South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

News Release

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Federal Fishery Advisory Panel Seats Open to Applicants

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council is soliciting applications for seats currently available on its advisory panels. Working at the grass roots level, advisory panel members provide information and guidance in the development and implementation of federal fishery management plans. The Council has 11 separate advisory panels composed of individuals who are engaged in the harvest of managed species, or are knowledgeable and interested in the conservation and management of the fishery or managed species. Members include recreational and commercial fishermen, seafood dealers and processors, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), scientists, and concerned citizens.

Advisory panel members are appointed by the Council and serve for a three-year period, based on the frequency of meetings. As those appointments expire, members currently serving on the AP may reapply for their positions. These seats also become open to new applicants. AP members generally meet no more than once or twice each year and are compensated for travel and per diem expenses for all meetings. Applications are now being solicited for the following positions:

Coral Advisory Panel	**(2) Coral Scientist Seats and (2) Marine Life/Aquaculture Seats**
Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel	**(1) Non-Government Organization (NGO) Seat**
Habitat Advisory Panel	**(1) GA Commercial and (1) FL Recreational Seat**
King & Spanish Mackerel Advisory Panel	**(1) NC Commercial Seat**
Law Enforcement Advisory Panel	**(1) Open Seat**
Deepwater Shrimp Advisory Panel	**(9) Open Seats**
SEDAR Pool	*** Open Seats**
Shrimp Advisory Panel	**(7) Open Seats + (1) NGO Seat**
Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel	**(6) Open Seats and (1) Wreckfish Sub-panel Seat**

*Applicants appointed to the Southeast Data, Assessment and Review (SEDAR) Pool are eligible to serve on species-specific panels for future stock assessments.

(Continued)

Advisory Panel Openings **(continued)**

If you are interested in serving as a member on the Council's advisory panels, please submit an application to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, North Charleston, SC 29405. Applications can be obtained by contacting the Council office at 843/571-4366 or toll free 866/SAFMC-10. Application forms are also available online at www.safmc.net. **Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact area Council representatives to discuss their interest in serving.** Contact information for all Council members is available at www.safmc.net or through the Council office.

Advisory panel members will be selected during the next meeting of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, scheduled for September 10-14, 2012 in Charleston, SC. ***Applications must be received by August 15, 2012.***

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.