



South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

COUNCIL REPORT

CCC Meeting
February 18, 2015



SAFMC

Visioning Project:

*Planning for the Future of the
Snapper Grouper Fishery*

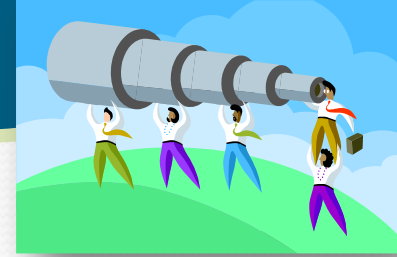




Visioning Project: *Background*

- Stakeholder concerns about current management strategies for **snapper grouper fishery**.
- Council wants to develop **new management ideas and solutions**.
- Need cooperative, **stakeholder driven process** to gather input.
- End result – vision and **long-term road map** for the fishery.





Visioning Project: *2014 Updates*

- *Spring 2014 - 26 Port Meetings in all four states*
- *Information compiled by STATE and by SECTOR*
- *Special Council Visioning Workshop – October 14-16, 2014 in Charleston, SC*
 - ✓ *Reviewed port meeting input*
 - ✓ *Developed draft strategies/actions*
- *December 2014 – Begin review of Strategic Goal documents*
 - ✓ *Management, Science, Communication, & Governance*



Management Activities

Snapper Grouper

- Considering regulations to help protect speckled hind, warsaw grouper and other snapper grouper species (Amendment 36 -- spawning special management zones - SMZs)
- Creating a recreational tag program for species with exceptionally low recreational ACLs (Amendment 22)
- Removing species from the FMU (Amendment 35)



MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Snapper Grouper

- Addressing modifications to the blueline tilefish fishery (Amendment 32) -- ***Hot Topic***
 - The stock assessment
 - Increased catches in the Mid-Atlantic
 - Potential emergency action

- Addressing the modification of the time area prohibitions on the use of black sea bass pots (Regulatory Amendment 16) -- ***Hot Topic***
 - Whales, whales everywhere!



MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Joint Management with the Gulf Council

- Modifying the king mackerel boundaries and mixing zone (Joint Amendment 26)
- Modifying/separating Atlantic and Gulf king and Spanish mackerel commercial permits and separating the Joint CMP FMP (Joint Amendment 28)
- Modifying the timing of reporting of commercial logbooks with an electronic reporting option (Joint Commercial Logbook Amendment)
- Considering requiring electronic logbooks for charter vessels (Joint Electronic Reporting Amendment)



Joint South Florida Committee:

Background

Purpose:

To minimize conflicting regulations for South Florida species (yellowtail snapper, mutton snapper, black grouper, and possibly hogfish in the Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and State of Florida waters.)

Goal:

To provide guidance in determining the best solutions for fisheries management issues that are unique to South Florida through a Joint Council Committee and subsequent amendment development.





Committee History: 2011 - 2015

Timing	Activity
June 2011	Joint Council Committee on South Florida Management Issues formed; <i>(in response to a South Atlantic Council motion)</i>
August 2013	FL FWC held a series of South Florida scoping workshops; <i>(prior to first Committee meeting)</i>
January 2014	First meeting of Joint Committee; <i>(discussed management needs of South Florida species.)</i>
July 2014	Second meeting of Joint Committee.
January 2015	Third meeting of Joint Committee.
June 2015	Gulf and South Atlantic Councils meet, discuss, and approve for public hearings.
August 2015	Public hearings are held in South Florida.
Sept/Oct 2015	Councils review public input and approve actions.
Dec 2015/Jan 2016	Final approval by both Councils.





FUTURE PRIORITIES

- Complete the *Snapper Grouper Visioning Project* and develop a strategic plan for the fishery
- Explore potential applications of the visioning project for our *other fisheries*
- Improve *reporting and data collection* (electronic reporting)
- Encourage NMFS to improve *fisheries dependent data collection*
- Increase the number and frequency of stock assessments and *improve the SEDAR stock assessment process*
- Encourage and support the development of a *cooperative fisheries independent monitoring program*



ADDITIONAL NOAA SUPPORT REQUIRED

- SAFE Reports
- Support for and collaboration on cooperative monitoring
- More \$\$ to support fishery independent surveys and fisheries dependent data collection
- Commitment of personnel and resources to explore better data poor approaches for management
- System for more timely posting and tracking of ACLs (especially recreational ACLs)
- Improved communication, collaboration and relaxation of formality



South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

QUESTIONS?

