

Handouts



From: Jim Hardin [<mailto:Jhardin@gradywhite.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 2014 10:52 AM

To: 'paulroseseafood@gmail.com'

Cc: Fish, Nancy

Subject: Written Comments for MFC Meeting

I would like to offer some written comments since I am unable to attend this week's Marine Fisheries Commission meeting in person.

Red Drum

- I support keeping the large mesh commercial harvest season closed until the end of the fishing year on September 1, 2014.
- I believe the small mesh fishery should also be closed until September 1, 2014.
- The commercial targeting of Red Drum is a result of increasing the number by-catch as allowable for sale to ten. Reduce the maximum number of retained Red Drum to five fish.
- Allow only flounder to be used as the targeted species in the 50% rule. Again, get back to the original intent of the by-catch only rules.
- Require both the drum and the targeted species to be sold at the same time, to the same dealer.

Electronic Reporting

- I support electronic trip ticket reporting. It could be required by any dealer purchasing Red Drum; if a dealer is unable or unwilling to participate in electronic reporting of Drum then they would not be allowed to purchase or sale Red Drum.

Circle Hooks

- I support the use of non-stainless steel hooks (over size 4/0) when fishing dead natural baits on the bottom while fishing from an anchored boat in inshore waters. I believe this has the potential to reduce the likelihood of hooking or deep-hooking Sea Turtles.

Jim Hardin

From: Bryan Overton [<mailto:commericalfishingjinn@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2014 12:45 AM

To: Fish, Nancy

Subject: Protesting the restriction of large mesh nets in the western region of the Albemarle Sound

Dear Ms. Nancy Fish and NCDMF,

I am a gill net supporter and concerned stake holder in the future of commercial fishing. This letter is a strong protest regarding the actions by the NCDMF in regards to the closure of the large gill mesh nets in the western section of the Albemarle Sound. There is strong evidence that the landings were significant except for the western section of the Albemarle Sound. Due to the deeper water in the western section, which is where I fish, there is a very small quantity of drum. An alternative solution for the monitoring of drum could be the use of the tag system. The tag system I currently used for the monitoring of the striped bass or rock. Another alternative solution could be that buyers or fish markets need to report landings to NCDMF on a more daily or weekly basis. Please see the breakdown of my catch for May, June, July and August of 2013.

I am joining the other concerned stake holders in calling for an immediate reversal of these actions taken for the western section of the Albemarle Sound. We also request that proposed future actions that jeopardize the livelihood of the commercial fishermen of the western section of the Albemarle Sound be subjected to a close review of all the facts and figures for that region.

I understand the need to monitor the drum catch and restrictions need to be made, but the need for drum restrictions should be in the area that the drum population are the largest not the smallest.

Thank you for your assistance in maintaining the future of commercial fishing.

Sincerely,
George Jason White
Commercial Fisherman
118 Moonlight Trail
Elizabeth City, NC 27909
commercialfishinginnc@yahoo.com

May 2013	June 2013	July 2013	August 2013
Flounder 1,418 pounds	Flounder 833 pounds	Flounder 2,786 pounds	Flounder 5,447 lbs
Puppy Drum 35 pounds	Puppy Drum 13 pounds	Puppy Drum 31 pounds	Puppy Drum 431 lbs
Black Drum 21 pounds	Black Drum 0 pounds	Black Drum 5 pounds	Black Drum 14 lbs
Soft Crabs \$2446.33	Soft Crabs \$740.61	Soft Crabs \$0	Soft Crabs \$1434.52

The above information is the amount of flounder, puppy drum, black drum and soft crabs that I caught for the months of May, June, July, and August of the year 2013.

From: Bryan Overton [<mailto:commericalfishinginnc@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2014 12:24 AM
To: Fish, Nancy
Subject: Restriction of large mesh nets used for flounder fishing

Dear Ms. Nancy Fish and NCDMF,

I am a gill net supporter and concerned stake holder in the future of commercial fishing. This letter is a strong protest regarding the actions by the NCDMF in regards to the closure of the large gill mesh nets in the western section of the Albemarle Sound. There is strong evidence that the landings were significant except for the western section of the Albemarle Sound. Due to the deeper water in the western section, which is where I fish, there is a very small quantity of drum. An alternative solution for the monitoring of drum could be the use of the tag system. The tag system I currently used for the monitoring of the striped bass or rock. Another alternative solution could be that buyers or fish markets need to report landings to NCDMF on a more daily or weekly basis.

I am joining the other concerned stake holders in calling for an immediate reversal of these actions taken for the western section of the Albemarle Sound. We also request that proposed future actions that jeopardize the livelihood of the commercial fishermen of the western section of the Albemarle Sound be subjected to a close review of all the facts and figures for that region.

I understand the need to monitor the drum catch and restrictions need to be made, but the need for drum restrictions should be in the area that the drum population are the largest not the smallest.

Thank you for your assistance in maintaining the future of commercial fishing.

Yours truly,
Bryan Richard Overton
Commercial Fisherman
1011 Hall's Creek Road
Elizabeth City, NC 27909
commercialfishinginncc@yahoo.com

From: rick sasser [<mailto:rick.sasser@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Monday, May 19, 2014 6:29 PM

To: annabarriosbeckwith@yahoo.com; kdarden@embarqmail.com;
apowell66@ec.rr.com; captjoemfc@yahoo.com; smithfish1952@yahoo.com;
paulroseseafood@gmail.com; nccroakerjoe@yahoo.com; sobxl1@gmail.com;
captgorgesmfc@gmail.com

Cc: Daniel, Louis; Fish, Nancy; Hurt, Greg

Subject: Red Drum Harvest Restrictions

Dear Commissioners,

When considering the status of the red drum fishery this week, please take the following into consideration.

Please permanently ban the commercial sale of all wild-caught red drum in NC effective May 27, 2014. Give dealers until June 24th to clear all wild-caught frozen inventory. Beginning September 1, 2014, require annual reporting to balance all dealer sales of red drum against

farm-raised red drum purchases, with electronic reporting required by September 1, 2015. Please implement a DNA and/or elemental analysis testing protocol(s) by September 1, 2015 with full implementation by September 1, 2016 for random monitoring of the natal origins for red drum commercial sales in North Carolina and for the enforcement of a wild-caught sales ban.

If not, then-

Reopen commercial red drum harvest on Sept. 1, 2014 with the following harvest restrictions-

- 1) It is unlawful to possess any red drum in a commercial fishing operation unless the weight of southern flounder exceeds the weight of the red drum retained.
- 2) All commercially harvested red drum are to be sold to a licensed North Carolina seafood fish dealer with the exception of one fish may be retained per operation per day for personal consumption.
- 3) The sale of red drum must occur at the time of the southern flounder catch component sale and be reported on the same trip ticket.
- 4) It is unlawful to possess more than five (5) red drum per day taken in a commercial fishing operation, regardless of the number of individuals, vessels, participating individuals with SCFLs or multiple SCFLs licensed to participating individuals in the commercial fishing operation.
- 5) Each commercial fishing operation and every SCFL holder is limited to a maximum of one trip ticket per day having a recorded red drum landing.
- 6) It is unlawful to transfer red drum from one vessel to another.
- 7) It is illegal to transfer red drum to any individual other than a licensed North Carolina seafood fish dealer through a duly reported sale. Subject to 2 above, one red drum per operation per day may be retained for personal consumption or transferred for the purpose of personal consumption.
- 8) The annual harvest limit for the fishing year September through August has been reduced to 150,000 pounds, with paybacks for any annual overage to be deducted from the following year. The annual harvest period consists of a Spring/Summer (March-August) fishery with a 75,000 pound CAP and a Fall/Winter (September - February) fishery with a 75,000 pound CAP.
- 9) It is unlawful to possess red drum less than 18 inches total length or greater than 27 inches total length.

Sincerely,
Rick Sasser
Goldsboro, NC

From: Eddie Eatmon [<mailto:beeatmon@gmail.com>]

Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2014 9:15 AM

To: Fish, Nancy

Subject: Re: Recommendations to the Marine Fisheries Commission on May 21 in Pine Knoll Shores

"My name is Bryce Eatmon and I am a commercial gill netter from Dare County. Due to the consistent pressure for net bans and to reduce by catch and dead discards I believe a 4

day a week night only soak time rule should be in place for the entire state and no more than 1,000yds of large mesh and 500yds of small mesh should be used at any point in time. This cuts down the time nets will be in the water to only 28% of the week and if nets are in the water no longer than 12 hours then by my experience there will be very minimal dead discards. When I set for night soaks only my dead discard rate is about 1% when the water is less than 70 degrees and doesn't get higher than 5% when the water is above 70 degrees. These numbers are far less than what many in the recreational fishing lobby claim and I believe they should be satisfied with these numbers as a responsible way of catching fish for our local restaurants. I believe the high percentage of dead discards come from soaks longer than 12 hours and 24 hour soak times are common in my area in Dare County. I believe this is common ground everyone can agree on that is against wasteful dead discards. Half the yardage will now be in the water for only 28% of the week. The less yardage amount will make it feasible to have all nets out of the water by 1 hour after sunrise. I know this can be tough on commercial guys fishing more yardage than this but over time as people who don't care enough about the resource to actively fish their nets leave the fishery and stocks continue to rebound with these tighter regulations then a good standard of living should be able to be made from these yardage amounts and time limits. I know most guys will recommend the status quo or to go back to the old ways of fishing. I believe this line of thinking will eventually lead to an all out net ban and we will not be able to fish at all. Fighting for the the status quo is only short term thinking and does nothing for the long term sustainability of the resource. With the regulations I have recommended and the proof of my minimal discards I believe these are rules that can keep the gill net fishery open year round and provide some consistency to the fishery for the long term. I believe a healthier, more sustainable, and less wasteful fishery will be a result of these fishing regulations I have recommended and a healthier fishery is better for all user groups. Thank you for your time."

From: Randy Edens [<mailto:jrandne@embarqmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2014 2:21 PM
To: Fish, Nancy
Subject: up coming meeting

I won't be able to attend the meeting coming up, but as a recreational fisherman, I am highly concern with our coastal fishery resources. We need to do any and all thing possible to reserve our valuable fishery. Your help in this is appreciated and please voice my concern.

Thanks
Randy



RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THAT THE FISHERIES MANAGERS OF HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES (HMS) GRANT THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FAIR AND EQUITABLE ACCESS TO THE BLUEFIN TUNA QUOTA (GENERAL CATEGORY) ALLOCATED BY ICCAT TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

WHEREAS; ICCAT allocates bluefin tuna quota to the United States, and HMS is charged by the MAGNUSON-STEVENS ACT to “not discriminate between residents of different states. Allocation shall be (A) fair and equitable to all such fishermen; and, (C) carried out in such manner that no particular individual, corporation or other entity acquires an excessive share of such privileges.” MSA; Title III; Section 301; Standard 98-623; and,

WHEREAS; The New England States receive 89.6% of the bluefin quota and a 7-month season, and the other east coast states receive 10.4% and a possible 3-month season; and,

WHEREAS; The bluefin tuna quota has been under-harvested by an average of 170 tons per year for the last 10 years; and,

WHEREAS; Any uncaught quota is wasteful and may be given to another country by ICCAT, and is a reflection of poor fisheries’ management, especially when bluefin are available for harvest; and,

WHEREAS; A 12-month General Category fishery with 8.33% of the General Category quota allocated to each month where any uncaught quota rolls over to the next month would eliminate geographic prejudice and reduce the amount of uncaught quota; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Marine Fisheries Commission of North Carolina requests the Attorney General of North Carolina pursue a 12-month fishery for bluefin tuna from HMS in the name of non-discriminatory fairness, in order to better harvest the allocated quota and ease the restraint of trade.

Adopted unanimously by the North Carolina Watermen United (NCWU) Board of Directors on May 12, 2014.

NCWU
PO Box 536; Hatteras, NC 27943



NC Marine Fisheries Commission
3441 Arendell Street
Morehead City, NC 28557

May 2, 2014

Dear Chairman Rose,

The North Carolina Watermen United (NCWU) is joining the request by the North Carolina Fisheries Association (NCFA) for an action proposed by two affiliate groups, the Ocracoke Working Watermen's Association and the Carteret County Fishermen's Association. We are asking the Director of the NC Division of Marine Fisheries to issue a proclamation with the following provisions that will apply to the use of large mesh anchored gill nets and the bycatch of red drum –

- Effective May 1, 2014, all internal coastal waters will be closed to the use of large mesh anchored gill nets; i.e., gill nets with a mesh length of four (4) inches or greater,
- Beginning June 1, 2014, the following limited areas will open for the use of large mesh anchored gill nets with four (4) red drum per day allowed as bycatch, described below –
 1. Albemarle Sound – West of the Intracoastal Waterway
 2. Pamlico River – A line beginning at a point at 35 degrees, 24.5920'N – 76 degrees, 32.3810'W near Currituck Point; running southwesterly to a point at 35 degrees, 19.6960'N – 76 degrees, 36.5360'W near Fulford Point
 3. Bay River – A line beginning at a point 35 degrees, 11.0760'N – 76 degrees, 31.6200'W near Bay Point; running southerly to a point at 35 degrees, 08.9290'N – 76 degrees, 32.2680'W near Maw Point
 4. Neuse River – A line beginning at a point 35 degrees, 08.9290'N – 76 degrees, 32.2680'W near Maw Point; running southerly to a point at 34 degrees, 59.2940'N – 76 degrees, 34.8230'W on the east shore of the mouth of South River
 5. New River – North of the Highway 172 Bridge
- Effective August 1, 2014, these restrictions will not apply and all areas opened to large mesh gill nets by proclamation M-15-2014 will reopen for large mesh anchored gill nets with seven (7) red drum per day allowed as bycatch.

- A run around, strike or drop net that is used to surround a school of fish and then is immediately retrieved is exempted from the restrictions above set forth in bullet points one and two.
- Drift gill nets that are used to capture fish while being moved along by water currents are exempt from provisions of this proclamation provided the net is being actively fished and attended from deployment through retrieval.
- The Division will implement weekly dealer reporting of red drum catches to ensure proper red drum management.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours truly,

Britton Shackelford

Britton Shackelford

President, NCWU

brittonshack@gmail.com

252-473-8078

BTS: mm

Cc: NC Division of Marine Fisheries

NCGA

102 Gull Circle
Oriental, N.C. 28571
May 16, 2014

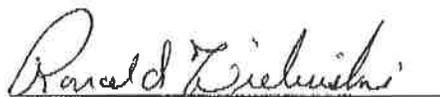
Paul Rose, Chairman
N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission
P.O. Box 769
Morehead City, N.C. 28557

Attention: Nancy Fish

Dear Mr. Paul Rose,

I am writing this letter to request the withdrawal of my petition for rulemaking regarding the Oriental Artificial Fishing Reef (AR-396). I feel modifications are necessary to make this proposal more acceptable.

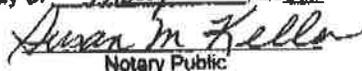
Respectfully,



Ronald Zielinski

Sworn to and subscribed before me

this 16 day of May, 2014



Notary Public

My Commission Expires 7-20-2016

SUSAN M KELLER
NOTARY PUBLIC
PAMLICO COUNTY, NC
My Commission Expires 7-20-2016



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

2014 Spring Meeting Summary

Vision: Sustainably Managing Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

2014 Spring Meeting
Alexandria, VA
May 12-15, 2014

For more information,
please contact the identified individual,
Toni Kerns, ISFMP, or
Tina Berger, Communications

703.842.0740

Meeting Summaries, Press Releases and Motions

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ATLANTIC HERRING SECTION (MAY 12, 2014)

Press Release

ASMFC Atlantic Herring Section Approves Draft Amendment 3 PID for Public Comment

Alexandria, VA ó The Commission's Atlantic Herring Section approved the Public Information Document (PID) for Draft Amendment 3 to the Interstate Atlantic Herring Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for public comment. Draft Amendment 3 was initiated to strengthen spawning sea herring protections in Area 1A (inshore Gulf of Maine) and address concerns raised by the commercial Atlantic herring industry. The PID presents four issues the Commission is seeking public input on to better inform the development of management measures for the Atlantic herring fishery. The issues focus on (1) spawning area boundaries and closures in Area 1A, (2) a fixed gear set-aside rollover provision, (3) declaration of fishing gear prior to the beginning of a quota period in order to provide fishery managers a more accurate estimate of effort for decisions relative to harvest control measures and (4) requirement for a vessel's fish hold to be emptied before leaving on a fishing trip in order to allow for full accounting of catch and to discourage dumping of unsold fish.

The 2012 stock assessment estimated the Atlantic herring spawning stock biomass (SSB) at 517,930 mt (1.1 billion pounds) in 2011. Atlantic herring is considered rebuilt; it is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring. Commercial landings have increased since 1983 to a high of 101,859 mt (224.6 million pounds) in 2009. Annual catch has averaged 82,407 mt (181.7 million pounds) since implementation of the FMP in 1993.

The PID is the first step in the Commission's amendment process. It is intended to gather information concerning the Atlantic herring fishery and provide an opportunity for the public to identify and comment on major issues relative to the management of these species. Following the initial phase of information-gathering and public comment, the Commission will evaluate potential management alternatives and develop Draft Amendment 3 for public review. After the public comment period, the Commission will specify the management measures to be included in Amendment 3. A tentative schedule for the completion of Amendment 3 is included in PID.

Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts will be conducting public hearings on the PID. Fishermen and other interested groups are encouraged to provide input on the four issues in the PID, as well as comment on other management measures that should be considered, either by attending state public hearings or providing written comment. A subsequent press release will announce the PID's availability as well as the details of the scheduled hearings. For more information, please contact, Melissa Yuen, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at myuen@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

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PR14-11

Meeting Summary

The Atlantic Herring Section received an overview of the New England Fishery Management Council's approved alternatives for Draft Framework Adjustment 4, which focuses on dealer reporting/weighing and net slippage. The Council selected the empty fish hold provision as a dealer reporting/weighing option,

with the ability to issue a waiver after inspection by an appropriate law enforcement agent for unforeseen circumstances. This measure is also proposed in the ASMFC Public Information Document for Draft Amendment 3 (see press release).

Staff updated the Section on the Nantucket Shoals/Georges Bank (NSGB) spawning study. ASMFC sent a letter including the Technical Committee reports to the New England Fisheries Management Council requesting support and collaboration from the Council, Northeast Fishery Science Center, and Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office. The issue was discussed at the Northeast Regional Coordinating Committee (NRCC) meeting in April. The NRCC will review current sampling programs to identify opportunities for additional spawning sampling and analysis in NSGB prior to the August Commission meeting. For more information, please contact, Melissa Yuen, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at myuen@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

Motions

Move to approve the PID with the changes made today.

Motion made by Mr. Augustine and seconded by Mr. Adler. Motion carries without objection

AMERICAN EEL MANAGEMENT BOARD (MAY 12, 2014)

Press Release

ASMFC American Eel Board Approves Draft Addendum IV for Public Comment

Alexandria, VA – The Commission’s American Eel Management Board approved Draft Addendum IV to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for American Eel for public comment. Draft Addendum IV proposes a suite of options to address the commercial glass, yellow, and silver eel fisheries along the Atlantic coast. Management options under consideration include glass and yellow eel quotas, a catch cap for the yellow eel fishery, a moratorium on the glass eel fishery, and a seasonal closure and license cap for the silver eel fishery in the Delaware River (NY). The Draft Addendum also includes glass eel harvest allowances for aquaculture purposes and a conservation-based allocation program in which the states may earn a glass eel quota via stock enhancement programs that increase glass eel passage. The Draft Addendum intends to build upon the management measures established under Addendum III in order to reduce overall mortality and increase conservation of American eel stocks.

The Board’s actions respond to the findings of the 2012 benchmark stock assessment indicating the American eel population in U.S. waters is depleted. The stock has declined in recent decades and the prevalence of significant downward trends in multiple surveys across the coast is cause for concern. Causes of decline are likely due to a combination of factors including historical overfishing, habitat loss, food web alterations, predation, turbine mortality, environmental changes, toxins and contaminants, and disease.

Commercial regulations vary by state. Glass eel fisheries currently occur in Maine and South Carolina. Significant yellow eel fisheries occur in New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, the Potomac River, Virginia, and North Carolina. Although commercial fishery landings and effort in recent times have declined in most regions, current levels of fishing effort may still be too high given the depleted nature of the stock. The recreational fishery is managed under a 25 recreational fish per day creel limit (with an exception for party/charter boats) and 9 inch minimum size.

As part of the Board’s deliberations, it received a report on ongoing law enforcement activities to address American eel poaching. The Board commended the states and federal government in devoting significant

resources to curtail the illegal harvest of glass eels. The implementation of Maine's swipe card system, which allows for real time quota monitoring and harvester verification, has also been effective in inhibiting illegal harvest.

It is anticipated that the majority of states will be conducting public hearings on the Draft Addendum throughout the summer. A subsequent press release will announce the Draft Addendum's availability as well as the details of the scheduled hearings. For more information, please contact Kate Taylor, Senior FMP Coordinator, at ktaylor@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

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PR14-12

Motions

Glass Eel Options

Move to add a new option: glass eel quota based on enhanced passage initiated after January 1, 2013. Under this option states may earn glass eel quota via stock enhancement programs that increase glass eel passage. The amount of quota earned shall not exceed an amount equal to: Sub-option 1) 5%, 2) 10%, 3) 25% of the enhanced glass eel passage.

Motion made by Mr. Simpson and seconded by Mr. Augustine. Motion carries.

Move to add under Option 4 (glass eel quota based on landings) a Sub-option that sets a minimum glass eel quota of 100 pounds per state.

Motion made by Mr. Simpson and seconded by Mr. Augustine. Motion fails (6 in favor, 9 opposed, 3 abstentions).

Move to remove Option 7 (Glass eel aquaculture) from Section 3.1.1.

Motion made by Mr. Stockwell and seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion fails (2 in favor, 15 opposed, 2 abstentions).

Move to insert in Section 3.1.1, Option 5 Sub-Option B: "a tolerance of up to 5% overage would be allowed if the current stock status is not depleted or overfished."

Motion made by Mr. Grout and seconded by Mr. Bellavance. Motion fails.

Move to remove Option 5B (Quota Overage Tolerance) and 6 under Section 3.1.1 (Quota Underages).

Motion made by Mr. Daniel and seconded by Mr. Abbott. Motion carries unanimously.

Move to request the Technical Committee review a watershed-based allocation scheme for glass eel quota and postpone options to Addendum V and proceed with yellow and silver eel options in Addendum IV.

Motion made by Mr. McKiernan and seconded by Mr. Borden. Motion fails.

Yellow Eel Options

Move to include the Working Group allocation recommendation from their August memo to the Board as an option to include the three highest landing years from 2002-2012 for Options 2 and 3.

Motion made by Mr. Allen and seconded by Mr. Augustine. Motion carries.

Move to modify Option 5 in Section 3.1.2 (Quota Transfers) to allow states with a 2,000 lb quota to participate in quota transfers.

Motion made by Mr. McKiernan and seconded by Mr. Ballou. Motion carries.

Silver Eel Options

Move to modify Option 4 in Section 3.1.3 to remove the third sentence “Once issued, licenses are not eligible for transferability” and modify the last sentence to read, “This would result in a reduction of licenses.”

Motion made by Mr. Gilmore and seconded by Mr. Keliher. Motion carries.

Move to add item #4 in Section 3.1.4: States would be allowed to harvest a maximum of 200 lbs of glass eel annually for the use in domestic aquaculture facilities (to grow out to the minimum legal size) if they can show that they can be harvested from a watershed that minimally contributes to the spawning stock of American eel.

Motion made by Mr. Keliher and seconded by Mr. White. Motion carries.

Move to approve Draft Addendum IV for public comment as modified today.

Motion made by Mr. Adler and seconded by Mr. Augustine. Motion carries unanimously.

SPINY DOGFISH MANAGEMENT BOARD (MAY 12, 2014)

Press Release

ASMFC Spiny Dogfish Board Initiates Draft Addendum V to the Spiny Dogfish Interstate Fishery Management Plan

Alexandria, VA ó The Commission’s Spiny Dogfish Board initiated Draft Addendum V to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Spiny Dogfish. The Draft Addendum seeks to ensure consistency with the Shark Conservation Act of 2010. The Act was signed into law to close loopholes in the U.S. shark finning regulations. Specifically, the Act prohibits the removal of any fins of the shark (including the tail) while at sea (with an exemption for smooth dogfish). Fins must remain naturally attached to the corresponding carcass through landing of the fish (including while aboard a fishing vessel or transferred at sea from one vessel to another)

Currently, the Interstate FMP allows removal of the fins of spiny dogfish at-sea as long as the corresponding carcass is retained. The wet weight of fins on-board may not exceed 5% of the dressed weight of carcasses on-board (a 5-to-95 fin-to-carcass ratio). Maine, New Jersey, Delaware, Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida already require fins to remain naturally attached to the fish through landing. The Board will review and consider approval of the Draft Addendum for public comment at the Commission’s Summer Meeting in August 2014.

The Board also considered changing the state waters’ commercial possession limit for the 2014/2015 spiny dogfish fishing season, currently set at 4,000 pounds, in response to the proposed action by NOAA Fisheries to move to an unlimited possession limit in federal waters. The Board maintained the 4,000 pound limit with individual states providing input to NOAA Fisheries on its proposed rule.

For more information, please contact Marin Hawk, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at mhawk@asmfc.org.

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PR14-13

Meeting Summary

The Spiny Dogfish Management Board considered changing the state waters commercial possession limit for the 2014/2015 spiny dogfish fishing season, currently set at 4,000 pounds, in response to the proposed action by NOAA Fisheries to move to an unlimited possession limit in federal waters. The Board maintained the 4,000 pound limit with individual states providing input to NOAA Fisheries on its proposed rule.

The Board also discussed inconsistencies between the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Spiny Dogfish (ISFMP) and the Shark Conservation Act of 2010 as well as NOAA Fisheries Amendment 3 to the Spiny Dogfish Fishery Management Plan. The Board initiated an addendum to consider maintaining consistency with the Shark Conservation Act by requiring all sharks, except smooth dogfish, be landed with fins naturally attached. Amendment 3 proposes removing the seasonal allocation of the spiny dogfish quota, allowing management measures to rollover and implementing a research set aside (up to 3%). The Board will be submitting a public comment letter to NOAA Fisheries outlining its support for the measures contained in the Proposed Rule since it improves consistency with the Interstate FMP. For more information, please contact Marin Hawk, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at mhawk@asmfc.org.

Motions

Move to amend the trip limit to 7,000 lbs for the 2014-2015 spiny dogfish fishing season for the northern region.

Motion made by Mr. Stockwell and seconded by Mr. Grout. Motion fails for lack of a 2/3rd majority.

Move to initiate addendum to prohibit processing at sea of spiny dogfish and maintain consistency between Spiny Dogfish FMP and Shark Conservation Act.

Motion by Mr. Augustine and seconded by Mr. O'Reilly. Motion carries.

COMMISSIONER WORKSHOP ON THE MAGNUSON-STEVENS FISHERY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ACT REAUTHORIZATION (MAY 13, 2014)

Meeting Summary

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission held a workshop on the reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA). Speakers included Jeff Lewis of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation; Bob King in the office of Senator Mark Begich (D-AK); and Dave Whaley of the House Committee on Natural Resources. The speakers presented an overview of the House and Senate draft MSA reauthorization bills and fielded a number of questions and recommendations from Commissioners. At the end of the meeting the Commission agreed to formalize their comments in a letter and provide it to the congressional committees in charge of reauthorizing MSA. For more information, please contact Deke Tompkins, Legislative Executive Assistant, at dtompkins@asmfc.org.

ATLANTIC STRIPED BASS MANAGEMENT BOARD (MAY 13, 2014)

Press Release

ASMFC Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum Development Continues

Alexandria, VA – The Commission's Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board met to review and consider approval of Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass for public comment. The Draft Addendum will propose new fishing mortality

reference points, as recommended by the 2013 benchmark stock assessment, and associated management measures to achieve the proposed target fishing mortality rate. While the Board did not approve the document for public comment, it approved substantive changes to the document and will reconsider a revised draft for public comment at the Commission's Summer Meeting in August.

The most significant change was the addition of a three-year timeframe to reduce fishing mortality to its target with options to achieve the reduction in harvest incrementally over the three years. This extended timeframe is intended to lessen the impacts of taking the required harvest reductions in one year. As a result, the Draft Addendum will propose measures to achieve the required reduction all in one year or incrementally over three years.

The Board also received a report from the Technical Committee on the development of Chesapeake Bay specific fishing mortality reference points for inclusion in the Draft Addendum. Due to the nature of the fishery, which targets smaller and predominantly male fish, the Technical Committee could not develop Bay-specific reference points at this time. It reported the reference points approved for management use in the 2013 benchmark stock assessment represent the best available scientific advice to manage fishing mortality on the entire striped bass population. The proposed coastwide target fishing mortality rate is designed to maintain the spawning stock biomass at its target level over the long-term. The effects of the Bay's harvest of smaller fish on the total coastwide stock are already incorporated into the coastwide population reference points due to different selectivity patterns for the Bay and coastal fishing fleets.

The Atlantic striped bass stock is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring under the proposed reference points. While the stock has declined, it remains at levels similar to 1995 when the stock was declared recovered. The revised Draft Addendum will continue to focus on the same management measures that are currently used to regulate the coastal and Chesapeake Bay striped bass fisheries – recreational bag and size limits, and adjustments to the commercial quotas. The Board established a subgroup to work closely with the Plan Development Team to help guide the inclusion of the new options. The revised Draft Addendum will be considered by the Board for approval for public comment in August, with public hearings conducted throughout the fall and final addendum approval slated for October at the Commission's Annual Meeting. If approved, the states would then implement management measures in early 2015. For more information, please contact, Mike Waine, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at mwaine@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

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PR14-15

Motions

Move to include in Draft Addendum IV a modification of Management Trigger 3 under Section 4.1 in Amendment 6 to require the Board to adjust fishing mortality to a level that is at or below the target within three years.

Motion made by Mr. O'Connell and seconded by Mr. Bellavance. Motion carries.

Move to put options in Addendum IV to achieve the necessary reduction over three years with each year achieving a third of that reduction level.

Motion made by Mr. O'Connell and seconded by Mr. O'Reilly. Motion carries (9 in favor, 5 opposed, 2 abstentions).

Move to consider adding Option C in Section 3.2.1. a one fish bag limit with a slot limit (28-40 inches).

Motion made by Dr. Daniel and seconded by Mr. Augustine. Motion carries (14 in favor, 2 opposed).

Main Motion

Move to add to Section 3.2.2 an option for a two fish bag limit, with one fish at a slot limit between 24-34 inches and one fish above 40 inches, subject to Technical Committee review to adjust the open slot limit to achieve a 31% reduction.

Motion made by Mr. Simpson and seconded by Mr. Borden. Motion amended.

Motion to Amend

Move to amend the slot limit one fish between 28 – 34 inches and one fish over 36 inches.

Motion made by Mr. Nowalsky and seconded by Mr. Augustine. Motion carries (9 in favor, 6 opposed).

Main Motion as Amended

Move to add to Section 3.2.2 an option for a two fish bag limit, with one fish at a slot limit between 28-34 inches and one fish above 36 inches, subject to Technical Committee review to adjust the open slot limit to achieve a 31% reduction.

Motion carries (12 in favor, 3 opposed).

Move to add option D in Section 3.2.2 to have a two fish bag limit at 33 inch minimum size limit for the coastal fishery (ocean) and allow the Bay to have one fish at 18-28 inches and one fish 36 inches or greater, subject to Technical Committee review to adjust the slot limit to achieve a 31% reduction.

Motion made by Mr. O'Reilly and seconded by Mr. Gary. Motion carries (14 in favor, 1 opposed).

Move to remove the second sentence that pertains to the Chesapeake Bay under Section 3.2.2, Option C.

Motion made by Mr. O'Connell and seconded by Mr. Gary. Motion carries (11 in favor, 2 opposed, 2 abstentions).

Move to add an option to reduce the Chesapeake Baywide recreational quota to account for the required reduction.

Motion made by Mr. O'Reilly and seconded by Mr. O'Connell. Motion carries (12 in favor, 3 opposed).

Motion to Reconsider

Move to put options in Addendum IV to achieve the necessary reduction over three years with each year achieving a third of that reduction level.

Motion made by Mr. Simpson and seconded by Mr. White. Motion fails.

Move to eliminate Option C under Section 3.3.1.

Motion made by Dr. Daniel and seconded by Mr. Allen. Motion carries unanimously.

Move to add to the commercial quota allocation the option of reinstating the final Amendment 5 coastal commercial allocations, as approved in 2001. Because this would result in a 34% reduction from the Amendment 6 allocations the Technical Committee shall adjust the state reductions to achieve a 31% reduction from the Amendment 6 allocations.

Motion made by Mr. Clark and seconded by Mr. Train. Motion fails (2 in favor, 11 opposed, 2 abstentions).

Move to remove Option D under Section 3.3.1.3 (Chesapeake Bay).

Motion made by Mr. O'Reilly and seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion carries (13 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 null).

Move to add William Hall from Virginia and Kyle Douton from Connecticut to the Striped Bass Advisory Panel.

Motion made by Mr. Simpson and seconded by Mr. Fote. Motion carries.

Move to add Beth Versak from Maryland to the Plan Development Team.

Motion made by Mr. O'Connell and seconded by Mr. Allen. Motion carries.

Move that the Board approve a revision to the Hudson River Young of the Year sampling program from the six week index to a nine week, 13 site subset index as accepted by the Technical Committee.

Motion made by Mr. Gilmore and seconded by Mr. Fote. Motion carries without objection.

LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE (MAY 13 & 14, 2014)

Meeting Summary

The Law Enforcement Committee met over two days during the spring meeting of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. This was the first meeting for several new members, including the new addition of a representative from the United States Department of Justice (Wayne Hettenbach). Lt. Doug Messeck now represents Delaware and Lt. Col. Larry Furlong represents Pennsylvania. Special Agent-in-charge Honora Gordon represents the USFWS.

Species Issues

Joe Fessenden gave a presentation to the LEC on the new swipe card system being employed in Maine to address glass eel harvest. Kate Taylor briefed the LEC on management options in Draft Addendum IV for Public Comment and the current law enforcement comments in the document. The LEC will review the management options in the draft and consider whether any changes or updates to previous LEC comments are warranted.

Action Plan Issues

The LEC reviewed the 2009 *Guidelines for Resource Managers on the Enforceability of Fishery Management Measures*. The LEC determined to initiate a review and update of the guidelines and Mark Robson will prepare a review draft for the fall 2014 meeting.

LEC members reported on activities and participation on Law Enforcement Committees of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, and recent meetings of the National and the Northeast Conservation Chiefs Association.

Members reviewed social media sites online and discussed the pros and cons of various sites such as Facebook and Twitter for enforcement purposes. Tina Berger and Ann McElhatton from ASMFC staff participated in the discussion and shared information on conservation use of social media sites. There was general agreement that such tools can be helpful in enforcement but require careful monitoring to minimize misinformation or abuse.

Other Issues

LEC members reviewed their states' participation in wildlife violator compacts and the applicability of those interstate agreements for marine enforcement issues. There was agreement that such compacts enhance enforcement of regulations across state boundaries and will review ways to make use of existing compacts, or to encourage entering into such compacts where needed.

The LEC discussed the recent national coordination meeting for Joint Enforcement Agreements (JEA). These agreements provide funding from NOAA to individual states for their federal marine fisheries enforcement programs. The state-federal makeup of the LEC provided a valuable opportunity to clarify and resolve issues stemming from the national meeting.

For more information, please contact Mark Robson, LEC Coordinator, at markrobson2012@gmail.com.

ANNUAL AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE (MAY 13, 2014)

Press Release

ASMFC Presents Annual Awards of Excellence

Alexandria, VA - The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission presented Michael P. Luisi, Paul Caruso, Dr. Robert Latour, Cheri Patterson, and the state and federal members of the joint enforcement team Operation Lookout with its Annual Awards of Excellence for their outstanding contributions to fisheries management, science, and law enforcement along the Atlantic coast.



“Every year a great many people contribute to the success of fisheries management along the

Atlantic coast. The Commission’s Annual Awards of Excellence recognize outstanding efforts by professionals who have made a difference in the way we manage and conserve our fisheries,” said ASMFC Chair Louis B. Daniel, III of the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries. “This evening, we honor several exceptional individuals for their contributions to the management and conservation of Atlantic coast fisheries.”

From left: ASMFC Executive Director Robert Beal, Cheri Patterson, Dr. Robert Latour, Michael Luisi, Paul Caruso, Sara Block, and ASMFC Chair Louis Daniel

Management & Policy Contributions

Michael Luisi, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Fisheries Service

Mr. Luisi has made significant contributions to the successful management of summer flounder and black sea bass fisheries throughout the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic. Active at the management level at both the Commission and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, he worked closely with staff, technical representatives, industry, and state and federal colleagues to develop and implement regional management approaches for both species. These approaches have allowed the states to maintain recreational black sea bass and summer flounder fisheries when existing policies would have resulted in severely curtailed or non-existent fisheries. For black sea bass, that meant moving away from coastwide management toward a regional approach more suitable to their life history. For summer flounder, it meant moving away from conservation equivalency and the informal sharing of fish that were not otherwise harvested by other states into a more formal regional approach. These approaches have helped minimize the risk of overharvest while still

providing headboats, charter boats, and anglers opportunities to fish. Mr. Luisi's efforts have benefited not only Maryland, but all states with summer flounder and black sea bass fisheries. Through his actions, Mr. Luisi has truly embodied the Commission's Mission "To promote the better utilization of the fisheries of the Atlantic seaboard by the development of a joint program for the promotion and protection of such fisheries."

Scientific, Technical and Advisory Contributions

Paul Caruso, Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

Mr. Caruso has devoted nearly three decades to advancing the field of fisheries biology and stock assessments. He has been a tireless contributor to state, regional and coastwide fisheries management activities through his state tagging and fishery-dependent sampling projects, and his participation and chairmanship of numerous Commission and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council technical committees. In Massachusetts, Mr. Caruso has used his encyclopedic knowledge of fisheries to address a multitude of projects and species issues from oversight of the state's Marine Recreational Information Program project, to the conduct of tagging programs for striped bass and summer flounder, to his extensive outreach efforts to the recreational fishing community. Regionally and coastwide, Mr. Caruso's expertise and leadership have guided the development of numerous addenda and amendments for species such as striped bass, tautog, bluefish, black sea bass, summer flounder, and scup. He has helped advance stock assessments and the data upon which they are based through his work on cooperative tag and recapture programs, fish ageing protocols and sampling efforts, and improved biological monitoring requirements.

Throughout his entire career, Mr. Caruso has approached his work with enthusiasm and good humor, quickly embracing and accomplishing tasks. His goal has always been to supply managers with the information they need to properly manage fisheries. Mr. Caruso's accomplishments are many and his efforts have been impactful to the countless fisheries biologists and staff he has mentored by sheer example.

Dr. Robert J. Latour, Virginia Institute of Marine Science

Dr. Latour has made outstanding contributions to the science underpinning the management activities of the Commission. He has contributed to numerous benchmark stock assessments and stock assessment updates, and focused much of his research program and student mentorship on addressing specific research needs of various Mid-Atlantic fisheries. These latter efforts have led to a variety of important peer-reviewed manuscripts focused on improving striped bass tagging models; fish diet composition and community ecology; Atlantic menhaden feeding ecology; and disease epidemiology in Chesapeake Bay striped bass. Collectively, Dr. Latour's work has helped to further the ongoing efforts of various Commission technical committees and the longer term knowledge base used to aid our understanding of fisheries dynamics.

For the last 15 years, Dr. Latour has maintained an active role on Commission technical committees for Atlantic menhaden, striped bass tagging, multispecies assessment, and assessment science. He is co-principle investigator of the Chesapeake Bay Multispecies Monitoring and Assessment Program and the Northeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program. These two relatively new data collection platforms are dedicated to improving the assessments of many Commission managed fisheries, including otherwise data-scarce assessments such as black drum and Atlantic sturgeon. The emergence of these new data sources is a testament to Dr. Latour's hard work and dedication to improving fisheries management along the Atlantic coast. A highly respected scientist, Dr. Latour's expertise is sought as an external peer reviewer and as a member of the Mid-Atlantic Council's Science and Statistical Committee. In all that he does, Dr. Latour provides exemplary scientific expertise and sage advice in an effort to elevate the scientific rigor of our stock assessments and the information upon which fisheries management decisions are based.

Cheri Patterson, New Hampshire Fish & Game Department

Ms. Patterson has dedicated her 35 year career to not only improving the collection and use of fishery-dependent and independent data along the Atlantic coast, but also to the conservation and protection of diadromous fish habitat. She began her career working for the New Hampshire Fish & Game Department as a member of the scientific crew for the Gulf of Maine Northern Shrimp Survey. Today, this survey represents one of the longest running cooperative state/federal research surveys along the Atlantic coast, and forms the basis for the assessment and management of the northern shrimp resource. She played an integral role in the development of Amendment 2 to the Northern Shrimp Plan and has been a longstanding and engaged member of the Commission's Shad & River Herring Technical Committee and Management & Science Committee. Ms. Patterson has also been a passionate participant in the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program at all levels of the Program since its inception in the mid-1990s and currently serves as Chair of the ACCSP Coordinating Council. She was the driving force in developing and implementing ACCSP-compliant lobster harvester and dealer reporting systems in New Hampshire.

In recent years, Ms. Patterson has become increasingly involved in diadromous fish monitoring and habitat restoration, participating on the Commission's Habitat Committee and Fish Passage Committee, as well as the Steering Committee for the Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership. A notable crowning achievement in Ms. Patterson's work on diadromous fish restoration came with her leadership in overseeing the removal of two head of tide dams in rivers of New Hampshire's Great Bay Estuary.

Law Enforcement Contributions

Operation Lookout Members – Captain John Croft and Special Investigator Jimmy Simpson, Virginia Marine Police; Special Agents Sara Block, Tracey Woodruff, and Steven Niemi, NOAA Office of Law Enforcement; and Trial Attorney James Nelson, U.S. Department of Justice

Members of the joint state/federal law enforcement team of Operation Lookout investigated and documented the poaching of striped bass in the exclusive economic zone off the coast of Virginia. In order to obtain the proper evidence and documentation, Operation Lookout conducted high risk undercover operations in an extremely dangerous environment. Their undercover efforts, led to the indictment of five individuals with several charges applied to each individual. Finalization of this operation is still pending given that some of the individuals have confessed to felonies but have not been sentenced while others have not been adjudicated or had a plea agreement entered. As this operation's prosecution comes to a close, it is fitting that the Commission recognize the sacrifice and due diligence of the members of Operation Lookout in protecting migratory striped bass populations for the benefit of all fishermen along the Atlantic coast.

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PR14-14

SOUTH ATLANTIC STATE/FEDERAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT BOARD (MAY 14, 2014)

Press Release

**ASMFC South Atlantic Board Approves Spot and Atlantic Croaker
Draft Addendum for Public Comment**

***Draft Addendum Explores Use of a Traffic Light Approach
to Assess Stock Condition and Initiate Management Response***

Alexandria, VA – The Commission’s South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries Management Board approved a Draft Addendum to both the Spot and Atlantic Croaker Fishery Management Plans (FMP) for public comment. The Board initiated the development of new management options in response to concerns over trends in the spot and Atlantic croaker fisheries and the extent of bycatch and discards of both species in the shrimp trawl fishery. The Draft Addendum proposes a new method (Traffic Light Approach, TLA) to evaluate the status of the fisheries and potential coastwide or state-specified management actions (e.g. bag limits, size restrictions, time & area closures, and gear restrictions) based on the annual fisheries evaluation.

The TLA has been used as a precautionary framework for fisheries with limited data to allow for a reasonable level of resource management. The name comes from assigning a color (red, yellow, or green) to categorize relative levels of indicators on the condition of the fish population or fishery, which can help clearly illustrate trends in the fishery. The current management of Atlantic croaker and spot compares annual changes in various indices (e.g. recent landings and survey information) to review trends in the fisheries. The most recent review found declines in the commercial and recreational landings for both Atlantic croaker and spot fisheries. However, there is concern that this annual review does not illustrate long-term trends in the stock nor does it include specific management measures to implement in response to declines in the stock or fishery.

The 2010 Atlantic croaker stock assessment indicated that overfishing is not occurring, while the stock status of spot is currently unknown. As both spot and Atlantic croaker are scheduled for benchmark stock assessments in 2016, the management options proposed in the Draft Addendum are intended to provide an interim approach until the benchmark assessments for both species are completed.

It is anticipated that several states will be conducting public hearings on the Draft Addendum throughout the summer. A subsequent press release will announce the availability of Draft Addendum as well as the details of the scheduled hearings. The Board will meet in August to review submitted public input and consider final approval of the Addendum. For more information, please contact, Kirby Rootes-Murdy, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator at 703.842.0740 or krootes-murdy@asmfc.org.

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PR14-16

Meeting Summary

The South Atlantic Board met to review and consider action regarding current information on the sheepshead and southern kingfish fisheries; consider state representation and participation in the South Atlantic Advisory Panel and Red Drum Stock Assessment Subcommittee. Staff presented to the Board current life history, biology, landings, and management information on sheepshead and southern kingfish along the Atlantic coast. Staff noted that there is little evidence that these species are migratory along the coast. While sheepshead is currently managed on a state-by-state basis with commercial and recreational measures, there are no management measures in place for southern kingfish. Staff also presented the Board with an update of some research priorities that were outlined when the Board last considered

southern kingfish for interstate fisheries management in 2008. Given the information provided and current state level work on both species, the Board decided to note take any action at this time.

The Board was briefed by staff on the attendance of Advisory Panel members in recent years. Given poor attendance on recent conference calls, the Board was asked to consider their state representation and participation. The Board also considered state representation for the upcoming Red Drum Stock Assessment in 2015. The following individuals were appointed to the Red Drum Stock Assessment Subcommittee: Harry Rickabaugh (MD), Sally Roman (VA), Lee Paramore (NC), Steve Arnott (SC), Carolyn Belcher (GA), and Mike Murphy (FL). For more information, please contact Kirby Rootes-Murdy, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at krootes-murdy@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

Motions

Move to release the addendum for public comment with the changes made today.

Motion made by Mr. Nowalsky and seconded by Mr. Grist. Motion carries.

INTERSTATE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (ISFMP) POLICY BOARD (MAY 14, 2014)

Meeting Summary

The Interstate Fisheries Management program (ISFMP) Policy board met to review and discuss a number of issues. The Management and Science Committee (MSC) reported on the task to investigate climate-induced shifts in stock distributions and recommend options on possible re-allocation of state quotas. The MSC focused its investigation on summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass. Explaining distribution shifts is complicated, as shifts can be the result climate change, stock rebuilding, and/or fishing pressure impacts on abundance and distribution. An analysis conducted by the Northeast Fisheries Science Center found evidence of a North Pole-ward shift in black sea bass, scup, and summer flounder. Shifts in black sea bass and scup are primarily temperature driven, whereas the shift in summer flounder is largely driven by recovery of the stock and expansion of larger flounder to more northern waters. Based on a survey of Commissioners, the MSC made several recommendations on how to approach re-allocation. The Policy Board tasked the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Board with exploring the preferred reallocation scenario based on the MSC recommendations. The preferred -historical/currentøreallocation scenario would use a combination of a percentage of the allocation retaining the historical allocation framework for a given species, and the remaining percentage would be allocated to states who have experienced increases due to stock distribution shifts.

The Board initiated a Cancer Crab Fishery Management Plan (FMP) based on recommendations from the Jonah Crab Fishery Improvement Project (FIP). The FIP for Jonah crab was initiated by Delhaize America (a grocery retailer) when the company found Jonah crab did not meet its criteria for sustainable harvest in order to continue the sale of Jonah crab in its stores. The FIP is concerned with the increased targeted fishing pressure, likely due to a fast growing market demand, the long term health of the fishery could become compromised. The FIP made several recommendations to the Commission including a minimum size, prohibiting female crab harvest, and reporting requirements. The Board tasked the American Lobster Board with the development of the FMP. The Lobster Board will review the FIP recommendations and develop a public information document for release in the fall of 2014.

The Board tasked the Committee on Economics and Social Science (CESS) to complete a comprehensive case-study on Atlantic menhaden. CESS will report back to the Board in August regarding a timeline and the type of information that can be provided in the case study.

The Board agreed to send comments to NOAA Fisheries on the Draft Stock Assessment Prioritization Protocol. The Board also agreed to changes in the Commission's stock assessment schedule. Changes in timing were made for American lobster (spring 2015 review), black sea bass (spring 2016 review), northern shrimp (2017 review), and the multispecies VPA (date TBD after the 2014 menhaden review). The horseshoe crab benchmark assessment will be delayed until confidential data issues can be resolved. A spot assessment will be conducted concurrently with Atlantic croaker (2016 review).

The Artificial Reef Committee will be working on an update to the Guidelines to Marine Artificial Reef Materials. The Committee will also investigate data available to conduct an economic analysis on the benefits of artificial reefs. The Habitat Committee will be updating the Living Shorelines Guidance Document and drafting a Sciaenid Habitat Source Document. The next Habitat Management Series will be on Nearshore and Estuarine Aquaculture. For more information, please contact Toni Kerns, ISFMP Director, at tkerns@asmfc.org.

Motions

Move to approve the Stock Assessment Schedule as presented.

Motion made by Mr. Augustine and seconded by Mr. Adler. Motion carries without opposition.

Move to initiate a Cancer Crab FMP, with a focus on Jonah Crab and task the American Lobster Board with the development of the FMP.

Motion made by Mr. Train and seconded by Mr. Borden. Motion carries without objection.

LEGISLATORS & GOVERNORS' APPOINTEES LUNCHEON (MAY 14, 2014)

Meeting Summary

The Commission's Legislators and Governors' Appointees met to provide recommendations on the Commission's Policy on Commissioner Financial Disclosure and Conflict of Interest. Major points of discussion included possible conditions that constitute a conflict of interest and options for recusal if such conditions are met. Commissioner Roy Miller of Delaware was elected to serve as Governor's Appointee Vice-Chair. For more information, please contact Deke Tompkins, Legislative Executive Assistant, at dtompkins@asmfc.org.

COMMISSIONER WORKSHOP ON THE MARINE RECREATIONAL INFORMATION PROGRAM (MAY 14, 2014)

Meeting Summary

The Commission and the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) held a joint workshop on state implementation of the dockside survey of the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP). The workshop provided Commissioners with information on proposed transitioning of the dockside survey from a federal contractor to state agencies. The survey is used in part to develop recreational catch and effort estimates. Transitioning to state conduct of the dockside survey was originally requested by several states and has been supported by MRIP, with ASMFC/ACCSP to serve the role as central survey coordinator for the Atlantic coast. A series of presentations was given on state implementation transition options, an overview of costs, and the experiences of states who are already conducting the recreational dockside survey (select Atlantic and Gulf states, and the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission). The Atlantic states, ASMFC/ACCSP, and NMFS MRIP will continue planning over the next several months toward possible state implementation of the survey starting in January, 2016. For more information, please contact Geoff White, ACCSP Data Team, at gwhite@accsp.org.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (MAY 15, 2014)

Meeting Summary

The Executive Committee approved the FY 2015 budget and discussed the Policy on Commissioner Financial Disclosure and Conflict of Interest. The Committee directed staff to develop a white paper to provide consistency in advisory panel involvement in the preparation of fishery management plans, amendments and addenda. For more information, please contact Laura Leach, Director of Finance & Administration, at lleach@asmfc.org.

ATLANTIC MENHADEN MANAGEMENT BOARD (MAY 15, 2014)

Press Release

First Year of Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 2 Implementation Yields Positive Results

Alexandria, VA – The Commission’s Atlantic Menhaden Management Board accepted the 2014 Fishery Management Plan Review detailing the results of the 2013 fishing year and implementation of Amendment 2 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Menhaden. Total 2013 harvest excluding bycatch was 166,077 metric tons (mt), 2.8% below the coastwide total allowable catch (TAC) of 170,800 mt established through Amendment 2. In 2013, the reduction fishery harvested 131,034 mt while the bait fishery harvested approximately 35,043 mt. A total of 1,942 metric tons were harvested under the 6,000 pound bycatch allowance with approximately 91% of bycatch coming from pound nets. Bycatch accounted for 1.2% of the total coastwide harvest, but does not count towards the TAC. Amendment 2 does not provide for the rollover of unused quota from one year to the next because the stock is currently experiencing overfishing.

“Through the cooperative efforts of the Atlantic states in implementing Amendment 2, we have taken measurable steps towards ensuring the long-term sustainability of the Atlantic menhaden resource for both its ecosystem services and the fisheries that depend on it,” stated Commission Chair Louis Daniel of North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries.

Amendment 2 implementation has also improved reporting as well as expanded biological monitoring for the bait fishery. The accompanying table details state quotas for the 2014 fishing year after setting aside 1% for episodic events. Any overages in the 2013 quotas because of late reports will come out of the 2014 quotas. Progress on the upcoming benchmark stock assessment continues with an assessment workshop scheduled for June 2 -5, 2014 at the NOAA Beaufort Lab and the peer review scheduled for December 2014. It is anticipated that the Board will consider the results of the peer review at the Commission’s

2014 Atlantic Menhaden Quotas		
State	2014 Quota (MT)	2014 Quota (LBS)
ME	66.58	146,787
NH	0.05	112
MA	1417.94	3,126,024
RI	30.29	66,779
CT	29.50	65,034
NY	93.76	206,695
NJ	18924.42	41,721,164
DE	22.33	49,230
MD	2320.98	5,116,874
PRFC	1049.69	2,314,174
VA	144272.84	318,066,790
NC	833.23	1,836,948
SC	-	-
GA	-	-
FL	30.39	66,995
TOTAL	169092.00	372,783,605

Winter Meeting in February 2015. For more information, please contact, Mike Waine, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at mwaine@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

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PR14-15

Motions

Move to approve the 2014 Fishery Management Plan review for Atlantic Menhaden and approve *de minimis* requests for New Hampshire, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida.

Motion made by Mr. Fote and seconded by Mr. Augustine. Motion carries unanimously.

NCDMF Daily Quota Monitoring Update

Release Date: 05/14/2014

Cumulative Totals

Species	2014 Total Quota (LBS)	80% of quota for Winter Fishery	2014 Transfer	2014 Harvest	Total Quota Remaining for 2014	Proc.	Trip Limit (pounds)	Comments
2014 Summer Flounder	2,883,944	2,307,155	155,208	2,382,849	345,887	FF-26-2014	5,000	Closes 11/15/2014 at 6:00pm
2014 Black Sea Bass N of Cape Hatteras	238,700		10,039	182,598	46,063	FF-31-2014	2,000 trawl, hook & line, fish pot	Closes 05/17/2014 at 6:00pm
2014 Spiny Dogfish	5,717,880			4,393,098	1,324,782	FF-16-2014	800 south 10,000 north	Closed 04/30/2014 at 6:00pm
A.O. Striped Bass	480,480							
TRAWL	160,160			0		FF-24-14		Closed 4/1/14
SEINE	160,160			0	160,160	FF-24-14	150 fish/day	Closed 4/1/14
GILL NET	160,160			0	160,160	FF-75-13	50 fish/day	Closed 2/14/14
ASMA Striped Bass	275,000			48,328	226,672	FF-47-13	10 fish/day	Closes 4/30/14
CSMA Striped Bass	25,000			22,845		FF-13-14	10 fish/day	Closed 4/20/14

* All figures are in pounds unless otherwise noted



South Atlantic Update

Published for fishermen and others interested in marine resource conservation issues Spring 2014

Input from Port Meetings will Help Guide Future of Snapper Grouper Fishery *From Cape Hatteras to Key West, fishermen provide recommendations*

From February through mid-April, Council members and staff hit the road to talk with fishermen and others with an interest in the snapper grouper fishery about future management of the fishery in the South Atlantic region. From Hatteras, NC to Key West, FL, stakeholders showed up in record numbers to participate in 27 port meetings that will help inform the Council's Visioning Project.

The goal of the Visioning Project is to develop a long-term "road map" for how the snapper grouper fishery will be managed using direct input from fishermen. The goal for the port meetings was to provide fishermen an opportunity to voice their concerns about management of the fishery. It was also a chance for them to bring their new and innovative ideas to the table indicating how they would like to see the fishery managed.

The port meetings were structured to be more informal than the traditional public hearing and scoping meetings conducted by the Council. The meeting structure allowed more round-table discussions and dialogue between fishermen and staff. Council staff facilitated the meetings using an interactive approach that allowed all participants to write down the problems they see with current management of the fishery and then collectively brainstorm about solutions that would help fix the problems identified. Some of the highlights of the overarching issues identified throughout the region include:

- **Reporting** – Concern over the lack of reporting in the recreational sector and redundancy in the commercial sector;



Fishermen and others interested in long-term management of the snapper grouper fishery gather in Sneads Ferry, NC to participate in one of 27 port meetings held as part of the Council's ongoing Visioning Project.

Outreach Specialist Amber Von Harten led the informal port meetings, using a portable cloth board to organize input from participants. Local Council members also attended the meetings. A summary report will be presented to the Council during its June meeting.

Additional information on the Visioning Project, including an opportunity to provide input online, is available at www.safmc.net.



the need to use new electronic technology (web-based, mobile apps) for reporting.

- **Science/Stock Assessments** – Questions about the accuracy of the science and timeliness of assessments; results do not match what fishermen are seeing on the water; the need to incorporate anecdotal information from fishermen in stock assessments.
- **Data Collection** – Frustration with recreational data collection programs; the need to utilize cooperative data collection programs with fishermen.

(Continued p. 6)



**June 9-13, 2014
Council Meeting
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL**
See page 7 for detail

**Informal Q&A Session
Wednesday, June 11 at 5:30 PM**

**Formal Public Comment
Thursday, June 12 at 5:30 PM**

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Editor's Note

The South Atlantic Update is published by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. Its purpose is to report developments in fisheries management that would be of interest to its readers. Please credit the Council when reprinting articles used in this newsletter. Anyone wishing to submit information or articles pertaining to fishing or fisheries management, or letters to the editor on a pertinent issue, is invited and encouraged to do so. Submissions may be mailed to Kim Iverson, Editor, *South Atlantic Update*, 4055 Faber Place Dr., Suite 201, N. Charleston, SC 29405, or may be sent via the internet; Email address: kim.iverson@safmc.net.

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Chairman's Perspective

Ben Hartig, Council Chair

Visioning Port Meetings Wrap Up

Want to get more involved? Check out the Marine Resources Education Program Southeast



First, I would like to thank everyone that has participated in our Visioning Project to date, either directly at the port meetings, by commenting on line, or sending in written comments. Twenty seven port meetings were conducted from Hatteras, North Carolina to Key West, Florida. I was lucky enough to attend all nine Florida meetings to hear your concerns and suggestions directly, take notes and participate in the discussions when appropriate. Attendance was good for the most part and there were many problems identified and solutions suggested for a variety of issues, some with commonality throughout the region and others with specific area concerns. There were five important topics identified throughout the management area: Science and data collection, regional management, reporting (recreational and commercial), having fisheries open throughout the year, and a number of species specific issues. There is a more detailed summary in this issue of the newsletter.

So where do we go from here? The Council will develop a strategic plan based on the information collected from the port meetings and will use your input when considering future management actions for the snapper grouper fishery. In addition to gaining valuable input from the port meetings, we also realize that the more informal, relaxed and discussion-oriented format used at the port meetings is a better way to receive public comment and conduct public hearings. The Council should use this approach more in the future.

While we're focused on how the Council can change its public hearing process to make it more user friendly, I'd like to put in a recommendation for those of you that would like to learn more about the federal fishery science and management process. I encourage you to take the time to apply to participate in the Marine Resource Education Program (MREP). About 15 years ago I attended the fishery science workshop portion of the program in Cape Cod. At that time, the program was only available to fishermen, NGOs and managers from the Mid-Atlantic and New England Council's jurisdictions. We now have our very own program here in the Southeast that is specific to the South Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean. MREP Southeast is based on two multi-day workshops - a fishery science workshop held in the spring and a management workshop held in the fall. The fishery science workshop focuses on the science that drives the stock assessments, how the data are collected, why research vessels sample in areas that a fishermen may not fish, and how that data

(Continued page 6)

In the News:

Special Project Contributes First Artificial Reef Materials at Charleston Deep Reef MPA

A 260' barge loaded with empty shipping containers and other materials was deployed in early May within the Charleston Deep Reef Marine Protected Area, approximately 50 miles off the coast of Charleston, SC. The deepwater MPA site was initially designated for the use of artificial reef materials. This first deployment represents years of planning, fund raising, and coordination between area fishermen and the SCDNR Marine Resources Division. Over \$500,000 in funds have been raised for the SC Memorial Reef, a private effort to begin the Charleston Deep Reef Project. We'll have details about the project in the next issue of the *SA Update*. Meanwhile, learn more at: <http://scmemorialreef.com/>

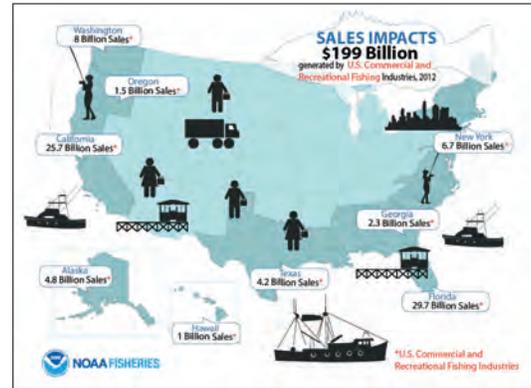


Two New NOAA Reports Show Strong Economic Gains from Fishing; Continued Improvements in Fish Stocks

U.S. commercial and recreational saltwater fishing generated more than \$199 billion in sales in 2012, a gain of seven percent over the previous year, with the economic impact of fishing jobs increasing three percent from 2011 to 2012, according to a new NOAA Fisheries economics report.

Further, two more fish stocks were rebuilt to target levels in 2013, including black sea bass in the South Atlantic, bringing the number of rebuilt U.S. marine fish stocks to 34 since 2000, according to another NOAA Fisheries report also released in April.

Taken together, the two reports, *Fisheries Economics of the United States 2012* and the *Status of U.S. Fisheries 2013*, show positive trends in the steady rebuilding of the country's federally managed fisheries off our coasts, and the important role fisheries contribute to the United States economy.



"These two reports highlight the steady rebuilding of U.S. fisheries and the broad and positive economic impact of commercial and recreational fishing to the nation's economy," said Eileen Sobock, assistant NOAA administrator for fisheries. "Fishing is big business and culturally important in our country. On top of that, it supports a lot of jobs."

Read the entire news release and access the reports at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/index.html>.

Spring Fishing Snapshot: Updates and Changes to Regulations

Spring is here and that means the fishing season is in full-swing. Let's take a look at some of the more commonly asked questions we receive as the season gets underway.

Black Sea Bass

Q. Is the black sea bass fishery still open?

A. Yes - as this issue of the newsletter goes to print, both the commercial and recreational fisheries remain open, although the commercial fishery is approaching its annual catch limit (ACL). The fishing year for black sea bass currently begins June 1st. See the side bar for information on how you can monitor both commercial and recreational ACLs. NOAA Fisheries will issue a *Fishery Bulletin* announcing any closures.

It has been a great year for black sea bass! The 2013 SEDAR stock assessment



The black sea bass fishery remains open with a 5 fish per person/day bag limit and a 13" TL minimum size limit.

showed the stock rebuilt and the ACL more than doubled for the 2013 - 2014 fishing year.

New regulations are being proposed for black sea bass through Snapper Grouper Regulatory Amendment 14, including changes to the fishing year and commercial trip limits. NOAA Fisheries is taking public comment until May 27, 2014. Visit <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/>.

Q. Why can't the black sea bass bag limit be increased?

A. Once the ACL was increased last year, the Council heard from fishermen that they would rather keep a 5-fish bag limit and have an extended season. After looking at landings from this fishing year, the Council could consider options for increasing the bag limit, based on public input.

Red Snapper

Q. When will the red snapper fishery open again?

A. If NOAA Fisheries determines that the ACL is ample enough to have a season in 2014, the red snapper season would open recreationally the second Friday in July for a three-day weekend, and possibly an additional subsequent

three-day weekend if the ACL allows. The bag limit would be 1 fish per person/day with no minimum size limit.

The Council established a standardized procedure for opening the fishery based on data provided by NOAA Fisheries that includes estimates of discard mortality. The Council anticipates the numbers from NOAA Fisheries will be available by the end of May. A *Fishery Bulletin* announcing any opening will be distributed. If a season is allowed, the commercial fishery would open the second Monday in July.

Q. Will there ever be a "regular" season?

We see lots of red snapper.

A. A benchmark stock assessment for red snapper and gray triggerfish (SEDAR 41) gets underway this year with the Data Workshop scheduled for August 4-8, 2014 in Charleston. The stock assessment will be completed in 2015 and the results presented to the Council. If the stock shows signs of recovery, the Council may have the opportunity to increase the ACL.

Visit <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov> to track annual catch limits.
Download the *SA Fishing Regulations* App for the latest updates.



Connecting the Dots in Federal Fisheries Management

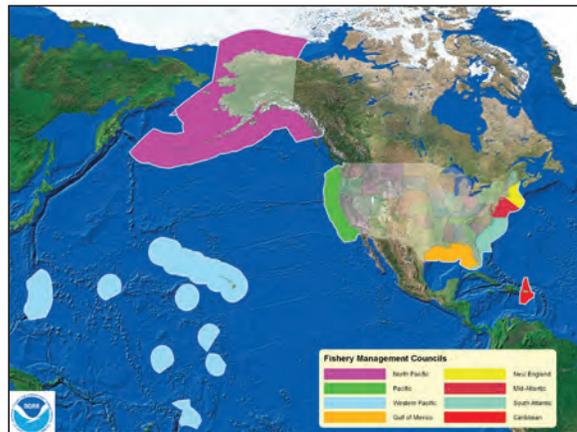
Tying together fisheries management, data collection, and science

It can be so confusing. Perhaps you've been offshore fishing and wondered why you can keep only a limited number of certain fish, or what determines a size limit, or even more likely, who comes up with all of these regulations - and why? Where do they get their data? How does a regulation get into place? How can I make a difference?

Understanding the federal fishery management process and the science behind those decisions is challenging. During the informal port meetings held earlier this year as part of the Council's Visioning Project, participants often had questions and misconceptions about the management process, the fisheries science used in that process, including data collection and stock assessments, and the importance of public participation. As a result, we begin a new series of articles in this issue of the newsletter to help answer some of your questions and hopefully make things a little easier to understand. We'll take a closer look at the stock assessment process and fisheries data collection, both fishery dependent and fishery independent. We'll also look at how regulations are developed and the components that are incorporated into the process. But first, let's start with a better understanding of the agencies involved in federal fisheries management, focusing on the role of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council.

The Players

- South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
- NOAA Fisheries
- Secretary of Commerce
- State Marine Fisheries Agencies



Regional Fishery Management Councils – Eight regional fishery management councils develop management plans and amendments for fisheries encompassing 3.4 million square miles of the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone.

Under the Magnuson-Stevens Act Councils are required to:

- Develop and amend Fishery Management Plans
- Convene committees and advisory panels and conduct public meetings
- Develop research priorities in conjunction with a Scientific and Statistical Committee
- Select fishery management options
- Set annual catch limits

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

It has been nearly thirty years since Congress approved the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, creating the eight regional fishery management councils in 1976. The Regional Council system was designed to allow regional, participatory governance by knowledgeable people with a stake in fishery management.

The councils develop management plans for marine fisheries in waters seaward of state waters of their individual regions. Plans and specific management measures (such as fishing seasons, trip limits, and annual catch limits) are developed based on scientific advice, and are initiated, evaluated, and ultimately adopted in a fully transparent and public process. These plans and measures are implemented by NOAA Fisheries (National Marine Fisheries Service). The councils are composed of both voting and non-voting members

representing the commercial and recreational fishing sectors in addition to environmental, academic, and government interests. The Secretary

of Commerce appoints state specific or Obligatory, and At-Large council members based nominations from the governors of each state.

(Continued next page)



Voting members of the SAFMC include recreational and commercial fishermen, charter captains, seafood dealers, representatives from each state marine fisheries agency within the Southeast, and NOAA Fisheries. Non-voting members: US Fish & Wildlife Service, US Coast Guard, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and the Department of State. Learn more about individual Council members and their fisheries experience in the "About Us" section of the Council's website at www.safmc.net. Meeting schedules and materials are also available from the website.

Council members serve three year terms and may be reappointed by the Secretary for a maximum of three consecutive terms.

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) is headquartered

in North Charleston, SC. Council staff include administrative staff, scientific and technical staff responsible for drafting fishery management plans and amendments for Council review, and outreach and public information personnel.



The Council encourages the public to provide comments at every meeting.

The South Atlantic Council Does **NOT**: (but these guys do)

- **Collect data** or conduct research (NOAA Fisheries, States, and the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP))
- **Implement federal regulations** (NOAA Fisheries and the Secretary of Commerce)
- **Enforce regulations** (NOAA Office of Law Enforcement, State agencies, and U.S. Coast Guard)
- **Monitor landings, annual catch limits, bycatch or discards** (NOAA Fisheries, States, and ACCSP)
- **Conduct stock assessments** (Southeast Data, Assessment and Monitoring (SEDAR) Program)

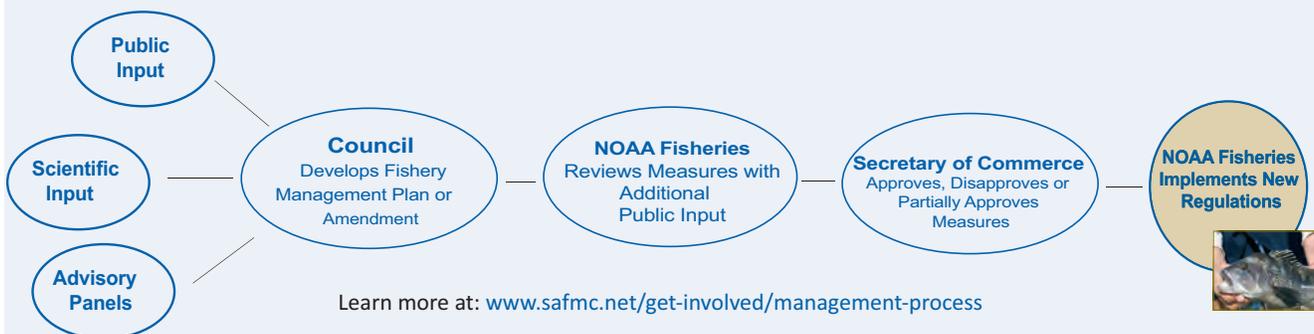
Council members come together for week-long meetings four times each year, meeting in each of the southeastern states. Council committees meet to develop and review management alternatives, consider public input, and recommendations from advisory panels and its Scientific and Statistical Committee. Once a plan or plan amendment is approved by the Council, it is submitted for Secretarial Review. The review process includes NOAA Fisheries and additional opportunities for public comment before

a decision is made by the Secretary of Commerce and any new management measures are implemented.

The Fishery Management Process

This simple diagram shows the steps involved in creating and implementing a management measure or regulation. There are other agencies involved in the process and several are represented on the Council as non-voting members.

In the next issue of the *SA Update*, we'll take a closer look at species managed by the Council and NOAA Fisheries, and why stock assessments are so important in the management process.



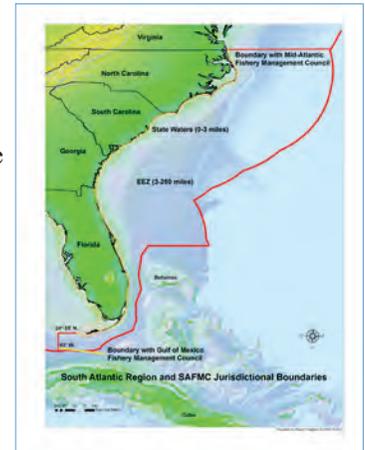
NOAA Fisheries: The Southeast Regional Office and Science Centers

NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office is one of five regional offices in the U.S. The Southeast Regional Office (SERO) supports the South Atlantic, Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Councils and the Regional Administrator serves as a voting member on each Council.



NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office St. Petersburg, FL

NOAA Fisheries is responsible for the management, conservation and protection of living marine resources within the United States' Exclusive Economic Zone. Using the tools provided by the Magnuson-Stevens Act, NOAA Fisheries assesses and predicts the status of fish stocks, ensures compliance with fisheries regulations and works to reduce wasteful fishing practices. Under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act, NOAA Fisheries recovers protected marine species (i.e. whales, turtles) without unnecessarily impeding economic and recreational opportunities.



The Exclusive Economic Zone (federal waters) extends from three to 200 miles off the southeast coast.

State Marine Fisheries Agencies: North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida (east coast)

Within the Council's area of jurisdiction, each State's marine resources agency has a representative that serves on the Council and is a voting member. In addition, the State agencies work collaboratively with NOAA Fisheries to provide data and scientific support for stock assessments and monitoring. With the exception of North Carolina, each State has a Joint Law Enforcement Agreement with NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement and work together, along with the U.S. Coast Guard, to enforce fisheries regulations and protect living marine resources.

Visioning Project Port Meetings (Continued from page 1)

- **Cooperative Research** – The need for more opportunities to collect data in conjunction with scientists to help fill in some of the gaps for stock assessments and use in other management measures.
- **Permits** – Stakeholder’s concern over permit requirements in all sectors.
- **Flexibility in Management Strategies** – Addressing Annual Catch Limits (ACLs), fishing seasons, size/bag/trip limits, timeliness of implementing new regulations when stocks recover.
- **Reducing Discards** – The need to develop strategies that allow fishermen to either keep what they catch or use tools that decrease discard mortality (descending devices, etc.).
- **One Size Fits All Management vs. Regional Management** – Concerns about the geographical differences in fishery over a four state region and the same management measures in place for the whole region.
- **Time/Area Management** – Frustration with seasonal closures that do not effectively address the management intention (shallow-water grouper spawning closure); concern with existing Marine Protected Areas.
- **Allocation** – How the fish are divided up between the sectors and also the need to possibly consider regional allocations/quotas for certain species.
- **Species Specific Issues** – Black sea bass, red snapper, shallow-water grouper, the jacks complex and how to manage these more effectively.
- **Endorsement Program Issues** – Black sea bass and golden tilefish.
- **Catch Shares** – Conflicting opinions about the potential use of this strategy in the future.
- **Goliath Grouper, Lionfish, & Sharks** – The need to address these species that are interacting with and affecting the snapper grouper fishery.
- **Conflicting Regulations/Permits** – Conflicting state and federal regulations and specific regional jurisdictional issues in both the Outer Banks of NC and South Florida.

Participants crafted an extensive list of potential solutions to address each of the issues identified and these solutions will

be presented to the Council to be considered in the development of the long-term strategic plan for the fishery.

Approximately 350 fishery stakeholders participated in the port meetings throughout the South Atlantic region. Written comments are still being accepted and can be submitted using the Port Meeting Discussion Form available on the Council’s website under the Visioning Project tab.



Council Chairman Ben Hartig leads a discussion during a port meeting in St. Augustine, FL.

Next Steps

Summaries of each port meeting will be available on the Council’s website in the coming weeks as staff work to compile the results from each meeting. The Council will receive summary reports for each state at their June 2014 Council meeting and summary reports by sector at their September 2014 Council meeting. To start the process of compiling port meeting results into a draft strategic plan, the Council will host a special **Council Visioning Workshop to be held October 14-16, 2014 in Charleston, SC**. The workshop is open to the public. Details about the October workshop will be posted to the Visioning Project page on the Council’s website. For additional information on the Visioning Project, contact Amber Von Harten, Outreach Specialist at amber.vonharten@safmc.net or call 843-571-4366.

Chairman’s Perspective (Continued from page 2)

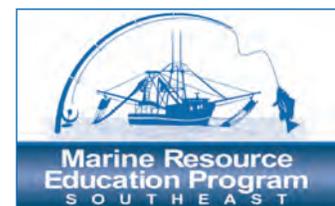
functions in an assessment. The caliber of the presenters is superb and you will not find better teachers anywhere that can explain the complexities of stock assessment science in terms that you can understand.

Attending the science workshop so many years ago increased my understanding of the stock assessment process and with repeated exposure, I have been able to participate during and after stock assessments at a higher level over the years. MREP is designed as a collaborative process and fishermen, scientists and managers learn from each other over the course of the program.

Another attribute of MREP is the interactions with fishermen from other areas. In addition to the educational components, MREP Southeast workshops give fishermen from the South Atlantic, Gulf and Caribbean the chance to exchange ideas, discuss different fishing techniques and swap fishing stories over a beer. It is a great learning experience and will prepare you to contribute at a higher level in the management and assessment process.

So what are you waiting for? Sign up today and I might see you there.

Council Chairman Ben Hartig is a full-time commercial fisherman and marine biologist living in Hobe Sound, Florida. Read more about Ben and other members of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council at www.safmc.net in the “About Us” section.



Learn more at www.gmri.org/fishedu or contact Alexa Dayton, Gulf of Maine Research Institute (207) 228-1645

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Android



SAFMC Meeting Dates and Locations 2014 Schedule

March 3-7, 2014
Hilton Savannah DeSoto
15 East Liberty Street
Savannah, GA 31401
Phone: 912/232-9000

September 15-19, 2014
Charleston Marriott Hotel
170 Lockwood Boulevard
Charleston, SC 29403
Phone: 843/723-3000

June 9-13, 2014
Sawgrass Marriott
1000 PGA Tour Blvd.
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082
Phone: 904/285-7777

December 1-5, 2014
Doubletree Riverfront
100 Middle Street
New Bern, NC 28560
Phone: 252/638-3585

Acronyms

ABC - Allowable Biological Catch
ACCSP - Atlantic Coast Cooperative Statistics Program
ACL - Annual Catch Limit
AM - Accountability Measure
ACT - Annual Catch Target
AP - Advisory Panel
ASMFC - Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
BRD - Bycatch Reduction Device
EEZ - Exclusive Economic Zone
EFH - Essential Fish Habitat
EFH/HAPC - Essential Fish Habitat/Habitat Area of Particular Concern
FMP - Fishery Management Plan
HMS - Highly Migratory Species
ITQ - Individual Transferable Quota
MSA - Magnuson-Stevens Act
MSY - Maximum Sustainable Yield
MRIP - Marine Recreational Information Program
NMFS - National Marine Fisheries Service
OY - Optimum Yield
SEDAR - Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review (stock assessment process)
SSC - Scientific & Statistical Committee
TAC - Total Allowable Catch
VMS - Vessel Monitoring System

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Meeting



June 9-13, 2014

Sawgrass Marriott
1000 PGA Tour Boulevard
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082
Phone: 904/285-7777



www.facebook.com/SouthAtlanticCouncil



@SAFMC

A detailed agenda will be posted on the Council's website at www.safmc.net as it becomes available or contact the Council office toll free at 1-866/SAFMC-10 or 843/571-4366.

PRELIMINARY MEETING AGENDA

Monday	9:00 - 11:30	Council Visioning Workshop
	11:30-12:00	National Recreational Fishing Policy Presentation
	1:30 - 3:30	Joint Habitat/Ecosystem Committee
	3:30 - 4:30	Executive Finance Committee
	4:30 - 5:30	Protected Resources Committee
	6:00	<i>National Recreational Fishing Policy Listening Session</i>
Tuesday	8:30 - 9:30	SSC Selection Committee (Closed)
	9:30 - 10:30	AP Selection Committee (Closed)
	10:30 - 11:00	Law Enforcement Committee (Closed)
	11:00 - 12:00	SEDAR Committee
	1:30 - 5:30	Snapper Grouper Committee
Wednesday	8:30 - 5:00	Snapper Grouper Committee (<i>continued</i>)
	5:30	<i>Open informal public Q&A session</i>
Thursday	8:30 - 10:00	Joint Snapper Grouper/Dolphin Wahoo Committees
	10:00 - 11:00	HMS Committee
	11:00 - 12:00 and 1:30 - 2:30	Mackerel Committee
	2:30 - 3:00	Information & Education Committee
	3:00 - 4:00	Golden Crab Committee
	4:00 - 5:00	Data Collection Committee
	5:30	<i>Formal Public Comment</i>
Friday	8:30 - 4:00	-- Council Session --

Note! Follow the Council meeting live online

Watch the Council meeting via webinar from Ponte Vedra Beach, FL. Registration information is available from the June 2014 meeting information page at www.safmc.net.

Mark your calendar...

2014

- June 10-12** *Capitol Hill Oceans Week (CHOW)*
Washington, DC <http://nmsfocean.org/CHOW-2014>
- June 10-12** *Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Meeting*
Freehold, NJ www.mafmc.org
- June 23-27** *Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Meeting*
Key West, FL www.gulfcouncil.org
- July 22-24** *Joint Council South Florida Management Issues Committees Meeting*
Key West, FL www.safmc.net or www.gulfcouncil.org
- August 4-8** *SEDAR 41 (red snapper and gray triggerfish) Data Workshop*
N. Charleston, SC www.sefsc.noaa.gov/sedar/
- August 5-7** *Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Meeting*
Alexandria, VA www.asafc.org
- August 6-14** *SAFMC Public Hearing Series*
NC, SC, GA and East FL www.safmc.net

South Atlantic Fishery
Management Council
Meeting
June 9-13, 2014
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL



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