIP Workshop
  - a. Overview – John Carmichael
  - b. Discuss and provide guidance to staff – Dr. Michelle Duval – **ACTION**
- 3. Guidance to SEDAR Steering Committee
  - a. Overview – John Carmichael
  - b. Discuss and provide guidance to staff – Dr. Michelle Duval – **ACTION**

**12:30 P.M. to 1:30 P.M.      Lunch**

**Tuesday, September 26, 2017      SEDAR STEERING COMMITTEE**

**1:30 P.M. – 4:30 P.M.      SEDAR Steering Committee**

**See Separate Agenda for SEDAR Steering Committee Meeting**

**Tuesday, September 26, 2017      COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

**4:30 P.M. to 6:00 P.M.      Snapper Grouper Committee/Dr. Michelle Duval (TAB 5)**

1. Status of Commercial Catches versus Quotas for Species under ACLs – NMFS SERO – **ACTION**
2. Status of Amendments under Formal Review– NMFS SERO – **ACTION**
  - a. Amendment 37 (Hogfish)
  - b. Amendment 41 (Mutton Snapper)
  - c. Update on Interim Rule for Golden Tilefish
3. Vision Blueprint Regulatory Amendment 26 - Recreational
  - a. Review actions & alternatives
  - b. Overview – Myra Brouwer
  - c. Committee reviews, modifies document as necessary, and provides guidance to staff – Dr. Michelle Duval – **ACTION**

**Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Public Hearing on Cobia Plan – beginning at 7 pm on Tuesday. Note: This is separate from the SAFMC meeting but will be held in the same meeting room.**

**Wednesday, September 27, 2017      COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

**8:00 A.M. to 12:00 NOON      Snapper Grouper Committee Continued/Dr. Michelle Duval (TAB 5)**

4. Vision Blueprint Regulatory Amendment 27 - Commercial
  - a. Review actions & alternatives and preliminary analyses
  - b. Overview – Myra Brouwer
  - c. Committee reviews, modifies document as necessary, and provides guidance to staff – Dr. Michelle Duval – **ACTION**
5. Update on commercial fishery socio-economic characterization/portfolio analysis – John Hadley
6. Red grouper
  - a. Review projections – SEFSC
  - b. Overview of Options – Myra Brouwer
  - c. Committee provides guidance to staff on amendment development – Dr. Michelle Duval – **ACTION**

**Lunch 12:00 NOON – 1:30 P.M.**

**Wednesday, September 27, 2017      COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

**1:30 P.M. to 4:30 P.M.      Snapper Grouper Committee Continued/Dr. Michelle Duval (TAB 5)**

7. ABC Control Rule Amendment
  - a. Update on ABC Control Rule modifications – John Carmichael
  - b. Possibly add adjustment to the AMs – John Carmichael
  - c. Committee provides guidance to staff on amendment development – Dr. Michelle Duval – **ACTION**
8. Wreckfish ITQ Review
  - a. SERO Presentation on ITQ Review Process - SERO
  - b. Shareholders meeting report – Dr. Brian Chevront
  - c. Overview of development of the review – Dr. Brian Chevront
  - d. Committee provides guidance to staff – Dr. Michelle Duval – **ACTION**



9. Atlantic coast-wide group discussion
  - a. Coast-wide planning to address climate change
    - i. State-by-state regulations for snapper grouper species in the Greater Atlantic Region – Myra Brouwer
    - ii. Data collection and monitoring; Response to joint letter sent from MAFMC and SAFMC – SEFSC – **ACTION**
  - b. Discussion on working with the MAFMC to have them encourage the states north of North Carolina to implement complementary regulations for snapper grouper species in Greater Atlantic Region – Dr. Michelle Duval – **ACTION**

**Wednesday, September 27, 2017 PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**4:30 P.M. Public comment will be accepted regarding any of the items on the Council agenda. The Council Chair, based on the number of individuals wishing to comment, will determine the amount of time provided to each commenter.**

**Public comment will also be accepted on E.O. 13771 (2 for 1 Regulations) to identify regulations that are (1) outdated, (2) unnecessary, or (3) ineffective.**

**Thursday, September 28, 2017 COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

**8:00 A.M. to 9:00 A.M. Personnel Committee/Jessica McCawley (**CLOSED SESSION**) (TAB 6)**

1. Executive Director's Performance Review – **ACTION**

**9:00 A.M. to 12:00 NOON Mackerel Cobia Committee/Ben Hartig (TAB 7)**

1. Status of Commercial Catches versus Quotas for Species under ACLs – NMFS SERO
2. Status of Amendment under Review – NMFS
  - a. Framework Amendments 4 (Atlantic Cobia)
  - b. Framework Amendment 5 (permit restrictions)
3. ASMFC Updates on Interstate Cobia Plan – Dr. Louis Daniel/Mike Schmidke – **ACTION**
4. Atlantic Cobia State Reports – State representatives – **ACTION**
5. Request for recalculation of 2015 and 2016 recreational landings for Atlantic Cobia – NMFS – **ACTION**
6. CMP Amendment 31 (Atlantic cobia management or removal from FMP)
  - a. Scoping Comments Summary – Dr. Kari MacLauchlin
  - b. Review of Decisions Document – Dr. Kari MacLauchlin
  - c. Review and provide guidance to staff – Ben Hartig – **ACTION**
7. Framework to Adjust Atlantic king mackerel trip limits
  - a. Overview – Dr. Kari MacLauchlin
  - b. Review and provide guidance to staff – Ben Hartig – **ACTION**

**Lunch 12:00 NOON – 1:30 P.M.**



**Thursday, September 28, 2017 COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

**1:30 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. Executive Finance Committee/Dr. Michelle Duval (TAB 8)**

1. Report from Executive Finance Webinar Committee Meeting
  - a. Overview – Gregg Waugh
  - b. Review and provide guidance to staff – Dr. Michelle Duval – **ACTION**
2. South Atlantic Regional Operations Agreement
  - a. Overview – Gregg Waugh
  - b. Review and provide guidance to staff – Dr. Michelle Duval – **ACTION**
3. Council Follow-up and Priorities
  - a. Overview – Dr. Brian Cheuvront
  - b. Review and provide guidance to staff – Dr. Michelle Duval – **ACTION**
4. Provide guidance on the structure of the SMP AP
  - a. Overview – Dr. Chip Collier
  - b. Review and provide guidance to staff – Dr. Michelle Duval – **ACTION**
5. Council Meeting Materials Discussion
  - a. Overview – Gregg Waugh/Cameron Rhodes
  - b. Review and provide guidance to staff – Dr. Michelle Duval – **ACTION**
6. CY 2017 Budget Status
  - a. Overview – Mike Collins/Gregg Waugh
  - b. Discuss and provide guidance to staff as necessary – Dr. Michelle Duval – **ACTION**

**Thursday, September 28, 2017**

**4:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. COUNCIL SESSION CONTINUED (TAB 9)**

[Legal Briefing on Litigation - Monica Smit-Brunello (**CLOSED SESSION**) if needed]

- 4:00 - 4:05 Call to Order and Introductions/Dr. Michelle Duval  
Adoption of Agenda/Dr. Michelle Duval
- 4:05 – 4:20 Elections  
Election of Chair  
Election of Vice Chair
- 4:20 – 4:30 Awards/Recognition/Council Chair  
Law Enforcement Officer of the Year
- 4:30 – 5:00 Council Staff Reports – **ACTION**
1. Executive Director's Report (**TAB 9, Attachment 1**) – Gregg Waugh
  2. Citizen Science Update – Amber Von Harten
  3. Draft Report on Economic Impacts of South Atlantic Fisheries (**TAB 9, Attachment 2**) – John Hadley
  4. Update on issuance of an exempted fishing permit for pelagic longline (PLL) research in the East Florida Coast PLL Closed Area (**TAB 9, Attachments 3a-3c**) – John Hadley
  5. Electronic Private Recreational Permit/Reporting Project (**TAB 9, Attachment 4**) – Kelsey Dick
  6. For-Hire Electronic Reporting App Project (**TAB 9, Attachment 5**) – Dr. Mike Errigo
  7. For-Hire Electronic Reporting Outreach Project (**TAB 9, Attachment 6**) – Kathleen Howington

**Friday, September 29, 2017**

**8:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. COUNCIL SESSION (TAB 9)**

8:30 – 9:00 NMFS SERO Presentations – **ACTION**

1. Status of Commercial Catches versus ACLs for species not already covered in a Committee (TAB 9, Attachment 7)
2. Status of South Atlantic For-Hire Amendment – sent for formal review on 3/3/2017 with request for mandatory reporting to begin on 1/1/2018 (TAB 9, Attachment 8)
3. Status of SBRM Work (TAB 9, Attachment 9)

9:00 – 9:30 NMFS SEFSC Presentations on Status of Bycatch Collection Programs – **ACTION**

1. Status of Bycatch Collection Programs (TAB 9, Attachment 10)
2. Landings of dolphin caught with pelagic longline gear by vessel permit type (TAB 9, Attachment 11)
3. Status of commercial electronic logbook reporting (TAB 9, Attachment 12)

9:30 – 9:35 Review Exempted Fishing Permits as Necessary (**none received**) – **ACTION**

9:35 – 10:25 Snapper Grouper Committee Report/Dr. Michelle Duval (TAB 5)

- Consider Committee recommendations and take action as appropriate – **ACTION**

10:25 - 10:45 Mackerel Cobia Committee Report/Ben Hartig (TAB 7)

- Consider Committee recommendations and take action as appropriate – **ACTION**

10:45 – 11:00 BREAK

11:00 - 11:10 AP Selection Committee Report/Chester Brewer (TAB 2)

- Consider Committee recommendations and take action as appropriate – **ACTION**

11:10 - 11:30 SEDAR Committee Report/Dr. Michelle Duval (TAB 4)

- Consider Committee recommendations and take action as appropriate – **ACTION**

11:30 - 11:45 Habitat & Ecosystem Based Management Committee Report/Doug Haymans (TAB 3)

- Consider Committee recommendations and take action as appropriate – **ACTION**

11:45 - 12:15 Executive Finance Committee Report/Dr. Michelle Duval (TAB 8)

- Consider Committee recommendations and take action as appropriate – **ACTION**

12:15 – 12:40 Agency and Liaison Reports (TAB 9, Attachment 13) – **ACTION**

12:40 – 12:50 Other Business – **ACTION**

- Update on Hurricane Irma Impacts/Cameron Rhodes

12:50 – 1:00 Upcoming Meetings (TAB 9, Attachment 14) – **ACTION**

1:00 P.M. ADJOURN



# South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 29, 2017

CONTACT: Kim Iverson  
Public Information Officer  
Toll Free: 866/SAFMC-10 or 843/571-4366  
kim.iverson@safmc.net

### **Federal Managers Continue to Address Snapper Grouper Management**

*Council votes to allow for Red Snapper seasons in 2017 and 2018*

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council began their week-long September Meeting with a Full Council Session to discuss red snapper management in the South Atlantic. The Council voted to request a 2017 Red Snapper Emergency Action, which would allow for recreational and commercial harvest this year. The request was sent to NOAA Fisheries and then on to the Secretary of Commerce. A decision is expected in the coming weeks and will be announced by NOAA Fisheries. For more details about the 2017 Emergency Action request, please refer to the Council's earlier news release from September 25 and see the Council's Story Map: <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=8928fd890b6841949238a2390ef0b27c>.

In addition to the 2017 Emergency Action request for red snapper, the Council continued to move forward with changes to red snapper management for 2018 with the approval of Snapper Grouper Regulatory Amendment 43 for formal review by the Secretary of Commerce. The amendment follows the same actions outlined in the 2017 Emergency Action request, setting a total annual catch limit of 42,510 fish to be harvested in 2018. If approved, the amendment is expected to go into effect in the summer of 2018 with the recreational fishery opening the second Friday in July (July 13, 2018) and the commercial fishery opening the second Monday in July (July 9, 2018).

#### **Vision Blueprint Recreational Amendment**

The Council continued development of Vision Blueprint Recreational Regulatory Amendment 26, an amendment born from stakeholder guidance during the Council's visioning process and workshops. After much discussion, the Council agreed on restructuring the approach to the amendment to reflect how the fishery currently operates, consider predictable seasons, and simplify regulations. Under this new approach, the recreational aggregates would be divided into three groups - deep-water species; shallow-water groupers; and other shallow-water species. Alternatives include options for modifications to bag limits, seasons for deep-water species and shallow-water groupers, and size limits for deep-water species and triggerfish that would help streamline the regulations for anglers, law enforcement, and managers. Council provided further guidance to staff and development of the amendment will continue at the December Council Meeting.

#### **Atlantic Cobia Management**

Discussion on the future of cobia management in the South Atlantic continued this week through the development of Coastal Migratory Pelagics (CMP) Amendment 31. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) is currently holding public hearings to gather input from stakeholders about the Draft Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Migratory Group Cobia (GA-NY), a plan that complements federal regulations already in effect in the South Atlantic. Since drafting this plan, ASMFC has requested that the Council consider removing Atlantic Migratory Group Cobia from the federal Fishery Management Plan and transferring total management jurisdiction to the ASMFC. Fishermen from all corners of the region have expressed concerns about the current recreational cobia closure in federal waters. To address public concerns, the Council began work on CMP Amendment 31, which proposes alternatives for a total transfer of jurisdiction or complementary management with ASMFC. The Council approved the alternatives in the document for

further development and will continue to discuss the federal role in cobia management at the December meeting in Atlantic Beach, North Carolina.

#### **Magnuson-Stevens Act Revision Discussion**

The Council reviewed and approved modifications to the Council Coordinating Committee Working Paper that outlines the views of all 8 Councils on issues related to MSA Reauthorization. Impacts of various MSA-related senate and house bills were also reviewed. Topics include rebuilding timelines, annual catch limits, experimental fishing permits, recreational/commercial data needs, and many others. The Council expressed support for exploring ways to obtain more flexibility in managing recreational fisheries.

#### **Election of New Chair and Vice Chair**

During the full Council session on Thursday, Council members, staff, and audience members applauded Dr. Michelle Duval's time as Chair of the South Atlantic Council. Dr. Duval, as noted by her peers, has proven to be a dedicated and driven leader. Council members and staff remain grateful that she will continue to offer her profound guidance and support as North Carolina's state agency representative. Vice-Chair Charlie Phillips, the commercial representative from Georgia, was elected as the new Chair and South Carolina's recreational representative, Mark Brown, will serve as the Vice-Chair. Chair Charlie Phillips expressed his gratitude and said, "I look forward to keeping the Council on track and to following up on the needs of stakeholders. Considering we have such great Council members and staff, there is no reason we cannot do that." The Council is pleased to have these two career fishermen at the helm and looks forward to their leadership in the coming years.

The next meeting of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council will be held December 4-8, 2017 in Atlantic Beach, North Carolina. Additional information about this week's meeting, including an interactive story map, meeting report and summary reports from each committee are available from the Council's website at: <http://safmc.net/safmc-meetings/council-meetings/>.

<p><b>The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, one of eight regional councils, conserves and manages fish stocks from three to 200 miles offshore of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and east Florida.</b></p>
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