



Council Report

An update published by the New England Fishery Management Council – July 2011

The Council Report summarizes major issues voted on or discussed at each regularly scheduled NEFMC meeting. The Council met most recently on June 21-23, 2011 in Portland, ME.

At its late June meeting, the Council addressed issues related to skate, groundfish, monkfish and sea scallop management, and received a number of reports and presentations. These included an NMFS briefing and request for comments concerning revisions to National Standard 10 --- safety at sea --- and an overview of the U.S. Navy's operational and training activities in the Northwest Atlantic. NMFS also presented the Council with a report on issues related to scientific research, including the disposition and sale of catch on scientific research trips, accounting for the catch on such trips, and the impact of that catch on the stock assessment process; and the Northeast Fisheries Science Center summarized its *Interim Report on the Performance of the Northeast Multispecies Fishery* (May 2010–January 2011). The Council also addressed the NMFS-commissioned report on the fisheries management process in the Northeast.

Northeast Skate Complex

Increased TAL put in the 2012-2013 Draft Specs, Emergency Action Requested

Acting on advice from its Skate Committee, Advisors and Plan Development Team, the Council approved alternatives for Annual Catch Limit specifications to be analyzed and included in a package that it plans to approve this September. The new specifications would apply to the 2012-2013 fishing years based on an Allowable Biological Catch (ABC) recommendation provided by the NEFMC's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC).

Using new survey and commercial catch data, the SSC recommended a 23% increase in the Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) to 50,425 metric tons. Two factors that led to the change were significant increases in little and winter skate biomass, and new research indicating that the discard survival of both species was higher than had been assumed.

The improved understanding of discard skate survival spells good news for the fishing industry and enabled the Council to approve a 69% increase in Total Allowable Landings (TAL) to 23,365 metric tons, after adjusting for a

3% allowance for anticipated skate landings from state waters.

The Council also agreed to include previously unaccounted for skate landings in the skate bait fishery. These landings have been and are reported by fishermen as sales to other vessels for bait, and had not been channeled through an authorized shore side dealer.

In the meantime, the Council was presented with biological information that compelled it to ask the NMFS Regional Administrator to approve the new limits this year through Emergency Action. Emergency Action taken by the agency could take effect much more quickly than any change made through the federal rulemaking process that binds the Council.

The Council agreed to two approaches for setting the wing fishery possession limits, again using new data from the 2010 and 2011 skate fisheries. Both would extend the wing fishery in time by setting limits at a level that would be unlikely to trigger the very small incidental skate wing limit.

In one approach, wing possession limits would be identified such that the 100% wing TAL would be taken by the fishery, reaching the TAL trigger late enough in the fishing year to avoid curtailing the directed fishery. The Council agreed that the new specifications could increase the current 85% trigger point up to 90%.

In the second approach, the Council agreed to consider a more conservative alternative to setting the wing possession limits. These would be calculated to achieve 85% of the wing TAL, in case the wing fishery lands more than expected by the analysis.

Since the focus of the specifications is setting the wing possession limits so that the fishery does not shut down mid-season, the Council decided not to consider increasing the incidental skate possession limit from 500 pounds to 1,250 pounds.

On the other hand, since the TAL will increase by 69%, the Council did agree to consider increasing the skate bait fishery possession limit from 20,000 to 25,000 pounds. The main purpose of the skate bait fishery possession limit is to discourage derby-style fishing in a fishery regulated by three seasonal quotas.

The Council declined to increase the skate possession limit for vessels using gillnets on a Multispecies Category B day-at-sea (DAS), even though it was originally lowered to protect winter skates which have since rebounded. And although Category B DAS have been reserved for fishing on "healthy" stocks, lifting the skate possession limit could invite considerably more fishing effort.

Council members also voted to postpone lifting the prohibition on keeping barndoor skate. Although once overfished, barndoors are still in a rebuilding program and have not achieved the target biomass that would move it into a "no longer overfished" condition.

During the skate discussion the Council took note that in 2010 state waters landings increased

to over 12% of the total skate landings.

Although this may be an event related to the federal fishing regulations in effect at the time, the Council decided to alert the New England states about the problem, and asked them to set skate limits that are more consistent with the federal rules.

Finally, the Council also decided to consider developing new strategies for managing skates. These might be regional to protect depleted stocks while allowing more fishing on others and would be considered in the next appropriate management action.

Groundfish

Amendment 17 Approved

The Council voted to approve Amendment 17 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The action is intended to facilitate more effective operations of state-operated groundfish fishing permit banks in New England. State-controlled permit banks, at least for now, have been established in ME, NH, MA and RI and are funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). They will be used by the states to preserve fishing opportunities for small, owner-operated fishing operations in New England fishing communities that might otherwise struggle with the transition to the groundfish sector catch-share program.

Once approved by NMFS, acting on behalf of the Secretary of Commerce, the action will enhance the Council's partnership with the states by exempting their permit banks from many of the rules that "sector-operated" or privately held permit banks must comply with, while still requiring some level of oversight and coordination with federal fisheries policy-makers.

Concerns were raised that states could obtain fishing vessel permits from individuals looking for economic relief, and that these actions could affect the market for groundfish permits. The state-operated permit banks, however, are currently restricted by Memoranda of

Agreement that are required by NOAA, but also would be asked to annually report to the Council about all funding sources, including those outside of NOAA. Additionally, the Council agreed to require details about the consistency of state-operated permit bank activities with the goals and objectives of the NEFMC's Groundfish FMP.

Framework 47 Development Continues

Additional measures were approved at this meeting for inclusion in Draft Framework 47 to the Groundfish Plan, an action that will address fishery specifications for 2012-2014. As part of its work on accountability measures for several groundfish stocks, the Council approved an option to allocate Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic winter flounder to the groundfish fishery. Currently the region is subject to a zero possession limit. Other options approved for further consideration in Framework 47 included the elimination of the 10% cap on yellowtail flounder caught in the Georges Bank access areas. Development of the framework will occur over the summer with final Council approval scheduled for the November 2011 Council meeting.

Accumulation Limits Amendment Moves Ahead

The Council also received a report on an early June workshop it hosted on the topics of accumulation limits and fleet diversity for the multispecies fishery. Based on ideas that were identified at the workshop, the Council agreed to move forward to address these issues in an amendment to the Groundfish FMP. The Groundfish Committee will prepare a scoping document, the first step in developing any FMP amendment.

Monkfish

Amendment 6 White Paper Presented

Council staff presented a white paper prepared by the Monkfish Plan Development Team. The paper outlined issues and considerations that could affect the management regimes for the northern and southern areas of the monkfish fishery if the management plan was divided into two separate plans by region.

The paper had been requested by the Monkfish Committee after it considered comments from the public about potentially adopting catch shares management as part of Amendment 6 to the Monkfish FMP.

After reviewing the paper, the Council unanimously agreed to continue to manage the monkfish fishery under a single FMP, although that decision does not preclude the development of different management strategies in the two areas. The Monkfish Committee will develop Amendment 6 goals and objectives as its next step in the process.

Sea Scallop and Habitat Updates

The Council received an update from Scallop Committee Chairman David Pierce on the range of alternatives, listed below, that may be included Framework 23 to the Sea Scallop FMP.

- 1.) Require turtle deflector dredges in areas of the Mid-Atlantic during specified periods.
- 2.) Refine the yellowtail flounder accountability measure that was approved in Amendment 15 to the Scallop FMP; changes would involve possible modification to the current accountability measure closure schedule and possible inclusion of limited access general category (LAGC) vessels.
- 3.) Modify the LAGC Northern Gulf of Maine sea scallop program to allow Northern Gulf of Maine and/or LAGC IFQ vessels to fish exclusively in state waters on a trip-by-trip basis without deducting the scallop catch from those trips from either the federal Northern Gulf of Maine hard total allowable catch or the individual quotas on LAGC vessels.
- 4.) Modify VMS regulations to allow limited access vessels to declare into the fishery inshore of the demarcation line rather than from port to address safety concerns.

Final action is scheduled at the September Council meeting followed by a March 1 implementation date.

The Council also received an update from the Habitat Committee and staff on the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Omnibus Amendment. The committee is currently developing options to minimize adverse effects of fishing on EFH. These options will be combined with others developed by the Groundfish Committee that relate to the multispecies closed areas and packaged into alternatives for analysis in a Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The Habitat Committee also is developing options to minimize adverse effects of fishing on deep-sea corals.

Management Review

Recommendations Move Forward

At the June meeting the Council announced its response to a report requested by Council Chairman John Pappalardo and commissioned by NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service Director, Eric Schwaab.

Released last April, the report *Review of the New England Fishery Management Process* detailed needed improvements to New England Council operations, as well as those of NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regional office in Gloucester, MA and the Northeast Fisheries Science Center in Woods Hole, MA and the interactions between each organization.

The report included a number of overarching recommendations: eliminating redundancies across the entire system that constitutes fisheries management in New England; promoting a shared sense of accountability among the three organizations; defining clear and objective criteria for determining the success of management decisions; and the development of a shared vision and strategy to guide the process

Council Executive Director Paul Howard, NMFS Regional Administrator Pat Kurkul and Frank Almeida, the Acting Director of the Science Center each discussed a fully coordinated and committed action plan that is already underway.

Many areas and issues detailed in the report will be tackled jointly by the Regional Office, Science Center and Council. Those that the Council will take the lead on include:

- Improving communication and collaboration with stakeholders
- Redesigning Council and other meetings to facilitate this outcome
- Creating a regional vision and strategic plan that will incorporate collaboration with all stakeholders and set a future direction for the fishery, and
- Designing a cost-effective performance management system to track the progress of decisions, captures lessons learned and incorporates best practices.

The Council and public will receive a comprehensive plan concerning the recommendations in the management process report at its September 27-29, 2011 meeting in Danvers, MA.

Materials on the Web

More June Council Meeting Information

Materials related to the above issues and PowerPoint presentations that accompanied the briefings presented to the Council in June are located at www.nefmc.org.

Audio files of the full meeting discussions as well as the meeting motions are posted at <http://www.nefmc.org/actions/index.html>.

Next Council Meeting

September 27-29, 2011
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Danvers, MA,

**SUMMARY REPORT
FROM THE MACKEREL COMMITTEE MEETING
St. Simons Island, GA
March 7, 2011**

The Mackerel Committee met on March 7, 2011 in St. Simons Island, Ga. The committee reviewed Mackerel Amendment 18/EA and Options for Mackerel Amendment 19.

The committee approved the following motions:

I. MACKEREL AMENDMENT 18/EA

2.1 ACTION 1: Modifications to the Fishery Management Unit

Alternative 1: No Action – Retain the following species in the Fishery Management Plan for data collection purposes only, but do not add them to the Fishery Management Unit: cero, little tunny, dolphin (Gulf only), and bluefish (Gulf only).

Alternative 2: Add the following species to the Fishery Management Unit Set and set annual catch limits and accountability measures:

- Option a: Cero
 - Suboption i: In the Gulf of Mexico region
 - Suboption ii: In the South Atlantic region
- Option b: Little tunny
 - Suboption i: In the Gulf of Mexico region
 - Suboption ii: In the South Atlantic region
- Option c: Dolphin (In the Gulf of Mexico region only)
- Option d: Bluefish (In the Gulf of Mexico region only)

MOTION #1: ADOPT ALTERNATIVE 3A, 3C AND 3D

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION: ADOPT ALTERNATIVE 3 AS OUR PREFERRED
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE**

MAIN MOTION: APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Preferred Alternative 3 (Gulf): Remove the following species from the Fishery Management Plan:

- Option a: Cero
 - Suboption i: In the Gulf of Mexico region
 - Suboption ii: In the South Atlantic region
- Option b: Little tunny
 - Suboption i: In the Gulf of Mexico region
 - Suboption ii: In the South Atlantic region
- Option c: Dolphin
 - Suboption i: In the Gulf of Mexico region
 - Suboption ii: In the South Atlantic region
- Option d: Bluefish (In the Gulf of Mexico region only)

2.2 ACTION 2: Modify the Framework Procedure

Alternative 1. No Action – Do not modify the framework procedure.

Alternative 2. Update the framework procedure to incorporate the SEDAR process and adjustments to ACLs (Appendix A).

Alternative 3. Revise the framework procedure to incorporate the SEDAR process and adjustments to ACLs, and expand the procedure to allow adjustments of greater range of management measures under specific procedural guidelines.

MOTION #2: ADOPT ALTERNATIVE 3, OPTION 1 AS OUR PREFERRED APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

GMFMC Preferred Option 1: Adopt the base Framework Procedure (Appendix B)

SAFMC Preferred Option 2: Adopt the more broad Framework Procedure (Appendix C)

Option 3: Adopt the more narrow Framework Procedure (Appendix D)

2.3 ACTION 3: Establish Separate Atlantic and Gulf Migratory Groups of Cobia

Alternative 1. No action - Maintain one group of cobia.

Alternative 2. Separate the two migratory groups at the Miami-Dade/Monroe County line.

SAFMC Preferred /GMFMC Preferred Alternative 3. Separate the two migratory groups at the SAFMC/GMFMC boundary.

For Action 4 and the other actions for Gulf group king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, and cobia, the Gulf Council voted to add ACL alternatives based on the ABC Control Rule in our Generic ACL amendment. Gulf Council staff will add these actions/information once they receive recommendations from the Gulf SSC on those ABCs which will be in March.

The Gulf Council approved all of the preferred alternatives for Actions 14-21 pertaining to the Atlantic as previously approved by the SAFMC.

Note: Gulf Council should have also approved Action 13 which we will get them to do at their April 2011 meeting.

2.13 ACTION 13: Specify MSY, MSST, MFMT/OFL, ABC, OY, ACL (TAC), and ACT levels for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel

2.13.3 Allowable Biological Catch (ABC) Control Rule and ABC for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel

Alternative 1. No Action. Do not establish an ABC Control Rule for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel.

SAFMC Preferred Alternative 2. Adopt the SAFMC SSC recommended ABC control rule and establish ABC as 10.46 million pounds (MP).

Alternative 3. Establish an ABC Control Rule where ABC equals OFL.

Note: OFL=12.8359

Alternative 4. Establish an ABC Control Rule where ABC equals a percentage of OFL.

Alternative 4a. ABC = 65%OFL (8.3433 million pounds)

Alternative 4b. ABC = 75%OFL (9.6269 million pounds)

Alternative 4c. ABC = 85%OFL (10.9105 million pounds)

Table 2.13.3.4. Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel ABC recommendations from the Scientific and Statistical Committee and current allocations.

Year	ABC	Recreational (62.9%)	Commercial (37.1%)
2011	10.95	6.89	4.06
2012	10.36	6.52	3.84
2013	10.06	6.33	3.73
Average	10.46	6.58	3.88

Under **Alternative 3** ABC = OFL = 12.8359 million pounds which corresponds to the yield at $F_{30\%SPR}$, the accepted MSY proxy from the last stock assessment.

2.13.4 Annual Catch Limit (ACL) for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel

Alternative 1. No action. Currently TAC or ACL =10.0 million pounds based on an ABC of 8.9 - 13.3 million pounds.

SAFMC Preferred Alternative 2. ACL = OY = ABC = 10.46 million pounds which is the average of the ABC values for 2011-2013 recommended by the SSC.

Alternative 3. ACL = OY = ABC = 10.06 million pounds which is the lowest value within the 2011-2013 recommendations (10.06 – 10.95 million pounds).

Alternative 4. ACL = OY = ABC = 10.95 million pounds which is the highest value within the 2011-2013 recommendations (10.06 – 10.95 million pounds).

Alternative 5. ACL = OY = X% of ABC = _____ million pounds.

Sub-Alternative 5a. ACL = 65%ABC.

Note: If ABC=10.46, ACL = 6.799.

Sub-Alternative 5b. ACL = 75%ABC.

Note: If ABC=10.46, ACL = 7.845.

Sub-Alternative 5c. ACL = 85%ABC.

Note: If ABC=10.46, ACL = 8.891.

Sub-Alternative 5d. ACL = 80%ABC.

Note: If ABC=10.46, ACL = 8.368.

Sub-Alternative 5e. ACL = 90%ABC.

Note: If ABC=10.46, ACL = 9.414.

2.13.5 Annual Catch Target (ACT) for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel

Action 2.13.5a. Commercial Sector ACT

SAFMC Preferred Alternative 1. Do not specify commercial sector ACTs for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel.

Alternative 2. The commercial sector ACT equals 90% of the commercial sector ACL.

Alternative 3. The commercial sector ACT equals 80% of the commercial sector ACL.

Table 2.13.5.1. The commercial sector ACT for each of the alternatives. Values are in lbs whole weight.

Species	Preferred Commercial ACL	Commercial Sector ACT		
		ACT Alt. 2; ACT=ACL	ACT Alt. 3; ACT=90%(ACL)	ACT Alt. 4; ACT=80%(ACL)
Atlantic migratory group king mackerel	3.88	3.88	3.49	3.10

Action 2.13.5b. Recreational Sector ACT

Alternative 1 (no action). Do not specify recreational sector ACTs for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel.

Alternative 2. The recreational sector ACT equals 85% of the recreational sector ACL.

Alternative 3. The recreational sector ACT equals 75% of the recreational sector ACL.

SAFMC Preferred Alternative 4. The recreational sector ACT equals sector ACL[(1-PSE) or 0.5, whichever is greater].

Table 12.13.5.2. Proportional Standard Errors (PSEs) for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel from numbers estimates (A+B1) for all modes.

Source: Obtained from <http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov> on May 12, 2010.

Species	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	3 year average (2007-09)	5 year average (2005-09)
Atlantic migratory group king mackerel	5.6	5.8	6.1	5.6	5.8	6.3	6.5	6.2	6.1

Table 2.13.5.3. The recreational ACT for each of the alternatives. Values are in lbs whole weight.

Species	Preferred Private Recreational Sector ACL	Recreational Sector ACT		
		ACT Alt. 2; ACT=85%(ACL)	ACT Alt. 3; ACT=75%(ACL)	ACT Alt. 4; ACT equals sector ACL[(1-PSE) or 0.5, whichever is greater]
Atlantic migratory group king mackerel	6.58	5.59	4.94	6.18

2.14 ACTION 14: Specify Accountability Measures (AMs) for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel

The Councils may specify multiple preferred from among the following:

Alternative 1 (No Action). The commercial AM for this stock is to prohibit harvest, possession, and retention when the quota is met. All purchase and sale is prohibited when the quota is met. Do not implement ACLs or AMs for the recreational sector.

Consider: (1) add "met or" before projected to be met and (2) change 2011 to 2011/12 fishing year, 2012 to 2012/13 fishing year, and 2013 to 2013/2014 fishing year.

OK BY CONSENSUS

Alternative 2. The commercial AM for this stock is to prohibit harvest, possession, and retention when the quota is projected to be met. All purchase and sale is prohibited when the quota is projected to be met. Implement ~~Accountability Measures (AMs)~~ for the recreational sector for this stock. If the recreational sector ACL is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the length of the following fishing year by the amount necessary to ensure landings do not exceed the recreational sector ACL for the following fishing year. Compare recreational ACL with recreational landings over a range of years. For 2011, use only 2011 landings. For 2012, use the average landings of 2011 and 2012. For 2013 and beyond, use the most recent three-year running average.

Sub-Alternative a. Reduce the length of the following fishing year by the amount necessary to ensure landings do not exceed the recreational sector ACL for the following fishing year.

Sub-Alternative b (SAFMC and GMFMC Preferred). Reduce the bag limit to ensure landings do not exceed the recreational sector ACL for the following fishing year.

Alternative 3. Commercial payback of any overage.

SAFMC and GMFMC Preferred Sub-Alternative 3a. Payback regardless of stock status.

Sub-Alternative 3b. Payback only if overfished.

Alternative 4. Recreational payback of any overage from one year to the next.

SAFMC and GMFMC Preferred Sub-Alternative 4a. Payback regardless of stock status.

Sub-Alternative 4b. Payback only if overfished.

2.15 ACTION 15: Management Measures for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel
SAFMC and GMFMC agree: No changes to existing management measures are being proposed because the ACLs do not appear likely to be exceeded.

2.16. ACTION 16: Specify MSY, MSST, MFMT/OFL, ABC, OY, ACL (TAC), and ACT levels for Atlantic Migratory Group Spanish Mackerel

2.16.2 Overfishing Level (OFL) for Atlantic Migratory Group Spanish Mackerel

The Scientific and Statistical Committee provided the following OFL recommendation at their April 2010 meeting: Since no estimate of MSY is available for Spanish mackerel, the SSC decided to develop ABC recommendations based on landings data. Based on the SEDAR 17 review panel recommendation that overfishing was not occurring, the SSC decided to bypass the OFL estimate and recommend ABC as the median of landings over the last 10 years.

The OFL is unknown.

MOTION #3: USE AN INTERIM OFL FOR SPANISH MACKEREL = MEAN OF 10 YEARS LANDINGS + (2*STANDARD DEVIATION) (OFL=6.14 MP) BASED ON THE GULF COUNCIL'S ABC CONTROL RULE.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Council could in the interim set OFL = mean of 10 years landings + (2*Standard Deviation) (OFL=6.14 MP) based on the Gulf Council's ABC Control Rule. The SAFMC's SSC is meeting in April and they can review the Council's interim OFL.

2.16.3 Allowable Biological Catch (ABC) Control Rule and ABC for Atlantic Migratory Group Spanish Mackerel

Alternative 1. No Action. Do not establish an ABC Control Rule for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel.

SAFMC and GMFMC Preferred Alternative 2. Adopt the SAFMC SSC recommended ABC control rule and establish ABC as ~~4.91~~ 5.29 million pounds (MP).

Alternative 2. Establish ABC based on the SSC's recommendation.

Question: Should we delete Alternative 2?

Table 2.16.3.1. Atlantic Migratory Group Spanish Mackerel ABC recommendation from the Scientific and Statistical Committee and current allocations.

Year	ABC	Recreational (45%)	Commercial (55%)	Source
2011	4.91	2.21	2.70	SSC
2011	5.29	2.38	2.91	SSC & Updated Landings

2.16.4 Annual Catch Limit (ACL) for Atlantic Migratory Group Spanish Mackerel

Alternative 1. No action. Currently TAC or ACL =7.04 million pounds based on an ABC of 5.7 – 9.0 million pounds.

SAFMC and GMFMC Preferred Alternative 2. ACL = OY = ABC = 5.29 million pounds which is the ABC recommended by the SSC.

Alternative 3. ACL = OY = X% of ABC = _____ million pounds.

Sub-Alternative 3a. ACL = 75%ABC = 3.97 million pounds.

Sub-Alternative 3b. ACL = 85%ABC = 4.50 million pounds.

Sub-Alternative 3c. ACL = 95%ABC = 5.03 million pounds.

Sub-Alternative 3d. ACL = 80%ABC = 4.23 million pounds.

Sub-Alternative 3e. ACL = 90%ABC = 4.76 million pounds.

2.16.5 Annual Catch Target (ACT) for Atlantic Migratory Group Spanish Mackerel

Action 2.16.5a Commercial Sector ACT

SAFMC and GMFMC Preferred Alternative 1. Do not specify commercial sector ACTs for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel.

Alternative 2. The commercial sector ACT equals 90% of the commercial sector ACL.

Alternative 3. The commercial sector ACT equals 80% of the commercial sector ACL.

Table 2.16.5.1. The commercial sector ACT for each of the alternatives. Values are in lbs whole weight.

Species	Preferred Commercial ACL	Commercial Sector ACT	
		ACT Alt. 2; ACT=90%(ACL)	ACT Alt. 3; ACT=80%(ACL)
Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel	2.91	2.62	2.33

Action 2.16.5b Recreational Sector ACT

Alternative 1 (no action). Do not specify recreational sector ACTs for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel.

Alternative 2. The recreational sector ACT equals 85% of the recreational sector ACL.

Alternative 3. The recreational sector ACT equals 75% of the recreational sector ACL.

SAFMC and GMFMC Preferred Alternative 4. The recreational sector ACT equals sector ACL[(1-PSE) or 0.5, whichever is greater].

Table 2.16.5.2. Proportional Standard Errors (PSEs) for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel from numbers estimates (A+B1) for all modes.

Source: Obtained from <http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov> on May 12, 2010.

Species	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	3 year average (2007-09)	5 year average (2005-09)
Atlantic migratory group king mackerel	7.4	8.7	8.2	8.9	8.1	7.7	8.1	8.0	8.2

Table 2.16.5.3. The recreational ACT for each of the alternatives. Values are in lbs whole weight. The 5-year average PSE was used.

Species	Preferred Recreational Sector ACL	Recreational Sector ACT		
		ACT Alt. 2; ACT=85%(ACL)	ACT Alt. 3; ACT=75%(ACL)	ACT Alt. 4; ACT equals sector ACL[(1-PSE) or 0.5, whichever is greater]
Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel	2.38	2.02	1.79	2.19

2.17 ACTION 17: Specify Accountability Measures (AMs) for Atlantic Migratory Group Spanish Mackerel

Alternative 1 (Status Quo). The commercial AM for this stock is to prohibit harvest, possession, and retention when the quota is met. All purchase and sale is prohibited when the quota is met. Do not implement ACLs or AMs for the recreational sector.

Consider: (1) add "met or" before projected to be met and (2) change 2011 to 2011/12 fishing year, 2012 to 2012/13 fishing year, and 2013 to 2013/2014 fishing year.

OK BY CONSENSUS

Alternative 2. The commercial AM for this stock is to prohibit harvest, possession, and retention when the quota is projected to be met. All purchase and sale is prohibited when the quota is projected to be met. Implement Accountability Measures (AMs) for the recreational sector for this stock. If the recreational sector ACL is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the length of the following fishing year by the amount necessary to ensure landings do not exceed the recreational sector ACL for the following fishing year. Compare recreational ACL with recreational landings over a range of years. For 2011, use only 2011 landings. For 2012, use the average landings of 2011 and 2012. For 2013 and beyond, use three-year running average.

Sub-Alternative a. Reduce the length of the following fishing year by the amount necessary to ensure landings do not exceed the recreational sector ACL for the following fishing year.

SAFMC and GMFMC Preferred Sub-Alternative b (Preferred). Reduce the bag limit to ensure landings do not exceed the recreational sector ACL for the following fishing year.

Alternative 3. Commercial payback of any overage.

SAFMC and GMFMC Preferred Sub-Alternative 3a. Payback regardless of stock status.

Sub-Alternative 3b. Payback only if overfished.

Alternative 4. Recreational payback of any overage from one year to the next.

SAFMC and GMFMC Preferred Sub-Alternative 4a. Payback regardless of stock status.

Sub-Alternative 4b. Payback only if overfished.

2.18 ACTION 18: Management Measures for Atlantic Migratory Group Spanish Mackerel

[Note: More than one alternative may be selected as preferred.]

Alternative 1 (No Action). Individual recreational bag limit is 15 NY-FL. Bag limit sales are allowed consistent with state regulations. The commercial possession limits are as follows:

1. April 1 - November 30 -- 3,500 pounds per vessel per day.
2. December 1 until 75% of the adjusted allocation is taken:

Monday - Friday	Unlimited
Other days	1,500 pounds

(Vessel fishing days begin at 6:00 a.m. and extend until 6:00 a.m. the following day, and vessels must be unloaded by 6:00 p.m. of that following day.)

3. After 75% of the adjusted allocation is taken 1,500 pounds per vessel per day for all days.
4. When 100% of the adjusted allocation is reached: 500 pounds per vessel per day to the end of the fishing year (March 31). Adjusted allocation compensates for estimated catches of 500 pounds per vessel per day to the end of the season.

Alternative 32. Set a maximum bag limit of 60 Spanish mackerel per boat for charter boats.

Alternative 43. Set a maximum bag limit of 60 Spanish mackerel per boat for private recreational boats.

SAFMC and GMFMC Preferred Alternative 54. Reduce the individual bag limit from 15 to 10 per person.

Table 2.18.1. Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel percentage reductions by reducing the bag limit from 15 to 10.

Source: ACCSP.

Year	Florida	Georgia	South Carolina	North Carolina	Virginia
2009	0%	0%	13%	17%	0%
2008	14%	0%	0%	17%	36%
2007	20%	0%	0%	19%	0%
2006	6%	0%	0%	16%	0%
2005	27%	53%	0%	15%	0%
Range	0-27%	0-53%	0-13%	15-19%	0-36%
Average	13%	11%	3%	17%	7%

2.19 ACTION 19: Specify MSY, MSST, MFMT/OFL, ABC, OY, ACL (TAC), Allocations, and ACT levels for Atlantic Migratory Group Cobia

2.19.2 Overfishing Level (OFL) for Atlantic Migratory Group Cobia

The Scientific and Statistical Committee provided the following OFL at their April 2010 meeting: "Since no estimate of MSY is available for cobia the SSC decided to estimate OFL as the median of landings data for the period 1986-2008. Therefore, OFL = 857,714 pounds."

The Council used the SSC methodology (median of 10 years of landings) and updated landings data to calculate a new OFL = 1,302,740 pounds.

The SSC provided the following OFL at their March 3, 2011 meeting: OFL = unknown.

MOTION #4: SET THE IN INTERIM SET OFL = MEAN OF 10 YEARS LANDINGS + (2*STANDARD DEVIATION) (OFL=1.68 MP) BASED ON THE GULF COUNCIL'S ABC CONTROL RULE.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Council could in the interim set OFL = mean of 10 years landings + (2*Standard Deviation) (OFL=1.68 MP) based on the Gulf Council's ABC Control Rule. The SAFMC's SSC is meeting in April and they can review the Council's interim OFL.

2.19.3 Allowable Biological Catch (ABC) Control Rule and ABC for Atlantic Migratory Group Cobia

Alternative 1. No Action. Do not establish an ABC Control Rule for Atlantic migratory group cobia.

Alternative 2. Adopt the SAFMC SSC recommended ABC control rule and establish ABC as xxxx pounds. Note: During their March 3, 1011 meeting, the SSC developed a new ABC = median of last 10 years and using the updated ACL data set, ABC = 1,026,079 pounds.

Alternative 3. Adopt the SAFMC SSC recommended ABC control rule and establish an ABC Control Rule where ABC equals OFL (1,302,740 pounds)

Alternative 4. Adopt the SAFMC SSC recommended ABC control rule and establish an ABC Control Rule where ABC equals a percentage of OFL.

Alternative 4a. ABC=65%OFL. (846,781 pounds)

SAFMC and GMFMC Preferred Alternative 4b (Preferred). ABC=75%OFL (977,055 pounds)

Alternative 4c. ABC=85%OFL (1,107,329 pounds)

MOTION #5: ADOPT AS AN INTERIM CONTROL RULE, THE GULF COUNCIL CONTROL RULE AND ASK THE SSC TO REVIEW THAT CONTROL RULE AT THEIR APRIL 2011 MEETING APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Alternative 5. Establish an ABC equal to the mean plus 1.5 times the standard deviation of the most recent 10 years of landings data (ABC = 1,571,399 pounds).

2.19.5 Allocations for Atlantic Migratory Group Cobia

Alternative 1. No action. Currently there are no allocations for cobia.

Alternative 2. Define allocations for Atlantic migratory group cobia based upon landings from the ALS, MRFSS, and headboat databases. The allocation would be based on landings from the years 2006-2008. The allocation would be 8% commercial and 92% recreational. The commercial and recreational allocation specified for 2011 would remain in effect beyond 2011 until modified.

SAFMC and GMFMC Preferred Alternative 3 (Preferred). Define allocations for Atlantic migratory group cobia based upon landings from the ALS, MRFSS, and headboat databases. The allocation would be based on the following formula for each sector:

Sector apportionment = (50% * average of long catch range (lbs) 2000-2008 + (50% * average of recent catch trend (lbs) 2006-2008). The allocation would be 8% commercial and 92% recreational. The commercial and recreational allocation specified for 2011 would remain in effect beyond 2011 until modified.

Table 2.19.4.1. Atlantic Migratory Group Cobia ABC recommendation from the Scientific and Statistical Committee and proposed allocations.

		Allocation Alt.2		Allocation Alt.3		Source
Year	ABC	Rec (92%)	Com (8%)	Rec (92%)	Com (8%)	
2011	643,286	591,823	51,463	591,823	51,463	SSC
2011	977,055	898,891	78,164	898,891	78,164	SSC's method & updated landings

2.19.5 Annual Catch Limit (ACL) for Atlantic Migratory Group Cobia

Alternative 1. No action. Currently there is no TAC or ACL for cobia.

SAFMC and GMFMC Preferred Alternative 2. ACL = OY = ABC = 977,055 pounds based on the SSC recommendation.

Note: During their March 3, 2011 meeting, the SSC developed a new ABC = median of last 10 years and using the updated ACL data set, ABC = 1,026,079 pounds.

Alternative 3. ACL = X% of ABC = ??? thousand pounds.

Sub-Alternative 3a. ACL = 65%ABC = 635,086 pounds.

Sub-Alternative 3b. ACL = 75%ABC = 732,791 pounds.

Sub-Alternative 3c. ACL = 85%ABC = 830,497 pounds.

Sub-Alternative 3d. ACL = 80%ABC = 781,644 pounds.

Sub-Alternative 3e. ACL = 90%ABC = 879,350 pounds.

2.19.6 Annual Catch Target (ACT) for Atlantic Migratory Group Cobia

Action 2.19.6a Commercial Sector ACT

SAFMC and GMFMC Preferred Alternative 1. Do not specify commercial sector ACTs for Atlantic migratory group cobia.

Alternative 2. The commercial sector ACT equals 90% of the commercial sector ACL.

Alternative 3. The commercial sector ACT equals 80% of the commercial sector ACL.

Table 2.19.6.1. The commercial sector ACT for each of the alternatives. Values are in lbs whole weight.

Note: This table will be completed once the Council chooses the preferred ACL alternative.

Species	Preferred Commercial ACL	Commercial Sector ACT	
		ACT Alt. 2; ACT=90%(ACL)	ACT Alt. 3; ACT=80%(ACL)
Atlantic migratory group cobia	78,164	70,348	62,531

Action 2.19.6b Recreational Sector ACT

Alternative 1 (no action). Do not specify recreational sector ACTs for Atlantic migratory group cobia.

Alternative 2. The recreational sector ACT equals 85% of the recreational sector ACL.

Alternative 3. The recreational sector ACT equals 75% of the recreational sector ACL.

SAFMC and GMFMC Preferred Alternative 4. The recreational sector ACT equals sector ACL[(1-PSE) or 0.5, whichever is greater].

Table 2.19.6.2. Proportional Standard Errors (PSEs) for Atlantic migratory group cobia from numbers estimates (A+B1) for all modes.

Source: Obtained from <http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov> on May 12, 2010.

Species	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	3 year average (2007-09)	5 year average (2005-09)
Atlantic migratory group cobia	15.0	20.2	21.4	14.7	15.2	18.9	14.8	16.3	17.0

Table 2.19.6.3. The recreational ACT for each of the alternatives. Values are in lbs whole weight. Three year average PSE used.

Species	Preferred Recreational Sector ACL	Recreational Sector ACT		
		ACT Alt. 2; ACT=85%(ACL)	ACT Alt. 3; ACT=75%(ACL)	ACT Alt. 4; ACT equals sector ACL[(1-PSE) or 0.5, whichever is greater]
Atlantic migratory group cobia	898,891	764,057	674,168	752,372

2.20 ACTION 20. Specify Accountability Measures (AMs) for Atlantic Migratory Group Cobia

Alternative 1 (No Action). There is no quota for cobia and there are no AMs in place for cobia.

Consider: (1) add "or projected to be met" after "met"

OK BY CONSENSUS

Alternative 2. The commercial AM for this stock is to prohibit harvest, possession, and retention when the quota is met. All purchase and sale is prohibited when the quota is met. Do not implement ACLs or AMs for the recreational sector.

SAFMC and GMFMC Preferred Alternative 3. The commercial AM for this stock is to prohibit harvest, possession, and retention when the quota is met. All purchase and sale is prohibited when the quota is met. Implement Accountability Measures (AMs) for the recreational sector for this stock. If the ACL is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the length of the following fishing year by the amount necessary to ensure landings do not exceed the sector ACL for the following fishing year. Compare recreational ACL with recreational landings over a range of years. For 2011, use only 2011 landings. For 2012, use the average landings of 2011 and 2012. For 2013 and beyond, use three-year running average.

Alternative 4. Commercial payback of any overage.

SAFMC and GMFMC Preferred Sub-Alternative 4a. Payback regardless of stock status.

Sub-Alternative 4b. Payback only if overfished.

Alternative 5. Recreational payback of any overage from one year to the next.

SAFMC and GMFMC Preferred Sub-Alternative 5a. Payback regardless of stock status.

Sub-Alternative 5b. Payback only if overfished.

2.21 ACTION 21: Management Measures for Atlantic Migratory Group Cobia

[Note: More than one alternative may be selected as preferred.]

Alternative 1 (No Action). Recreational and commercial fishermen are limited to two cobia per person. This would retain the following regulations that apply to both recreational and commercial fishermen: (a) 33" fork length minimum size limit, (b) 2 per person bag limit (Note: Florida State regulations only allow 1 per person for recreational and 2 per person for commercial), (c) one day possession limit, (d) must be landed with heads and fins intact, and (d) charter/headboats require a permit for Coastal Migratory Pelagics.

Alternative 2. Specify a commercial trip limit:

Sub-Alternative 3A. Two cobia per person.

Sub-Alternative 3B. One cobia per person.

Alternative 3. Reduce the recreational bag limit from 2 to 1 cobia per person.

Alternative 4. Reduce the recreational bag limit from 2 to 1 cobia per boat per day.

Alternative 5. Establish a closed season for the recreational fishery.

**MOTION #6: ADD AN ALTERNATIVE THAT REDUCES THE BAG LIMIT FROM 2 TO 1 COBIA PER PERSON PER DAY DURING THE SPAWNING SEASON.
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE**

**MOTION #7: ADOPT ALTERNATIVE 1(NO ACTION) AS OUR PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE**

Table 2.21.1. Summary of percentage reduction in the cobia catch by reducing the bag limit from 2 to 1 per person per day.

Source: ACCSP.

Year	Florida	Georgia	South Carolina	North Carolina	Virginia
2009	8%	100%	37%	0%	0%
2008	0%	22%	42%	0%	0%
2007	10%	0%	0%	0%	10%
2006	11%	100%	0%	10%	0%
2005	0%	100%	0%	56%	0%
Range	0-11%	0-100%	0-42%	0-56%	0-10%
Average	6%	64%	16%	13%	2%

II. APPROVE FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS

**MOTION #8: APPROVE MACKEREL AMENDMENT 18 FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS AND GIVE EDITORIAL LICENSE TO STAFF TO INCORPORATE CHANGES FROM NEW DATA.
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE**

III. PUBLIC HEARING LOCATIONS & DATES

Public hearings will be held from 5-7 pm.

Dates (April 2011)	CMP Am 18 SAFMC	Spiny Lobster Am 10 GMFMC	Spiny Lobster Am 10 SAFMC
4/20	Key West, FL		Key West, FL
4/19	Marathon, FL	Marathon, FL	Marathon, FL
4/18	Cape Canaveral, FL		Cape Canaveral, FL
4/14	Jacksonville, FL		Jacksonville, FL
4/13	Savannah/Pooler, GA		Savannah/Pooler, GA
4/12	Charleston, SC		Charleston, SC
4/11	New Bern, NC		New Bern, NC

IV. TIMING & TASK

MOTION #9: APPROVE TIMING AND TASK ITEMS

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

1. MAKE THE NECESSARY REVISIONS TO MACKEREL AMENDMENT 18/EA AND PROVIDE THE REVISED DOCUMENT TO THE GULF COUNCIL FOR USE AT THEIR APRIL 11-14, 2011 MEETING.
2. PREPARE THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS.
3. PROVIDE THE DOCUMENTS TO THE MACKEREL ADVISORY PANEL FOR THEIR MEETING APRIL 6-7, 2011 IN NORTH CHARLESTON).
4. COORDINATE WITH THE GULF COUNCIL TO CONDUCT THE JOINT MACKEREL COMMITTEE AND JOINT COUNCIL MEETING DURING THE GULF COUNCIL'S JUNE 6-9, 2011 MEETING IN KEY WEST (COMMITTEE JUNE 9TH FROM 8:30-11 AM; PUBLIC COMMENT JUNE 9TH AFTERNOON; AND JOINT COUNCIL SESSION JUNE 10TH FROM 3-4 PM).
5. TARGET FINAL APPROVAL OF MACKEREL AMENDMENT 18/EA FOR JUNE 10TH DURING THE JOINT COUNCIL SESSION; MACKEREL AMENDMENT 18/EA WILL NOT BE DISCUSSED DURING THE SAFMC'S JUNE 13-17, 2011 MEETING IN KEY WEST.
6. WORK ON AMENDMENT 19 TO HAVE ALTERNATIVES FOR THE COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL TO REVIEW AT JUNE 13-17, 2011 MEETING.
7. PROVIDE MATERIALS FOR THE SAFMC SSC TO REVIEW MACKEREL AMENDMENT 18/EA WITH THE GULF COUNCIL'S CONTROL RULE AT THEIR APRIL 2011 MEETING AND ASK WHETHER IT COULD BE USED AS AN INTERIM APPROACH FOR SPANISH MACKEREL, COBIA AND LITTLE TUNNY UNTIL THE SEDAR STOCK ASSESSMENT IN 2012.

**COMMITTEE REPORT
FROM THE SNAPPER GROUPEE COMMITTEE
Key West, FL
June 14-15, 2011**

The SAFMC Snapper Grouper Committee met on June 14-15, 2011 at the Marriott Beachside Hotel in Key West, FL. The Committee discussed the following items:

Status of Commercial and Recreational Landings for Snapper Grouper Species

The SEFSC presented an overview of the current status of recreational landings while the SERO provided the status of commercial landings.

Snapper Grouper AP Report

Don DeMaria, chairman of the Snapper Grouper AP, gave an overview of the discussions that took place during the AP's April 2011 meeting in Charleston. The AP covered several items during their meeting and made several motions and recommendations pertaining to developing amendment, particularly the Comprehensive ACL Amendment, Regulatory Amendment 11 and Amendment 24.

SSC Report

Dr. Carolyn Belcher presented the Committee with an overview of deliberations that took place during the SSC's April 2011 meeting in Charleston. The salient item pertaining to snapper grouper was the development of a decision tree to recommend ABCs for the unassessed snapper grouper species included in the Comprehensive ACL, as well as dolphin and wahoo. The proposed approach is being incorporated into the SSC's proposed ABC Control rule for the time being. At their next meeting, the SSC will review the recently released approach for Only Reliable Catch Series (ORCS) species and consider incorporating it (or a portion thereof) into their ABC Control Rule. The SSC's report also included recommendations for mackerel, cobia and spiny lobster. In addition, the SSC reviewed the Goliath grouper assessment and recommended ABC = 0 for this species.

The Committee made the following motions:

MOTION: SEND A LETTER TO THE GULF COUNCIL AND THE NMFS REQUESTING THE FORMATION OF AN AD HOC JOINT COMMITTEE (SA AND GULF COUNCILS) TO CONSIDER THE DEVELOPMENT OF A JOINT MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR SOUTH FLORIDA FISHERIES. AD HOC COMMITTEE WOULD ALSO DISCUSS WITH THE STATE OF FLORIDA DELEGATION OF MANAGEMENT FOR SOME SPECIES TO THE STATE OF FLORIDA.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION: SEND A LETTER TO THE MID ATLANTIC COUNCIL AND THE NMFS REQUESTING THE FORMATION OF AN AD HOC JOINT COMMITTEE (SA AND MID ATLANTIC COUNCILS) TO CONSIDER THE DEVELOPMENT OF A JOINT MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR NORTH CAROLINA FISHERIES. AD HOC

COMMITTEE WOULD ALSO DISCUSS WITH THE STATE OF NC DELEGATION OF MANAGEMENT FOR SOME SPECIES TO THE STATE OF NC.
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION: RECOMMEND THE COUNCIL CONVENE A PANEL IN CONJUNCTION WITH GMFMC TO EXPLORE APPROACHES TO MOVE THE GOLIATH GROUPE FISHERY BEYOND THE MORATORIUM AND COLLECT INFORMATION TO SUPPORT AN INFORMATIVE ASSESSMENT THAT WILL ALLOW DETERMINATION OF STOCK STATUS AND POSSIBLE RECOVERY.
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION: REQUEST THAT STAFF PROVIDE AN UPDATE TO THE COUNCIL EVERY 3 YEARS ON THE LANDINGS AND TRENDS OF STOCKS THAT HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM THE SG FMU
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

The Committee discussed the following developing amendments:

Regulatory Amendment 11 (240-foot closure)

Dr. Nick Farmer gave a presentation of analyses conducted on the distribution (latitudinal and by depth) of speckled hind and Warsaw grouper based on information obtained from several fishery-dependent and -independent sources. In addition, the presentation contained information on co-occurrence of these two species with each other and with other deepwater species.

The Committee made the following motions pertaining to Regulatory Amendment 11:

MOTION: ADD AN ALTERNATIVE TO REMOVE THE ENTIRE 40-FATHOM CLOSURE AS SUGGESTED BY THE IPT
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 2 AS PREFERRED
SUBSTITUTE MOTION: SELECT NEW ALTERNATIVE (IN MOTION TO ADD ALTERNATIVE TO REMOVE THE 40 FATHOM CLOSURE) UNDER ACTION 1 AS PREFERRED
MAIN MOTION APPROVED
SUBSTITUTE MOTION APPROVED

MOTION: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 1 (NO ACTION) UNDER ACTION 2 AS PREFERRED

Action 2: Transit Provisions

Alternative 1 (No Action). Do not allow transit through the 40-fathom closure with prohibited species onboard.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION: MODIFY THE PURPOSE OF REG AMENDMENT 11 PER THE IPT'S SUGGESTION:

Modify regulations pertaining to the deepwater species in order to reduce the socio-economic effects expected from the regulations in Amendment 17B to the Snapper grouper FMP TO PROTECT TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE speckled hind and Warsaw grouper in the South Atlantic.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Comprehensive ACL Amendment

Council staff provided an overview of the changes to the amendment since the March 2011 meeting. All actions in the amendment were reviewed. Council staff also provided a presentation to illustrate the Accountability Measure triggers that are currently being considered in the amendment.

The Committee made the following motions pertaining to the Comprehensive ACL Amendment:

Action 1: Remove Species from Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Unit (FMU)

MOTION: REMOVE MUTTON SNAPPER FROM PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE 4 UNDER ACTION 1 (RETAIN MUTTON SNAPPER IN THE FMU)

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION: RETAIN MISTY GROUPER, QUEEN SNAPPER AND YELLOWMOUTH GROUPER IN THE MANAGEMENT UNIT
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Action 3: Establish an Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) Control Rule for Snapper Grouper Species

MOTION: DESELECT ALTERNATIVE 5 AS PREFERRED AND ACCEPT THE WORDING FOR NEW ALTERNATIVE 7 AND SELECT AS PREFERRED New Alternative 7. For assessed species: establish ABCs based on the South Atlantic SSC's ABC control rule described in Table 2-12. For unassessed species: When the ABC control rule portion for unassessed species is complete, establish ABCs based on the South Atlantic SSC's ABC control rule described in Table 2-12. Until the ABC Control Rule is complete, establish ABCs based upon the interim approach in Table 2-14 and OFL = unknown. Recommended ABC values are shown in Table 2-15.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION: ACCEPT IPT'S SUGGESTED CHANGES TO ALTERNATIVES UNDER ACTION 4

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Action 6: Specify Accountability Measures (AMs)/Annual Catch Targets (ACTs) for the Commercial Sector for species in the Snapper Grouper FMU

MOTION: MODIFY ALTERNATIVE 4 UNDER ACTION 6 TO ADD AT THE END OF THE SENTENCE: "ONLY IF THE SPECIES IS OVERFISHED"

Alternative 4 (Preferred). For the species in the table above, if an ACL (i.e., individual or complex) is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the ACL in the following season by the amount of the overage.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Action 7: Specify Accountability Measures (AMs)/Annual Catch Targets (ACTs) for the Recreational Sector for species in the Snapper Grouper FMU

MOTION: DESELECT ALTERNATIVES 5B AND 5F AS PREFERRED AND SELECT ALTERNATIVE 5D AS PREFERRED

Alternative 5. Specify the post-season AM.

Subalternative 5a. Do not specify a post-season AM.

Subalternative 5b (Preferred). For post-season accountability measures, compare ACL with landings over a range of years. For 2011, use only 2011 landings. For 2012, use the mean landings of 2011 and 2012. For 2013 and beyond, use the most recent three-year running mean.¹

Subalternative 5c (NEW). Monitor following year. If the ACL is exceeded, the following year's landings would be monitored for persistence in increased landings. The Regional Administrator would take action as necessary.

Subalternative 5d (NEW) Monitor following year and shorten season as necessary. If the ACL is exceeded, the following year's landings would be monitored IN-SEASON for persistence in increased landings. The Regional Administrator will publish a notice to reduce the length of the fishing season as necessary.

Subalternative 5e (NEW) Monitor following year and reduce bag limit as necessary. If the ACL is exceeded, the following year's landings would be monitored for persistence in increased landings. The Regional Administrator will publish a notice to reduce the bag limit as necessary.

Subalternative 5f (Preferred). Shorten following season. If the ACL is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the length of the following fishing year by the amount necessary to ensure landings do not exceed the ACL for the following fishing season.

Subalternative 5g. Payback. If the ACL is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the ACL in the following season by the amount of the overage.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Action 10: Specify Accountability Measures (AM) for the Wreckfish Fishery

MOTION: REPLACE CURRENT PREFERRED WITH SUBALTERNATIVE 3D AND DESELECT THE OTHER PREFERRED

Subalternative 3d (NEW) Monitor following year and shorten season as necessary. If the ACL is exceeded, the following year's landings would be monitored for persistence in increased landings. The Regional Administrator will publish a notice to reduce the length of the fishing season as necessary.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Action 15: Establish Accountability Measures/Management Measures for the Commercial Sector for Black Grouper

MOTION: MODIFY ALTERNATIVE 4 UNDER ACTION 15 AND ADD AT THE END OF THE SENTENCE "ONLY IF OVERFISHED"

Alternative 4 (Preferred). If the commercial sector ACL is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the commercial sector ACL in the following season by the amount of the overage.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Action 16: Establish Accountability Measures/Management Measures for the Recreational Sector for Black Grouper

MOTION: REPLACE CURRENT PREFERRED UNDER ALTERNATIVE 5 WITH SUBALTERNATIVE 5D

Subalternative 5d (NEW). Monitor following year and shorten season as necessary. If the ACL is exceeded, the following year's landings would be monitored for persistence in increased landings. The Regional Administrator will publish a notice to reduce the length of the fishing season as necessary.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Action 17: Establish Jurisdictional Allocations for Yellowtail Snapper

MOTION: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 4 AS PREFERRED UNDER ACTION 17

Alternative 4: Establish a jurisdictional allocation based on the Florida Keys (Monroe County) jurisdictional boundary between the Gulf and South Atlantic Councils for yellowtail snapper acceptable biological catch (ABC) based on the following method: South Atlantic = 75% of ABC and Gulf = 25% of ABC (Established by using 50% of catch history from 1993-2008 + 50% of catch history from 2006-2008).

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Action 18: Establish an Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) Control Rule and ABC for Dolphin

MOTION: DESELECT ALTERNATIVE 2 UNDER ACTION 18 AS PREFERRED, MOVE ALTERNATIVE 3 TO THE APPENDIX, AND SELECT ALTERNATIVE 5 AS PREFERRED.

New Alternative 5. When the ABC control rule portion for unassessed species is complete, establish ABC for dolphin based on the South Atlantic Council's SSC's ABC control rule described in Table 2-12. Until the ABC control rule is complete, establish ABC based upon the interim approach in Table 2-x1 and OFL = unknown. The recommended ABC value for dolphin is 14,596,216 lbs ww.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Action 19: Specify Allocations for Dolphin

MOTION: ADD AN ALTERNATIVE TO ADOPT THE DW AP RECOMMENDATION TO ALLOCATE 90% TO THE COMMERCIAL SECTOR AND 10% TO THE RECREATIONAL SECTOR
MOTION FAILS

Action 20: Establish Annual Catch Limits (ACL) and Optimum Yield (OY) for Dolphin
MOTION: CHANGE PREFERRED FROM ALTERNATIVE 3 TO ALTERNATIVE 2
Alternative 2. ACL = OY = ABC
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Action 22: Establish Accountability Measures for the Recreational Sector for Dolphin
MOTION: REPLACE PREFERRED IN ALTERNATIVE 5 WITH
SUBALTERNATIVE 5D
Subalternative 5d (NEW). Monitor following year and shorten season as necessary. If the ACL is exceeded, the following year's landings would be monitored for persistence in increased landings. The Regional Administrator will publish a notice to reduce the length of the fishing season as necessary.
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Action 24: Establish an Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) Control Rule and ABC for Wahoo
MOTION: ESTABLISH NEW ALTERNATIVE 5 AS THE PREFERRED AND MOVE ALTERNATIVE 3 TO THE APPENDIX
New Alternative 5. When the ABC control rule portion for unassessed species is complete, establish ABC for wahoo based on the South Atlantic Council's SSC's ABC control rule described in Table 2-12. Until the ABC control rule is complete, establish ABC based upon the interim approach in Table 2-x1 and OFL = unknown. The recommended ABC value for wahoo is 1,491,785 lbs ww.
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Action 28: Establish Accountability Measures for the Recreational Sector for Wahoo
MOTION: REPLACE CURRENT PREFERRED IN ALTERNATIVE 5 WITH
SUBALTERNATIVE 5D AS THE PREFERRED
Subalternative 5d (NEW). Monitor following year and shorten season as necessary. If the ACL is exceeded, the following year's landings would be monitored for persistence in increased landings. The Regional Administrator will publish a notice to reduce the length of the fishing season as necessary.
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Action 31: Establish Accountability Measures for Golden Crab
MOTION: UNDER ACTION 31, ALTERNATIVE 3, ADD TO THE END OF THE SENTENCE "ONLY IF OVERFISHED"
Alternative 3 (Preferred). If the ACL is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the ACL or ACT in the following season by the amount of the overage.
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Mutton Snapper

Action 2. Interjurisdictional allocations for mutton snapper

MOTION: MODIFY ALTERNATIVE 2 TO CORRESPOND WITH THE GULF COUNCIL'S PREFERRED AND ESTABLISH ALTERNATIVE 2 AS THE PREFERRED (82% SA AND 18% GULF)
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION: SELECT PREFERRED ALTERNATIVES UNDER ALL MUTTON SNAPPER ACTIONS THAT ARE CONSISTENT WITH SELECTIONS WITHIN THE COMPREHENSIVE ACL AMENDMENT
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

New Council Motion Desired:

Move to make actions pertaining to mutton snapper consistent with actions for other snapper-grouper stocks in the comprehensive ACL amendment.

Amendment 24 (red grouper rebuilding)

Dr. Larry Perruso of the SEFSC gave a presentation on the economic analyses of the proposed alternatives for both the commercial and recreational sector. His presentation included a ranking of all the alternatives in terms of economic impacts. Council staff then went over the actions and alternatives in the document and explained changes to the document since the March 2011 meeting.

The Committee made the following motions pertaining to Amendment 24:

Action: Minimum Stock Size Threshold

MOTION: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 3 AS THE PREFERRED
Alternative 3 MSST equals 75% of SSBMSY
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Action: Rebuilding Strategy

MOTION: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 2 AS THE PREFERRED
Alternative 2. Define a rebuilding strategy for red grouper that sets ABC equal to the yield at FREBUILD. FREBUILD is a fishing mortality rate that would have a 70% probability of rebuilding success to SSBMSY in TMAX (ten years for red grouper). Under this strategy, the fishery would have at least a 50% chance of rebuilding to SSBMSY by 2017 and 70% chance of rebuilding to SSBMSY by 2020.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 3 AS THE PREFERRED
Alternative 3. Define a rebuilding strategy for red grouper that sets ABC equal to the yield at 75%FMSY. Under this strategy, the fishery would have at least a 50% chance of rebuilding to SSBMSY by 2016 and 81% chance of rebuilding to SSBMSY by 2020.
SUBSTITUTE MOTION FAILS
MAIN MOTION APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Annual Catch Limits and Optimum Yield

MOTION: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 2 UNDER ACTION 6 AS PREFERRED.

Alternative 2. ACL = OY = ABC. Specify commercial and recreational ACLs for red grouper for 2012, 2013, and 2014 and beyond as indicated in the table below (Table 2-15). The ACL for 2014 would remain in effect until modified. ACLs will not increase in a subsequent year if present year projected catch has exceeded the ACL.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION: REPLACE THE STATEMENT "ACLs will not increase in a subsequent year if present year projected catch has exceeded the ACL" WITH: "If an overage occurs in an increasing ACL situation: the ACL will be the year two ACL minus the overage, not to be below the year one ACL." IN THE ALTERNATIVES UNDER ACTION 6.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

NOTE: NEED TO CLARIFY THE INTENT OF THIS LANGUAGE

Action: Accountability Measures

MOTION: DESELECT CURRENT PREFERRED UNDER ALTERNATIVE 4 AND SELECT SUBALTERNATIVE 4B.

DESELECT CURRENT PREFERRED UNDER ALTERNATIVE 5 AND SELECT SUBALTERNATIVE 5G AS PREFERRED.

Alternative 4b. The Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to close the recreational sector when the ACL is projected to be met.

Alternative 5g. Payback. If the ACL is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the ACL in the following season by the amount of the overage.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

The Committee did not choose preferred alternatives to remove the 3-species aggregate. They are Alternatives 5 and 6 of Action 6 in Amendment 24:

Alternative 5. Eliminate the commercial sector aggregate ACL of 662,403 lbs gw for black grouper, gag, and red grouper. Eliminate the in-season AM that specifies a prohibition on possession of all shallow water groupers once the commercial aggregate ACL is projected to be met.

Alternative 6. Eliminate the recreational sector aggregate ACL of 648,663 lbs gw for black grouper, gag, and red grouper. Eliminate the in-season AM that specifies a prohibition on possession of black grouper, gag, and red grouper once the ACL is projected to be met if any one of the three species is listed as overfished. Eliminate the post-season AM that specifies a reduction in a subsequent year's ACL by the amount of an overage if landings exceed the aggregate ACL. Eliminate the regulation that states that the recreational landings are evaluated relative to the ACL as follows: For 2010, only 2010 recreational landings will be compared to the ACL; in 2011, the average of 2010 and 2011 recreational landings will be compared to the ACL; and in 2012 and subsequent fishing years, the most recent 3-year running average recreational landings will be compared to the ACL.

MOTION: APPROVE AMENDMENT 24 FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS.
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Amendment 18A (Black Sea Bass and Golden Tilefish)

The Committee made the following motions pertaining to Amendment 18A:

Action 1: Limit Participation in the Golden Tilefish Fishery

MOTION: ADD THE FOLLOWING ALTERNATIVE TO ACTION 1:

To receive a golden tilefish hook and line endorsement, the individual must have a harvest level of 1,000 pounds gutted weight (gw) (with hook and line gear) when the individual's best three of five years from 2005-2009 are aggregated.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION: ADD THE FOLLOWING SUBALTERNATIVE TO ACTION 1:

To receive a golden tilefish hook and line endorsement, the individual must have a harvest level of 500 pounds gw (with hook and line gear) when the individual's best three of five years from 2005-2009 are aggregated.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION: ADD THE FOLLOWING TWO SUBALTERNATIVES TO ACTION 1:

1. To receive a golden tilefish longline endorsement, the individual must have a total of 5,000 pounds gw golden tilefish caught (with longline gear) between 2007 and 2009.

2. To receive a golden tilefish longline endorsement, the individual must have a total of 10,000 pounds gw golden tilefish caught (with longline gear) between 2007 and 2009.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Action 2: Establishment of an Appeals Process

MOTION: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 2 UNDER ACTION 2 AS THE PREFERRED Alternative 2: Establish an appeals process. (This process will be developed by NOAA Fisheries Service and will be consistent with other similar processes in the region.)

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

NOTE: INTENT TO BASE APPEALS PROCESS ON ACCURACY OF LANDINGS

Action 7: Establish trip limits for commercial fishermen who do not receive an endorsement in the commercial golden tilefish hook and line fishery

MOTION: ADD AN ALTERNATIVE TO ESTABLISH A TRIP LIMIT OF 100 GW FOR commercial fishermen who do not receive an endorsement in the commercial golden tilefish hook and line fishery. MAKE THIS ALTERNATIVE THE PREFERRED APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION: ADD AN ACTION THAT ESTABLISHES TRIP LIMITS OF 300, 400 AND 500 LBS FOR FISHERMEN WHO RECEIVE HOOK-AND-LINE ENDORSEMENTS IN THE GOLDEN TILEFISH FISHERY

APPROVE BY COMMITTEE

Action 8: Limit Participation in the Black Sea Bass Pot Fishery through an Endorsement Program

MOTION: ADD THE FOLLOWING NEW ALTERNATIVE: Limit endorsement and tag distribution to black sea bass pot fishermen with valid commercial snapper grouper permits that fished pots with minimum black sea bass landings of (A) 1 pound, (B) 500 pounds, (C) 1,000 pounds, (D) 2,000 pounds, (E) 5,000 pounds, and (F) 10,000 pounds ww total landings between 12/8/98 to 12/31/09. Exclude fishermen who did not have landings in 2008 or 2009. MAKE SUBALTERNATIVE 5F THE PREFERRED.

Alternative 5 (98-09)	Average	Aggregate	1 year
Alt 5a (1 lb)	67	67	67
Alt 5b (500 lbs)	48	62	62
Alt 5c (1,000 lbs)	39	59	56

Alt 5d (2,000 lbs)	30	55	52
Alt 5e (5,000 lbs)	15	48	42
Alt 5f (10,000 lbs)	8	39	21

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION: ADD THE FOLLOWING NEW ALTERNATIVE: Limit endorsement and tag distribution to black sea bass pot fishermen with valid commercial snapper grouper permits that fished pots with minimum black sea bass landings of (A) 1 pound, (B) 500 pounds, (C) 1,000 pounds, (D) 2,000 pounds, (E) 5,000 pounds, and (F) 10,000 pounds ww average landings between 12/8/98 to 12/31/09. Exclude fishermen who did not have landings in 2008 or 2009.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Motions below were crafted for the Council's consideration in response to the motions above:

Action 8: Limit Participation in the Black Sea Bass Pot Fishery through an Endorsement Program.

Alternative 1 (No Action). Do not further limit participation in the black sea bass pot fishery with the establishment of an endorsement program.

Alternative 2. Limit endorsement and tag distribution to black sea bass pot fishermen with valid commercial snapper grouper permits whose *average* black sea bass landings between 12/8/98 and 12/31/09 were at least:

Sub-Alternative 2a - 500 lbs whole weight

Sub-Alternative 2b - 1,000 lbs whole weight

Sub-Alternative 2c - 5,000 lbs whole weight

Sub-Alternative 2d - 10,000 lbs whole weight

Exclude fishermen who did not have landings in 2008 or 2009.

Alternative 3. Limit endorsement and tag distribution to black sea bass pot fishermen with valid commercial snapper grouper permits whose *total* black sea bass landings between 12/8/98 and 12/31/09 were at least:

Sub-Alternative 3a - 500 lbs whole weight

Sub-Alternative 3b - 1,000 lbs whole weight

Sub-Alternative 3c - 5,000 lbs whole weight

Sub-Alternative 3d - 10,000 lbs whole weight

Exclude fishermen who did not have landings in 2008 or 2009.

Table 1. Number of fishermen with snapper grouper permits who fished pots with minimum black sea bass landings of 500, 1,000, 5,000, and 10,000 pounds ww in during 12/8/98 to 12/31/09. Excludes fishermen who did not have landings in 2008 or 2009. Values are estimates.

Alternative (98-09)	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
500 lbs	48	62
1,000 lbs	39	59
5,000 lbs	15	48
10,000 lbs	8	39

NOTE: Since the proposed alternatives above deviate slightly from the original motions, a new motion will be needed to approve them

Action 9: Establishment of an Appeals Process

MOTION: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 2 AS THE PREFERRED

Alternative 2: Establish an appeals process. (This process will be developed by NOAA Fisheries Service and consistent with other similar processes in the region.)

NOTE: INTENT IS TO BASE THE APPEALS PROCESS ON ACCURACY OF LANDINGS.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Action 10: Allow for Transferability of Black Sea Bass Endorsements

MOTION: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 2, OPTION 1, AS THE PREFERRED

Alternative 2. Black sea bass endorsements can be transferred between any two individuals or entities that hold valid commercial unlimited snapper grouper permits. The transfer is separable from the snapper grouper permit.

Preferred Option 1: Transferability allowed upon program implementation.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Action 11: Limit Effort in the Black Sea Bass Pot Fishery

MOTION: DESELECT ALTERNATIVE 3 AS THE PREFERRED AND SELECT ALTERNATIVE 4 AS THE NEW PREFERRED.

Preferred Alternative 3. Require that each black sea bass pot in the water or at sea on a vessel in the South Atlantic EEZ have an attached valid identification tag issued by NOAA Fisheries Service. Limit the black sea bass pot tags to 50 per vessel annually. NOAA Fisheries Service will issue new identification tags each fishing year that will replace the tags from the previous fishing year.

Alternative 4. Require that each black sea bass pot in the water or at sea on a vessel in the South Atlantic EEZ have an attached valid identification tag issued by NOAA Fisheries Service. Limit the black sea bass pot tags to 25 per vessel annually. NOAA Fisheries Service will issue new identification tags each fishing year that will replace the tags from the previous fishing year.

MOTION FAILS

MOTION: ADD AN ALTERNATIVE TO LIMIT THE BSB POT TAGS TO 35 PER VESSEL ANNUALLY
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Action 14. Improvements to For-Hire Data Reporting

MOTION: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 2 AS THE PREFERRED
Alternative 2. Require selected vessels with a Federal For-Hire Permit (charter and headboat) to report electronically; NOAA Fisheries Service is authorized to require weekly or daily reporting as required.
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Additional Actions

MOTION: ADD AN ACTION TO AMENDMENT 18A TO EXAMINE A SUITE OF AM ALTERNATIVES FOR BLACK SEA BASS INCLUDING THE TOTAL OVERAGE METHOD
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION: REMOVE ALL ACTIONS FROM 18A PERTAINING TO GOLDEN TILEFISH AND PLACE IN A NEW AMENDMENT (18C OR THE APPROPRIATE NUMERICAL DESIGNATION)
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION: ADD AN ACTION TO 18A TO POSSIBLY CHANGE THE REBUILDING STRATEGY FOR BSB
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Amendment 20 (Wreckfish ITQ)

MOTION: SPLIT AMENDMENT 20 INTO TWO AMENDMENTS, ONE OF WHICH THE PURPOSE WILL BE TO MODIFY THE WRECKFISH ITQ PROGRAM, AND THE SECOND AMENDMENT TO UPDATE THE PROGRAM AND BRING IT INTO COMPLIANCE WITH MSA.
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION: STRUCTURE AMENDMENT 20A TO CONTAIN THREE ACTIONS:

- WHICH SHARES ARE REVOKED
- EXCESSIVE SHARES
- REDISTRIBUTION OF REVOKED SHARES

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Amendments 21 and 22

Council staff gave a brief overview of the status of Amendment 21 and changes since the March 2011 meeting. Staff requested guidance on amendment development and timing. The Committee's intent is to retain this amendment and use it as a compilation of management tools that can potentially be used in the future to manage South Atlantic

fisheries. The Committee agreed to revisit this amendment at the September 2011 meeting.

SERO staff provided a briefing on the status of Amendment 22, which contains long-term management measures for red snapper. The Committee reiterated their intent to retain this amendment but withhold further development at this time.