

Overview

Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel

Crowne Plaza
4831 Tanger Outlet Boulevard
North Charleston, SC

October 31-November 1, 2016

1) Status of Amendments Recently Submitted for Secretarial Review

Council staff will update the Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel (AP) on the status of snapper grouper amendments recently submitted for formal review.

2) Update on Amendments Under Development: Amendment 41 (Mutton Snapper) and the For-Hire Electronic Reporting Amendment (*Attachments 1 & 2*)

Public hearings on Amendment 41 were held in August 2016 and the Council reviewed public input during their September 2016 meeting. The Council also reviewed the actions proposed in Amendment 41 and changed preferred alternatives for both commercial and recreational management measures to mirror measures that were recently approved to manage Mutton Snapper in Florida waters (Atlantic). Council staff will update the AP on revisions to preferred alternatives, analyses to-date, and timing. The AP provided recommendations on this amendment in April 2016 and will have the opportunity to provide further input at this meeting.

The Council also reviewed the For-Hire Electronic Reporting Amendment at their September meeting. The amendment contains 3 actions: implementing mandatory electronic reporting for charter boat trips, changing the timing for report submission for headboat electronic reports to the Tuesday following the reporting week ending on the prior Sunday, and requiring charter trips to provide location information by degrees and minutes of latitude and longitude as now required for headboat trips. Over the last several meetings the Council reviewed and approved a list of core variables to be collected through the program for each trip. The Council will consider final approval at the December 2016 meeting, with implementation expected in mid-2017. We anticipate initial voluntary participation in 2017 as the reporting system is developed and possible mandatory participation in January 2018.

Proposed Core Data Elements (variables to collect for each trip):

- Start Date
- Start Time
- End Date
- End Time
- Start Location
- End Location
- Vessel ID (name, License #)

Captain ID (name, License #)
Number of fishermen
Number of crew
Method (general categories, e.g., troll, bottom, spear, drift)
Hours fished
Primary depth fished: may be reported as a range
Target species: may be reported in categories or groups
Location: 1-minute grid (degree and minute of latitude and longitude, consistent with headboat reporting)
Number of each species kept
Number of each species released
Charter fee
Fuel used
Fuel price per gallon

Council staff will update the AP on any changes to the amendment and proposed timing. The AP also provide recommendations on this amendment during their April 2016 meeting and will have the opportunity to provide further input at this meeting.

3) Amendment 43 (Red Snapper and Recreational Reporting; Attachment 3)

The Council discussed possible actions and alternatives to include in Amendment 43 to address management of red snapper and other directly and indirectly related items that would ultimately result in an adaptive management approach and respond to items in the *Vision Blueprint*. Council staff will facilitate discussions of proposed actions and solicit the AP's input. The Council is scheduled to review and approve a scoping document at their December 2016 meeting. Scoping meetings would be held in late January/early February 2017.

4) Vision Blueprint Recreational Regulatory Amendment 26 (Attachment 4)

At their June 2016 meeting, the Council instructed staff to begin development of two separate amendments (one commercial and one recreational) that would address priority items in the *Vision Blueprint*. The Council specified a list of items to include in each amendment and requested development of Options Papers to narrow down possible actions to take out to scoping. Council staff will present a preliminary list of such actions and request the AP's input. In particular, the Council requests that the AP recommend a range of alternatives for each action and other changes as appropriate. The Council is scheduled to review the Options Paper in December and approve it for scoping in late January/early February 2017.

5) Vision Blueprint Commercial Regulatory Amendment 27 (Attachment 5)

Council staff will facilitate discussion of the amendment that would address items in the *Vision Blueprint* pertaining to the commercial sector. Included are items that the AP has discussed in the past and on which they have provided recommendations. Again, the Council would request that the AP weigh in on the appropriateness of actions/alternatives and make recommendations as appropriate.

6) Snapper Grouper Amendment 44 (Yellowtail Snapper Allocations; Attachment 6)

Actions to address sector allocations of Yellowtail Snapper will be addressed in an amendment to both the Snapper Grouper and Dolphin Wahoo Fishery Management Plans. Council staff will present an overview of actions under consideration to modify sector allocations for Yellowtail Snapper to avoid in-season closures and request the AP's input. Scoping for this amendment was conducted in August 2016 and the Council is scheduled to approve it for public hearings at their December meeting. Hearing would be held in late January/early February 2017.

7) Consideration of Limited-Entry for the For-Hire Sector (Attachment 7)

At their meetings in March 2016 and June 2016, the Council discussed possible implementation of a limited-entry program for the for-hire sector for the Snapper Grouper, Dolphin Wahoo, and Coastal Migratory Pelagics fisheries. At their September 2016 meeting, the Council discussed the pros and cons of implementing a for-hire permit limited entry program. The Council will deliberate at their December 2016 meeting whether or not to move forward with establishing a limited entry program for any of the three for-hire permits. If they do proceed with developing this amendment, the Council would be expected to approve the amendment for scoping in January/February 2017.

The Council requested that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) issue a control date of June 15, 2016. On September 27, NMFS published an advanced notice of proposed rulemaking to set a control date of June 15, 2016, for the federal for-hire sector for the three fisheries. A control date is a means to inform current and future fishermen that the Council is considering restrictions to limit participation in these fisheries. That is, fishermen who enter the federal for-hire recreational sector for these fisheries after June 15, 2016, will not be assured of future access should a management approach that limits participation in the sector be developed and implemented.

However, a control date does not commit the managing agencies to any particular management regime. The Council may or may not make use of this control date as part of the requirements for participation in these fisheries. The Council may take action that would affect participants who were in these fisheries prior to the control date, or the Council may choose to take no further action to control entry or access.

Council staff will facilitate discussions with the AP to obtain input that the Council would review in December 2016 to determine how they wish proceed on this issue. The AP has approved several motions (since 2012) in support of a limited entry program for the for-hire sector in the South Atlantic.

8) Catch History & Endorsements (Attachment 8)

In June 2016 Council members reiterated their intent to discuss why the catch history associated with an unlimited snapper grouper permit is not currently tied to its gear endorsement (either black sea bass pots or golden tilefish longline gear). That is, a vessel's catch history remains with the vessel's permit when that vessel's endorsement is transferred or sold. Interest

in this item arose from public input during development of Amendment 35, when the Council sought to clarify the golden tilefish longline endorsement program regulations. Attachment 8 was provided in the briefing book for the June 2015 meeting, when this item was originally scheduled for discussion. Time constraints, however, kept that discussion from taking place. In September 2016, the Council briefly touched on the issue but requested that the AP hold discussions and issue a recommendation.

9) Updates (Attachments 9a & 9b)

Council and SEDAR staff, as appropriate, will provide updates on items of interest to the AP including upcoming stock assessments and schedule; Scientific and Statistical Committee recommendations on snapper grouper topics; progress on a socio-economic characterization of the commercial snapper grouper fishery; and the Council's Citizen Science Program.

10) Other Business

The AP will address items under Other Business as appropriate.